

5. We anticipate that even a further reduction in local reaction will be obtained on the employment of a mixed vaccine prepared from typhoid, paratyphoid A, paratyphoid B, and dysentery organisms, completely sensitized with their respective antisera.

We propose shortly to publish full details of our observations in regard to the use of this vaccine.

Memoranda:

MEDICAL, SURGICAL, OBSTETRICAL.

STRANGE WOUNDS CAUSED BY HIGH EXPLOSIVES.

ABOUT twenty years ago three men were concerned in a nitroglycerine explosion, and two of them lost their lives and one—less hurt—his reason.

They were sitting by the fireside in a small cabin, "having a smoke" after breakfast. One of the number was also busy trying to readjust the composition of some dynamite which he had been tempering on the hob in an old salmon tin. Becoming heated too much, the nitroglycerine separated from the earthy matter and formed a jelly-like lining on the inside of the tin, and this the unfortunate man—who described his action fully and confidentially to the writer just before he died—was endeavouring to scrape off with his pocket knife.

A terrible explosion occurred, and two of the men presented extraordinary wounds, especially on the thighs, and in only one wound (a chest one) was any trace of metal found. In the thighs and trunk the chief feature was a small external wound leading into a large cavity churned up and softened. One unfortunate man had both eyes quite burst up, as if a rough attempt had been made to gouge them out.

The oldest man, who, it seems, was furthest away and thus less injured, was quite mentally upset, and not able, when he recovered consciousness, to give any particulars of the accident. His mind was such a blank that it was thought that he was malingering, in order, being a foreman, to escape responsibility.

At the time I came to the conclusion that the strange wounds were caused by the escape of internal body pressure into the vacuum produced by the explosion, the particular situation being determined by certain spots in the integument being accidentally punctured and a funnel-shaped cavity produced. There was very little damage to clothing and practically no burning.

Tuberculosis Institute,
Newport, Mon.

J. LEWIS THOMAS, M.D.

THE VALUE OF ANTITETANIC SERUM.

CAPTAIN KILNER's paper in the JOURNAL of January 8th on a severe case of tetanus successfully treated by antitoxin is very interesting, and I have no doubt that at the end of the war there will be a full report of cases of tetanus treated by serums, as also cases of lacerated wounds in which prophylactic doses of serum have been given.

In the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL for December 24th, 1910, I published two cases of acute tetanus in which antitoxic serum was used and the patients recovered. In cases of lacerated wounds prophylactic doses were recommended to be given as soon as possible.

Since 1910 other two cases have come under observation and recovered with the serum treatment. The serum was injected into the soft part of the hip every twelve hours until the symptoms improved and then every twenty-four hours until recovery was complete.

Both in hospital and private practice prophylactic doses of serum have been used with the best effect. Even in comparatively slight lacerated wounds where contamination with earth or dirt of any kind was possible, in addition to thorough cleansing, the prophylactic dose of serum was invariably given.

Microscopic examination of discharges from wounds is essential, but no delay must take place in giving the serum, as it is important to anticipate the absorption of the bacillus. In the cases of acute tetanus which came under my care Professor Muir found the bacillus; on the

other hand, its absence does not justify withholding the serum if the symptoms and local conditions indicate that it is necessary.

J. CRAWFORD RENTON, M.D. Edin.,
Lieut.-Col. R.A.M.C.(F.).

Edinburgh.

TWO CASES OF STONE IN THE PROSTATE.

CASE I.—A. B., aged 78, came to me in June, 1913, complaining of stricture. With difficulty I got the smallest filiform catheter into the bladder. On rectal examination a very hard, fixed, but even mass was felt at the site of the prostate. The condition was, therefore, calculus or malignant disease. To decide the point quickly I passed a needle through the perineum; it struck a calculus. In company with Drs. Browne and Scott I opened the bladder suprapubically, and removed many stones (earthy phosphates) from a cavity which now was the only relic of the prostate left. I then cut the stricture. He made an excellent recovery.

CASE II.—In April, 1914, I operated on C. D., aged 76, assisted by Dr. Duncan of Richmond. The history was that on two other occasions stones had been removed suprapubically. Years ago I removed both testes for disorganizing suppuration. We removed the stones through the perineum, having slowly dilated the membranous urethra by the finger. The whole bladder, and especially its neck, where some of the stones lay, was encrusted with phosphates impossible to remove save by a curette. I therefore curetted them off, paying special attention to the cavity in the prostate. He made a good recovery.

There were some points of interest and importance in these cases.

1. A. B. had a severe rigor, and collapsed before he gained consciousness, and had rigors (and subsequent fever) each time, and immediately I douched his urethra, and more markedly when this canal was distended, even in its anterior part. He had therefore reflex urethral fever, in contradistinction to infective urethral fever (terms which should be used).

2. The simple and inexpensive means of making a diagnosis between calculus and malignant disease.

3. C. D. suffered for some years after the orchidectomy, just as a woman suffers after the menopause, and at his age (76) this is interesting. He had frequent flushings and sweatings, strange feelings in his head, irritability, etc. These were partially relieved by orchitic extract.

4. C. D. was also left with some degree of urinary incontinence. This might, I think, have been avoided had I adopted, as I did in other cases, gradual instrumental dilatation of the wound before the introduction of the finger. This applies also to perineal prostatectomy, provided the organ is removed through the wound in pieces.

London, E.C.

JAMES MACMUNN.

Reports

ON

MEDICAL AND SURGICAL PRACTICE IN HOSPITALS AND ASYLUMS.

FULHAM MILITARY HOSPITAL.

THE medical staff of this hospital has instituted fortnightly meetings for the discussion of cases. At the third meeting, on December 21st, 1915, Major PARSONS, O.C., being in the chair, Lieutenant CUMMINGS showed a case of aneurysm of the arch of the aorta, due apparently to violent concussion by an exploding shell, the symptoms developing immediately afterwards, and there being no history of syphilis. He also showed a case of auricular flutter supervening on the stress of military service, but giving a suggestive history of several attacks of sudden unconsciousness previous to enlistment; and a case of pericarditis and aortic valvular disease, with enormous enlargement of the heart, in which great improvement had followed the use of thyroid gland medication. The signs of hypothyroidism were very slight, but of the usual character.

Mr. CHAPPLE showed two cases of spinal fracture in the

in the university of his native city, taking his doctor's degree in 1852. In 1855 he obtained by competition the post of assistant physician to the hospitals, and in 1856, again as the result of open competition, he was appointed to the chair of forensic medicine in the University of Rome. He also lectured on botany and on pathology. He resigned his position as professor of forensic medicine after two years on account of political differences with the Papal Government, and devoted himself to the study of morbid anatomy. When a chair of that subject was founded in the university Baccelli was appointed the first professor. In that capacity he had a great influence in turning the minds of his pupils in the direction of modern scientific methods. In 1863 he was appointed lecturer on clinical medicine, and in 1870, when Rome became the capital of Italy, he was appointed professor of clinical medicine, a post which he continued to hold till the end of his life.

His activity as a teacher and as a very busy consulting physician did not exhaust his abounding energy. In 1875 he entered the Italian parliament as one of the Deputies for Rome, and soon took a leading place as a politician. In 1881 he became Minister of Public Instruction, and held that portfolio four times in all, doing great service to his country by the promotion of far-reaching reforms both of primary and university education. To him Rome chiefly owes the Policlinico, a magnificent pile of buildings, fully equipped for the study of disease. He was also once Minister of Agriculture, Industry, and Commerce. He was prominent as a sanitary reformer, and was at one time President of the Board of Health. He took an active part in the sanitary improvement of the Campagna; for his efforts in that direction he received the thanks of the Italian Parliament. He was a Senator of Italy.

Baccelli was president of the Eleventh International Congress of Medicine held in Rome in 1894. Those who attended that meeting will remember his fine presence, his stately oratory, the dignity with which he discharged the duties of his office, and his princely hospitality. He could discourse in Latin of Ciceronian quality, and was no little proud of the accomplishment. In Grant Duff's *Notes from a Diary, 1889-1891*, there is the following passage: "Bunsen had been much struck by a scene at the great Medical Congress held this year (1890) in Berlin. When the representative of the Italian Government was called, up rose Baccelli—some six foot three high, and broad in proportion. In the deepest of voices he began: *Vos medicos Latine alloquor, Latine quia Latinus sum!*" On that occasion he conveyed the formal invitation to the Congress to hold its next meeting in Rome. The closing words of the invitation were as follows: "*Scientiæ atque artis humanissimæ vexillum consertum in Capitolio, viribus omnigenis fraterno more conjunctis sacculis nationibus immortale fulgebit.*" These words have a melancholy sound at the present day when the banner of science and humanity, torn to shreds by murderous projectiles, stands bare, a grim reminder of a lost brotherhood.

Besides a monograph on Roman malaria, published in 1878, in which his views on the sanitary improvement of the Campagna were embodied, Baccelli was the author of many contributions to medical literature. The variety of his scientific interests is shown by the following imperfect list of his works: A treatise in four volumes on the pathology of the heart and aorta (1863 to 1867); clinical lectures on malaria (1869); subcontinuous fevers, containing his earliest researches on malaria (1876); true empyema (1868); primary cancer of the spleen (in Latin, 1876); a new method of treatment for aneurysm of the aorta (1876); a new symptom of ovarian tumours in general and of ovarian cysts in particular (1876); the transmission of sounds through endopleuritic effusions (1875 and 1877); and State medicine and clinical medicine in ancient and modern Rome (1879); and the paradoxical compensation of cardiac lesions (1894).

In the House of Commons on January 4th the sudden death of Sir G. SCOTT ROBERTSON on January 2nd was mentioned in connexion with a verbal amendment to the Munitions War Bill which stood in his name. Mr. Lloyd George, in moving the amendment, said that members of all parties would have heard with very great regret of the

removal of an honourable and gallant gentleman, who had won great distinction in the public service, and who was highly respected in every quarter of the House.

DR. JOHN MACRURY, well known to naturalists as the author of *The Birds of the Island of Barra* and *Notes on Ornithology in A Vertebrate Fauna of the Outer Hebrides*, died suddenly in a nursing home at Glasgow on January 4th. He was a Hebridean, born in Benbecula, and he graduated at Glasgow in 1877. After holding the appointments of house-surgeon and house-physician at the Glasgow Western Infirmary and assistant physician at the Glasgow Dispensary for Skin Diseases, Dr. MacRury began practice in Barra, in the Outer Hebrides, where he worked so hard that his health became impaired, and he took a voyage to New Zealand. On his return he settled in Millport, on the isle of Great Cumbrae, in the Firth of Clyde, where he gained an extensive practice among his fellow townsmen and visitors. He was a good shot, sportsman, and a keen golfer. He leaves a widow, and is survived also by his brother, Colonel Colin William MacRury, I.M.S. Dr. John MacRury will be widely remembered by ornithologists all over the world, as he was an authority on birds and possessed a fine collection of eggs.

THE HON. WILLIAM MACKAY, M.D., died at Reserve Mines, Nova Scotia, on November 8th, 1915, after a long, distinguished, and honourable career in the practice of medicine and in public affairs. He was born at Earltown, Nova Scotia, of Scottish parentage, was educated at Truro, and in 1873 received the degree of M.D. from Bellevue Medical College, New York. In 1886 Dr. MacKay was elected to the Nova Scotia House of Assembly, and was chosen leader of the Opposition. He was defeated in 1890, but re-elected in 1894, and chosen leader of the Liberal-Conservative party. In November, 1912, he was summoned to the Canadian Senate. Dr. MacKay continued to practise until a few days before his death. He was twice elected president of the Medical Society of Nova Scotia, and was one of the originators of the first Public Health Act of that province. His son, Major Daniel S. MacKay, M.D., is with his regiment in France.

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* Awarded a mark of distinction in Physics.

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF IRELAND.

THE National University of Ireland, founded in Dublin by the Irish Universities Act of 1908, gives in its *Calendar* for 1915 all the information customarily to be found in the useful but somewhat dry publications of this class. The university has three constituent university colleges—at Dublin, Cork, and Galway; in addition it has a recognized college, St. Patrick's, Maynooth. The book will naturally be indispensable to those for whom it is designed.

UNIVERSITY OF BOMBAY.

THE first volume of the *Calendar* of the University of Bombay contains a mine of information about the regulations, the degrees, the 112 endowment funds, the benefactions, the 22 recognized colleges, and all the other subjects of interest to its present and future members. The second volume consists of many hundreds of examination papers set in 1913-14 for the

¹ Dublin: A. Thom and Co., Ltd. 1915. (Post 8vo, pp. 767.)

² Bombay: Government Central Press. 1915. (Post 8vo, pp. 1273 and 482.)

candidates in its 26 various branches of instruction. Invaluable to students in India, these volumes are of interest to the inhabitants of Great Britain as an indication of the thoroughness of the British Raj.

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Medical News.

THE Hon. Charles Rothschild, Sir Walter Lawrence, Bt., and Sir Francis H. Champneys, Bt., have been added to the General Council of King Edward's Hospital Fund for London.

THE Society of German Engineers has offered a prize of 10,000 marks, and other prizes amounting altogether to 5,000 marks, for the best artificial arm.

A MEMORIAL service will be held in the hospital church of St. Bartholomew the Less on Thursday next, at 1 p.m., in memory of former St. Bartholomew men and of students of the hospital who have fallen in the war during 1915.

THE names of Dr. T. H. Parke (Tideswell), Dr. C. A. Thorne (Dore), and Dr. W. H. Turton (Heanor) are among the newly appointed magistrates for Derbyshire.

AS Deputy Gresham Professor of Physic, Dr. Harry Campbell will begin a course of four lectures on dietetics at Gresham College, Basinghall Street, on Tuesday next, at 6 p.m.

THE Lettsomian lectures before the Medical Society of London will be delivered by Major F. W. Mott, M.D., F.R.S., R.A.M.C.T., on February 7th and 21st and March 6th, the subject selected being the effects of high explosives on the central nervous system.

PROFESSOR ARTHUR KEITH will begin a course of lectures on the anatomy of the body for first-aid and ambulance students in the theatre of the Royal College of Surgeons, Lincoln's Inn Fields, at 5.30 p.m., on Monday, February 14th. Further particulars can be obtained on application to the Secretary of the College.

AN advanced course of lectures on infant care for voluntary health workers, teachers, and mothers has been arranged by the National Association for the Prevention of Infant Mortality and the Welfare of Infancy (4, Tavistock Square, W.C.). The lectures will be given at the house of the Royal Society of Medicine (1, Wimpole Street), and the course will begin on January 24th.

IT is stated that the Russians have transferred the University of Warsaw to Rostow on the Don. The German Government has re-established the University of Warsaw and created a new faculty of medicine.

AT a meeting of the executive committee and members of the Society for the State Registration of Nurses on January 8th, a resolution was unanimously adopted condemning the Red Cross scheme for a college of nursing. A meeting of the central committee for the State Registration of Nurses is to be held on Saturday, January 15th, to consider the matter.

THE Emperor of Japan has conferred the Third Order of the Rising Sun on Dr. William H. Welch, of Johns Hopkins University, and the Third Order of the Sacred Treasure on Dr. Simon Flexner, of the Rockefeller Institution, New York, in recognition of help and guidance given to Japanese students of medicine in the United States, and of their contributions to medical work in Japan.

A HERB-GROWING association, affiliated to the Women's Farm and Garden Union, has been formed to give advice on herb growing and preparation, and by co-operation to regulate the growing of different herbs, so that the market may not be overstocked. Information can be obtained from the Secretary of the Herb-growing Association, 45 (6), Queen Anne's Chambers, Westminster, S.W.

THE name of the firm of Studebaker is well known in this country as the maker of motor cars possessing many excellent qualities, which have been gradually evolved during many years of development. From a small book recently issued, it appears that the firm began some sixty years ago as a maker of wagons strong enough to stand the journey over very rough roads or tracks from the Eastern to the Western States. It is now turning out 60,000 motor cars a year in huge factories. The several processes are carried out in six divisions. The book contains a description of the growth of the system of manufacture and of its present methods. It illustrates four cars—two four-cylinder cars, a four-seated touring and a two-seated roadster, and two six-cylinder cars, a four-seated touring car, and a two-seated cabriolet. The price of the four-cylinder touring car is £295, and the four-cylinder roadster £285. Copies of the book can be obtained on application to the company at 117-123, Great Portland Street, London, W.

SOME time ago the director of the appointments bureau of the Harvard Medical School issued a schedule of questions to 900 medical practitioners who had graduated there since 1900. They were invited to state what they had done, the line of practice adopted, and the amount of their professional income. The object was to obtain suggestions that might help to improve the course of education and the conditions for doctors and the communities served by them. Six hundred answers were received. The average earnings of men who had been thirteen years in practice were given as £936, while the professional income of men in their fourth year was £367, and that of men in their first year was a little over £240. Of the whole number who replied, only 36 had confined themselves strictly to general practice; 134 had combined general practice with a speciality, and 142 were pure specialists. The last number included those who had given themselves up to laboratory work. Of the specialists, 90 were surgeons, 9 gynaecologists, and 9 orthopaedists. One conclusion drawn from the returns is that the local distribution of doctors is not satisfactory, too many choosing large cities for their sphere of work.

THE telegraphic addresses of the BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION and JOURNAL are: (1) EDITOR of the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, *Attilology, Westrand, London*; telephone, 2631, Gerrard. (2) FINANCIAL SECRETARY AND BUSINESS MANAGER (advertisements, etc.), *Articulate, Westrand, London*; telephone, 2630, Gerrard. (3) MEDICAL SECRETARY, *Mediscara, Westrand, London*; telephone, 2634, Gerrard. The address of the Irish office of the British Medical Association is 16, South Frederick Street, Dublin.

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