

therefore novocain is a more suitable drug than tropacocaine.

On comparing novocain with beta-eucaine lactate it is seen that while the anaesthetic value is roughly about equal, the toxicity of beta-eucaine lactate is slightly less than that of novocain, but the irritant action of beta-eucaine lactate is far greater than that of novocain. It appears, then, that while beta-eucaine lactate has only a slighter degree of toxicity to recommend it in preference to novocain, its irritant action far and away overshadows any such slight advantage, and novocain is recognized as undoubtedly the better drug of the two.

Finally, it only remains to compare novocain with stovaine. The former drug is less toxic and much less irritant; indeed, its specific action on nerve fibres is so great that it has practically no destructive effect on the other tissues; stovaine is more toxic and considerably more irritant.

The one definite advantage which stovaine possesses over all the other local anaesthetics is its greater injurious action on nerve fibres, as shown by anaesthesia. Nevertheless, the specific action of stovaine on nerve fibres is less than that of novocain, since stovaine destroys other tissues besides nerve fibres. If stovaine and novocain be given in doses so that their anaesthetic action is the same, both the irritant and toxic effect of the former drug, even in the smaller dose in which it is administered, are greater than the relatively larger doses of the latter.

I come to the conclusion, therefore, that of the drugs which have been investigated, novocain is most satisfactory for general use. Its anaesthetic action is equal to that of cocaine, and its toxicity and general destructive power on the tissues are very much less.

## Memoranda:

### MEDICAL, SURGICAL, OBSTETRICAL.

#### ACUTE YELLOW ATROPHY OF THE LIVER.

On account of the rarity of the disease, the following notes on a case of acute yellow atrophy of the liver, which was under treatment at the Royal Naval Hospital, Portland, may be of interest:

D. L., aged 19, Private R.M.L.I. (Channel Fleet), was admitted to Portland Hospital on February 19th, 1909. He had been sick on board his ship since January 12th suffering from jaundice, which the man himself attributed to a chill caught from sleeping in a damp hammock.

On admission the signs and symptoms were at first obscure, and, during the earlier period of his illness, indistinguishable from an attack of catarrhal jaundice. Gastro-intestinal symptoms were well marked, the tongue was covered with a white fur, and there was anorexia, and occasional vomiting of partly digested food, with a little bile-stained mucus. Once, on January 29th, he had "coffee grounds" vomit. The bowels were constipated, and the stools pale and clay-like. From first to last he was deeply jaundiced, but this became more pronounced toward the end. The temperature all through was subnormal. The pulse was slow at first (about 64), but during the last few days became very quick (130).

The liver was markedly diminished in size, liver dullness only measuring about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  in. vertically in the anterior axillary line. The urine contained much bile, and crystals of tyrosin were present in abundance; of leucin in very scanty numbers.

On February 3rd (twenty-two days after the onset of the jaundice) cerebral symptoms set in; headache was now very severe, with drowsiness, apathy, and side-to-side movements of the head. He soon lapsed from a semi-unconscious condition to a state of more or less deep coma, the pupils being widely dilated and not reacting to light; urine was passed under him. While in this condition the patient cried out loudly from time to time, tossing the head from side to side. The cry was typically meningeal. He gradually sank and died on February 8th.

At the necropsy the liver was much diminished in size, only weighing 28 oz. The capsule was wrinkled, and on section the liver was of a markedly yellow colour, with in

many places patches of bright red. The bile ducts were empty, as was also the gall bladder. Petechiae were found on the pancreas, kidneys, and great omentum. The spleen weighed 7 oz., and was normal on section. The kidneys each weighed 7 oz.; the cortex was a little congested. Sections of the liver showed the usual degenerative change on microscopic examination, and an extract showed crystals of leucin. A bacteriological culture from the liver on blood serum for sixteen hours at 37° C. showed Gram-negative diplococci in almost pure culture.

H. M. BRAITHWAITE,  
Surgeon, R.N. Hospital, Portland.

#### LACERATION OF ABDOMINAL WALL, WITH PROLONGED PROTRUSION OF INTESTINE: RECOVERY.

LACERATIONS of the abdominal wall, accompanied by opening of the peritoneal cavity and protrusion of a viscus, may be reasonably considered accidents of extreme gravity, and the gravity is proportionately increased by the length of time a viscus has been protruded, and the conditions to which it has been exposed. The recent publication in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL of a case of this description suggests the recording of the following interesting instance.

On February 10th, 1906, a native who had been gored by a cow was admitted to the Swedish Mission Hospital. The patient was accompanied by his master, who told the following story: At 6 a.m. on the same day the injured native had let the cattle out of the kraal, and, while standing in the gateway, had been deliberately gored by a passing cow. The abdominal cavity was opened, and a large loop of intestine protruded. His master, who was present, at once replaced the intestine, fastened a broad calico binder round the abdomen, and brought the patient into hospital by the first available train. He arrived at 11.50 a.m., in very fair condition, and was attended to immediately. On opening the binder I was dismayed to find a large mass of small intestine intimately mixed with and adherent to the binder and to a very dirty blue calico shirt, and all cemented together with dried blood. Under continuous irrigation with hot boric solution I proceeded to separate the adherent mass by the aid of gauze sponges, and in doing this unavoidably stripped extensive areas of peritoneum from the intestine. This proceeding occupied two hours and twenty minutes, and only at its completion was I in a position to ascertain the actual conditions present. Fully 8 ft. or 9 ft. of distended and deeply congested small intestine were lying on the abdomen. The intestine was studded with particles of cow manure, grit, and dried blood, the removal of which was hopeless. The abdominal wound, irregularly circular, and about 2 in. in diameter, was situated 2 in. to the left and a little below the level of the umbilicus, and was blocked by the mesentery which had been drawn through the orifice by the protruded intestine. Up to this point the patient had not complained of much pain, and did not require chloroform, but now, as enlargement of the wound was necessary in order to return the distended intestine, this was administered, the wound enlarged about 2 in. upwards, the intestine returned, and the abdomen closed with three layers of sutures. The entire operation had lasted from 12 noon until 3 p.m., and the intestine had been outside the abdomen for approximately eight and a half hours. For three days the patient was kept under the influence of opium; on the third day the bowels acted with the aid of a soap and water enema; the wound healed by first intention; there was no rise of temperature, and he was discharged on the fourteenth day. I saw this man about six months afterwards, when he complained of abdominal pain after eating meat, otherwise he was in good health.

The interest of this case lies in the quantity of intestine protruded, the duration of the exposure, the exceptionally septic conditions, the unavoidable stripping of large areas of peritoneum, the return of the bowel studded with particles of organic matter, and the unexpected and uneventful recovery of the patient.

I have much pleasure in acknowledging the assistance I received in this case from Sister Gustava Perowne and Sister Amonda Skroog of the Swedish Mission Hospital.

Dundee, Natal. H. TENER GALBRAITH, F.R.C.S. Edin.

get through with the job they will have the country in the condition of the old man in my State who was very sick. The doctor examined him, and said, 'Old man, you're dying; have you any wish to express before you pass over the river?' 'Yes,' the feeble patient said, 'I wish I had got another doctor.'

Of course the story is secondhand; but that is the special attraction of *Public Opinion*—that one finds in it things one may not see elsewhere. It has been said that one-half of the world does not know how the other half lives; that is equally true of thought. It is the function of *Public Opinion* to let its readers know this with the minimum of trouble to themselves.

Professor Ebstein's *Jahresbericht für innere Medizin*, the first volume of which (1901) is now complete, will in future be issued by Dr. Werner Klinkhardt, publisher, of Leipzig. The second volume, dealing with the years 1902-3, will be ready in the spring of the present year. The volume for 1908 will follow, and the rest in due course. Authors are asked to send reprints of their papers, as far as they pertain to internal medicine, to Oberarzt Dr. Schreiber, 1, Beaumontstrasse, Magdeburg.

At a recent meeting of the Reading Town Council, a letter was read from Dr. Jamieson B. Hurry, in which he proposed to erect a memorial to Henry I, the founder of the famous Abbey of Reading. The proposed memorial is thus described in the *Reading Standard*:

The cross, composed of silver-grey Cornish granite, will rise to a total height of 20 ft., and is designed in such architectural style as is appropriate to the period. The ornamentation of the head consists of Early English foliage on the arms, and of the simplest form of dog-tooth ornament on the circle. Five projecting and carved bosses mark the arms and centre of the cross. The stem, with slightly sunk faces, is divided into sections by a simply-rounded moulding worked into a pattern at intervals. The massive base terminates above in three tiers, and rests on a broad platform of granite with steps on either side. Thus the memorial will rest on a broad foundation which gives a sense of stability to the whole erection. The treatment of the back of the cross will be similar to that of the front; but on the sides of the base will be placed two metal shields bearing the arms of King Henry I and those of Reading Abbey. The inscription will be in lead letters sunk into the granite, and record the foundation of the Abbey by King Henry I in 1121, and the burial of same King before the high altar of the splendid Abbey Church in 1136.

The Abbey received signal marks of favour from successive monarchs, enjoyed the special protection of the Holy See, was selected for great secular and ecclesiastical councils, and for several assemblies of Parliament. By all these and other means prestige, commercial prosperity, and wealth were brought to Reading by the great Abbey at its gate. The time came, however, when the burghers keenly resented the control exercised by the Lord Abbot. Their streams, their mills, their market, their land, were at his mercy, and for two hundred years the galling yoke of a powerful ecclesiastical corporation hampered the development of self-government. It was not until the last Abbot had laid down his life on the scaffold, and the Abbey had been dissolved, that the burgesses obtained from King Henry VIII the privileges they had so long striven for. By the Charter of 1542 the mayor and burgesses were constituted the governing body of the town, with full executive authority and jurisdiction.

## MOTOR CARS FOR MEDICAL MEN.

### TRICARS.

DR. L. E. PARKHURST (Brackley) states that he has had some years' experience of tricars, and is very satisfied with his present machine—a Phoenix Trimco. It is, he writes, fast, light, comfortable, a wonderful hill-climber, and very easy on tyres, and he has done a good deal of work by its aid since November, 1907. He would advise "P. C." to fit on the back-wheel a metal-studded tyre, and on the front wheels good stout, non-slipping tyres, either with a square tread or rubber studs, to avoid side-slip on greasy roads; also to specify copper tops and bottoms to the radiators. Careful driving round corners is *absolutely* necessary. His tricar is a single-seated vehicle, with bonnet in front to take midwifery and accident bags, and dressings, etc., and the bonnet can be made interchangeable with a front seat.

UNDER the will of the late Mr. Thomas Harris, of Calne, Wiltshire, which has now been proved, the London Temperance Hospital receives a bequest of £2,000.

## Medical News.

MR. EDWARD D. MADGE, L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S., has been decorated with the Order of the Star of Roumania.

MESSRS. YEOWARD BROS. of Liverpool have arranged holiday trips to Portugal and the Canary Islands, one of these of twenty-five days' duration starting on March 31st, so as to include the Easter holidays. Messrs. Yeoward inform us that they are desirous of bringing the advantages of these trips to the notice of the resident medical staffs and matrons of hospitals in this country, and would be disposed to offer special terms to passengers from these institutions during the holiday season. Further particulars can be obtained on application to them at 27 and 29, Stanley Street, Liverpool.

THE eighth meeting of the Departmental Committee appointed by the Lord President of the Council to consider the working of the Midwives Act was held at the Privy Council office, on March 24th. The following witnesses attended and gave evidence: Miss Wesley, Matron of St. George's-in-the-East Infirmary, on behalf of the Poor Law Infirmary Matrons' Association; Dr. C. T. Parsons, Medical Superintendent, Fulham Infirmary, on behalf of the Infirmary Medical Superintendents' Society; Dr. Henry Handford, F.R.C.P., County Medical Officer of Health, Nottinghamshire, on behalf of the Health Committee of the Nottinghamshire County Council.

THE report of the Leper Home at Tungkun, South China, for the year ending September, 1908, contains a variety of interesting references and photographs. The numbering of the lepers by the magistrate, which took place at the end of 1907, is first described and illustrated by a photograph. The magistrate decided to divide the subsidy equally between the lepers and their descendants, but sixty graduates and more than a hundred shopkeepers signed a petition of protest and in favour of giving the Tungkun home the subsidy originally destined for the lepers. The numbering was not carried out without many useless comings and goings and wasting of time and energy, modes of doing business so dear to the governmental official mind, whether tortuously working within the skull-box of Mandarins of Far Cathay or of our own gentlemen with buttons and peacock feathers. The philanthropists in our midst will be interested to know that, in the words of the report: "The long hairy appendage of the Chinese being a great hindrance to cleanliness, a reward of 10 cents is offered to those who shave clean their heads. Fifty-six have already made the sacrifice of their cue." In the medical part of the report additional evidence, if that be necessary, is afforded that contagion is the factor in the spread of leprosy, and that heredity, as has been known for some time, plays no part. Nastin was tried in two cases, but the results do not point to anything worth noting here, as further trial must be made. The report is compiled by Dr. John E. Kuhne.

WEDNESDAY last week was St. Patrick's Day, and, in accordance with established custom, the Irish Medical Schools' and Graduates' Association duly recognized the festival by a dinner. This was held at the Cecil Hotel on Thursday evening, and the pleasant practice of including ladies among the guests was again followed. The assembly numbered altogether over 200 persons, Dr. F. A. de Thierry Mouillot, President of the Association, who was in the chair, being faced by Drs. J. J. Macan and Alexander Macdonald, Chairman and Vice-Chairman of Council respectively; Dr. M. J. Bulger, Honorary Treasurer; Drs. T. Hobbs Crampton, W. Douglas, and G. W. Dawson, the Honorary Secretaries; and Dr. Morgan Dockrell. The toast list was interspersed with songs, and the proceedings were prolonged until a late hour. "Our Defenders"—a toast habitually and naturally well received by members of an association so largely represented in the naval and military services—was welcomed on this occasion even more cordially than usual. The disquieting disclosures which had just been made in the House of Commons were fresh in mind, and of this circumstance Dr. J. A. Macdonald, the proposer of the toast, made impressive use. The special interest of the evening, however, lay in the presentation of the Arnott Medal to Lieutenant J. Smith McCombe. He is a lieutenant in the Royal Army Medical Corps, and when stationed at Millbank last year made determined efforts to save a lad who had fallen into the river, diving and rediving in the muddy depths until thoroughly exhausted. Of this gallant feat an excellent account was supplied by Dr. J. J. Macan, who introduced Lieutenant McCombe to the Chairman, and also gave a brief history of the Arnott Medal and its earlier recipients.

## THE PREVENTION OF DEATHS BY BURNING IN CHILDREN.

SIR,—Dr. Parry, in his letter on the prevention of deaths from burning in children, omits to mention celluloid collars. These dangerous things are worn very commonly by children in the country, and I know of a case near here where a child was badly burned when wearing one, owing to the collar coming in close proximity to a candle flame.

There is no doubt an impossibility confronting the attempt to prohibit the sale of flannelette, and I suppose in a minor degree of celluloid collars, but it might be possible to legislate so that the dangers which attend both these substances should be printed and sold with them.—I am, etc.,

CHARLES W. EMLYN.

Culworth Hall, near Banbury, March 20th.

## THE TREATMENT OF CANCER.

SIR,—Referring to Dr. Frankish's letter published on March 13th, p. 694, I had no reason to doubt the statement of my patient that Dr. Frankish had preferred not to treat him, I judged that this was in consequence of the nature of the case and the age of the patient. I had no intention of making any reflection or of being discourteous, and regret that through some misunderstanding I was misinformed.

As regards the other case, this is some four years old. I understood that Dr. Frankish's attendance had been dispensed with, and certainly cannot be responsible for what he was told. I was asked to try my treatment, and did so in company with another medical man. After treating for some time, I found the case in too advanced a stage to hope for a successful issue, and ceased to attend.

I have understood that I was on friendly terms with Dr. Frankish for years before and since this case, and it was not until I saw his letter in your issue that I found he considered himself aggrieved.

I at once wrote him expressing my regret that he should feel offended at anything I had unwittingly done.—I am, etc.,

Accrington, March 23rd.

JAS. FENWICK.

## THE NATIONAL SERVICE LEAGUE AND THE MEDICAL PROFESSION.

SIR,—Now that the National Service League is seeking to explain and extend its principles throughout the country, it occurs to me that the medical profession have it in their power to render this excellent organization a most powerful help. It may, I presume to think, be taken for granted that the vast majority of the profession is in favour of those principles as enunciated by the league. The immense influence that can be exerted by them, collectively or individually, cannot be gainsaid. The profession is as directly interested in the defensive conditions of the empire as the rest of the community, and, I claim, is second to no other body in its loyalty and patriotism. With confidence it is, to the physical aspect of the subject and the application of those principles to the growing boys and youths, that I would specially make my appeal. The probable beneficial result by drill and other gymnastics is quite sufficient reason for substituting the word "shall" instead of "may" for a course of military training. I would, therefore, plead for the attention of every member of my profession to this subject, and at the same time ask also that the political, moral, and social features should not the less be a strong recommendation in its favour.—I am, etc.,

J. SELWYN COWLEY, J.P., M.R.C.S.

Upton-on-Severn, March 20th.

DR. LOUIS C. PARKES, Consulting Sanitary Adviser to the Commissioners of Works and Public Buildings, has been nominated a member of the Royal Commission appointed on March 23rd to assist the Board of Trade in the organization of exhibits illustrative of British arts, industry, and agriculture at the forthcoming international exhibitions at Brussels in 1910 and at Rome and Turin in 1911. As the result of the recommendations of a Board of Trade committee, a special branch of that Board has been established to deal with all matters relating to the participation of Great Britain in foreign international exhibitions in the future. The Royal Commission now appointed, with the Prince of Wales as president, and Lord Lytton and Sir Swire Smith as chairman and vice-chairman respectively, will co-operate with the Board of Trade in respect of the exhibitions named.

## Universities and Colleges.

### UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH.

#### IMPROVEMENT AND EXPANSION.

At a meeting of the committee appointed some time ago for the purpose of inaugurating a scheme for the improvement and expansion of the University of Edinburgh the convener reported that the total amount of subscriptions intimated was £47,970. With a portion of the money which had been so subscribed the University had been able to purchase the site of the old Royal Infirmary at a cost of £15,000, and the adaptation of certain buildings thereon to museums, class-rooms, laboratories, and other workrooms for the departments of physics and engineering had been met in most part by grants from the Carnegie Trustees. From Sir Donald Currie's munificent gift a capital sum of £20,000 had been set aside as a fund for the endowment of lectureships in various branches of university education. A special memorial fund had been contributed by Sir John Jackson, in memory of the late Professor Tait, for promotion of research in the physical laboratory. A considerable amount of money was still required to enable the committee to endow chairs of French and German.

### ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF LONDON.

AN extraordinary comitia was held at the College on Friday, March 19th, the Senior Censor, Dr. Norman Moore, in the chair.

#### Death of Lady Powell.

On the motion of Dr. Norman Moore, a resolution was passed expressing the deep sympathy of the Fellows with their President on his recent bereavement.

#### Licence.

The licence of the College was granted to Claude Edward Freer Fortin.

#### The University of London.

A report was received from the delegates of the two colleges appointed to consider a scheme of conjoint examinations under Statute 123 of the University of London.

The delegates begged to recommend that they be authorized by the Royal Colleges to confer with Representatives of the Medical Schools in London and other Bodies on the University Question.

After a discussion, in which Drs. Herringham, Payne, Mercier, and L. Shaw took part, the recommendation was adopted on the motion of Sir William Allchin.

### SOCIETY OF APOTHECARIES OF LONDON.

The following candidates have been approved at the examinations indicated:

SURGERY.—J. M. Fische, \*J. A. Koch, †W. N. Pickles, \*N. S. Shenstone.  
 MEDICINE.—†J. Bramley-Moore, W. C. D'Eath, †H. A. Hancock, \*†F. O'Neill, \*†P. N. Pantton, \*†N. S. Shenstone, †S. H. Watton.  
 FORENSIC MEDICINE.—J. Bramley-Moore, H. A. Hancock, F. O'Neill, P. N. Pantton, N. S. Shenstone.  
 MIDWIFERY.—W. C. D'Eath, F. O'Neill, P. N. Pantton, G. S. Richardson, N. S. Shenstone.

The diploma of the society has been granted to Messrs. W. C. D'Eath, J. M. Fische, W. N. Pickles, N. S. Shenstone, and S. H. Watton.

\* Section I. † Section II.

## Medico-Legal.

### THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF FEVER HOSPITAL AUTHORITIES.

A CASE came before the Sheriff Court in Dundee a short time ago in which a woman acting as legal guardian for her niece sued the Town Council for £40. She averred that the sum represented loss and damage sustained by her owing to the defenders refusing to admit her niece to the Fever Hospital while she was suffering from scarlet fever. She also averred that a doctor certified the child to be suffering from scarlet fever, while the medical officer of the Fever Hospital diagnosed the case as one of chicken-pox, and returned the child to her home. The Town Clerk said the contention was whether the municipality or hospital authorities had been at fault. He submitted that it was irrelevant to state they were bound to admit the child without giving chapter and verse for it. The pursuer's agent said his client alleged that the medical officer's diagnosis was the ground of his case. The Sheriff ultimately dismissed the action as irrelevant, and found the pursuer liable in expenses.

### MAGISTRATES AND LUNATICS.

AN inquest was held recently at Paulton by Dr. Craddock, coroner for North Somerset, with regard to the death of a woman who committed suicide by cutting her throat. Dr. C. L'Oste Miall stated that he had attended the deceased since November 1st, and on February 23rd advised her removal to an asylum; the local magistrate, however, who made an examination of the deceased, had refused his signature. The coroner,