

organism is incapable of antagonizing; this is a well-known principle of all inoculation therapy. In articular rheumatism, however, just those organs are infected which, with the muscular action accompanying each movement of the body, act as a kind of peripheral pumping station, mixing the various body fluids in all directions. In these cases, more than in any others with localized lesions, movement of the joints means an increase in the inoculation of the body with toxins from the foci where they have been deposited. If, therefore, we wish to keep the body of the patient as free as possible from toxins from the joints and afebrile the further passage of toxins into the circulation must, as far as possible, be prevented by securing absolute rest for the joints—that is, by confining the patient to bed. The second essential in treatment is therefore recumbency, which, according to the individual case, is leniently or very strictly enforced.

When all that is possible has been done to facilitate the cure by a fattening regime and recumbency, the patient must be guarded from the various harmful forms of treatment which are sometimes warmly recommended. I refer particularly to the routine ordering of massage for such cases. I regard daily massage in these subfebrile cases as a grave error, analogous to repeated injections of tuberculin in febrile cases of tuberculosis. The same applies to the often indiscriminate use of diathermy and radiant heat. In balneological treatment mistakes are also too often made in these cases, when, regardless of the thermo-sensitive nature of the case, and irrespective of general or local reactions, the patient is allowed to continue his baths without rest or intermission, and is not granted time or opportunity to pass from the negative phase to the positive phase of improvement. The result is fatigue and exhaustion of the organism instead of beneficial stimulation; the condition remains stationary or becomes worse, whereas a rational plan of treatment adequately pursued might achieve improvement or even complete cure.

The line of thought which I have indicated in this paper has proved a sound working hypothesis in practice.

Memoranda:

MEDICAL, SURGICAL, OBSTETRICAL.

A CASE OF VOLVULUS NEONATORUM.

THE following case seems of sufficient interest to be placed on record.

A male child, aged 4 days, was admitted to the South Eastern Hospital for Children, Lower Sydenham, with a history of vomiting green fluid since birth and of passing dark motions which, the evening before admission, had turned to fluid blood; this being passed continuously and in some quantity. He was a full-time child, large and well developed, and weighed 8 lb. 8 oz. He was not greatly distressed, the fontanelles were not depressed, but pallor was marked. Pulse 148, respirations 46, temperature 98.2° F.

On examination the abdomen was soft and the stomach slightly distended; nothing was found on palpation. Blood leaked almost continuously from the rectum, but on rectal examination nothing abnormal was discovered.

The following day the condition remained much the same, but the temperature rose to 100.6° F. in the afternoon; the flow of blood from the rectum was much less. No food was retained owing to persistent vomiting, and there was no obvious distension of the abdomen. The child died the following morning.

Post-mortem Examination.—The abdomen showed a slight general distension. On opening, a small quantity of dark blood-stained fluid was found, and present in the incision was a mass of black distended bowel. On further examination it was found that the stomach and duodenum were normal, that just beyond the duodeno-jejunal junction there had been an anti-clockwise rotation of the small bowel, so that this upper portion was tightly wrapped round the last portion of the ileum just above the ileo-caecal valve. The mesentery was, practically speaking, absent, being represented by a fibrous cord containing the superior mesenteric artery, over the front of which passed the duodenum, and which was (that is, the artery) constricted by the volvulus. There was therefore a complete strangulation of the whole of the jejunum and ileum, leaving the stomach, duodenum, and the whole of the large bowel looking quite normal. The rest of the organs did not show any abnormality.

Mr. Norman M. Dott has written at length on the subject of anomalies of intestinal rotation in the *British Journal of Surgery* (1923, vol. xi), and in the *British*

Medical Journal of February 5th, 1927 (p. 230); he has described a case of volvulus neonatorum which was successfully diagnosed and treated by operation, a result of the application of theory and study to practice which must have afforded him considerable satisfaction. The case he describes, however, differs from the above in several details; the absence of mesentery and the anti-clockwise rotation of the bowel are similar, but he describes the stomach and duodenum as being greatly distended, and the small bowel collapsed and cyanosed. This case, then, must be regarded as unique in the acuteness of the symptoms and the degree of vascular obstruction.

Our thanks are due to Mr. Dott for his interest and help in this case.

GILBERT W. CHARLESLEY, M.B., Ch.B.,
Honorary Physician,

GEORGE RICHARDSON, M.D., F.R.C.S.Ed.,
Honorary Pathologist,
South Eastern Hospital for Children.

EMBOLISM OF APEX OF LUNG.

EMBOLISM of the lung is fairly common, but if the apex of the upper lobe of the lung is involved, difficulty in diagnosis may arise. These notes on a case recently attended by me may therefore be of interest.

An unmarried woman, aged 40, had suffered from exophthalmic goitre for many years, but had managed to do her work as a booking clerk at a hotel, and had received no medical attention for two years. On December 25th, 1927, she was suddenly seized with shortness of breath and severe incessant coughing; she vomited her last meal and coughed up some bright red blood. She was first seen by me half an hour after the onset of these symptoms. Her pulse was about 140, she looked very ill, and the cough was incessant. She was given a small dose of morphine hypodermically, and a sedative for the cough. Restlessness was a marked symptom.

The next day many coarse râles were audible over the apex of the right lung, with bronchial breath sounds and markedly impaired resonance. She was still coughing up a little bright red blood; the temperature was 101° F. The heart's apex beat was two inches outside the nipple line. Her chief complaint was of the troublesome cough. The sputum was examined for tubercle bacilli with negative result. The systolic blood pressure was 160 mm. Hg, and the pulse rate 120 a minute, but with a few drops of Lugol's solution daily the pulse dropped to 80 and the blood pressure to 145 mm., the apex beat of the heart coming to lie in the nipple line. She could only take 1½ minims of Lugol's solution three times a day; larger doses caused coughing attacks. With rest in bed for a fortnight she lost her cough completely and the physical signs at the right apex of the lung cleared up entirely. She still had a systolic murmur at the apex of the heart conducted into the axilla.

Swanage.

W. A. REES, M.D.Lond., F.R.C.S.

DYSPHAGIA ASSOCIATED WITH ANAEMIA.

THE following case is similar in many points to the clinical type described in the article by Drs. Jones and Owen in the *Journal* of February 18th (p. 256), but the anaemia has been megalocytic ever since the patient came under my care in January, 1926.

A married woman, aged 50, complained of weakness, shortness of breath, and inability to swallow, unless the food was finely minced, and of soreness of the tongue and lips, for "years." She said she had been anaemic from girlhood, and at the time of the menopause she suffered from melancholia and was in an asylum. The difficulty in swallowing was worse sometimes than at others. At times she could only manage fluids—solid food seemed to stick, and she almost choked till she got it up again.

She was of a lemon yellow pallor with slight malar flush, the lips pale, with sore areas at both corners of the mouth; the tongue was smooth, clean, and sore at the edges. She had worn artificial teeth for many years. The spleen was palpable, the liver also was slightly enlarged. The blood count was as follows: red cells 1,410,000 per c.mm., haemoglobin 44 per cent., colour index 1.5, white cells 4,800 per c.mm. The films showed no nucleated red cells, marked poikilocytosis and anisocytosis, with many megalocytes. The coagulation time of the blood was prolonged: the blood of a normal control took 2 minutes 15 seconds to clot in Gibb's coagulometer, while the patient's blood took 2 minutes 45 seconds.

The patient improved a little on arsenic and hydrochloric acid after meals, but she would not persist with the acid as it increased the soreness of her mouth, even when well diluted. Latterly she has improved very much on liver, which she takes minced three times a week. She is now able to do most of her housework and goes out for short walks. Her red cells are now 2,690,000 per c.mm., but the colour index is still above unity.

SIDNEY ELISABETH CROSKERY, B.Sc., M.D.Ed.
Tunbridge Wells.

Universities and Colleges.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.

COUNCIL ELECTION.

MONDAY, March 19th, was the last day on which the names of candidates were to be received for the election of Members of the Council, which will take place on July 5th. Twelve nominations have been forwarded to the Secretary by candidates seeking to fill the four vacancies occasioned by the retirement in rotation of Sir Anthony A. Bowlby, Sir D'Arcy Power, and Mr. F. J. Steward (Vice-President), and by the death of Mr. W. Thelwall Thomas, M.B.E.*

The candidates are: Mr. F. J. Steward (Gny's), Member, 1895, Fellow 1898; Mr. L. P. Gamgee (Birmingham), Member 1891, Fellow 1894; Mr. R. G. Hogarth (Nottingham), Member 1891, Fellow 1894; Mr. T. P. Legg, C.M.G. (King's College Hospital), Member 1895, Fellow 1897; Mr. H. W. Carson (Prince of Wales's), Member 1895, Fellow 1899; Mr. J. P. Lockhart-Mummery (St. Mark's), Member 1899, Fellow 1900; Mr. Russell J. Howard, C.B.E. (London), Member and Fellow 1903; Sir Crisp English K.C.M.G. (St. George's), Member 1900, Fellow 1905; Mr. Harold W. Wilson (St. Bartholomew's), Member 1903, Fellow 1905; Mr. C. C. Choyce, C.M.G., C.B.E. (University College Hospital), Member and Fellow 1905; Mr. R. E. Kelly, C.B. (Liverpool), Member and Fellow 1905; Mr. Robert Milne (London), Member 1904, Fellow 1906.

The constitution of the Council since July, 1927, has been as follows:

President.—Sir Berkeley Moynihan, Bt., K.C.M.G., C.B., Council (1) 1912 (substitute), (2) 1919, Pres. 1925.

Vice-Presidents.—Sir Cuthbert S. Wallace, K.C.M.G., C.B., C. (1) 1919, (2) 1927; Mr. F. J. Steward, C. 1920.

Other Members of Council.—Sir Anthony A. Bowlby, Bt., K.C.B., K.C.M.G., K.C.V.O., C. (1) 1934, (2) 1912, (3) 1920, Pres. 1920, 1921, 1922; Sir D'Arcy Power, K.B.E., C. (1) 1912, (2) 1920; Sir H. J. Waring, C. (1) 1913, (2) 1921; Sir John Lynn-Thomas, K.B.E., C.B., C.M.G., C. (1) 1918 (substitute), (2) 1925; Mr. Ernest W. Hey Groves, C. (1) 1918, (2) 1925; Mr. W. Thelwall Thomas, M.B.E., C. (1) 1921 (substitute), (2) 1927 (died after second meeting of Council); Mr. C. H. Fagge, C. 1921; Mr. R. P. Rowlands, O.B.E., C. 1922; Sir James Berry, C. 1923; Mr. J. Herbert Fisher, C. 1923; Mr. W. Sampson Handley, C. 1923 (substitute); Sir Percy Sargent, C.M.G., D.S.O., C. 1923 (substitute); Mr. G. E. Gask, C.M.G., D.S.O., C. 1923; Mr. W. McAdam Eccles, C. (1) 1914, (2) 1924; Mr. Wilfred Trotter, C. 1924; Sir Charles Gordon-Watson, K.B.E., C.M.G., C. 1924; Mr. A. H. Burgess, C. 1925; Mr. V. Warren Low, C.B., C. (1) 1916 (substitute), (2) 1917, (3) 1926 (substitute); Mr. Victor Bonner, C. 1926 (substitute); Mr. G. Grey Turner, C. 1926; Mr. Hugh Lett, C.B.E., C. 1927 (substitute).

The medical schools are represented as follows:

London:

*St. Bartholomew's	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Guy's	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
London	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
St. Mary's	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Middlesex	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
St. Thomas's	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
University College Hospital	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Royal Free	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Total London	...	...	...	...	...	...	18

Provincial:

Bristol	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Cardiff	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Leeds	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Liverpool	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Manchester	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Newcastle	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Total Provincial	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Total Council	...	...	...	...	...	...	24

* Two Members retire and do not seek re-election.

† Died in September, 1927.

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD.

The Master and Fellows of University College announce the election of P. C. Mallam, M.A., B.M., B.Ch., Queen's College, to a Radcliffe Travelling Fellowship. The Fellowship is of the value of £300, and is tenable for two years, during fifteen months of which the holder must engage in foreign travel and study. Mr. Mallam was formerly President of the Oxford University Boat Club, and was subsequently a student and resident at St. Mary's Hospital, London.

C. W. Carter, B.M. (Fellow of Queen's), has been appointed University demonstrator in biochemistry, and C. G. Douglas, D.M. (Fellow of St. John's), has been reappointed University demonstrator in general metabolism.

UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD.

At a congregation held on March 15th the degrees of M.B. and Ch.B. were conferred on P. B. Lee-Potter.

UNIVERSITY OF DUBLIN.

THE conferment of the honorary degree of M.Ch. upon Sir John Bland-Sutton, Bt., LL.D., F.R.C.S., has been approved by the Senate of the University on the recommendation of the Board of Trinity College. The honorary degree of M.A. is to be conferred on Miss Margaret Huxley, matron of the Elpis Nursing Home.

TRINITY COLLEGE, DUBLIN.

At the spring commencements of Hilary term, held on March 16th, the following degrees in the Faculty of Medicine were conferred:

M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O.—L. R. Brumberg, D. M.M. Carson, G. Q. Chance, A. C. C. Charles, W. Crawford, A. B. Ewart, A. G. C. Ffolliott, J. R. Hanna, C. B. Harris, H. E. Knott, Christina McDonald, A. A. Morgan, C. E. G. Nunns, Wilfreda D. C. T. Pigott, F. G. Stewart, C. Watson, J. E. Wells.

Medical Notes in Parliament.

[FROM OUR PARLIAMENTARY CORRESPONDENT.]

THE House of Commons this week passed the Navy, Army, and Air Force Estimates through the report stage. It also discussed the "Zinovieff letter" and a bill introduced from the Labour party dealing with the coal-mining industry. A Public House Improvement Bill, "to amend the law relating to the sale by retail of excisable liquors," was presented by Dr. Fremantle on March 15th, and was read a first time.

Dr. Fremantle was in the chair at a meeting of the Conservative Health and Housing Committee at the House of Commons on March 13th, at which Mr. E. D. LIDBETTER, relieving officer of Bethnal Green, and a member of the Eugenics Education Society, gave an address. Mr. Lidbetter produced records of pauper families going back in some instances for 150 years, which, he said, pointed, not to a general degeneracy of the population, but to the inbreeding of degenerates in "pockets." He remarked that sterilization of the unfit would not meet the case of the apparently fit person with an ancestry such as he had cited, but in his view there was scientifically no difference between sterilization and segregation. Asked about the experience of California with sterilization of the unfit, Mr. Lidbetter said it was reported to have been successful there. Members of the committee pointed out that the Mental Deficiency Act in this country provided not only for segregation, but for guardianship, and that three-fifths of the mentally defective in this country were covered by one or the other. Mr. Lidbetter answered that he did not think highly of the guardianship system. The forty members who attended the meeting were much interested in the discussion. Several offered to assist the Eugenics Education Society, and Dr. Fremantle was asked to represent to the Ministers concerned that there was a strong case for a Government grant in aid of research into the subject and towards the cost of publishing results.

National Health Insurance.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN, answering Mr. Rhys Davies on March 15th, said no approved society had been compelled through lack of funds to abandon the whole scheme of additional benefits. About a hundred societies, covering a total membership of between three and four million insured persons, which included dental and ophthalmic benefits in their schemes, had found that the demand for those benefits amongst their members had so far exceeded the expectation that the amounts allocated to the benefits for a particular year had been exhausted before the end of that year. They had consequently been obliged to defer the authorization of claims until the beginning of the following year, when further money became available. In nearly every case the authorization of claims for benefits had been resumed. Sir HENRY CAULEY asked if the balances of the societies would be improved if the doctors were able to exercise independent judgement on men continuing on the panel or coming off it. No answer was given.

Answering a question about dental treatment of insured persons, which Mr. Rhys Davies put on March 15th, Mr. CHAMBERLAIN said it would be improper for a society to require a member to attend for treatment at a dental clinic if he would prefer to obtain treatment elsewhere. He promised to look into any case where approved societies imposed the condition that members must attend dental clinics during working hours. Mr. RHYS DAVIES asked whether the Minister was aware that some societies had established separate institutions and were giving dental treatment through clinics to their members, making it a condition that dental treatment could not be provided elsewhere. Mr. CHAMBERLAIN asked for particulars of any case where choice of dental treatment had been refused. Mr. EDMUND WOOD asked whether the Minister intended to set up dental clinics under the National Health Insurance Bill. Mr. CHAMBERLAIN replied that approved societies were not at present empowered to establish dental clinics, but some societies were of opinion that in large industrial centres the setting up of dental clinics might be attended with advantages. The question had been fully considered by the Dental Benefit Joint Committee, composed equally of representatives of the dental profession and of approved societies of all types, and that committee recommended that to test this form of treatment one or more experimental clinics should be set up. Under the National Health Insurance Bill now before the House provision had been included which would enable this to be done, subject to regulations to be laid before Parliament. There was, however, no intention of making it compulsory for any insured person to obtain his treatment in a clinic if he would prefer to be treated by a private practitioner. Mr. Chamberlain added that he was satisfied that freedom of choice of dentist must be retained. There were no fully established dental clinics.

Answering Dr. Vernon Davies, on March 15th, Mr. CHAMBERLAIN said he knew some employers did not allow women employees to

break stones. Mr. CHAMBERLAIN said that under an Order, if any casual appeared to require medical attention, the master was directed to obtain the attendance of the medical officer. It was always open for any casual to ask to see the doctor.

Birth and Death Rates in Tropical Africa.—On March 19th Mr. AMERY, in reply to Sir J. Power, said that it was exceedingly difficult as yet to obtain reliable returns of births and deaths among the populations of tropical Africa. But in areas from which the returns might be regarded as fairly accurate, as in the Buganda Kingdom of the Uganda Protectorate, and in certain West African towns, there was evidence of slow improvement in the infant mortality rate. In most areas, however, the rate remained regrettably high. The Governments of tropical colonies were fully alive to the importance of this matter. Infant welfare clinics were being established, and women doctors, nurses, and health visitors appointed for special duty; the work of these officers, notably in Malaya, the Gold Coast, and Sierra Leone, had been of a high order. In this connexion he specially mentioned the work of voluntary agencies, such as the Child Welfare League of Kenya and the Child Welfare Society of Singapore, and the efforts which had been made in the West Indian colonies to deal with this problem.

Notes in Brief.

In a reply to Dr. Salter, on March 15th, Mr. GUINNESS said the estimated daily consumption of liquid milk per head in England and Wales was approximately half a pint.

Since the war eleven factory inspectors' assistants have been promoted to the rank of inspector.

The calves used at the Government lymph establishment for the production of vaccine lymph are hired from a contractor.

On March 3rd, excluding lunatics, casuals, and those receiving domiciliary medical relief, 1,203,000 persons in England and Wales were in receipt of Poor Law relief, compared with 1,286,000 on the comparable date in 1927.

Forty-five dental companies appear on the statutory list kept by the Dental Board.

Mr. Chamberlain proposes to ask local authorities to furnish a return of the financial and other circumstances of the 31,667 so-called unemployable blind persons in England and Wales.

In answer to a question on March 15th, Mr. CHAMBERLAIN said he could not, without an alteration of the law, advise medical practitioners to notify suspicious cases of diphtheria without waiting for the results of bacteriological examination.

In the House of Lords, on March 20th, Lord Strathsey's motion for the second reading of the Public Health (Destruction of Vermin) Bill was postponed until March 27th.

Medical News.

SIR THOMAS HORDER, Bt., K.C.V.O., physician to St. Bartholomew's Hospital, will open the University Centre of Cardiac Research at Bristol General Hospital on Friday next, March 30th, at 3.30 p.m.

THE annual meeting of the Mental After-Care Association will be held at the Clothworkers' Hall, Mincing Lane, E.C.3, on Thursday, March 29th, at 3 p.m., under the chairmanship of Alderman Sir Charles C. Wakefield, Bt., president of the association.

THE President and Council of the Medical Women's Federation have issued invitations to a dinner to be held in the Edward VII Rooms, Hotel Victoria, London, on Thursday, May 10th, at 7.45 o'clock.

THE next social evening of the Royal Society of Medicine will be held on Monday, May 7th, at 8.30 p.m. At 9.15 p.m. Mr. P. B. Tustin will give an illustrated address entitled: "Milk—from cow to consumer."

THE summer school of the British Social Hygiene Council will be held at Westminster College, Cambridge, from July 26th to August 22nd. This year's programme includes a course of six lectures by Mr. D. Ward Cutler on the applications of biology to human life, accompanied by practical work in the University zoological laboratory every afternoon. There will also be a course of four lectures by Professor A. E. Heath on the foundations of psychology, and two lectures on the physiology of adolescents by Professor Winifred Cullis and Dr. I. Feldman. There will be five evening meetings, followed by discussions. Dr. H. Crichton Miller and Dr. Letitia Fairfield will discuss the psychology of social abnormalities and the vocational training of juvenile delinquents. Mr. E. B. Turner, Professor Winifred Cullis, and Dr. I. Feldman will be the chief speakers on the social problems of adolescence and the need for recreation. Colonel L. W. Harrison and Dr. Margaret Rorke will open a discussion on the development of the social aspect of the venereal disease treatment centre. Professor Julian Huxley will address a joint meeting on the evolution of mind, and a fifth subject for consideration will be the development of the social and educational activities of a branch. The school is open to all interested in social problems, and full information can be obtained from the secretary of the British Social Hygiene Council, Carteret House, Westminster, S.W.

At a meeting of the St. John's Hospital Dermatological Society at 43, Leicester Square, W.C.2, on March 28th, at 4.15 p.m., Dr. R. Craik will read a paper on monilia, and clinical cases will be shown.

A MEETING of the Medical Women's International Association will be held in Bologna on April 11th, and be followed on April 12th, 13th, and 14th by an open meeting, to which all women doctors are invited. The subjects for discussion will be: (1) medical measures for the protection of children and young persons in the various countries; (2) diseases of the eye in relation to general medicine. The Italian railway authorities have granted a reduction of fares in their country, and the programme includes a reception by the Bologna municipality, a dinner at the local Fascist headquarters (Casa del Fascio), and an evening reception given by the International Executive Committee. The Italian Association of Women Doctors, which is holding its annual meeting during the same week, wishes to convey to the medical women of all countries a message of welcome to Bologna. All particulars may be obtained from the honorary secretary of the Medical Women's International Association, Miss Martindale, M.D., 28, Weymouth Street, London, W.1.

THE annual general meeting of the Cremation Society of England will be held at the Institute of Hygiene, 28, Portland Place, W.1, on March 28th, at 3.30 p.m. It is stated in the annual report of the council that during the past year 3,266 cremations were performed at the sixteen crematoriums in Great Britain, as compared with 2,877 in the previous year. The society is increasing in numbers, and numerous public meetings have been held in different parts of the country. Further information about the society may be obtained from the secretary, 52, New Cavendish Street, W.1.

IT is announced that over fifty institutions have now taken advantage of the educational lectures for schools and colleges arranged by King Edward's Hospital Fund for London. The London County Council has given permission for children from the central schools to attend lectures on the work of the hospitals, and special slides, used in the course of the lectures, will be issued to the schools. Among the lecturers are Mr. W. McAdam Eccles and Mr. Zachary Cope.

THE Section of Psychiatry of the Royal Society of Medicine has arranged for Thursday, March 29th, at 8.15 p.m., a discussion on the pathology of alcoholism, in which members of the Medical Section of the British Psychological Society have been invited to take part. The openers will be Dr. Bernard Hart and Dr. Edward Mapother (for the Section of Psychiatry), and Dr. Edward Glover and Dr. Crichton Miller (for the British Psychological Society).

THE Fellowship of Medicine announces that the final week of the courses at the Hampstead General Hospital (4.30 to 6 p.m.) and the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital (all day) commences on March 26th; post-graduates may attend on payment of a proportionate fee. On April 16th a three weeks' course begins at the Royal Waterloo Hospital in medicine, surgery, and gynaecology, occupying the afternoons and some mornings, and a fortnight's course at the Blackfriars Skin Hospital in the afternoons. On April 17th the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine will start a month's afternoon course in tropical diseases on Tuesdays and Thursdays. On April 18th Dr. C. B. Heald will give the first of four weekly lectures on electrotherapy at the Royal Free Hospital. Copies of all syllabuses, a specimen copy of the *Post-Graduate Medical Journal*, and details of the Fellowship general course may be obtained from the secretary of the Fellowship, 1, Wimpole Street, W.1.

A THREE months' course of lectures and demonstrations of clinical practice and in hospital administration for the diploma in public health will be given at the North-Eastern Hospital, St. Ann's Road, Tottenham, N.15, by Dr. F. H. Thomson, medical superintendent, on Mondays and Wednesdays at 4.45 p.m., and alternate Saturdays at 11 a.m., commencing on April 11th. The fee for the course, which complies with the requirements of the revised regulations of the General Medical Council, is £4 4s. A course may be taken under the old regulations for £3 3s. The fee has to be paid beforehand to the Metropolitan Asylums Board, Victoria Embankment, E.C.4.

THE St. Patrick's Day jubilee banquet of the Irish Medical Schools' and Graduates' Association was held on March 17th at the Savoy Hotel, Mr. G. W. Dawson, the president, in the chair. After the loyal toasts the Arnott Memorial Medal was presented to Lieut. Colonel W. P. MacArthur, D.S.O., in consideration of the very distinguished services he had rendered during the war and in scientific research. Colonel G. Moore, C.M.G., A.M.S., a past chairman of the council, then handed to Dr. W. Douglas an illuminated address commemorating the active share Dr. Douglas had taken for many years in promoting the welfare of the association. The toast of "The Guests" was proposed by Wing Commander W. Tyrrell and was acknowledged by General Sir Hubert Gough, who,

after referring to the British Empire as being the brightest jewel in the Irish Crown, commented on the valuable work of Irishmen and by the association in promoting co-operation between different parts of the Empire. Mrs. Claude Bettington, who also replied to this toast, delighted the audience with a stream of anecdotes suited, as she remarked, to a meeting which might have been presumed to consist largely of medical students. The toast of "The President and the Association" was proposed by Dr. Bertram Watson, and in his reply Mr. G. W. Dawson referred to the progress made during the fifty years of its existence. Songs were rendered by Miss Mary Sheridan, Mr. Patrick Hughes, and Wing Commander Tyrrell, and these contributed much to the pleasure of an audience numbering more than one hundred.

A PARTY of forty-five medical students from Scotland arrived in London on March 17th to devote five days to a programme of demonstrations, including operations, at various London medical centres, among them being the Royal College of Surgeons, the leading hospitals, the Radium Institute, and the Wellcome Historical Medical Museum. The arrangements were made by the National Union of Students.

THE London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine has ordered from Messrs. R. and J. Beck, Ltd., more than two hundred microscopes for use in the new laboratories now in course of construction in Gower Street. The microscope is of British manufacture and embodies certain special features. The base is of rigid construction and the foot combines the advantages of the horseshoe or Continental model with the so-called English foot. The stage is of the completely built-in mechanical type with travel of $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. + 1 in., the entire top plate of the stage forming the moving part. On the stage a slide-holder of new design is provided, in which the slide is firmly held without springs. The fine adjustment is of the double lever pattern, operated by milled heads on either side. The body is 2 in. in diameter and is provided with an adjustable graduated drawtube. The substage is actuated by rack and pinion, and all substage appliances are carried on Akehurst slides; thus the interchange of illuminating systems is both easy and accurate. The optical equipment is ample for all bacteriological requirements, and the objectives are to be coloured externally so as to enable them to be recognized at sight. Messrs. Beck have agreed that certain rigid tests shall be applied to the whole equipment before delivery is accepted.

THE report of the Joint Tuberculosis Council for 1926 and 1927 contains a brief account of the activities of that body since the issue of the last report more than two years ago. Reference is made to the report of the committee on the employment of tuberculous persons issued in 1926; the work is being continued, and a further report is promised in due course. The promotion of post-graduate courses for tuberculosis workers remains one of the council's main activities, and the research committee has presented a report on disinfection in tuberculosis which it is intended to embody later in a memorandum. A special investigation is being carried on in Lancashire on the fate of young children in tuberculous households. The council has decided that evidence be offered to the Royal Commission on Local Government. A committee appointed by the council to consider this question concluded that for tuberculosis administration large areas were best; these alone could provide adequate salaries for experts, together with facilities for diagnosis, treatment of patients, and training of tuberculosis officers. The Joint Council includes representatives of medical organizations and Government departments; the British Medical Association is represented by Dr. C. O. Hawthorne and Dr. Arnold Lyndon.

THE third annual report of the North Kensington Women's Welfare Centre has now been issued, and may be obtained from the secretary, 12, Telford Road, Ladbroke Grove, W.10. A supplement for medical readers is provided on request; it gives details of the contraceptive methods recommended at this centre.

THE Astor challenge shield, given by the National Baby Week Council for the most effective local baby week campaign in 1927, has been awarded for the third year in succession to the Northampton Maternity and Infant Welfare Voluntary Association, and therefore passes into the permanent keeping of that body. A special trophy has been given to Leicester Health and Baby Week Committee, which took second place, and certificates of merit to Kettering U.D.C. Ladies Voluntary Committee for Infant Welfare, Kingston-on-Thames Infant Welfare Centre, and Sunderland County Borough. A campaign organized by the Cambridgeshire Federation of Women's Institutes gained the William Hardy challenge shield, reserved for smaller areas.

THE fourteenth annual general meeting of St. Andrew's Hospital, Dollis Hill, for the professional and middle classes, was held under the chairmanship of Cardinal Bourne. It was reported that there had been a considerable increase in the

number of in-patients throughout 1927, and emergency accommodation had to be provided. The year ended with a deficit of £1,076 and a building debt of £281. Funds are required for new buildings, including a children's ward and a nurses' home, which will release additional accommodation for patients. In all £30,000 is needed for these and other developments. In response to an appeal made a year ago for £15,000 to enable building to be started according to plans approved by King Edward's Fund, £6,107 has been given or promised. The hospital was opened in 1913, and although contributions are asked from patients who can afford to pay, no patient, it is stated, has ever been refused, whatever his nationality or creed, solely on the ground that he could not pay a fee.

THE Cambridge University Press announce for early publication a volume of essays and addresses by the late William Bateson, F.R.S., edited, with a memoir, by Mrs. Bateson; and *Common Principles in Psychology and Physiology*, by Dr. J. T. MacCurdy.

AN international post-graduate course on modern therapy, with practical clinical work, will be held in Vienna from June 18th to 30th. Further information may be obtained from the secretary of these courses, Dr. A. Kronfeld, Porzellangasse 22, Vienna IX.

AT a recent meeting at Scheveningen, which was attended by delegates from twenty-five countries, it was decided that the international congresses of ophthalmology which had been interrupted by the war should be resumed. Professor van der Hoeve was elected president and Professor Lunds-gaard vice-president. An executive committee was appointed, consisting of Drs. Axenfeld (Germany), Mellor (Austria), Coppez (Belgium), Byers (Canada), Marquez (Spain), Morax (France), and Ovio (Italy).

THE International Labour Office has published the December issue of its *Bibliography of Industrial Hygiene*, which contains recent papers on hygiene in general, industrial medicine, physiology, and pathology throughout the world. Copies may be obtained from the International Labour Office, 12, Victoria Street, S.W.1.

PROFESSOR R. KRAUS of Vienna has recently been invited by the Republic of La Plata to become the director of an experimental therapeutic institute.

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.**

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, not necessarily for publication.

Authors desiring REPRINTS of their articles published in the **BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL** must communicate with the Financial Secretary and Business Manager, British Medical Association House, Tavistock Square, W.C.1, on receipt of proofs.

All communications with reference to ADVERTISEMENTS, as well as orders for copies of the JOURNAL, should be addressed to the Financial Secretary and Business Manager.

The TELEPHONE NUMBERS of the British Medical Association and the British Medical Journal are *MUSEUM 9361, 9362, 9363, and 9364* (internal exchange, four lines).

THE GRAPHIC ADDRESSES are:

EDITOR of the **BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL**, *Aitiology Westcent, London.*

FINANCIAL SECRETARY AND BUSINESS MANAGER (Advertisements, etc.), *Articulate Westcent, London.*

MEDICAL SECRETARY, *Mediscera, Westcent, London.*

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, Drumsheugh Gardens, Edinburgh (telegrams: *Associate, Edinburgh*; telephone: 24361 Edinburgh).

QUERIES AND ANSWERS.

"Q." asks for suggestions for the treatment of a case of "masturbation" in a male child, aged about 20 months, circumcised in infancy, and with no local irritation present.

FINISH FOR MOTOR CAR BODIES.

AN expert, to whom we have referred a query from a correspondent with the pseudonym "Paint," states that cellulose finish is without doubt generally superior to paint and varnish for motor car bodies in respect of durability, fast colour, and ease of cleaning, but it is not, as a rule, suitable for reconditioning cars which have raised mouldings, screwed on, in the coachwork. With steel bodies or aluminium panels, having welded joints, cellulose finish is usually more durable.