

a case in a native of Bombay who had never left the Bombay Presidency. He stated that Major Childe, I.M.S., had also seen a few cases in Bombay, but that his patients were Iramis or Persians. Sewell⁶ describes a case of bilharzia haematobia occurring in a private of the 1st South Wales Borderers. The man had been four years in India and had never been in Egypt or South Africa. Lieutenant-Colonel D. Wardrop⁷ describes two cases of British soldiers who developed bilharzia in India six months after leaving England. Christophers and Stephens⁸ mention the case of a native infected in Madras. Most, if not all, the other cases recorded have been imported from South Africa or Egypt.

It seems clear from the case which I have reported and from the cases which have before been recorded, that bilharziasis is endemic in India, and can be contracted by Englishmen and others who sojourn in the country.

REFERENCES.

- ¹ Neumann, *Parasites and Parasitic Diseases of Domesticated Animals*.
² Sanfelice and Loi, *Centralbl. f. Bact.*, Abt. I, Bd. xx. ³ Frank Milton, Does Bilharzia Exist in India? *Indian Medical Gazette*, 1914. ⁴ Montgomery, Observations in Bilharziasis among Animals, *Journal of Tropical Veterinary Science*, vol. i, 1906. ⁵ Arthur Powell, *BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL*, 1903, vol. i. ⁶ Sewell, *Journal R.A.M.C.*, vol. ii. ⁷ Lieutenant-Colonel Wardrop, *Journal R.A.M.C.*, vol. vi. ⁸ Christophers and Stephens, Proceedings British Medical Association, Leicester, 1905.

Memoranda :

MEDICAL, SURGICAL, OBSTETRICAL.

RUPTURE OF THE EXTENSOR LONGUS POLLICIS TENDON.

DR. NORMAN DYKES'S communication on this subject in the *JOURNAL* of March 11th (p. 387) has suggested to me the propriety of recording a case of this rare condition which I came across recently, and which presents some features of additional interest.

Mrs. I., aged 54, came to see me on November 29th, 1920, with a sprained right wrist. There was no fracture. It was treated upon the orthodox lines of bathing, massage, and movement.

She again consulted me on January 5th, 1921, because, while the general condition of the wrist was satisfactory, a fluid swelling of small size persisted over the line of the extensor longus pollicis tendon opposite the ulnar side of the proximal end of the metacarpal of the thumb. It was tender on pressure, and I advised inunction with collosol iodine oil.

A week later, on January 12th, after a morning's washing, she was seated at her midday meal and in the act of conveying food to her mouth in a spoon when a sudden and most violent "cramp" took place in her right hand—so severe as to reduce her to tears. The thumb and all the fingers were rigidly clenched and bunched in the palm, and the hand was strongly flexed on the forearm.

It was not until four or five hours had elapsed that this spasm of the flexor muscles relaxed sufficiently for her to be able to pull her hand and fingers out straight. Then she made the discovery that the thumb refused to "lay put" in the position of extension, and that she was powerless to lift it from the palm by voluntary effort.

I sent her to see Sir Robert Jones, who advised fixation in hyperextension with massage. This failed to secure return of function, and I have been unsuccessful, so far, in persuading the patient to have a tendon transplantation done.

The thumb to-day is *in statu quo* as far as extensor movements are concerned.

The points which strike me as of special interest in this case are:

1. The antecedent injury was a sprain and not a Colles's fracture as in Dr. Norman Dykes's case and in the ten cases collected by Stapelmohr.
2. The immediate cause of the rupture of the tendon was a muscular spasm of unusual violence and duration, affecting all the flexors of the hand and fingers, and not a slight voluntary movement as in the previously recorded cases.
3. The persistence of a local teno-synovial swelling after the general swelling and pain of the sprain had disappeared, which almost appears to support Stapelmohr's ingenious theory of a slow necrosis of the tendon following trauma by kinking.

A. STUART MACTAVISH, M.B., Ch.B.

Fenrith, Cumberland, March 13th.

THE case of rupture of the extensor longus pollicis tendon reported by Dr. Dykes reminds me of a similar accident which came under my notice some years ago.

In the temporary absence of her own doctor I attended a lady, aged about 35, who had fallen on her outstretched hand while skating. The wrist was painful, but there was no marked

deformity. I came to the conclusion that I had to deal with a Colles's fracture. This was subsequently verified by *x* rays. I applied a pistol-shaped splint and her usual medical attendant took charge. I did not see the patient again till some months later, and on inquiring as to her condition she told me that when the splints were finally removed and she attempted voluntary movements "something gave way" in the thumb and she, from that time, had lost the power of extending it properly, though flexion was not impaired. What happened afterwards I cannot say, as I heard no more of the matter.

In this connexion I may mention another case of rupture of a tendon which occurred without any previous injury.

A healthy lady of middle age while making a bed felt something snap in her right ring finger. Subsequently she was quite unable to extend the distal phalanx, which was flexed to a right angle. I applied a straight gutter splint, but as no improvement took place I asked a surgeon to give his opinion as to further treatment. He advised an operation. On cutting down to the extensor tendon over the last phalanx it was found, as expected, to be torn across. The torn ends were sutured and the finger was again put on a straight splint. Healing took place at once, but there was no improvement in the condition at the time or later. So thin was the tendon at the point of rupture that failure to unite was not surprising.

This accident, like the previous one, is fortunately rare, and an instance of it seems to be worthy of record.

Oxford.

F. G. GARDNER.

A SELF-RETAINING TOURNIQUET FOR CRANIAL SURGERY.

HAVING used the various head tourniquets recommended by surgical authors and illustrated in surgical textbooks, I have found them more or less troublesome and often inefficient.

The usual tourniquet type needs control by a sagittal tape band to prevent its slipping downwards over the face. It is not too easily applied and the controlling band is often in the region of the intended scalp incision. The common black elastic band I have found easier to use, though too often, after its complete sterilization, it has shown a tendency to break when strained. It certainly does not require a control band, but more than one turn round the head interferes with its snugness.

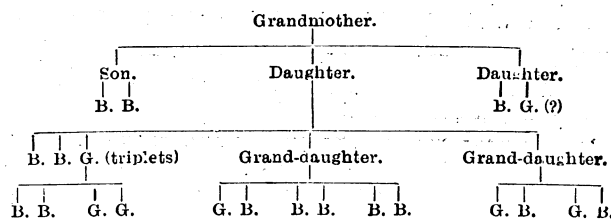
The tourniquet I now use is a length—2 to 2½ feet—of the thin rubber tubing used commonly with Paul's intestinal glass tube for bowel drainage. As is well known, it is of the glove rubber variety, is easily sterilizable, and does not readily deteriorate. It can be applied very easily and firmly, and several turns round the head lie neatly superimposed.

It is very efficient, it has no tendency to slip, and does not cause damage to the integument. After taking two complete turns, as a minimum number, round the head, the free ends need not be tied; they may be simply crossed. At the point of crossing a piece of sterilized gauze (small swab) is used to envelop it, and the fixation is completed by the bite of a haemostat. The gauze prevents injury to the rubber. Needless to add, the fixation is arranged on the side opposite the operation field.

GEORGE ROBERTSON, F.R.C.S.Ed.,
Honorary Surgeon, Dunfermline and West of Fife Hospital.

TEN CASES OF MULTIPLE BIRTH IN THREE GENERATIONS.

ONE of my patients, who has had twins three times, told me recently that her sister had had her second set of twins, and, knowing that her mother had had triplets, I made further inquiries into the history of the family. As a result I have



discovered that there have been ten cases of multiple births in the family in three generations. I have attended various members of the family for the past seventeen years, and have not the slightest reason to doubt their veracity.

Grays, Essex.

S. G. FLOYD, M.D.

were present at night, which dropped to 98° F. in the morning, without any other symptoms. Other cases showed all the distress of severe pneumonia, with typical rusty sputum, which cleared up during the next twenty-four hours without any ill result.—I am, etc.,

THEO. M. KENDALL, B.A., L.R.C.P.

Military Hospital, Parkhurst, I. of W., March 13th.

HOSPITAL POLICY.

SIR,—As you are desirous of this matter being fully discussed by the Divisions, perhaps you will allow me to present certain thoughts for their consideration.

It would be well if we could present a united front at Glasgow. Personally, I have read through the report and find myself in agreement with it, except in regard to II, 6 and 7. These paragraphs simply deal with the socio-political side of the question, about which, however much concerned we may be as private citizens, as an association of medical practitioners we do not seem to be called upon to express an opinion, especially if it cause dissension in the profession.

As an association, it seems to me that we are not so much concerned about how the hospitals are financed, as long as it be done so as to enable us to do the work efficiently. Nor is it a matter of importance to us how the governing bodies are formed as long as the administration does not prevent us doing the work efficiently. Why should we not confine ourselves to the really important things, such as:

1. That the profession is adequately remunerated for work done which cannot be called charity.
2. That there is adequate provision for medical education.
3. That the profession is adequately represented on the governing bodies.
4. That the staffing of hospitals be carried out in a manner fair to all properly qualified medical practitioners.
5. That the general practitioners obtain a proper place in the general hospital organization of the country.
6. That hospitals of all kinds, convalescent homes, ambulance associations, nursing associations, etc., be all linked up in an effective national organization.

Is there not enough work for us to do in the above without being dragged, as a profession, into the quarrel about whether it is better for the nation to finance the national lifeboat service out of the taxes or to let it rely upon the generosity of charitable individuals?—I am, etc.,

Helston, March 20th.

FERDINAND REES, M.D.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION OF GIRLS.

SIR,—A joint committee of men and women representing the medical and teaching professions has been formed to inquire into the present physical education of girls, particularly as to its results, beneficial or harmful, either during girlhood or in later life. The term "physical education" is understood to include athletic sports and games, as well as disciplined exercises.

The committee will be grateful for any information which members of the medical profession may be willing to give as to their experience in this matter. Communications should be addressed to the Honorary Secretary, Joint Committee, College of Preceptors, Bloomsbury Square, W.C.1. All information will be regarded as strictly confidential. A form of questionnaire will be sent if desired.—I am, etc.,

GEORGE F. STILL,

Chairman.

London, March 17th.

SUN OR AIR?

SIR,—Dr. Argyll Campbell and myself are not at variance with Sir Henry Gauvain, as Dr. Devereux, in his kindly letter of appreciation of our work, suggests. We have brought forward the importance of cold, moving air in stimulating the metabolism, and of the evaporative power of cold air on the body, and particularly on the lungs, but we do not question the beneficial effect of sunlight combined with cold air. The time spent recently at the English sanatorium at Montana showed one of us how grateful and stimulating is the combination of Alpine sunshine and cold air.

Sir Henry Gauvain has no doubt that his patients do better in the summer than in the winter, and we do not question his clinical experience. Probably the summer spent in England and the winter in an alpine climate is the best possible combination, and it would be a most interesting experiment if Sir William Treloar could establish a branch hospital at Montana as he has at Hayling Island.—I am, etc.,

London, N.W., March 20th.

LEONARD HILL.

CLAYDEN v. WOOD-HILL.

SIR,—I am enclosing the seventh list of subscriptions to the Wood-Hill Fund, and should be much obliged if you would kindly insert it in your next issue.

A noteworthy feature of this list and of the previous one which was published on March 4th is the large number of contributions from medical societies, honorary staffs of hospitals, Divisions and Branches of the British Medical Association, etc. In the two lists there are no less than seventeen contributions of this type. These contributions have been of material assistance to the Fund, and if similar bodies of medical practitioners in other parts of the country will follow suit the total amount required to reimburse Dr. Wood-Hill (£2,250) will certainly be obtained.—I am, etc.,

HAMILTON A. BALLANCE,
Honorary Treasurer.

All Saints Green, Norwich,
March 18th.

Seventh List of Subscriptions.

Amount previously acknowledged, £1,071 4s. 101.

£22 11s. The Bedfordshire Division of the B.M.A., per Dr. E. R. Fasnacht, Hon. Sec.—£1 ls. from each of the following: Dr. K. B. Bellwood, Bedford Dr. G. T. Birks, Bedford Dr. M. F. Bliss, Luton Dr. A. Chillingworth, Bedford Dr. A. J. Chillingworth, Bedford Dr. R. Coates, Great Barford Dr. E. R. Fasnacht, Bedford Dr. R. F. M. Fawcett, Toddington Dr. F. Garratt, Luton Dr. B. Glondining, Aspley Guise Dr. C. I. Harmar, Luton Dr. H. N. Little, Dunstable Dr. F. S. Lloyd, Luton Dr. W. G. Nash, Bedford Dr. W. K. Parbury, Sharnbrook Dr. Kilham Roberts, Shillington Dr. E. C. Roberts, Bedford Dr. Colby Sharpin, Bedford Dr. W. A. Sharpin, Bedford Dr. A. E. Street, Cranfield Dr. C. G. Welch, Bedford Dr. C. K. Toland, Dunstable (10s.)	£10 10s. (cont.). Sir Charles Rytall, C.B.E., London (second donation) The Nottingham Panel Committee, per Dr. George S. O'Rourke, M.A., LL.D., Clerk to the Committee The Medical Staff of the Oldham Royal Infirmary, per Mr. William R. Cammock, Hon. Sec. £7 13s. The Hampstead Division of the B.M.A., per Mr. Sidney Boyd, Hon. Sec. £6 10s. The Rugby and District Medical Society, per Mr. Herbert E. Powell, Hon. Treas. £5 5s. Mr. James Berry, London £2 2s. Drs. F. P. Bush and W. Burton Marshall, Norwich Mr. W. E. Ranson, Needham Market Dr. A. Alan Forty, Sherington Dr. T. Cuming Askin, M.B.E., Alderton Dr. Gerald H. Davy, O.B.E., Hull £1 1s. Dr. C. C. Holman, Northampton Dr. Arthur Perigal, New Baint Dr. Emily S. Cooke, Sutton Dr. J. J. Johnstone, Tillinclair Dr. H. W. Tesque, Sheringham Dr. David Ferrier, Luton Dr. Allan Porter, Gorleston-on-Sea Dr. Robert Stirling, Perth Dr. Charles C. Scott, Twickenham £1. Late subscription from Fife Branch of B.M.A. (see list published March 4th), per Dr. D. Elliot Dickson, Hon. Sec. Mr. H. W. Webber, Tasmania
£21 15s. The Members of the Derby Medical Society, per Dr. Charles E. Potter, Hon. Sec.	
£21. The Kensington Division of the B.M.A., per Mr. Howard M. Stratford, Hon. Sec.	
£20. The Hon. Staff of the Sheffield Royal Infirmary, per Dr. A. G. Yates, Hon. Sec.	
£10 10s. The Medical Board of the David Lewis Northern Hospital, Liverpool, per Dr. J. Murray Bligh, Hon. Treas.	

Universities and Colleges.

THE CHAIR OF MIDWIFERY AT EDINBURGH.

It is announced that Dr. Benjamin Philp Watson, professor of obstetrics and gynaecology in the University of Toronto, has accepted an invitation from the curators of the University of Edinburgh to become professor of midwifery in the vacancy caused by the resignation of Sir Halliday Croom. Professor Watson will be responsible for the teaching of both midwifery and gynaecology. He is an Edinburgh student, and graduated M.B., Ch.B. with first-class honours in 1902, and M.D. with gold medal in 1905. He is joint author with Dr. Freeland Barbour of a well-known handbook, *Gynaecological Diagnosis and Pathology*. Professor Watson, who was lecturer on midwifery and gynaecology in the School of Medicine of the Royal Colleges, Edinburgh, for one session (1912-13), was appointed to the chair which he now vacates in Toronto in 1913; during the war he served with the Canadian Hospital at Salonica.

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD.

Radcliffe Travelling Fellowship.—David George Turner Kerr Cross, B.M., St. John's College, has been elected to a Radcliffe Travelling Fellowship.

UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL.

The following candidates have been approved at the examination indicated:

FINAL M.B. AND CH.B.—Part I: J. S. Bradshaw, M. Cohen, W. R. H. Ellis, E. Fisher, D. Flenley, A. B. Griffiths, J. Hallam, G. M. Hughes, G. H. Mann, Phyllis Marsh, T. V. O'Brien, D. U. Owen, R. A. Roberts, Helen Standing, J. G. Thomas, H. Walker, A. E. Wall. **Part II:** J. O. Edwards, R. C. Gubbins, W. D. Jeans, T. Knowles, P. Madan, J. R. Parry.

Diploma in Public Health.—H. T. Hughes, H. E. Marsden, Nellie Wall. **Diploma in Tropical Medicine.**—J. R. Bhatia, E. R. W. Gilmore, A. R. Jennings, S. H. Paul, J. Pinder, Gladys Rutherford, * Q. Stewart. **Diploma in Medical Radiology and Electrolgy.**—J. E. Bannen, A. Y. Fullerton, E. S. Gawnie.

* Recommended for the Alan H. Milne medal.

UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER.

A Delépine Fellowship.

A FELLOWSHIP for the encouragement of research in Preventive Medicine has been instituted in memory of Dr. Auguste Sheridan Delépine, M.Sc., Professor of Public Health and Bacteriology in the University from 1891 to 1921, by the addition of the emoluments of the former Junior Research Fellowships in Public Health to the interest derived from an endowment of £1,000 made by Dr. Charles Slater of Tunbridge Wells. The regulations provide for a Fellowship of £300 to be offered biennially and to be open to competition by candidates who are graduates in medicine of this or any other approved university, or who hold an approved registrable medical qualification.

The following appointments have been made: Lecturer in Ophthalmology, Dr. J. Gray Clegg, F.R.C.S.; Clinical Lecturers in Ophthalmology, Dr. H. H. McNabb and Dr. John Wharton.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF LONDON.

An extraordinary comitia of the Royal College of Physicians of London was held on March 15th, when the President, Sir Norman Moore, was in the chair.

Licences were granted to the following candidates: Ruth W. Plimsoll (Royal Free Hospital), T. A. S. Samuel (London Hospital).

Communications were received from: (1) The Secretary of the Royal College of Surgeons, reporting proceedings of the Council of that College. These were received and entered on the minutes. (2) The executors of the will of the late Lady Clark, dated February 28th, 1922, asking whether the College will accept the bequest of a portrait of the late Sir Andrew Clark, formerly President of the College, by Frank Holl, Esq., R.A. This was received with thanks to the executors.

Reports of the Committee of Management were adopted recommending that the St. Dunstan's College, Catford, should be recognized for instruction in chemistry and physics, and the Boys' Intermediate School, Aberdare, for instruction in chemistry, physics, and biology.

Recommendations of the General Medical Council.

The following reports were then received:

(a) A recapitulation of the draft rules in respect of examinations for the Diploma in Public Health, proposed by the General Medical Council, and submitted to last College meeting, together with observations which it is suggested that the College should make upon them.

(b) A recapitulation of the draft recommendations in respect of (qualifying) Professional Examinations, propounded by the General Medical Council, and submitted to the last College meeting, together with observations which it is suggested that the College should make upon them.

(c) Provisional new regulations for candidates for the Licence of the College, and the Membership of the Royal College of Surgeons, based on the proposed course of study and examinations which was adopted at the last meeting of the College.

After some discussion, and some minor alterations in the reports, they were adopted.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.

Nominations for Councillors.

MONDAY last, March 20th, was the latest day for receiving applications from candidates for election on the Council next July. The three retiring candidates—Sir Charles Ballance, Sir William Thorburn, and Mr. W. McAdam Eccles—seek re-election. The other candidates are: Mr. John Herbert Fisher, Fellow 1893, Member 1891 (St. Thomas's, ophthalmic); Dr. Victor Bonney, Fellow 1899, Member 1893 (Middlesex, obstetrics and gynaecology); Mr. R. Pugh Rowlands, O.B.E., Fellow 1901, Member 1896 (Guy's).

Obituary.

DR. EDWIN DENING, who died on March 7th at Stow-on-the-Wold, Gloucestershire, was born at Comeytrowe, Taunton, in 1855, and qualified at University College Hospital in 1877. After an apprenticeship at Tetbury he commenced practice at Stow-on-the-Wold in 1879, and for forty-three years devoted himself unsparingly to the demands of a scattered Cotswold practice, winning the gratitude and love of a large circle of patients. He was the first local medical officer of health under the Urban District Council from 1894 until his death. He was a man of wide sympathies, taking a keen interest in all the affairs of the town, being chairman of the Charity

Board, a keen volunteer, holding a commission as lieutenant in the Stow company, and also a prominent Freemason. During the war he acted as one of the medical staff of the local V.A.D. hospital. He was a very old member of the British Medical Association, and in 1899 he was President of the Oxford Branch.

The death is announced of Dr. JAMES ERSKINE of Glasgow. He was a native of Paisley, and was educated at Glasgow University, where he graduated M.A. in 1877 and M.B., C.M. in 1882; he took the diploma of L.R.F.P.S.Glas. in 1881. He specialized in ear diseases, and had been lecturer on aural surgery at Anderson's College, Glasgow, aural surgeon to the Glasgow Central Dispensary, and assistant surgeon to the Glasgow Hospital and Dispensary for Diseases of the Ear. He took great interest in local affairs, and served several terms on the town council, from which he retired in 1920. For some years he was a member of the Glasgow Parish Council, and chairman of the District Hospitals Committee. He was a member of the Glasgow Central Division of the British Medical Association.

We regret to record the death, after a long and painful illness, of Dr. GEORGE WESTBY, of Liverpool. He was the son of the late Canon Westby, of Dublin, and was born in 1846. He received his medical education in Dublin, taking the diplomas of L.R.C.P.I. and L.R.C.S.I. in 1877; subsequently he took the M.R.C.P.I. in 1881. Dr. Westby took a prominent part in the volunteer movement, and held a commission for 25 years in what is now known as the 6th (Rifle) Battalion, the King's Liverpool Regiment, retiring with the rank of surgeon-lieutenant-colonel; he received the Volunteer Decoration for his services. For over forty years he had an extensive practice in Liverpool, and won the affection of all with whom he came in contact. He was an old member of the British Medical Association, and was also a Freemason.

THE death is announced of the Rev. WILLIAM STURDY BRAMLEY, rector of Beaworthy, Devon, in his 84th year. Before taking holy orders Dr. Bramley had become qualified as a medical practitioner, having taken the diplomas of M.R.C.S.Eng. and L.S.A., and graduating M.D. of St. Andrews. He was ordained deacon in 1872 and priest in 1875 in the diocese of Ripon. After two curacies in Yorkshire he became chaplain to Manchester Workhouse from 1880 till 1908, when he accepted the living of Beaworthy. He is survived by his widow, two sons, and two daughters.

DR. JOHN INNES of Aberdeen died on March 5th in his 53rd year after a long period of ill health. He was a native of Glenlivet, and after some years in business entered Aberdeen University, and graduated M.B., C.M. in 1896. He settled in Aberdeen and rapidly acquired a considerable practice by his devotion to his patients. He was a member of the Aberdeen Division of the British Medical Association, and had held the rank of major in the R.A.M.C.T. Dr. Innes is survived by his widow and two sons, of whom the elder was in partnership with his father.

HARRIS, GRAHAM, B.A., M.D., for thirty years professor of pathology and practice of medicine in the American University of Beirut, died in his 60th year on February 27th at Beirut, Syria. He was born at Ottawa, Canada, educated in arts at Toronto University, and graduated B.A. at 20 years of age. He took his medical degree at Michigan University, and directly afterwards was commissioned by the American Board a missionary to Turkey and served four years in the Aintab Medical College until the Turks closed the school. Thence he was called to Beirut, where he served so brilliantly for a generation, coming to the American University of Beirut in 1889. In 1892 he had leave to study in Koch's laboratory, and at other times he worked in Berlin and Vienna. He advanced evidence that culex is the carrier of the dengue germ, and was the first to isolate that microbe. He had an extensive practice, and spoke all the principal languages of the Levant. He was a teacher of great force and inspiration, a remarkable diagnostician, and a most skilful therapist. Many an officer who was sick in the American hospitals in Beirut came under his care, and all such will mourn his passing away. He was the chairman of the Beirut Executive Committee of the Lebanon Hospital for the Insane, an Anglo-American charity in the suburbs of Beirut, the only institution of the sort in Syria.

Medical News.

THE conference of representatives of voluntary hospitals in England and Wales to discuss the report of the Council of the British Medical Association on hospital policy was held at the Wigmore Hall, London, W., on March 22nd, under the chairmanship of Sir James Galloway. The Association's recommendations were generally approved by the meeting. A full report of the proceedings will appear in our next issue.

SIR THOMAS OLIVER will give an address on alcohol in relation to industrial hygiene and efficiency before the Society of Arts, John Street, Adelphi, W.C., on Wednesday, March 29th. Sir Robert Armstrong-Jones will take the chair at 8 p.m.

AT a meeting of the Illuminating Engineering Society to be held at the house of the Royal Society of Arts (John Street, Adelphi, London), at 8 p.m. on Tuesday, March 28th, there will be a joint discussion with the Royal Institute of British Architects on the lighting of public buildings: scientific methods and architectural requirements. An account of experimental work and results will be given by workers at the National Physical Laboratory.

THE Central Association for the Care of the Mentally Defective has changed its name to the "Central Association for Mental Welfare." Its offices are at 24, Buckingham Palace Road, S.W.

THE President of the French Republic has awarded the gold "Médaille de la Reconnaissance Française" to Miss Ruth Nicholson, M.B., B.S., for her distinguished services to the French soldiers at Rougemont and Villers Cotterets.

UNDER the auspices of the National Institute of Industrial Psychology a meeting will be held at the Mansion House on Monday, March 27th, at 4.30 p.m., to consider the importance, in the present industrial and commercial situation, of eliminating wasteful and misapplied effort by a more systematic application of human energy. Mr. H. J. Welch will be in the chair, and among the speakers will be Lord Haldane, Mr. W. L. Hichens, and Dr. C. S. Myers.

THE annual meeting of subscribers of the Cremation Society of England will be held at 52, New Cavendish Street, on Wednesday, March 29th, at 3 o'clock.

THE name of Dr. R. W. Starkie, who, on September 16th, 1921, was sentenced, at the Central Criminal Court, to nine months' imprisonment for administering drugs with intent to procure abortion, has been removed by the Minister of Health from the medical list of the London Insurance Committee as from March 15th, 1922. Dr. Starkie appealed against his conviction, and the Court of Criminal Appeal recently gave a considered judgement, dismissing the appeal.

AT a meeting of the Association of Economic Biologists, to be held at the Imperial College of Science, South Kensington, at 2.30, on Friday, March 31st, Dr. W. Lawrence Balls will read a paper on the advantages and defects of team work in economic biology. Dr. Franklin Kidd will also read a paper on fruit storage.

THE King of Italy has conferred the Italian silver medal "Al Merito della Sanità Pubblica" upon Major Myer Coplans, D.S.O., O.B.E., in recognition of services rendered during the late war.

THE Chadwick Public Lectures are this year being given between March and June. Already lectures have been given in London by Professor Van Loghen and Mr. H. E. Stilgoe, and another lecture will be given by the latter in the gallery of the Royal Institute of British Architects, 9, Conduit Street, W., on Thursday, March 30th, at 8 p.m., on "Water, its distribution and use." Sir Arthur Newsholme is giving a course of three lectures, on "Relative values in public health work," in the large lecture hall of Birmingham University, on March 27th, 28th, and 29th, at 7.30 p.m. On May 4th and 11th, at 5.15 p.m., Sir Lawrence Weaver will lecture on "Rural resettlement and its relation to public health," at the Royal Society of Arts, John Street, Adelphi. Mr. E. Augustus Bowles will lecture on "Superstitions of early herbalists," at the Chelsea Physic Garden, on May 25th; and Professor S. D. Adshhead will lecture on "Housing and town planning," in Belfast, on a date not yet fixed. Full particulars of the Chadwick Lectures may be obtained from the Secretary of the Trust, 13, Great George Street, S.W.1.

THE Department of Scientific and Industrial Research has published a second edition of the English translation of Gleichen's *Theory of Modern Optical Instruments*. The price of the book, which is issued by H.M. Stationery Office, is 12s. 6d., and it can be obtained through any bookseller. The appendix on range finders has been omitted from this edition, as a book on the subject is about to be issued by a firm of publishers.

WE have received the first number of the *Safety News and Chronicle*, a new bi-monthly publication dealing more particularly with the use of respiratory appliances for work in poisonous or irrespirable air, diving, etc., but also with safety devices generally. The number contains excellent popular articles by Professor Leonard Hill on workshop hygiene, and by Wing Commander Martin Flack on safety in the air. An account by Mr. Walter Clifford, Superintendent of the North Staffordshire Mine Rescue Station, gives a vivid impression of the sort of work which has been done after great colliery explosions by mine rescue teams. Another article describes the organization and work of the London Fire Brigade's "Poison Gas" teams; and the concluding article contains a fascinating account of the early development of diving bells. There are numerous illustrations, one of which is a photograph of a mule loaded with the oxygen cylinders which are being taken out with the Mount Everest Expedition. To judge from this first number, medical readers will find much to interest them in this new publication.

MR. JUSTICE MCCARDIE gave judgement in the King's Bench Division on March 9th, in an action for damages for alleged negligence against Dr. E. C. Montgomery-Smith in the treatment of a fracture of the tibia and fibula in a married woman. His Lordship, according to the report in the *Times*, said that the case turned to a very large extent on the credibility of lay evidence. He could accept neither the evidence of the husband nor of the wife. He was satisfied that Dr. Montgomery-Smith had suggested the use of the *x* rays, whereas the case against the defendant was that according to the plaintiff he expressed a definite opinion against the use of *x* rays. He could find no reason why the defendant should not suggest an *x*-ray examination, as he realized that there was a serious fracture. He was satisfied that the defendant diagnosed the case with adequate care, that the foot was properly set, and that everything was done to put it right. He found that the injury was not due to the defendant's negligence, but to what the plaintiff did since the injury. The onus was upon the plaintiff to prove negligence and she had failed. There was, therefore, judgement for the defendant with costs. The defendant's case was conducted for the London and Counties Medical Protection Society.

STRATHPEPPER has joined the British Spa Federation, which now comprises Bath, Buxton, Cheltenham, Droitwich, Harrogate, Llandrindod Wells, Leamington, Woodhall, Strathpeffer, and New Zealand.

DURING December last 1,800 fatal cases of plague occurred in Java.

Letters, Notes, and Answers.

As, owing to printing difficulties, the JOURNAL must be sent to press earlier than hitherto, it is essential that communications intended for the current issue should be received by the first post on Tuesday, and lengthy documents on Monday.

ORIGINAL ARTICLES and LETTERS forwarded for publication are understood to be offered to the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL alone unless the contrary be stated.

CORRESPONDENTS who wish notice to be taken of their communications should authenticate them with their names—of course not necessarily for publication.

AUTHORS desiring reprints of their articles published in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL are requested to communicate with the Office, 429, Strand, W.C.2, on receipt of proof.

IN order to avoid delay, it is particularly requested that ALL letters on the editorial business of the JOURNAL be addressed to the Editor at the Office of the JOURNAL.

THE postal address of the BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION and BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL is 429, Strand, London, W.C.2. The telegraphic addresses are:

1. EDITOR of the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, *Aitology*, Westrand, London; telephone, 2630, Gerrard.
2. FINANCIAL SECRETARY AND BUSINESS MANAGER (Advertisements, etc.), *Articulate*, Westrand, London; telephone, 2630, Gerrard.
3. MEDICAL SECRETARY, *Medisecra*, Westrand, London; telephone, 2630, Gerrard. The address of the Irish Office of the British Medical Association is 16, South Frederick Street, Dublin (telegrams: *Bacillus*, Dublin; telephone, 4737, Dublin), and of the Scottish Office, 6, Rutland Square, Edinburgh (telegrams: *Associate*, Edinburgh; telephone, 4361, Central).

QUERIES AND ANSWERS.

CATHETER LUBRICANTS.

DR. G. M. WILCOCKSON (Guildford) writes in reply to "X. Y. Z." (p. 461): I have a patient, aged 81, who has had to use a catheter himself for the past ten years. About six years ago it began to give him much pain. I prescribed the following ointment, which he has used ever since with great relief:

R Atropine sulph.	...	...	...	...	aa gr. ij
Cocaine hydrochlor.	...	...	...	...	ad 3 ss
Vaseline	...	...	...	...

The catheters should be kept thoroughly sterilized.