

Medical News.

SIR THOMAS BOOR CROSBY left estate of the value of £38,905, the net personalty being £18,155.

DR. ANICOT, professor of clinical ophthalmology in the medical school of Rennes, has been killed at his post near Verdun.

AT the meeting of the Central Midwives Board on May 18th, when Sir Francis Champneys presided, certain amendments to the revised rules suggested by the Local Government Board were approved by the Board.

MRS. MARY SCHARLIEB, M.D., will give a course of three lectures on "Inherited disease in children" at 8 p.m. on Wednesdays, June 21st, June 28th, and July 5th in the Robert Barnes Hall, 1, Wimpole Street, by the kind permission of the Royal Society of Medicine. The lectures will be illustrated by the epidiascope; there is no charge for admission.

WE are asked to state that the price of the Moseley grooved motor covers has been reduced approximately 10 per cent., and of Moseley tubes $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. The price of the steel-studded covers of the same firm has also been reduced. The tyres, we understand, are of British manufacture.

THE Royal Sanitary Institute offers a prize of £50 and its medal for the best thesis setting out a complete and practical scheme for maternity and child welfare work suitable for adoption by local authorities. The thesis must be delivered on or before September 1st, 1916, to the Secretary of the Institute, 90, Buckingham Palace Road, London, S.W., from whom further particulars can be obtained.

THE annual meeting of the School Medical Service Group of the Society of Medical Officers of Health will be held on Saturday, June 10th, at 3 p.m., at 1, Upper Montague Street, Russell Square, London, W.C. Although many school medical officers have already answered their country's call, and others are doing extra duties till their turn comes, the honorary secretary, Dr. Armlly Ashkenny (Sunnyside, Basingstoke), hopes that as many as possible will attend this annual meeting, where the relation of the group to the parent society and other bodies will be considered, reports received, and officers elected.

AN important sale of books at Sotheby's Rooms last week was that of Dr. G. W. Steeves, formerly of Liverpool and recently of Cavendish Square, London, of whom an obituary notice was published in our issue for December 18th, 1915. His choice and valuable library was the collection of a lifetime. It was strong in very rare and first editions of writers of the sixteenth, seventeenth, and eighteenth centuries, notably of the Elizabethan poets—Spenser being well represented, as also Beaumont and Fletcher, and Ben Jonson, as well as Herrick, George Herbert, Dr. Fuller, Dryden, Drayton, Dorne, and Davenant; Sir Thomas Browne was represented by four rare issues of the *Religio Medici*. A fine collection of works by or relating to Lord Bacon—about 100 volumes—was sold in one lot for £450 to Mr. G. D. Smith, bookseller of New York, who also became the possessor of many of the more valuable items, such as Shakespeare's Poems, original edition, 1640, at £190, and the Second Folio Shakespeare at £80. The sale realized £2,555.

THE annual meeting of the British Dental Association will be held in the hall of the Royal Society of Medicine, 1, Wimpole Street, W., on June 15th, 16th, and 17th, and will be almost entirely devoted to the subject of war injuries and gunshot fractures of the jaws. The co-operation of distinguished surgeons and dentists of our own and allied countries has been invited. The subjects for papers and discussions are: On Thursday, June 15th, at 2.30 p.m., "Early treatment of jaw injuries." On Friday, June 16th, at 10.30 a.m., "Appliances and splints" (openers: Mr. M. F. Hopson and Mr. J. E. Spiller); at 2.30 p.m., "Restoration of lost portions of the jaw by surgical means." On Saturday, June 17th, at 10.30 a.m., "Treatment of ununited fracture and malunion" (Mr. J. F. Colyer), and "Diet, massage, and dynamic exercises" (Captain Holt, R.A.M.C.). An introductory address will be given by the President (Mr. W. H. Dolamore) on Thursday afternoon. On Friday afternoon, June 16th, at 4.30 p.m., Lieutenant Derwent Wood, A.R.A., will demonstrate his methods of making and casting masks for facial wounds, as adopted by him at the Wandsworth War Hospital. Demonstrations will also be given by Mr. H. Baldwin and Mr. G. Brunton. An exhibition of appliances, splints, models, etc., has been arranged, and contributions are expected from war hospitals in this country and in the war zone.

Letters, Notes, and Answers.

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

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.

ANSWERS.

TREATMENT OF TOXAEMIA IN MUCOUS COLITIS.

MEXICAN replies to "Indican" (May 20th, p. 744) who asks suggestions for treating old toxæmia due to mucous colitis and chronic ischio-rectal abscesses: With suitable diet and rest a trial of yeast is suggested. Pressed yeast for baking may be used in 5 to 10 per cent. solution of cane sugar in tepid water. Clear out bowel and abscesses by warm enemata night and morning and then introduce and leave in 5 to 10 oz. of solution-carrying yeast the size of a bean in suspension. See that it gets well into the sinuses. Give by mouth oatmeal stout in wineglassful doses before meals. Get stout in screw-capped quart bottles, and after taking the first dose put into the bottle two teaspoonfuls of sugar, which in summer excites development of yeast residue. An actively fermenting liquor (in which no known pathogenic organism can live) is thus administered, and is usually laxative and cleansing to mouth, stomach, and bowels. The opening of the bottle for administration prevents excessive gas pressure. One or two peppermint lozenges can be sucked after each dose, and occasional use of a mixture of chalk and sod. bic. each $\frac{3}{4}$ ij, spt. menth. p. $\frac{3}{4}$ j, aq. chlorof. ad $\frac{3}{4}$ vii, relieves flatulence. A sedative at night is often required, and $\frac{3}{4}$ j syrup codeinae containing $\frac{1}{16}$ grain hyoscyine hydrobrom. is recommended for sleep, and for attacks of colic it may be given with the chalk mixture.

LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.

BROMIDES AND EPILEPSY.

DR. G. V. FIDDIAN (Place Mara, Rio Berbice, B.G.) writes: After reading the correspondence in your columns some months ago on the expediency of administering bromide to chronic epileptics I commenced the experiment of withholding the drug from certain groups of cases in the Public Lunatic Asylum. All went well until the advent of the rainy season, when these cases developed fits in increasing number. Our head warder, who has had thirty-five years' experience, assured me that with the rainy season the incidence of fits among our epileptics was always increased. May I put forward the following hypothesis? Muscular exercise has this in common with the action of bromides, that both cause certain changes to occur in the motor neuron end-plates. Since rainy weather can be foretold by a large percentage of sufferers from chronic rheumatism, I would deduce that those special terminations of sensory fibres in and near the articular surfaces of joints are the harbingers of moisture. I would even suggest that the existence of authenticated cases of "water divination" by means of rods are extreme cases of susceptibility, occurring, as I believe they do, in ancient rustics.

TREATMENT OF CHLORINE GAS POISONING.

DR. WILLIAM BRAMWELL (Liverpool) writes with reference to the letter from Sir E. A. Schäfer, published last week, to recall a note he published in the JOURNAL of September 18th, 1915, p. 460, in the course of which he said, "The ancient physicians who bled empirically and bled for everything would have bled for gas poisoning, and probably with beneficial effect, except in those cases which had already been bled from a wound." In the same letter he drew attention to Dr. Walter Broadbent's observation to the effect that a big linseed poultice placed over the whole back gave relief, but suggested that india-rubber hot-water bottles to the feet and other surfaces of the body, and particularly to the abdomen, would have a like beneficial effect, and would be cleaner, more convenient, and keep hot longer than the poultice.

SCALE OF CHARGES FOR ADVERTISEMENTS IN THE BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL.

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

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