

## Memoranda:

### MEDICAL, SURGICAL, OBSTETRICAL.

#### ACUTE AMOEBIC DYSENTERY IN A MAN WHO HAD NEVER BEEN OUT OF ENGLAND.

ALTHOUGH cysts of *Entamoeba histolytica* have been found in a small percentage of cases in persons who have never been out of England, yet acute amoebic dysentery is very rarely seen. Dobell says: "I do not believe that more than 10 per cent. of persons who become infected with *Entamoeba histolytica* ever suffer to any appreciable extent from their infection; and I think it very probable that even this is much too high an estimate." A few cases of acute amoebic dysentery occurring in persons who have never left England have, however, been recorded. Marshall in 1912 and Worster-Drought in 1916 each described a case.

A. C., transport driver R.A.F., aged 19, lived in a village in Dorset. He joined the R.A.F. eighteen months ago, and was stationed at Uxbridge, then at Manstone (Margate), and finally at Lee-on-Solent.

Neither he nor any of his family has had dysentery. He was well till February, 1922, when diarrhoea commenced. He did not report sick. Two days after returning to his home on holiday (August 6th) he first noticed blood and mucus in the stools, and these became more frequent and were attended with considerable pain. He was admitted into the Royal Victoria Hospital here on November 7th, 1922. As he did not respond to any treatment, Dr. Turton, the house-surgeon, sent me a freshly passed stool for examination on January 12th, 1923. This was of the consistency of pea-soup, of a deep brown colour, and almost homogeneous. In it I found numerous active amoebae, many of which contained several red blood corpuscles.

Films were made subsequently from small blood-stained masses, and were fixed whilst wet with corrosive sublimate and alcohol, with and without the addition of acetic acid. They were stained with iron haematoxylin, Mann's methyl blue, and eosin, and with Giemsa's stain. Many of the amoebae contained red blood cells, and the nucleus had a delicate achromatic membrane lined with chromatin granules, and had a small spherical karyosome in the centre.

Having made quite certain of the nature of the disease, Martindale's capsules of emetine bismuth iodide (gr. iii), one a day, were given for twelve days. All the patient's symptoms, which had been in existence for eleven months, ceased, the stools became solid, and he gradually regained his strength.

Numerous examinations were subsequently made, but no cysts of amoebae were found.

I can only conjecture that his infection was from *Entamoeba histolytica* cysts of some carrier in the R.A.F.

ALFRED C. COLES, M.D., F.R.S.Edin.

Bournemouth.

#### AIR-BALL IN TRACHEA.

THE following account of a case of death from asphyxia may be of interest.

A. S., aged 6 years, was brought to the Metropolitan Hospital dead on the evening of March 5th, 1923. There was a history of the child having swallowed a toy balloon some few minutes previously. The lips, face, and finger-tips were intensely cyanosed.

The necropsy revealed that the balloon was lying in the trachea, at its bifurcation, and that the mouth-piece of the balloon was projecting into the right bronchus. The position of the balloon was such that any attempt by the victim to expel the balloon would have resulted in air from the right bronchus passing into the balloon and inflating it.

JAMES I. LYONS, L.M.S.S.A.,  
Casualty Officer, Metropolitan Hospital.

#### COLLOID ARGENTUM IN RUPTURED PERINEUM.

It often happens in midwifery practice that, in spite of every care and attention at birth, the torn perineum refuses to heal after being sutured. For this reason I desire to bring to notice my experience with colloidal argentum.

Recently I had a bad forceps case with a rigid perineum; early rupture of the membranes took place; the perineum was torn from the fourchette to the sphincter ani (but not involving it); there was also a lateral tear into the left labium, which bridged across the head in its descent and required cutting before the head was born.

Several sutures (silkworm gut) were used, but all had to be taken out on the third day as they had become sodden. I told the nurse

on the following day to paint the raw surfaces with equal parts of "Oscol", argenticum and distilled water night and morning, and I then put in three catgut sutures. A fortnight after the date of labour the surfaces had come together and the patient was able to get about.

It is more than five years since I first used a similar preparation in a case accompanied by gonorrhoeal vaginitis and obtained satisfactory results. Since then I have used it in cases where stitches have failed owing to septic changes, or had become absorbed before the perineum was healed; in some cases I inserted fresh catgut sutures as late as the fifth or seventh day after labour. In every case I have had complete satisfaction. Instead of having a glazed surface when the torn perineum has failed to unite after primary suture, by simply applying the colloidal argentum it has produced raw bleeding surfaces, which have knit together very quickly.

It may be argued that the torn surfaces would probably have healed without any applications, simply because they were kept clean; but I do not think that catgut sutures inserted, for the second time, a week after (as has happened in a case of mine) would have done their work so well.

D. MONTAGUE B. SNELL, M.R.C.S., M.R.C.P.

Nottingham.

#### BRONCHOPNEUMONIA IN A CENTENARIAN.

A CENTENARIAN is rather a *rara avis*, so that the following notes on a lady of 103, who recovered from a moderately severe attack of bronchopneumonia, may be of interest.

Mrs. C. had been bed-ridden for some years as a result of an injury eight years ago, but had retained her memory and mental alertness; she had enjoyed good health until March 1st, 1923, when she contracted a chill.

I was called to see her on March 7th; she was flushed and restless, and suffering from a harsh, dry cough with short, rapid respirations. The temperature was 103°, the pulse 140, and the respirations 44. There were sordes on the tongue and lips. Examination (which was superficial, owing to her condition) revealed harsh rhonchi all over both lungs, with an area of diminished resonance, crepitations, and some bronchial breathing in the left base in the axillary line.

For six days her condition was critical, then defervescence gradually set in, and by the end of a fortnight convalescence was fairly established.

On April 5th, however, senile gangrene began in the right foot and four days later the patient died.

F. ARNOT BEARN, D.S.O., M.C., M.D.

Strathpeffer, Ross-shire.

#### SYPHILIS INSORTIUM IN SCHOOL CHILDREN.

THE following three cases of accidental acquired syphilis, which were recently seen at Cardiff School Clinic, are recorded as pointing to the prevalence of this condition in children and the possibility of the disease being overlooked:

A boy, aged 13, was brought by his sister who said he had ringworm. On further questioning she stated that he had sores between his legs and that there had been a sore there some three months previously for which ointment had been used. On examination he was found to have very marked syphilitic alopecia, anal condylomata, and general adenitis. The Wassermann reaction was positive and well marked.

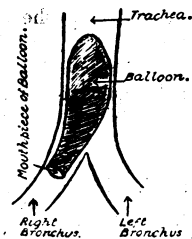
A boy, aged 13, was reported as suffering from impetigo and ringworm and had been treated as such for some weeks. There was a somewhat indefinite history of a sore on the tongue four months previously. At the time of examination alopecia was very marked, and there was a serpiginous scaly rash on the scalp, trunk, and limbs, impetigo in places, especially on the scalp, and general adenitis. The Wassermann reaction was positive and well marked.

A boy, aged 12, according to his mother, had had chicken-pox (? pustular syphilide) a week or ten days earlier, and was now suffering from ringworm and sores on his body. On examination he showed a copper-coloured squamous syphilide resembling psoriasis, impetiginous areas on scalp, alopecia, general adenitis, and ulceration of the mouth and left tonsil. The Wassermann reaction was positive and well marked. The mother remembered the boy having a sore in his mouth and swollen glands in the neck some months ago.

All the cases cleared up rapidly after a course of novarsenobenzol injections and grey powder at the venereal disease clinic.

The source of infection was not definitely traced in any of these cases, although the home condition of one of the boys was very unsatisfactory. The superficial resemblance which the cases bore to ringworm, impetigo, and psoriasis diverted attention from the possibility of secondary syphilis, and it was only after a more complete examination that the true nature of the disease was established.

H. SHEASBY,  
Assistant, Cardiff V.D. Clinics.



Council is a fair statement of the facts governing its doings, and that the Representative Body will judge of its deeds whether they be good or evil.—I am, etc.,

London, W., May 3rd.

N. BISHOP HARMAN.

\*\* This correspondence cannot profitably be continued.

#### NOTIFICATION OF CONVICTIONS OF MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS TO THE GENERAL MEDICAL COUNCIL.

SIR,—Under this heading in the Report of Council (SUPPLEMENT to the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, April 28th, p. 141) there appears such an absolute travesty of my letter of July 1st, 1922, on this subject, that I ask, in fairness to myself, to be allowed to restate my case.

I am of opinion that convictions for trivial offences are not under the jurisdiction of Section 29 of the Medical Act of 1858. My legal adviser thinks with me. So, apparently, does the Registrar of the General Medical Council. I asked him if cases of breach of promise and bankruptcy were reported to the General Medical Council. This is his answer:

April 7th, 1922.  
DEAR SIR,—In reply to your letter of the 6th inst., I have to say that Section 29 of the Medical Act of 1858 directs the Council to deal with two classes of offences—namely, convictions for felony or misdemeanour, or infamous conduct in a professional respect. Cases such as you mention would not as a rule come within either of these categories.—Yours faithfully,

(Signed) NORMAN C. KING.

I am left wondering by what process of legal reasoning failure to renew my dog licence (with conviction therefor) can be brought "within either of these categories." This despite the fact that Dr. Macdonald's mind seems to be satisfied on the point. (See SUPPLEMENT, May 5th, p. 169.)

"As a means of dealing adequately with real offenders" I suggested that real offences should be reported to the General Medical Council. Convictions for indictable offences by (1) prison governors in cases of commitment to prison, (2) metropolitan police where fine is imposed, and (3) chief constables in the country.

I suggested a different procedure in the matter of convictions in courts of summary jurisdiction before magistrates without jury. We have to convict in many instances where there is a small or technical offence. So I suggested that magistrates (who hear the whole evidence) should do the "sorting" for the General Medical Council. Real offenders would be reported to the Council by magistrates through their clerk. A system which necessitates that a doctor's conviction for having his chimney fired by his cook should be reported by the police and be "duly recorded" in London is an indignity to which no other profession is subjected, is a futility, entails a waste of stationery and official time, and is a trespass upon a medical man's civil liberty. "Hardship" is too dignified a term to be used in connexion with a procedure which is intrinsically paltry. I claim that these are not theoretical but plain and practical objections. And in the SUPPLEMENT of May 5th quoted above I am pleased to find an ally on the Council in Sir Jenner Verrall. He seems to deprecate the reporting of "convictions of practitioners even for the most trivial and technical offences," but fathers the blame upon the Home Office. I have listened, during the last nine years, to many cases of disputed paternity and I was careful to obtain exact evidence. The General Medical Council is the admitted author of the procedure.—I am, etc.,

Stockport, May 6th.

J. M. BRENNAN.

#### THE COOLIDGE X-RAY TUBE.

SIR,—The remarks of Dr. W. M. Robson on the subject of Coolidge x-ray tubes in your issue of April 21st (p. 699) are of great interest to us as distributors of the tubes in this country.

We feel that his unfortunate experience must be somewhat isolated as many thousands of Coolidge x-ray tubes are in daily use, the majority of which, to judge by the very small number of complaints we receive, are in the hands of satisfied users. The manufacture of the Coolidge tube is

admittedly a difficult process demanding the most meticulous care and supervision, and it is only by exercising systematic control and testing at every stage in the manufacture that a tube is obtained as nearly perfect as it is humanly possible to make it.

Dr. Robson pays what is, to our mind, a wonderful tribute to the Coolidge tube when he states that he has known Coolidge tubes which will run "for one and a half to two hours or longer at a parallel spark-gap of 10 in. and with a current of 10 milliampères passing through the tube, without causing any trouble or anxiety." No Coolidge tube has yet been placed on the market which has been designed to work under conditions as severe as these, and the fact that he has found tubes which could be overrun to this extent without immediate damage is very gratifying evidence of the large factor of safety which we are glad to feel is commonly associated with the Coolidge tube.—I am, etc.,

GEOFFREY PEARCE,  
Managing Director, Watson and Sons  
(Electro-Medical), Limited.

London, W.C., April 27th.

#### "QUAIN'S ANATOMY."

SIR,—I have had such a curious experience in connexion with the purchase of a copy of *Quain's Anatomy* that I think it would be well to communicate it to the readers of the JOURNAL. It is about three years since a lady, who wished to present a friend of hers with a good work on anatomy, asked me to recommend some particularly good work. I said that I was brought up on *Gray's Anatomy* myself, but that *Quain's* was generally considered the foremost work on anatomy in the English language. So she ordered a *Quain* from the bookman here in Clifton. It was duly delivered and paid for. Some considerable time afterwards she learnt that the edition was not complete. She went to the book-seller—he said he was sorry, but did not know it was incomplete. I then stated the circumstances to the publishers, and they were unable to give me any information as to when the missing volume of the book would be ready, disclaiming all responsibility for the delay, which was apparently due to the author of the missing volume not having the material ready for publication and issue along with the other volumes. Then I wrote to the principal editor, and he expressed regret that he didn't know when the new volume would be ready, but that "doubtless when it did appear I would be able to get a copy." Of course the recipient of the gift has had to get along by using another work treating of the blood vessels. But to me it seems a most extraordinary business transaction, and has certainly proved to be a very unsatisfactory one.—I am, etc.,

J. SMYTH, M.D.,  
Colonel I.M.S. (ret.).

Clifton, Bristol, April 17th.

## Universities and Colleges.

### UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD.

*Degree Days.*—Degree days in the present term are Saturday, May 26th, Thursday, June 21st, Thursday, June 28th, Saturday, July 7th.

*Rolleston Memorial Prize.*—The next award of the Rolleston Memorial Prize will be made in Trinity Term, 1924. The prize is now of the value of about £100, and is awarded for original research in any subject in animal and vegetable morphology; physiology and pathology; and anthropology. Candidates must forward their Memoirs to the Registrar of the University of Oxford before March 31st, 1924. The memoirs may be printed, type-written, or in manuscript; should be inscribed "Rolleston Memorial Essay," and should bear the name and address of the author. No candidate will be eligible (1) who has not either passed the examinations for the B.A. degree or the B.M. degree at Oxford, or for the B.A. degree or the M.B. degree at Cambridge, or been admitted as a candidate for the degree of B.Sc. at Oxford, or as an advanced student for the degree of B.A. at Cambridge; (2) who has exceeded a period of six years from attaining one or other of these qualifications, or from his attaining the first of such qualifications, if he attained more than one; (3) who has exceeded ten years from his matriculation. (Reference *Oxford University Gazette*, April 26th, 1923.)

At a congregation held on May 3rd the following degrees were conferred:

D.M.—E. H. Chilver (in absence).  
B.M.—B. W. Williams.

## UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE.

*Course in Psychological Medicine.*

A SHORT course for the diploma in Psychological Medicine has been planned to be held in Cambridge from July 10th to August 17th. The subjects covered will be the physiology and anatomy of the nervous system, psychology, psychopathology, mental deficiency and practical psychiatry. The fee for the full course will be twelve guineas, but attendance at separate lectures can be arranged. Applications to attend the course should be sent to the Secretary, D.P.M. Committee, Psychological Laboratory, Cambridge, before June 7th. If a sufficient number do not apply the course will not be held.

At a congregation held on May 5th the following degrees were conferred:

M.D.—T. J. H. Hoskin.  
M.B.—A. G. F. McArthur, H. R. Bickerton.  
M.B., B.Ch.—C. B. S. Fuller.

## UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.

## PRESENTATION DAY.

*Capping Ceremony.*

THE ceremony of presenting new graduates for degrees was held on May 3rd in the Albert Hall, which was well filled. Before the presentation the Principal Officer, Sir Cooper Perry, read his report on the work of the University during the year 1922-23. The total number of graduates admitted was 8,498, as compared with 3,852 in the last year before the war, and 7,092 in 1921 and 1922. Of those admitted last year 6,746 came in through the ordinary matriculation examination, for which, it would appear, there were nearly 20,000 candidates. The number of degrees and diplomas granted was 2,422, as compared with 1,301 nine years ago, and 2,093 last year. Reference was made to the Rockefeller gifts to University College and University College Hospital Medical School, and to the approaching visit of the King and Queen to lay the foundation stones of the obstetric hospital and nurses' home, and to open the new building for anatomy, embryology and histology. Reference was also made to the other gift of the Rockefeller Trustees, which made possible the erection of buildings for a school of hygiene.

After the capping by the Vice-Chancellor, who, owing to the large number of new graduates, was assisted by two other members of the Senate, the Vice-Chancellor read his "charge," which he described as a word of counsel from an older graduate to his younger comrades. A university degree, he said, was at once an end and a beginning; the end of three or four years of study and intellectual discipline, and the beginning of a larger discipline through contact with a larger world.

*Service at Westminster Abbey.*

The annual service for members of the University held at Westminster Abbey was attended by a large number of graduates of both sexes wearing academic robes. The Dean of Westminster read the lessons, and the Dean of St. Paul's preached the sermon, from the words "There is nothing new under the sun," and "I will make all things new." In the course of his sermon he said that a well ordered state must have regard for proportion between social service and the remuneration for such service, with perhaps a reasonable limit to the extent to which any man might appropriate to himself the results of the labours of others. It would be necessary to get rid of the conception of "a gentleman" as a man who did no work and had plenty of money to throw away. If the country was to recover we must all do more work than we fancied we were paid for doing.

*Graduation Dinner.*

A graduation dinner was held in the evening at Grocers' Hall, when the Vice-Chancellor was in the chair. The toast of the University of London and the new graduates was proposed by Sir Robert Blair, Education Officer to the London County Council. The University, he said, had been a pioneer in research and the extension of knowledge and the first to open its doors to women. Its fees, however, were higher than those of Scottish, Irish and Welsh Universities. If the cost of university education in England was kept too high it would be impossible for the poor man, the small tradesman, and particularly the artisan, to send his children to the universities. In the London area there was a great mass of unorganized knowledge ready to be organized and classified, and if there was still closer co-operation with the local education authorities the destiny of the University would reach a far higher point than anybody now could imagine.

The Vice-Chancellor, in reply, referred to the suggested division of the University into two, or, as some logically minded critics had suggested, into twelve or more universities, and said that it was the opinion of the University itself, as it had been of successive Royal Commissions, that there should be one University only in London. He mentioned the great assistance the City of London had given to the establishment of degrees in commerce as a good omen, encouraging the belief that the City would associate itself more closely with the work of the University. London had always been a poor man's University, the fees of the different colleges varied, but they represented only a small proportion of the cost of the education provided. The County Council and some of the City Companies offered scholarships, but there was room for more not only to enable poor students to enter the University but also to enable worthy students to remain after graduation for post-graduate and research work. Passing to the discussions which have occurred about the new site for the University, Mr. Waring

said that there was only one site within the realm of practical politics, a site of about eleven acres in Bloomsbury offered by the Government subject to certain conditions on both sides. The terms of the removal of King's College from its valuable site in the Strand would be a matter of negotiation between the Government, the Council of King's College, and the Senate of the University. Both the University and King's College would retain their present sites until the new buildings were ready for occupation free from debt; probably about six acres would be allotted for the University buildings and about four for the new building of King's College; plans for both had been prepared and were under consideration. In addition to the two great Colleges, University and King's, there were incorporated in the University 34 schools or colleges, including the medical schools. The number of students in all the institutions was estimated at about 20,000, of whom about 8,880 were sitting for degrees in the University. The teachers numbered over 1,000. Although the great bulk of the university students were preparing for the first degree London was gradually being recognized as pre-eminently the centre for post-graduate research, and for higher studies. The establishment soon after the war of the degree of Ph.D. in order to encourage post-graduate work and meet the needs of students coming from overseas, had fully justified itself; over 400 students had registered themselves for the degree. Sir William Collins, in proposing the toast of the guests, said that the University of London was not merely imperial but international. It had recognized students, the majority of them he believed Americans, from foreign universities, some of whom had received its highest degrees. In conclusion he expressed the pleasure with which the graduates welcomed the French Ambassador and representatives of the French universities. The toast was acknowledged by Viscount Burnham.

The Vice-Chancellor said that he had received a message of good wishes from the Chancellor, who was unable to be present owing to the state of his health.

## ELECTIONS TO THE SENATE.

Dr. R. A. Young has been elected a member of the Senate by Convocation in the Faculty of Medicine and Sir Sydney Russell-Wells, M.D., M.P., is one of those elected in the Faculty of Science. Lord Dawson of Penn and Dr. R. L. Eason, C.B., represent the Faculty of Medicine, and Sir William Collins, M.D., the London County Council. Mr. G. Leslie Eastes desires to thank those members of Convocation who recorded their votes for him and adds that only 30 per cent. of the electorate voted.

## ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.

At a meeting of the Council, on April 12th, diplomas of membership were granted to the following:—

B. Bourke, \*Emmie D. Fenwick, \*Marjorie A. Godfrey, \*N. R. Mucadam.

\*Under the Medical Act, 1875.

## ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF EDINBURGH.

At a meeting of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh on May 1st, when Sir Robert Philip, President, was in the chair, Dr. Henry George Masson was elected to the Fellowship of the College; and Drs. James Davie Gilruth and William Arnott Dickson were admitted to membership. The College re-elected Dr. William Russell as its representative in the General Medical Council for a further period of five years. The Freeland Barbour Fellowship for original research was awarded to Dr. James Walker Dawson. The gift by Lord Polwarth of an autograph letter by Edward Jenner dated 14th September, 1799, was received.

## ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF IRELAND.

J. V. DHURANDHAR, M.B., B.S.(Bombay), having passed the requisite examination, has been admitted to the Licence in Midwifery.

## The Services.

## DEATHS IN THE SERVICES.

LIEUT.-COLONEL ARTHUR WILLIAM DAWSON, Bengal Medical Service (retired), died at Grange Park, North London, on March 7th, aged 64. He was the son of Dr. Thomas Dawson of Liverpool, born on February 11th, 1859, and was educated at Liverpool and at King's College, London. He graduated M.B. at Durham University in 1884 and M.D. in 1892, also taking the M.R.C.S. and L.R.C.P.Lond. in 1886. He entered the I.M.S. as surgeon on April 1st, 1886, became lieutenant-colonel after twenty years' service, and retired on July 19th, 1917. He spent his whole service in military employment, and for many years was medical officer of the Sappers and Miners stationed at Kurki. He had a long record of war service: North-East Frontier of India, Chin Lushai, 1889-90, medal with clasp; North-West Frontier, Hazara, 1891, clasp; Chitral, 1895, relief of Chitral, medal with clasp; Tirah, 1897-98, actions of Dargai and of the Sampaha and Arhanga Passes, operations at and around Dwatoi, and operations in the Bara Valley, two clasps; China, 1900, medal; Tibet, 1903-4, medal; and North-West Frontier, 1908, operations in the Momand country, medal. During the recent war he was in medical charge of the Indian hospital ship *Glenart*

*Castle*, and was on board when she was in a collision on her first voyage, but had left her before she was finally sunk, with great loss of life, in the Bristol Channel.

Surgeon Alexander William MacLeod, R.N.(ret.), died at Great Yarmouth on April 9th. He was the elder son of the late Inspector-General William MacLeod, M.D., C.B., R.N. After taking the diplomas of L.R.C.P. and S. at Edinburgh in 1877, he entered the navy as surgeon in the same year, but retired after a few years' service in the same rank.

## Obituary.

CHARLES KILLICK, M.A., M.D., B.Ch.CANTAB.,  
F.R.C.S.ENG.,

Honorary Surgeon, Royal Eye and Ear Hospital, Bradford, and  
Honorary Ophthalmic Surgeon, Bradford Royal Infirmary.

THE medical profession not only of Bradford but also of a much wider area has to deplore the sudden and tragic death at the age of 48 of Dr. Charles Killick. Apparently in normal health, he infected his finger while examining an ophthalmic patient and died within nine days of septicaemia. Born near Bradford, a member of a well known professional family, he received his medical education at Cambridge University. After taking his arts degree with honours in the natural science tripos, he gained a university scholarship at St. Mary's Hospital, London. His bent—ophthalmological—almost from the first led him to take up that branch of surgery, and he spent many years in Maidstone in ophthalmic practice and as honorary surgeon to the Kent County Ophthalmic Hospital. In spite of his success there he felt that Kent was not sufficiently bracing for his children, and he returned to Bradford, becoming honorary ophthalmic surgeon to the Royal Eye and Ear Hospital. He was a life member of the Société Ophthalmologique de France, a member of the council of the Ophthalmic Section of the Royal Society of Medicine, a member of the Ophthalmological Society of Great Britain, and a member of the Bradford Division of the British Medical Association. He was a frequent contributor to the medical journals; his chief hobby, indeed, was the translation of French and other foreign ophthalmic works. He greatly preferred literary and scientific studies to outdoor recreation. Of recent years he became interested in freemasonry, and obtained in a very short time an astonishing mastery of its ritual. His geniality and mental alertness as well as his great medical abilities made him universally popular in Bradford, and his early death is a severe loss to the profession. Great sympathy is felt for his widow and young children.

## Medical News.

AN Emeritus lecture will be delivered at the Middlesex Hospital Medical School by Sir John Bland-Sutton, LL.D., on Tuesday, June 5th, at 3 p.m.

MEMBERS of the Association who desire to take part in the discussions to be held in the Section of Diseases of Children at the Annual Meeting of the British Medical Association at Portsmouth next July are requested to communicate with Dr. R. Hamer Hodges, 93, Victoria Road North, Southsea. On Thursday, July 26th, the discussion will be on acidosis and alkalosis in children, and on Friday, July 27th, summer diarrhoea will be discussed.

THE annual dinner of the Federation of Medical and Allied Services will be held at the Langham Hotel, Portland Place, W.1, on Tuesday, May 29th, at 7.15 p.m., and not on May 23rd as previously announced. Sir Berkeley Moynihan, the president, will preside, and the chief guest will be the Right Hon. Neville Chamberlain, Minister of Health.

DR. C. K. CLARKE of Toronto will deliver the Maudsley lecture before the Medico-Psychological Association of Great Britain and Ireland in the Barnes Hall of the Royal Society of Medicine on Thursday, May 24th, at 3 p.m. Dr. Clarke will be entertained to dinner on the same evening. The quarterly meeting of the Society will be held at 11, Chandos Street, W.1, at 2.30 p.m. on the same day.

It is hoped that the Duke of York will be able to lay the corner stone of the new Nurses' Home of the Liverpool Royal Infirmary on July 25th.

At a meeting of the Medico-Legal Society on Tuesday next, May 15th, at the house of the Medical Society of London, a discussion on the Mental Treatment Bill, 1923, will be opened by Mr. A. H. Trevor, B.A. The chair will be taken at 8.30 p.m.

THE Infants' Hospital, Vincent Square, Westminster, has arranged a course of lectures, to be delivered by members of the medical staff during May and June at 8.45 p.m., on the diseases and treatment of infants. The first lecture of the series will be given by Dr. Eric Pritchard on Tuesday, May 15th, on the principles of infant feeding, and the second by Dr. Helen Mackay, on the treatment of nutritional disorders in infancy, on Wednesday, May 23rd.

WHEN the proposal was first made by the Inchcape Retrenchment Committee a couple of months ago we pointed out the strong objections there were to the abolition of the appointment of Public Health Commissioner with the Government of India. The *Times* correspondent, in a telegram from Simla on May 6th, states that the proposal has been abandoned.

DR. RUSSELL JOHN REYNOLDS has been appointed Honorary Adviser in Radiology to the Ministry of Pensions.

THE summer dinner of the Glasgow University Club, London, is to be held at the Trocadero on Friday, June 1st, at 7.30 p.m., when the Lord Rector, the Earl of Birkenhead, will preside. Any Glasgow University men who, though not members of the club, would like to attend, are invited to communicate as early as possible with the honorary secretaries, 1, Harley Place, N.W.1.

THE Ministry of Pensions announces that meetings of the Standing Joint Committee for Ex-Service Questions were held on April 27th. At the meeting of the Other Ranks Panel over which Major G. C. Tryon, M.P., Minister of Pensions, presided, it was stated that the special institution provided in the south of England for the separate treatment of insane ex-service men was now occupied by 50 patients and the number would shortly be doubled. The patients had been chosen from amongst those in county and borough asylums. Of one hundred relatives approached on the matter nearly half objected to the transfer of patients to a distance, being satisfied with the treatment given in their own county and borough asylums. Representatives of the British Legion expressed appreciation of the efforts made by the Ministry of Pensions to obtain separate treatment. Other subjects brought before the meeting included service disability awards, the care of motherless children, parents' need pensions, and repairs to artificial limbs.

A NEW course of post-graduate lectures free to medical practitioners commenced on May 3rd at the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, W.C.1, and will be continued on succeeding Thursdays at 4 p.m. up till and including July 12th.

THE Ministry of Health has issued a list (London: H.M. Stationery Office, price 3d.) of approved sanatoriums and other residential institutions for the treatment of persons suffering from tuberculosis and resident in England and Wales, with the names of the administrative counties and county boroughs in which the institutions are situated and the date on which approval expires.

DR. W. M. FRAZER and Dr. I. D. EVANS of Gray's Inn were called to the Bar on April 25th.

DR. G. M. THOMPSON, on the occasion of his retiring from the post of medical officer of Bellaghy dispensary district, which he had held for forty years, has been presented with an Overland Sedan car and an illuminated album containing the names of 700 subscribers. Mrs. Thompson was on the same occasion presented with a silver salver.

THE Southend Doctors' Cricket Club has a vacant date on Wednesday, August 1st, 1923. They will be very glad to arrange a match on that day against a team of doctors, and to entertain the players and their friends to tea after the game. Any doctor interested is asked to communicate with the Honorary Secretary, Dr. A. W. Holthusen, 583, London Road, Westcliff-on-Sea.

A LECTURE on the psychology of epilepsy will be given at the house of the Royal Society of Medicine on Thursday, May 24th, at 5.15 p.m., by Dr. E. D. Wiersma, professor of psychiatry and neurology in the University of Groningen. The chair will be taken by Dr. Robert H. Cole, physician for mental diseases to St. Mary's Hospital. The lecture is one of the course in advanced psychiatry organized by the University of London. Admission is free without ticket.

THE house and library of the Royal Society of Medicine will be closed from Saturday, May 19th, to Monday, May 21st, both days inclusive.

THE Ingleby lectures before the University of Birmingham will be delivered by Dr. Harold Black on May 30th and June 6th at 4 p.m.; the subject selected is the investigation of the alimentary tract by x rays. Members of the medical profession are invited to attend.

We mentioned a few weeks ago that the Section of Otolaryngology of the Swedish Society of Physicians had invited some representatives from this country to visit Stockholm and to take part in certain meetings there. The British party is to arrive in Stockholm on the morning of Friday, May 18th, and will be entertained by Professor and Mrs. Holmgren in the evening. On the following morning Professor G. Forssell will give a demonstration at the Radium Institute, and in the afternoon there will be a meeting in the rooms of the Swedish Society of Medicine, when papers will be read by Dr. Logan Turner, Dr. Brown Kelly, Dr. de Kleyn, Professor Bárány, and others. In the evening the Section for Otology will entertain the foreign guests at dinner. On May 20th the party will pay a visit to Upsala, and on the following day will go sightseeing in Stockholm. On the evening of May 22nd there will be a final meeting at the house of the Society of Medicine, when papers will be read by Sir StClair Thomson, Professor H. Burger and Dr. Arthur Cheatele.

THE third annual congress of German oto-rhino-laryngologists will be held at Kissingen next week (May 17th to 19th), when the following subjects will be discussed: (1) Operations on the accessory sinus, introduced by Hajek of Vienna, Halle of Berlin, and Manasse of Würzburg; (2) treatment of chronic tonsillitis, introduced by Dietrich of Cologne, Kummel of Heidelberg, and Schlemmer of Vienna.

THE Fourth International Neurological Congress will be held at La Salpêtrière in Paris on June 8th and 9th, when the subject for discussion will be compression of the spinal cord. The pathological anatomy and pathogenesis will be dealt with by Sir James Purves-Stewart and Dr. George Riddoch of London, and the pathological physiology, clinical symptoms, and treatment by Dr. C. Foix of Paris. Further information can be obtained from the General Secretary, Dr. H. Meige, 35, Rue de Grenelle, Paris.

THE Dutch Orthopaedic Society will celebrate its twenty-fifth anniversary in the hall of the University at Amsterdam on May 25th and 26th, under the presidency of Dr. Murk Jansen, when addresses will be delivered by Sir Robert Jones, Professor Adolf Lorenz, Dr. Albee, Dr. Calot, Dr. Spitzky, and Dr. Putti.

THE Cairo correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph* states that during the last week in April one hundred cases of plague were reported for the whole of Egypt. No cases were reported at Cairo; in Alexandria there was one case, and in Port Said two. The situation is reported to be more or less normal except at Girga and Assiout, where the infection is spreading. The disease is chiefly of the bubonic type.

THE seventh All-Russian Congress of Bacteriology, Epidemiology, and Public Health will, it is announced, be held at Moscow from May 22nd to 28th, when the following subjects will be discussed: (1) Immunity, serotherapy, vaccine therapy, chemotherapy, and diagnosis; (2) bacteriology and epidemiology of the prevalent infectious diseases in Russia; (3) disinfection and destruction of rats and insects; (4) organization.

THE total receipts of the United Hospital Fund of New York for the year ending June 30th, 1922, amounted, according to the annual report, to \$85,557 dollars, as compared with \$710,773 dollars in the previous year. In 1919-20 and 1920-21 there were "high pressure" hospital campaigns; the receipts in 1918-19 amounted to \$221,535 dollars only, but this was the highest amount received down to that time. At the annual distribution of funds a sum of \$525,000 dollars was allotted in amounts varying from \$37,000 dollars to \$1,000 dollars among 56 hospitals, comprising 18 general hospitals, 10 hospitals for women and children (including maternity hospitals), 11 special hospitals (including orthopaedic, eye, ear and throat, skin and cancer, and neurological hospitals), 6 hospitals for convalescents and chronic cases, and 11 hospitals in Brooklyn. The United Hospital Fund of New York was organized in 1879, and the receipts for the year 1879-80 were \$26,455 dollars, distributed among 19 hospitals. All hospitals sharing in the fund are required to submit an annual statement on a uniform form showing in detail the work, income, and expenses for the preceding year. Any hospital in Greater New York may become a member of the United Hospital Fund after recommendation by a committee on admissions as to its equipment and management, and election by the Board of Trustees, provided that it is duly incorporated, has had for three years at least thirty-five ward beds, and has given during the same period not less than 5,000 days of free service each year.

In the six Swiss universities there are at present 1,451 medical students, of whom 187 are women; among them are 281 foreigners, including 49 women.

## 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, *Mediscera, 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.

"N." asks if any reader can suggest a successful remedy for black tongue.

#### WHOOPING-COUGH.

DR. THOMAS CARRUTHERS (Kilbarhan, Renfrewshire) writes to point out that Dr. Midelton's note of April 28th (p. 746) contains no statement as to the period in the disease at which the treatment was begun; the whoop may go on for a long time by a sort of habit spasm. Dr. Carruthers adds that in a disease so variable both in duration and intensity "controls" are necessary.

#### INCOME TAX.

"ANTHONY" took over a practice on March 31st, 1921. The inspector of taxes asserts that his predecessor's figures for past profits of the practice appear to have been inaccurate, and that as the correct figures cannot be ascertained he proposes that the practice shall be assessed for 1921-22 and 1922-23 on the first accounts of the new proprietors for the period to March 31st, 1923.

\* \* If, as seems to be clearly the case, "Anthony's" predecessor was doing badly, the inspector's proposal is unfair, as its adoption would deprive our correspondent of the benefit of the three years' average to which he is legally entitled. The impracticability of showing what were the past profits is, of course, a serious difficulty, but assuming that it can be shown that for specific causes the 1921-1923 earnings of the practice were greater than the 1918-1921 profits, it ought to be possible to come to some arrangement with the inspector to agree on an assessment on the three years' average basis, which would be less than the 1921-23 profits, though perhaps greater than the amount first claimed. Failing such agreement, the matter might be dealt with by the Commissioners on a personal appeal from the assessment when made; if all the ascertainable facts were put before them, they would, no doubt, give a decision which would be a reasonable compromise between the two figures at present in the field.

"A. B." holds an appointment under a local authority from whom he receives a rate per mile to cover all running expenses, repairs, depreciation of his car. When he renewed his car he found that the mileage allowance has not been sufficient to recoup him for the loss of capital value of his old car. Can he claim any special allowance from income tax?

\* \* He is entitled to allowance of expenses incurred wholly exclusively and necessarily in the performance of his duties. It may be that some of the expenses charged in "A. B.'s" car account might have to be reduced on account of private as distinct from official use of his car, but, apart from that, there is a difficulty arising over the introduction into the Statute of the word necessary. The local authority by which "A. B." is employed presumably decided on the rate per mile as sufficient for the type of car "necessary" for the work, and "A. B." may very well be open to attack—as regards any special claim—that the loss arises through his use of a car which was superior to