

On the sixth day all spasm had practically disappeared, although there was some difficulty in swallowing, and tube feeding had to be continued. The masseteric spasm completely disappeared with the dysphagia; the child made an uneventful convalescence, the stump healing by granulation; he left hospital on the twenty-eighth day.

This case illustrates how the energetic and persistent symptomatic treatment of an apparently hopeless case of tetanus was rewarded. It appears to justify the claims made for the value of the intrathecal injection of antitoxin, and I consider that intrathecal injection at the anatomical site of the anterior horn cells of the spinal cord, supplying the injured muscles which are the actual seat of toxin manufacture in the wound, is all-important for its success. In this case the lumbar enlargement of the cord was fully impregnated with the antitoxin, and this appeared to be the successful factor in the case.

## REFERENCES.

- <sup>1</sup> Permin and Faber: *Communications de l'Institut Séro-Thérapique de l'Etat Danois*.  
<sup>2</sup> Widal, Sicard, et Ravaut: *Bull. Soc. Méd. des Hôp. de Paris*, 1901.

## Memoranda:

### MEDICAL, SURGICAL, OBSTETRICAL.

#### CARCINOMA OF THE THYMUS GLAND.

A short time ago I examined a man who complained of gnawing, but not severe, pain in the region of the junction of the cartilages of the eighth and ninth ribs on the right side. It appeared to be a case of intercostal neuralgia. There were no other symptoms so far as I could discover.

Treatment was continued for six weeks, but did not relieve the pain, and there was increasing anaemia and some wasting. Later a small triangular area of dullness with tubular breathing was detected behind, close to the spine, and I informed the relations that probably cancer of the lung was developing, and was the cause of the symptom of severe pain in the region mentioned from pressure on the intercostal nerves. No expectation.

X-ray examination showed cloudiness and small dark areas over the lungs. The radiologist suspected tuberculosis, but it was obvious that the dark areas were due either to byssinosis—the patient was a collar cutter by profession and ran a small private factory of his own—or else that the areas were secondary deposits over the lungs. Irregular temperature, but not a daily one, developed, and, as was to be expected, pleural exudation took place. On several occasions large quantities of fluid were removed; microscopical examination of this gave negative results.

As the relatives were always in doubt as to the cause of the illness, a *post-mortem* examination was allowed; this showed well marked massive cancer near the root of the right lung with secondary nodules in both lungs. On the right the growth was adherent to the dome of the diaphragm, which was perforated, and there was a fan-shaped involvement of the liver. One possibility was that the carcinoma started from the mucous glands of the larger bronchi at the root of the lung, and that the secondary nodules arose along the lymphatic vessels surrounding the bronchi. The second and most likely supposition is that the cancer started in Hassall's corpuscles in the only partly atrophied thymus gland.

The microscopical report is as follows: "The section shows a malignant new growth composed of irregular angular cells. It may be derived from a growth originating in Hassall's corpuscles of the thymus, but further information about the history is desirable."

May I offer the suggestion to those who so ably work on the cancer problem that humanity may become susceptible to cancer when the thymus gland does not completely atrophy, but takes on an altered function, producing a blood plasma saturated with thymic juice, rendering the body thus susceptible to cancer organisms (?), and that any local source of irritation which lowers the organ's resistance allows cancer to originate and settle in that locality?

Ashford, Middlesex.

JOHN REID, M.D., D.P.H.

#### A LARGE VESICO-URETHRO-VAGINAL CALCULUS.

THE two reports on vaginal calculi published in the JOURNAL by Lieut.-Colonel W. F. Brayne (January 2nd, 1926, p. 17) and by Mr. E. Farquhar Murray (February 6th, 1926, p. 238) prompt me to record the following case:

A married woman, aged 52, was admitted to the Mansfield and District Hospital under the care of Dr. Hunnard for incontinence of urine.

She stated that a year earlier she began to suffer from frequency and pain at the end of the act of micturition, but fearing that it might be a cancer she did not consult a doctor. The intermittent attacks of pain subsided to give place to a persistent aching. At first she had some control over micturition, but none for six months. The urine was thick and foul-smelling, and she was very distressed on account of the bad smell emanating from her, and by fear of cancer.

On vaginal examination a stone was seen projecting from the anterior wall of the vagina, wedged in a large gap about two inches long and one inch wide. The gap stopped short of the external meatus of the urethra. Urine was continually dribbling away from the upper part of the fistula. The stone was removed, and she had very severe cystitis; repair of the fistula was not attempted. The stone was white, smooth except at the top end, and more or less rounded. It weighed 4½ ounces, and measured 4½ by 4 inches; its nucleus, according to x-ray appearances, consisted of oxalate.

Mr. D. Greig, the curator of the Museum of the Royal College of Surgeons, Edinburgh, to whom I sent the stone, considered it a rarity. At Dr. Hunnard's request I performed a plastic operation under spinal anaesthesia, six weeks after the first. The patient made an uneventful recovery.

I am informed now, after a year and a half, that she is in excellent health, and has full control over micturition, though she has slight frequency, having to empty the bladder every four hours, no doubt due to the fact that the bladder contracted during the time she had incontinence, and its capacity for holding the normal quantity of urine diminished.

I am much indebted to Dr. Hunnard for permission to publish this case.

M. SOURASKY, M.D. Leeds, F.R.C.S. Ed.,

London, W.1.

Surgical Registrar, London Jewish Hospital.

#### AN ALTERNATIVE TO CIRCUMCISION IN PHIMOSIS.

AFTER many years in general practice, during the greater number of which I had a partner or employed an assistant, I was struck with the fact that not one of them knew that there was an alternative to circumcision in the treatment of phimosis. Therefore I infer that a good many others do not know it. It was taught me by my principal when I was an assistant in 1883. It is as follows.

With strict antiseptic precautions, an ordinary silver probe is taken in the right hand and with the left hand the foreskin is drawn back as far as possible, the orifice being slightly stretched. The probe is then insinuated between the glans and the foreskin, about the centre, and is coaxed back until the blunt point is seen or felt to have gone as far as the base of the glans. The probe is then gently worked laterally, first to one side and then to the other, so as to break down the adhesions between the mucous membrane of the glans and the prepuce. In doing this the point of the probe should be worked round as far as the fraenum on either side, and in bringing it out care should be taken to break down the adhesions which surround the orifice of the prepuce. Some cases have very few adhesions, and the little operation is quite easy. When the adhesions are more extensive, it can always be managed with a little patience. When done successfully it should be possible for the foreskin to be drawn back to the base of the glans quite easily. The surfaces should then be cleansed with boric lotion and smeared with carbolyzed oil, and the foreskin drawn forward again. The nurse should be instructed to draw back the foreskin once or twice a day, to prevent it adhering again. On several occasions, owing to not having a good nurse to hold the baby, I have had to complete the operation at a second sitting, but have nearly always managed it at one. On one occasion I damaged the fraenum in bringing the probe round. There never appeared to be any redundancy of skin afterwards, at all events none to cause inconvenience.

I have never come across a case in an infant which I could not manage easily. With one case in an older patient I failed.

D. W. WHITFIELD, M.R.C.S.

Balsall Common, nr. Coventry.

## The Services.

### R.A.M.C. PROMOTION EXAMINATIONS.

It is officially announced that in the examinations in March and October, 1928, of majors of the R.A.M.C. for promotion, the following periods of military history have been selected: The German offensive in 1918 and the final advance in 1918: as covered by the Official History of the War, Medical Services, General History, Vol. III (chap. xii-xvii).

### DEATHS IN THE SERVICES.

COLONEL DANIEL O'CONNELL RAYE, Bengal Medical Service (ret.), died at Lacks Yews, Mattingley, on December 29th, 1926, aged 54. He was born at Kilmainham, Dublin, on August 4th, 1842. His mother was a sister of the famous Daniel O'Connell, and, when he was born, was living with her brother, who was then a political prisoner in Kilmainham jail. He was educated at Queen's College, Galway, and in the school of the Royal College of Surgeons, Ireland; he graduated M.D. in the Queen's University, Ireland, in 1865, and took the L.R.C.S.I. in the same year; he became F.R.C.S.I. in 1874. After post-graduate study in Paris and Vienna, he entered the I.M.S. as assistant surgeon on March 31st, 1866, and soon after his arrival in India served in the Daphla campaign on the North-East Frontier of India. On his return from active service he was posted to civil employ in the Central Provinces, where he was for a short time civil surgeon of Nimar, but before long was transferred to Calcutta as professor of anatomy in the Calcutta Medical College, and second surgeon to the College hospital. In 1892, when the late Colonel Kenneth McLeod retired, RAYE succeeded him as professor of surgery and first surgeon, but two years later he was promoted to surgeon-colonel, and appointed inspector-general of civil hospitals in the Punjab; he retired after five years' tenure of that post. In 1900 the honorary Fellowship of the College of Surgeons was given to him. At the time of his death there were only three retired officers of the Bengal Service senior to RAYE, and the great majority of his contemporaries have passed away. But there are still a good many younger men living who served under him successively as resident medical officers in the Calcutta Medical College Hospital, who remember him well as a first-rate surgeon, careful and safe rather than brilliant, and as always a kindly and considerate friend to his juniors in the service.

## Universities and Colleges.

### UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE.

At a congregation held on January 21st the following medical degrees were conferred:

M.D.—J. B. Hance, A. E. Roche, J. H. Hannan.  
M.B., B.Chir.—H. A. Ware.  
M.B.—A. W. Spence.  
B.Chir.—J. L. Morgan.

\* Admitted by proxy.

### UNIVERSITY OF WALES.

THE following candidates, having already been approved in two of the three subjects—medicine, surgery, obstetrics—have now been approved in the remaining subject as indicated, and have completed their qualification for the degrees of M.B., B.Ch.: *Medicine*, Thomas Jones; *Obstetrics*, Ann C. Evans, Florence M. Wallen.

One candidate satisfied the examiners in surgery, and one further candidate satisfied the examiners in obstetrics, but publication of the names is withheld pending completion of their qualifying scheme for the degrees of M.B., B.Ch.

### UNIVERSITY OF DUBLIN.

At the Later Winter Commencements held in Hilary term, on January 18th, the degree of Doctor of Medicine was conferred on M. D. Fox and Elsie A. Burns.

### CONJOINT BOARD IN SCOTLAND.

THE following candidates have been approved at the examination indicated:

FINAL EXAMINATION.—*Medicine*: V. Nath, J. Williams, J. Hall, O. S. Crowthers, J. E. D. Mendis, J. T. Amarasingham, A. B. Gilston, J. J. Craig, R. Abrahams, J. S. Fernando, and K. R. Balli. *Surgery*: A. B. Paul, O. S. Crowthers, M. Clayton-Mitchell, J. D. Cooper, T. G. McIntyre, J. J. Craig, and K. Dhar. *Midwifery*: A. B. Paul, V. Nath, J. Williams, J. Gilchrist, J. Hall, M. M. Farghaly, O. S. Crowthers, M. Clayton-Mitchell, T. G. McIntyre, A. Lipschitz, J. S. Fernando, D. J. McKenna, and K. R. Balli. *Medical Jurisprudence*: A. J. Pinkerton, D. J. Campbell, S. T. Sodah, N. W. Laing, R. A. F. M. Saunders, J. P. Logan, W. Moodie, Violet D. Hunter, R. G. McInnes, J. W. Galloway, I. MacG. Chisholm, and N. S. Fraser.

Of ninety-three candidates entered the following, having passed the final examination, were admitted L.R.C.P.E., L.R.C.S.E., L.R.F.P. & S.G.:

E. A. Y. MacKeown, A. S. Arora, H. W. Bambridge, H. T. J. Abeysundere, S. B. Carthegagam, Emma Hughes, A. A. Razzak, J. H. Sturges, R. J. Ormsby, A. M. Kulatilake, S. Callar, R. G. Paul, E. G. Marcus, E. P. Kelly, Lucy W. MacDougall, D. F. Jayamaha, I. G. Sutherland, H. Taylor, B. A. Van der Gert, R. R. MacGibbon, A. Kouhouk, H. G. Hebard, R. A. Paton, C. F. Schilling, A. W. Dunn, D. Ross, O. ap V. Jones, L. M. de Silva, S. P. B. Gunawardana, P. J. Bourke, and S. A. Gunawardana.

## Medical News.

The Ferens Institute of Otolaryngology at the Middlesex Hospital will be opened on Tuesday, February 8th, by H.R.H. Prince Arthur of Connaught, chairman of the Governing Body of the hospital.

THE annual dinner of the Hunterian Society will be held at the Hotel Victoria, Northumberland Avenue, London, on Thursday, February 10th, at 7.30. Among the guests will be the Lord Chief Justice and the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of London. The price of the dinner (exclusive of wine) is 12s. 6d. Full particulars can be obtained from W. E. Tanner, Esq., M.S., 38, Queen Anne Street, W.1.

THE anniversary of Sir Francis Galton's birthday will be celebrated by the Eugenics Society on Wednesday, February 16th, when a dinner will be held at the Hotel Rembrandt, at 7.30 p.m. Dr. A. F. Tredgold will give the Galton Lecture; his subject is mental disorder in relation to eugenics.

AT the annual general meeting of the Medical Officers of Schools Association on Friday next, February 4th, Dr. James Collier will deliver an address entitled "Some personal impressions upon the symptomatology and diagnosis of poliomyelitis." The meeting will be held at 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, at 5 p.m.; tea at 4.30.

A CONFERENCE on maternity and child welfare, under the auspices of the Society of Medical Officers of Health, will be held at Newcastle-upon-Tyne, from February 10th to the 12th. Dame Janet Campbell will preside over the conference, and papers will be read on infant feeding, the development of maternity and child welfare work, and the prevention of still-birth. On Saturday (February 12th) visits will be paid to various child welfare centres, sanatoriums, and convalescent institutions. Medical practitioners who desire to attend part, or the whole, of the conference, may obtain further information from Dr. A. F. G. Spinks, 20, Victoria Square, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

THE Post-Graduate Hostel (Imperial Hotel, Russell Square, W.C.) has called a general meeting of vice-presidents and those interested in post-graduate work for Monday, January 31st, at 6.30 p.m. At 9 o'clock the same evening Sir Thomas Horder, Bt., will preside at an address to be given by Sir Arthur Robinson, Secretary to the Ministry of Health, on "Our duty to colonial visitors," to which ladies and friends of medical men are invited. On February 2nd, at 9 p.m., Sir William Willcox will discuss parenteral infections. Dinner (5s.) will be served each evening at 8, and coffee and biscuits can be obtained at 10 o'clock.

THE Fellowship of Medicine announces that on February 3rd, at 5 p.m., Mr. Carson will give a lecture on complications of gall stones. A surgical demonstration will be given by Mr. Paterson at the London Temperance Hospital on January 31st at 2 p.m., and a lecture on non-paralytic squint will be given at the Royal Westminster Ophthalmic Hospital on February 3rd, at 5 p.m., by Mr. Brewerton. At the Royal Northern Hospital on February 1st, at 3.15 p.m., Drs. McKinstry and Ellison will demonstrate laboratory methods in clinical medicine. The above lectures and demonstrations are open to practitioners without fee. On January 31st St. John's Hospital will begin a four weeks' course in dermatology. The London Lock Hospital is holding a course in venereal diseases from February 7th to March 5th. On February 7th a course in children's diseases will be held at the Paddington Green Hospital and the Victoria Hospital for Children. From February 21st to 25th the Royal Northern Hospital will hold a practitioners' course in general medicine and surgery; there is no fee for this. In March there will be special courses in diseases of the chest at the Brompton Hospital, in diseases of children at the Queen's Hospital, in gynaecology at the Chelsea Hospital for Women, in ophthalmology at the Royal Eye Hospital, in orthopaedics at the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital, and a practitioners' course at the London Temperance Hospital. Practical courses in anaesthetics and obstetrics can be arranged. Copies of all syllabuses of the special courses and of the general course programme are obtainable from the Secretary of the Fellowship of Medicine, 1, Wimpole Street, W.1.

AT the recent annual general meeting of the International Society of the History of Medicine it was decided that representatives of Germany, Austria, and Hungary should be admitted to membership of the society and take part in the congress to be held at Leyden and Amsterdam from July 18th to 23rd. Canada also is invited to join the Society and send representatives to the Congress.

ON his retirement after forty-two years' service as medical officer of the Driffield Poor Law Institution Dr. A. T. Brand has been presented by the officers, present and past, of the Driffield Union with an inscribed silver cigar-box.

THE department of zoology of the University of Edinburgh is to be rebuilt and £41,000 is already in hand for this purpose. The Education Board of the Rockefeller Foundation has now given an additional £38,000 for the buildings, and the offer was gratefully accepted by the University Court on January 24th. The Board has also given £10,000 for equipment and £26,000 for endowment. The total of the Rockefeller gift is, therefore, £74,000.

THE London Hospital has received from Mr. Bernhard Barou, the tobacco manufacturer, a gift of £25,000 for the endowment of the Pathological Institute bearing his name, towards the cost of which he has already given £10,000.

THE Universities Bureau of the British Empire (50, Russell Square, W.C.1) has published a classified list of students from the Dominions overseas and from foreign countries, who are now studying in the universities and university colleges of Great Britain and Ireland. In all 4,596 names are included: of these 1,754 come from Asia, 1,054 from Africa, 824 from America, 643 from Europe, and 321 from the Pacific. The price of the list is 1s. The Bureau has also published a catalogue of the professional schools, post-graduation courses, and specialist studies in the universities and university colleges of Great Britain and Ireland. Mention is made of special subjects for the study of which facilities are provided in certain universities and colleges.

DR. JOHN MOORE SWAIN, of Long Clawson, Leicestershire, attained his 100th birthday on Saturday, January 22nd. He took the L.S.A. in 1849 and the M.R.C.S. in the following year, and he was one of the first to register under the Medical Act of 1858. The Belvoir Hunt had arranged to celebrate Dr. Swain's birthday by meeting in front of his house, but owing to a heavy snowstorm the meet had to be abandoned.

THE fourth annual report issued by the Local Voluntary Hospitals Committee for the City of Manchester contains the accounts and statistics for 1925 of seventeen voluntary hospitals and kindred institutions of the city. The net deficit of the hospitals for the year under consideration was £10,541 less than that of the previous year. The income increased by £22,650, and the expenditure by £12,109. Statistical information is given about the work of the hospitals, their income and expenditure; their position in regard to investments; the numbers, cost, and nature of disability of out-patients and in-patients; and statements of accounts of the Hospital Sunday Fund, the Hospital Saturday Fund, and Alexandra Day Fund. It is noted with regret that the numbers on the waiting list continue to grow. Two diagrams are inserted to illustrate the relative shortage of ordinary income in comparison with ordinary expenditure, and the growth of the waiting lists in respect of surgical and medical cases.

THE annual report for 1925-26 of the Society for the Provision of Birth Control Clinics states that six new centres have been opened during the year; so that there are now three clinics in London, four in the provinces, and two in Scotland, affiliated to the pioneer clinic at the Walworth Women's Welfare Centre. It appears that instruction or advice was given in 3,299 new cases, while there were 4,454 return visits to the clinics. At Walworth instruction is given to doctors and nurses in contraceptive technique. The report contains several letters from grateful recipients of advice, and the society seems to conduct its activities at a very moderate cost. Several well known persons serve on the committees of the clinics, and Sir Humphry Rolleston is president of the affiliated centre at Cambridge.

THE Astor silver challenge shield for 1926 for the most effective local baby week campaign has been won by Northampton, which won the shield in 1925 also. A banner has been awarded to the Leicester health and baby week committee and certificates of merit to Kingston-upon-Hull, Wolverhampton, Cornwall county health and baby week committee, and Swinton and Pendlebury urban district council. A second shield for smaller areas was won by Halesowen infant welfare centre.

THE late Mr. William Gibson, formerly a merchant at Valparaiso, who died in November last leaving estate valued at £113,176, has bequeathed £2,050 to the Dundee Royal Infirmary. He directed his trustees to divide the residue of his estate, on the expiry of certain life-rents, among charitable institutions subject to a codicil to take effect after the death of his two sisters, directing the payment of a legacy of £25,000 to University College to be expended in equipping a laboratory for study and research in pathology and bacteriology, to be called the Joseph and William Gibson Memorial Laboratory. This legacy is to be the first charge upon the residue.

A DISSERTATION on the work of the International Conference of the Christian Mission in Africa, held last September in Belgium, has been prepared by Mr. E. W. Smith of the British and Foreign Bible Society. It may be obtained from the International Missionary Council, Edinburgh House, 2, Eaton Gate, S.W.1, price 3s. 6d. net. In a note on this

conference in the JOURNAL of July 31st last we referred to the present position of medical missionary work in Africa generally, and it may be added now that, besides scattered notes on medical subjects, Mr. Smith devotes a chapter to the medical task of missionaries in Africa.

THE Société Anatomique of Paris celebrated the 123rd anniversary of its foundation by Dupuytren on December 4th, 1803, during the commemoration of the centenary of the death of Laennec, who was one of the earliest and most illustrious members of the society.

THE Ella Sachs Plotz Foundation for the Advancement of Scientific Investigation, during the three years of its existence, has made thirty-five grants to investigators in Europe, as well as in the United States. Researches which are favoured are those directed towards the solution of problems in medicine and surgery. Applications should be sent before May 15th next to the secretary of the executive committee, Dr. F. W. Peabody, Boston City Hospital, Boston, Massachusetts.

A CERTIFICATE of health before marriage has recently been made compulsory in Turkey. In the case of men the examination will be complete, while in women it will be confined to the hands, face, neck, lips, throat, chest, and back.

PROFESSOR WILHELM TRENDELENBURG, professor of physiology at Halle, has been made rector of the university.

## Letters, Notes, and Answers.

All communications in regard to editorial business should be addressed to **THE EDITOR, British Medical Journal, British Medical Association House, Tavistock Square, W.C.1.**

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## QUERIES AND ANSWERS.

### CHEWING GUM AND DENTAL CARIES.

"FASTIDIOUS" recalls that much was said twenty years or so ago about decadence in the teeth of the American people. Has it, he asks, been stayed by the habit of chewing gum, which he believes to be practically universal in the United States?

### INCOME TAX.

"J. R. H." is engaged as an indoor assistant, and, to do his work efficiently, has found it necessary to buy a motor-cycle combination at a cost of £75, to supplement the drugs supplied by his principal (cost £5), and to expend £20 or so on instruments. What is his approximate liability?

\* \* Apart from the question of expenses, and assuming "J. R. H." to be entitled only to the minimum personal allowance, his liability would be £300, less one-sixth earned income relief (=£50)—that is, £250; deduct £135 leaving £115, which, at 2s. in the £, creates a liability of £11 10s. income tax. The expense question is governed by the rules of Schedule E, which provide an allowance for expenses (other than capital outlay) incurred wholly, exclusively, and necessarily in the performance of the duties of the employment. Broadly the test usually applied is whether the incurring of the expenses is a condition, expressed or implied, of the terms of employment. We suggest that "J. R. H." should state the circumstances fully to the inspector of taxes and claim the amount expended in running costs and drugs—the motor cycle and instruments represent capital outlay.