

came to its assistance that the food passed round the corner.

On p. 854 Mr. Gray quotes me at length, and what I have just written is merely an attempt to make even more clear what I believe must be obvious to any one. The first paragraph simply refers to the way in which the food is held up in the upper part—that is, just below the cardiac orifice; the second paragraph definitely states that "it frequently happens that at the lowest part of the organ" there is a considerable pause in the progress of the food; while in the third paragraph I am writing of "spasmodic contractions of the middle of the body" of the stomach. Mr. Gray apparently claims all these sites as his "middle sphincter," and I am absolutely at a loss to know where he believes this middle sphincter to be.

At the oft quoted demonstration I endeavoured to show the "normal anatomy of the stomach," although, as I said at the time, I did not happen to have what I considered to be a perfectly normal stomach to show; but surely Mr. Gray knows that a slight increase or decrease in tonic action is of the commonest occurrence, and some of the cases I happened to show him were perfectly normal, except in that they exhibited what I considered to be slightly increased physiological tonic action. Both Professor Elliot Smith and I understood that Mr. Gray had mistaken the pause at the lowest point for the action of a sphincteric band of fibres. Certainly Mr. Gray gave us no indication then that he was going to claim a "middle sphincter" just below the cardiac orifice, in the middle of the body of the stomach as well as at the lowest point—in fact, anywhere from the cardiac orifice to the pylorus. It is a most elusive thing, this "middle sphincter"! The pause I have just described at the upper part and at the lowest part disappears and leaves no indentation as soon as the stomach is canalized by the food and the organ at once becomes one continuous cavity. I certainly thought Mr. Gray had shown us where he placed his middle sphincter—that is, at the lowest part of the stomach—and it was obvious that the simple mechanical explanation of the action of gravity was quite sufficient to account for the delay that occurred in the cases we observed together.

As to the spasmodic contractions that occur in the middle of the body of the stomach and elsewhere, although they occur in what is apparently a perfectly normal stomach, they are by no means normal. They do not always occur at the same point, and they are not seen on the operating table. Although they occur in the normal stomach, they are of very great pathological significance, and are probably reflex. On April 18th I read a paper before the Electro-therapeutic Section of the Royal Society of Medicine, in which I gave a considerable amount of evidence for believing that they are secondary to various toxic agencies, such as bad teeth, constipation, appendix inflammation, etc., but they are not dependent on any specially developed muscular bands, at any rate no trace of them has been found at operation, and when once the cause has been removed these contractions disappear.

It is simply waste of time, ink, and paper to continue correspondence on this subject, for apparently it lends itself to distortion by those who are not familiar with normal appearances. If Mr. Gray could spare an hour or so either here or with Dr. Hertz in London, I am quite certain that, if he could only locate this elusive middle sphincter for us, it would save him the trouble of bringing up the subject again, and of carrying on another lengthy correspondence.—I am, etc.,

Manchester, April 23rd.

A. E. BARCLAY.

OWING to the operation of the National Insurance Act, last year threatened to be a period of stress for the Metropolitan Hospital Saturday Fund. In the event, however, the diminution in the total receipts was inconsiderable. The income of the general fund, it is true, diminished by some 5 per cent., but the amounts received in part payment of benefits were higher, so the total for the year reached £45,118, as against £45,468 in 1911. The management expenses were 7.6 per cent. of the gross receipts. The number of benefits provided was 65,267, a considerable increase. But these satisfactory figures cannot be taken as a gauge of the ultimate effect of the Insurance Act on the prosperity of the fund, since the deductions from wages under the Insurance Act and the fall in receipts only commenced in the second half of the year.

## Universities and Colleges.

### UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE.

#### Degrees.

THE following degrees have been conferred:

M.D.—P. Hamill, C. W. Hutt, L. Nicholls, W. B. Wood.  
M.C.—G. H. A. Berkeley.  
M.B.—H. G. Earle, H. M. D. Nicoll.  
B.C.—H. M. D. Nicoll.

#### Examination.

The following candidates have been approved at the examination indicated:

SECOND M.B. Part II (Pharmacology and General Pathology).—C. G. Ainsworth, M. L. Atkinson, J. Aydon, J. V. Bates, P. R. Boswell, C. C. Brewis, W. H. W. Cheyne, V. M. Coates, A. O. Courtis, C. S. Dodson, B. C. Ewens, B. J. L. Fayle, C. Gardiner-Hill, W. T. Hare, R. Hargreaves, C. B. Hawthorne, L. G. Jacob, A. H. Little, C. F. Mayne, G. C. Metcalfe, H. S. Miles, B. Mountain, E. C. W. Starling, P. Wallice, E. Watson Williams, W. L. Willett, A. G. P. Wills.

### UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER.

#### Ashby Memorial Scholarship.

THE committee of the Ashby Memorial Scholarship has decided, instead of selecting a subject for research this year, that candidates on applying for the scholarship shall propose their own subjects. The scholarship was founded for the promotion of the study of the diseases of children, and the research proposed must be in this subject. The award of the scholarship will be made early in July. Applications may be sent to the Registrar on or before June 30th. The announcement of an award previously made was due to an oversight as regards the regulations as to dates.

#### Examinations.

Owing to the early date of Whitsuntide the examinations for entrance scholarships and exhibitions will begin on May 19th next, and be continued on succeeding days.

### UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD.

THE Council has appointed Mr. F. G. Mordaunt, L.D.S., to the post of Lecturer in Dental Surgery and Pathology, in succession to the late Mr. Frank Harrison.

### ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF LONDON.

A COMITIA was held on April 24th, Sir Thomas Barlow, Bart., K.C.V.O., President, being in the chair.

#### Admission of Members.

The following gentlemen, having passed the required examination, were admitted as Members of the College:

James Leatham Birley, M.B.Oxford, L.R.C.P.; Joseph le Fleming Coy Burrow, M.B.Edin.; Gordon Ley, F.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.; Gustave Jean Philippe Monod, M.D.Paris; Charles Sheard, M.B. Toronto, L.R.C.P.; Stanley Wyard, M.D.Lond.

#### Licences to Practise.

Licences to practise physic were granted to 88 gentlemen who had passed the necessary examinations.

#### Election of Fellows.

The following Members, nominated by the Council, were elected to the Fellowship:

John Oglesby Wakelin Barratt, M.D.Lond. (Liverpool); Edward Stainer, M.D.Oxford (London); Henry Russell Andrewes, M.D. Lond. (London); Francis Hugo Thiele, M.D.Lond. (London); William Philip Sutcliffe Branson, M.D.Camb. (London); Walter Henry Maxwell Telling, M.D.Lond. (Leeds); Ernest Edward Glynn, M.D.Camb. (Liverpool); Thomas Grainger Stewart, M.D.Edin. (London); John Brian Christopherson, M.D.Camb. (Khartoum, Egypt); Alexander George Gibson, M.D.Oxon. (Oxford); Frederick Samuel Langmead, M.D.Lond. (London); Henry Roy Dean, M.D.Oxon. (Sheffield); Thomas Lewis, M.D. Lond. (London); Maurice Alan Cassidy, M.D.Camb. (London); Charles Wilberforce Daniels, M.B.Camb. (London); James Mackenzie, M.D.Edin. (London).

Under By-law LXXI (b), which authorizes the Council to nominate registered medical practitioners who, not being members of the College, have in its opinion distinguished themselves in any branch of the science or practice of medicine:

Charles James Martin, M.B.Lond., F.R.S., Lister Institute, Chelsea, S.W.

#### Communications.

The following communications were received: (1) From the Secretary of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, reporting proceedings of the Council of the College on April 10th, 1913. (2) From Miss Ellen L. Wilks, asking leave to have a carbon print made of the portrait of the late Sir Samuel Wilks, Bart., which he left to the College. (3) From Mr. D'Arcy Power, asking leave, on behalf of the Section of History of Medicine of the Royal Society of Medicine, to photograph certain portraits of Harvey. Leave was granted in both instances.

#### Alteration in Regulations.

An alteration was made in the regulation appended to By-law CXVII whereby candidates for the membership should

be allowed three instead of four hours for each of the written parts of the examination.

*Representative on the Senate of the University of London.*

Dr. S. J. Sharkey was re-elected the representative of the College upon the Senate of the University of London.

*Reports.*

A report was received from Dr. A. E. Garrod concerning the Fourth International Congress of Physio-Therapeutics recently held in Berlin.

A report was received and adopted from the Committee of Management, dated March 4th, 1913, recommending that Blundell's School, Tiverton; Elizabeth College, Guernsey, and Boys' Grammar School, Watford, should be added to the list of institutions recognized by the Examining Board in England for instruction in Chemistry and Physics.

After some further formal business the President dissolved the Comitia.

**SOCIETY OF THE APOTHECARIES OF LONDON.**  
THE following candidates have been approved at the examinations indicated:

**SURGERY.**—\*J. T. E. Evans, \*G. Fildes, \*H. C. C. Hackney, \*R. Jones, \*A. J. V. Matthews, R. A. Robinson, \*H. P. Shackleton, \*R. L. M. Wallis, \*S. Zarchi.

**MEDICINE.**—\*J. T. E. Evans, \*G. Fildes, \*H. C. C. Hackney, \*G. R. Lynch, \*H. P. Shackleton, \*R. L. M. Wallis.

**FORENSIC MEDICINE.**—G. Fildes, D. Havard, H. P. Shackleton, R. L. M. Wallis.

**MIDWIFERY.**—H. P. Shackleton, R. L. M. Wallis, A. H. Willson.

\* Section I.      † Section II.

The Diploma of the Society has been granted to Messrs. J. T. E. Evans, H. C. C. Hackney, R. Jones, G. R. Lynch, A. J. V. Matthews, R. A. Robinson, H. P. Shackleton, R. L. M. Wallis, and S. Zarchi.

## Medico-Legal.

**GUARDIANS AND PROFESSIONAL FEES.**  
AT the Granard (Longford) Quarter Sessions Dr. F. C. Yorke was granted a decree for £2 2s. and £1 1s. expenses against the Granard Board of Guardians. Dr. Yorke was appointed to take the place of the workhouse doctor when he was called away on a Crown summons. The guardians submitted that, as Dr. Yorke was only employed for one day, a guinea was a reasonable fee. The Judge said he considered £2 2s. a reasonable fee.

A nurse sued the Ballymahon Board of Guardians to recover 12s. A car was sent to meet her by the guardians at a train, but she was detained by the hospital authorities in Dublin in removing a patient, and did not get home until a later train. She was obliged to hire a car at Mullingar, and the 12s. that she paid for it the guardians disputed, as the nurse had specific instructions as to the train by which she should return. The Judge gave a decree for the amount, remarking that "it was a miserable case and a mean defence."

### CONSUMPTIVE LODGER.

AN interesting case was tried recently at the Monaghan Quarter Sessions. A boarding house keeper sued the executor of the will of a deceased man to recover £25 damages for injuries committed by the deceased when residing as a lodger in her house in June, 1912, for that he infected the house and furniture with a contagious disease. From the evidence it appeared that when the deceased and a friend came to the house to look for lodgings the plaintiff asked if he was suffering from consumption, and his friend assured her that it was congestion of the lungs, and on that assurance she took him in. A few mornings later he had a severe haemorrhage and soiled the bed clothes, carpet, and wall paper with blood. The doctor would not allow him to leave for six weeks, and some other lodgers left the house, and the plaintiff could not get the house filled for the rest of the season.

The Judge quoted a number of decided cases, showing that a person who, knowing that he is suffering from an infectious disease, succeeds in gaining admission as a lodger to the house of another person, either by falsely representing that he is not suffering from an infectious disease or by warranting that he is not suffering from some particular infectious disease, renders himself liable in damages, the amount depending upon the actual loss which reasonably followed upon the false representation or breach of warranty. These cases were all concerned with diseases such as small-pox, scarlatina, or measles, that is, diseases included in the various Notification of Infectious Diseases Acts. Under regulations of the English Local Government Board, pulmonary tuberculosis was declared to be an infectious and notifiable disease, and it was likewise notifiable under certain local Acts. The Judge pointed out that it would be very inconvenient from a public point of view if it was established in the courts that the principles applicable to small-pox and the like were to apply without restriction and qualification to consumption. The plaintiff in this case had got an assurance that the lodger was not suffering from consumption, and on that assurance let the rooms to him, and she was therefore entitled to a decree for the amount of her loss through the disinfection of the room and the destruction of some of the articles and for the loss on lettings. A decree was therefore given for £16 4s. 2d.

## Obituary.

### WILLIAM HUNTLY, M.A., B.Sc., M.D.GLASG., AGRA.

WILLIAM HUNTLY was born on December 1st, 1859, and was educated at Hutcheson's Grammar School and the High School of Glasgow. He then passed to the university of that city, and graduated M.A. there in 1880; he had one session at the United Presbyterian Divinity Hall (1880-1), and then turned to medicine and science, graduating B.Sc. and M.B., C.M. at Glasgow in 1885. His desire was to be a medical missionary, and he was far-sighted enough to recognize that such a calling would best be answered by gaining the most thorough knowledge possible of medicine and science; so he went through the arts, science, and medical curriculums, and put the cornerstone on the edifice of his training in 1889 when he graduated M.D. in Glasgow. He had already volunteered for service in India, and had been accepted by the United Presbyterian Church of Scotland for its medical mission work in Rajputana. To take up this work he sailed on October 30th, 1886. He had periods of service at Beawar, Nasirabad, Jodhpore, and Kotah in succession, and finally spent a year at Bundi, in the very centre of the famine-stricken districts of India. In this way fifteen years were spent. Then Dr. Huntly's health broke down, and in 1901 he had to return to Scotland to recruit. One who knew Dr. Huntly well has explained his great success by a reference to five characteristics which he possessed in particular—namely, his medical skill, his versatility, his accessibility, his evangelical earnestness, and his unselfishness. Added to these was his extraordinary sympathy with the natives of India; in their society he was most at home, and was perhaps seen at his best.

But Dr. Huntly's career in India was not yet finished. His health was so much restored that when Dr. Colin Valentine of Agra died, the thoughts of the directors of the Edinburgh Medical Missionary Society turned at once to Dr. Huntly as the most likely man to take his place as head of their Medical Missionary Training Institution in North India. So to Agra, in 1902, Dr. Huntly went, and there he laboured till his death from pneumonia on April 11th. As superintendent of the Agra Institution he was brought into close contact with the native Christian youths training to become hospital assistants, and upon them for some ten or eleven years he lavished all the sympathy of his nature, and gave them freely of the professional knowledge with which he was so well furnished. During recent years the number of students passing through the institute was somewhat diminished, a circumstance which occasioned Dr. Huntly a great deal of anxiety. It was to the action of the Government of India in requiring the standard of examination to be raised, and the consequent difficulty of finding among the comparatively limited numbers of the Christian natives of India sufficient young men who attained to that standard. It was a matter which would of course right itself in time with the raising of the school training, but it hampered Dr. Huntly's work to some extent in the past few years. It had this advantage, perhaps, that it made it possible for him to lend a helping hand to many other worthy causes in North India, and in giving such help he spared not himself.

Dr. Huntly leaves a widow and four children, two sons and two daughters. One of his daughters is married to a medical missionary in South India, Dr. Bulloch of Neyoor.

### HUGH BEGBIE WILMOT, M.R.C.S.ENG., L.R.C.P.LOND., EDMONTON.

Dr. H. B. Wilmot, who died on April 23rd, was educated at St. Mark's School, Windsor, and King's College Hospital. Soon after obtaining his diplomas in 1894 he joined Dr. J. H. Swanton at Edmonton, and on the latter's retirement to take up gynaecological work Dr. Wilmot succeeded to the practice, which has been carried on from the same house for more than a century. This house was the doctor's house when Edmonton was a country village of a few hundred inhabitants, and John Keats, the poet, was apprenticed to Dr. Harding, such

being the method of entering the medical profession in those days.

During his eighteen years of practice Dr. Wilmot witnessed the very rapid growth and development of Edmonton into a London suburb of over 67,000 inhabitants. His health, never robust, had been failing since a severe illness two years ago, but he remained at work, devoted to his patients, until a fortnight before his death.

The parish church of All Saints was the scene of his funeral service three days later, when the old building in whose churchyard the bodies of Charles and Mary Lamb repose, was full of Dr. Wilmot's patients, old and young, rich and poor, who thereby testified to their high esteem of his professional skill and sterling character. His professional brethren attended in large numbers, and a handsome floral memorial from the Edmonton Medical Society expressed their great regret at the early close of a useful life, and their deep sympathy with Mrs. Wilmot and her little daughter.

S. C. L.

WE regret to record the death of Dr. WILLIAM MICHAEL WILLIAMS at his residence, Penmachno, on April 20th, at the age of 56. He was born at Pwllheli in South Carnarvonshire, and received his medical education at the University of Glasgow, where he graduated M.B. and C.M. with commendation in 1881. He had held the appointment of medical officer of the Penmachno and Pentrefoelas District of the Llanrwst Union for twenty-eight years, and at the time of his death was the senior medical officer of the union. He was surgeon to the Penmachno Slate Quarries and certifying factory surgeon for the district. Dr. Williams also took an active part in public life; for several years he was a member of the Carnarvonshire County Council, and only retired in March last owing to ill health. For the last nineteen years he had been chairman of the parish council, and although he desired to retire from that position this year the parishioners would not allow him and unanimously re-elected him. He was a regular attendant at the meetings of the North Wales Branch, and in 1908 filled the presidential chair with great credit. For the theme of his address he took the treatment of pneumonia, and it will be long remembered by those who listened to him, embodying as it did the fruits of his keen observation and sound judgement. Although resident in a somewhat remote part of the country amongst the Welsh hills, he never allowed his mind to rust, but kept himself thoroughly abreast of the times, as evidenced by his contributions to and the part he took in the debates of the Branch. Dr. Williams had a very extensive practice, and was a most conscientious practitioner. He had an exceedingly kind nature, and by his death the district sustains a great loss, especially the poor, to whom he was always considerate. He had been in failing health for several years, but he fought bravely to the end. On April 23rd he was buried at Denio Cemetery, Pwllheli, his native town. He leaves a widow and two daughters to mourn his loss.

DR. SYDNEY WILLIAM CHEETHAM, of Forest Gate, E., met his death on April 27th, at the age of 49, in tragic circumstances. He had ridden his tricycle to visit a patient, and narrowly escaped disaster from a passing motor bus. Pushing on, he attended to his patient, and then immediately succumbed to an attack of heart failure, while still in the patient's house. Dr. Cheetham was educated at University College, Liverpool, and subsequently held the posts of Assistant Demonstrator of Anatomy and of Physiology there. After obtaining the diplomas of M.R.C.S. and L.R.C.P. in 1889, he was appointed Acting Senior House-Surgeon at Bootle Hospital. He had been established in Forest Gate for many years, and his professional skill, genial manner, and commanding presence had secured him the affectionate regard of his patients. To the care of an extensive practice Dr. Cheetham had recently added the responsible position of being one of the few medical members of the West Ham Insurance Committee, a post which he accepted at the request of the West Ham Town Council. He was a frequent attendant at medical meetings, and his medical neighbours looked forward to the time when his cautious criticisms and his shrewd Mancunian common sense

would be heard yet more often at their councils and committees. Dr. Cheetham leaves a widow and two children, to whom all sympathy is extended in their sudden and tragic loss; yet the man is to be envied who, when the inevitable occurs, is found at the post of duty.

DR. FRITZ GUSTAV VON BRAMANN, Professor of Surgery in the University of Halle, died on April 26th, aged 58. He was born at Wilhelmsberg, in East Prussia, on September 25th, 1854, and studied medicine at Königsberg. In 1884 he was appointed assistant in von Bergmann's clinic at Berlin, and qualified as Privatdozent in 1888. In 1890 he was called to the chair of surgery at Halle, and was appointed director of the surgical clinic of that university. The name of Professor von Bramann was probably best known to the world at large from the fact that he performed tracheotomy on the late Emperor Frederick at San Remo. In this way he became involved in the violent controversies which raged round the death-bed and over the grave of that monarch. The memory of these painful events need not be revived. Professor von Bramann continued to enjoy the confidence and esteem of the present Kaiser, who is said to have sent him a telegram of hearty appreciation on the twenty-fifth anniversary of the operation, which was performed in February, 1888. The deceased professor was the author of writings on dermoids of the nose, the treatment of wounds with iodoform compresses, arterio-venous aneurysm, and other surgical subjects.

MUCH regret has been caused by the death of Dr. JAMES ROWAN, of Ballyward, co. Down, who was for many years the medical officer of the Ballyward Dispensary District. He was the son of Dr. Nathaniel Words Rowan, of Ballyward, and was born in 1838. After receiving his diplomas in 1860, he spent the first eight years of his professional life in Cambridge, and in 1868 he succeeded his father as medical officer in Ballyward. On retiring from active duty in 1910 he was presented with a purse of sovereigns and an address.

THE number of British medical practitioners in the French Riviera, which has for some years been a diminishing quantity, has been further reduced by the death of Dr. CHARLES EDWARD CORMACK of Hyères and Vichy. He was a son of the John Rose Cormack who was for some years entrusted with the fortunes both of the British Medical Association and its JOURNAL, fulfilling as he did simultaneously the office of secretary of the one and editor of the other. At the beginning of this period John Rose Cormack had not long come south from Edinburgh, and it was at Putney, where his father was then living, that Charles Edward Cormack, his second son, was born in 1851. In the early Sixties the family moved to France, where John Rose Cormack, after performing great services during the siege of Paris, became physician to the Embassy, and was subsequently knighted. It was in France, therefore, that Charles Edward Cormack received the greater part of his education. It was in France, too, that he passed practically all his professional life. For over thirty years he was a well-known personage at Vichy, where he practised during the summer, and for a somewhat shorter period he had been equally well known in the south of France. In regard to Vichy he published in 1887 an interesting handbook, which included a detailed description of its waters and notes on diseases in which its use is indicated, together with a large amount of miscellaneous information concerning the locality and its surroundings. At Hyères he began to practise a few years later, room for his services there being created partly by its growth in favour as a winter resort, partly by the failing health of the late Dr. G. Griffith. It was at his residence, the Villa Marie Thérèse, in the latter town that he died in February. Dr. Cormack, who maintained his membership of the British Medical Association up to the time of his death, was married, and is survived by his wife.

DEATHS IN THE PROFESSION ABROAD.—Among the members of the medical profession in foreign countries who have recently died are: Dr. James A. Egan, for many

years Secretary of the Illinois State Board of Health and an earnest worker in the cause of higher medical education and of effective State regulation of medical practice; Dr. J. G. Egger, of Landshut, well known by his work in the province of geology and palaeontology, aged 89; Dr. Gagnon, Emeritus Professor of Surgical Pathology in the Medical School of Clermont-Ferrand; Dr. Amie Henri, Professor of Medical Physics in the Medical School of Rheims; Dr. George McClellan, surgeon to the Howard Hospital, the General Hospital, and St. Joseph's Hospital, Philadelphia, author of a work entitled *Regional Anatomy*, which went through six editions and was translated into French, aged 63; and Dr. E. Angus Stewart, Assistant Professor of Pathology in the College of Physicians and Surgeons, New York, and formerly Assistant Professor of Pathological Anatomy in the Johns Hopkins Medical School, author of contributions to the study of blood pressure and conditions of the heart, and of researches on the adrenal bodies, aged 30.

## Medical News.

THE Board of Trade has issued an Order rendering obligatory on all persons who employ labour in the ready-made and wholesale bespoke tailoring trade in Great Britain, and make garments for male persons, the minimum time-rates of wages fixed by the Board last August.

AT a meeting of the Royal Sanitary Institute, 90, Buckingham Palace Road, S.W., on May 20th, at 7.30 p.m., the Chairman of the Metropolitan Water Board, Mr. E. B. Barnard, will give an address on London's water supply, and on the following day a visit will be made to the King George's Reservoir at Chingford.

THE Henry Phipps Psychiatric Clinic of Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, for the treatment of mental disorders was formally opened on April 16th. An address on specialism in general hospitals was delivered by Sir William Osler.

THE proposal to establish in Glasgow, as a memorial to King Edward VII, an institute of preventive medicine primarily intended for research and the dissemination of knowledge in relation to tuberculosis has been abandoned on the ground that the work proposed to be done will now be undertaken through the operations of the scheme recommended by the Astor Committee (BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, March 15th, p. 567).

THE first of three lectures on recent physiological inquiries to be given by Professor Stirling of Manchester at the Royal Institution, Albemarle Street, W., was delivered on April 29th, and dealt with motion and locomotion. The second will be given on May 6th, and will deal with equilibration and the sixth sense, and the third on May 13th, when the subject will be ductless glands. The lectures are illustrated by the cinematograph and epidiascope, and by experiments.

A WELL illustrated booklet, recently issued by the Highland Railway Company, and obtainable upon application, bears the title, *Strathpeffer Spa Medical Guide*, and has for authors four medical men resident in the locality. Each of these is responsible for one section of the book. Dr. H. W. Kaye deals briefly with the position and use of health resorts; Dr. E. H. Duncan gives a detailed account of the waters of Strathpeffer and the various ways in which they are used; Dr. W. Bruce discusses medical treatment at the same spa; and Dr. J. Pender Smith, supplementary treatment by electricity.

A SERIES of academic courses for foreigners will be held in Hamburg from July 24th to August 6th. The subjects range from pedagogy to natural science and clinical medicine, and sixty-five professors from various German universities and institutes will take part. There will also be a practical course in the German language commencing on June 16th to July 26th, and during this period there will be a clinical course at the Eppendorf Hospital, and a series of lectures by L. Brauer on diseases of the heart and lungs. Further particulars can be obtained from Geschäftsstelle der Akademischen Ferienkurse, Hamburg 20, Martinistraße 52.

To the physical and moral advantages resulting from the Seaside Camps for London Working Boys allusion has been made in these columns on several occasions. Their objects and the means adopted for their attainment are well described in the twenty-fourth annual report issued by the committee responsible for the upkeep of these camps, whose occupants are mainly youths belonging to the London Diocesan Church Lads' Brigade.

Last year's work seems to have ended with a rather heavy balance on the wrong side, so subscriptions of any amount will no doubt greatly be welcomed by the secretary, Mr. F. Abel Bloxam, 22, Northumberland Avenue, W.C.

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 April 18th, 1913, when Dr. F. J. Allan was in the chair. The claim account for the quarter ending March 31st was presented, and it was shown that, owing to the epidemic of influenza, the society had had to pay out heavy sums but the numbers were already decreasing. The new business had been well up to the average, and the appeal made by the chairman at the annual meeting to members to use their best efforts in making the advantages of the society known was stimulating enquiries. The main feature of the society is the weekly payment during sickness, for, as members often point out, when laid aside by illness their expenses run on just the same, and in fact are increased owing to locumtenent and other expenses. The society may justly claim to have experienced a unique record, in that during twenty-nine years it has paid over £200,000 in sickness and accident pay, and no claim has ever had to go to arbitration. Prospectuses and all information to be obtained from Mr. Bertram Sutton, Secretary, Medical Sickness and Accident Society, 33, Chancery Lane, W.C.

THE sixth annual Nursing and Midwifery Conference and Exhibition was held at the Royal Horticultural Hall, Westminster, from April 22nd to April 25th, and was attended by large numbers of nurses and midwives. A variety of interesting novelties were on view at the different stalls, including such useful articles as an invalid chair specially designed for wheeling up and down stairs without jolting the patient or fatiguing his attendants, a "running table" that can easily be moved by a person lying in bed, and a baby's feeding bottle in which the usual indiarubber attachments are replaced by a glass valve adjusted in such a fashion that it can neither leak, drop out, nor become clogged with milk. One of the most attractive stalls was that of *The Nursing Mirror*, whose doll-dressing competition had resulted in an amusing collection of dolls dressed in the uniforms of sisters and nurses at most of the principal hospitals in the kingdom; whilst the Women's Imperial Health Association was responsible for a stand containing model sets of cheap clothing for children. Another centre of interest was the stall belonging to the Royal National Pension Fund for Nurses, in connexion with which a Nurses' Insurance Society has recently been formed, where full particulars concerning the insurance of nurses under the National Insurance Act could be obtained. An interesting series of lectures on the different branches of nursing and midwifery was given daily during the course of the exhibition at the London County Council Technical Institute adjoining the hall.

PROFESSOR JOHN EDGAR, Professor of Education at the University of St. Andrews, has recently said that eugenics is a science, a matter of the head, whilst patriotism is enthusiasm, a matter of the heart, which in the hour of one's country's danger bursts into a mighty fire and becomes one of the greatest forces of the world. The spread of eugenics, in creating a new social atmosphere, would develop a new and benign spirit of patriotism. The eugenist wanted not merely healthy, moral, and stronger animals, but better citizens, with all the variety that citizenship implied; and only through good nature and good nurture could the highest results be obtained. If it were true that the wealth of a country was efficient men, that its health lay in healthy men, and its glory in intelligent men, then there was a danger in Britain of an enemy steadily marching to threaten us with ruin. Whilst the number of marriages had increased the number of births had decreased; it was not the decrease alone which gave cause for anxiety, but the fact that the number of births tended to decrease disproportionately amongst the educated and most successful sections of the population. In an investigation made in his own neighbourhood amongst such classes, Professor Edgar said that he had found the average number of children per family to be a small fraction over one; yet consumptive families in England had an average of five children. During the last half of the nineteenth century the responsibility of maintaining the birth-rate had been shifted from the middle classes to the weak and the poor; and it was among the mass who were struggling for bare existence that fertility was maintained. The new spirit needed was, after all, the old patriotism of Spartan men and women translated to modern conditions. We no longer thought of eliminating the weak, but we

called science to our aid in eliminating the weakness. Eugenics was pointing the way of escape from a national peril.

THE present-day worker in London probably knows a good deal less about the Mother City than his predecessor. The latter commonly lived within the actual confines of the metropolis, not infrequently walked to his work, and had not adopted the week-end habit; while the London worker of to-day is swished into town in a tube or on an enclosed tramway car in the morning, and swished out again in the evening, and in the interval usually confines his peregrinations to a very limited area. Rare indeed is the man who spends his spare time, his Sunday and Saturday afternoons, in wandering about London, in exploration on foot of its back streets and nooks and corners. Though he alone, perhaps, can thoroughly appreciate the vigilance of the Metropolitan Public Gardens Association, yet no habitual visitor in London can remain unaware of the growth of its open spaces and of the speed at which these tend to be converted into gardens, and all alike have reason to be thankful for these green oases in a land of bricks. Hence it should be remembered that their origin is by no means spontaneous. Each represents a victory in a probably prolonged fight on behalf of the interests of the general public against those of some corporation or individual. Even for a person who pays attention to the matter it is not always easy to discover to whom gratitude in any particular instance is due; commonly it is given to the London County Council or some equivalent body. Almost invariably, however, it is the Metropolitan Public Gardens Association which should also be remembered. There are few pies of this order in which it does not have a finger, but so soon as it has played its part by agitating, or otherwise helping to secure the retention of an open space, and its decoration by trees or enclosure as a garden, it retires from the scene in favour of the body which undertakes the responsibility for future maintenance. Hence we commend to the perusal of Londoners the annual report of this body, which shows what the association has effected during the previous twelve months, in what directions it has failed, and what projects it still has in hand. Such perusal is by no means unlikely to result in at least an impetus towards becoming a subscriber to the association's funds. Its head quarters are at 83, Lancaster Gate, the residence of the Earl of Meath, who for many years past has been both its chairman and its honorary treasurer.

A REPORT of the annual meeting of the After-care Association, formed in 1879 with the object of facilitating the readmission into ordinary social life of poor persons discharged recovered from asylums for the insane appeared in our issue of March 8th, p. 513. The report for 1912, now issued, sets forth the class of cases dealt with, and states that 391 applications for aid were received, though it fails to tell us how many of these were actually assisted. Subscriptions, donations (including offertories), legacies, and dividends on investments reached a total of £1,998 12s. 3d. during 1912; legacies amounted to £550 11s. 7d., and it is remarked that "although the income has increased, it is almost entirely owing to the receipt of legacies, and the result of the Model Market and Cafe Chantant kindly held by the Guild of Help in October," so that additional subscriptions are still wanted. Investments amount to £4,382 1s. 9d., and the actual expenditure during 1912 was £1,006 12s. 9d., including £48 14s. from a special advertising fund established in 1911 by the generosity of Mr. H. D. Green, K.C. Salaries amounted to £264 8s., equivalent to about 26 per cent. of the total expenditure, which seems a moderate proportion considering the essentially personal character of the aid given. Of the value of the work carried on by the association and its officers there can be no doubt, and the personal services rendered call for much tactful discrimination. Some striking instances of cases assisted during 1912 are appended to the report, showing how suitable situations have been found in numerous cases; how clothes, artificial teeth, tools, and instruments have been supplied to those needing them to obtain employment, and how board, change of air and medical comforts have been provided in appropriate cases. The multifarious operations of the society meet the varied needs of a most pitiable class, helping those who by reason of their recent affliction have been cut off from the usual sources of employment, and giving them a fresh chance to make their way in the work-a-day world. By such means relapse is often prevented, and the work of the association is in many cases an essential supplement to that of the mental hospital. The offices of the Association are at Church House, Dean's Yard, Westminster, and further information will be furnished by the Secretary, Mr. H. Thornhill Roxby.

## Letters, Notes, and Answers.

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.

■■■ *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.

ALPHA wishes to hear of any experience in erecting a surgery and waiting-room of semi-permanent or so-called temporary materials, and the cost.

C. J. S. D. asks for advice in the treatment of a lad, aged 19, who has suffered from nocturnal incontinence following an attack of measles at the age of 3. He has been treated for some months by the usual drugs, including belladonna and chloral, without improvement.

SUSSEX asks how to remove stains produced by scarlet-red and amido-azo toloul.

\* \* The stains can be dissolved from linen or similar fabric with chloroform, but we are not aware of any means of removing them from the skin; apparently, from inquiries, no such means is known.

### A CASE FOR DIAGNOSIS.

DR. FRANK ELVEY (Fouriesburg, South Africa) invites suggestions as to the diagnosis and treatment of a case which may be summarized as follows. The patient was born with a birth-mark extending from the right foot to the knee, and then up the front of the thigh to the right lower half of the abdomen, the right labium being much thickened. The right leg was distinctly larger than the left, and behind the knee was a circumscribed tumour covered by normal skin. Within a few days this tumour materially increased in size, the skin becoming adherent, while an ill-defined lumpy thickening appeared at the back of the upper third of the thigh; the leg was also swollen. At age 2 months a painful abscess-like swelling appeared on the inner side of the thigh, and from this about an ounce of thickened dark blood was removed. At age 5 months (that is, at the date of the report) the child was fat, well grown and healthy in itself, but its right leg had a circumference four times that of the left; the foot was almost shapeless and the skin over its dorsum shiny and thinned. The right thigh was also swollen, though not as much as the leg. The abdomen was large but symmetrical, and traversed by prominent veins about the epigastrum; its subcutaneous tissue beyond the limit of the birth-mark and up to the chest was irregularly thickened. The parents stated that about a month previously the child had an attack of pain, after which the swelling of the limb subsided, but subsequently returned. As conditions difficult to reconcile with one another, Dr. Elvey points to the absence of enlarged glands, the healthiness of the child as distinct from the local condition, the evacuation of blood and the lack of precise correspondence between the naevoid area and the subcutaneous infiltration. Would a trial of Coley's fluid, he asks, be warranted?

### ANSWERS.

#### CORONERS' INQUESTS.

M.—A coroner is empowered by statute to order an analysis to be made of the stomach and its contents at any period between the issue of his warrant and the termination of the inquest, and the jury has no power to object. On the other hand, by Section 21 of the Coroners Act of 1887 the jury is empowered to call upon the coroner to order a *post mortem* examination or an analysis to be made if it is of opinion that the cause of death has not been satisfactorily determined from the evidence given at the inquest. Thus a jury, while unable to object to an analysis, can insist upon one being made. It would, we conceive, be the duty of a medical practitioner finding poison in the organs of a deceased person to communicate the fact to the coroner in any circumstances.

### LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.

#### PRACTICE IN NEW ZEALAND.

M.B., C.M., F.R.C.S.EDIN., sends a word of warning with regard to the risk of British practitioners going to New Zealand to practise. He states that the population of New Zealand is only a little over 1,000,000, and of these 100,000 belong to friendly societies, who pay the lodge doctor on an average 15s. to 18s. for attendance on a man, wife, and family, and he adds that abuse is rife. He considers that, as there are 130 medical students studying in Dunedin and many New Zealanders are studying in Great Britain, the local output is sufficient or more than sufficient to meet the demands. He states that in some cases bush townships offer a guarantee of £200 or £300 a year, but that many who have accepted such conditions find that the net result is not satisfactory.