

its distribution and the feebleness of the patient's resistance. Even the most stolid and heroic person could not prevent the tendency whereby repeated attacks of pain or continuous pain produced this inevitable result. Hence the need to go back to the early symptoms which were unclouded by the process of auto-suggestion.

#### *Other Subjective Symptoms.*

While pain was the most urgent and most frequent subjective symptom for which advice was sought, there were others which had an importance not always adequately realized. To such subjective symptoms the useful but ugly term "paraesthesia" was generally applied. These abnormal sensations formed an important part in the symptomatology of many diseases of the central nervous system. Such symptoms might be called functional, but it was important not to be led, in the absence of other and more definite reasons, into confusing this diagnosis with one of hysteria. Increasing experience would render it possible to restrict more and more the number of cases in which the observer would be content with such a diagnosis. He did not need to speak of the facility with which subjective sensations, such as numbness and tingling, were ascribed, often correctly, to neuritis, whether peripheral neuritis or multiple neuritis of toxic origin. When it was remembered how lesions of the central nervous system itself could be responsible for severe pains it was all the more necessary to envisage the possibility of central origin for these other subjective symptoms. There were two diseases in which these symptoms were very important—namely, disseminated sclerosis and subacute combined degeneration of the spinal cord. He would emphasize the early occurrence of these purely subjective disturbances. There were, of course, many other conditions in which abnormal subjective symptoms formed the earliest indications of the disease, notably syphilis of the central nervous system.

## Memoranda :

### MEDICAL, SURGICAL, OBSTETRICAL.

#### SLIPPING RIB.

IN view of the interesting article by Mr. R. Davies-Colley on slipping rib (March 18th, p. 432) the following case, which I had noted as "recurrent dislocation with arthritis of costo-sternal joint," may prove of interest.

A Canadian soldier, a man of very good physique, came under my care in June, 1918. He complained that strong forward displacement of the right shoulder was frequently accompanied by pain alongside the sternum, and said that he believed the inner end of the rib slipped out of place. Physical examination demonstrated this beyond doubt; in addition to the dislocation, there were swelling and persistent tenderness, the joint in question being the third right chondro-sternal.

Resection seemed to me to be preferable to a fixation operation, particularly in view of a probable arthritis. The patient agreed, and three-quarters of an inch of the cartilage was resected under local anaesthesia. Villous fringes were found projecting into the joint. When seen nine months later the patient expressed himself quite cured; he was able to "get his full chest expansion again"—it had been prevented by the nagging pain he always experienced at the site of dislocation.

There is no statement in my notes as to preceding injury; it is difficult to be sure after this lapse of time, but my impression is that no such history was given. I personally have been subject to slipping forward of the ninth left cartilage on acute flexion of the trunk on three occasions and am positive the condition cannot be traced to a trauma in my case.

London, W.1.

C. JENNINGS-MARSHALL.

I READ Mr. Davies-Colley's article on slipping rib with interest (p. 432), for it bore out precisely my own experience of these cases, of which I have seen several. They have all been in females, and I have failed to find any convenient reference to the condition, though I am sure that I had read of it somewhere and was thus able to recognize the lesion. The patients have, two of them, been unusually thin, with

very flexible lower ribs, but not all of them were delicate women. One case interested me, because removal of the spleen had been advised. In this case the lesion had been originally produced by the patient, when in an almost squatting position, lifting a heavy box with both hands from the ground. The pain was instant and agonizing and a tumour was felt due to the hyperposition of the lower over the upper rib. For some days tenderness remained over the site of the injury. My three cases have all been left-sided. I have found that if the patient can lie quite flat on her back, take her courage in both hands, and a deep breath, the rib slips back. Abdominal massage to the muscles, and feeding up the over-slim ones, produced improvement; but the stronger patient I have not heard of again, for she left for abroad much relieved at keeping her spleen.

London, W.1.

F. JOHN POYNTON, M.D., F.R.C.P.

THE following case may be of interest in connexion with Mr. Davies-Colley's note on slipping rib:

Miss A. B., aged 30, worked in a munition factory during 1917 and 1918. It was customary there to carry shells with the weight supported by the left side. Since demobilization she had complained of pain in her left hypochondrium. The pain was constant, but varied in intensity; it was relieved by rest in bed, but never failed to reappear after exertion. In addition there was much constipation and frequent attacks of colitis.

As enteroptosis seemed marked a belt was ordered; this relieved the symptoms of ptosis, but the pain persisted. Being anxious to eliminate any bowel trouble before investigating the costal cartilages, I sent her to Dr. F. A. Roper of Exeter for his opinion and for an x-ray examination. He confirmed the enteroptosis, but could find no evidence of stricture. Moreover, he was much impressed with the definite localization of the pain to the tip of the eleventh rib. Resection of the end of this rib was done early in February, and has apparently removed the pain.

Although occurring in a floating rib, the condition seems analogous to Mr. Davies-Colley's cases.

Ilfracombe.

H. K. V. SOLTAU.

#### PRIMARY COLECTOMY FOR ACUTE INTESTINAL OBSTRUCTION IN A PATIENT AGED 70.

M. F., a lady aged 70, had been suffering from constipation, with severe colicky pains and vomiting, since September, 1921. In February, 1922, she commenced to vomit, the vomit ultimately becoming faeculent. She was removed to a nursing home, and the condition subsided, but a week later acute intestinal obstruction supervened. The caecum could be felt to be greatly enlarged, but nothing more was found on examination. The abdomen was opened: the caecum was enormously distended; it could be easily lifted out of the abdomen, but midway to the hepatic flexure the mesentery was shorter, so that a certain amount of volvulus was produced. At the splenic flexure was a marked constriction due to malignant growth, the distal end of the colon being contracted to the size of the small bowel. Resection of the growth was decided upon; 8 in. of the colon were removed, and end-to-end union established by two rows of linen thread sutures; difficulty was experienced owing to the great difference in the size of the two ends; no glands were felt in the omentum, and the abdomen was sewn up without drainage.

She passed liquid faeces immediately after the operation, and subsequently made an uninterrupted recovery, leaving the nursing home in twenty-four days after the operation. The growth had so obstructed the bowel by contraction, that it only allowed a probe to pass through.

I am indebted to Dr. Bruce, who saw the case in consultation, and to my partner, Dr. T. Murray Newton, for his skilful help.

C. L. GRANVILLE CHAPMAN, F.R.C.S. (Ire.),  
Surgeon, Grimsby and District Hospital.

IN New York 145,000 children have received preventive treatment against diphtheria. Coincident with this effort to confer immunity it has been shown that there is an actual decrease in the number of cases and of deaths in diphtheria. The latter six months of 1921, as compared with the same period in 1920, show a reduction of the number of cases of diphtheria by 1,852, and of the number of deaths by 155.

## Obituary.

JOHN TURNER, M.B., C.M.

THE death is announced of Dr. John Turner, at the age of 62. He was born at Portsmouth and educated at Aberdeen University, where he graduated M.B., C.M. in 1883. He was connected with the Brentwood Mental Hospital for over 36 years, and was appointed medical superintendent of the institution in 1910. He took great interest in pathological research work, and contributed to our columns articles on vertebral puncture in general paralysis of the insane in 1896, on the pathology of epilepsy in 1906, and on changes in the conception and treatment of insanity in 1912, the latter being his presidential address to the annual meeting of the then East Anglian Branch of the British Medical Association. He also contributed papers to the *Journal of Mental Science*, including one on appearances indicating phagocytosis in brains of the insane, published in 1897, for which he had been awarded the bronze medal of the Medico-Psychological Association. On his retirement from Brentwood he went to reside at Rochford, and took a keen interest in the history and antiquities of the neighbourhood, having as recently as February 24th delivered an historical address on Essex windmills. He was a brother of the late Sir George Turner, who was well known in connexion with leprosy research. He is survived by his widow.

DR. THOMAS HANSON SMITH of Reddish, Stockport, died on March 14th, aged 64. He was educated at Leeds and Manchester, took the diplomas of L.R.C.P. and S.Edin. in 1881 and D.P.H.Camb. 1897, and graduated M.D.Durh. in 1899. After practising for a short time in Bradford and Manchester he removed to Stockport, where he practised for forty years. Before Reddish became incorporated with Stockport he was M.O.H. to the Reddish Urban District Council. He was a Fellow of the Society of Medical Officers of Health and a member of the Stockport, Macclesfield, and East Cheshire Division of the British Medical Association. He was president of the Reddish Conservative Club from 1915 to 1921. Dr. Smith had been in failing health for the last twelve months, and is survived by his widow and two daughters.

WE regret to record the death of Dr. CHARLES PINKERTON of Southport, which took place suddenly, at Hastings, in his 65th year. Dr. Pinkerton was a native of Glasgow, and was educated at Glasgow University, graduating M.B., C.M. in 1879, and M.D. in 1882. Some forty years ago he commenced general practice in Southport, and was formerly surgeon (subsequently consulting surgeon) to the Southport Eye, Ear, and Throat Hospital. He was a former president and one of the founders of the Southport Medical Society. Dr. Pinkerton did not take any prominent part in public life; he will be remembered in Southport by his devotion to his patients and his optimistic point of view. He was an old member of the British Medical Association, and was the author of two contributions to our columns on surgical subjects.

## Universities and Colleges.

### UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE.

THE following candidates have been approved at the examinations indicated:

DIPLOMA IN MEDICAL RADIOLOGY AND ELECTROLOGY.—*Part I (Physics and Electrotechnics)*: E. G. Barker, M. Bienenstock, P. M. Dessai, J. A. Geraghty, B. Grellier, S. M. Hepworth, J. P. Thierens, J. A. Thomson, O. R. Unger. *Part II (Radiology and Electrology)*: M. Bienenstock, F. T. Burkill, J. D. Kidd, J. S. Levack, Margaret C. Murphy, W. K. Parbury, J. L. Sen, J. S. Webster.

### UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.

A MEETING of the Senate was held on March 22nd.

Mr. C. A. Fannett, M.D., B.S., B.Sc.Lond., F.R.C.S., was appointed to the University Chair of Surgery, tenable at St. Mary's Hospital Medical School. He has been Assistant Director of the Surgical Unit at St. Mary's Hospital since 1920.

Mr. C. A. Lovatt Evans, D.Sc.Lond., L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S., was appointed to the University Chair of Physiology, tenable at St. Bartholomew's Hospital Medical College. He has been Professor of Experimental Physiology and Experimental Pharmacology in the University of Leeds since 1917.

The degree of D.Sc. in physiology was conferred on Miss E. E. Hewer, an internal student of Bedford College, for a thesis entitled: "Some functions of the suprarenal glands."

### UNIVERSITY OF DURHAM.

At the Convocation held on March 25th the following degrees were conferred:

M.D. (*For Practitioners of Fifteen Years' Standing*).—D. J. Lewis, J. L. Meynell.  
M.B., B.S.—A. Angus, F. J. Benjamin, W. N. Crowe, C. C. Carr, J. F. Colman, R. A. McK. Dickson, R. L. Dagger, E. R. Dingle, Barbara M. Grinling, G. A. M. Hall, L. Hunter, J. Jackson, R. W. Locke, T. S. Storey, L. W. Studdy, S. J. C. Smith, Gladys Stableforth, W. P. T. Watts, Olive C. Wilson, Philomena R. Whitaker.

### UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH.

THE Senatus Academicus of the University of Edinburgh have resolved to offer the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws to the following: Professor Sir Isaac Bayley Balfour, K.B.E., M.D., Professor of Botany, Regius Keeper of the Royal Botanic Garden, and King's Botanist for Scotland; Professor Emeritus Sir Halliday Croom, consulting gynaecologist, Edinburgh Royal Infirmary, consulting physician, Edinburgh Royal Maternity Hospital; Professor Charles James Martin, C.M.G., M.B., D.Sc., F.R.S., Director of the Lister Institute of Preventive Medicine, Professor of Experimental Pathology in the University of London; Professor Sir Charles Scott Sherrington, C.B.E., M.D., LL.D., Professor of Physiology in the University of Oxford; John Thomson, M.D., consulting physician to the Royal Edinburgh Hospital for Sick Children, formerly University Lecturer on the Diseases of Children.

### QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY, BELFAST.

At the graduation ceremony on March 22nd the following degrees and diplomas were conferred:

M.D.—J. C. Robb, P. S. Walker.  
M.Ch.—J. C. Robb, O. Wilson.  
M.A.O.—D. M. Clements.  
M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O.—\* R. I. Poston, † A. H. M'C. Eaton, W. S. Gibson, W. Lascelles, Mary C. Lindsay, I. H. M'Caw, Florence M. Anderson, W. A. Brown, J. C. Carson, Martha L. Dunlop, Elizabeth Dysart, Margaret H. Elliott, W. M. Keys, G. L. Love, J. S. Lyle, W. M'Cartan, A. E. M'Corkell, A. L. M'Curry, J. S. M'Glade, F. S. Mayne, H. Meharg, Elizabeth Morrison, J. L. Murray, R. W. Mussen, Agnes M. Puree, R. B. Quinn, J. C. Ramsay, R. J. Rosborough, T. Savage, C. A. Thompson, C. A. Wallace.  
D.P.H.—Eileen O Bartley, C. R. Christian, T. H. Crozier, J. H. Dunn, Eileen M. Hickey, J. S. J. Lee, Mary M. Merrick.

\* First class honours. † Second class honours.

## Medical News.

THE King has approved the appointment of Dr. John S. Griffiths, Redland Park House, Bristol, to be a deputy-lieutenant for Gloucestershire.

A MEETING of the Cambridge Medical Society (members of the Cambridge and Huntingdon Branch of the British Medical Association are entitled to attend) will be held at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, on Friday, April 7th, at 2.30 p.m., when cases, specimens, etc., will be shown and discussed.

AT the meeting of the Royal Microscopical Society, 20, Hanover Square, W., on April 19th, at 8 p.m., Dr. R. S. Ludford will read a paper on the morphology and physiology of the nucleolus.

AT a meeting of the Optical Society at the Imperial College of Science, South Kensington, at 7.30 p.m., on Thursday, April 6th, a paper on diffraction halos in normal and glaucomatous eyes will be read by Mr. H. H. Emsley, B.Sc., and Mr. E. F. Fincham. At the June meeting of the society there will be a discussion on spectacle construction. Further information can be obtained from the joint honorary secretary of the society, Glass Research Association, 50, Bedford Square, W.C.1.

A DISCUSSION on economy in sanitary appliances and methods of drainage will be opened by Sir Henry Tanner, C.B., F.R.I.B.A., at a meeting of the Royal Sanitary Institute, 90, Buckingham Palace Road, S.W.1, on Tuesday, April 11th, at 5.30 p.m.

THE Medico-Legal Society has arranged to establish a library at the house of the Medical Society of London, 11, Chandos Street, W.1. Gifts are invited. The collection will be open to members at convenient hours.

A SUMMER session of the South-West London Post-Graduate Association will begin in May. Particulars can be obtained from the honorary secretary, Dr. H. B. A. Pearson, 29, Bolingbroke Grove, S.W.11.

THE Food Education Society has arranged a discussion at the Caxton Hall, Westminster, on Friday, April 7th, on feeding in institutions with special reference to school diet. It will be introduced by Miss A. D. Muncester, formerly a member of the kitchen inspectorial staff of military hospitals. Sir William Collins will take the chair at 5.30 p.m.

SIR THOMAS LEWIS will deliver the Noble Wiley Jones lectures under the auspices of the medical school of the University of Oregon, U.S.A., between May 15th and 19th; the lectures will deal with auricular fibrillation, quinidine and digitalis.

A FAREWELL dinner is to be given to Dr. James Niven, late medical officer of health of Manchester, by the members of the medical profession in Manchester. It has been decided that the guests may include members of the medical profession and persons connected with the Manchester Corporation, University, and Insurance Committee. The dinner will be held on Tuesday, April 11th, at the Queen's Hotel, Manchester, at 8 p.m., and tickets (15s. each) may be obtained from Dr. R. G. McGowan, Union Bank Buildings, Piccadilly, Manchester.

AT the instance of the International Labour Office a meeting was held recently in Geneva to consider various problems relating to men disabled in the war or in industry. The meeting was attended by representatives of organizations of ex-service men and official departments concerned with disablement in France, Great Britain, Italy, Poland, Germany, and Austria, and by representatives of the Health Section of the League of Nations and of the League of Red Cross Societies. The meeting expressed an opinion in favour of the establishment of an international institution to collect information and to organize an international exhibition of artificial limbs and other orthopaedic instruments. The meeting was of opinion that legislation concerning industrial accidents should be amended so as to allow men disabled in industry to have the benefit of the experience gained during the war, and to this end advised co-operation between departments dealing with the supply of artificial limbs and orthopaedic instruments to disabled ex-service men on the one hand and social insurance organizations on the other. It considered that the departments established for the benefit of ex-service men should to some extent be maintained permanently. It is hoped that the exhibition, when once the materials have been gathered at Geneva, will visit other countries.

THE Board of Control, with the approval of the Minister of Health, has appointed a committee to consider the clinical and other records kept in county and borough mental hospitals, and to report in what ways the system of keeping them can be improved and what alterations in the Commissioners' rules in regard to them are desirable. The members are Dr. A. Rotherham, M.B. (Chairman), Commissioner of the Board of Control; Dr. H. A. Kidd, C.B.E., medical superintendent, West Sussex County Mental Hospital, Chichester, and Dr. S. J. Gilfillan, O.B.E., medical superintendent, London County Mental Hospital, Colney Hatch. The Board has also appointed a committee "to consider the dietaries in county and borough mental hospitals, and to report what changes, if any, are desirable, and whether a minimum dietary scale should be fixed." The members are: Dr. R. W. Branthwaite, C.B., M.D. (Chairman), Commissioner of the Board of Control; Dr. M. Greenwood, medical officer (medical statistics), Ministry of Health; Dr. R. Worth, O.B.E., M.B., medical superintendent, Springfield Mental Hospital, Tooting; and Dr. L. O. Fuller, medical superintendent, Three Counties Mental Hospital, Arlesey, Beds. The following members have been added to the committee which is to inquire into the nursing service of mental hospitals: Mr. E. Sanger, ex-Chairman of the London Asylums Committee; Mrs. Pinsent, Commissioner of the Board of Control; Miss M. M. Thorburn, R.R.C., matron at Horton Mental Hospital.

DR. F. J. PEARSON of Owston Ferry, Doncaster, has been presented with a cheque for £56 by friends and well-wishers. The presentation was made by the Bishop of Grantham, and at the same time Mrs. Pearson was presented with a gold brooch set with pearls.

THE report of the Royal Portsmouth Hospital for 1921 contains the following: "The Committee record with deep regret the death of Dr. J. Ward Cousins, J.P., who was on the active staff of the hospital for forty-eight years, retiring in 1908, when he was elected a consulting surgeon and also a vice-president. He worked unceasingly for the interests and development of the hospital. A surgeon of exceptional ability, his professional services were of the highest order, whilst his keen judgement and ardent zeal were of the greatest value in the movement which led to the building of new wards and the reconstruction of the old building. His work in connexion with the hospital will stand as a living memorial of his name."

THE number of deaths from influenza continued to decline in the week ending March 25th; in the 105 great towns there were 104 deaths from the disease, as against 146 in the preceding week; in London the number was 17, as against 21 in the week ending March 18th.

DR. EDWIN RAYNER, at one time treasurer of the British Medical Association, left estate of the value of £42,241.

THE Ligue d'Hygiène Mentale, founded in Paris to promote the early and preventive treatment of mental disorders, has succeeded in securing the establishment of several dispensaries in the Department of the Seine.

THE editor of *Industrial Welfare* informs us that at the present time more than 200 firms are publishing welfare magazines. The firms include engineers, iron and steel manufacturers, collieries, ship builders, millers, food stuff manufacturers, banks, textile firms, railways, and distributing firms. A conference of editors of such magazines has been arranged by the Industrial Welfare Society and will be held at its offices, 51, Palace Street, Westminster, on April 28th.

THE "Holy Rollers" are a sect new to us; the members believe that diphtheria can be cured by faith. An epidemic of the disease at Prentiss, Maine, U.S.A., is attributed to the belief of the parents of a sick child in this doctrine. The child died, and within a few days there were ten cases of diphtheria in the immediate vicinity.

AT the examination held recently for the diploma of membership of the Society of Radiographers there were forty-five candidates, of whom seventeen passed in both sections. The next examination is to be held in July. Two prizes of ten guineas and one of five guineas were awarded for theses by members of the society on radiographic subjects.

PROFESSOR EHLERS of Copenhagen has received the honorary degree of doctor from the University of Paris.

THE German Congress of Surgery will be held at Berlin, under the presidency of Professor Hildebrand, from April 19th to April 22nd, when the following subjects will be discussed: The experimental principles of wound infection, introduced by Neufeld of Berlin; general surgical infection, introduced by Lesser of Freiburg; operative transplantation of muscles, introduced by Wullstein of Essen; and the importance of histological examination of the blood, introduced by Stahl of Berlin. The thirty-fourth meeting of the German Society of Internal Medicine will be held at Wiesbaden from April 24th to April 27th, under the presidency of Professor L. Brauer. The chief subjects for discussion will be jaundice, introduced by Professor Eppinger of Vienna, and the hypophysis, introduced by Professor Biedl of Prague.

## 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, *Aitiology, 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.

DR. DIXON (Hawick, N.B.) would be glad to hear from any professional brother willing to exchange bookplates.

DR. W. J. MIDELTON (112, Charminster Road, Bournemouth) asks for references to papers describing the condition of the brain, spinal cord, nerves, muscles, blood vessels, and lymphatics, in chronic arthritis.

### INCOME TAX.

"J. S. B." is considering the purchase of a practice, and inquires as to the basis of assessment in the early years after the change.

\*\*\* For his first year he is liable to be assessed to tax on the basis of his predecessor's past profits for three years, for the second year on the basis of his predecessor's last two years and