

the tetanus toxin, and also, I think, increased by the injections of morphine sulphate, which may cause spasm of the pulmonary arterioles. I should certainly never use it again. Dr. Doyen of Paris recently reported 24 cases seen by him in France in which, after subarachnoid injections of serum, the patients were made to lie on their faces with the foot of the bed raised to cause the serum to gravitate to the brain; after adopting this manoeuvre he had 80 per cent. of recoveries whereas previously he had lost 80 per cent. I consider, however, that had this been done in our case the patient would have died, as he was quite unable to swallow excepting in the sitting posture. Intravenous subarachnoid or intracranial injections of serum were not used, as the man did well with subcutaneous injections for the first three days and intramuscular injections subsequently. The large doses of calomel and soda given the first day and the subsequent frequent doses helped greatly to eliminate the toxin and prevent any symptoms from the serum. The excitability on November 9th and 12th, when the spasms were diminishing, is worth noting, as it did not readily yield to treatment. I had, unfortunately, missed reading Dr. W. Sheaf's notes on the treatment of tetanus by chloretone, 30 to 40 grains in olive oil per rectum, in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL of October 17th, 1914; the dose of chloretone averaged 80 grains a day for five days. My thanks are due to Colonel Wilson, R.A.M.C. P.M.O. Shorncliffe, who kindly supplied the serum; to Dr. Bradbury of Sandgate, who saw the patient with me on several occasions, and also to the excellent nurses he had.

Memoranda:

MEDICAL, SURGICAL, OBSTETRICAL.

AN ARITHMETICAL HELP TOWARDS X-RAY LOCALIZATION.

THE following method, which I have worked out in order to simplify the determination of the exact depth of a foreign body from the surface, may be expressed in the form of an arithmetical rule.

"Multiply the distance from the anticathode to the screen by the amount of the excursion of the shadow on the screen, and divide the product by the sum of the amount of displacement of the tube and the amount of the excursion of the shadow."

This can be easily remembered by the formula

$$\frac{A \times S}{T + S}$$

where A is the distance from the accurately centred anticathode to the screen above, S is the amount of displacement of the shadow, and T is the amount of displacement of the tube.

It is necessary that T and S should be expressed in the same terms—either in inches or centimetres, but A may be expressed either in inches or centimetres, and the result will be in the same terms as A. The screen is supposed to be on the skin surface. The three following examples will show the simplicity and rapidity of the calculation required.

1. A. Distance of anticathode from screen = 22 inches.

T. Displacement of tube = 6 centimetres.

S. Excursion of shadow = 2 centimetres.

By the formula $\frac{22 \times 2}{6 + 2} = \frac{44}{8} = 5\frac{1}{2}$ inches distance of foreign body from surface.

2. A. Distance of anticathode from screen = 54 centimetres.

T. Displacement of tube = 3 inches.

S. Excursion of shadow = 1 inch.

Then $\frac{54 \times 1}{3 + 1} = \frac{54}{4} = 13.5$ centimetres from the surface.

3. A. Distance of anticathode from screen = 20 inches.

T. Displacement of tube = $\frac{3}{4}$ inches.

S. Excursion of shadow = $\frac{1}{4}$ inch.

Then $\frac{20 \times \frac{1}{4}}{\frac{3}{4} + \frac{1}{4}} = \frac{5}{1} = 5$ inches from the surface.

By the employment of this method the necessity for the use of triangulation charts or apparatus with sliding-scale pieces is done away with. Providing the tube is accurately centred and the measurements of A, T, and S

are exact, the depth of the foreign body is given with mathematical accuracy.

H. R. BRAMWELL, M.B. Edin., M.R.C.S.,
Chief Clinical Assistant, X-Ray Department,
West London Hospital.

CASE OF LARYNGEAL SARCOMA.

A MAN aged 75 was sent to me by Dr. Cowie of Bourne-mouth on account of laryngeal trouble of eighteen months' duration. His voice was little more than a whisper, and he complained of difficulty in breathing, cough, and expectoration.

On examining the larynx it was observed that the left cord was normal and moved freely, but from the level of the right aryepiglottic fold downwards a reddish papillary mass occupied the right side of the larynx. Opposite the sound left cord the growth presented a whitish area covered with close-set, short, pointed papillae. No secondary glandular deposit could be found.

A diagnosis of epithelioma was made from the clinical evidence. A subsequent report after the microscopic examination of the growth stated it to be "a large round-celled sarcoma."

The patient at first declined operation, but subsequently agreed to have thyrotomy performed. He objected to any procedure which would deprive him of his voice.

Operation was performed on March 4th under chloroform. After a preliminary tracheotomy the anaesthetic was given through the tube for the remaining steps of the operation. The thyroid cartilage, which was ossified, was sawn through. On separating its wings, the growth was seen to be much more extensive than appeared in the laryngeal mirror. It almost filled the space from the level of the cords to the upper border of the cricoid. It was difficult to see how the patient had breathed at all. After cocaineizing the larynx, the growth was peeled off the thyroid up to an incision just beyond its limits.

As there was considerable bleeding and the patient had some bronchial catarrh, I decided to retain the tracheotomy tube for a day or two. He was nursed in a well-ventilated room with open windows. There was a very free discharge of bloodstained mucus from the tube for the first two days. On the third day the tube was removed. The wound above the tracheotomy opening looked like giving some trouble, but cleared up under a boric fomentation. The first attempts to take liquid food caused some pain and troublesome cough, but this difficulty soon disappeared after the tube was removed.

The patient made an uneventful recovery. Six weeks after operation laryngoscopic examination showed that the area occupied by the growth was completely healed over. The patient feels well and strong, and has a rough but useful voice. Now (six months after operation) there is no evidence of recurrence, and the patient is in excellent health. A slight fold is to be seen replacing the right cord.

In view of the extent of the disease and the nature of the operation permitted, one could hardly anticipate a permanently successful result, but the patient has at all events enjoyed six months' excellent health.

Sarcoma of the larynx is a somewhat rare condition, and for this reason I have thought it worth while to put this case on record.

Bournemouth.

CHARLES SALKELD, M.B., B.S. Durh.

Reports of Societies.

SOCIETY OF MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH.

At a meeting on January 8th Dr. W. WHITLEY read a paper on *Criminal abortion and abortifacients*, in which he laid stress on the importance of distinguishing between those abortions which were successful and those which were not. In the former case life was utterly destroyed, and in the latter the infant, when born, might be puny, undeveloped, and devoid of resistive power. If it should survive, it might be only to establish a pathological existence, and possibly to perpetuate a race of degenerates. Among the means adopted to produce abortion the commonest in England was by repeated, regular, and

against any particular individual. But he thought it was right that his Lordship should know that the words "Dr. Massie" were deliberately used to imply that a Dr. Massie was in the business. It was impossible not to regard that as a serious offence.

Mr. Maclaren pointed out that there were other two men in business besides the accused. The business had been going on for four years in Edinburgh without objection having been taken. In any case, the business would be stopped at once.

Sheriff Orr said he thought the offence was a very serious one. It was impossible to doubt that the name of "Dr. Massie" had been deliberately used for the purpose of deceiving the public. He imposed the maximum penalty of £20, with the option of sixty days in prison. One month was given to pay the fine, the accused having a house in Edinburgh.

In the other case, according to the report in the same newspaper, John Piercy Trevor Key, carrying on business described by him as a medical practice at 7, West Register Street, was charged that, not being registered under the Medical Acts, he used the name "Dr. Temple" in connexion with the business so as to imply that he was registered. He at first pleaded not guilty, but after the case above reported had been decided he withdrew this plea. He said that his interest in the company was merely financial, and that he did not manage it.

The Solicitor-General said that this case was rather worse than the other.

A similar fine was imposed. Accused stated he resided in Glasgow, and he was required to pay the fine on the same day.

Universities and Colleges.

UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN.

Scholarships.

MR. GEORGE SKELTON YUILL of London and Australia has given a sum of £4,000 to found a scholarship in chemistry in the memory of the Arts Class of 1864-68, of which he was a member. The scholarship founded with the revenue of the gift will be held by a student of the university for the purpose of research within it, or for the study of the practical applications of chemistry elsewhere; or it may be given to a professional chemist to pursue a course of pure science at the university, or to carry out technical investigations. Mr. James Campbell, LL.D., chairman of the governors of the North of Scotland College of Agriculture, has founded four bursaries or scholarships to be held by students of the university in the college.

Service Lists.

The late Colonel William Johnston, C.B., M.D., LL.D. of Newton Dee, a member of the Aberdeen University Court, has bequeathed to the university library, in addition to other volumes, a valuable set of publications consisting of the complete series of *Army Lists* from 1755, *Navy Lists* from 1759, and *India Lists* from 1799. These works had been accumulated by him in connexion with the "Roll of the Officers of the Army Medical Service," on the preparation of which Colonel Johnston had been engaged for several years. It will probably be published in a short time.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.

A QUARTERLY Council was held on January 14th, when Sir W. Watson Cheyne, Bt., President, was in the chair.

The late Mr. Bryant.

The Council passed a resolution expressing its appreciation of Mr. Bryant's services as a president of the College and in other capacities and sympathy with his relations.

Leave of Absence.

Leave of absence was given to the Conservator, Professor Arthur Keith, for six weeks for the purpose of going to America to deliver a course of five lectures on anthropology at the Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio.

Votes of Thanks, etc.

A vote of thanks was passed to Mr. G. Buxton Browne for his presentation of a collection of lithotrites, and to Sir John Tweedy for a gift of books.

Belgian Doctors' and Pharmacists' Relief Fund.

A sum of fifty guineas was contributed from the funds of the College to the Belgian Doctors' and Pharmacists' Relief Fund.

University of Birmingham.

Sir W. Watson Cheyne was reappointed a member of the Court of Governors of the University of Birmingham for three years.

Vacant Examinership.

The vacancy on the Board of Examiners, occasioned by the retirement of Mr. Bilton Pollard, will be filled up at the Council meeting on February 11th.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS IN IRELAND.

THE President, Vice-President, and Council of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland have decided to place in the College a permanent record of the names of all the Students,

Licentiates, and Fellows of the College who are at present serving with His Majesty's Navy and Expeditionary Forces, and further to erect a suitable memorial to all such as fall in the war. Relatives and friends are asked to communicate the names of such Students, Licentiates and Fellows to Mr. Alfred Miller, Registrar of the College.

CONJOINT BOARD IN ENGLAND.

The following candidates have been approved at the examinations indicated:

FIRST COLLEGE (*Part I, Chemistry, Part II, Physics*).—F. F. Abdullah, W. G. Barnard, L. M. Calvert, A. J. Chiappa, P. C. Collins, I. J. Corbett, W. Davies, F. S. Drewe, F. E. Edwards, M. A. El Dardiri, A. J. Fenn, A. Forster, C. Gill-Carey, W. Girgis, K. Glaisby, B. A. M. Gordon, F. E. Harger, M. W. M. Hassanally, H. Howard, D. J. H. Jones, H. A. C. Kite, J. S. Moore, G. Murphy, C. Nicory, A. B. Olumuyiwa, A. G. M. Severn, E. A. Sparks, Y. A. Sunbul, A. G. Sykes, D. D. C. Thomson, J. E. van der Merwe, Gladys M. T. Williams. (*Part III, Elementary Biology*).—Y. Abdel-Messiah, F. F. Abdullah, J. B. Acuña, F. T. Allen, G. W. Almeyda, W. G. Barnard, C. R. Cade, A. J. Chiappa, W. Davies, A. J. Fenn, E. T. Flood, C. Gill-Carey, W. Girgis, B. A. M. Gordon, D. P. Guilfoyle, W. R. G. Harris, K. C. J. Jones, J. J. M. MacDonnell, C. Moffatt, G. Murphy, Elizabeth O'Flynn, A. Osman, A. G. M. Severn, Y. A. Sunbul, D. D. C. Thomson, J. E. van der Merwe, G. W. Wheldon, F. W. Widgery.

* Passed in Part I only.

† Passed in Part II only.

SECOND COLLEGE (*Anatomy and Physiology*).—E. B. Andreae, H. H. Bailey, J. R. Banks, J. A. Berry, K. S. Bhat, F. Caldecott, O. St. L. Campion, M. Carrasco, H. M. Cohen, B. S. Collings, T. M. Cunningham, H. A. Frokjar, L. Gill, E. G. Harris, J. Hollings, J. Hope, J. C. C. Howe, J. W. D. Hyde, Ivey Keess, M. E. A. Latif, K. A. I. Mackenzie, P. N. Menon, H. Morris-Jones, P. D. Motivala, W. P. Nelson, Alice O'Reilly, G. A. Pennant, F. N. Reynolds, A. H. Richardson, E. J. G. Sargent, B. I. Skeggs, N. H. Smith, I. H. Syed, A. S. Westmoreland, S. Yahilevitz.

Public Health

AND

POOR LAW MEDICAL SERVICES.

VITAL STATISTICS IN ENGLAND AND WALES, 1914. WE are indebted to the Registrar-General for the following statement showing the birth-rates and death-rates and the rate of infantile mortality in England and Wales and in certain parts of the country during the year 1914.

ENGLAND AND WALES.

Birth-rate, Death-rate, and Infantile Mortality during the Year 1914 (Provisional Figures).

	Annual Rate per 1,000 Living.			Deaths under One Year to 1,000 Births.
	Births.	Deaths.		
		Crude.	Standardized.*	
England and Wales...	23.6	13.9	13.6	105
97 great towns, including London	24.9	14.6	14.9	113
145 smaller towns ...	23.6	12.8	12.9	104
England and Wales, less the 242 towns	21.9	13.3	12.2	93
London... ..	24.6	14.4	14.4	103

* The standardized death-rates are the rates which would have been recorded had the sex and age constitution of the populations of the several areas been identical with England and Wales as enumerated in 1901. A description of the method of standardizing these death-rates is to be found in the Registrar-General's Annual Report for 1911, p. 29.

DR. AND MRS. FREDERIC S. LEE, of New York, have given to Columbia University the sum of £4,000 towards the establishment of a fund for the endowment of the department of physiology. Provisionally the income is to be used for the maintenance of the departmental library.

THE Royal Academy of Medicine of Turin asks us to announce that the thirteenth Riberi prize of the value of £800 is offered for the best medical research work. The competition will remain open till December 31st, 1916. Particulars and forms of application may be obtained from Dr. V. Oliva, General Secretary of the Reale Accademia di Medicina, Via Po, No. 18, Torino, Italy.

Obituary.

DR. ETHEL FRANCES LAMPORT died very suddenly on December 27th, 1914, whilst driving to church. Miss Lamport entered the London Hospital as a probationer in 1884, and, after completing her training, was made Sister of one of Sir Frederick Treves's wards—a post which she held for several years. After leaving the London Hospital Miss Lamport took the diploma of sanitary inspector, and then decided to study medicine, entering the London (Royal Free Hospital) School of Medicine for Women in 1891. After obtaining the diploma of L.S.A. and the degree of M.D.Brux. in 1901 she at once returned to the East End of London, and began to practise in Bow, where she worked unflinchingly for over eleven years for the improvement of the physical and social conditions of the women and children who came under her care. She also held the post of public vaccinator in Millwall (Isle of Dogs) for ten years. When failing health made it impossible for Dr. Lamport to continue her arduous life of work amongst the sick poor, she retired to Well, near Long Sutton, Hampshire, where she quickly endeared herself to her neighbours by her genial manner and the kindly interest she took in them. Dr. Lamport will long be remembered in Bow and Poplar for her unselfish devotion to the sick poor in those districts.

DR. JOHN WILLIAM GREENWOOD, who died recently at Torquay at the age of 66, had practised at Hanley in the Northwood district for thirty-five years. He was born in the United States in the neighbourhood of St. Louis, and came to this country when a boy with his parents. He received his medical education at St. Thomas's Hospital, becoming M.R.C.S. in 1873, and L.S.A. in the following year. He obtained the degree of M.D. from the University of St. Andrews in 1893. Soon after qualifying he settled at Hanley, where he acquired a considerable practice. Some four years ago he retired and went to live at Torquay. Dr. Greenwood was a member of the British Medical Association. He was held in high esteem at Hanley as a practitioner, and his amiability of character made him personally popular. He leaves a widow and two children.

DR. J. W. WINTERBURN, of Stockland, near Honiton, Devon, who died recently at the age of 56, received his professional education at St. Thomas's, and was admitted L.S.A. in 1885. He began practice in Battersea and afterwards worked for a time in Jersey. He then settled at Stockland. He was medical officer and public vaccinator for the Stockland and Dalwood parishes. Dr. Winterburn never recovered from the effects of a carriage accident which happened over a year ago, and necessitated the amputation of one of his limbs. On his return to Stockland in March last he was able for a short time to resume his work and to drive about the country, but since August he had been practically confined to his bedroom. He bore his sufferings with exemplary fortitude. His professional skill won him the respect of the public, and the kindness and unselfishness of his character made him beloved by patients and popular with all with whom he came in contact.

SURGEON-GENERAL WILLIAM HENRY MACNAMARA, C.B., C.M.G., R.A.M.C. (retired), died suddenly at Ealing on January 9th, aged 68. He was born at Limerick on June 29th, 1846, the son of the late Mr. D. Macnamara of Corbally, Limerick, and was educated at Queen's College, Cork, and at the Ledwich School of Medicine, Dublin. After taking the M.D. in the Queen's University, Ireland, in 1867, he entered the army as assistant-surgeon on October 1st, 1867, became surgeon on March 1st, 1873, surgeon-major on October 1st, 1879, and surgeon-general on October 4th, 1901. He retired on June 29th, 1906. In 1881 he took the diploma of F.R.C.S.I. He had a long list of war service, all in Africa. He served in the Egyptian war of 1882, with the 1st Battalion Royal Irish Fusiliers, was present at the battle of Tel-el-Kebir, and received the Egyptian medal with a clasp and the Khedive's bronze star. In the Nile expedition of 1898 he served as Principal Medical Officer at first of the British brigade, afterwards of

the British division, was present in the actions of the Atbara river and of Omdurman, was mentioned in dispatches in the *London Gazette* of May 24th and September 30th, 1898, and gained the British and Egyptian medals with two clasps, and the C.B. In South Africa he served from 1899 to 1902, at first as Assistant Principal Medical Officer, afterwards as Principal Medical Officer of the lines of communication, was mentioned in dispatches in the *London Gazette* of April 16th, 1901, and July 29th, 1902, and received the Queen's medal with one clasp, the King's medal with two clasps, and the C.M.G.

DEPUTY SURGEON-GENERAL GEORGE ALDER WATSON, Bengal Medical Service (retired), died at Cheltenham on January 12th, aged 83. He was born on June 18th, 1831. He received his medical education at Guy's Hospital, took the diplomas of M.R.C.S. and L.S.A. in 1853, and entered the Indian Medical Service as assistant-surgeon on August 4th, 1855, after serving for a short time as a temporary assistant-surgeon in the army during the Crimean war. He became surgeon on August 4th, 1867; surgeon-major on July 1st, 1873; brigade surgeon, when that rank was instituted, on November 27th, 1879; and retired with a step of honorary rank on December 7th, 1885. He had a long list of war service. In the Crimea he served at the siege of Sebastopol. During the Indian Mutiny he served at Mhow, at the siege of Dhar, and was present in the actions of Mundisur and Guraria, and received the medal with the clasp for Central India. In the Afghan war of 1878-9 he served in the 19th Bengal Lancers, under Sir Donald Stewart, in the advance to Kandahar and the capture of the fort of Kelat-i-Ghilzai, receiving the medal. For his last five years' service he was medical storekeeper at Allahabad.

Medical News.

DR. J. A. MURRAY has been appointed Acting Director of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund.

W. E. ST. LAWRENCE FINNY, M.D., J.P., who is a member of the Inner Temple, has passed the Bar Final Examination qualifying him for admission as a Barrister-at-Law.

It has been decided to build and equip a new and complete pathological and clinical laboratory and *post-mortem* department for the Leicester Royal Infirmary at an approximate cost of £3,500.

AMONG recent donations to the fund for the extension of the London (Royal Free Hospital) School of Medicine for Women are £262 10s. from the Mercers' Company and £50 from the Goldsmiths' Company.

DR. LLEWELLYN POWELL PHILLIPS, Professor of Medicine in the Egyptian Government Medical School and Senior Physician to Kasr el Ainy Hospital, Cairo, has been appointed Physician in Ordinary to the Sultan of Egypt.

COURSES of lectures in sanitation are being given at the Royal Army Medical College to medical officers of the Territorial Force and the new armies. A course began on Monday last, and extended over a period of five days. General officers commanding have been asked to notify the dates of such courses, and to nominate officers to attend them.

A COURSE of lectures on military subjects intended primarily for cadets of the Officers' Training Corps, but open to all interested without fee, is being given at Birkbeck College, Bream's Buildings, Chancery Lane, E.C., on Tuesday evenings at 8 p.m. The lecture on January 26th will deal with bacteria, and will be given by Mr. H. C. I. Wynne-Vaughan, D.Sc.

THE Galton Dinner and Lecture instituted last year by the Eugenics Education Society in honour of the memory of Sir Francis Galton, F.R.S., will be held this year, as before, on the anniversary of his birth, Tuesday, February 16th, at the Hotel Cecil, at 7 p.m. Professor J. A. Thomson will deliver a lecture which will deal with eugenics and the war.

THE report presented by the council to the annual general meeting of the Royal Meteorological Society described the work carried on by the society, including the researches in the upper atmosphere, the collection and discussion of phonological observations, the arrangements for the preparation of a climatological atlas of the British Isles, and the delivery of popular lectures on meteorology. Captain H. G. Lyons, F.R.S., was elected president, and Mr. F. Campbell Bayard and Commander W. F. Caborne, C.B.,

secretaries for the ensuing year. The new members of council are Mr. J. S. Dines, M.A., Mr. A. P. Jenkin, F.S.I., and Sir J. W. Moore, M.D.

THE usual monthly meeting of the Executive Committee of the Medical Sickness, Annuity and Life Assurance Society was held at the Society's Offices, 300, High Holborn, on January 15th, when Dr. F. J. Allan was in the chair. The reports on members permanently incapacitated showed that forty-two are receiving annually over £4,000 in sickness benefit. This feature constitutes one of the greatest functions the Society performs by providing, practically, an annuity to age 65 of from £1 ls. to £3 3s. a week for each member so afflicted, many of whom, without this assistance, would be in considerable distress. During the past year the claims showed a large decrease over the previous year. New business had been average, but the number of members increasing their benefits was the highest on record. About 120 members are actually serving either at the front or with their regiments at home and the colonies. So far, only three claims have been made as a direct result of the war, two being from illnesses contracted owing to exposure and overwork, and one in respect of death from wounds. Applications are constantly being received from younger members of the profession taking temporary commissions in the R.A.M.C. or serving in the various Red Cross and Base Hospitals. All inquiries in respect of these should be addressed to Mr. Bertram Sutton, Secretary, Medical Sickness Society, 300, High Holborn, W.C.

IN calling the cinematograph to their aid in the task of educating public opinion eugenists are but following the example of other educationalists, who acknowledge its power for good or evil with the large numbers of men and women to whom it would never occur to read a book or attend a lecture. They will be interested, and unconsciously influenced, by a picture play such as "The Escape," produced by Mr. D. W. Griffith at the Alhambra Theatre on January 12th. In that play the evils of mis-mating and bad environment are graphically displayed in the tragic history of a typical working-class family in a New York tenement house. The hasty and ill-advised marriage of the parents has its inevitable sequel in unfit and unhappy children, whose lives bid fair to be wrecked through no fault of their own by the mere accident of their birth. Their struggles to escape from their wretched surroundings are shown in a series of pictures, in which a young doctor plays the part of good genius to the entire family, saving one of the daughters through risking marriage with her, and converting her brother from an Apache of the lowest type into a normal human being by successfully trephining him after his brain had been injured by a blow on the head from his drunken father. Crude and melodramatic as the story is in many respects, it contains some wholesome truths, and constitutes a moving appeal for those who cannot plead for themselves, urging the potential parents of the future to recognize their responsibilities, and give a fair chance for health and happiness to the generations yet to come.

A DEMONSTRATION of the "Permutit" system of softening water was given at Imperial House, Kingsway, last week. The material is a granular or flaky substance, an artificial zeolite, representing a combination of various bases with alumina and silicic acid. Its value lies in its property of readily exchanging one base for another. It appears to extract the lime and magnesia from hard water, substituting the equivalent in its own sodium. After this process has gone on for some time it becomes necessary to regenerate the material by allowing a solution of sodium chloride to percolate through it. The ordinary small plant for the supply of a household or bathroom carries out its softening function during the day and is made to regenerate during the night. At the demonstration a sample of metropolitan water, having a hardness of 16½ degrees, was filtered through a layer of permutit, and after a few moments was drawn off, when it appeared by the soap-lather test to have no trace of hardness at all. The claim was made that this system will reduce water to a zero hardness, and that the product resembles distilled water as closely as any chemically-treated water can. As the to-and-fro process of softening and regeneration appears to go on indefinitely without depreciation of the zeolite, the method may prove to be of considerable value for industrial purposes. Whether the softening of water to zero hardness is an unmixed advantage from the dietetic point of view is another matter, but there is no question that a domestic supply of soft water has great convenience, effecting, for example, an economy in soap and preventing scale from forming on pipes and fittings. A special installation is made to remove iron or manganese from water, an elimination which is essential in the manufacture of some explosives.

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.

INCOME TAX.

R. B. has been refused any allowance for life assurance in respect of a single-premium policy, and inquires whether he has any remedy.

The life assurance allowance is governed by Sect. 54 of the Income Tax Act, 1853, which provides for the deduction of the "amount of the annual premium paid." We understand that the income-tax authorities hold that the insertion of the word "annual" in the section referred to excludes from the allowance a "single-premium" payment. The question does not appear to have come before the courts, either because it is one which does not involve sufficient tax to justify the expense, or because the official interpretation of the section does not appear to be controvertible.

RECURRENT DESQUAMATION OF THE TONGUE.

A. B., M.D., writes: Can any one help a hardworking suffering colleague? For the past five years he has been afflicted with a peculiar affection of the tongue, characterized by periodical desquamation of the epithelium of the anterior fourth of its papillary surface. This occurs once in ten days or so and does not commence at any special spot, but wherever it starts it spreads slowly till all the epithelium of the front part of the tongue is removed. Healing takes place quite quickly behind the red advancing edge, which is very painful, strange to say, only when speaking. A fresh attack may have begun before healing, or begins immediately after. At least a score of diagnoses have been made, but no one can say he has seen the condition before. Treatment of many kinds, including vaccine and total extraction of the teeth has been tried, and every form of dietetic restriction, excepting Salisburys, has been practised. After a seven weeks' course of radium application (15 mgr.) perfect cure resulted for four months. Since then a shorter course has helped the condition, but the sufferer has been deterred from persevering further by the definite assurance that radium, x rays, etc., will be sure to set up cancer. The sufferer asks for an authoritative opinion on this point, and as to any similar case. Suggestions would be heartily welcomed. The subject is slightly rheumatic, may have a slight erosion in the colon from an old healed colitis, does not smoke nor take tea or coffee, and is rather fond of sweet things.

ANSWERS.

PROPRIETARY FOODS FOR INFANTS.

M.—The Local Government Board's report on proprietary foods for infants (Food Reports No. 20) does not give the names of the preparations examined. With regard to the particular preparations as to which our correspondent inquires, we believe we are correct in stating that one of Allen and Hanburys' foods consists of dried milk with a fully malted flour added, and that Savory and Moore's and Benger's foods consist of partially malted flours intended to be added to milk. Allen and Hanburys' food (with malted flour) is suitable for some young infants, and is often well tolerated. Reference should be made to the fuller notes on these foods, published in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, 1894, vol. ii, p. 705. Savory and Moore's and Benger's foods, given in the proportions recommended in combination with milk, are usually well borne by children over 6 months, and in many cases by even younger children. These two foods are intended to be used as additions to milk and not substitutes for it; in small amounts they may increase growth and provide energy without causing digestive disturbances; the proportion of unaltered starch is not high in either case.

LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.

NOTIFICATION OF INDUSTRIAL POISONING.

THE leaflet (Form 304) issued by the Factory Department of the Home Office with reference to the certification by medical practitioners of cases of lead, phosphorus, arsenic, or mercury poisoning, or from anthrax, can be obtained on application to any of the factory inspectors.

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