

16 recovered after an operation, 1 died; of cases not operated upon, 6 died of peritonitis and 10 of inanition.

REFERENCES.

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Memoranda:

MEDICAL, SURGICAL, OBSTETRICAL.

A POSITION OF THE THORAX FAVOURING APICAL DIAGNOSIS.

I HAVE on several occasions found that patients placed in the attitude shown in the photograph—a kind of “stoop-down-to-lace-your-boots” posture—give accentuated auscultation and percussion sounds in early tuberculous



mischief at the pulmonary apices. The assumption of this position allows the soft parts of the supraclavicular and infraclavicular regions—the latter a space between the deltoid and the clavicular portion of the pectoralis major muscles—to “drop in.” The raised thigh, causing abdominal pressure, will push the diaphragm and lungs upwards, hence favouring an elevation of their apical portions. The bending forwards of the head—practically by its own weight—renders the depressor muscles lax, thereby causing “the roof” of the clavicular regions—platysma and cervical fascia—to become less tense, the latter being “pulled down” nearer the pulmonary apices by its deeper attachments. This posture is also serviceable in middle-lobe diagnosis, since the “auscultation triangle”—that is, the space between trapezius, latissimus dorsi, and rhomboideus major muscles—is widened, due to

the pulling outwards of the inferior angle of the scapula, whereby the muscular thickness that usually abounds in this neighbourhood is considerably lessened.

Barton-on-Humber.

CHARLES A. BECK.

ANAESTHESIA FOR SUBMUCOUS RESECTION OF THE SEPTUM.

WITH regard to Mr. Seymour Jones's note in the JOURNAL of February 24th, p. 421, advising the use of cocaine and adrenalin by submucous injection to procure anaesthesia in septal resection, may I say that I tried this method (substituting eucaine for cocaine) and gave it up years ago? The addition or use of a general anaesthetic in this operation is not necessary, certainly not in more than 2 per cent. of the cases. One can procure in five minutes absolute and safe anaesthesia lasting an hour by Freer's simple method: Dip small cotton-tips in 1 in 4,000 or 1 in 5,000 adrenalin solution, pick up on these a few crystals of pure cocaine hydrochloride and rub on the mucous membrane. Have the cocaine weighed in 1-grain packets—more than 2 grains are seldom necessary. Only once in about 100 cases of septal resection have I required a general anaesthetic, and that was in a lad who fainted whenever a nasal speculum was introduced into his nostril. Anaesthesia by submucous injection is rarely necessary for any intranasal operation. What Dr. Walker Wood says in the JOURNAL (vol. ii, 1911, p. 1059) on this matter I can quite endorse.

Hamilton.

JAMES ADAM, M.D.

TREATMENT OF PRURITUS VULVAE AND ANI. DR. GIBBONS, in his very interesting lecture on pruritus vulvae and its treatment, makes no mention of urotropin, a drug which I have found of extraordinary value in these conditions. The notes of the following two cases will demonstrate its value in these very unpleasant and distressing conditions:

1. A lady, for whom I removed a broad ligament cyst, developed a most severe pruritus of the vulva, the irritation being extreme—so much so, that she scratched the parts until they bled. Careful examination of the vulva and vagina was made, but there was nothing to suggest a local cause. The urine was examined, and no abnormal product found. Various remedies were tried, but with little avail. I then prescribed urotropin, gr. 10 three times a day in water. Within a few days the itching entirely ceased, and the accompanying dermatitis disappeared. She has had no recurrence since this attack three years ago.

2. A man consulted me about intolerable itching of the anus and scrotum. He had been treated by several doctors, and had had a host of remedies tried, but all to no good. I examined the rectum, faeces, and urine, but could find no clue to its origin. As the intolerable itching was preying on his mind and medicinal remedies had failed, I dissected up the skin around the anus, after Sir Charles Ball's method. This promptly gave him relief, but it only lasted for a short time. Some weeks after the operation he wrote me to say the itching was as bad as ever. I then prescribed 10 gr. of urotropin three times daily in water, and also directed him to smear the parts with ung. metallorum. Almost at once the itching ceased, and has not returned up to the present—a period of two years.

Several other cases have had the same happy result, and, though I do not say this is a panacea for all cases, yet it is well worthy of a trial when careful examination of the parts has failed to reveal any definite cause.

C. E. CAMPBELL-HORSFALL, M.B., Ch.B. Vict. Univ. Newquay.

MORTALITY AFTER OPERATIONS FOR APPENDICITIS.

THANKS to the promptitude with which medical men have cases of appendicitis operated on, the mortality is very much less than it used to be. Looking over the last 281 cases operated on in the quiescent stage, I find that no death occurred from the operation. A case of sudden death took place three weeks afterwards, but this is fortunately a very exceptional occurrence at so late a stage.

The last 93 cases of appendicitis with abscess formation, which were all operated on promptly, recovered. One case which was not operated on until septic absorption had taken place to a considerable extent died. It is satisfactory to find that the number of cases of general peritonitis sent to be operated on has greatly diminished during the last three years, and when sent they are at a much earlier stage, and recovery, therefore, is much more certain. Where patients have passed the third day of their illness the mortality is very high; when operated upon on the first or second day the mortality is frequently as low as 2 per cent.

This improvement is greatly helped by patients being brought to hospital or homes in the sitting-up posture, and also being operated on and nursed as nearly as possible in the Fowler position. Saline rectal infusion has been a powerful aid in diminishing the mortality.

J. CRAWFORD RENTON, M.D.,
Surgeon, Western Infirmary, Glasgow.

THE late Sir Henry Trentham Butlin left estate valued at £90,996.

UNDER the will of the late Miss Helen Swindells of Birkdale, Lancashire, the following institutions receive bequests to the amount set against their names: The Cancer Research and Pathological Department of the University of Manchester £5,000, Manchester Royal Infirmary £4,000, St. Mary's Hospital and the Hospital for Consumption and Diseases of the Throat £3,000 each, the Children's Hospital, Pendlebury, the Northern Counties Hospital for Incurables, and the Devonshire Hospital, Devon, £2,000 each, and the Southport and Birkdale Nursing Society £1,000.

Medical Association, and at the present time Senior Physician of the Sussex County Hospital. Dr. Richard Dill, who celebrated his golden wedding some six years ago, is survived by his wife, by two sons, one of whom has already been mentioned, and by two daughters. Another son, who died some years ago, was also a medical man and an officer in the Royal Army Medical Corps.

WE record with deep regret the death of CHARLES PARNHAM SKRIMSHIRE, M.R.C.S.Eng., L.S.A., who passed away on February 22nd at Sand Haven, St. Paul's Road, Weston-super-Mare. Death was due to hemiplegia and cardiac failure. Dr. Skrimshire, who was the fifth son of the late Dr. George Skrimshire, of Holt, Norfolk, was born on October 15th, 1844, and was one of four brothers who followed their father's profession. He studied medicine at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London, and was senior scholar of his year. He had an eminent and successful medical career in Wales, first at Llanelly, near Crickhowell, as partner with the late Dr. W. F. Tuckett, to whose practice he eventually succeeded, and one of whose daughters he married. After between eight and nine years in practice at Llanelly he removed to Blaenavon, Monmouthshire, where for eleven years he was head doctor for the Blaenavon Iron and Steel Company, and he then retired to private practice in the same town. On account of failing health he finally retired in November last and went to reside in Weston-super-Mare in the hope of some years of quiet yet useful service. During his career he held the following appointments: Medical Officer of Health for Brynmawr Urban District Council and Llanelly Rural District Council; Medical Officer to the Crickhowell Union; Public Vaccinator for Brynmawr and District; Medical Inspector of Factories for the Blaenavon Company. He was a member of the British Medical Association, and formerly held the position of President of the Eastern Valley Medical Association. Dr. Skrimshire was earnest in everything he undertook, and had a distinguished career as a Volunteer, being late Brigade-Surgeon of the South Wales Volunteers Infantry Brigade, Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel (V.D.) 1st Brecknockshire Volunteer Battalion South Wales Borderers, and was granted the Volunteer Decoration for long service. He was a prominent Freemason, having held the position of Worshipful Master of the Kennard Lodge. He leaves a widow and four sons and three daughters; the eldest son is Head Master of the English High School for Boys in Constantinople, and his second son the former well-known Welsh International Rugby football player, now in South Africa.

WE regret to announce the death of Dr. ARMAUER HANSEN, of Bergen, the discoverer of the bacillus of leprosy. The discovery was made so long ago as 1871. Born at Bergen in 1841, Dr. Hansen was appointed Physician to the Lungegaard Leper Hospital there in 1869. He studied microscopy and dermatology at Bonn and Vienna in 1870 and 1871. In 1881 he was appointed Director of the Lungegaard. Dr. Hansen took an active part in the organization of leper hospitals in Norway with the view of segregating lepers; but the segregation was never, we believe, made compulsory. At any rate, in the mid Eighties we remember seeing obvious lepers mingling freely with crowds in the street. Dr. Armauer Hansen was a man of unassuming manners and amiable character. He was a son-in-law of Danielssen, author of what was once regarded as the classic work on leprosy. Dr. Armauer Hansen was in his 71st year.

WE regret to announce the death, on March 2nd, at his residence, Upper Norwood, of Dr. G. STANLEY ELLIOT. Dr. Elliot, who was the son of a well-known surgeon in Exeter, had two brothers in the medical profession. He was born in Devonshire in 1844, and received his medical education at the Worcester Infirmary and in Edinburgh. He took the diplomas of L.R.C.P. and L.R.C.S. Edin. in 1867; he held consecutively the post of House-Surgeon at Salop Infirmary, Assistant Medical Officer at Colney Hatch Asylum, at Worcester County Asylum, and at Coton Hill Institute for the Insane. He was appointed

Medical Superintendent to the Metropolitan Asylums Board Asylum at Caterham in 1879, from which post he retired on a well-earned pension in 1901. He had become M.R.C.P. Edin. in 1873 and F.R.C.S. Edin. in 1879. Dr. Elliot was a man of wide culture, had read and assimilated much, travelled extensively, and possessed a keen insight into the characters of men. His courteous bearing and honourable conduct endeared him to every one; he had no enemies but many friends, by whom he was much beloved, and who were proud to minister to him during his last long illness. He suffered from grave heart disease with complications, which made him an invalid for several years, and which ultimately proved fatal.

After life's fitful fever he sleeps well.

THE death has occurred at his residence at Lee, Blackheath, of Lieutenant-Colonel G. W. McNALTY, C.B., a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland and M.D. St. Andrews, who, after serving some thirty years in the army, retired with the rank of Brigade-Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel in 1892. During his career, which was one of considerable distinction, he gained an exceptionally large experience of war operations, though not always in the capacity of an officer in the Army Medical Department. On two occasions he served with foreign troops—first, as Medical Officer of the English ambulance during the Franco-German war of 1870–1, and next as Commissioner and Chief Surgeon to the National Aid Society in the Russo-Turkish war of 1876–7. He was also present at all the principal engagements during the Ashantee war of 1873–4, the Afghan war of 1878–80, and in the first Egyptian expedition in 1882. While in India he was an Honorary Surgeon to the Viceroy, and received the Companionship of the Bath at the Diamond Jubilee. At the time of his death he was in the 75th year of his age.

BRIGADE-SURGEON HENRY ELMSLEY BUSTEED, Madras Medical Service (retired), died in London on February 1st, aged 79. He was born on December 4th, 1832, took the M.D., Queen's University, Ireland, in 1854, and the M.R.C.S. in 1855, and entered the Indian Medical Service as Assistant Surgeon on August 4th, 1855. He served with the Horse Artillery in the Indian Mutiny, and took part in the relief of Lucknow, the relief of Cawnpore, and the operations against the Gwalior contingent, receiving the medal with a clasp. In 1861 he was appointed Civil Surgeon of Cuddalore, the civil station attached to the ancient Fort St. David, and in 1865 entered the Madras Mint as Assistant Assay Master, and in the Mint he spent the rest of his service. In 1870 he was transferred as Deputy Assay Master to Calcutta, and in 1872 was appointed Assay Master, a post which he held, occasionally acting as Master of the Mint, until his retirement, with a step of honorary rank, on June 1st, 1886. He became Surgeon on August 4th, 1867, and Surgeon-Major on July 1st, 1873, but rose no higher in the service, as medical officers employed in the Mint were then not eligible for further promotion. Even now, they are debarred from promotion to the administrative grades. He received the C.I.E. on January 1st, 1887, after his retirement. He will be best remembered, however, as the author of that charming book, as Lord Curzon called it, *Echoes of Old Calcutta*. First published in 1882, subsequent editions were issued in 1888 and 1897, and a fourth, rewritten and considerably enlarged, in 1908. He also published, in 1903, a pamphlet, *The Serampore Portrait: Is it Madame Grand?* afterwards incorporated in the fourth edition of *Echoes*, in which he conclusively proved that the famous picture in the Baptist Mission, Serampur, long supposed to be a portrait of the lady known successively as Mdle. Noel Werlée, Madame Grand, and Princesse de Talleyrand, was in reality a picture of a Danish princess.

DEATHS IN THE PROFESSION ABROAD.—Among the members of the medical profession in foreign countries who have recently died are: Dr. E. Caventon, sometime President of the Paris Academy of Medicine; Dr. V. P. Ivanovsky, formerly Professor of Pathological Anatomy in the Army Medical Academy, St. Petersburg; Dr. Emil Stoffella d'Ata Rupe, Emeritus Professor of Internal

Medicine in the University of Vienna, aged 76; Dr. Dittmar-Finkler, sometime Professor of Hygiene in the University of Bonn, in his 60th year; Dr. Hermann Jastrowitz, of Berlin, a well-known authority on mental diseases, aged 72; Dr. A. Negri, Lecturer on Bacteriology in the University of Pavia, known by his researches on rabies, on the prophylaxis of malaria, and on the protozoa; Dr. E. Cestan, Professor of Clinical Surgery in the Medical Faculty of Toulouse; Professor Heinrich Ehlers, who was for a long time head of the Gynaecological Clinic of the Duke's Hospital at Brunswick, in his 72nd year; and Professor D. W. Reye, for many years Director of the Hamburg Asylum for the Insane, in his 80th year.

Universities and Colleges.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.

MEETING OF THE SENATE.

A MEETING of the Senate was held on February 21st.

Charles Graham Medical Research Scheme.

Dr. Charles Bolton, D.Sc., F.R.C.P., was appointed for a period of one year from January 1st, 1912, Director of Research under the Charles Graham Research Scheme.

Grants by the Goldsmiths Company.

The cordial thanks of the Senate were voted to the Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths for their recent generous gifts of £10,000 to the building fund of King's College for Women, £5,000 to the Endowment Fund of Bedford College, and £1,000 to the building and equipment fund of the chemical laboratories at University College.

Amendment of Regulations in Medicine for Internal and External Students.

It was resolved that Sections V and VI of the regulations with regard to exemptions in medicine (Red Book, September, 1911, p. 147) be amended to read as follows:

- (v) Students who have passed an Intermediate Examination in Arts, Science, or Agriculture, with Chemistry, or Physics, or Botany and Zoology,* will be exempted at the First Examination for Medical Degrees from examination in the Subjects in which they have passed, provided that they have completed the required Courses of Study.
- (vi) Students who have passed the B.A. or B.Sc. Examination with Physics, or Chemistry, or Botany and Zoology,* will be exempted at the First Examination for Medical Degrees from examination in the Subjects in which they have passed, provided that they have completed the required Courses of Study.

The foregoing amendments were adopted, *mutatis mutandis*, for External Students.

(Note.—The words in *italics* are those inserted in the Regulations.)

Appointment of Representatives.

The Chancellor has appointed Sir James Barr, F.R.C.P., to be representative at the Court of the University of Liverpool for the remainder of the term of three years ending December 31st, 1914.

Professor W. D. Halliburton, F.R.S., has been appointed by the Senate a member of the Committee of Management and of the Medical School Committee of King's College Hospital.

University Students in Physiology.

A university studentship in physiology will be awarded to a student qualified to undertake research in physiology, and will be tenable in the Physiological Laboratory of the University or of a school of the University. Applications must be received by the Principal on or before May 31st.

Training Course for Lecturers.

In connexion with the training course for lectures arranged by the University Extension Board to be held during the summer terms, 1912, Dr. H. H. Hulbert will deliver four lectures on the management of voice.

UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER.

Extension of the Physical Laboratory.

PROFESSOR ARTHUR SCHUSTER, Honorary Professor of Physics, opened the new extension of the Physical and Electro-technical Laboratories of the Manchester University on March 1st. The Vice-Chancellor (Sir Alfred Hopkinson), who presided, said that the building, which was opened about twelve years ago, owed its present form to plans drawn by Professor Schuster after seeing what was done in other countries, and at the time they thought it was the last word in the building and fitting up of a physical laboratory. Since then the work had grown enormously, and the extensions were intended to consolidate in one building work which had hitherto been separated, and to provide further accommodation for special research.

Before declaring the building open, Professor Schuster said that when he joined the staff in 1882 the great possibilities of

* No exemption in General Biology at the First Examination for Medical Degrees will be granted to Students who have not passed an Intermediate Examination in Arts, Science, or Agriculture, or the B.Sc. Examination, with Botany and Zoology.

the practical applications of electricity were just beginning to be realized. Evening classes in the subject were commenced, and shortly afterwards a small dynamo house was obtained. As to the technical instruction supplied by the university, there was a special faculty of technology at the municipal school, and the division of the teaching between that and the faculty of science was perhaps not altogether logical, but the two institutions had grown up independently, and, though there was a great deal of talk of overlapping, he did not think in this case that it implied waste. The best adjustment that could be provided was not by a strict definition of what was to be taught in one building or another, but by a cordial and friendly intercourse between the teachers themselves, and by an interchange, where advisable, of students between the classes of the two institutions. He had been much disappointed to find that many students who might have a prosperous career if they would go abroad did not do so. There was a great field for students of physics in India and the Colonies. There were numerous good appointments in the meteorological and physical departments of the universities of India which might fall to many of their good men.

Mr. J. W. Beaumont, the architect of the new building, presented a gold key to Professor Schuster, and a hearty vote of thanks was passed, to which Professor Schuster responded.

On the same occasion the honorary degree of Doctor of Science was conferred on Mr. S. Z. de Ferranti, President of the Institute of Electrical Engineers, and one of the pioneers of electrical engineering in this country.

The main building of the laboratories was opened by Lord Rayleigh in 1900, and the extension consists of two wings on the north and west sides of the dynamo house. The ground floor is devoted solely to electro-technical work, the electro-chemical work being carried on in its old quarters. The first floor of the west wing includes a large lecture room, while the same floor of the north wing provides a number of small research rooms intended mainly for Professor Rutherford's researches in radio-activity, which require a certain amount of isolation.

UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM.

MEDICAL FACULTY.

PROFESSOR PETER THOMPSON has been appointed Dean of the Medical Faculty, in succession to Professor Gilbert Barling, who has held the office with great success ever since the retirement of Professor Windle, over seven years ago.

SOCIETY OF APOTHECARIES, LONDON.

Association of Certificated Dispensers.

THE sixth annual meeting of this association was held in the Court Room of the Apothecaries' Hall, Blackfriars, E.C., on Thursday, March 7th. Mr. Montagu Smith, Lewisham Infirmary, presided.

The financial statement showed a net credit balance of £81 11s. 10d., and the annual report a steady increase in the membership, now over 500, the largest association of dispensers in existence, large numbers having joined for protection against the unsettling tendencies of the Insurance Bill. The Committee and Honorary Secretary have taken care that the interests, rights, and privileges of the members were brought to the notice of every member of the House of Commons, and deputations had been received by members of the Government, resulting in a special clause being added to the dispensing clauses for the benefit of holders of the Hall certificate. A petition had been forwarded to the Privy Council with reference to powers given to the Pharmaceutical Society under Section 4, Sub-clause B, of the Poisons and Pharmacy Act (1908), to make a by-law. A bill proposed by the Society of Apothecaries with the object of bringing the certificated dispensers and the examination more into line with modern requirements, introducing, amongst other matter, a preliminary examination in general education, period of training, an age limit, title, registration, and other improvements, will be submitted to Parliament at an early date. Many members were successful in securing dispensing appointments in the public services, and a large number temporary or permanent berths through the employment agency kept by the Honorary Secretary. The members of committee were re-elected, and the name of Dr. C. Addison added to the list of patrons. Mr. Derbyshire, of the Royal General Dispensary, was appointed an Assistant Secretary. Votes of thanks to the Master and Wardens for the use of the court-room, the Chairman, and Honorary Secretary terminated the business.

UNDER the will of the late Mr. George Hablo, the Manchester Hospital for Consumption and Diseases of the Throat and Chest receives a sum of £5,000 for the endowment of a ward.

THE Bombay correspondent of the *Times*, telegraphing on March 6th, states that Mr. Ratan Tata has offered £1,000 annually for ten years for a crusade against tuberculosis. The idea has received the approval of the Government of India, and the support of the Bombay Municipality and the millowners is anticipated. Phthisis is especially prevalent among the *purdah* women.

Medico-Legal.

CONTRACT WITH LOCUMTENENTS.

THE question of the amount of notice to which a locumtenent is entitled was raised by an action tried in the Clerkenwell County Court on March 4th. In this case, according to the report in the *Times*, the plaintiff claimed £19 4s. as salary for four weeks and four days, and £7 4s. as the sum equivalent to board and lodging for the same period. He had been engaged, he said, to act as locumtenent for a period running from November 30th to January 16th in return for four guineas a week and board and lodging, but about a fortnight after commencing his work he fell ill, and had to take temporary rest; on returning to his duties, however, the defendant refused to allow him to complete his contract. Pleading his case on his own behalf, the plaintiff argued that his claim was justified because the relation between locumtenent and employer was that of master and servant. At any rate, there was not any general custom of contrary effect in the profession, nor any established rule, as testified by the defence, that a locumtenent was dismissible at 48 hours' notice. Each medical agent had his own rules, and these varied. If the principal were ill a locumtenent was engaged for an indefinite period, and if engaged by the day was engaged at the rate of a guinea a day.

For the defendant, evidence was given by a medical agent, to the effect that there was a custom in the profession that 48 hours' notice would terminate such an engagement as that of the plaintiff; and the defendant, giving evidence on his own behalf, stated that he had been engaging locumtenents for many years, that they were engaged for so much a day, and were never entitled to more than 48 hours' notice. It was also argued on his behalf that though locumtenents were usually paid weekly, this was only for convenience, because, strictly speaking, their contracts were temporary and only for so much a day, and that by established usage of the medical profession a principal was entitled to dismiss a locumtenent at practically a moment's notice.

His Honour, in giving judgement, said that the plaintiff fell ill and another locumtenent had to be engaged. The plaintiff took up the position with regard to the principal that "although you have to pay somebody else, you must pay me as well." That was what the claim in the case was. It seemed to him impossible to accept that conclusion. The principle of the law of master and servant—that illness did not interfere—did not apply to the case, and judgement must be for defendant, with costs. The plaintiff had a right to appeal if he wished to do so.

It is to be noted that, as reported by the *Times*, the judge in this case does not seem to have given any direct answer to the question of the amount of notice to which a locumtenent is entitled, and still less to the converse question of the amount of notice that a principal is entitled to receive.

The two points can be safeguarded, of course, by the wording of the contract signed between the locumtenent and principal, but it is common for principals to entrust their work to locumtenents with whom they have no formal contract, and for locumtenents to commence work on merely verbal arrangements. It seems certain that if locumtenents believed that they were subject to dismissal forthwith the number of candidates for such appointments would be fewer than it is, and that if principals believed that their locumtenents were entitled to give up their positions at their pleasure in the same way, they would leave home with even less tranquil minds than is at present the case.

Public Health

AND

POOR LAW MEDICAL SERVICES.

HOUSES UNFIT FOR HABITATION.

Action by the Scottish Local Government Board.

IN connexion with the administration of the Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, 1909, the Local Government Board for Scotland has just issued an order and explanatory circular with respect to the procedure for closing dwelling-houses unfit for human habitation. The procedure, as prescribed by Sections 17 and 18, has given local authorities considerable anxiety during the past year, leading in some cases to troublesome legislation both in the supreme and inferior courts. The Board sympathizes with local authorities which are met by legal difficulties of a purely technical character in administering the Act, and accordingly, in its circular, draws special attention to certain points that have come under the review of the courts.

First, as regards the issue of notices, the Act prescribes that "notice of a closing order shall be forthwith served on every owner of the dwelling-house in respect of which it is made." The Board refers to a recent case before the sheriff at Airdrie, in which objection was taken on the ground that the proceedings of the local authority were inept in respect that every owner had not been served with a notice. It appeared that in the sense of the Housing Acts all the owners were not known, since "owners," as defined by Section 49 of the Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, include mortgagees. One of the parties who had not been served with a notice was shown to be in

possession under a decree. Others were also interested in the subject. It was agreed that it was not reasonably possible for the district committees to discover mortgagees, etc. The local authority quite innocently might serve on one person with only a small interest, while one with a large interest might be omitted. With a view to avoid any question arising out of the failure to include every owner in the address, the Local Government Board has amended the form of its order, so that the address shall be "to A. B. (say) and others, owner or owners of the dwelling-house" in question.

Another point with regard to the Board's form of closing order was stated very fully by the Lord President of the Court of Session on December 21st, 1911, when advising in the case of Kilpatrick v. the Local Authority of Maxwelltown. The question in that case was whether the closing order was inept in respect that it failed to disclose with sufficient specification the grounds for making it. The Board's form is somewhat similar to that issued by the English Local Government Board, and is, as his lordship said, really an echo of the Act itself. It contained no provision for specifying the defects. While, therefore, the Court held that it was not necessary to determine that the closing order was inept on these grounds, Lord Dunedin was of opinion "that it might be well if the Local Government Board considered whether they might not, to a certain extent, amend the form with that in view," so that, "in serving the order, there should be some reference added as to what the grounds of defect of the house consist in." The Board has accordingly amended the form to give effect to his lordship's suggestion.

Another interesting point, raised both in the Maxwelltown case and in the case of Johnstone's Trustees v. the Special Committee of the Corporation of Glasgow, was whether the expression "dwelling house" in Section 17 of the Act of 1909 meant and included a whole tenement. In the Maxwelltown case the tenement comprised four dwelling-houses, in the Glasgow case some forty odd houses. The question was whether, as in the Glasgow case, it was necessary to pronounce (say) some forty-one closing orders. The Court of Session held that the expression "dwelling-house" may include a whole tenement, and, therefore, a separate closing order for each house was unnecessary.

In conclusion, the Board in its circular warns local authorities of the necessity of retaining the note to its prescribed forms giving particulars of the statutory provisions as to the right of appeal possessed by owners of dwelling-houses affected, and cite the English case of Rayner v. Mayor, etc., of Stepney, where the omission of the note led to an injunction of the High Court being granted restraining further proceedings on the ground that the notice served did not inform the owner of his right of appeal to the Local Government Board. In Scotland, however, this appeal is to the sheriff, and by an Act of Sederunt dated November 4th, 1910, the Lords of Council and Session determined the rules of procedure in appeals to the sheriff, which should be carefully observed.

Medical News.

LORD HALDANE will preside at the annual meeting of the County of London Branch of the British Red Cross Society to be held at Grosvenor House, on March 27th, at 4 p.m.

LORD ROSEBURY will preside at the annual meeting of the Royal National Hospital for Consumption, Ventnor, which will be held at 18, Buckingham Street, Strand, on Thursday next, at 4 p.m.

THE Royal Dental Hospital, Leicester Square, has received donations from the Grocers Company, £100; from the Drapers Company, £10 10s.; from the Armourers and Brasiers, £5 5s.; and an annual subscription of £5 5s. from the Carpenters Company.

THE annual meeting of members and subscribers of the London Medical Graduates' College and Polyclinic will be held at the Collège, 22, Chenies Street, W.C., on Friday, March 22nd, at 5.15 p.m. Mr. James Cantlie, F.R.C.S., will take the chair.

A LECTURE on the connexion between hydrographical and meteorological phenomena, will be given by Professor Otto Pettersson at a meeting of the Royal Meteorological Society to be held on Wednesday, at 7.30 p.m., in the Institution of Civil Engineers, Westminster.

THE firm which has been familiar to many generations of medical men as makers of Ward's adjustable couches has now become John Ward, Limited, and has its show-rooms at 246-7, Tottenham Court Road. Its new catalogue, which has as frontispiece a picture of a sedan chair supplied to Windsor Castle by the firm in the reign of George II, gives a good idea of its principal manufactures, and also information as to the department from which furniture for invalids is issued on hire.

At a meeting of the Council of the North of England Branch on March 8th the Honorary Secretary, Dr. Todd, made a statement, and it was agreed to form provisional Medical Committees. It was proposed that county boroughs should make their own arrangements, but that in county areas where the Division was not coterminous

with the insurance area the arrangements should be referred to the Contract Practice Committee.

THE Lumleian Lectures on Some Moot Points in the Pathology and Clinical History of Pneumonia, which were to be delivered by Dr. Percy Kidd, before the Royal College of Physicians of London, on March 21st, 26th, and 28th, are unavoidably postponed until May 30th, June 4th, and 6th.

THE next biennial health conference and exhibition is to be held at the Royal Horticultural Hall, Westminster, commencing on June 24th. It is being organized by Miss R. V. Gill, 35, Ludgate Hill, E.C., in co-operation with the National Health Society, and in addition to H.R.H. Princess Christian Schleswig-Holstein, has as patrons a large number of representative members of the medical profession. Admission will be free to all public workers who apply for tickets before the opening day.

MR. HENRY HORSLEY, Croydon, Consulting Surgeon to the Croydon General Hospital, on his entering his fiftieth year of active work in the town, was presented with a silver salver and a cheque, as a token of esteem and affection by numerous personal friends, and the committee and past and present members of the hospital staff. There was a large and representative gathering at the Croydon General Hospital on the occasion, the presentation being made by Sir F. Edridge, Chairman of the hospital.

THE Home Office has published a new edition of the list of the names, addresses, and districts of Certifying Factory Surgeons in England and Wales, revised to December 31st, 1911, and a similar list for Scotland has also been published. Copies can be obtained at the price of 1s. each, either directly or through any bookseller, from Messrs. Wyman and Sons, Ltd., Fetter Lane, London, E.C., and Messrs. Oliver and Boyd, Tweeddale Court, Edinburgh.

THE trustees of the Samaritan Fund at St. Thomas's Hospital are making an earnest appeal for contributions thereto, its income being relatively small as compared with the size of the institution served by it. In the fifty-ninth annual report they make out a good case for additional support by showing that the rapidity with which beds can be set free by the discharge of patients in an early stage of convalescence considerably depends on the work of the fund. Its secretary is Mr. Sidney Phillips.

THE Taylor Memorial Home of Rest, which was opened in June, 1910, for the reception of women suffering from incurable malignant disease, was a small house near the Birmingham and Midland Women's Hospital, and had accommodation for only 5 patients. New premises were opened by the Bishop of Birmingham (Dr. Russell Wakefield) on March 9th, and the larger building will afford accommodation for 20 patients. This has been fitted up at a cost of nearly £1,000, towards which a sum of £600 has already been received.

THE Second National Conference on the Prevention of Destitution will be held at the Caxton Hall, Westminster, from June 11th to June 14th. The conference is being organized on lines similar to those of last year, but its scope is to be somewhat extended. It will be divided into five sections: (1) Public Health; (2) Education; (3) Unemployment and Industrial Regulation; (4) Housing; (5) Crime and Inebriety. Among the discussions to be arranged is one on the administration of sanatorium benefit. Further particulars can be obtained from the Secretary, 37, Norfolk Street, Strand, W.C.

WE are asked to state that hospitals in the County of London, or within nine miles of Charing Cross, desiring to participate in the grants made by the King Edward's Hospital Fund for London for the year 1912, must make applications before March 30th to the Honorary Secretaries, 7, Walbrook, E.C. Applications will also be considered from convalescent homes which are situated within the above boundaries, or which, being situated outside, take a large proportion of patients from London. Applications will also be considered from sanatoriums for consumption which take patients from London, or which are prepared to place beds at the disposal of the Fund for the use of patients from London hospitals.

IT is announced that an optical convention is to be held in London next June. The project includes the holding of an exhibition of optical instruments and appliances of every kind, ancient and modern, with a special view to bringing out the performances of British workers in this direction. The President of the Board of Education, in response to a memorial signed by the presidents of nearly all bodies the work of whose members entails dependence on optical appliances, including the President of the Royal Society and the professors of physics at Oxford, Cambridge, and other universities, has given permission for the exhibition to be held at the Science Museum, South Kensington.

Letters, Notes, and Answers.

ORIGINAL ARTICLES and LETTERS forwarded for publication are understood to be offered to the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL alone unless the contrary be stated.

AUTHORS desiring reprints of their articles published in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL are requested to communicate with the Office, 429, Strand, W.C., on receipt of proof.

MANUSCRIPTS FORWARDED TO THE OFFICE OF THIS JOURNAL CANNOT UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES BE RETURNED.

CORRESPONDENTS who wish notice to be taken of their communications should authenticate them with their names—of course not necessarily for publication.

CORRESPONDENTS not answered are requested to look at the Notices to Correspondents of the following week.

COMMUNICATIONS respecting Editorial matters should be addressed to the Editor, 429, Strand, London, W.C.; those concerning business matters, advertisements, non-delivery of the JOURNAL, etc., should be addressed to the Office, 429, Strand, London, W.C.

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS.—The telegraphic address of the EDITOR of the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL is *Artiology, London*. The telegraphic address of the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL is *Articulate, London*.

TELEPHONE (National):—

2631, Gerrard, EDITOR, BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL.

2630, Gerrard, BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

2634, Gerrard, MEDICAL SECRETARY.

Queries, answers, and communications relating to subjects to which special departments of the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL are devoted will be found under their respective headings.

QUERIES.

G. G. desires to hear of a hospital or establishment in the North of England where a patient in rather poor circumstances could be treated by electric light baths for rheumatoid arthritis accompanied by much pain.

W. H. writes: Mr. Balding, L.D.S., has kindly drawn my attention to a paper in the *British Dental Journal* of January, 1912, p. 4, on "The Relation of the Thyroid Gland to Dentistry." It is stated here that the administration of this gland makes the secretions poured into the mouth alkaline; and hence prevents the acid erosion and decay of the teeth. Would any medical man kindly say if he has had any experience of this use of the thyroid; how soon it causes alkalinity; and if this reaction lasts long after discontinuing the drug?

ANSWERS.

VALGUM AND VARUM.

DEPUTY SURGEON-GENERAL J. J. DENNIS, R.N., writes: With reference to Captain Carmichael's query *re* bow-leg and knock-knee, I asked the same question in the JOURNAL some years ago and was told that the meanings had become transposed.

ASYLUM ADMINISTRATION IN IRELAND.

A MEMBER (Ireland).—General rules and regulations for the management of district lunatic asylums in Ireland were issued by the Lord Lieutenant and Privy Council in Ireland in 1894. Under Rule LVII, dealing with the duties of "assistant medical officer," we find that he "shall devote his whole time to the duties of his office." "He shall be responsible to the resident medical superintendent for the performance of his duties." "In the absence of the resident medical superintendent he—the senior, if more than one—shall act as superintendent." Rule XXXIII, dealing with the duties of the resident medical superintendent, provides as follows: "He shall devote his whole time to the duties of his office, and shall not engage in any professional or other business except that of the asylum, but nothing in these rules contained shall be construed to prevent the resident medical superintendent from accepting consultations in cases of mental disease, unless in the opinion of the inspectors such consultations shall interfere with the efficient supervision of the asylum." Section 9 of the Local Government (Ireland) Act, 1898, enabled Asylum Committees to draw up their own regulations, subject to the approval of the Lord Lieutenant and Privy Council. A rule, or absence of a prohibitive rule, enabling the assistant medical officer to undertake general consultations in the case in point may have been made, but it is extremely improbable. The regulations are practically the same as those issued by the Privy Council. The assistant medical officer "shall devote his whole time to the duties of his office," "be responsible to the resident medical superintendent," and "perform such duties as the resident medical superintendent may assign to him; the senior shall act as resident medical superintendent in the latter's absence." In the same way the resident medical superintendent "shall devote his whole time to the duties of the office, shall not engage in any professional or other business, except consultations in cases of mental disease." He may also visit any person at the request of the Lord Lieutenant, Lord Chancellor, the Prisons Board, Inspectors of Lunatics, inquiring into their mental condition, etc." Such rules are found in all the regulations throughout Ireland, and it would seem contrary to both the letter and the spirit of the regulations for an "assistant medical officer to engage in practice outside asylum by taking consultations in cases that are not of a mental nature." When acting as resident medical superin-