

Memoranda:

MEDICAL, SURGICAL, OBSTETRICAL.

INFECTIVE JAUNDICE IN FRANCE.

I was much interested in Dr. Arthur F. Hurst's letter,¹ in which he stated that in his opinion cases of infective jaundice from Gallipoli were often secondary to a catarrhal condition of an infective nature affecting the duodenum, with subsequent upward extension of the inflammatory process along the bile ducts, causing blocking of these and jaundice. The fact that the initial symptoms are practically always dyspeptic in character, consisting of anorexia, nausea, vomiting, and epigastric tenderness, certainly supports the view that the primary condition is one of duodenitis, while the frequent tenderness over the gall bladder may be readily explained as a secondary cholangitis and cholecystitis.

The following two cases are of great interest, inasmuch as in both instances we had symptoms of duodenitis and catarrhal jaundice followed some eighteen days later by attacks of typhoid fever and paratyphoid fever respectively.

The first case was that of a Canadian, aged 44, who on September 15th, 1916, "reported sick" in France with headache, shivering, sickness, nausea, and epigastric pain, and two or three days later became markedly jaundiced. After a week at the base hospital he was discharged to one of the home military hospitals, and on October 1st (that is, seventeen days after the onset of the dyspeptic symptoms, and fifteen days after the onset of the jaundice) he developed, while under my care, an attack of mild typhoid fever with fifteen days' pyrexia, with evening rises and morning remissions, and crops of roseolae; colonies of typhoid bacilli were isolated from the faeces. The mildness of the fever was no doubt the result of antityphoid inoculation in August, 1915 (thirteen months before the onset of the infective jaundice).

The second case was that of a young Scotsman, aged 19, who "reported sick" in France on March 2nd, 1917, with headache, anorexia, rigor, slight rise of temperature, and general aches and pains. Two or three days later he developed jaundice, and at the casualty clearing station, five days after the onset, was deeply jaundiced with a thickly furred tongue, while the urine contained bile in quantity and also a distinct trace of albumin. The agglutination reactions were negative to all the members of the typhoid group at this date, and a blood culture remained sterile after three days' incubation. On March 20th, that is, eighteen days after the onset of dyspeptic symptoms and about sixteen days after the onset of the jaundice, he developed, while under my care, an attack of paratyphoid fever. There was pyrexia for eleven days, rising gradually and typically by evening elevations and morning remissions to 104.4° F. on the sixth day and thereafter gradually falling by slow gradations until April 1st, when the temperature once more became normal. There were several crops of roseolae and the characteristic pea-soup motions. On March 29th *B. paratyphosus* A agglutinated the blood in a dilution of 1 in 50.

In both of these cases the attacks of typhoid and paratyphoid fever respectively were apparently direct sequelae of infective jaundice occurring fifteen to sixteen days previously.

It is well known that the bile ducts and gall bladder are favourite habitats of the typhoid bacillus, which may even flourish there for years after an attack of typhoid fever, as in the case of "typhoid carriers." In such cases there has presumably occurred an invasion of the bile passages, either directly from the duodenum or possibly indirectly from systemic infection, but I have not yet seen recorded cases similar to the two just described, where a typhoid or paratyphoid infection of the bile ducts was followed within three weeks by typhoid or paratyphoid infection of the intestinal tract.

London, W.

R. MURRAY LESLIE.

PRIMARY CARCINOMA OF STOMACH IN A BOY.

THE patient, A. H., was a prisoner of war aged 18 and ten months. He was admitted to camp on June 23rd, 1915. The medical examination on admission discovered nothing abnormal.

He first reported sick on February 7th, 1916, and was seen by the assistant medical officer, who found him to be suffering from "dyspepsia and vomiting." Five days later, when I examined him, he was in a condition of profound collapse, with frequent vomiting and general abdominal pain; temperature (at night) 99.4°. A

smooth rounded tumour occupied the space between the right costal margin and umbilicus. There was some tenderness and slight general abdominal distension. Examination of the rectum proved negative; the urine contained albumin.

I opened the abdomen, on February 15th, the liver was seen to be generally enlarged and studded all over with nodules; a small growth was discovered near the pyloric end of the stomach. There was no further operative interference. The patient died on March 11th, 1916.

Pathological and Histological Report.

Stomach.—The gastric wall is the seat of a new growth having the histological structure of carcinoma of the scirrhous type which has undergone almost complete necrosis, fibrosis, and calcareous infiltration. In the piece sent for examination the whole wall is converted into a dense fibrous mass with numerous deposits of lime salts, and here and there some small patches of cancer cells.

Liver.—The two portions of liver were freely infiltrated by deposits of new growth showing a great tendency to break down in the centre. Microscopically the structure is that of a carcinoma; the cancer cells are of a small spheroidal type, and arranged in compact solid masses. The outermost layer of cells of these masses is of a cuboidal type and suggests an origin from a columnar epithelium. No doubt the stomach is the primary seat, but the growth there is even more degenerate than the secondary nodules in the liver.

Lung.—I find no evidence of new growth in the pieces of lung sent for examination.

C. FLETCHER.

The extreme rarity of this disease at such an early age, the negative family history, and the short period in which the patient had reported himself ill, is sufficient justification for recording the case.

W. B. COSENS, Captain R.A.M.C.,
Medical Officer i/c Prisoners of
War Camp, Dorchester.

HYPERTROPHY OF THE NIPPLE:

A HITHERTO UNDESCRIBED SIGN OF LEPROSY IN THE MALE.

THE entire credit of making these observations is due to Dr. A. J. Kohiyar, who first drew my attention to this sign.

Dr. Kohiyar has now made observations on 81 lepers. He found:

Both nipples very large in	...	...	...	62
Both nipples moderately large in	...	...	...	8
Large on one side only in	...	...	...	2
Both nipples normal in	...	...	...	9

I have made notes on 221 cases. My procedure was to ask an independent observer, usually a layman, if he noticed any peculiarity about the nipple. If he said it was enlarged, and I also had noted the nipple as enlarged, I recorded it as "large." If either of us did not characterize it as "large," I recorded it as "not enlarged." There were very few cases in which our verdicts differed. We found:

Both nipples enlarged in	...	...	...	167 cases
One nipple enlarged in	...	...	...	7 "
"Not enlarged" in	...	...	...	47 "

Taking Dr. Kohiyar's cases and mine together:

Both nipples enlarged	...	...	237 cases = 79 per cent.
One nipple enlarged	...	...	9 " = 3 "
Neither nipple enlarged	...	...	56 " = 18 "

Total cases ... 302 " = 100 "

The size of the nipple in the female depends on so many factors that it is of no aid in diagnosis.

As a control, 200 consecutive non-leprous males were observed. In only 2—that is, 1 per cent.—was any hypertrophy comparable to that of a leper observed.

ARTHUR POWELL, B.A., M.B., M.S.,
Professor of Medical Jurisprudence;
Inspector of Lepers, Bombay.

A DECREE has recently been issued in Germany requiring provincial authorities to ascertain from the cattle dealers the number of animals required for provisioning each district. The provincial authority is then to notify to each commune the number of animals it is to supply. The officials are strictly enjoined to accept no excuses.

THE German authorities have arranged for the systematic testing, at the Robert Koch Institute, of blood taken from patients suspected of typhus fever. The Weil-Felix reaction is employed, and whenever the reaction is negative but the clinical symptoms remain suspicious, a second sample is examined.

¹ BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, April 21st, p. 527.

overworked, may I be allowed to offer in the name of that area our sincere thanks to the Central Medical War Committee?—I am, etc.,

H. L. EVANS,
Honorary Secretary East Yorks Local
Medical War Committee.

May 8th.

OUR BELGIAN COLLEAGUES AT HOME AND ABROAD.

THE following additional subscriptions to the Fund have been received:

	£	s.	d.
Dr. Burrowes	1	1	0
Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh, for the North British Branch of Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain (per Dr. Norman Walker)—			
Subscriptions in hand, April, 1915	0	15	0
Dr. James Caskie	1	1	0
Mr. R. Hay	0	10	6
Mr. H. Dryerre	1	1	0
Edinburgh District Chemists' Trade Association (per Mr. A. A. Murray)	2	2	0
Mr. W. G. Johnstone	1	1	0
Mr. J. S. B. Heddle	0	10	0
Mr. Alex Inglis	0	10	0
Dr. G. D. H. Carpenter (24th donation—total £24)	1	0	0

Subscriptions to the Fund should be sent to the treasurer of the Fund, Dr. H. A. Des Vœux, at 14, Buckingham Gate, London, S.W., and should be made payable to the Belgian Doctors' and Pharmacists' Relief Fund crossed Lloyds Bank, Limited.

Surgical instruments should be sent to the Master of the Society of Apothecaries, Apothecaries' Hall, Blackfriars, E.C.

Universities and Colleges.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF LONDON.
AN extraordinary Comitia was held on May 10th, the President, Dr. Frederick Taylor, being in the chair.

Admission of Fellows.

The following gentlemen, elected to the Fellowship at the Comitia held on April 26th, were admitted, and gave their faith to the College:

Robert Henry Cole, M.D.Lond., David Nunes Nabarro, M.D.Lond., Henry Willoughby Gardner, M.D.Lond., Reginald Henry Miller, M.D.Lond., Percy Whittington Saunders, M.B.Toronto, Wm. Errington Hume, M.D.Camb., Henry MacCormac, M.D.Edin.

Licentiates.

Licences to practise physic were granted to two candidates who had passed the required examination and conformed to the by-laws.

Streatfield Research Fund.

A scheme presented by the Committee appointed by the Royal Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons for the administration of the Streatfield Research Fund was adopted.

Suspension of Systematic Lectures.

On the recommendation of the Committee of Management it was agreed that in consideration of the urgent conditions resulting from the war the Regulations of the Examining Board in England, which require attendance on systematic courses of lectures on anatomy, physiology, medicine, surgery, midwifery, pathology, pharmacology and therapeutics, forensic medicine including insanity, and public health, should not be enforced for the present.

The Committee of Reference.

At the request of the President a further grant was made towards the expenses of the Committee of Reference.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.
AN ordinary Council was held on May 10th, when Sir Watson Cheyne, President, was in the chair.

Diplomas of Membership.

Diplomas of membership were granted to 103 candidates found qualified at the recent examinations.

Attendance on Systematic Courses of Lectures.

The attendance on such lectures was no longer made compulsory. This decision was arrived at as a result of a resolution adopted by the Committee of Reference of April 19th.

University of Wales.

Mr. W. F. Haslam was appointed the representative of the College on the Medical Board of the University of Wales for three years from May 12th, 1917, in the vacancy occasioned by the retirement of Mr. C. W. Mansell Moullin.

CONJOINT BOARD IN ENGLAND.

THE diplomas of L.R.C.P. and M.R.C.S. have been conferred upon the following candidates:

G. Adler, E. G. Anderson, E. B. Andrae, P. A. Ashcroft, E. V. Beale, D. C. Beaumont, W. T. Beswick, Alethea J. Bolton, A. O. Bolton, A. H. Boon, Marian N. Bostock, E. W. Bowell, J. B. Brash, I. Braun, E. D. Broster, D. Cameron, O. St. L. Campion, J. E. Carpenter, Kathleen L. Cass, H. Chadwick, C. C. Chesterman, H. J. C. Churchill, Stella Churchill, A. M. Clément, G. F. Cobb, J. C. Collins, R. S. Corbett, R. Coyte, W. Cramer, T. M. Cunningham, P. G. S. Davis, H. L. Douglas, J. R. Earp, Mahmoud Erfan, J. Fairbrother, R. French, P. E. F. Frossard, H. Gainsborough, L. Gill, H. Gluckman, E. F. S. Gordon, M. Gourevitch, Grace M. G. Griffith, L. B. Hartley, F. J. Harvey, Lily F. Harwood, S. L. Higgs, H. W. H. Holmes, Cawas Homi, J. C. C. Howe, G. R. Hubbard, O. H. Hyman, Karam Chand Jaidka, Loiza E. Johnston, D. B. S. Jones, D. J. H. Jones, J. I. Keen, J. D. Kenyon, H. W. Leatham, H. W. Lewis, J. B. S. Lewis, I. J. Lipkin, E. E. Llewellyn, L. G. Lunnon, T. H. McLeod, A. N. McMillan, W. Marriott, J. A. Martin, H. G. V. Mence, F. M. Mosely, C. K. Mowll, W. W. Newton, A. L. Packham, A. E. P. Parker, A. H. Pearce, C. V. Pink, W. I. FitzG. Powell, H. N. Pritchett, W. Murad Abdul Rahman, R. E. Ramping, D. W. R. Richardson, R. L. Robinson, A. Rose-Innes, J. Rowland, J. D. Rutherford, J. J. A. Scott, N. F. Smith, E. D. Spackman, M. B. R. Swann, Ellen Syk, R. H. Tasker, J. P. R. Tennekoon, F. FitzG. Tisdall, W. J. Walters, F. E. G. Watson, Winifred H. Wells, W. H. White, J. P. Williams, J. H. Wiseman, L. H. Woods, W. G. Woolrich.

Obituary.

H. R. HUTTON, M.A., M.B.CANTAB.,

FORMERLY PHYSICIAN TO MANCHESTER CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL AND
LECTURER IN DISEASES OF CHILDREN, MANCHESTER
UNIVERSITY.

HENRY RICHMOND HUTTON was a man of marked ability and many activities. His father was a civil engineer and his uncle the distinguished editor and founder of the *Spectator*.

After taking his degree at Cambridge Hutton entered at St. Thomas's, and at the end of his course there was appointed an assistant demonstrator in physiology. This post he resigned on his appointment as physician to the Children's Hospital at Pendlebury after the retirement of Dr. Massiah in the early eighties of last century. For thirty years Hutton worked at the Children's Hospital, and during that long time did a vast service for the welfare of children in Manchester. For the whole period of his office he saw out-patients in addition to visiting the hospital and taking charge of his wards. Not satisfied with this he acted for many years as physician to the Chest Hospital in Manchester and at Bowdon, and was for a time physician to the Ancoats Hospital. As a member of the committee of governors and of the medical board Hutton took due part in the administration of the Children's Hospital.

Hutton was a ready and fluent speaker, and was active in the Pathological Society, of which he was at one time president.

Though he did not write much on medical subjects, possibly because he was inclined to be too critical in the matter of style for ready composition, he gave valuable and ungrudging help in the preparation of his colleague's book on the *Diseases of Children*, and took a large part in the preparation of the abstracts of the Children's Hospital. The Children's Hospital, and the mothers of the district as well as his colleagues and successive generations of medical officers, know how invaluable Hutton's work was.

Hutton succeeded Ashby as lecturer in the university on diseases of children, and it is a pity that ill health compelled him to resign this post, for he devoted much time and thought to his lectures, and was a very successful teacher. This post also gave him the position of physician for children at St. Mary's Hospital, and here again he worked hard at the out-patient department and in the ward.

He took an active part in the development of the infant welfare schemes, being vice-chairman of the Executive Committee of the Schools for Mothers, and gave ungrudgingly his time and energy to promote the measures that were being taken to improve the conditions of infant life in Manchester. Apart from his profession Hutton had many activities. He took a prominent part in local administrative life. At one time he wrote for his uncle in the *Spectator*; he was a musician, a keen angler and shot, and a practical gardener. Perhaps his happiest days were those when he had a shooting of his own. In all these country interests the writer had at different times the

privilege of sharing, and he knows how full was Hutton's delight in country life.

Hutton's brain was essentially keen and active. He loved an argument, and would have been a formidable opponent if he had been at the Bar. Politically he was a strong supporter of the Liberal Party. He was an active champion of any party or cause which was in his view suffering wrong, and was outspoken in criticism of any wrong-doing. Active and energetic as he was, Hutton's health was not robust, and he had a bad breakdown a year or so before his retirement in 1913. He never really regained strength, and in spite of the most devoted care by Mrs. Hutton, after being an invalid for three or four years he died suddenly at his house at Haslemere in March, 1917.

Hutton had many friends who valued him highly, very many who owed him gratitude; a home at all stages of his life to which he was devoted, and in which he was completely happy in a consciousness of good work done. We miss him, and will always remember him as a man of spirit and energy, and a true friend. G. A. W.

PROFESSOR LANDOUZY,

DEAN OF THE MEDICAL FACULTY OF PARIS.

LOUIS LANDOUZY, whose death was announced on May 10th, was born at Rheims on March 27th, 1843. He came of a medical family, his father and grandfather having been doctors. He received his literary education in the *lycée* of his native city. He began his professional studies at the medical school of Rheims and continued them in Paris, where he took his doctor's degree in 1876 with a thesis on convulsions and paralyses connected with fronto-parietal meningo-encephalitis. He was appointed physician to the Paris hospitals and professor of clinical medicine in the Faculty, of which he was dean at the time of his death. He was a member of the Institute of France and of the Académie de Médecine and an officer of the Legion of Honour.

Professor Landouzy was a conspicuous figure in the medical life of France. He was keenly interested in making the virtues of the French spas known to foreigners, and on several occasions personally conducted parties of medical pilgrims to these shrines of healing. He was the author, in conjunction with A. Gautier, Moureu, and de Launay, of a treatise on mineral water cures (1910). He presented a communication, written in conjunction with Jean Heitz, on the scientific basis of balneotherapy at the International Congress of Physiotherapy in Berlin in 1913 and at the International Medical Congress in London in the same year. Among his most important publications are clinical lectures on the various forms of ringworm, in conjunction with C. Lailler (1876); conjugate deviation of the eyes and rotation of the head by excitation or paralysis of the sixth and eleventh pairs (1880); atrophic progressive myopathy, hereditary myopathy without nerve disease, etc., in collaboration with Dejerine (1885); serumtherapy (1898); a medical glossary, in conjunction with Jayle (1902); a textbook of medical anatomy and physiology, in conjunction with L. Bernard (1913); and numerous papers on food and hygiene. Landouzy was a leader in the campaign against tuberculosis in France, and wrote much on that and related matters. A short time ago he was awarded the médaille des épidémies in recognition of his services to preventive medicine, especially in the battle against tuberculosis. In 1915 and 1916 he presented memoirs on syphilis before the war to the Académie de Médecine, which were published in the *Bulletin* of that society, and in 1915 he contributed an article on war and the discharge of the tuberculous soldier to the *Revue d'Hygiène*. He was the editor in chief of the *Revue de Médecine*, and the scientific director of the *Presse Médicale*.

He was fond of travel, was a good judge of pictures, and a collector of books whose interest extended beyond the bindings to their contents. Professor Landouzy married a daughter of the late A. Richet, the distinguished surgeon. There is no issue of the marriage.

WE regret to record the death of Dr. T. EDGAR UNDERHILL, aged 62, who had practised for the last twenty-seven years at Barnt Green, in Worcestershire, having previously for four years practised at Bromsgrove, where he succeeded

the late Dr. Prosser. Dr. Underhill belonged to a well-known medical family, his father and uncle having been among the best-known practitioners in South Staffordshire, where their work and name are still continued. He graduated M.B., C.M. at Edinburgh in 1876, and M.D. in 1886; he was also F.R.C.S. and F.R.S. Edin. He joined his father in practice at Tipton, Staffordshire, where he remained for ten years, holding at that time the post of surgeon to the Guest Hospital at Dudley. On moving to Bromsgrove he became medical officer to the school, and also surgeon to the local volunteer battalion of the Worcestershire Regiment, retiring with the rank of surgeon-major after sixteen years' service. He took an active part in local affairs, being vice-chairman of the School Board, and bailiff of the Bromsgrove Court Leet. These activities were combined with a large professional practice; he was President of the Birmingham Branch of the British Medical Association and of the Midland Medical Society. His interest in church work led him to serve several turns of office as President of the Birmingham Medical Mission. Latterly he has worked in connexion with the British Red Cross, and was medical officer to the "Beaconwood" Convalescent Hospital for Wounded Soldiers. He leaves a widow and several sons and daughters, of whom five are serving in H.M.'s Forces. He was a good and worthy representative of his profession, who will be greatly missed by a wide circle of friends and patients.

THE death, on May 5th, is announced of Dr. ISAAC COALBANK, M.D. Paris, M.R.C.S., L.S.A., aged 73. He was a son of the late Rev. Robert Coalbank, Vicar of Old Dalby, Leicestershire. He started early in the sixties at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and held the offices of house-surgeon to Sir W. Savory and house-physician there after taking the two diplomas of the College and Hall in 1866. He was one of the first of the house-physicians, as there was no such office until his days of studentship at St. Bartholomew's Hospital. Before he became house-physician to the late Dr. Frederick Farre he studied in Paris and travelled with a patient in Syria, Palestine, and Egypt. For a time he filled the appointment of house-surgeon to the York Road Lying-in Hospital. Afterwards he settled in practice in Teddington, ending his days there after many years of useful work.

The Services.

EXCHANGE.

WOULD an officer on Home Service care to exchange with an officer holding appointment on Lines of Communications? Easy exchange from this to Front Line could be arranged if desired. Territorial Officer preferred.—Address, No. 1650, BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL Office, 429 Strand, W.C.

Medical News.

BY the will of the late Dr. William Price, of Southern-down, Glamorgan, the medical school of the South Wales University College will benefit by £20,000.

DR. E. GRAHAM LITTLE has been elected by graduates in medicine and surgery of the University of London to fill a fourth term of office (1917-21) on the Senate of the University.

DR. WILLIAM HENRY FRETZ, Senior Medical Officer of Health, St. Kitts, has been appointed an official member of the Legislative Council of the presidency of St. Christopher and Nevis.

THE War Pensions Statutory Committee now endeavour to provide for after-treatment and training for officers about to be invalided from the service, and to assist them, as far as possible, to obtain suitable posts. Application should be made to Lieutenant-General Sir F. W. Stopford, Statutory Committee (Officers' Branch), 4, Cowley Street, Westminster, S.W. 1.

ON May 10th a number of medical men and women inspected the College of Ambulance, 3, Vere Street, London, W., and were shown by the Principal, Colonel James Cantlie, the technique and methods of teaching ambulance at the college. Subsequently an interesting display of transport drill, and improvisation of ambulance appliances was given by V.A.D. men and women, who had

been trained there. Among the visitors were Sir Rickman Godlee, president of the college, Sir Thomas Barlow, Sir Henry Morris, and Sir James Crichton-Browne.

MR. ALFRED T. DAVIES, C.B., of the Board of Education, has written under the title *Student Captives* a short account of the British prisoners of war book scheme (educational), whose object is to provide British prisoners of war interned in enemy or neutral countries with educational books. His pamphlet shows how much trouble has been taken by the committee to provide the prisoners with mental interests, and to make suitable provision for their education so as to enable them to redeem the time of their captivity. It includes letters of approval from Lord Crewe and the present President of the Board of Education. Letters of inquiry should be addressed to A. T. Davies, Esq., C.B., Board of Education, Whitehall, London, S.W.1., and the words "Prisoners of War" written in the left-hand top corner.

THE Council of the Association of Public Vaccinators of England and Wales has been in correspondence with the Local Government Board with reference to the Board's recent order permitting medical officers of health to vaccinate small-pox contacts. In order to clear up any misunderstanding which may have existed with regard to this Order, we are asked to state that the Local Government Board has laid down that the object of the Public Health Small-pox Prevention Regulations, 1917, is to empower the medical officer of health to vaccinate or revaccinate small-pox contacts. The Board anticipates that the need for this will only arise when the services of the public vaccinator are not immediately available. In ordinary circumstances the operation should be performed by the public vaccinator as hitherto.

THE first meeting of the National Baby Week Council was held at Armitage House, Great Portland Street, London, W., on May 10th, under the chairmanship of Sir Robert Morant. A report from the Executive Committee was presented, dealing with arrangements for the baby week to be held from July 1st to 7th. Sir Malcolm Morris, in moving the adoption of the report, said that recent statistics showed that during the first three months of the year in which the Local Government Board regulations regarding venereal disease had been in force 4,000 cases of syphilis had been under treatment in the London clinics. These would never have been treated but for the Board's order. The effect of this treatment on the birth-rate of the future would be incalculable. The object of the Council, of which the Premier is president and Lord Rhondda chairman of Council, is to arouse a sense of racial responsibility in order to secure a birthright of mental and bodily health to every child born in the United Kingdom, and to keep the public generally informed as to what is being done for young children and mothers, and what could be done. Information may be obtained from the secretary, Miss Alice Elliott, Kingsway House, Kingsway, W.C.2.

THE *Southampton Medical Directory for 1917*, edited by Dr. A. A. Mackeith, is a somewhat novel publication of 68 pages, price 3s., intended to supply medical practitioners with not only the usual information about all the doctors of the area but of the chemists, dentists, midwives, nurses, hospitals, etc. Several pages are devoted to medico-legal information, and there is a summary of the public health activities of the county borough. Various directions for the use of panel practitioners are culled from the documents which have been from time to time issued by the Commissioners or Insurance Committee, and there are lists of all the Poor Law and other officials of the Local Government Board and other Government departments of the district. A number of pages are devoted to the various medical societies meeting in Southampton, the rules of the societies being given with in some cases extracts from their annual reports. There are also lists of the members of the Insurance, Panel, and Medical War Committees and particulars of practically all the various public, charitable, and private institutions of Southampton which may be of use specially to medical practitioners. For this year the directory is published in what is called outline form, but it is hoped that in the future it may be used for publishing the reports of all the local medical societies. It ought to be of use to all the practitioners of Southampton and district as supplying in a handy and compact form much information which medical men require almost daily.

A REPORT of the work of the Invalid Kitchens of London during the past three years has been published by the Executive Committee. The object of this deserving charity is to provide invalid diet for women after childbirth, for convalescents from hospitals and dispensaries, for cases of pulmonary tuberculosis awaiting admission to

sanatoriums, and for other acute cases nursed in their own homes. Dinners are supplied to two classes of patients: (1) Those who, though able to pay, are not in a position to cook appetizing invalid diet in their own homes; (2) those who cannot afford to pay the full cost of invalid food. The war has naturally affected the work of the kitchens in many ways. In 1914 a war emergency committee was formed, and kitchens were opened in twelve new districts, each with a representative local committee. The central organization was incorporated with the scheme of relief inaugurated by the National Relief Fund, and satisfactory arrangements were made with the two principal soldiers' and sailors' benevolent organizations, to the great benefit of the families of the men serving in the forces. Munition workers also have been helped back to health and work. Last summer, however, owing to difficulties of labour and transport, the work of the kitchens had to be restricted, and with the cessation of many contributions in money and kind it became necessary in July, 1916, to close ten kitchens temporarily. Funds are urgently needed to enable the committee to carry on the kitchens that are now open, to reopen as soon as possible those that have been temporarily closed, and to prepare for the time when kitchens will be wanted more than ever. The honorary secretary is Lady Muriel Paget, 32, Victoria Street, S.W.1.

Letters, Notes, and Answers.

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

The address of the Central Medical War Committee for England and Wales is 429, Strand, London, W.C.2; that of the Reference Committee of the Royal Colleges in London is the Examination Hall, 8, Queen Square, Bloomsbury, W.C.1; and that of the Scottish Medical Service Emergency Committee is Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh.

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.

INCOME TAX AND DEFERRED PURCHASE.

IN drawing up an agreement for deferred purchase of a practice, unless it is made quite clear that the future annual payments are merely postponements of a predetermined purchase price, the payer, that is, the purchaser of the practice, may be entitled to deduct income tax from the payments made, which in effect taxes the vendor on the full sale price of the practice. But tax is not deductible from payments accruing *de die in diem*, and not calculated at yearly rates. An alternative method of avoiding the granting of the right to deduct tax would be to exclude any reference to the "year" in stating the basis of payment. If this exclusion be joined to a statement of purchase price the vendor would be doubly safeguarded.

LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.

RHUBARB LEAVES.

DR. ALBERT E. TEBB (London) writes: In recording the unfortunate case of the death of an Enfield clergyman after eating rhubarb leaves cooked as a vegetable, it seems to me that the most important point in regard to causation and to the lesson to be learnt from the case has been omitted. In the report of the inquest given in the daily papers, the servant made special mention of the fact that she had used washing soda in the cooking of the leaves. Surely in this piece of culinary chemistry (quite legitimate in the case of cabbage and of most ordinary greens) lay the fatal mistake—for by its action a soluble oxalate was formed, if not also free oxalic acid.

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