

could then be abducted and straightened to a considerable extent; the child was then placed on an abduction splint.



Fig. 1.

Massages of both arms and legs was systematically carried out, and this produced great improvement in the movement of the hands and strengthened the muscles of the lower limbs.

On November 26th, 1912, the tendo Achillis was divided in both legs, and movements were continued several times under chloroform.

As on February 15th, 1913, the improvement was

satisfactory and she could adduct and abduct her limbs, flex and extend the knee-joints and move both ankles, she was fitted with Thomas's caliper knee-splints, fastened to the heels of the boots. Daily exercise in walking was ordered, and in a month the child was able to walk alone with the help of a stick. Fig. 2 shows the patient with splints applied.

She gradually improved until she could walk without the splints, as shown in Fig. 3; and on May 24th, 1913, she

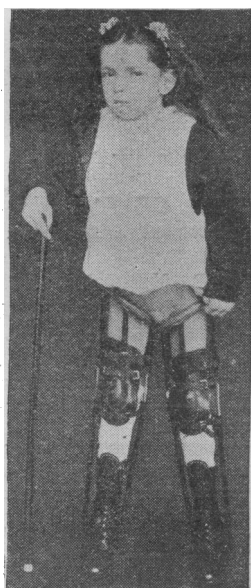


Fig. 2.

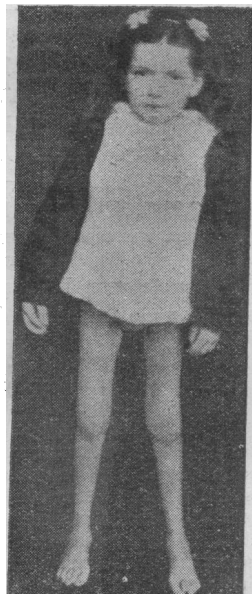


Fig. 3.

was dismissed quite able to walk, but was advised to wear the splints for some months.

Dr. D. S. Smith, of Lesmahagow, has taken great interest in the child, and wrote on July 20th, 1913: "She is getting on fairly well, is able to walk a good distance with the aid of a stick, and we are continuing massage and passive movements."

On October 29th, 1913, she was brought to see me, and I was pleased to find that she could walk either with or without a stick, and with or without the splints. She could flex and extend both her knee-joints and lifts both her legs very well. The hands had greatly improved, but there was still a tendency to increased flexion.

This case illustrates well the importance of operating on such cases, and confirms the value of Mr. Jones's recommendations.

D

## Memoranda:

### MEDICAL, SURGICAL, OBSTETRICAL.

#### A NOTE ON THE PRESCRIBING OF THYROID SUBSTANCE.

FROM time to time I have met with unexpected results following the administration of thyroid substance, and have attributed these results either to tolerance or idiosyncrasy on the part of the patient. On investigation, however, I find that the explanation may be different.

In the first place, while there is but one pharmacopoeial preparation of thyroid, the "thyroideum siccum," there are numerous other preparations on the market, and many of these are labelled as the equivalent of so much fresh gland. In the absence of explicit instructions it is thus possible for the physician to prescribe a dose of thyroid substance which he intends to be fresh thyroid, while the chemist interprets his prescription as meaning "thyroideum siccum." The reverse may as easily occur.

In the second place the *Pharmacopoeia* gives no statement of the relationship which thyroideum siccum is to bear to the fresh gland. Now the *British Pharmaceutical Codex* and different trade labels inform us that the proportion of dry to fresh gland is 1 to 5, and we may assume that the possessors of the trade labels manufacture accordingly.

On the other hand the proportion is given by Martin<sup>1</sup> as 3.7, and by Guyer<sup>2</sup> as 3.6. The latter figures closely correspond, and are based on careful observation. I have not been able to find any authority for the 1 to 5 factor. It is obvious that the manufacturer who makes three and a half tablets from a given weight of fresh gland is supplying us with a more potent drug than one who makes five tablets from the same amount of the fresh substance, and different chemists may thus supply thyroid of varying potency in dispensing the same prescription.

In view of the evidence offered by the authors quoted it is difficult to resist the conclusion that the 1 to 5 standard has been reached by using fresh glands which have been indifferently trimmed and cleaned from fat, and we may note in passing that the profits accruing from the sale of 1 to 5 products will be greater than those obtained for the produce of clean thyroids.

Some firms standardize their thyroid products in terms of iodine. This may be a good test, but until it is proved that the therapeutic activity of fresh thyroid corresponds to its iodine content it is unwise to rely upon it.

In conclusion I wish to emphasize the importance of making it clear whether we mean fresh or dry thyroid in our prescriptions, and in the case of dry thyroid it is well to have some knowledge of its relation to the fresh substance.

ALEXANDER GOODALL, M.D., F.R.C.P. Edin.,  
Assistant Physician to the Royal Infirmary,  
Edinburgh.

#### REFERENCES.

<sup>1</sup>Martin, *Yearbook of Pharmacy*, 1912. <sup>2</sup>Guyer, *ibid.*, 1913.

#### VANILLA AS A SKIN IRRITANT.

THAT *Primula obconica* and *Rhus toxicodendron* cause a very annoying form of dermatitis is well known, but less generally known is the fact that vanilla essence may in certain individuals cause equally troublesome symptoms.

A perfectly healthy patient of mine, of an inquiring turn of mind, liking the smell of vanilla, added about  $\frac{1}{2}$  oz. of the essence to about 5 oz. of a hair lotion consisting of quinine, spirit of lavender, and rectified spirit (which he was in the habit of using). About twenty-four hours after its application intense itching of the scalp occurred, which gradually extended over the forehead, behind the ears, and down the neck. It did not at first strike him that vanilla was to blame, and for a day he kept rubbing it in in the hope of "cooling," the part as he expressed it. The result was that his eyes were opened metaphorically to the cause although practically they were almost closed by the swelling which followed. Not content with this experience he performed a control experiment on the front of the forearm, because, as he said, it was difficult to believe that vanilla, which he had

frequently swallowed in the form of a flavouring agent with nothing but agreeable results, could irritate the skin to such an extent without causing disastrous results to the more delicate mucous membranes. Twenty-four hours afterwards the same intolerable itching occurred on the forearm with an eruption which, from his description, seems to have been of a close papular nature with no reddening of the skin. This soon faded, only to return every five or six hours, as did the eruption on the scalp and face. This state of affairs continued for ten days in spite of constant washing with hot water and soap and other domestic remedies. He said he was compelled to seek advice as the itching remained intolerable at night and prevented sleep.

When I saw him there were many excoriations on the scalp and face, and more on the arms, due to the scratching, and a papular eruption over the affected parts. There was still some oedema, but it evidently was much less than it had been, and he seemed to be getting well.

The condition was probably due to some alkaloid in the vanilla, and knowing that mercury iodide precipitates most of the alkaloids, I prescribed a lotion of rectified spirit and mercury iodide, 1 in 2,000. This seemed to give relief, and the itching disappeared in two or three days.

The interesting points are: (1) The long time—fourteen days—the symptoms lasted, in spite of the washing; (2) the intervals of freedom from irritation—about six hours—when it is remembered that the poison was purely irritant and not due to micro-organisms; (3) the fact, as the patient points out, that the vanilla could be taken by the mouth without producing any irritation when the skin was so susceptible. I am presuming that the irritation was not due to the action of micro-organisms owing to the fact that the vanilla had been suspended in strong spirit for over a year; and there is no evidence that the irritation was merely of a mechanical nature.

Montrose.

WM. LEGGETT, B.A., M.D.

#### RECORDS OF APPENDICITIS IN THE MEDICAL SICKNESS SOCIETY.

As one of the Committee of the Medical Sickness Society the increasing number of claims from appendicitis could not fail to strike me, and I felt that it might be of interest to tabulate its experience as far as possible.

The society has certain advantages in this matter over those who have to trust to records compiled from hospital and private cases, notably that as the members are paid when incapacitated by sickness or accident it is able to follow the after-history of its cases, as a rule till the age of 65, after which it has no further information as to the health of its members, as sickness benefit then ceases.

The members all belong to the medical and dental professions, and must undergo a medical examination before admission, but once admitted they have the right to remain on till 65 so long as the rules are complied with and the premiums are duly paid.

During the twelve years 1902–13 the members have increased from 2,054 to 3,097, the average yearly membership having been 2,557. The number of claims for appendicitis during the period has been 103, and in at least 68, perhaps more, operations have been performed. This gives an average annual incidence of 0.3 per cent. The number of deaths has been 3, two occurring directly and one two years after an operation for appendicitis from some abdominal trouble, probably indirectly due to the original complaint.

The yearly incidence has varied largely, as shown by the accompanying table, the number of cases submitted to operation varying from none in 1904 to 16 in 1912.

	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.	1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.	1912.	1913.
Operation cases ...	1	3	—	8	10	3	4	5	4	9	16	5
Non-operation cases	—	3	3	5	3	3	3	2	5	7	2	—
Subsidiary attacks	3	1	—	3	2	2	2	—	—	1	5	—

The age of entry of the 103 has varied between 22 and 49, the average being 30–31, while the age of attack has

varied from 25 to 58, the average being 39–40, which is, on the average, some nine years after joining. In the histories given at the time of joining there was no record of any previous attacks of appendicitis, except in two cases; in one slight attacks had been noted, the last (in which the applicant had been laid up for a week) having occurred nine years before; in the other there had been four attacks, all progressively lighter, the last having occurred five years previously.

The average duration of each attack was almost exactly nine weeks, the society having paid out sickness benefit during the twelve years for some 929 weeks, or about 77 weeks annually, which covers as nearly as possible to 0.21 days of sickness per annum for the whole membership.

The average annual number of days of sickness of those who had appendicitis was, before that illness, 5.64; after getting over it, 5.45. I do not wish to place undue weight on these figures, but it is somewhat unexpected that the older years of life after the disease should not have a much higher incidence of sickness than the younger years before it.

One case presented some interesting features. This member joined when 28, and between 37 and 44 had twelve attacks of Mènière's disease, incapacitating him in all for nearly 44 weeks. The longest interval between the attacks was 19 months, the last having been for 12 weeks, a couple of months before being laid up with appendicitis, for which he was operated on, and since then—a period of four years—he has had no further aural attacks. Another joined at 29, and had an aural attack at 37 and another at 43, amounting to 12 weeks in all; he was operated on at 49 for appendicitis, but died 20 months later, not having had any further aural attacks. It would be interesting to know if any similar cases have been observed.

In conclusion I must thank Mr. Sutton, the secretary, and the office staff for the valuable assistance they gave me in extracting the foregoing details.

London, W.

F. C. MARTLEY, M.D., F.R.C.P.I.

## Reports

### ON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL PRACTICE IN HOSPITALS AND ASYLUMS.

#### C.M.S. HOSPITAL, NINGPO, CHINA.

#### CONGENITAL ATRESIA OF RECTUM: RECOVERY AFTER FOUR OPERATIONS.

(By ARTHUR F. COLE, L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S.)

A CHINESE male infant aged 5 days was admitted, with enormous distension of abdomen and the history that no motions had been passed since birth; it was crying without intermission and with considerable power; on examination only a small post-anal dimple and the remains of an incision made by a Chinese surgeon were seen.

The abdomen showed suppurating sores caused by moxa burns in the middle line above the umbilicus, and similar sores had been produced in the anterior auricular regions to counterbalance the absence of an anus. The family consists of three girls and this the only boy.

Seeing that a Chinese surgeon had already incised posteriorly and failed to find the blind end of the rectum, and that the abdominal distension was more marked than usual, it was decided not to waste time in groping for the gut, which might not exist.

#### First Operation (Age 5 Days).

Left inguinal colostomy was done; the small gut was flaccid and empty, and the large intestine much thinned out by gaseous distension. A piece of gauze was passed through the mesentery of the large bowel and its peritoneum united to the parietal peritoneum; the contents of the bowel were then milked through a small incision; the gaseous distension disappeared somewhat slowly; the semi-fluid contents, of a dark-green colour, came away with reluctance; an agar culture was made at the time from this fluid; two rubber drainage tubes were inserted into the lumen of the intestine and sterile gauze dressings applied. The child improved in every way, ceased to cry, took the maternal milk, and passed motions by the artificial anus.

## Universities and Colleges.

### UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE.

THE following degrees have been conferred:

- M.D.—A. J. Cooke, C. B. Goulden.  
M.B.—A. N. Hodges, J. N. Newmarch, J. M. Postlethwaite, F. S. Smith.  
B.C.—A. N. Hodges, G. A. Lilly, J. M. Postlethwaite, A. V. Stocks.

### UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD.

#### COMPULSORY LATIN.

At a meeting of the court of the Sheffield University last week certain ordinances were adopted. One of these will replace *materia medica* as a subject for examination by pharmacology, and permit this subject to be taken after the physiological course. The other will have the effect of rendering Latin no longer a compulsory subject for medical students. The Vice-Chancellor (Mr. H. A. L. Fisher) said that as an old classic he did not view the proposed change with enthusiasm, but the Medical Faculty was only following the example of the University of London. The proposal was seconded by Dr. Arthur Hall, but opposed by Mr. A. J. Arnold, principal of the Sheffield Pupil Teachers' Centre. Mr. R. J. Pye-Smith, while agreeing that all school boys should learn some Latin, defended the change, on the ground that it was in consonance with the general rule in schools nowadays which had a classical and a modern side. Dr. Hall said that the desire for the alteration was due to the experience the university had had for some years. Students who had passed the matriculation examination exceedingly well were debarred from entering the medical profession because they had not matriculated in Latin. The resolution was carried with only one dissident.

*Clinical Tutor.*—The Council has appointed Mr. E. F. Skinner, M.A., M.B., B.C., M.R.C.P., to the post of Tutor in Clinical Medicine.

### UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW.

#### Regulations for Medical Examinations.

At the Glasgow University Court on June 11th a proposal from the Senate to hold a Second Professional Examination for degrees in medicine at the close of the summer session in 1915 was approved. On the supplementary regulations for the conduct of the professional examinations in medicine being submitted, Sir David McVail took exception to one of them, which debarred a candidate who had failed in one subject to sit again for the same subject and possibly gain distinction. The regulation, he said, would stamp a man as perpetually inferior. Professor Muir said that the view which the medical faculty took was that the conferring of honours depended upon the work which a candidate did in his ordinary course as a medical student. There was a certain amount to be said at first sight for Sir David McVail's view, but if it were carried out there would be complications. It was not a case of stamping a man as being inferior, it was simply a case of saying that a man who did badly in a subject could not possibly receive a mark of distinction. That, he thought, was only fair. Eventually the regulation was approved.

### ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.

An Ordinary Council was held on June 11th, Sir Rickman J. Godlee, President, in the chair.

#### Results of Examinations.

Diplomas of Fellowship were granted to the following thirty-eight candidates:

- H. V. Prynn, Major R.A.M.C., W. H. Leonard, Captain I.M.S., D. M. Hughes, H. E. Batten, M. W. B. Oliver, M. Donaldson, G. Mated, G. E. Neligan, H. G. Alexander, W. W. Wagstaffe, V. Glendinning, H. K. Griffith, J. C. Jefferson, A. Shafeek, J. W. Tonks, G. A. Ewart, T. C. Graves, J. H. Pendered, W. A. Curry, F. McLoughnane, R. F. O'Sullivan, M. J. Petty, J. M. Redding, V. Gabriel, H. Gardiner, G. T. Mullally, F. Cook, A. R. Wallace, A. R. Bearn, J. F. Fairley, J. A. C. Forsyth, T. S. S. Holmes, R. W. Knox, Major I.M.S., W. A. Lincoln, W. A. H. McKerrow, E. W. Smerdon, J. C. Storey, and G. H. Wickens.

Diplomas of the Licence in Dental Surgery were granted seven candidates found qualified for the licence.

#### Election of Examiners.

The following appointments were made:

*Board of Examiners in Anatomy and Physiology for the Fellowship.*—Anatomy: Robert William Reid, Gordon Taylor, William Wright, Wm. Hy. Clayton Greene. Physiology: Herbert Willoughby Lyle, John Sydney Edkins, Arthur Rendle Short, George Alfred Buckmaster. *Conjoint Examining Board.*—First Examination—*Elementary Biology:* Walter G. Ridewood, George P. Mudge. Second Examination—*Anatomy:* John Ernest Sullivan Fraser, Andrew Melville Paterson, John Cameron. Physiology: Charles Frederick Myers-Ward, Herbert Eldon Roaf. Third Examination—*Midwifery:* William Blair Bell, George Drummond Robertson, Henry Russell Andrews, Charles Hubert Roberts.

*Examination for Diploma in Public Health.*—Part I: Richard Tanner Hewlett. Part II: Sir Shirley Forster Murphy.

*Diploma in Tropical Medicine.*—Bacteriology: John William Henry Eyre. Diseases of Tropics: Charles Wilberforce Daniels.

#### Maternity Hospital, Woolwich.

The Council agreed to appoint a representative on the Managing Committee of the "Maternity Hospital and School

for the Higher Training of Midwives" which it is proposed to establish at Woolwich under a scheme of the Charity Commissioners.

#### General Medical Council.

The thanks of the Council were given to Sir Henry Morris for his services as Representative of the College on the General Medical Council.

#### Retirement of Mr. William Pearson.

Owing to ill health, Mr. William Pearson, for many years the Prosecutor of the College, retired from his post. The Museum Committee was instructed to report upon the arrangements to be made in connexion with his retirement.

#### Election of Council.

The President reported that a meeting of the Fellows would be held at the College on Thursday, July 2nd next, for the election of five Fellows into the Council of the College in the vacancies occasioned by the retirement in rotation of Sir Henry Morris, Bart., Mr. F. R. Cross, and Mr. C. A. Ballance, M.V.O., (of whom Sir Henry Morris and Mr. Cross did not offer them, selves for re-election), and by the resignation of Mr. R. Clement Lucas and Mr. Jonathan Hutchinson.

### ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS IN IRELAND.

The annual election for the President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Council was held on Monday, June 8th, and the following officers were elected for the ensuing year:—President: Mr. F. Conway Dwyer. Vice-President: Mr. William Taylor. Secretary: Sir Charles A. Cameron. Council: William Stoker, Sir Charles A. Cameron, Sir Lambert H. Ormsby, Richard D. Purefoy, Henry Gregg Sherlock, Sir Charles B. Ball, John B. Story, Sir Thomas Myles, Sir John Lentaigine, Sir Arthur Chance, F. T. Porter Newell, Shepherd M'C. Boyd, Sir Robert H. Woods, Richard Lane Joynt, R. Bolton McCausland, Thomas E. Gordon, R. Charles B. Maunsell, Trevor N. Smith, William Ireland Wheeler. Mr. F. Conway Dwyer, the newly-elected President, was a pupil at the Mater Misericordiae Hospital. He then entered Trinity College, Dublin, and graduated as Senior Moderator and gold medallist. He also gained a medical scholarship. In 1898 he became a Fellow of the College of Surgeons, and has acted on the Council for some years. He was elected Professor of Surgery in the Medical School of the College in succession to the late Sir William Stokes, a position which he still holds. Early in his career he was elected Surgeon to Jervis Street Hospital; he then became Surgeon to the Meath Hospital and County Dublin Infirmary, and on the resignation of the late Sir Thornley Stoker he joined the staff of the Richmond Hospital.

### CONJOINT BOARD IN IRELAND.

THE following candidates have been approved at the examination indicated:

- D.P.H. (Both Parts).—D. Duff, J. S. Evers, M. J. Mulligan, J. C. O'Farrell, P. L. O'Neill, Major I.M.S., K. B. Dastur-Rabading, W. N. Rishworth.

## Public Health

### POOR LAW MEDICAL OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION OF ENGLAND AND WALES.

THE annual general meeting of this association will take place at Burnley on Thursday, July 2nd. The Worshipful the Mayor (Alderman James Sellers-Key, Esq.) will receive the association at the Town Hall at 2 p.m., and has invited those attending the meeting to afternoon tea with him at 5 p.m.

The chair will be taken by Surgeon-General Evatt, C.B., President of the Association.

After the ordinary business of the meeting papers will be read on Recent legislation affecting the duties of Poor Law medical officers by Mr. C. E. Bygrave, Clerk to the Blackburn Guardians, and On the future of the Poor Law and Poor Law medical service by Dr. Major Greenwood.

The annual dinner will take place at the Bull Hotel, Burnley, in the evening at 7.30 p.m., the President being in the chair. Single tickets 6s. 6d., not including wine; double tickets (admitting lady) 12s. 6d. All Poor Law officers and friends interested in Poor Law matters are invited to be present. Those wishing to attend the dinner are requested to communicate with Dr. Agnew, Lyndhurst, Padiham, Lancashire.

### DROITWICH UNION: SETTLEMENT OF THE DIFFICULTY.

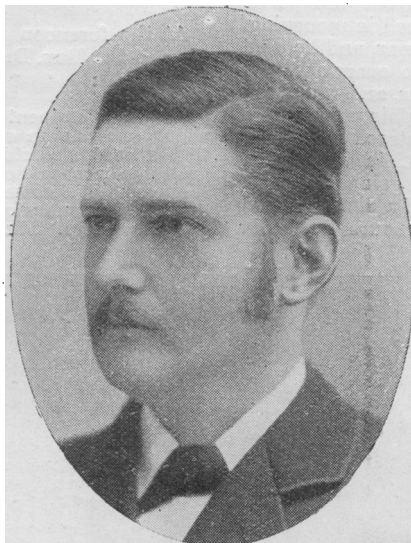
THE difficulty between the Droitwich Board of Guardians and the local medical practitioners with regard to the medical officership of the Droitwich district, which has continued for several months, has been settled and the post has now been filled. The salary paid to the late Dr. Cuthbertson was £120 a year. On his death some months ago the board, contending that the work had decreased, decided to offer £90. The local doctors informed the guardians that they could not accept the salary. The board then rescinded the resolution offering £90 and offered £100, but this was refused. Then this resolution was rescinded, and it was finally decided to offer the old salary. Dr. O. Cuthbertson, the son of the former medical officer, who has been doing the work temporarily, was the only applicant, and was unanimously appointed, subject to the approval of the Local Government Board.

**JOHN SIDDON CROOK, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,**  
TARRING, NEAR WORTHING.

WE are indebted to Dr. H. H. Sturge, of Maida Vale, for the following notice of the life of Dr. J. S. Crook, who died at his residence at Tarring, near Worthing, on June 8th:

In John Siddon Crook indefatigable industry and a strong will were added to his natural gifts. He was born fifty-eight years ago, the son of the late Dr. J. Crook, of Northfleet. In his childhood Dr. Crook suffered from spinal disease, and for a long period had to lie on his back till the bones were consolidated. Thus he was handicapped in life, because, in addition to having to wear a support, the back often caused pain, though few knew this. Notwithstanding these disadvantages, his career at Guy's Hospital, which he entered in 1875, was distinguished. In the list of those who attained honours at the examination of students at the end of their first year his name was fourth, and in the honours list at the end of the second year his place was second, and he was awarded an exhibition of £10. In anatomy he once obtained the highest marks of all who competed. After holding the appointment of obstetric resident, Dr. Crook was appointed house-surgeon, and showed the same capacity in that as in previous appointments.

After a sea voyage to South America he settled in the family practice at Northfleet, till his health gave way when aged 40. He then removed to Tarring, where, with the pure air from sea and downs, health was restored; and he soon acquired an extensive practice, and the confidence and esteem of the people. He took part in public life, and, until Tarring was incorporated with Worthing,



JOHN SIDDON CROOK.  
(Photograph by Goodman and Schmidt,  
Margate.)

was periodically elected to the District Council at the head of the poll. About that time Roentgen had discovered the x rays, and Crook was keenly interested in the matter, and soon mastered the subject; he purchased a plant, and for several years was honorary radiographer to the Worthing Hospital. He was deft with his hands, and in his own general practice performed such operations as enucleation of the eyeball. He was an accomplished obstetrician. During the last two years he went through great anxiety, as his wife's health gradually gave way. At the end of last year the back pain again began to be severe, and ground was never regained, though in February a rest was taken.

From before Christmas to the time he saw his last patient, eighteen days before his death, he went about his work himself in pain. He gave money freely to those he considered in need, and himself provided tents and milk for his poor tuberculous patients. And so it was a large congregation, composed of all grades of the community, which assembled on June 12th in Tarring Church, and after gathered round the grave. Nine of his colleagues from Worthing and Hove were present, for, as one of them said, "Crook was popular with us all." Dr. Wiggins, his doctor as well as friend, was also present.

Personally, I am indebted to my friend for most valuable advice and sympathy all through the years since 1875. Without such help life to me would have been harder. Though far from ostentatious in it, he was influenced by firm religious belief, and was formerly churchwarden at Tarring. My friend in his life exhibited the qualities which distinguish the leaders of our race—industry, endurance, and sympathy and courage, combined with capacity.

## Medical News.

SIR GEORGE KENRICK has given £18,000 to endow a chair of physics in the University of Birmingham.

THE Royal Dental Hospital, Leicester Square, has received a legacy of £200 from the executors of the late Mr. H. S. White.

THE annual sports of the United Hospitals' Athletic Club will be held at Stamford Bridge Grounds on Thursday, June 25th, at 2 p.m.

AT the Grand Hotel, Leicester, on the afternoon of Wednesday, July 8th, the Union of Medical Practitioners will make a presentation to Dr. R. Wallace Henry and Mrs. Henry.

THE annual general meeting of the Research Defence Society will be held at the house of the Royal Society of Medicine, 1, Wimpole Street, W., on Tuesday, June 30th. Tea and coffee will be provided at 4.30 p.m. At 5 o'clock the President, Lord Lamington, will give an address, and the annual report will be submitted for adoption. After the business of the meeting there will be a demonstration with the cinematograph.

DR. AND MRS. A. C. JORDAN are giving two concerts in aid of the *Empress of Ireland's* sufferers at 8.30 on the evenings of Friday and Saturday, June 19th and 20th, at 13, Upper Wimpole Street. The programmes comprise instrumental and vocal chamber music, in the performance of which Dr. and Mrs. Jordan will be assisted by Mr. Charles Copland (songs), Mr. Edward Isaacs (pianoforte), Mr. Carl Fuchs and Miss Adelina Leon (violin and cello). The price of seats is 10s. 6d. for Friday's concert, 5s. for Saturday's.

A MEETING of the School Medical Service Group of the Society of Medical Officers of Health will be held at the society's offices, 1, Upper Montague Street, Russell Square, W.C., on Saturday, June 27th, at 2.30 p.m. Members of the group and Fellows of the society whose duties include

school medical work are invited to attend. The main subject for discussion will be the consideration of the instructions to be given by the group to the three co-opted representatives to the Special Committee appointed by the Council of the society to report on the relationship of officers of the school medical service to the Society of Medical Officers of Health.

THE Countess of Mayo presided over an At Home held on June 11th at the Tuberculin Dispensary which has been recently established in Manor Street, Chelsea. The buildings, which were thrown open for the visitors' inspection, were formerly used by the charitable institution known as the Chelsea, Brompton, and Belgrave Provident Dispensary, from whose trustees they have now been taken by the Tuberculin Dispensary League at a rental of £500 a year. The dispensary has been fitted up with every regard for the patients' comfort and the requirements of the treatment, and all that is now needed for its establishment on a sound financial basis is the provision of an annual sum of £500, for which an appeal was made by the Mayor of Chelsea.

AT the statutory general meeting of the University of London Club, held at the University on June 10th, Lord Rosebery, Chancellor of the University, was elected President of the club, and among the vice-presidents appointed were Sir Thomas Barlow, Sir John Rose Bradford, Sir Rickman Godlee, Sir Alfred Pearce Gould, and Dr. W. P. Herringham. The committee reported that 910 original members (709 men and 201 women), including 135 members of the medical profession, had been elected. The town members numbered 554, and the country 356. Mr. T. Ll. Humberstone has been appointed the first secretary of the club, and it is hoped that the club-house at 19 and 21, Gower Street, will be open in July or shortly afterwards.

THE seventy-third annual meeting of the Medico-Psychological Association of Great Britain and Ireland will be opened at the Norfolk County Asylum, Thorpe, Norwich, under the presidency of Dr. D. G. Thomson, on the



morning of July 14th. In the afternoon Dr. Thomson will deliver his presidential address, and a paper will be read by Dr. A. W. Daniel on chronic poisoning by scopolamine hydrobromide or hyoscine; the annual dinner will take place in the evening. The association will meet the following morning in the Guildhall, Norwich, when papers on the detection of a dysentery carrier, by Drs. H. Salter Gettings and Ethel Waldron, and on intrathecal treatment of general paralysis, by Mr. E. Mapother, F.R.C.S., and Dr. T. Beaton. During the meeting reports from the committees on the Mental Deficiency Act and on the status of medical officers and psychiatry will be discussed.

THE North-East London Post-graduate College will hold a special holiday post-graduate course at the Prince of Wales's General Hospital, Tottenham, N., from August 4th to August 15th next. It is anticipated that a number of American medical men visiting London for the Clinical Congress of Surgeons will attend. The syllabus shows that the course will include the practical demonstration of modern clinical and laboratory methods, the exhibition of carefully selected groups of clinical cases in general medicine and surgery and in the various special departments, a series of clinical lectures on subjects closely connected with medical and surgical practice, laboratory practice in clinical pathology and bacteriology, and clinical demonstrations in various special hospitals. The fee for the whole course will be 5 guineas, or 3 guineas for either week. Further information is contained in the booklet of the course which may be obtained from the Dean.

THE Duchess of Albany opened a new nurses' home, out-patient department, and research laboratory at the Infants' Hospital, Vincent Square, S.W., on June 12th. This hospital, founded in 1907 for the study of malnutrition in infants, provides accommodation for fifty suffering from this condition. The new research laboratory occupies the whole of the lower ground floor; on the ground floor is the out-patients' department, and the upper floors are used as a nurses' home. The whole cost of the new building, about £12,000, has been defrayed by Mr. Robert Mond, who also maintains the laboratory at his own expense. For the cost of maintenance, which exceeds £3,000 a year, the committee is dependent upon voluntary contributions. A vote of thanks to Her Royal Highness, moved by the Mayor of Westminster and seconded by Dr. Ralph Vincent, senior physician to the hospital, was carried unanimously.

WE regret to have to note that the affairs of the Victoria Hospital, Blackpool, are still in the highly unsatisfactory condition that they were when we last drew attention to them a few weeks ago; the fact is all the more regrettable because, so far as the hospital is concerned, no question of principle is any longer at issue, while the converse is the case on the side of the local medical profession. When the corporation appointed a committee to intervene in the matter we had strong hopes that there would quickly be a return to the normal. As the committee is representative of the town, it is representative of those who support the hospital, and it seems to us that the proper step for it now to take is to insist upon the managers giving way in regard to the sole point which now remains at issue. This point is merely one of personalities so far as the hospital is concerned, but from the point of view of the local medical profession it has become one of principle. Furthermore the local medical profession has conclusively proved how much importance it attaches to it by declining to allow its representatives to meet this mediating body any more until the point has been granted. We remember few occasions on which the medical men in any town have shown so united a front and such cool determination, and, this being the case, we feel assured that it would be wise for the subscribers to the Victoria Hospital to require the governing body to give way. Active co-operation between the lay administration of a hospital and the medical men in its neighbourhood is essential in the case of every hospital which desires to obtain the best results.

READERS of Dr. Hurry's article on vicious circles in disease must have felt that when in possession of an idea he works it out with the utmost zeal, enthusiasm, and, be it admitted, fancy, all tempered by a respect for actualities and an accurate knowledge of the technical details of the subject in hand. The many admirers of these medical writings will rejoice to find him breaking new ground, especially such a fascinating one as a landmark in the history of music in England, nay, in the whole world. It is not too much to describe as such the canon, *Summer is ikumen in*, wonderful not merely for the time from which it dates—1240—but for any time. It has been the admiration of historians of music in

all lands, and those who have music as such in their soul, and the smallest academic and historical interest in its technical development, will delight in the study of this charming and graceful volume. The original manuscript is among the treasures of the Chapter House of Reading, saved from the ruins of its famous abbey, and a facsimile of it forms the frontispiece to the book. In the few short chapters will be found an extraordinary amount of condensed knowledge of mediaeval language, music, and history centred round the Abbey of Reading, of which Dr. Hurry has been an industrious student. There is also a touch of natural history in connexion with the cuckoo, about whose song various opinions have been expressed. None of them seems to agree with the writer of this note, who has an impression that the interval is a minor third. He has, however, to admit that he is a "town bird" and may be mistaken. He has, however, enjoyed reading every line of this work, and looks forward longingly to the first excuse for a visit to Reading to see the canon reproduced in marble in the Chapter House, and perhaps the MSS. as well. He guarantees that other readers will entertain the same aspiration.

ON June 10th a presentation was made to the Master and Governors of the ancient Charity of Charterhouse in London of a life-size painting in oils by Mr. J. Dick Peddie, the well-known portrait painter, of the late Mr. A. Chune Fletcher, who was for many years medical officer to the institution. The Master, the Rev. G. Davies, together with Sir H. Seymour King and other governors and officials, received the subscribers to the memorial portrait in the Hall of the Charterhouse; the attendance was large and representative. The portrait was presented on behalf of the subscribers by the Hon. Charles Napier Lawrence, who in a few well chosen words spoke of the valuable work accomplished by Mr. Fletcher, and of the friendships which he had gained during his tenure of office by his courtesy, his skill, and his goodwill to all men, and deplored the loss to the Charterhouse by his death last year. The Reverend Master, in unveiling the portrait and accepting the gift, commented on the excellence of the painting as a speaking likeness, and expressed the estimation in which Mr. Fletcher's services as medical officer and part administrator to the Charterhouse had been held by all those brought in contact with him. Sir H. Seymour King also spoke of the valuable assistance given to the Charterhouse in so many ways by its late medical officer, and of his power of organization and administration. The numerous subscribers were entertained at tea, and they were afterwards personally conducted through the historical buildings by the Rev. Mr. Davies, and permitted even to view the Master's residence with all its treasures of antiquity, an act of courtesy which added greatly to the interest and pleasure of all who enjoyed the rare opportunity of inspection not afforded to the general public.

THE foundation stone of the new buildings of the Chelsea Hospital for Women was laid on June 9th by Earl Cadogan, the donor of the new site in Arthur Street, Chelsea, whilst the foundation stone of the new nurses' home in connexion with the hospital was laid by Countess Cadogan during the course of the same afternoon. The plan of the new buildings includes not only the main hospital and nurses' home, but also a pathological block containing a mortuary, post-mortem room, museum, and pathological laboratory. The hospital itself will contain 76 beds, and the nurses' home will provide accommodation for 31 nurses and 7 sisters. Viscount Castlereagh, in asking Lord Cadogan to lay the foundation stone, said that in presenting a site for the new buildings Lord Cadogan had shown himself a true friend of the cause they all had at heart. The hospital was deeply indebted also to Mr. T. Dyer Edwards, and had to express thanks to the Lunz bequest for the promise of £10,000. Earl Cadogan said that he well remembered the time when the hospital was originally founded, had watched its career ever since with the greatest possible interest, and would do all he could to promote its welfare. Lord Cadogan then laid the stone, and a procession was formed to another part of the site, where Lady Cadogan laid the foundation stone of the new nurses' home. Mrs. Hugh Fenton, who invited Lady Cadogan to perform the ceremony, said the Ladies' Committee had felt that their first duty was to provide the nursing staff with a suitable home; the next requirement was a well equipped out-patient department; and for both these purposes sufficient funds were available, but money was needed to build the rest of the hospital on a corresponding scale. The foundation stone was then laid by Lady Cadogan, and the ceremony concluded with a benediction pronounced by Archdeacon Bevan, the Rector of Chelsea.