

which existed all over was lost. The patient, moreover, was able to get up, go about again, and the obstruction which had existed in the bowel was relieved. I may add that the colotomy opening had not been allowed to close. In this person only eight ampoules of cuprase were injected, the last having been given in October. There is now, however, a recurrence of the condition previous to the first injection. I am again commencing another course of injections, and there is again a marked improvement, after the use of only two ampoules.

In the case of scirrhus the growth has become circumscribed, the breast underneath and around it being quite soft and easily movable. The edges of the growth have a sodden instead of a hard feeling, the growth itself has shrivelled. The enlarged lymphatic glands under the arm are diminishing and the lancinating pains have gone; the appetite is greatly improved and the cachexia is completely absent. I may say that this, as well as the pain and foul smell, where it existed, were lost in every case.—I am, etc.,

Bradford, Jan. 12th. P. M. O'BRIEN, M.B.Lond., M.R.C.S.

SIR,—I have had a similar experience to that of Dr. P. R. Cooper. Being in despair over a case of multiple melanotic carcinomata, in a woman aged 26, disseminated by the blood stream from a fungating skin growth, I decided to try cuprase. One injection into the flank caused such severe pain with collapse that I did not venture on a second. The case has since died. No effect on the growths whatever was noted.—I am, etc.,

Nottingham, Jan. 15th. A. CHRISTIE REID, M.D.

SIR,—Having read the article on cuprase by Dr. Cooper, it may be useful to record my experience with that remedy. My case, like Dr. Cooper's, was one of large recurrent mediastinal glands. After amputation of the left breast my patient had the whole eight ampoules injected as suggested by the proprietors of the remedy. There was no local reaction whatever, nor, as far as could be seen, any general one, as the case progressed regularly to a fatal termination.—I am, etc.,

Coventry, Jan. 15th. W. H. LOWMAN, M.B., B.S., F.R.C.S.

#### SURGEONS AND PHYSICIANS.

SIR,—There has been much interesting correspondence on the question of surgeons' and physicians' fees, but it appears to me a very much more important matter for both the public and the profession that the allotment of their proper places in the care of the patient should be definitely set at rest. As in a discussion of this kind the personal element should be absolutely eliminated, and as this is practically impossible if names are mentioned, I enclose my card but not for publication.

How often do we hear people say with grim ridicule, "The operation was successful but the patient died"! and although this may seem to be a contradiction in terms, yet it embodies a condition of things which is taking place every day, to the grief and discomfiture alike of the profession and the public. Operative proceedings have now been brought to great perfection, every step has been worked out, and an intelligent man or woman with good sight, proper use of his hands, and reasonable perseverance can in a few years master the steps necessary for almost any group of cases; but when all these elaborate details have been carried out to the utmost perfection, the vital energy of the patient must complete the processes of union in the divided tissues and re-establish the delicate adjustment of metabolism which is necessary. The forces which control the processes of repair are necessarily varied and complicated, and depend not only on the condition of the heart, the kidneys, the bowels, the lungs, the skin, etc., but more truly on the causes of those conditions, the appreciation of which even to an imperfect degree require a lifelong training of close observation and analysis; and it is not reasonable to expect that even a mind of more than ordinary intelligence which is constantly concentrated on the elaboration of mechanical detail can continue for any length of time to assign the correct value to these subtle influences, of which the individual evidences are often but slightly marked and of a transient nature. Yet we find

every day the surgeon, after he has performed his operation, continues his attendance not only upon the wound, but in many instances writes prescriptions for the patient without consulting the physician who had called him in.

Recently I was summoned to a patient who was very ill, evidently with appendicitis. I called in a surgeon of high repute, who operated, removing a gangrenous appendix, and opened up two abscess cavities. The patient's condition remained very critical, and a few days after, without consulting me, the surgeon wrote a prescription containing liq. strychn. and spt. ammon. aromat. Now the patient was a thin, wiry, active woman past 50, whose arteries were hardening, whose heart was acting vigorously, and, without even examining the urine, he ordered this wretched incompatibility, in which the patient would get the whole of the strychnine in the last dose. So there was a straight talk, which was not pleasant for either of us, and resulted in his withdrawal from the case, and the patient ultimately made a complete though tedious recovery.

In another case in which a surgeon of high standing removed a prostate from a man aged 75, who was bleeding, the surgeon, without consulting me, ordered the nurse to give hypodermics of strychnine every two hours; the man died.

It is to be presumed that surgeons have heard of arterio-sclerosis and of kidney disease; but it would appear that these are only names which do not convey anything to their minds, and that terror of heart failure dominates the position and they fly to strychnine, which as often as not leaves the last state worse than the first.

I think I have said enough to show that, even assuming that the surgeon is altogether a superior order of being, he should attend to the wound and allow the physician to control the nourishment and medicine which may be necessary for the patient.—I am, etc.,

December 16th, 1916.

PRO BONO PUBLICO.

## Universities and Colleges.

#### UNIVERSITY OF ST. ANDREWS.

At a graduation ceremony held on January 13th the degrees of M.B., Ch.B. were conferred upon Mr. F. Braid.

#### UNIVERSITY OF BOMBAY.

The first volume of the *Bombay University Calendar for 1916-17* contains an almanac, the acts of the university, its general and other regulations, university lists, accounts of the recognized colleges and institutions, various academic lists and details, and a brief but interesting account of the development of its work. Until 1904 Bombay University was an examining body. In 1912, owing to the accession of funds, it was enabled to enlarge its scope, and the details of this enlargement are indicated. The second volume contains reprints of the hundreds of examination papers of all sorts set by the examiners of the university during the years 1914 and 1915.

#### ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.

A QUARTERLY COUNCIL was held on January 11th, when Sir Watson Cheyne, Bt., was in the chair.

#### Donation to the Museum.

The best thanks of the Council were given to Dr. W. Colin Mackenzie, of Melbourne, Australia, for presenting to the College his collection of marsupial and monotreme material used by him for investigation carried out in the museum work-rooms, relating to the anatomy and physiology of the animals which are native to Australia. Dr. Mackenzie was also thanked for the assistance given by him to the Conservator in connexion with the reception of the pathological specimens received at the College from the seat of war.

#### Votes by Non-resident Fellows for the Election of Members of Council.

The new by-laws relating to the above were ordained, and the College solicitor was instructed to submit them to the Crown for approval. The following are the new by-laws in question:

1. The place and time appointed for every meeting of the Fellows for the election of Members or a member of the Council shall be announced in the *London Gazette* and in two London daily newspapers not less than one hundred days and ten and not more than one hundred and twenty before the day of meeting.
2. Not less than ninety days prior to the day fixed for such meeting, the Secretary shall deliver or send by the post to every Fellow of the College, whose address is registered at the College, a voting paper, in such form as the Council of the College may from time to time direct.

*Treatment of Venereal Diseases by Unqualified Persons.*

The Council adopted a resolution expressing the opinion that it is urgently necessary, for the protection of the public, that the treatment of venereal diseases and the advertisement of remedies for such a purpose by unqualified persons should be made a punishable offence. The Council further expressed the opinion that the recommendations of the Select Committee of the House of Commons on Patent Medicines, which have now been endorsed by the Royal Commission on Venereal Diseases, should forthwith be adopted and embodied in the proposed legislative measures.

## Obituary.

MARY BIRRELL DAVIES, L.R.C.P. AND S. EDIN.,

L.F.P.S. GLASG.,  
LIVERPOOL.

By the death of Mary Birrell Davies the medical profession has lost one of its noted medical women. Although her health had been failing since the beginning of the war, yet she did not relinquish her duties at Croxteth Military Hospital until within a few weeks of her death. She was a native of Liverpool, and studied in Edinburgh, where she obtained the triple qualification in 1899. She then settled down in private practice, held the appointments of honorary medical officer, Liverpool Female Penitentiary, and Liverpool Wesleyan Girls' Home. She was elected a member of the Liverpool Medical Institution in 1905, and last year was the first medical woman elected to serve on the council of that body. Dr. Mary Davies was especially active in all social work pertaining to the health and well-being of her sex. Her organizing ability was at once recognized by the various philanthropic agencies throughout the city. It was in this direction that her professional knowledge found the widest scope. Like a true woman, she shunned the blazing light of publicity, and preferred to go about doing good, and by her example stimulate others to do likewise. Her professional knowledge enabled her to speak with no uncertain voice to mothers of the working classes of their parental responsibilities; and, indeed, Dr. Mary Davies said to the writer that she often thought that those women who seemed to think the working classes needed instruction were themselves too apt to neglect their own immediate duties. She deplored the diminution in the size of families among those who could well afford to have their quiver full.

She was interested in the Girl Guides' Movement from its start in 1909; was a member of the Victoria Women's Settlement, adviser to the juvenile employment section of the labour exchange, and inspector of children's institutes under the Children's Act. On the outbreak of war she initiated the Women's War Service Bureau in Liverpool, and in October, 1914, went to France where she did good work until failure of health compelled her to return home. She had indeed for several years been under the shadow of a mortal and painful illness, but she never permitted this to interfere with her work, which she carried on to the end with all the energy her diminishing strength permitted.

As a medical woman she had no difficulties with the male members of our profession. Her manner was tactful, her speech to the point, and in consultation the salient points of a case were put forth lucidly and tersely. Dr. Davies was indeed a tower of strength to her own sex, and was quick to detect its foibles in the matter of self-indulgence of any type. She was one of those women who recognized not only the limitations of her sex, but also its aspirations to the fullest extent. It was on this account that she endeared herself to so many of those whose views in pre-war days she did not actively share. Dr. Davies was one who preferred to sow and till the ground of the women's movement, and not to cry out for fruition before the time was ready. Personally she possessed great charm of manner, and was vivacious and a bright conversationalist. The funeral took place on January 4th. It was preceded by a memorial service at Sefton Park Presbyterian Church, which was largely attended by members of the medical profession and representatives of the various bodies with which Dr. Mary Davies had been closely identified. Now that she has gone we may say she lived a noble life, and one characteristic stands out perhaps more than any other in memory: her educated womanliness.

DR. OTHO FRANCIS WYER died on December 11th, 1916, at Leamington, where he had practised for forty-nine years. His father was an army surgeon who was awarded the Peninsular War Medal with five clasps, and a pension for distinguished service. Dr. Wyer was born in Ireland on July 5th, 1837, and was educated at Bedford Grammar School, passing from there to the Bedford General Infirmary, and completing his professional education at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, where he was distinguished by Sir James Paget as one of the most industrious and intelligent students of his time. In 1858 he took the diplomas of M.R.C.S. and L.S.A., and then held a temporary appointment as house-surgeon to the Warneford, Leamington, and South Warwickshire General Hospital, where he became known as one of the first doctors to introduce Spa water baths. After practising for a time at Nuneaton he studied under Lord Lister at Glasgow and took the degree of M.D. at its university in 1867, in which year he went back to Leamington, where he practised until 1910; in 1915 he celebrated his golden wedding. He became physician to the Warneford Hospital, and in 1869, when the Leamington Provident Dispensary was founded, he was appointed as one of its first medical officers. Dr. Wyer was a member of the British Medical Association, and succeeded Sir Thomas Chavasse in 1906 as President of the Branch. Dr. Wyer was a warm supporter of Lord Selborne's Society for the Protection of Birds. He inherited great literary tastes, some of his ancestors who came from Holland in the fifteenth century being workers with Caxton at his Westminster press. He was a good horticulturist, and gave much attention to the cultivation of roses. He was confined to his house for the last six years of his life.

DR. ISAAC MOSSOP, of Manningham, Bradford, Yorkshire, died, aged 71, on December 24th, after a long illness. He was born in Whitehaven, Cumberland, on January 16th, 1845, was educated at St. Bee's Grammar School, and studied medicine at Edinburgh University. In 1869 he took the diplomas of L.R.C.S. and P. Edin., and in 1891 that of F.R.C.S. Edin. After holding resident appointments in the Royal Infirmary and in the Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Edinburgh, he set up in practice in Bradford. He was made surgeon to the Bradford Children's Hospital at its foundation, and remained for fifteen years on the active staff; he took the greatest interest in the Bradford Women's Home and Shelter, and the Bradford Nurses' Institution. He was President of the Bradford Medico-Chirurgical Society in 1886-87, and of the Bradford Medico-Ethical Society in 1884-85. He played an active part in the work of the British Medical Association in Bradford; in 1906 he was Chairman of the Division, and in the following year President of the Yorkshire Branch. In 1874 he was gazetted surgeon-lieutenant to the old 2nd West Yorkshire Volunteer Artillery. He retired in 1910 with the rank of colonel, and received the Volunteer Decoration. He took an active part in war work of various kinds, till his ill health obliged him to desist. Dr. Mossop's wife died eleven years ago, but he leaves four sons and six daughters. Dr. Mossop was buried at Undercliffe Cemetery on December 28th, after a service at St. Luke's Church, Manningham. The Lord Mayor of Bradford, representatives of the professions and institutions in the city, and a very large number of friends and acquaintances attended the ceremony. At the Bradford Police Court Mr. Beaumont Morice, the stipendiary magistrate, made a sympathetic reference to Dr. Mossop, who had been a J.P.

DR. JAMES ARTHUR RIGBY of Preston died at his residence in that town on Christmas morning from acute pneumonia following influenza; only four days previously he was performing his military duties on the Medical Board of the 47th Area. Dr. Rigby was born in Preston in 1849. He studied medicine at Guy's Hospital, took the diplomas of M.R.C.S. and L.S.A. in 1873, and the degree of M.B. Lond (with honours) in 1874, and the M.D. in 1877. He returned to Preston, and practised there for the rest of his life. Dr. Rigby became medical officer to the Preston and County of Lancaster Queen Victoria Royal Infirmary, and took great interest in local government and social questions, being one of the most prominent members of the Preston Town Council since his election in

1909, when he contested a ward in the interest of the Ratepayers' Association, of which body he was the chairman. He was also for some time chairman of the Health Committee, where he was conspicuous for his strong opposition to the views of those who bemoaned the decreasing birth-rate. He contended that the children and youths of to-day are a finer race, and far better educated and dressed than those who were born and reared in mid-Victorian days when large families were more frequent. For twenty years Dr. Rigby was surgeon to the Preston Volunteer Artillery, now the West Lancashire R.F.A., retired with the rank of major in the R.A.M.C., and was awarded the Territorial Decoration. He offered his services on the outbreak of the war. He was placed in charge of the examination of recruits until the formation of the Medical Board, and calculated that he had personally examined over 50,000 recruits in his daily attendances at the Public Hall. Dr. Rigby wrote many articles for the press, contributing to the *Nineteenth Century* and to several medical papers, and published in the *BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL* (vol. i, 1886, p. 14) an instructive, well illustrated report of a case of mollities ossium in the male, with spontaneous fractures, which had been under his personal observation. His most important literary venture, however, was a treatise on the high death-rate of Preston, a pamphlet on the vital importance of municipal effort for the reduction of infantile mortality, which excited great interest in the North of England.

DR. JAMES EATON died on December 24th, 1916, at Grantham, where he was born in 1836, and where he had spent most of his life. His father had practised in the same town, and the son, after completing his general education at the town Grammar School, studied medicine at St. George's Hospital, and took the diplomas of M.R.C.S. and L.S.A. in 1858. After a short period of practice at Farnsworth and Knipton, and a time as a ship's surgeon, he settled in Grantham, where he continued to practise until within a few days of his death. In 1888 he was appointed M.O.H. for the Grantham Rural District. Before this he had come into conflict with the town council in connexion with an outbreak of scarlet fever in 1878, when the urban and rural authorities appointed a general committee to provide hospital accommodation in tents in the outskirts. The town council afterwards refused to pay Dr. Eaton's charges for medical attendance, and he brought an action which raised a point of law as to whether the contract was binding, inasmuch as it was a verbal contract, whereas by Section 174 of the Public Health Act a contract exceeding £50 must be in writing. The Queen's Bench decided against Dr. Eaton, who carried the case to the Court of Appeal, which unanimously decided that the case did not come within the section, inasmuch as the contract was not at the time of making known to exceed the amount of £50. Dr. Eaton was also M.O.H. to the Spittlegate District and medical officer to the Grantham Union workhouse, where he earned the esteem of the sick poor, for whose welfare he ever evinced personal solicitude. He was a successful practitioner, and took a large part in the public work of the town. He was a good judge of a horse, and took many honours for hackneys at local and district shows. He leaves a widow. The respect in which he was held was shown by the large number who attended the funeral, including many of his professional brethren.

DR. JOHN WALKER SMYTH, who died at his residence at Much Hadham, Herts, on December 29th, 1916, in his 70th year, was educated at Queen's College, Belfast, and took the diplomas of L.R.C.P. and S.E.din. in 1874. He was examiner to the Goldsmiths Company and surgeon to the City Provident Dispensary and Surgical Appliance Association. He practised at Colebrooke Row, Islington, for some forty years. A few years ago he went to reside at Much Hadham, but came to London several times a week. He was looked upon as Islington's oldest doctor. Dr. Smyth was a man of resolute character. He took a keen interest in local affairs, and had held the office of chairman of the old School Board. He was a Justice of the Peace and a member of the old vestry, and later represented St. Peter's Ward on the Islington Borough Council. The funeral took place at Much Hadham on January 1st.

## The Services.

### EXCHANGE.

CAPTAIN, R.A.M.C.(T.), Recruiting Medical Board near London, desires exchange with T.F. officer in charge infantry or mounted unit, Eastern Command or Ireland. — Address, No. 250, BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL Office, 429, Strand, W.C.

## Medical News.

DR. SIMON FLEXNER, director of the laboratories of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, New York, has been elected a foreign associate of the Paris Académie de Médecine.

A STATEMENT was recently made to the legislative committee which is investigating the prevalence of drug addiction in New York that there are some 200,000 victims of the habit in the State.

A COURSE of three lectures on the modern treatment of diabetes mellitus will be given by Dr. O. F. Leyton at the London Hospital on Wednesdays, February 7th, 14th, and 21st at 5.15 p.m. Members of the profession will be admitted on presentation of their card.

THE second series of the course of lectures on the anatomy of the human body for first aid and ambulance students, given at the Royal College of Surgeons of England by Professor Arthur Keith, conservator of the museum, began on Monday last, January 15th, and will continue until February 9th.

THE Home Secretary has extended to February 28th, 1917, the permission granted to persons bona fide engaged on July 28th, 1916, in practising dentistry but not registered under the Dentists Act, 1878, to purchase preparations containing not more than 1 per cent. of cocaine for use solely as local anaesthetics in connexion with dental work.

THE number of students in the Austrian universities during the summer semester of 1916 is stated to have been as follows: Vienna, 3,472; Prague (Czech University), 1,891; Prague (German University), 638; Cracow, 1,281; Lemberg, 1,174; Graz, 647; Innsbruck, 584. The proportion of medical students was highest at Vienna and at Graz, at both of which it was about 30 per cent. of the total number. At Vienna nearly two-fifths of the medical students are women.

A LEAFLET addressed to Belgian mothers in this country has been issued in Flemish and French by Miss Dora B. Vine, who has had experience as nurse and midwife in Belgium. It contains sensible advice on the management of infants, but we are not sure that it is safe to lay so much stress on avoiding the boiling of milk. On the other hand, the advice that if the water and milk have to be boiled the child should have the juice of fresh fruits is good. The leaflet can be obtained from the authoress at Eversley, Exmouth.

M. A. ZASULOW (*Wratchebnaia Gazeta*, 1916, N. 25) strongly recommends the use of salt and soda baths and weak solutions of silver nitrate in the treatment of contaminated gunshot wounds. The injured limb is submerged in a solution consisting of soda 2 per cent. and salt 1 per cent., boiled before use and having a temperature of 30° to 32° C., which may sometimes be raised to 40° to 42° C. The bath lasts from fifteen to forty minutes. The wounds become less painful, the inflammation of the surrounding tissue diminishes, the separation of sloughs is hastened, and the temperature is soon lowered. The gauze used for dressing the wound was saturated with a solution of silver nitrate 1 in 200,000, covered with oiled paper and cotton-wool and bandaged; the suppuration diminished, lost its smell, and the wound soon healed.

SPRING courses of training for the certificate of the Sanitary Inspectors Examination Board and for the diploma of the National Health Society will begin on January 22nd. The courses, which are given at 53, Berners Street, W., consist of lectures, demonstrations, and practical work. Students must be educated women, and are advised to enter a hospital or infirmary for a period of training, or to qualify for the certificate of the Central Midwives Board. Stress is laid on the fact that by passing the examinations mentioned a woman obtains a profession which will be a permanent staff to lean upon. Among the appointments gained by the society's students are those of sanitary inspectors and health visitors, inspectors under the Infant Life Protection and Shop Hours Acts, and, in four instances, inspectors of workshops and factories under the Home Office.