

Memoranda:

MEDICAL, SURGICAL, OBSTETRICAL.

ABSCESS INVOLVING LIVER, MEDIASTINUM, PERICARDIUM, AND ABDOMINAL WALL.

On the evening of August 14th, 1923, I was asked by a colleague to see a case which he found difficult of diagnosis.

The patient, a woman aged 23, was tossing restlessly in bed. She was very emaciated, and a red spot blazed in each cheek. The temperature was 99.6° F., and the pulse uncountable and thready. I was informed that she had been healthy up to three weeks before, when she had had a slight bicycle accident, not involving any serious apparent injury. It was impossible to obtain any helpful information as to the symptoms and signs presented since the accident. She complained chiefly of pain in the left hypochondrium. There was a slightly movable, non-fluctuating tumour in the left hypochondrium about two and a half inches from the middle line and two inches from the costal margin. It was apparently beneath the rectus, but owing to some rigidity it was difficult to ascertain whether it was in the muscle or not. The left half of the abdomen was all more or less rigid and tender. There was no connexion between the liver or spleen and the lump, which was separated from them by resonant areas. Between it and the heart, however, there was a definite band of impaired resonance. Several times during the examination of the abdomen attention was diverted by exclamations of fear by the patient, and her face expressed agonized terror, such as that seen in angina pectoris. This directed attention at once to the cardiac area, where the following signs were discovered.

The area of cardiac dullness extended some three inches to the left of the mid-clavicular line, the right border being in its normal position. The heart sounds were somewhat faint, and there was great rapidity of action, but otherwise it was normal. Over the right third of the area of cardiac dullness one could hear loud dry friction sounds synchronous with the respiratory movements. There appeared to be no pericardial rub.

The liver was enlarged, the left lobe markedly so, the lower border of dullness being about three inches below the xiphisternal notch. The lungs were quite clear, splenic dullness was normal, and the right side of the abdomen free from signs or symptoms. I made the diagnosis of mediastinal abscess with perforation through the diaphragm, and considered the lump in the left hypochondrium to be a collection of pus; but the girl's condition was so extremely critical that it seemed hopeless to operate. She died a few hours afterwards, becoming suddenly collapsed.

Post-mortem Examination.—On opening up the chest and abdomen pus gushed out from all directions. There was free pus in the abdominal cavity, but no sign of peritonitis. The left lobe of the liver had become a sac full of pus which gushed out when the knife was introduced. The upper surface of the lobe was adherent to the diaphragm, which was thickened and perforated at this point. The mediastinum and pericardium were both full of pus, and the heart was lying in a bath of it. The pus had broken through the pericardium and bathed the surface of the base of the left lung. It had burrowed down through the diaphragm at another point and entered the abdominal wall. The lump proved to be a collection of pus. It had burrowed down to the left iliac region and a great collection of it lay between the transversalis and internal oblique. This had burst into the abdominal cavity, and it was this burst which evidently caused the sudden collapse and death. The liver was generally enlarged and the right lobe was full of small multiple abscesses. The lungs were very congested, but free from abscesses. The heart, stomach, appendix, spleen, large and small bowels were all healthy, as also were the gall bladder, ducts, and vessels, and the kidneys. The pus had a very offensive odour.

F. BENNETT JULIAN, M.C., M.B., Ch.B., M.Sc.

Liverpool.

A CASE OF STONE IN THE KIDNEY.

THE following case is similar to that recorded by Mr. R. Ogier Ward in the JOURNAL of September 29th, 1923 (p. 563).

Venkata Reddy, an Indian ryot, aged 47, was admitted to the wards of the first surgeon, General Hospital, Madras, complaining of a hard tumour in the upper left half of the abdominal cavity of seven years' duration, with a history of paroxysmal attacks of pain during the period. Colonel Symons operated and removed the kidney. The patient recovered and left the hospital well.

Pathological Report.—The kidney weighs 3 lb. 10 oz.; it measures $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches from pole to pole, and has a breadth of $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches at its maximal points. It is packed by large calculi varying in size from a marble to a mango. These occupy distended calyces and have an irregular faceted arrangement. The kidney parenchyma is reduced in places to a rim of cortex showing microscopically a few functional glomeruli and considerable interstitial increase. Individual stones are rough on the surface, have a yellowish-white colour, and are lamellated on section. These lamellae closely resemble sandstone in colour and consistence. Around most of the promontories this cortical rim is lost and the calculi are supported by renal capsule only. A report from the chemical examiner states that they are composed mainly of triple phosphates, that no uric acid is present, and only a small amount of organic matter.

The point of interest in the chemistry of these stones is that they contain triple phosphates only. Such stones are rarely found in the pelvis and parenchyma of the kidney. It is probable that the primary lesion was a pyelitis (gonorrhoeal history) followed by calculus formation in the kidney, resulting in renal obstruction, distension of calyces, hydronephrosis, and further extreme phosphatic deposit in the form of multiple calculi.

Medical College, Madras.

W. LEONARD FORSYTH.

Reports of Societies.

POST-OPERATIVE AND PUERPERAL MENTAL DISORDERS.

A JOINT meeting of the Sections of Medicine, Neurology, Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Psychiatry, and Surgery of the Royal Society of Medicine was held on January 8th in the Society's rooms to discuss post-operative and puerperal mental disorders. Dr. T. B. HYSLOP was in the chair.

The Chairman, in introducing the subject, said that there would probably be little difference of opinion on certain points. They would be agreed on the importance of heredity, of anxiety and other mental conditions in predisposing towards these mental disorders. Doubtless the bodily point of view was also to be considered. The effects of severe labour, the suppression of lochia, and the fact that there had been a previous attack all were important. When a patient had suffered from an attack of puerperal mania she should not become pregnant again for at least two years after recovery. He would ask whether anxiety was liable to bring about puerperal insanity or not. He always remembered an old Scottish medical proverb: "Look out for the brown-eyed puerperal." It was a curious fact that a large proportion of women with puerperal insanity were brown-eyed. There were two main types of puerperal insanity: the acute submaniacal type, sometimes going on to mania, and the stuporose variety, of which a subheading might be that type in which hallucinatory phenomena predominated. Sometimes the mother awoke from sleep insane, and those cases in which, in that condition, she committed crime opened an important medico-legal question.

Sir CHARTERS J. SYMONDS said that in forty years' experience he could only recall four cases in which insanity was the immediate result of a surgical operation. The condition was therefore presumably very rare. His first case was an elderly man who suffered from prolonged intestinal obstruction. Toxaemia might have determined the attack. Two days after a lumbar colotomy had been performed symptoms similar to delirium tremens commenced. The patient was removed to a strong-room and recovered in six weeks. He was nursed in hospital. The second case was a young woman of emotional temperament who had a bad suppurative appendicitis. Shortly after operation she developed mental symptoms of a delusional nature. Here again an intoxication might have been the cause of the symptoms. The third case was that of a highly intellectual old man who also suffered from an acute attack of appendicitis; and the fourth was a prostate case in an excitable Jew who after operation developed mania. The speaker's advice was not to remove the patients to a mental hospital. The attack was usually of short duration and would be cured in six weeks. Turning to the question of delirium tremens after injuries, and especially after fractures, he believed that sometimes paraldehyde could avert an attack.

Dr. JAMES COLLIER believed that mental aberration after severe operations on the brain was very rare, although mental reduction was common enough. Similarly, lesions of the brain were usually associated with the latter and not with the former condition—general paralysis and syphilis being excepted. Even with lesions of the frontal lobe mental symptoms were generally entirely absent or so little exteriorized as to give little help in local diagnosis. Post-concussive insanity never seemed to occur even after

The funeral was attended by many representatives of the many organizations in which he had been an active participator.

Dr. LAURENCE A. BAINE, who died on December 15th, 1923, had a brilliant career as a student, both at Birmingham and Newcastle-on-Tyne. He had been an undergraduate in science of London University before taking up medicine. He gained the Entrance Science Exhibition, the University, Tulloch, Hall, and Alder scholarships at Durham University, also the Gold Medal in Anatomy and the Hine Prize at the same university in 1886. He graduated M.B., B.S. Dunelm. in 1888, proceeded M.D. in 1890, and obtained the D.P.H. Camb. in 1891. Dr. Baine settled in Hull about twenty years ago, and soon endeared himself both to his friends and patients. The following tribute was paid to his memory in an address by the Rev. E. A. Berry, vicar of the parish. "Dr. Baine," he said, "went among the people as a messenger of love, affection, and sympathy. We remember him as a loyal, true, and faithful friend; some as a doctor with great charm and skill; others as a citizen loyal and true. He was noted for his love of children, and sweet disposition to young life. I have never heard of anyone who said an unkind word about him, and he himself could never have an unkind thought or do an unkind deed."

Universities and Colleges.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.

A QUARTERLY Council meeting was held on January 10th, when Sir John Bland-Sutton, President, was in the chair.

The Late Sir John Tweedy.

The death of Sir John Tweedy, LL.D., F.R.C.S., past President of the College, was reported. A vote of condolence was passed in the following terms:

"That the Council hereby express their deep regret at the death of Sir John Tweedy and their very sincere sympathy with Lady Tweedy and the members of her family in their bereavement. In doing so the Council call to mind Sir John Tweedy's long association with the College as a Member of the Council and as a trustee of the Hunterian Collection, and more especially his services to the College as President during three years of office. The zeal and ability which he brought to bear in the discharge of many duties undertaken by him in the interests of the medical profession and for the welfare of the public bear witness to his unflinching sympathy and care for others throughout an active career, and the Council believe that his unselfish devotion to duty will cause his name always to be held in grateful remembrance."

Primary Fellowship Examination.

At the Primary Fellowship Examination 38 candidates were successful and 106 were rejected. (The names of the successful candidates were published in our issue of December 29th, 1923, p. 1280.)

Diplomas.

The following diplomas were granted jointly with the Royal College of Physicians:

D.P.H.—E. Benjamin, Florence Bentham, M. L. Bery, F. J. Darbyshire, May C. Ferguson, J. M. Ghosh, M. R. Goverdhan, Eleanor Harse, E. C. Holtom, I. Lewis, R. C. Lightwood, W. S. McGillivray, R. H. Parry, H. C. G. Pedler, M. K. G. Pillai, Ruth W. Plimsoll, J. Reid, P. M. Rivaz, C. Ross, Effie F. A. Samter, N. S. Sethi, R. W. G. Stewart, M. L. Sutcliffe, I. S. Thomson, J. R. Tibbles, J. Whitby, S. A. Withers.

DIPLOMA IN TROPICAL MEDICINE AND HYGIENE.—Y. A. N. Barrada, P. N. Basu, M. G. Bhandari, H. Das, W. K. Dunscombe, A. A. Hearne, H. B. Lee, G. R. McRobert, P. S. Mills, W. L. Paterson, P. S. Selwyn-Clarke, T. S. Tirumurti, H. S. Watters, C. L. Wilmoth, A. D. Wright.

DIPLOMA IN PSYCHOLOGICAL MEDICINE.—D. R. Alexander, F. G. L. Barnes, J. D. Dyson, A. F. Grimby, H. D. Hayes, W. J. Lascelles, D. B. M. Lothian, E. E. Pittman, J. Roy.

DIPLOMA IN LARYNGOLOGY AND OTOTOLOGY.—J. B. Horgan, W. Wilson.

Museum Demonstrations.

Mr. Clement E. Shattock, F.R.C.S., was appointed to give Museum demonstrations on March 31st, April 7th and 14th as Erasmus Wilson Lecturer, in place of Professor S. G. Shattock, prevented by illness from completing the course for 1923-24.

Annual Election to Council.

The election of members of Council will be held on July 3rd, and a reception in connexion with the annual exhibition of additions to the Museum will be held during the afternoon.

Lectures.

Sir D'Arcy Power was appointed Hunterian Orator for 1925, Mr. Raymond Johnson was appointed Bradshaw Lecturer and Sir Arthur Keith Vicar Lecturer for 1924.

Medical News.

THE usual half-yearly indexes to the JOURNAL and to the SUPPLEMENT and EPITOME have been prepared and will be published shortly; they will, however, not be issued with all copies of the JOURNAL, but only to those readers who ask for them. Any member or subscriber who desires to have one or all of the indexes can obtain what he wants, post free, by sending a post-card notifying his desire to the Financial Secretary and Business Manager, British Medical Association, 429, Strand, W.C.2. Those wishing to receive the indexes regularly as published should intimate this desire.

THE joint Board of Research for Mental Disease of the University of Birmingham and the City Asylums Committee invite applications for the scholarship in mental diseases. The scholarship, which is of the value of £250, is tenable for one year or more, and the recipient will carry out investigations under the direction of Sir Frederick Mott, honorary director of the Research Board. Applications, endorsed "Research Scholarship," must be received by Mr. E. Eyles, Honorary Secretary, Council House, Birmingham, by January 30th.

By request of the Ministry of Health the Society of Medical Officers of Health has undertaken the selection of representatives from the United Kingdom to take part in the interchanges of health officers organized by the Health Section of the League of Nations. For a course in general health administration to be held in the Netherlands (April 24th to May 30th) the Society has nominated Dr. A. T. Nankivell, M.O.H. Hornsey, and Dr. T. S. McIntosh, M.O.H. Hendon Urban District. For a similar course in Denmark (June 1st to July 14th) the British representative will be Dr. F. T. H. Wood, O.B.E., M.O.H. Bootle, and a medical officer of the Ministry of Health. A third course in general health administration to be held in Switzerland (August 10th to September 20th) will be attended by Dr. A. B. McMaster, M.O.H. Dover, and Dr. W. H. Davison, O.B.E., Assistant M.O.H. Birmingham. The Society has also nominated Dr. W. H. Dickinson, O.B.E., of the Newcastle-on-Tyne Health Department, for a course in antituberculosis work to be held in Austria, France, Hungary, Belgium, Switzerland, and other European countries from February 6th to April 30th. Dr. Raymond Gamlin, Senior Assistant School Medical Officer at Liverpool, has been selected for a European course in school medical work, the dates for which are not yet fixed. The Health Section of the League of Nations is enabled to defray the expenses of the courses by a generous grant from the Rockefeller Trustees.

Two short courses of lectures at the London School of Medicine for Women, Hunter Street, Brunswick Square, W.C., are announced. At 5.30 p.m. on Tuesday, January 29th, Dr. Gibbon Fitzgibbon, Master of the Rotunda Hospital, will give the first of three lectures on the treatment of contracted pelvis. The chair will be taken by Dr. J. S. Fairbairn. The two other lectures will be given on the following Wednesday and Thursday at the same hour. The other course is on respiratory exchanges, and will be given by Professor W. C. Cullis at 5 p.m. on Thursdays, January 24th and 31st and February 7th and 14th. Attendance at this course is recognized in connexion with the B.Sc. honours degree in physiology. Admission to both courses is free.

A LECTURE to the Manchester Medical Society on medicine and old ethics will be given by Sir Thomas Horder, Bt., M.D., on Thursday next, January 24th. The meeting will be held at the medical school at 4.30 p.m.

VARIOUS courses of lectures and demonstrations will be given at the Royal Sanitary Institute by well known authorities during the spring term of 1924. A free introductory lecture will be given on January 28th at 5.30 p.m. to the students in the several courses by Dr. Charles Porter, chairman of the board of examiners. A sanitary officers' course, comprising the subjects scheduled for the examinations of the Institute and the sanitary inspectors' examination board will commence on January 29th at 6 p.m., and will include visits to public and private works illustrating sanitary practice and administration, with demonstrations on the routine of an inspector's office work and duties. A course of practical training for meat and food inspectors will start on February 8th at 6 p.m. There will also be a course of lectures for health visitors and child welfare workers, commencing on February 4th, at 6 p.m., with special reference to preparation for the health visitors' examination of the Institute. Demonstrations and visits to infant welfare centres, clinics, and schools for mothers will be arranged. Information about the courses and examinations can be had from the secretary, Royal Sanitary Institute, 90, Buckingham Palace Road, S.W.1.

DURING February, under the auspices of the Fellowship of Medicine, a four weeks' course in children's diseases will be given at the Paddington Green Children's Hospital, Royal Waterloo Hospital for Children and Women, Victoria Hospital for Children, and the "Children's Clinic" at the Western General Dispensary. The course includes lectures and clinical and laboratory demonstrations, and the fee for it is five guineas; copies of the syllabus with full details can be obtained from the Secretary to the Fellowship at 1, Wimpole Street, W.1. The syllabus of the special course to be held at the Prince of Wales's General Hospital, Tottenham, from February 4th to 16th, can also now be obtained from the Secretary to the Fellowship. A special course in ophthalmology will be given at the Central London Ophthalmic Hospital, Judd Street, from January 28th to February 22nd: it will consist of clinical lectures and demonstrations, and include the use of the ophthalmoscope. The fee for this course is three guineas.

AT the December examination of the Dental Board of the United Kingdom, held in London and Manchester, 18 out of 20 dental mechanics who submitted themselves were approved, 22 out of 28 practitioners of twenty-one years' standing were successful, and 5 out of 12 war services candidates passed in Parts I and II, 2 in Part I, and 6 in Part II.

A MEETING of the Medical Prayer Union will be held at the London (Royal Free Hospital) School of Medicine for Women, Hunter Street, Brunswick Square, W.C.1, on Thursday next, January 24th. The medical school will be open for inspection at 4.30 p.m., and the meeting will commence at 5.30. An address will be given by Dr. Douglas Adam.

FOUR public lectures on physic will be delivered by Sir Robert Armstrong-Jones, M.D., at Gresham College, Basinghall Street, E.C., on January 29th, 30th, 31st, and February 1st, at 6 p.m. The subjects of the lectures are headache, rheumatism, gout, and obesity.

CONSTABLE AND CO., LTD., announce for early publication a new edition of Dr. Hugh Maclean's *Modern Methods in the Diagnosis and Treatment of Glycosuria and Diabetes*.

TWO courses of instruction under the direction of Professor M. Jeanselme will be given at the Saint Louis Hospital, Paris, during the spring. A course in dermatology will commence on April 30th, and a course in venereal diseases on June 2nd; the fee for either is 150 francs. Both courses will include lectures, clinical and pathological demonstrations, instruction in the various forms of treatment, and visits to museums. Further details may be obtained from the secretary of the Paris Faculty of Medicine, rue de l'École de Médecine, Paris.

AN epidemic of cerebro-spinal fever has recently broken out in the garrison at Rochefort.

THE first number of the new Italian journal, the *Rinascenza Medica*, to which we made brief reference recently, and the aim of which is to represent the more solid aspect of Italian science to the exclusion of matter of a pseudo-scientific character, promises well for the future success of the undertaking. In an introductory article Professor Martelli traces the evolutionary course of medical science, leading finally to the present biological standpoint. Following on this are three valuable original articles, upon which the main interest of the number depends: (1) A detailed account of Professor Caronia's experiments on the infective agent of measles; (2) a description and discussion of the significance of the two early signs of pulmonary tuberculosis associated with the name of Professor Boeri—namely, tenderness in the supraclavicular fossa and hypertrophy of the anterior border of the trapezius muscle; and (3) the report by Professor Capellani of a remarkable case of supposed primary syphilitic lesion affecting a cervical uterine polypus. In addition, the number contains therapeutical notes, reviews of recent books, short notices of articles of interest in the current periodicals, and of the meetings of scientific societies, and descriptions of clinical cases of more than ordinary interest. The paper is well got up in every way.

AT a meeting of the Central Branch of the National Veterinary Association on January 3rd a resolution was adopted expressing the "utmost confidence in the judgement of the veterinary officials of the Ministry of Agriculture to deal effectually with the difficult problem with which they are at present confronted in connexion with the present extensive outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease."

A NEW issue of the *London Telephone Directory* is in course of preparation. Any medical practitioner who contemplates installing a telephone and desires his name to appear in the forthcoming directory should therefore have the matter arranged before February 1st. Communications on the subject should be addressed to the Controller, London Telephone Service, Queen Victoria Street, E.C.4.

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.

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.

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.

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.

RHEUMATISM AND EXPOSURE IN CHILDHOOD.

"G." having encountered in Dr. Mary Scharlieb's *Straight Talks to Women* a statement to the effect that the legs and thighs of children should be covered so that they may not suffer from rheumatism and consequent heart disease, asks whether there are any data to support the belief that exposure of the lower extremities predisposes to rheumatism in childhood.

MALE SERVANT LICENCES.

"O. H. B.," who employs four male servants in attending to the bedrooms, etc., of a private sanatorium, inquires what is the position as regards (a) licence, and (b) unemployment insurance.

* (a) In *L.C.C. v. Allen* (1912, 29 T.L.R., p. 20) the magistrate decided that the liveried servants of a contractor employed by him as drivers of vehicles in which defective children were, under contract with the local authority, conveyed to school were not within the scope of the Act. The ground given for his decision was that the men were being kept, not for the purpose of luxury or for any domestic purpose only, but were persons in the employment of a contractor for hire and in the way of trade. On appeal being made to the High Court the Lord Chief Justice expressed his agreement with that view, though expressing some doubt as to the propriety of the "luxury" argument. In our opinion the main purpose for which the men are employed by "O. H. B." is the deciding factor and not the actual duties on which they are engaged, and therefore we think licence duty is not payable. (b) We are of opinion that unemployment contributions are payable.

INCOME TAX.

"J. L. M." inquires whether income tax is to be "assessed on the individual year."

* * The three years' average rule remains in force. Profits are assessable on the actual year's amount for the first year after a business or practice is set up, and the same basis applies to salaries. The latter used, in certain circumstances, to be assessed on a three years' average, and the reference "J. L. M." quotes may be intended to refer to that species of income only.

LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.

MALARIAL TREATMENT OF GENERAL PARALYSIS.

DR. W. CRAIG (Campbeltown) writes to point out that in the cases of general paralysis treated by malaria recently recorded the blood of one patient was passed on to another, so that only in the first case did the patient receive blood not from a general paralytic. He suggests that it would be sounder for each general paralytic to receive blood pure, with the exception of its malarial infection.

FRACTURE INTO FRONTAL SINUS.

DR. C. J. HILL AITKEN (Kilnburst, near Rotherham) writes: A young workman asked me casually to attend to a cut over the inner end of his eyebrow. I put in two stitches and he returned to work. Two days later the wound was swollen but there was no redness or pain. Two days later the swelling was still in the same condition and I opened up the wound but found no pus. The patient then volunteered the information that when he blew his nose the site of the wound bulged. I then