

## Memoranda: MEDICAL, SURGICAL, OBSTETRICAL.

### CYSTIC HYGROMA.

I was called on January 3rd to Mrs. F., 38 years of age, who was in the second stage of labour with the eleventh child. There was no abnormal family history. As there was no progress, I applied forceps under chloroform. No difficulty was experienced with the birth, which was a first vertex presentation with the back behind, nor any tearing of the perineum; and although some slight obstruction was caused by the mass following the head, a little pressure on the abdomen helped to complete the delivery of the head and swelling.

The appearance of the infant, a male, was striking. The whole of the lower portion of the left side of its face and neck was occupied by a very large fleshy mass extending well down over the shoulder and chest. The skin over



the hygroma was very lax, whilst the tumour itself was thick-walled and cystic, being composed of a large agglomeration of degenerated lymphatic vessels; it was heavy and capable of being lifted over the chest, when it impeded the respirations very considerably. The child's left eye was normal, although closed by the swelling; the lower jaw was distinct when examined through the mouth, and both nostrils were expanded and thickened. The hygroma extended from the upper zygoma as far as the left ear, pushing the lobe up, then reaching

down in an irregularly globular fashion till it became indefinite at its base in the neck.

There was some trouble in nourishing the child, which was spoon-fed, on account of obstruction to swallowing, and considerable difficulty was noticed in breathing through pressure on the trachea, which gradually became more pronounced until death took place on the third day.

The hygroma measured  $4\frac{1}{2}$  in. from the sulcus below the chin to the most dependent portion and  $13\frac{1}{2}$  in. in circumference at the level of the clavicle, and although so large and unwieldy, there were no signs of commencing ulceration on the under surface of the swelling.

I have searched through the literature on the subject and cannot find any record of a hygroma of this size. It is interesting to note that it caused so little difficulty in the delivery, seeing that a small obstruction in the pelvis so often gives rise to great difficulty in labour; the accompanying photograph, taken twenty-four hours after birth, shows the size and characteristics of this remarkably large tumour developed *in utero*.

Bournemouth.

A. E. ELLIS, L.R.C.P.I., L.R.C.S.I.

## Reports of Societies.

### THE ROYAL SOCIETY.

Thursday, February 11th, 1915.

Sir WILLIAM CROOKES, O.M., President, in the Chair.

#### *Excitatory Processes in the Ventricles.*

A PAPER by Drs. T. LEWIS and M. A. ROTHSCHILD, on the excitatory process in the ventricles of the dog's heart, was communicated by Professor E. H. STARLING, F.R.S. It was found that the excitation wave appeared at the pericardial surface of the dog's heart at times which showed no great variation relative to each other; but the distribution of the time values over the surface with such variations as they showed was very fairly constant from heart

to heart. The earliest surface points to show activity were (1) that portion of the free wall of the right ventricle which bordered the lower half of the anterior inter-ventricular groove, and (2) the vortex of the left ventricle. The time at which the excitation wave appeared at the surface was controlled by the length of the Purkinje tract to the endocardium beneath the region tested, and by the thickness of the ventricular muscle in the same region. The excitation wave spread along the branches of the *a-v* bundle and was distributed through the network of Purkinje; the rate of travel in this tissue was approximately 5,000 mm. a second; it penetrated the muscle wall in its whole thickness and at right angles to the plane of the wall; the rate of travel in ventricular muscle was approximately 500 mm. per second. The excitation wave was not propagated by simple spread from base to apex or apex to base through bands of muscle fibres, as had commonly been held hitherto. The capacity of striated cardiac tissue to conduct appeared to be related to the size of the cells composing it and to its load of contained glycogen. The auriculo-ventricular bundle and its branches constituted a system of fibres specially endowed in regard to their arrangement and physiological properties to give quick distribution of the excitation wave throughout all parts of the ventricle.

#### *Growth of Mammalian Tissue in vitro.*

A paper by A. J. WATSON, on the variation in the growth of mammalian tissue *in vitro* according to the age of the animal, was communicated by Professor W. BULLOCK, F.R.S. Previous work, it was stated, had shown that plasma of animals varied considerably in its value as a medium for the cultivation of tissue. Experiments were carried out with a view of determining whether these differences were due to the age of the animal from which the plasma was obtained. The tissues and plasma of rabbits were alone used, and the majority of animals were of a known age. Tissues of young and old animals were used and were grown in pure plasma from the same animals. In the majority of cases cross experiments were performed, each tissue being grown in both old and young plasma. The results were thereby more readily controlled. The results of these experiments were further controlled by young stock tissues of the tenth generation in young and old plasma. In all cases it was found that the young tissues grew better than the old, but the plasma of the young animal was not nearly so satisfactory a medium as that of the old. Hence the best results were obtained when young tissues were grown in the plasma of old animals, and the worst results when old tissues were grown in young plasma. There was some reason to believe that the unsuitability of the plasma of young animals as a medium was due to the presence of an increased amount of some inhibiting substance.

### THE MEDICO-PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

At the usual quarterly meeting of this association on February 18th, under the presidency of Dr. DAVID G. THOMSON, Dr. ROY M. STEWART (Prestwich Asylum) read a paper, illustrated by photomicrographs, on *Meningo-vascular syphilis*. It was devoted to the consideration of a single case, the morbid anatomy of which afforded a striking example of the effects of the syphilitic virus on the supporting, enclosing, and vascular structure of the central nervous system; also to setting forth the retro-olivary syndrome dependent upon thrombosis of the posterior inferior cerebellar artery, which the patient exhibited. As a brain might show both interstitial and parenchymatous change, difficulties of diagnosis might arise, as there was no sign or symptom in dementia paralytica which could not be present in subacute meningo-vascular syphilis, and, except for the Wassermann reaction, one could not be certain whether a lesion was entirely parenchymatous.

The patient was an unmarried woman, aged 47, who was in the asylum seventeen months. She was anaemic and in poor physical condition. Near the right knee were scars of syphilitic character. The pupil reaction and reflexes were normal, but soon after admission there was ptosis on the left side. Mentally she was deluded and excited, believing that people were following her about to injure her. Speech was incoherent. During the succeeding months there was progressive mental

## THE SUPPLY OF LOCUMTENENTS.

SIR,—A letter on the above subject—I believe the second from the same person—appeared in your issue of February 13th. Your correspondent seems to think that some men demand larger fees than are necessary. I always thought that fees depended on the nature of the practice and the work done—for instance, the fees in a colliery practice would be about double those in private or good country practices.

When I did work as a locumtenent I found agents' posts most disappointing; gave up all dealings with agents and either advertised or answered advertisements, and I found the latter plan worked admirably. I got in touch with the doctors requiring locumtenents, and some idea of the practice and the fee was fixed accordingly without paying any agents' fees.—I am, etc.,

February 21st.

MEMBER, B.M.A.

## WASTE AND OVER-EATING.

SIR,—I am somewhat surprised that "the leading article" under the above heading, which appeared in the JOURNAL of January 30th, has so far been allowed to go unchallenged, seeing that some of the statements in it are altogether erroneous. Let me refer to some of them *seriatim*.

1. "The cheapest American cheese is as nutritive as Stilton or Roquefort." It is impossible to acquiesce to such a statement seeing that many of the American cheeses on our market are made from milk which has been deprived of a certain amount of its cream, whereas the recognized Stilton cheese is made from entire fresh milk to which extra cream has been added. Moreover, some of the cheapest American cheeses sold in this country are probably the so-called "filled" cheeses—cheeses made from skim milk which has been replenished by foreign fats.

2. "The herring is as nourishing as the salmon." Now, the herring contains a large amount of fat and is consequently rather difficult of digestion, but quite apart from this the protein of the salmon is more nutritious than that of the herring.

3. "The flank or shin of beef" it may be allowed if properly cooked is quite as nutritious as "the sirloin."

4. "Margarine" is as nourishing as "butter." The promulgation of such a fallacy is likely to be fraught with evil consequences. Time was when margarine was a more wholesome commodity than it is to-day, made up as it now in so many cases is of many very different kinds of vegetable fats; but the nutritive value of a fat depends upon the ease with which it can be utilized by the organism, and it is common knowledge that the fat of milk is more easily digested, and is altogether less likely to irritate the stomach, than palm oil, pea-nut oil, or cotton-seed oil, no matter how these may be purified.—I am, etc.,

London, W., Feb. 13th. JAMES OLIVER, M.D., F.R.S.Edin.

## BARLEY STRAW AND LICE.

SIR,—There is a widely-spread and deeply-credited rumour that horses and men who are bedded down on barley straw suffer much more from lice than those that are bedded on wheat straw. I have not, however, been able to obtain any direct evidence of this and should be grateful if any of your readers could give me some.

Barley straw is, of course, soft, and under pressure soon flattens out and disintegrates. Wheat straw is firmer and retains its pipe-like structure under pressure. Barley straw is also in dry weather apt to provide more dust. Used for litter, barley straw is soon pressed into a compact mass, whereas wheat straw remains more open and porous.

I do not know whether the natural prejudice against barley straw is responsible for the story about lice. It is quite unlikely that the same circumstances would affect in the same way insects so different as the *Pediculus* and the *Haematopinus* and *Trichodectes*.—I am, etc.,

Cambridge, Feb 23rd.

A. E. SHIPLEY.

THE late Mr. Charles Barrett Lockwood left unsettled estate of the gross value of £11,586, with net personalty £8,065.

## Universities and Colleges.

## UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD.

THE following degrees have been conferred:

D.M.—H. P. Newsholme.  
B.M., B.Ch.—E. W. Carrington (in absence).

Mr. Alexander Hill Griffith, M.D.Aberd., has been nominated to act as an examiner for the 1915 and 1916 examinations for the Diploma in Ophthalmology.

## UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE.

ON the recommendation of the State Medicine Syndicate, the examination for the Diploma in Psychological Medicine will not be held in the present academical year.

## UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.

## MEETING OF THE SENATE.

MEETINGS of the Senate were held on January 21st and 27th.

## Resignation of Principal.

The Senate congratulated Sir Henry Miers on his appointment as Vice-Chancellor of the University of Manchester, and expressed its high appreciation of the services he had rendered as Principal to the University.

## Recognition of Teachers.

The following were recognized as teachers of the University in the institutions and subjects indicated:

Middlesex Hospital Medical School.—Dr. Carl H. Browning (Pathology).

London School of Medicine for Women.—Dr. Arthur C. D. Firth and Mr. Percy W. Saunders (Medicine).

St. Mary's Hospital Medical School.—Dr. John Freeman (Bacteriology).

## Professors and Readers.

The following titles were conferred on teachers of the University on the recommendation of the relevant boards of advisors:

To be Professors in the Subjects indicated.—Mr. John E. S. Frazer (St. Mary's Hospital Medical School), Anatomy; Dr. Thomas M. Lowry (Guy's Hospital Medical School), Chemistry; Dr. William J. R. Simpson (King's College), Hygiene and Public Health.

To be Readers in the Subjects indicated.—Dr. John S. Edkins (Bedford College), Physiology; Mr. Major Greenwood (Lister Institute), Medical Statistics; Mr. Richard G. Hebb (Westminster Hospital Medical School), Morbid Anatomy; Dr. Robert T. Leiper (London School of Tropical Medicine), Helminthology; Dr. Henry R. Le Sueur (St. Thomas's Hospital Medical School), Chemistry; Dr. Frank S. Locke (King's College), Physiology; Dr. Herbert E. Roaf (St. Mary's Hospital Medical School), Physiology; Dr. Otto Rosenheim (King's College), Biochemistry; Mr. John S. Smith (Lister Institute), Bacteriology; Dr. Hubert M. Turnbull (London Hospital Medical College), Morbid Anatomy.

## Report of Professor of Protozoology.

The report of the Professor of Protozoology for the year ended June 30th, 1914, was received. The report, which had been forwarded to the Colonial Office, gave details in regard to the Professor's own research work now in progress, and contained also a section with respect to teaching. Professor Minchin, after enumerating various courses of lectures delivered, stated that, in addition to supplying to the Departmental Committee on Sleeping Sickness a detailed statement embodying his views on certain points, he had personally attended the Committee and given evidence. The report also contained a list of persons who had worked in the laboratory during the year, and a list of publications relating to investigations carried on wholly or in part in the department.

## M.D. Examination on State Medicine.

The regulations relating to the M.D. Examination, Branch V, State Medicine, were amended to read as follows:

A practical examination extending over not less than two and a half days: of this one and a half days at least will be devoted to practical examination in the laboratory, of which not less than three hours will be given to (a) bacteriology, and not less than six hours to (b) chemistry; and one day at least will be devoted to practical examination in and reporting on subjects which fall within the special outdoor duties of a medical officer of health.

## University of Liverpool.

It was reported that Sir James Barr, M.D., had been re-appointed the Chancellor's representative on the Court of Governors of the University of Liverpool for a further term of three years.

## Gilchrist Studentship for Women.

The Senate will proceed shortly to the appointment to the Gilchrist Studentship for Women, of the value of £100, tenable for one year by a graduate of the university prepared to take a course of study in an approved institution in preparation for some profession. Applications to be made by February 28th to the Principal, from whom particulars can be obtained.

*Studentship in Physiology.*

A university studentship in physiology, value £50 for one year, will be awarded to a student qualified to undertake research in physiology, and will be tenable in a physiological laboratory of the university or a school of the university. Full particulars can be obtained on application to the Principal.

## SOCIETY OF APOTHECARIES OF LONDON.

THE following candidates have been approved in the subjects indicated:

**SURGERY.**—†J. E. Cheesman, †A. E. Gravelle, †I. F. Mackenzie, †A. G. Williams, †A. H. Willson.  
**MEDICINE.**—†M. M. Burt, †J. R. Crolus, †C. S. Dodson, †A. Glen, †I. F. Mackenzie, †E. M. Townsend, †A. G. Williams.  
**FORENSIC MEDICINE.**—M. M. Burt, F. W. Chamberlain, J. R. Crolus, H. A. de Morgan, L. A. J. Graham, I. F. Mackenzie, D. C. Ogilvie, A. L. Robinson, A. G. Williams, A. H. Willson.  
**MIDWIFERY.**—R. H. Chadwick, J. R. Crolus, J. D. Ferguson, L. A. J. Graham, L. Kahan, I. F. Mackenzie, W. H. Rhys Jones, A. G. Williams, G. C. Wright.

† Section I.

† Section II.

The diploma of the Society has been granted to Messrs. M. M. Burt, A. E. Gravelle, I. F. Mackenzie, E. M. Townsend, and A. H. Willson.

**Medico-Legal.****IMPROPER USE OF THE RED CROSS.**

IN the JOURNAL of January 23rd it was reported that John Piercy Trevor Key, carrying on business described by him as a medical practice at 7, West Register Street, Edinburgh, in connexion with which he used the name "Dr. Temple," was prosecuted in the Edinburgh Summary Court for violation of the Medical Acts, and was fined the maximum penalty of £20. In the Edinburgh Burgh Court on February 15th the same person was, according to a report in the *Scotsman* of February 16th, charged with having used for the purpose of his business, without the authority of the Army Council, the heraldic emblem of the Red Cross on a white ground by causing an employee to put up bills appertaining to his business, in contravention of the Geneva Convention Act, 1911. The accused pleaded guilty. The prosecution was instituted by direction of the Procurator-Fiscal, for whom it was pointed out that Section I of the Convention provided that it was unlawful for any person to use for the purposes of his trade or business, or for any other purpose, the Red Cross on a white ground without the authority of the Army Council. The magistrate said that the maximum penalty was £10, but he was prepared to modify the penalty to £2.

**The Services.****TERRITORIAL FORCE.****EXCHANGES OF MEDICAL OFFICERS.**

THE British Medical Association is anxious to assist as far as may be possible in facilitating exchanges between medical officers of the Territorial Force, in accordance with the terms of the letter addressed to General Officers Commanding-in-Chief Command of all Commands at Home by the Assistant Secretary to the War Office on December 10th as follows:

To the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief Command.  
All Commands at Home.

War Office, London, S.W.,  
10th December, 1914.

*Royal Army Medical Corps.*

Sir,—I am commanded by the Army Council to acquaint you that in order to mitigate as far as possible the inconvenience to the civil population and to Territorial Force Medical Officers owing to enforced changes of station, the following measures will be adopted; the object in view being that these officers may be able, as many medical officers attached to general hospitals are at present able, to give part of their time to civil practice in their own districts:

1. When a mobilized Territorial unit is moved from its own locality in Great Britain, the medical officers may be allowed:

(a) To effect exchanges, direct or indirect, with Territorial medical officers in the new locality when possible.

(b) If the above is not feasible, the places of medical officers not desiring to accompany their units may be taken by junior medical officers willing to take temporary commissions and serve with such units; the original medical officers being demobilized until the return of the units to their own localities, or until their services can be otherwise utilized there.

2. When a mobilized Territorial unit volunteers for imperial service abroad the medical officer will be given the option of accompanying it or of serving with the reserve unit raised for

home defence in its stead, vacancies in both units being filled up by junior medical officers with temporary commissions.

To facilitate such exchanges a list is kept at the War Office of junior practitioners willing to accept general service either at home, in the field, or abroad, from which substitutes can be detailed as occasion arises.

The medical officers themselves might be of assistance in procuring substitutes to take their places, possibly from their own neighbourhoods, whose names would be placed on the list.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

B. B. CUBITT.

In view of the intimation contained in the final paragraph of the letter, requests for exchange will be published in the *BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL* as received. It is suggested that information on the following heads is among that which should be furnished in every instance:

1. Rank and name .....
  2. Regiment or medical unit .....
  3. At present stationed at .....
  4. For home or for foreign service .....
  5. Amount and nature of work, special allowances drawn, and living conditions generally .....
  6. Home address to which it is desired to exchange .....
  7. Terms offered .....
  8. Whether a junior medical officer with temporary commission would be accepted .....
- Signature .....
- Present address and date .....

**Obituary.****EDWARD C. SEATON, M.D., F.R.C.P.,**

CONSULTING MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH, SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL.

WE regret to announce the death of Dr. Edward C. Seaton, who was for many years one of the foremost representatives of sanitary science in this country. He was one of the many victims of the prevailing epidemic and died of influenza and bronchitis after a short illness at his residence in Chelsea on February 20th.

Edward Cox Seaton was the son of Edward Cator Seaton, Medical Officer to the Privy Council and to the Local Government Board, to whom the passage of the Acts making vaccination compulsory was largely due. He was born in London in 1847 and educated at Tonbridge School. He afterwards studied medicine at St. Thomas's Hospital; he took the degree of M.B. with honours at the University of London in 1870, and that of M.D. in 1871. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians in 1886. He was M.O.H. Nottingham and physician to the Notts General Hospital from 1872 to 1884, when he became M.O.H. and public analyst for Chelsea. In 1891 he was appointed the first medical officer of health to the administrative county of Surrey, and in 1910 he became consulting medical officer to the county. From 1886 to 1908 he was lecturer on public health at St. Thomas's Hospital, and was at different times examiner in State medicine in the Universities of London, Oxford, and Cambridge, and at the Royal Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons of London. He was an intimate associate of Simon, and assisted him in reproducing his official publications for the Royal Sanitary Institute in 1887. He was the author of the article on vaccination in *Quain's Dictionary of Medicine*. He delivered the address in public medicine at the annual meeting of the British Medical Association in 1891, taking as his subject the evolution of sanitary administration in England, a further sketch of which he contributed to the Queen Victoria Commemoration Number of the *BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL* (June 19th, 1897). He read a communication on diphtheria before the International Congress of Medicine at Budapest in 1894, and delivered the Milroy Lectures at the Royal College of Physicians in 1896. His Chadwick Lectures at the University of London on *Infectious Diseases and their Preventive Treatment*, published in 1910, may be taken as containing a summary of his matured views on subjects to the study of which he had given his professional life.

He took an active part in promoting legislation for the compulsory notification of infectious diseases, and was the author of numerous reports and papers on the subject, and on isolation hospitals, clinical instruction at small-pox and

fever hospitals, and the control of small-pox and typhoid fever in relation to public water supplies. He was a special commissioner for the Government inquiries on the housing of the working-classes in 1890.

This record, though by no means exhaustive, will serve to give an idea of the amount and variety of Dr. Seaton's work. He was a man of great independence of mind; but, although his views on certain points were not always in harmony with official theories, his wide knowledge, large experience, and sound judgement gave great weight to his opinion. His services to the cause of public health were of the highest order, and his name was held in deserved honour by his profession. His work was not, however, adequately recognized by some of the public bodies in whose service he spent himself, and the close of his life was somewhat darkened by a shadow of disappointment.

Always ready to withstand Bumble to the face in defence of what he thought right, Dr. Seaton was personally a man of amiable character and most courteous manner. He was very much in earnest about the things in which he was interested, but his habitual gravity was tempered by a dry humour which made his conversation very entertaining.

Dr. Seaton was a Fellow of the Royal Sanitary Institute and a member of the Society of Public Analysts. For more than forty years he was a member of the British Medical Association.

He was twice married, his second wife, who survives him, being the daughter of the late Mr. John Marshall, sometime President of the Royal College of Surgeons and of the General Medical Council. He leaves one daughter.

#### PROFESSOR WESLEY MILLS,

EMERITUS PROFESSOR OF PHYSIOLOGY, MCGILL UNIVERSITY,  
MONTREAL.

PROFESSOR WESLEY MILLS, the well-known Canadian teacher and writer, died suddenly in London, on February 13th, of angina pectoris. Dr. Mills was born and educated in Canada. He took the degree of B.A. at the University of Toronto, and that of M.D. in McGill University in 1878. He was for several years demonstrator of physiology with Professor Osler, and studied at University College with Sir John Burdon-Sanderson and Sir E. A. Schäfer. In 1884 he became lecturer in physiology, and in 1886 professor of the subject at McGill. He organized the teaching of physiology on modern lines, and was the first Canadian teacher of the subject to have a thoroughly up-to-date, well equipped laboratory. Among his early contributions to physiology were the studies of cardiac innervation. He was one of the first to follow the fruitful lead of Gaskell. He became much interested in comparative physiology, and the results of a long series of studies are embodied in a work on *The Nature and Development of Animal Intelligence*. In 1889 appeared his *Textbook of Animal Physiology*, which was modified in the new edition in 1890 to the *Textbook of Comparative Physiology*.

He was passionately devoted to music, and in his younger days was himself no mean performer on the violin. In 1906 appeared his *Voice Production in Singing and Speaking*, a work which brought him much reputation outside of medical circles.

After a serious illness in 1910 he retired, and lived in London, devoting himself with energy and enthusiasm to the study of music.

#### P. J. MACNAMARA, M.D., F.R.C.S.I.,

KILMALLOCK, CO. LIMERICK.

WE regret to announce the death of Dr. Patrick J. MacNamara of Kilmallock, which took place recently. Dr. MacNamara was a native of the county Limerick. He was educated chiefly in Dublin and Cork. In 1872 he received the M.D. degree from the old Queen's University; in the same year took the diploma of L.R.C.S.I., and fifteen years later he obtained the Fellowship of the College. In his early career, before finally settling down in Kilmallock, he practised in Galbally and Bruff, co. Limerick. It is not often that a country doctor holds a position such as that held for many years by Dr. MacNamara. He was medical officer for the Kilmallock Workhouse, the medical attendant of most of the people in the neighbourhood, and the trusted consultant of his medical brethren not only in the county of Limerick, but in the adjoining counties.

His general capacities in medicine, surgery, and obstetrics rendered him the outstanding figure in the district. His influence, however, was not confined to one part of Ireland. As chairman of the Irish Medical Committee since 1913, he perhaps did more than any other individual to help to preserve the unity of the profession in Ireland in their efforts to obtain fair treatment at the hands of the Government. Dr. MacNamara was a great-hearted, honourable man, and as such will always be remembered in Ireland. Dr. MacNamara may be said to have died at the post of duty, as he contracted pneumonia from one of his patients. It makes the sorrow of Dr. MacNamara's death the more painful when it has to be recorded that his wife, Mrs. MacNamara, contracted pneumonia, and only survived him a few days. The local public bodies have passed votes of condolence with Dr. MacNamara's family. Dr. R. J. Rowlette, F.R.C.P.I. (Dublin), attended the funeral on behalf of the Irish Medical Committee.

DEATHS IN THE PROFESSION ABROAD.—Among the members of the medical profession in foreign countries who have recently died are: Dr. P. Fitzsimons Eve, formerly president of the Nashville Academy of Medicine, and one of the most prominent surgeons in the Southern States of America, aged 58; Dr. A. F. Africanus King, professor of obstetrics and diseases of women and children in George Washington University, Washington, from 1871 to 1913, aged 73; Dr. Suné y Molist, of Barcelona, one of the editors of the *Gaceta Médica Catalana*, and a member of the Real Academia de Medicina of Madrid; and Dr. Karel Pawlik, professor emeritus of obstetrics and gynaecology in the Bohemian University of Prague, aged 65.

## Medical News.

SIR RICHARD DOUGLAS POWELL, Bt., K.C.V.O., will deliver an Emeritus Lecture, entitled "A case of congenital heart disease," on Friday, March 5th, at 3 p.m., in the new theatre of the Medical School of the Middlesex Hospital.

THE Commanding Officer of the University of London Officers' Training Corps (Lieutenant-Colonel D. S. Capper) desires to announce that a limited number of young men who are not students of the university will be enrolled for a course of continuous training with a view to qualifying for commissions. Candidates (who must be between the ages of 18 and 28 and suitable in every respect for commissions in the army) should attend in person to see the adjutant of the contingent at the head quarters, University of London, South Kensington. The next course of continuous training will commence on March 15th, 1915.

IT has been decided by the Representative Board of the British Dental Association to hold only a business annual meeting in London this year, on July 24th. An invitation had been accepted from the Wessex Branch to meet at Bournemouth, under the Presidency of Mr. A. E. Ball, but owing to the exceptional conditions and the fact that Mr. Ball is serving as Captain in the 11th Battalion Hampshire Regiment, this meeting has been abandoned. The Board, having to choose a new President-elect, has unanimously appointed Mr. W. H. Dolamore, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., L.D.S. (Dean of the Royal Dental Hospital), who has already rendered the British Dental Association notable service during seven years in succession as Honorary Treasurer and Honorary Secretary.

THE King on February 17th inspected the motor ambulances presented to the War Office by the Scottish Branch of the British Red Cross Society. In addition to some fifty motor ambulances, there was the necessary complement of repair vans, store wagons, and motor cars for officers. Scotland has already subscribed over £140,000 in aid of succouring the wounded, of which some £80,000 has been expended in motor ambulances. Many of the vehicles bore the names of the cities or districts by which they were presented. On the same day Queen Alexandra inspected at Marlborough House the six motor ambulances and motor lorry which the Salvation Army has presented to the nation. Her Majesty gave permission for the group of cars to be called "The Queen Alexandra Unit."

THE trustees of the British Museum have published a special guide-book, prepared by Professor Smith Woodward, dealing with the Piltown remains. It is a model popular scientific treatise. Clearly and simply written, and

avoiding controversy, it tells the tale of man's descent as revealed by the fossil remains in the museum cases. An introduction, with explanatory geological tables, sketching the probable lines of man's evolution and finishing with a note on *Pithecanthropus erectus*, is followed by a fully illustrated description of the Piltdown remains and the points of comparison with the chimpanzee, Heidelberg man, and modern man, and by shorter notes on Heidelberg man, Neanderthal man, and modern man. In this last note Galley Hill man is mentioned as of doubtful antiquity, being perhaps a burial. Professor Smith Woodward concludes that the further back human remains are traced in geological time, the more marks they retain of an ape-like ancestry. With the help of this guide-book a most interesting hour may be spent among the fossil remains of man at the South Kensington Museum.

THE Medical Report of the Tainan Hospital English Presbyterian Mission, Formosa, 1914, by Dr. James L. Maxwell, is the third of the series, and contains information as to the prevalence of typhoid fever. The case is mentioned of a hospital assistant who died six days after an operation for perforating ulcer. Typhoid seems prevalent among children, though rare amongst the adult Chinese population, as compared with its prevalence among foreigners in China. The author suggests that as Chinese children very frequently suffer from feverish attacks, some of these may be due to mild typhoid fever, which confers immunity. There is no direct evidence that typhus fever exists in epidemic form among the Chinese in Formosa, but Dr. Maxwell reports two cases which he believes were instances of atypical sporadic typhus. Continued experience has confirmed his opinion that emetine administered hypodermically is of great value in amoebic dysentery, though it is of no use in the bacillary type, for the cure of which Rogers's albarin treatment has proved of only slight benefit in the Tainan Hospital. There is no lack of surgical cases. Dr. Gushue-Taylor operates by the suprapubic method in cases of calculus; in 8 out of his 10 cases the wound healed by first intention. Dr. Maxwell gives a graphic description of a midwifery case, up country, a transverse presentation where decapitation had to be practised; the patient, though very unfavourably situated according to European ideas, recovered. The number of in-patients in the year was 2,062 males, 790 females; of out-patients, 4,408 males, and 4,626 females; 748 operations were performed under anaesthesia.

FOR some time after the outbreak of the war there was a good deal of apathy in this country where the possibility of such a conflict had been doubted, when not actually derided, except by a few far-seeing men. Even now the vital issue is not fully recognized by some who trust to our traditional luck in pulling through difficult situations. A Central Committee for National Patriotic Organizations was formed some time ago to aid in instructing public opinion throughout the country as to the causes and objects of the war so as to stimulate and keep alive the determination to carry on the conflict until the conditions of an honourable and lasting peace had been achieved. In the furtherance of these ends many widely different leagues, societies, and other bodies have shown, and are still showing, great activity. But from the very number of these agencies there is danger that confusion and overlapping may arise and cause a waste of effort. The Central Committee was therefore formed, to co-ordinate the work, to arrange for the supply of competent organizers and speakers at local meetings, and to collect lists and specimens of all literature issued by societies or individuals, and aid in its distribution. The Committee proposes to undertake the distribution of a large amount of literature concerning the war, translated into various languages, to neutral countries. With this object it is in direct touch with the great bulk of the universities and learned societies, and with leaders in letters, science, commerce, and the professions in neutral countries; and also with all the English-speaking universities, including those of the United States. Among the bodies co-operating with the Central Committee are the Universities of Oxford, Cambridge, Aberdeen, Birmingham, Bristol, Dublin, Glasgow, Liverpool, London, Manchester, and Sheffield. Funds are, of course, necessary for the prosecution of the work, and an appeal for contributions, signed by Mr. Asquith, the Honorary President; Lord Rosebery and Mr. Arthur Balfour, Vice-Presidents; Mr. H. C. Cust, Chairman; Mr. G. W. Prothero, Vice-Chairman; Lord Ridley and Mr. Waldorf Astor, Honorary Treasurers, have been issued. Further information may be obtained from the Secretary, Sir William Grey Wilson, K.C.M.G., Canadian Pacific Buildings, 62, Charing Cross, W.C.

## Letters, Notes, and Answers.

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS.—The telegraphic address of the EDITOR of the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL is *Aitology, Westrand, London*. The telegraphic address of the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL is *Articulate, Westrand, London*.

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2631, Gerrard, EDITOR, BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL.

2630, Gerrard, BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

2634, Gerrard, MEDICAL SECRETARY.

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.

#### UMBILICAL CORD ROUND THE NECK.

DR. REGINALD COCK (London, N.E.) writes that he recently attended a primipara, aged 30, in whom the first stage of labour was very much delayed, although the pains were strong and there was no obvious cause of obstruction. At the patient's own request forceps were used, and after some considerable difficulty and time the head was brought down, when it was found that the cord was twisted four times round the neck. I should, he adds, be interested to hear of other similar cases: whether the condition can be diagnosed at all or only suspected, and also what is the correct treatment of such cases.

#### SURVIVAL AFTER FRACTURE OF UPPER DORSAL SPINE.

DR. H. W. SHETTLE (Senior Surgeon, Royal South Hants Hospital, Southampton) asks what is the longest time a patient has lived after fracture of spine in the upper dorsal region, with complete paralysis below the seat of injury? I have attended a man for five years and two months for the above accident. He has recently died. No catheter was ever passed; the urine was allowed to drain away; cystitis was easily kept under by medicine.

### LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.

#### "SPINOUS" IN MURRAY'S DICTIONARY.

IN Sir James Murray's *English Dictionary* ("Speech-Spring," October, 1914), under the heading "Spinous," the sixth sub-heading reads thus: "6. *Anat.*, of or belonging to the spine. 1826, S. Cooper. First Lines, Surg. 216. A rupture of the spinous or some other artery of the dura mater." On referring to *The First Lines of the Practice of Surgery*, by Samuel Cooper, Surgeon to the Forces, etc., 1826, the passage above quoted is to be found at p. 294: "External violence, applied to the head, frequently occasions a rupture of the spinous or some other artery of the dura mater, and a large quantity of blood is effused on the surface of this membrane." It is clear that S. Cooper meant the middle meningeal artery which passes through the foramen spinosum of the sphenoid bone, and has nothing to do with the spine. This error has been pointed out to us by a distinguished anatomist.

#### SIR WILLIAM BEATTY, NELSON'S SURGEON.

DR. CLIPPINGDALE (London, W.) writes: The name of Vice-Admiral Sir David Beatty, which has been on all lips, will recall to the memory of medical men the great naval surgeon who ministered to the last needs of Nelson on board the *Victory*. It will be remembered that Sir William Beatty, having extracted the fatal bullet, was unable to counteract the shock, or control the haemorrhage which probable took place into the thorax. Animated by a desire to read what inscription might be upon the great surgeon's tomb, I have paid a visit to Kensal Green Cemetery where Sir William lies buried. My pilgrimage, however, was doomed to disappointment and to pain. I found that his body was interred with eight others in a common grave. Thus was buried Sir William Beatty, M.D., F.R.S., Physician to the Fleet and to Greenwich Hospital; concerning whom the *Gentleman's Magazine* at the time of his death (March, 1842) wrote: "He had served his country faithfully and in all climes. It may be fairly said that his whole professional life was in accord with the sentiment expressed in Nelson's last and ever memorable message to the Fleet." Sir William Beatty, who died a bachelor and intestate, left property to the value of £3,000.

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