

Memoranda:

MEDICAL, SURGICAL, OBSTETRICAL.

EMPYEMA IN AN INFANT.

With reference to Dr. Cummings's memorandum (JOURNAL, January 4th, 1913, p. 20) mentioning a baby four months old suffering from empyema, may I quote the following case in a much younger infant, with which I met last March?

I was asked to see a baby three weeks old, at whose birth I had attended, the complaint being that the infant had a cough. The temperature was 102°; dyspnoea and a croupy cough were present. On examination of the chest the following condition was found: Right side, normal in front and behind; left side, in front resonant, and a few rales over the upper lobe; behind, at the left base the resonance was much impaired, with distant breath and voice sounds. Next morning marked bronchial breathing was heard over the left upper lobe in front, while behind marked dullness was present from the base up to the spine of the scapula. Breath and voice sounds were diminished over this area. Exploration showed the presence of pus, some of which was aspirated; later a piece of rib was resected. The infant passed through the operation well, but unfortunately died next day.

West Hoathly.

CECIL WORSTER-DROUGHT.

STRANGULATED HERNIA IN YOUNG INFANT.

ON August 3rd, 1910, when I was house-surgeon to the Liverpool Infirmary for Children, J. E., aged 1 month, was admitted suffering from right strangulated inguinal hernia. Attempts at reduction by taxis and by raising the pelvis and applying ice having failed, the skin was prepared with lysol and spirit soap, and an attempt at taxis under anaesthesia having also failed, I operated. A loop of dark purple small bowel was released, but could not be returned till the ring was nicked (1 drachm of fluid in sac). The sac was transfixated, tied, and cut away. The ring was closed with two or three catgut sutures, and the skin with horsehair and a silkworm gut relaxation stitch. A dressing of collodion acetone and wool was applied.

Twice during the operation the child stopped breathing and needed artificial respiration. This possibly accounted for faulty haemostasis, which produced a haematocoele by next day, but this cleared up without interference, and the wounds healed by first intention. On August 11th I circumcised the child, as it had a bad phimosis.

Bute, South Australia.

GILBERT BROWN.

RECOVERY AFTER TAKING LARGE DOSES OF CORROSIVE SUBLIMATE.

MR. A. LEONARD FULLER reports in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL of January 18th, p. 116, a case of recovery after taking 8*g* grains of corrosive sublimate. It may be of interest to record that I have had two such cases.

I was called to see Mrs. A. on the day after confinement, and found her collapsed, pulseless, and apparently dying. On inquiry I discovered that a soloid which I had unwisely left to prepare a lotion had been administered to her by a somewhat bibulous attendant. Fortunately immediate vomiting brought up a greater part of the soloid undissolved. Eggs were administered freely, and stimulants and later intestinal sedatives; after a few days of anxiety she was well again.

At Marseilles, while acting as ship surgeon, a passenger inadvertently swallowed the whole solution he had made with an 8*g* grain soloid, not noticing his mistake owing to a rather too festive evening ashore. He was forced to take eggs to the number of, I think, a dozen, and after abdominal pain for a few days was well. In this case also immediate vomiting, owing to the intensity of the poison, saved the patient.

The above experiences have taught me the danger of entrusting such powerful poisons to persons unless assured of their sanity and sobriety.

FERGUSON FLOYD, M.B.,
Medical Officer, Kilkeel Union Infirmary.

Reports

ON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL PRACTICE IN THE HOSPITALS AND ASYLUMS OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE.

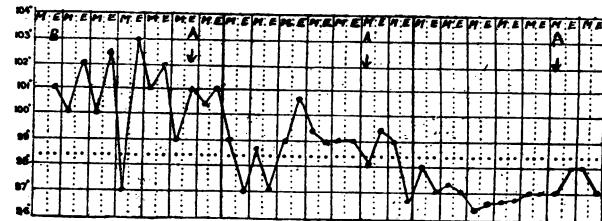
CHELTENHAM GENERAL HOSPITAL.

RHEUMATISM AND CHOREA.

(By J. RUPERT COLLINS, M.A., M.D., Honorary Physician.) THE important paper of Dr. Branson on the Avenues of Rheumatic Infection, published in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL of November 23rd, 1912, in which he alludes to the relationship between rheumatism and chorea, may render a brief note of the following case of interest.

N. Y., a servant girl, aged 18, was admitted under my care in January, 1911, suffering from severe chorea. She was so violent and difficult to control as to necessitate the use of padding round the sides of the bed, to prevent her hurting herself, and the constant care of a nurse. Arsenic and various kinds of sedatives—including bromides, chloretone, chloral, and morphine—were tried with little or no benefit. A hot pack at night quieted her to some extent, and this was employed for some weeks. Thyroid extract was tried and was followed by a very marked improvement for four days, when the patient's choreic movements became even more violent than before, and she looked so ill as to raise grave doubts as to her recovery. On January 21st I made a lumbar puncture, and 15 c.c.m. of clear cerebro-spinal fluid came away freely. The patient was very quiet following the rachitentesis, and had a good night's sleep. Hitherto she had been much troubled with insomnia. The cerebro-spinal fluid proved sterile and free from cellular exudation. The improvement only lasted a few days. On January 30th I drew off 50 c.c.m. of blood from the median basilic vein into a flask containing 60 c.c.m. of ordinary nutrient broth and 25 c.c.m. into a similar flask containing lactic acid lactose milk broth. When incubated the former flask proved sterile, but the latter yielded a pure culture of a diplococcus. This coccus grew in twos and in short chains of four and six, but no long chains were found. It grew fairly vigorously on agar and was Gram-positive, but not strongly so, a long application of alcohol decolorizing it. A vaccine was prepared of this organism, and on February 6th I inoculated 10 million and on February 7th 50 million of this vaccine. The patient began to improve almost at once after the first injection. On February 9th she was well enough to allow of her bed being pushed on to the balcony, and on February 11th she was able for the first time since her admission to feed herself. On February 14th the sister of the ward showed me that she could now hold a cup without spilling the contents. She continued to improve steadily, and was discharged from the hospital on March 14th. As there was still a tendency to jerkiness when attention was drawn to her, she attended at the hospital for three months as an outpatient, receiving an inoculation once a week for some time after all trace of her unsteadiness had ceased.

Shortly after the above patient was discharged, a girl, M. H., aged 19, was admitted suffering from a second attack of typical rheumatic fever. This patient had a



A = Inoculation with vaccine, 100 million each time.
B = Admission to hospital.

mitral systolic bruit, and her knee and hip joints were swollen and tender. She was given no other treatment than injections of the vaccine prepared from the above case, and her temperature, as figured in the chart, showed

Universities and Colleges.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.

LONDON HOSPITAL MEDICAL COLLEGE.

A COURSE of lectures and demonstrations on neurology will be held on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays during February and March, at 4.30 p.m., beginning on Friday, February 7th. Dr. Theodore Thompson will deal with lesions of the peripheral nervous system and spinal cord; Drs. Turnbull and Gordon Holmes with the pathology of the central nervous system; Dr. Gordon Holmes with clinical anatomy and regional diagnosis; and Dr. Henry Head with common diseases of the nervous system. The course is intended for senior students and post-graduates preparing for the diplomas in psychiatry. The fee is three guineas. Further particulars can be obtained from Professor William Wright at the College.

SCOTTISH INTER-UNIVERSITY CONFERENCE.

THE Scottish Inter-University Conference opened at Aberdeen on January 24th. The four universities (Aberdeen, St. Andrews, Glasgow, and Edinburgh) were represented, and Principal George Adam Smith, in welcoming the delegates, referred to the growth of students' representative councils, and said the system worked extremely well. He acknowledged gratefully their co-operation with the authorities of the university, and said that any suggestions they might put before the court would receive very careful consideration.

A motion that the President of the Students' Representative Council should attend meetings of Senate when motions affecting that council were under discussion was adopted. A motion was also adopted recommending that the vacations and terms of the four Scottish universities be concurrent, and that the vacations and terms of the faculties be as nearly as possible concurrent.

The conference was continued on Saturday, the 25th, when the following, among other, resolutions were adopted:

That an inter-university committee, composed of members of the Senatus of the different faculties of the four Scottish universities, be appointed to obtain information with regard to vacancies in the Government and other services, and to publish a list of any such vacancies at the four universities for the benefit of students. That in view of the fact that students taking biology for the degree of B.Sc. (pure) are unable to complete their first science classes in one year, the period between sitting the last subject of the first science examination and the first subject of the final examination be reduced from one year to six months in such cases.

SOCIETY OF APOTHECARIES OF LONDON.

THE following candidates have been approved in the subjects indicated:

SURGERY.—[†]E. M. Brand.

MEDICINE.—^{*}G. M. Cordingley, ^{*}G. E. Cuttle, [†]R. B. F. Frazer,

[†]J. W. Harrison, ^{*}G. R. Lynch.

FORENSIC MEDICINE.—J. A. A. Boddy, G. M. Cordingley, R. B. F.

Frazer, H. C. C. Hackney.

MIDWIFERY.—G. M. Cordingley, G. E. Cuttle, J. A. Prendergast, L.

C. Smith.

* Section I. † Section II.

The diploma of the Society has been granted to E. M. Bran.

Medico-Legal.

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION.

A CORRESPONDENT asks for advice in the case of a workman who received an injury about a year ago resulting in the extraction of the lens and incapacity since. There is a difference of opinion between the doctor acting for the insurance company and other medical men.

** As to precedents in law it would be advisable to consult a solicitor. The applicant for compensation must submit himself to the examination of the doctor paid for by his employer, and the patient can claim that his own doctor shall be present at the examination. We know of no precedent for a medical man representing the employer or the insurance company demanding that the patient should be treated in an institution under his own care. Our correspondent might consult the following books: *Diseases of the Nervous System Resulting from Accident and Injury*, by P. Bailey (London: S. Appleton, 1903); *Injuries of the Eye of the Employed and the Compensation Act*, by W. M. Beaumont (London: H. K. Lewis, 1907, price 5s.); *Industrial Diseases and Accidents*, by W. J. Greer (Bristol: J. Arrowsmith. London: Simpkin Marshall and Co., 1909, price 7s. 6d.); *The Eye and Nervous System*, by W. E. Posey and W. G. Spiller (London: J. B. Lippincott and Co., 1906, price 25s.); *The Diagnosis of Nervous Disease*, by P. Stewart, third edition (London: Edward Arnold, 1911, price 15s.).

Medical News.

THE King has appointed Dr. James Cran, of Belize, to be an unofficial member of the Legislative Council of British Honduras.

THE annual dinner of the West London Medico-Chirurgical Society will be held in the Wharncliffe Rooms, Hotel Great Central, Marylebone Road, on February 6th, at 8 p.m.

THE annual oration before the Hunterian Society of London will be given in the library of St. Bartholomew's Hospital by Dr. Edward W. Goodall, on Wednesday, February 12th, at 9 p.m.; the subject selected is serum sickness.

AT a meeting of the Royal Sanitary Institute, at 90, Buckingham Palace Road, S.W., on Tuesday, February 11th, at 7.30, Dr. Samuel Rideal will open a discussion on the eighth report of the Royal Commission on Sewage Disposal, on standards and tests for sewage and sewage effluents discharging into rivers and streams.

DR. HERBERT HAWKSWORTH, on the occasion of his retiring from Welshpool, where he has been in practice for thirty-one years, was, on January 16th, presented by his friends and patients with an album address and a wallet containing £260; Mrs. Hawksworth was on the same occasion the recipient of a sapphire and pearl pendant.

THE new Hounslow Hospital, which will provide accommodation for twenty-four patients, was opened by H.R.H. Princess Christian on January 23rd. The hospital, which is situated on the Staines Road, was built from the designs of Mr. E. Francke at the cost of £5,000, and replaces the old hospital in Bell Road, founded by Dr. Sydney some forty years ago.

THE usual monthly meeting of the Executive Committee of the Medical Sickness, Annuity, and Life Assurance Society was held at 429, Strand, London, W.C., on January 17th, Dr. F. J. Allan in the chair. The accounts for the year were considered, and it was shown that though heavy sickness claims and bonuses had been paid to members, the funds of the society showed an increase. The bonuses now paid at 65 are for substantial amounts, and it is hoped that after the next valuation they will be continued. Many letters from members are received at the office thanking the committee for the way their claims have been settled, and expressing satisfaction with the system of weekly payments. Prospectives and all further information of the Secretary, Mr. Bertram Sutton, Medical Sickness and Accident Society, 33, Chancery Lane, W.C.

WE have received from the President, Herr O. von Angerer, a programme of the forty-second congress of the German Surgical Society, which will meet in Berlin from March 26th to March 29th. The official orders, programmes, and admission cards will be issued from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, the 25th, and on the following day from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. The general meeting will be held in the forenoon of Wednesday, March 26th, and in the afternoon of the following Friday. Gentlemen intending to read papers or to make demonstrations are desired to announce their intention not later than February 12th. The Roentgen-ray demonstrations will be held at 8 p.m. on March 26th. The subjects selected for discussion are (1) duodenal ulcer, (2) the surgery of the brain and spinal cord, and (3) the treatment of tuberculosis of the bones and joints. Inquiries are to be addressed to the Secretary, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Chirurgie, Berlin N., Ziegelstrasse 10-11 (Langenbeck-Haus).

THE trustees of the Chadwick Trust have arranged a course of lectures on hygiene and sanitary science during March, April, and June. The first course of three lectures on hygiene of the home will be given by Mr. H. Percy Bouinois, M.Inst.C.E., at the Royal Sanitary Institute, Buckingham Palace Road, on Friday evenings at 8.15 p.m., beginning on February 7th. In April Dr. J. T. C. Nash will give a course of three lectures on the evolution of epidemics, at the London County Hall, Spring Gardens; and in June Dr. F. W. Mott will give a course at the Royal Society of Arts on nature and nurture in mental development. Lectures will also be given under the auspices of the trust in Manchester, Birmingham, Glasgow, and Bristol. The lectures in Manchester will be by Professor Henry Kenwood on the public milk supply; those at Birmingham, by Mr. E. P. Hill, M.Inst.C.E., on water supply. The lectures, which are intended for post-graduate and advanced students of engineering and medicine, are free. Further particulars can be obtained from the secretary of the trust, Mrs. Aubrey Richardson, 8, Dartmouth Street, Westminster.