

Memoranda:

MEDICAL, SURGICAL, OBSTETRICAL.

THE TREATMENT OF NEURASTHENIA.

At the present time one finds that neurasthenia is being treated, on the one hand, by purely psychical means, and on the other by purely physical measures, and it does not appear that the advantage of combining the two classes of remedies in the treatment of this condition is sufficiently realized.

I consider that static electricity is best suited for the purpose in view, and it has been my practice for some time to make use of combined psycho-electrical treatment for treating neurasthenia in the following manner:

The patient is seated in a comfortable reclining chair on an insulated platform connected with the machine. He is requested to assume a position of relaxation and comfort, to close the eyes, and to rest quietly without speaking or making any movements throughout the treatment. The electricity is generated in the usual way, and its actual application may be varied according to particular requirements; but as a general rule the metallic tassel is so arranged as to give a mild head-breeze. Under such conditions the most restless patients will become tranquillized and soothed to an extent that is difficult to obtain by simple suggestion alone. The effect of the electricity is remarkably soothing, and patients find that in this method they are able to relax their muscles and to rest more quietly than without it. The mental state obtained is not one of sleep, neither is it, apparently, a hypnotic state. It is a "rest state" which very often corresponds to the hypnoidal state described by Boris Sidis.¹

It is my experience that under such conditions the mental state obtained is one of marked suggestibility, and this fact is made use of either to give direct suggestions oneself or to get the patient to give himself such definite self-suggestions as may be advisable. At the same time there is the physical tonic effect of the electricity, which is notably beneficial in all neurasthenic states. In a word, this combined psycho-electrical method enables me to make use of three great principles of nerve treatment—namely, rest, electrotherapy, and suggestion.

I am of opinion that one of the great advantages of static electricity is that it beneficially affects the sympathetic nervous ganglia, with the result that increased peristalsis of stomach and intestines occurs and auto-intoxication is decreased. Where this last-named factor is plainly hindering recovery it is my custom to supplement the psycho-electrical treatment by abdominal massage with a specially designed vibration machine, whilst at the same time prescribing liquid paraffin in suitable doses.

But experience shows that the best results are not obtained unless one combats the morbid mental state also, and so one finds the direct suggestion an essential part of the treatment.

London, W.

EDWIN L. ASH.

IRON PERCHLORIDE IN RINGWORM OF THE SCALP.

DURING some months at the clinic for minor treatment of school children at Cheltenham I tried various applications for ringworm of the scalp, and found a successful remedy in plain liquor ferri perchloridi fortior (*B.P.*). The results obtained by the free use of this very strong and acid solution of perchloride of iron showed a marked superiority over those obtained with any other application, though several preparations were applied of such strength as to create considerable inflammatory reaction. A distinction must be made between liq. ferri perchlor. and liq. ferri perchlor. fort., as the same results are not obtained with the weaker preparation, which is that commonly prescribed.

The scalp can easily be freed from grease and scurf by the use of motor petrol applied on pledgets of common tow, and the head should have one good wash before the

application of the perchloride of iron is begun. As this is very soluble and easily washed away with water, the head should not afterwards be often washed during the treatment.

The strong perchloride solution should be dabbed on the scalp with a camel-hair brush until the scalp is thoroughly stained with it. As the result upon the skin and hair is quite harmless and benign, an occasional prophylactic dressing can be given to the parts unaffected with ringworm. The patches affected should be treated every second day for three times, afterwards every third day for six times, when the cure will generally be effected although the disease has been very extensive. If the head be not then washed, the iron-stained scurf and epidermis will, in the course of some days, come away from the scalp, leaving a healthy skin beneath.

To obtain such rapid and good results as above indicated requires the attendance of the children at a place where the unfailing application of the remedy can be made. It does not appear to be necessary to prevent children going to school whilst undergoing such active treatment, as the cells of the parasite that have been touched with the iron are not likely to be capable of setting up the complaint in another child. By holding the hair aside, part by part, the very fluent liq. ferri perchlor. fort. can be made to stain the scalp thoroughly without cutting the hair, though, of course, it is well to cut the hair close over the affected patches.

J. H. GARRETT, M.D., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health and School Medical Officer,
Cheltenham.

Reports

ON

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

WOLVERHAMPTON AND STAFFORDSHIRE GENERAL HOSPITAL.

MOBILE EXTERNAL SEMILUNAR CARTILAGE.

(Under the care of Mr. HOWARD DENT, F.R.C.S.)

(Reported by T. D. M. STOUT, F.R.C.S., Resident Surgical Officer.)

THE patient, a young woman aged 22, gave a history of having for two years felt a loose body in the knee which caused a loud clicking sound when the knee was moved. No weakness was noticed in the knee until two weeks before admission, when it felt unstable on going up and down stairs. She had never had any pain, and no synovial fluid or thickening could be detected. On examination the knee was found to move well, and the clicking sound was readily heard and felt. A nodule the size of a cherry-stone was felt between the femur and tibia on the outer side of the knee midway between the patella and fibula. On flexion it disappeared into the joint, on extension it appeared outside joint. There was no tenderness, and the knee was quite stable.

A vertical incision was made over the loose body, and it was found to be the external cartilage compressed antero-posteriorly and only attached at its two extremities, no vestige of coronary ligament being present. The cartilage was removed entire, and perfect recovery took place.

THE Lord Mayor of London, accompanied by the Sheriffs, presided over the seventy-seventh annual meeting of St. Mark's Hospital for Cancer, Fistula, and Other Diseases of the Rectum, City Road, E.C., on February 13th. The report showed that 672 in-patients had been admitted, and 2,031 out-patients had received treatment during 1912, a larger number than previously recorded. The Lord Mayor, who is President of the hospital, said that the hospital admittedly laboured under certain disadvantages in its efforts to secure funds, but that generous help ought to be forthcoming when it was remembered how successfully it dealt with most painful and distressing forms of disease.

¹ *Psychotherapeutics*, a Symposium by Morton Prince, M.D., and others (p. 121).

I do not understand that there is great competition for these posts, or that Representatives find great difficulty in ascertaining the opinions of men in their Divisions. Therefore I cannot see much advantage in altering our constitution as to the mode of electing and instructing Representatives.

But our constitution does require alteration in two particulars. Every one who attended the last three Special Representative Meetings must feel shame and amazement at the way in which we conduct our business. On January 17th we disputed for a whole day, at a cost to the Association of £1,000, and did not even succeed in recording the votes we came pledged to give. The agenda ought to be drawn up by the Council, and include such resolutions as will allow of a debate and decision on every point at issue, and neither amendments nor riders by Divisions or individuals should be permitted. Each resolution should be moved by a member of Council, who should make its import clear. The solicitor's opinion upon the exact import and validity of each resolution should be taken before the meeting is held. All questions, not points of order, should be submitted in writing. For a body of 250 men, skilled indeed in medicine, but profoundly ignorant of law, to frame, alter and redraft in a few hours a resolution which, when passed without anything deserving the name of debate, is intended to bind the whole profession, can only be called legislation by nightmare.

The whole matter is too big to be discussed in a single letter. I hope others will take it up and thresh it out in time to tabulate the necessary alterations for the Annual Representative Meeting. Could not the Council appoint a small subcommittee *ad hoc*?

If the procedure of the Representative Body is not reformed I fear that a good many of the most valuable members will find that they cannot afford the time and trouble involved in representing their Divisions in future, and the Association will relapse into the unrepresentative state from which this war aroused it.

The Representative Body should confine itself to debate and decision on broad questions of policy.

Greater trust should be placed in the Council, which should have executive powers in all details of policy.—I am, etc.,

February 17th.

P. NAPIER JONES,
Representative Reading Division.

SIR,—In your issue of February 15th, Dr. Lachlan Fraser demands that we (the British Medical Association) should, "no matter at what cost, transform ourselves into a strong trades union." This, it appears, is in order that we may "protect ourselves against our two natural enemies—the Insurance Committees and the approved societies." If one may judge from his letter, Dr. Fraser is himself one of those unfortunate members of our profession who have been driven, against their own inclination, on to the panel, and it must be obvious to anybody that, having once placed their necks under the yoke, the insurance doctors will now have no option but to form some big central combine in order to defend their economic interests against the inevitable exactions of their new task-masters. But, in the name of all that is best in the traditions of medicine, I protest against Dr. Fraser's proposal that the British Medical Association should be commandeered for such purposes; that this body, whose one essential and primary object hitherto has been the advancement of the science and art of healing, should forthwith be converted into an organization for protecting the financial interests of a section of the profession. Doubtless the doctors on the panel need to combine for self-preservation, and, by all means, if they feel like it, let them form a union *ad hoc*. But I hope that all members of the profession, whether on or off the panel, will clearly recognize that this is not the purpose for which the British Medical Association exists, and that if its machinery should ever be diverted from its present high social function to subserve such purely particularist ends, this would not only inflict another heavy blow on the prestige of medicine in this country, but would inevitably lead to the withdrawal from the Association of all those who still retain some sort of sense of proportion.—I am, etc.,

Edinburgh, Feb. 16th.

ARTHUR J. BROCK.

THE LATE CHAIRMAN OF THE CENTRAL ETHICAL COMMITTEE.

SIR,—In your current issue (SUPPLEMENT, p. 145) you report a resolution of the Council of the British Medical Association referring to the action of Dr. Lauriston Shaw in presiding at the inaugural meeting of the National Insurance Practitioners' Association. His dignified reply will satisfy all fair-minded men in the profession, but inasmuch as we were responsible for asking Dr. Shaw to honour us by presiding at the meeting, we feel that some statement from us is necessary.

It was evident to us that a considerable section of the profession felt that the situation was entirely altered when the final terms and conditions were announced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in December, 1912, and which considered that the new conditions should be accepted, at least for a provisional period. The section of the profession which held these views had hitherto had little opportunity of giving expression to them. In order to support those in favour of working the Act, the National Insurance Practitioners' Association came into being. The course of events has amply justified the action taken, and there can be no doubt that the movement which was inaugurated at the meeting referred to was not only necessary, but obviously fair. We have carefully scrutinized the circular letter to which, apparently, the resolution refers, but we can find no expression whatever which would justify the pontifical action of the Council. It must be remembered also that at the meeting in question speaker after speaker, including the chairman himself, declared that the new association was not in any way hostile to the British Medical Association. Indeed, if the British Medical Association had been wise, there would not have been need of a Representative Meeting in January to reverse the decision of December.—We are, etc.,

H. G. COWIE,
Honorary Secretary,
National Insurance Practitioners' Association.
H. H. MILLS,
Honorary Treasurer,
National Insurance Practitioners' Association.

London, Feb. 18th.

Universities and Colleges.

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE.

THE following degrees have been conferred:

M.D.—J. R. Bentley.
M.B.—D. N. Macleod.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.

AN ordinary Council was held on February 13th, Sir Rickman J. Godlee, Bart., President, in the chair.

Issue of Diplomas.

Diplomas of Membership were granted to ninety-eight candidates found qualified at the recent examination.

Diplomas of the Licence in Dental Surgery were granted to four candidates.

Diplomas in Public Health were granted, jointly with the College of Physicians, to twelve candidates.

Lister Memorial Fund.

The Council voted a sum of 50 guineas to the Lister Memorial Fund.

Primary Examination for the Fellowship.

The following recommendations of the Nomination Committee were adopted by the Council:

I. That Clause 7 of Section III of the Regulations relating to the Diploma of Fellow be altered from

"7. Of having attended a course of Practical Physiology during not less than six months at a recognized Medical School"

to the following:

7. Of having attended at a recognized Medical School
 - (a) A course of Experimental Physiology.
 - (b) A course of Chemical Physiology.
 - (c) A course of Histology.

II. That this alteration in the Regulations be made applicable to all candidates who are not Members of the College entering for the Examination in May, 1914, and for subsequent Examinations.

III. That two papers in Physiology, each containing four questions, of which the candidate must answer only two, be set, and that two hours be allotted to each paper.

IV. That the same arrangement be adopted for the written part of the Examination in Anatomy.

V. That these alterations with regard to the written papers be carried out at the next examination in May of this year.

Central Midwives Board.

Mr. Golding-Bird was re-elected as the representative of the College on the Central Midwives Board.

Bradshaw Lecturer.

Mr. G. H. Makins was chosen as the above lecturer for the ensuing collegiate year.

Gifts.

An offer was accepted, with thanks, from Lady Butlin, to present to the College a replica of the portrait of her late husband by the Hon. John Collier, which was exhibited in the Royal Academy a few years ago.

The Secretary reported that he had received from the executors of the widow of Mr. Caesar Henry Hawkins a portrait by Zoffany of Mr. Pennell Hawkins, Master of the Company of Surgeons in 1778, and great uncle of Mr. Caesar Henry Hawkins, the picture having been bequeathed by Mr. Caesar Hawkins to his wife for life, and after her death to the Royal College of Surgeons, with the direction that it should be placed near the picture painted by Hogarth of Sir Caesar Hawkins, Bart., brother of Mr. Pennell Hawkins.

Board of Examiners in Dental Surgery.

A vacancy occasioned by the expiration of Mr. W. A. Maggs's period of office on the above Board will be filled up at the quarterly Council in April, Mr. Maggs not being eligible for re-election.

CONJOINT BOARD IN ENGLAND.

At a meeting of Comitia of the Royal College of Physicians on January 30th and of the Council of the Royal College of Surgeons on February 13th, diplomas of L.R.C.P. and M.R.C.S. were respectively conferred upon the following ninety-eight candidates, who have passed the Final Examination in Medicine, Surgery, and Midwifery of the Conjoint Examining Board and have complied with the necessary by-laws:

K. B. Aikman, C. H. P. Allen, G. S. Applegate, C. V. Aserappa, S. G. Askey, M. Avent, G. Bailey, J. H. Bennett, P. T. G. Bergouignan, A. C. L. O'S. Bilderbeck, W. F. Blandford, M. F. Bliss, E. C. Bowden, F. J. Y. Brash, R. T. Brothie, H. H. Brown, S. A. Burn, A. C. Clifford, A. G. W. Compton, W. J. Cran, W. H. Dakin-Smith, A. B. Danby, F. E. Daunt, K. B. Dickson, P. G. Doynne, G. D. Eccles, E. A. C. Fazan, E. J. Foster, I. S. Gabe, N. Garrard, G. W. B. Garrett, H. C. Godding, E. M. Grace, B. Grellier, C. J. A. Griffin, F. A. Gunsekera, A. E. Halliran, W. E. Hallinan, S. H. Hay, A. M. Henry, F. M. S. Hulke, F. C. Hunot, T. J. J. Jepp, D. W. John, R. E. Johnston, M. K. Joshi, W. H. Kauntze, K. J. T. Keer, F. H. Kelly, Merlin Kingsley, H. A. Lake, H. W. Latham, H. V. Leigh, F. G. Lescher, A. R. MacMullen, K. C. Mandana, H. H. Mathias, A. W. Matthew, L. M. J. Menagé, C. C. Messiter, A. G. H. Moore, O. G. Morgan, D. E. Morley, L. Page, J. L. Perceval, O. Pitt, C. H. G. Pochin, Lao Htin Poh, H. M. Pope, S. B. Radley, S. O. Rashbrook, L. N. Reece, Minerva Ellen Reid, P. Roux, J. A. Ryle, W. H. P. Saunders, B. E. P. Sayers, W. Simpson, R. W. Spence, C. M. Stallard, R. Stansfeld, H. M. Stephenson, W. J. F. Symons, J. R. K. Thomson, M. L. Treston, H. de P. B. Veale, A. W. Venables, A. S. Wakely, H. F. W. Warden, H. A. Watermeyer, P. J. Watkin, C. A. Weller, E. W. Whiting, S. Wickenden, A. Wai-tak Woo, B. Woodhouse, W. W. Woods, L. D. Wright.

Diplomas in Public Health were conferred upon the following:

F. J. Ayre, H. Balme, Lieutenant Jamsap Cursetji Bharucha, I.M.S., Elsie Mary Chubb, W. E. Cooke, A. Ferguson, Captain C. A. Gill, I.M.S., H. Hilliard, Major J. E. Hodgson, R.A.M.C., Captain H. M. H. Melhuish, I.M.S., Captain A. L. Otway, R.A.M.C., P. Rose.

CONJOINT BOARD IN IRELAND.

The following candidates have passed the examination indicated:

DIPLOMA IN PUBLIC HEALTH.—Captain T. C. Boyd, F.R.C.S.I., I.M.S., T. W. Conway, F.R.C.S.I., J. J. Cullen, L.R.C.P. and S.I., C. H. Denham, M.B. Dubl. Univ., Captain D. L. Harding, F.R.C.S.I., R.A.M.C., J. O'Regan, L.R.C.P. and S. Edin., T. E. Rice, L.S.A.,* R. F. Williams, M.B. Univ. Camb.

* Obtained honours.

Medico-Legal.

SANATORIUM BENEFIT.

Claim for Negligence.

At the Lambeth County Court, before Judge Parry and a jury, an action was brought on February 17th against the Insurance Commissioners and Mr. J. A. Dawes, M.P., chairman of the Insurance Committee for the County of London, by the widow of an insured contributor who claimed £100 on the ground that she and her two children had suffered damage from the negligence of the defendants in wrongfully neglecting to provide sanatorium benefit for her deceased husband and a sum of 10s. a week for the maintenance of herself and her two children, to which they were entitled under the Act. The Commissioners set up the defence that the administration of sanatorium benefit was entrusted to the Insurance Committee and not to them, and that no case was maintainable against them in respect of any act or default of the committee in relation to sanatorium

benefit. It was also alleged that no action was maintainable by any insured person against the Insurance Committee in relation to anything done or omitted by the Committee under Part I of the Act, and also that by reason of Section 8 of the Act no sum was payable in respect of sickness benefit or disablement benefit to the plaintiff's husband, and that the Insurance Committee was not guilty of any negligence or default, and that death was not caused or accelerated by any act or default of the Insurance Committee.

The deceased had been first seen by Dr. Mackeith on August 18th, and his diagnosis of pulmonary tuberculosis was confirmed at the Brompton Hospital. On the advice of Dr. Mackeith the patient's wife made application to the Insurance Committee, and was given two forms to fill up. On September 23rd, having heard nothing more, she again applied, indicating that she was depending for nourishment for her husband upon gifts from friends. Dr. Mackeith, on September 29th, reported that the patient required rest in bed, fresh air, and suitable nourishment. It was contended on behalf of the widow that her husband had been entitled to be treated under the Insurance Act and provided with extra nourishment, and that if he had been so treated the chances were in favour of his life being saved.

Dr. Mackeith, giving evidence, said that he did not regard the case as one for removal to a sanatorium, but that it should have been treated at home; he believed that the man might have recovered and returned to work.

Mr. J. A. Dawes said that the London Insurance Committee received a report on October 10th; the matter had first come before him on September 26th. The Committee could not do anything until they got the report of the patient's doctor and the insurance card.

It was submitted on behalf of the Commissioners that there was no case against them, and the judge ruled in their favour.

The case then proceeded as against the Insurance Committee. Dr. Priestley, M.O.H. Lambeth, said that the notification he received from Dr. Mackeith did not show that the case was urgent, and he had waited for the next meeting of the local subcommittee. In reply to the judge, he stated that nothing had been done by the local subcommittee to give the deceased sanatorium treatment.

The judge left the following questions to the jury: (1) Was the Committee guilty of negligent default in not providing suitable nourishment to deceased between September 29th and October 14th? (2) Did this negligent default cause the death of the deceased? (3) What monetary loss had the widow sustained? They answered the first question in the affirmative, the second in the negative, and fixed the monetary loss at £150.

Mr. Mathew, counsel for the Insurance Committee, asked for judgement on these findings, the jury having found that the man's death was not caused by negligence.

His Honour entered judgement for defendants with costs, stating that the jury's answers left everything in order for the widow to appeal.

CERTIFICATES BY UNREGISTERED DENTISTS.

At the Wimbledon Petty Sessions on January 29th, Henry Ramage, manager to "Wilson's Dental Surgery," 43, The Broadway, and W. G. Morris were summoned at the instance of the British Dental Association for offences under the Dentists' Act, s. 3. Mr. Turner appeared for the prosecution, Mr. P. Robinson defended.

It appeared that the Surrey County Council, when selecting boys for their technical colleges, required medical and dental certificates. A doctor, finding that a boy's teeth were not in order, would give him a printed notice to consult a dentist. This notice specified that the certificate must be signed by a duly qualified and registered dentist. It appears from the report in the *Wimbledon Borough News* that a lad named Stone, having been so served, went to 43, Broadway, and saw the defendant, Ramage, who said that he knew all about such notices. The documents supplied by Ramage were rejected, and the Dental Association was communicated with. It was not alleged that the work done for the boy was unsatisfactory.

It appeared that Ramage was not a registered dentist. He admitted that he had signed a certificate, which had been handed to him by his secretary without any statement that the certificate must show the boy had been passed by a qualified and registered dentist. He also swore that he had never seen the education authority's form and would not think of signing it. A second certificate was issued by his secretary. He denied that Mr. Stone showed him the form.

The Chairman announced that the Bench had decided to convict and would impose a penalty of £2 and costs. He added that the dental authorities were perfectly right in taking proceedings in such cases.

In Morris's case, the summonses were not contested, and he was fined £2, being also ordered to pay £1 ls. advocate's fee on each summons and 8s. 6d. costs.

On the suggestion of the High Commissioner for Cyprus, the Secretary of State for the Colonies has arranged that a visit shall be paid to the island during March by Sir Ronald Ross, M.D., K.C.B., F.R.S., late Professor of Tropical Medicine in the University of Liverpool. The object of Sir Ronald Ross's visit is to investigate the cause of the prevalence of malarial fever in the island and to advise in regard to the best means of combating the disease.

THE death is announced of Geheimrat Dr. JULIUS BAUMGÄRTNER of Baden-Baden. He expired on February 11th, at the age of 76. He was born in 1837 in Freiburg in Breisgau, and he received his medical education in the university of his native city; he distinguished himself in valuable work in the field of physiology. He then went to Paris and studied in the cliniques of Chassaignac, Nélaton, and Maisonneuf, and in 1862 came to England, where he attended the hospital practice of Baker Brown and Spencer Wells, and afterwards passed on to Dublin and Edinburgh. In 1863 he settled in Baden-Baden, and during the Franco-German war took charge of a hospital for French prisoners in Rastatt, for which he was, after the peace, rewarded by the Société de Secours aux Blessés at Paris, which bestowed on him its Croix d'Honneur. In 1879 Dr. Baumgärtner held the office of General Manager of the fifty-second meeting of German Naturalists and Doctors at Baden-Baden. He became one of the best known medical authorities at Baden-Baden, acquired friendships with numerous foreign visitors, and founded an excellent sanatorium in 1891. He died greatly loved and respected, and his funeral service was largely attended. It was held at the Friedhof Kapelle, well known to English visitors and residents.

Medical News.

THE annual meeting of the County of London Branch of the British Red Cross Society will be held at Grosvenor House on Friday, February 28th, when Viscount Esher will take the chair at 4 p.m.

AT a meeting of the Hunterian Society at St. Bartholomew's Hospital on February 12th the President, Mr. A. H. Tubby, being in the chair, the annual oration was delivered by Dr. Edward W. Goodall on serum sickness.

A MEMORIAL to the late Dr. C. J. Allan of Lasswade, subscribed by the inhabitants of the district, was unveiled in Lasswade churchyard on February 8th. The memorial takes the form of a Celtic cross in granite. The Rev. R. Montgomerie Harris, who presided, made reference to Dr. Allan's valued work for nearly half a century, both professionally and as a member of various boards and institutions.

THE county-court judge stated the other day at the Newcastle County Court that he had recently received at the Gateshead Court a medical certificate, printed and initialed, stating that the man was unable to follow his employment owing to the death of a friend. The judge told the applicant he was addressing that a certificate presented to the court must be properly signed and not printed. That it should be properly signed is obvious, but that it should not be printed is an *obiter dictum* which could probably not be sustained if it were shown that a doctor kept a series of printed certificates to meet different conditions frequently recurring.

THE first of a course of six lectures on "National Eugenics" was delivered by Professor Karl Pearson on Tuesday evening, February 11th, in the Botanical Theatre of University College, the subject chosen being the effect of heredity, environment, and parental habits upon the welfare of the child. Despite all that had been written and said to the contrary, Professor Pearson reiterated the opinion that feeding and environment were of comparatively small importance, for the healthiest races were by no means necessarily those who lived under the best hygienic conditions. Statistical evidence proved that in the manufacturing towns of the north the most reproductive classes were not those of good health and good habits, but that the race was being carried on to a far greater extent by men and women of bad health and bad habits. The problem before the nation at the present moment was, therefore, how to encourage the right kind of potential parent to marry and bring up children. In his opinion, the money which was now being spent on insurance and old-age pensions would be better employed to give a differential advantage to those who possessed good health and practised good habits, and who were thus endowed with the qualifications necessary to carry on the race.

THE annual meeting of the Association of Certified Dispensers was held in the Court Room of the Apothecaries Hall, Blackfriars, E.C., on February, 6th. The financial statement showed a satisfactory balance to the credit of the association. The annual report stated that

the association had continued its work on behalf of the members in general, but the question of the long looked for by-law was still unsettled, and the proposed bill on behalf of dispensers still waited a suitable opportunity to be put before Parliament. Mr. Howell, who had recently qualified as a pharmacist, then gave in his resignation of the post of honorary secretary, and on behalf of the members was presented with a gold watch by the chairman, Mr. Montagu Smith, who said that the success of the association was due to Mr. Howell's untiring efforts. Mr. Howell was elected an honorary member for life. Mr. A. Mowbray Upton, Clerk to the Society of Apothecaries, also referred to the services of Mr. Howell to the association and to the correct attitude which had been maintained between the association and the society. Mr. Montagu G. Smith and Mr. A. L. Anderson were unanimously re-elected chairman and treasurer respectively, and Mr. F. E. Traynor (Hackney Infirmary), of 13, Carlton Road, Manor Park, E., was appointed honorary secretary.

THE first Conference of the Eugenic Education Society is to be held in the Large Hall of the University of London on Saturday, March 1st, when over five hundred head masters and mistresses will meet to discuss the question of introducing into the usual school curriculum a certain amount of judicious instruction on the subject of racial responsibility. There is to be a morning and an afternoon session. The former will be opened by the president of the society, Major L. Darwin, with a paper on "The Eugenic Ideal." This paper will be followed by others dealing with the difficulties of introducing eugenics into elementary schools, and the best means of overcoming the obstacles presented by ignorance and prejudice; and the session will close with a discussion on this subject opened by Miss Faithful, the Head Mistress of Cheltenham Ladies' College. In the afternoon the Head Master of Eton will read a paper on "Racial Responsibility as a Factor in the Formation of Character," and Professor J. Arthur Thomson, of the University of Aberdeen, will open a discussion on the ways and means of introducing the eugenic ideal into schools. It is proposed, should the general feeling of the audience at the close of the meeting appear to be in accordance with the suggestion, to pass a resolution requesting the President of the Board of Education to receive a deputation to ask that an inquiry should be held as to the advisability of encouraging the presentation of the idea of racial responsibility to students in training and children at school. The papers read at the conference, together with a summary of the discussions, will be published in *The Eugenic Review* of April 15th.

A. ULRICH (*Munch. med. Woch.*, Nos. 36 and 37, 1912) points out that much difficulty has been experienced since the idea of limiting the chlorides in the diet of epileptics, and substituting bromides, was introduced owing to the fact that the treatment must be continuous, and must therefore be of a kind that the patient will take with appetite, and that will not tax the ordinary kitchen. If the diet is rendered too poor in chlorides, the patient may become highly susceptible to them, and any increase in quantity may induce fresh epileptic attacks. Ulrich starts by withdrawing all salt from the soup, which he states means a reduction of from 10 to 20 grams daily. If this is well tolerated the salt used in cooking other food is gradually reduced until a further 5 to 12 grams is got rid of. As soup without salt is unpalatable he uses tablets consisting of 1.1 gram of sodium bromide, 0.1 gram of sodium chloride with extractives of vegetable albumen, fats, and spices. One tablet, weighing 2 grams, with 1 to 2 decilitre of boiling water makes, he says, an excellent soup. All his patients liked it, and appetite had been well maintained. He calls the tablets "sodo-tablets," and they can be obtained from Hoffmann-La Roche and Co. Other flavourings can be added to the soup provided they contain no common salt. He maintains further that when given in this way the bromide acts more powerfully than when administered in the ordinary fashion. The dose given was 1 or 2 tablets a day, increased to 3, and for severe cases to 4 or 5. If bromism occurred he waited to see if the symptoms diminished without altering the medication; if they got worse he lowered the dose, but found it necessary to stop the bromine altogether for a few days in rare cases only. In some cases it was found expedient to continue the bromides and to give at the same time from 1 to 5 grams of chloride extra for a few days. Hans W. Maier (*Munch. med. Woch.*, September 3rd, 1912) has tested the method in the psychiatric clinic of the University of Zürich in 20 cases for four months, and expresses himself distinctly in favour of it. He found that it did not disturb digestion. The result in his cases was good, and no case of bromism was observed.