

Universities and Colleges.

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE.

The following degrees have been conferred:

M.B., B.C.—P. W. Ransom, A. L. Sutcliffe.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF LONDON.

A COMITIA was held on Thursday, January 29th, Sir Thomas Barlow, Bart., K.C.V.O., the President, being in the chair.

Admission of Members.

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

John Matthew Fortescue-Brickdale, M.D.Oxford (Clifton, Bristol); Arthur Charles Ingram, M.D.Camb., L.R.C.P.; Stanley Gordon Luker, M.D.Camb.; Georg Herman Monrad-Krohn, M.B.Christiania, L.R.C.P.; John Henry Newmarch, L.R.C.P.; Daniel Wells Patterson, M.B.Durh. (Newcastle-on-Tyne); John William "revan, M.B.Lond., L.R.C.P.; George Edgar Septimus Ward, M.D.Lond.; Rodolph Charles Wingfield, M.B.Oxford.

Licences and Diploma.

Licences to practise physic were granted to ninety-seven gentlemen who had passed the necessary examinations.

Diplomas in Public Health were granted, jointly with the Royal College of Surgeons of England, to the following gentlemen:

C. N. Atlee, L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S., St. Mary's and King's College; W. J. E. Bell (Capt. R.A.M.C.), M.B., Ch.B.Edin., Edinburgh and Royal Army Medical College; Rose L. H. Davy, M.B., B.S.Lond., L.S.A., Royal Free and University College; C. L. Dunn (Capt. I.M.S.), L.R.C.P. and S.Edin., L.F.P. and S.Glasg., Edinburgh; Irene D. Eaton, M.B., B.S.Lond., Royal Free and University College; Maud T. Féré, L.R.C.P. and S.Edin., L.F.P. and S.Glasg., Edinburgh and University College; A. B. Fry (Major I.M.S.), M.D.Lond., L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S., London and Royal Army Medical College; C. J. Galbraith, M.B., B.S.Lond., L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S., King's College; M. K. Kapur, L.M.S.Punjab, Punjab and University College; N. B. Kalsava, L.M. and S. Bomb., Bombay and University College; N. Low (Capt. R.A.M.C.), L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S., St. Mary's and Royal Army Medical College; D. McIntyre, M.B., Ch.B.Glasg., Glasgow and University College; Marjorie E. Middleton, M.B., B.S.Lond., Royal Free and University College; A. H. Moore, M.B., B.C.Cantab., Cambridge and St. Bartholomew's; C. C. Morrell, L.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.Edin., L.F.P. and S.Glasg., Edinburgh and King's College; W. W. Pratt, M.B., B.S.Lond., L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S., Bristol and Royal Army Medical College; K. N. Rau, M.B., C.M.Madras, Madras and University College; R. O. Sibley, M.D.Lond., L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S., St. Mary's and King's College; C. L. Sutherland, M.B., Ch.B.Glasg., Glasgow and University College; J. M. Todesco, L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S., University College; F. E. Wilson (Captain, I.M.S.), M.B., Ch.B.Edin., Edinburgh and Royal Army Medical College; J. H. Wood, M.B., B.S.Durh., L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S., Durham and St. Bartholomew's; J. H. Writer, L.M.S.Bombay, Bombay, R.I.P. Health, University College.

* Under the Medical Act, 1876.

Announcements.

The President announced that he had appointed Sir R. Douglas Powell, Bart., K.C.V.O., to deliver the Harveian Oration for this year, and Dr. Nestor Tirard to deliver the Bradshaw Lecture; that the Council had appointed Dr. Edgar Leigh Collis to deliver the Milroy Lectures in 1915; and that the Swiney Prize had been awarded to Mr. J. W. Salmond for his work on jurisprudence.

Communications.

The following communications were received: (1) From the secretary of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, dated January 9th, 1914, reporting proceedings of the Council of that College upon January 8th; (2) from Sir Theodore Hope, K.C.S.I., dated January 4th, 1914, asking whether the College would accept the reversion of a portrait of his father, Dr. James Hope. The offer was accepted with the thanks of the College.

Election of Councillors.

The following Fellows were elected Councillors: Dr. D. Bridge Lees (for one year in the room of Dr. W. Collier, resigned), Dr. R. G. Hebb, Dr. W. D. Halliburton, Dr. W. S. A. Griffith, and Dr. G. R. Murray.

Appointments of Representatives.

Sir Francis Champneys, Bart., was reappointed a representative of the College on the Central Midwives Board, and Sir Dyce Duckworth a representative of the College on the Council of Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses.

After some further business the President dissolved the comitia.

SCOTTISH INTER-UNIVERSITIES' CONFERENCE.

At the meeting of the above conference on January 31st, the motions regarding the teaching of the history of medicine and of dietetics, the medical preliminary examinations, and the wearing of academic dress (referred to in this JOURNAL, January 31st, p. 268), were all agreed to.

The Services.

INDIAN MEDICAL SERVICE.

THE result of the January examination was announced on January 31st, 1914. There were 33 candidates, the first 20 being admitted as lieutenants on probation with effect from January 31st, 1914.

The names of the successful candidates with the marks obtained by each out of a possible total of 5,100 are given below together with their degrees and medical schools:

Name.	Degrees, etc.	Medical School.	Marks.
G. H. Mahony ...	M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O. (N.U.I.), B.Sc.	University College, Cork	3,656
W. R. Stewart ...	M.B., Ch.B.Edin.	Edinburgh University	3,400
G. Covell ...	M.B., B.S.Lond.	Guy's Hospital	3,375
J. G. O. Moses ...	M.B., Ch.B.Edin.	Edinburgh University	3,281
K. V. R. Rao ...	M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.	Madras Medical College, Charing Cross Hospital	3,241
H. Chand ...	L.M. and S.Punjab, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.	Lahore Medical College, Charing Cross Hospital	3,208
J. W. van Reenen	M.B., Ch.B.Edin.	Edinburgh University	3,163
V. Mahadevan ...	L.R.C.P. and S.Edin., L.F.P. and S.Glasg.	Madras Medical College, Royal Colleges, Edinburgh	3,156
A. C. L. O. S. Biederbeck	M.B., B.S.Lond., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., B.A.Cantab.	Cambridge University, St. Bartholomew's Hospital	3,142
M. J. Roche ...	M.B., Ch.B., B.A.O. (N.U.I.)	University College, Cork	3,119
B. F. Beatson ...	M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.	St. Mary's Hospital	3,112
N. D. Puri ...	M.B., B.S.Punjab	Lahore Medical College, Charing Cross Hospital	3,088
P. C. Roy ...	M.B.Calcutta	Medical College, Calcutta, St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Charing Cross Hospital	3,044
M. Das ...	M.B.Calcutta, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.	Medical College, Calcutta, London Hospital	3,009
J. B. Vaidya ...	L.M. and S.Bombay, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.	Grant Medical College, Bombay, University College Hospital	2,983
J. M. R. Hennessy	L.R.C.P. and S.Edin., L.F.P. and S.Glasg.	Madras Medical College, Royal Colleges, Edinburgh	2,823
W. M. Lupton ...	M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., B.A.Cantab.	Cambridge University, St. Thomas's Hospital	2,815
A. G. Cowper ...	L.R.C.P. and S.Edin., L.F.P. and S.Glasg.	Grant Medical College, Bombay, Royal Colleges, Edinburgh	2,808
H. H. Brown ...	B.C.Cantab., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., B.A.Cantab.	Cambridge University, Leeds University	2,757
C. H. N. Baker ...	L.R.C.P. and S.Edin., L.F.P. and S.Glasg.	Royal Colleges, Edinburgh and St. Bartholomew's Hospital	2,716

Obituary.

PHILIP WHITCOMBE, M.R.C.S., L.S.A.,

GRAVESEND, KENT.

PHILIP WHITCOMBE was, there is good reason to suppose the oldest member of the medical profession in Great Britain when he died at his house in Gravesend on January 24th. He was born on May 27th, 1816, at Cleobury Mortimer, in Shropshire, where members of his family had practised medicine for many generations. His ancestors had been burgesses since 1423, and, according to a writer in the *Pall Mall Gazette*, were descended in the male line from the Counts of Boulogne, who were directly descended from Bertha, daughter of Charlemagne, and her husband, St. Angelbert. King Stephen granted an ancestor a portion of the manor of Martock in Somersetshire, and he took the name of Whitcombe.

Philip Whitcombe took the diploma of M.R.C.S. in 1838, and that of L.S.A. in the following year. He made for himself many other claims to recollection than ancestry or survival; he was the first sanitary medical officer of the Port of London at Gravesend, and in that capacity had to deal with a serious outbreak of cholera which threatened to invade London. On his recommendation, a hospital ship was moored in the lower reaches of the river, where he himself treated the cases. Afterwards he was in charge of the infectious hospital built at Denton, and served altogether as port officer for, we believe, thirty

years. For fifty years, he was one of the medical officers of the Strood Union, and for the same period surgeon to the Gravesend police force. In addition to these public appointments, he was engaged in general practice in Gravesend, where he settled in 1843, and worked continuously without a holiday until he had attained the age of 80 years. He was a member of the British Medical Association for over sixty years. After his retirement from practice he continued to live in Gravesend, where he had many friends. He retained his faculties and interest in life to the last. As a boy he had loved to help in breaking-in ponies on the Clee Hills in Shropshire, and was always a good horseman, not hesitating to buy a horse of doubtful gentleness at Tattersall's and ride it through the city to his home at Gravesend. He was able to read without glasses, and did active work up to the age of 90. His memory was wonderful to the last; deafness was his only affliction, but this did not interfere with his playing whist at the houses of his friends even down to within a week of his death.

Dr. Whitcombe, who married in 1858, leaves four sons; two of them—Dr. P. Percival Whitcombe and Dr. W. S. Whitcombe—practise medicine in the West End of London. Another son was formerly an assistant master at Eton, and is now Bishop of Colchester; he said the committal prayer at the graveside when the body of his father was interred on January 29th.

DEATHS IN THE PROFESSION ABROAD.—Among the members of the medical profession in foreign countries who have recently died are Dr. Alois Berten, Member of the Medical Commission of Bruges, Knight of the Order of Leopold, aged 81; Dr. Josef Adolf Mirschl, extraordinary professor of neurology and psychiatry in the University of Vienna, aged 47; Dr. Alexander Pacha Kambouroglou, honorary president of the Imperial Society of Medicine of Constantinople; Dr. Marmottan, formerly one of the deputies for Paris; Professor Gustav Pfalz, lecturer on eye diseases in the Academy of Practical Medicine, and Director of the Municipal Eye Clinic at Düsseldorf, aged 55; Dr. Alfred E. M. Purdy, sometime chief surgeon of the New York Police, and for many years Editor of the *Medical Register*, aged 75; Dr. A. Teeson, former professor of chemistry and toxicology in the medical school of Angers; and Surgeon-General George Henry Torney, of the United States Army, who served in Cuba and the Philippines, and was chairman of the War Relief Committee of the American Red Cross, aged 63.

Public Health

AND

POOR LAW MEDICAL SERVICES.

DUTIES OF M.O.H. UNDER NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS ACT.

CYMRU.—No new general Order has been made with respect to the Notification of Births Act, 1907. The Act is an adoptive measure, and may be brought into force in a district with the sanction of the Local Government Board, or the Board may declare the Act to be in force in any district irrespective of any resolution of the local authority adopting it. Where the provisions of the Act are in force, the duties of a medical officer of health with regard to it would be to arrange for a visit to be made by a health visitor to such houses among those from which he had received a notification of a birth as he considered desirable or necessary. On consideration of the reports of the health visitor, the medical officer of health would take such action as he might consider expedient.

THE Assistance Publique has established eleven institutes of puericulture in Paris. These are at the Beaujon Hospital, under Professor Ribemont-Dessaigne; at the Tarnier Clinic, under Professor Bar; at Saint-Antoine, under Dr. Doléris; at the Enfants Assistés, under Dr. Variot; at the Maternité, under Dr. Bonnaire; at Lari-boisière, under Dr. Boissard; at the Boucicaut Hospital, under Dr. Lepage; at the Charité, under Dr. Tissier; at the Pitié, under Dr. Potocki; at Saint Louis, under Dr. Demelin; and at the Tenon Hospital, under Dr. Bouffe. These institutes are all under the direction of the Assistance Publique, and the physicians and accoucheurs of the hospitals to which they are attached are entrusted with the teaching of the mothers and the treatment of their nurslings.

Medical News.

DR. DUNDAS GRANT has been made an honorary member of the Laryngological Society of Berlin.

THE anniversary dinner of the Medical Society of London will be held at the Hôtel Métropole on Wednesday, March 4th.

SIR FRANCIS DARWIN will deliver the first Galton anniversary lecture at the Hotel Cecil on Monday, February 16th, at 8.30 p.m. The subject of the lecture will be Francis Galton.

THE annual general meeting of subscribers to the Royal Medical Benevolent Fund will be held at 15, Wimpole Street, W., on Tuesday, February 17th. The chair will be taken by the President, Sir John Tweedy, at 4.30 p.m.

A QUARTERLY meeting of the Médico-Psychological Association of Great Britain and Ireland will be held at the Storches Hall Asylum, near Huddersfield, on Thursday, February 19th, when a paper on the clinical significance of katatonic symptoms will be read by Dr. Henry Devine.

A LOAN exhibition of specimens, instruments, and skiagrams, arranged in connexion with Mr. Hey Groves's lecture on February 6th at the Royal College of Surgeons, Lincoln's Inn Fields, W.C., on experimental production and treatment of fractures in lower animals, will remain on view for a short time.

THE next meeting of the Hunterian Society will be held in the Library of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, on Wednesday, February 11th, at 9 p.m., when the annual Hunterian Oration will be delivered by Dr. Arnold Chaplin, his subject being "John Hunter and his work, and the past and future of the medical profession." All members of the profession are invited to attend.

ON Tuesday next a paper will be read at the Royal Sanitary Institute, 90, Buckingham Palace Road, S.W., on the King Edward VII Welsh National Memorial Sanatorium, Pont-y-wal, South Wales, by the architect of the building, Mr. Edwin T. Hall, F.R.I.B.A. The paper will be followed by a discussion on the cost and construction of sanatoriums under the Insurance Act. The chair will be taken by Mr. David Davies, M.P., at 7.30 p.m.

NOT only is the office of Mayor of Bath filled this year by a medical man, Dr. Preston King, but another medical practitioner, Mr. Pagan Lowe, who is keenly interested in the baths, has been elected President of the Bath Chamber of Commerce. In addition, Dr. Preston King occupies a position in regard to the Royal United Hospital which is unprecedented in Bath, and probably without parallel in the kingdom. He is President of the institution, a member of the medical staff, and has been an in-patient. Speaking at the annual meeting, he deplored the fact that the accounts showed a deficit on the year of £2,528, which was largely due to the Insurance Act. The Act practically only supplied people with a bandage and a bottle of medicine.

PROFESSOR G. BENEKE AND DR. BAUMGART report a remarkable instance of gestation following four years after the application of superheated steam to the uterine cavity (atmocausis) (*Monatsschr. f. Geb. u. Gyn.*, December, 1913, p. 635). During that interval of time the catamenia were totally suppressed, but finally an exceedingly firm uterine tumour developed; it reached the height attained by the uterus at term, but no parts of a fetus could be defined on palpation. Dense tissue was felt obstructing the cervical canal; pains came on, with rise of temperature, and haematometra was, very reasonably, diagnosed, abdominal section was performed, and as the uterus was turned out of the abdominal incision it presented all the appearance of a firm fibromyoma, and it was only after very careful palpation that a fetus could be defined. As infection was suspected the uterus was amputated above the cervix. The patient, aged 32, recovered. The fetus, nearly 20 in. long, was partially macerated and strongly flexed, part of its breech and lower lumbar region was firmly impacted in the dense, unyielding, cicatricial tissue, which blocked the cervical canal. The histological changes in the uterine tissue and certain remarkable modifications in the fetal appendages are described in full by the authors, who express their surprise that gestation could have occurred after the tissues of the uterine wall had undergone such profoundly marked changes as they discovered—changes associated with complete cessation of the periods, yet not incompatible with pregnancy. Finally, it is clear that the effects of atmocausis are so irregular that it would appear to be of doubtful therapeutic value.

THE fourth International Congress of Surgery will be held in New York in April (13th to 16th) under the presidency of Professor Depage of Brussels. The society has a membership of some 600, and includes surgeons in all parts of the world. The head quarters and permanent office of the society are in Brussels, the general secretary being M. J. Lorthoir, 73, boulevard de Waterloo in that city. The secretary of the Congress is M. J. P. Hoguet, 40, East Forty-one Street, New York. Provisional arrangements have been made by which congressists can sail in the *Imperator* from Hamburg, Southampton, and Cherbourg on Thursday, April 2nd, and Friday, April 3rd, arriving at New York on April 9th; or in the *Rotterdam* from Rotterdam and Boulogne, on Saturday, April 4th, reaching New York on April 12th. On Monday, April 13th, the Congress will be formally opened in the Hotel Astor by the President of the United States. There will be discussions on the surgery of gastric and duodenal ulcer; on grafting and transplantation; on amputations of the upper and lower limbs. Demonstrations will be given in the various hospitals. On April 15th there will be a subscription banquet followed by a *conversazione* given by the President of the Congress. Excursions have been arranged to Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington, Chicago, Rochester, Buffalo, Niagara Falls, and Boston.

DR. ROBERT HARRIS (Secretary of the Southport Division of the British Medical Association) was recently presented with a silver salver bearing the following inscription: "Presented to Dr. Robt. Harris by his medical friends in Southport and district as a mark of esteem, and in recognition of valuable services rendered to the profession. January 22nd, 1914." Mrs. Harris was at the same time presented with a silver teapot suitably inscribed. Dr. W. Alex. Mackay presided at the ceremony. The presentation was made by Dr. Russell, who recalled the great amount of work done for the profession by Dr. Harris since some ten years ago he became secretary of the Division. Dr. Harris, in his reply, said that he had been a member of the British Medical Association for forty-two years, and that he greatly valued the opportunities which his membership of the Lancashire and Cheshire Branch afforded him of becoming acquainted with medical men practising in those two counties. The British Medical Association had been of the greatest advantage to the profession, and would, he hoped, retain its full support. So far from thinking it right that any man could resign because the subscription had been raised to 2 guineas owing to the additional amount of work thrust upon the Association, he trusted that those who were not yet members would now join. It was the only body recognized by the Government as representative of the whole of the profession, for other bodies only represented sections. The profession had passed through an anxious and strenuous time, and it was to be expected that it would have in the future difficulties equally serious to encounter. It must be able to place its case clearly before the public, and could only hope to do so with a united voice through the British Medical Association.

SOME interesting statistics of twelve Caesarean sections performed at Pau have been published by M. Ferré (*Bulletin de la Soc. d'Obstét. et de Gyn. de Paris*, November, 1913, p. 71). In all twelve the obstacle to labour was rachitic pelvis. Eleven mothers recovered and eleven children were saved. The mother who died had undergone the same operation once before, but on the second occasion she delayed asking for admission into hospital, believing that delivery might be spontaneous, and was in a septic condition when the operation was performed. M. Ferré very properly reports in full how a gauze pad, 38 cm. or 14.8 in. square, was left behind in the peritoneal cavity and expelled spontaneously. The patient was highly rachitic, and the trunk so distorted that the operator had to make the abdominal wound extend very high in order to reach the fundus. The stomach and upper intestines immediately prolapsed. M. Ferré made use of several large pads, fixing on to one corner of each a pressure forceps. He experienced much difficulty in reducing the viscera, and one forceps gave way and slipped down outside unobserved, and the pad sank down behind the fundus. During the puerperium the oversight was suspected, as there was a swelling above the fundus, and the patient complained of pains around it. A grooved director was passed through the wound into the swelling, and some yellow serosity and odourless gas escaped. The patient was in excellent general health and suckled her child. She insisted on leaving hospital on the twenty-third day. Four weeks later symptoms of obstruction set in, and the patient, vomiting and straining, passed the compress by the rectum. She continued to suckle her child, who was well nourished; the abdominal cicatrix was perfect and the uterus quite movable.

Letters, Notes, and Answers.

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.

A. P. asks for references to publications on the subject of the influence of x rays on phagocytosis.

RADIO-ACTIVITY OF SPRING WATER.

SANITAS asks for information as to the method of measuring the radio-activity of spring water, and where practical experience can be gained.

** The principal apparatus required for measuring the radio-activity of spring water is a special form of electro-scope known as the "emanation electroscope." This has to be standardized with a radium solution of known strength, and the complicated method can only usefully be studied in a laboratory. Some description of the work involved in measuring these small amounts of radio-activity is given in *Practical Measurements in Radio-Activity*, by Makower and Geiger (London, Longmans, Green, and Co.), and we believe that a course of such measurements is carried out in the physical laboratories of Manchester University, under the direction of Sir Ernest Rutherford.

ANSWERS.

DR. JOS. S. BOLTON (Nottingham) writes in reply to "M. B.": Pain in a stump can generally be relieved by electricity.

LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.

HEALTH IN WEST AFRICA.

DR. GEORGE D. MACKINTOSH (Forcados) writes: After five years' residence in Forcados, West Africa, and eleven years' knocking about the West Coast, I am often asked if West Africa is healthier than it used to be, or is it still the "white man's grave." Sanitation has made enormous strides, and the efforts made of recent years towards the destruction of mosquitos and the prevention of their breeding has been of incalculable benefit, and my opinion is that a perfectly sound European has nearly as good a chance of surviving here, provided he goes home for at least three or four months at the end of every year, as he would have at home; but here is where the climate catches its victims: let there be one weak spot in the constitution, and West Africa will get hold of that and exaggerate it. I have made a brief note of the different severe diseases for which I have attended white men at Forcados during the past five years; but I cannot pretend that they are of statistical value, because most of my patients are aboard the fleet of steamers of which I am the resident medical officer, and we have only about twelve white men ashore. Malarial fevers—chiefly remittent fevers—563 cases; malignant yellow fever, 2 cases; gastritis, 35; gastro-enteritis and enteritis, 12; phthisis, 1 case (which came from home in an advanced state and died at home after two years on the coast); pneumonia and pleurisy, 3 cases; gout, 10 cases; delirium tremens and alcoholic poisoning, 7 cases; dysentery, 15; insomnia and neurasthenia, 12 cases. Taking the average, the floating population I attend here numbers about 5,000 in the course of the year, but each of them only stops for a few weeks, whilst their ships are in, so that at one time there would not be more than 300 or 400 white men in the river. During the past three years I have not had a single death amongst the white men under my care whilst here, but a few have died on the passage home, and one case of yellow fever died five or six days after the ship left here; the other case died here; the patient was seen twice in consultation with the medical officer in the ship in which the patient was second officer. There is an enormous amount of venereal disease here amongst the natives, principally soft chancre and gonorrhoea, but in other parts of the West Coast syphilis is very prevalent.

SCALE OF CHARGES FOR ADVERTISEMENTS IN THE BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL.

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A whole column
A page

An average line contains six words.

All remittances by Post Office Orders must be made payable to the British Medical Association at the General Post Office, London. No responsibility will be accepted for any such remittance not so safeguarded.

Advertisements should be delivered, addressed to the Manager, 429, Strand, London, not later than the first post on Wednesday morning preceding publication, and, if not paid for at the time, should be accompanied by a reference.

NOTE.—It is against the rules of the Post Office to receive *postes restantes* letters addressed either in initials or numbers.