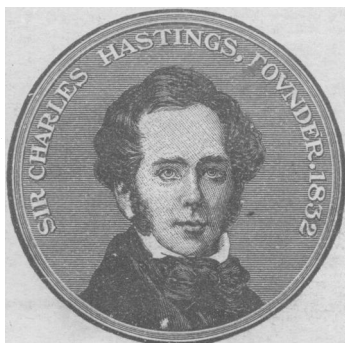


The British Medical Journal

THE JOURNAL OF THE BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.



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WITH SUPPLEMENT.

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EXECUTORSHIPS AND TRUSTEESHIPS UNDERTAKEN.

COAGULEN-CIBA IN HÆMORRHAGE

Five correspondents in *The British Medical Journal*, July 28th, 1928, p. 182, testify to the value of Coagulen-Ciba in Hæmophilia.

Reports on the successful administration of Coagulen-Ciba were published in *The Lancet*, October 31st, 1925, p. 918, Intestinal Hæmorrhage; *The Lancet*, June 13th, 1925, p. 1238, Hæmoptysis treated by Intrapulmonary Injections; *The Lancet*, January 24th, 1925, p. 176, Hæmorrhage following Tonsillectomy.

Three cases (two Hæmoptysis, one Bowel Hæmorrhage) successfully treated with Coagulen-Ciba by the mouth are reported in the *Journal of the Royal Naval Medical Service*, No. 1, Vol. XII, pp. 64-65.

Full particulars and reports to Physicians on request.

THE CLAYTON ANILINE CO., LTD., Pharmaceutical Department, 40, Southwark Street, LONDON, S.E.1.

Memoranda : MEDICAL, SURGICAL, OBSTETRICAL.

CARDIOSPASM TREATED SUCCESSFULLY BY OPERATION.

I THINK it desirable to record the following details of a case of cardiospasm which was treated with remarkable success by the operation of Mikulicz.

A man, aged 25, had for six years suffered from progressively increasing difficulty in swallowing. He stated that the food appeared to be arrested in the lower part of the chest, and could only be made to pass by drinking water with each mouthful, whereupon the food passed with a jerk. Epigastric pain was frequent, coming on usually three or four hours after food; this was often succeeded by vomiting, which at once relieved the pain.

On examination the patient was found to be thin, but otherwise in good condition. A radiographic examination revealed the typical appearances of cardiospasm, with enormous oesophageal dilatation and a well-defined constriction at the lower end.

After preliminary passage of an oesophageal rubber tube I opened the abdomen by a right paramedian incision above the umbilicus. The anterior wall of the stomach was incised longitudinally, midway between the greater and lesser curvatures, and the whole of the right hand was introduced into the interior of the stomach; the index finger was then inserted into the lower end of the oesophagus. Considerable resistance was at first presented to the passage of the finger, but this was overcome by steady pressure, and the middle finger was inserted alongside the index. Separation of these two fingers resulted in sufficient dilatation of the obstruction to permit the introduction successively of the ring and little fingers. The incision in the stomach was sutured by two layers of catgut, and the abdomen was closed. The patient made an uninterrupted recovery from the operation, and at the end of two weeks was able to swallow normal food without difficulty. There has been no recurrence of any symptoms.

An x-ray photograph taken three months after the operation showed that the oesophageal dilatation had almost entirely disappeared, and that there were no signs of the constriction revealed in the pre-operative skiagram.

A. C. MACONIE, M.B., B.S.Lond., F.R.C.S.Eng.

Shanghai.

SPLENIC ENLARGEMENT AND RAW SPLEEN.

The following case of atypical leukaemia, and its extremely rapid improvement under treatment, may be of interest.

Mrs. X, aged 48, first came under my notice during the early days of July, 1928. She complained of progressive swelling of the body since the previous February, palpitation and breathlessness on the slightest exertion, and complete inability to tackle any of her usual household duties. I also elicited the information that she had lost several pounds in weight, and that for the previous two years she had had several "floodings" (metrorrhagia). On examination I found an extremely enlarged spleen fully occupying the left half of the abdomen, reaching to the pubes below and extending well beyond the middle line. The notches were distinctly felt. No enlarged lymph glands were found anywhere. Fully confident that this was a myelogenous variety, on July 3rd I took a blood smear, a differential count of which gave the following surprising result: Polymorphonuclears 2.25 per cent., small lymphocytes 97 per cent., large hyalines 0.50 per cent., transitionals 0.25 per cent. Nothing abnormal was seen in stained red cells. There was apparently a marked leucocytosis.

On the advice of a consultant the patient was admitted to the Leeds General Infirmary, a provisional diagnosis of atypical lymphatic leukaemia having been made. Here she was placed on the usual benzol and x-ray treatment for fourteen days. Two blood counts were taken, one on July 5th and the other on July 10th. That taken on July 5th was as follows: Red cells 3,570,000, leucocytes 35,000, haemoglobin 52 per cent., colour index 0.73. The red cells appeared normal, the lymphocytes were of small type, but much larger than normal. A differential count showed: Polymorph neutrophils 3 per cent., lymphocytes 97 per cent. The result of the blood count taken on July 10th was as follows: Red cells 4,170,000, leucocytes 14,700, haemoglobin 50 per cent., colour index 0.60. The film showed irregular size and staining of red cells with some polychromatophilia. A differential leucocyte count showed: Neutrophil polymorphs 8.5 per cent., lymphocytes 91.5 per cent.

The patient was discharged from the Infirmary on July 19th, with the spleen only slightly decreased in size. She returned on two separate occasions, fourteen and twenty-eight days later, for x-ray exposure. After her return home I placed her on large doses of iron, strychnine, and arsenic, and advised her to take regularly raw spleen. Since July 19th she has taken on an average twelve to fourteen raw sheep's spleens per week. Marked improvement in her general condition began to show itself. She has now gained 16 lb. in weight, there is no palpitation, no breathlessness, no lassitude, and no metrorrhagia. She feels very fit and can manage all her usual household duties (this she has

been able to do since September). Her spleen, though still enlarged, is greatly reduced in size, and on December 7th a further blood count was taken. This showed: Red blood cells 4,850,000, leucocytes 3,870, haemoglobin 68 per cent., colour index 0.7. Differential count: Polymorphs 46 per cent., lymphocytes 46 per cent. (small 42.5 per cent., large 3.5 per cent.), large hyalines 5.5 per cent., eosinophils 2 per cent., basophils 0.5 per cent. Nothing abnormal was found in stained films.

I am given to understand that the improvement in this case is much greater than is usual with x-ray and benzol treatment, and it would be interesting to know whether other splenic conditions, notably myelogenous leukaemia, would react in the same way. The accompanying diagrams illustrate the spleen at various stages of the illness.



I am deeply indebted to Mr. D. Chamberlain, honorary surgeon at the Leeds General Infirmary, for permission to use his clinical data, and to Dr. S. Goodman Platts, of the York County Hospital, for his excellent blood counts.

York.

H. TAYLOR, M.B., Ch.B.

Reports of Societies.

ACUTE INTESTINAL OBSTRUCTION.

At the meeting of the Medical Society of London on February 25th, Dr. J. WALTER CARR presiding, a discussion on the subject of "Acute intestinal obstruction" was opened by Professor A. H. BURGESS of Manchester, President-Elect of the British Medical Association.

Professor Burgess began by saying that the present century had witnessed a great improvement in the surgical treatment of acute abdominal crises (he protested strongly against the inelegant term, which was of London coinage, "the acute abdomen"). So far as Manchester Royal Infirmary was concerned, the mortality from acute appendicitis in 1924 was one-twelfth of what it had been in 1900; the mortality from perforations one-seventh, and the mortality from acute intestinal obstruction one-half. He referred to the statistical compilation of cases of acute intestinal obstruction brought forward by Mr. H. S. Souttar in the Section of Surgery at the Annual Meeting of the British Medical Association in 1925, which was the largest and most authoritative series of statistics available. It covered the period 1920-24, and the returns from seven hospitals, three in London, three in the provinces (including Manchester), and one in Ireland. He hoped that Mr. Souttar would compile a further series for the following five-year period and present it to the Winnipeg Meeting of the Association in 1930. Professor Burgess adopted Mr. Souttar's figures, but modified them by cutting out all cases of strangulated hernia and acute intussusception, for the simple reason that there was no excuse for missing the diagnosis in either of these conditions, and he wanted the statistics to represent those cases of acute intestinal obstruction the diagnosis of which was not readily obvious. This left 1,042 cases, in which there had been 395 deaths, a mortality of 37.9 per cent. It was this mortality which must be reduced. In Manchester some reduction had been effected. Thus the mortality for the ten-year period 1913-22 was 41.07 per cent., for 1920-24 (the period covered by Mr. Souttar's tables) 33.5 per cent., and for 1925-27 only 30.2 per cent. What was the reason for this continuing high mortality? The main reason was delay in the application of surgical treatment. The early signs of acute intestinal obstruction were not sufficiently stressed in the textbooks, at least in those of rather older date. Far too much emphasis, for example, was usually placed upon faecal vomiting. This should never be regarded as a sign of acute intestinal obstruction; it was really an end-result. There was a tendency to wait for the

Universities and Colleges.

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD.

As announced in our advertisement columns, an examination for the Theodore Williams Medical Scholarship will begin on June 4th. It is of the value of £100 a year, and tenable for four or five years. Full particulars can be obtained on application to the Senior Tutor, Pembroke College, Oxford.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.

THE Senate has accepted with thanks an offer by the trustees of the late Mr. C. H. Clark of £10,000 for the establishment of a lectureship in the history and progress of preventive medicine and tropical hygiene, and also a grant of £1,000 from the Beaverbrook Fund for Medical Research, forwarded by the Prime Minister. The grant will be applied to the purposes of, and administered under the scheme for, the Thomas Smythe Hughes Medical Research Fund.

Professor W. E. Le Gros Clark has been appointed, as from September 1st, to the University Chair of Anatomy, tenable at St. Thomas's Hospital Medical School.

A degree of Ph.D. has been instituted in non-clinical subjects for both internal and external students in the Faculty of Medicine.

The Geoffrey E. Duveen Travelling Studentship in oto-rhino-laryngology, of the value of £450, has been awarded for 1929 to Mr. Nehemiah Asherson, M.B., B.S., F.R.C.S.

On the recommendation of the School Committee of University College Hospital Medical School, Dr. G. R. Cameron has been appointed to the Graham Scholarship in Pathology for two years, from September 1st, 1928.

SOCIETY OF APOTHECARIES OF LONDON.

THE following candidates have passed in the subjects indicated:

SURGERY.—T. A. Barnabas, C. M. Brooks, N. Das, H. W. E. Dickey,

R. Frankling, K. E. Gallaher, K. Giris (Section D).

MEDICINE.—W. A. A. Collington, H. M. Feldman, L. P. Gregory,

C. K. McCoan, C. F. C. White.

FORENSIC MEDICINE.—C. W. Ellison.

MIDWIFERY.—R. K. Nandlal, C. Skinner.

The diploma of the Society has been granted to Messrs. T. A. Barnabas, C. M. Brooks, W. A. A. Collington, N. Das, L. P. Gregory, C. K. McCoan, and C. F. C. White.

Medical News.

MR. A. W. SHEEN, F.R.C.S., professor of surgery and director of the surgical unit of the Welsh National School of Medicine, will deliver the Hunterian Oration before the Hunterian Society at the Mansion House, E.C., on Monday, March 4th, at 9 p.m.; the subject is some aspects of the surgery of the spleen, illustrated by lantern slides.

A SPECIAL discussion on industrial dermatoses, their causation, recognition, prevention, and treatment, arranged by the Sections of Dermatology and Epidemiology of the Royal Society of Medicine, will take place at 1, Wimpole Street, W., on Thursday, March 21st, at 4.45 p.m. A selection of cases will be shown at 4 p.m.

UNDER the auspices of the Chadwick Trust a Malcolm Morris Memorial Address will be given by Sir Norman Walker at 5.15 o'clock, on May 16th, at the Royal Society of Arts, with Sir StClair Thomson in the chair.

THE annual general meeting of the Medical Officers of Schools Association will be held at the rooms of the Society of Medical Officers of Health, 1, Upper Montague Street, Russell Square, W.C.1, on Friday, March 15th, at 5 p.m.; tea will be served at 4.30 p.m. Sir Henry Gauvain, medical superintendent, Lord Mayor Treloar Cripples' Hospital and College, will read a paper on the combined education of children suffering from physical defects.

AN intensive post-graduate course in general medicine and surgery, including the special departments, will be held at the West London Hospital from March 11th to March 23rd. The fee for the course is six guineas. Full particulars can be obtained on application to the dean, West London Hospital, Hammersmith, W.6.

AT the East London Hospital for Children, Shadwell, E.1, interesting cases will be demonstrated by the honorary staff on Wednesday, March 6th, at 4 p.m. Tea will be served at 3.45 p.m. Medical practitioners are cordially invited.

A SPECIAL two weeks' course in orthopaedics will be given at the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital, Great Portland Street, W., from March 11th to 23rd. The fee for the course, which is open to all post-graduates, is three guineas.

THE Fellowship of Medicine announces that on Monday, March 4th, at 5 p.m., at the Medical Society, 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, Mr. Herbert Paterson will deliver a lecture on pitfalls in radiology. A demonstration will

be given by Mr. E. T. C. Milligan, on Thursday, March 7th, at 5 p.m., at the St. Mark's Hospital, City Road; and on Wednesday, March 6th, at 4 p.m., Dr. S. A. Henry will give a lecture-demonstration at the Wellcome Museum of Medical Science, 33, Gordon Street, on the industrial cancers and their importance in the investigation of the problem of new growth. There is no fee for attendance at the above lecture and demonstrations. From March 11th to 23rd the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital will hold an all-day course in orthopaedics if there are not fewer than ten entries; a course in ophthalmology will be held during the same period at the Royal Eye Hospital, consisting of clinical demonstrations each afternoon. Courses in April will deal with tropical medicine, electrotherapy, medicine, surgery and gynaecology, neurology, and a practitioner's course in general medicine and surgery lasting for an hour and a half in the late afternoon. Copies of all syllabuses, and details of the general course of work in the London hospitals associated with the Fellowship of Medicine, are obtainable on application to the secretary of the Fellowship, 1, Wimpole Street, W.1.

UNDER the auspices of the National Council for Mental Hygiene Dr. Bernard Hart will deliver a lecture on the minor mental disorders of everyday life, at the rooms of the Medical Society of London, 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, W., on Wednesday, March 6th, at 5 p.m.

THE Royal Sanitary Institute will hold its Institute Dinner on Thursday, March 21st, at the Hotel Metropole, with the president, the Duke of Northumberland, in the chair.

DURING Easter a week's excursion for medical practitioners and their families will be arranged to the Mediterranean coastal resorts, including Cap d'Antibes, Juan-les-Pins, Cannes, Le Cannet, Grasse, Vence, Mentone, Monaco, Monte Carlo, and Beaulieu. Further information may be obtained from the president of the Société Médicale du Littoral Méditerranéen, 24, Rue Verdi, Nice.

THE Water Pollution Research Board of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research issues periodically in typescript a summary of current literature bearing on water supplies, sewage, trade waste waters, river pollution, and kindred subjects. The issue for January has been placed in the Library of the Association, where it will be available for the use of members.

THE Savill prize (value £15) of the West End Hospital for Nervous Diseases is offered in 1929 for the best thesis on a neurological subject submitted to the examiners not later than October 31st. The prize is open to post-graduates who have attended the practice of this hospital on at least ten occasions, and candidates must submit the subject of their choice for the approval of the examiners not later than April 9th. Full particulars may be obtained on application to the secretary, West End Hospital for Nervous Diseases, 73, Welbeck Street, W.1.

DR. P. MERRIN has been unanimously appointed chairman of the Kingstown Urban District Council. This is the first time a medical man has been appointed to this office in the premier township in the Irish Free State. Dr. Merrin has acted as a chairman of the Public Health Committee for the past nine years.

AT the end of 1928 *Lijecnicki vjesnik* ("The Medical Advertiser"), the monthly journal of the Croatian Medical Society in Zagreb, celebrated its fiftieth anniversary. During its existence this periodical has developed gradually from a modest beginning, and has published 1,554 articles by 606 different authors; the rapidity of its recent growth is indicated by the fact that in 1928 it published 211 articles by 176 different authors.

THE annual congress known as the Journées Médicales de Paris will be held from June 9th to 14th. The subscription is 50 francs. Further information can be obtained from Dr. Léon Tixier, 18, Rue de Verneuil, Paris.

THE Annual Congress of the German Roentgen Society will be held in Vienna from April 20th to 22nd, under the presidency of Professor Hans Meyer of Bremen.

THE two German-Spanish journals named *Revista Médica de Hamburgo* and *La Medicina Germano-Hispano-Americana* have been united into a single organ, entitled *Revista Médica Germano-ibero-Americana*, under the direction of the two previous editors, Professor Mühlens of Hamburg and Professor J. Schwalbe of Berlin.

DR. LUDWIG ZAMENHOF, the inventor of Esperanto, has recently celebrated his seventieth birthday.

THE following resolution adopted by the Grand Council of the National Citizens' Union has been sent to the Minister of Health: "With a view to the reduction of the numbers of mentally afflicted, unfit, and diseased persons, an inquiry should be held into the best method of dealing with mental deficiency and incurably diseased persons, including a special inquiry into the possibility and advisability of legalizing sterilization, under proper safeguards, and in certain cases."