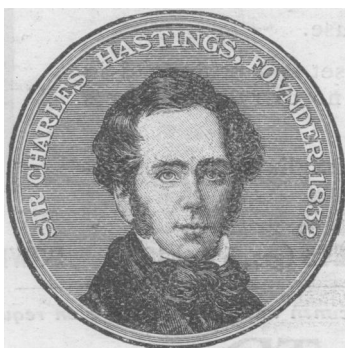


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British Medical Journal

THE JOURNAL OF THE BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

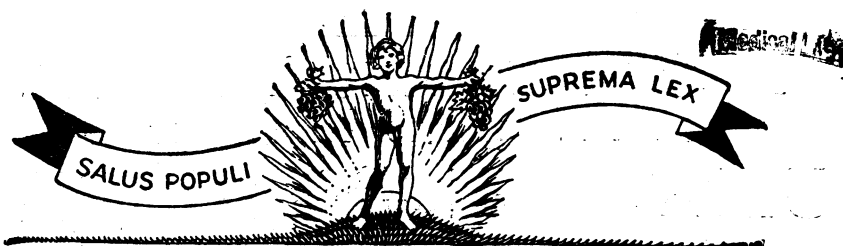


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ISSUED WEEKLY

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[REGISTERED AS A NEWSPAPER]

floor of the aperture, entering and leaving the serous surface approximately a quarter of an inch from the margins of the ulcer. The remaining sutures occupy positions a little to the gastric and duodenal sides of the ulcer, and in each case the ends of the stitches are grasped by a pair of light forceps. The effect produced is that of an archway of sutures placed in the long axis of the gut and extending on each side for at least three-quarters of an inch beyond the ulcer cavity.

A long omental strand, of not too slender proportions, is now sought out and a fine suture passed through its extremity. Forceps readily draw the suture and omentum through the archway, and the tip of the strand is finally anchored by a couple of stitches to the serous and muscular coats in the region of the pyloric antrum. The sutures forming the archway are now tied off; those beyond the margins of the cavity are firmly knotted, whilst quite a fair degree of tension can be placed upon the stitches traversing the crater since the omentum behaves as a soft resilient cushion, which prevents the catgut from cutting through the rigid tissues.

When it has been established that the new attachment of the omentum has left no loop which might strangulate a segment of the intestine, the gastric clamp is removed and the abdominal contents are replaced. The peritoneal cavity is gently swabbed until it is fairly dry, and if perforation has preceded operation by a longer period than twelve hours suprapubic drainage is instituted, otherwise the incision is simply closed in layers.

On theoretical grounds it might be argued that this method should not succeed, since it strangulates the omentum over an area where infection is distinctly liable, and hence that sloughing and reopening of the crater should be the outcome of the procedure. In no instance, however, has this accident occurred, and an opportunity was given for observing the late results of the operation when a patient, who had been operated on two years previously, underwent laparotomy for cholelithiasis. In this case the ulcer seemed to be completely healed, the duodenum exhibited little evidence of scarring, and was merely thickened somewhat over the portion of the outer wall where the omentum had been applied. Local adhesions were conspicuous by their absence.

An immediate mortality of 17.6 per cent.—nine cases out of a group of fifty-one—has already been admitted in an earlier section of this paper, and calls for some further explanation. In one instance only did death occur when operation followed within twelve hours of perforation. In two cases from sixteen to eighteen hours had elapsed, whilst in two others there was an intervening period of more than twenty-four hours. The remaining fatal cases were not operated upon until more than forty-eight hours after perforation, when well-marked peritonitis was already established.

Memoranda:

MEDICAL, SURGICAL, OBSTETRICAL.

FRACTURE OF ANTERIOR ILIAC SPINE.

The following case seems to be worth recording since I can find only one reference to this condition in the literature at my disposal—namely, in Wilson and Cochrane's *Fractures and Dislocations*, 1929.

A strong young man, aged 19, had been practising for some sports, and had taken part in putting the weight and high and long jumping. He then tried a hundred yards sprint, but after travelling some seventy-five yards he felt "something give," and had severe pain in the groin, causing him to fall. He was raised to his feet, but could not flex the right thigh.

When examined he was found to have perfect passive movement of the knee and hip, but hyperextension of the thigh produced slight pain in the right groin. On walking he had to drag the right limb forward, being unable to lift the foot off the floor, unless by great effort. On deep palpation over the anterior part of the iliac crest, something was felt to slide backwards and forwards, and as the anterior superior spine was ill defined, the diagnosis of avulsion of the anterior superior iliac spine by the sartorius muscle was made. This was confirmed the following day by an x-ray examination, when the spine was found to be lying about one inch below its normal situation with the patient in the recumbent position.

The interest of this case seems to lie in the fact that the patient was using the sartorius to a less extent while running than while long jumping, etc., and secondly in the comparative rarity of a fractured anterior superior spine by indirect violence.

Gravesend.

JAMES CRAWFORD, M.B., Ch.B.Ed.

CERVICAL SUBLUXATION FOLLOWING ANAESTHESIA.

The following case seems of sufficient interest to warrant recording.

Last February the patient, a girl aged 9, was operated on in hospital under general anaesthesia. When her parents took her home they stated that her head was twisted and "stuck to one side." She was taken to one of the Royal National Orthopaedic Clinics (operated in conjunction with



Before operation.



After operation.



Before operation.



After operation.

local authorities) and on examination it was seen that her head was bent towards the left shoulder and the face twisted towards the left side. The right scalenes were prominent and spasmodically contracted, the right and left sterno-mastoids prominent, though relaxed, and the child could not move her head. She complained of a dragging pain radiating towards the left shoulder. Stereoscopic x-ray photographs were made, but they afforded no help in diagnosis. A tentative diagnosis of a subluxated cervical vertebra was made, and the child admitted to the country branch of the hospital at Stanmore.

At the operation, which was performed six weeks after the onset of the symptoms, the head was found to be fixed in the deformed position, a transverse process on the left side being unusually prominent. On palpation of the pharynx, a hard bony mass was felt projecting posteriorly and to the left, at about the level of the top of the left tonsillar fossa. Reduction was attempted by extension and manipulation, with apparent success. There was no "click," probably owing to the presence of adhesions and to the length of time that had elapsed, but after the manipulation the bony mass felt in the pharynx was median in position and no longer prominent. The child has regained a full range of movements without deformity.

I have to thank Dr. C. W. Durward for excellent photographs of the patient, taken before and after operation.

J. B. BARNETT, F.R.C.S.

Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital,
Stanmore.

service. The universal sense of loss which is felt in Eastbourne is a testimony to the service he gave in practically every direction. Besides the many people who have lost a great friend, the town as a whole is in mourning for the death of one of its most active and useful citizens.

While at Bart's Harding was a renowned Rugby footballer, and in his time played also for Middlesex and England. His interest in sport did not end when he settled in Eastbourne. He was on the committee of the Eastbourne Cricket and Football Club for many years, and acted for a time as its treasurer; he was also influential in resuscitating Rugby football in Eastbourne. The high regard in which his colleagues and fellow students held him may be judged from the fact that he was the only country general practitioner who took the chair at a St. Bartholomew's Hospital past and present dinner. The serious epidemic of influenza during the past winter claimed him as one of its victims; he never thoroughly recovered from his attack, and died of heart failure.

W. G. W.

SIR WILLIAM FAIRBANK, K.C.V.O., M.R.C.S.,
Honorary Surgeon-Apothecary to His Majesty's Household at Windsor.

We regret to record the death, in his seventy-ninth year, of Sir William Fairbank, which took place on June 10th at his home at Windsor.

After receiving his early education at the Forest School, Walthamstow, William Fairbank entered, in 1868, as a medical student at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, where he was dresser to Sir James Paget; in 1872 he obtained the Licence of the Society of Apothecaries, and was admitted a member of the Royal College of Surgeons of England in the following year. In 1875, having completed an appointment as resident medical officer to the Royal Albert Infirmary, Wigan, he went as house-surgeon to the Rotunda Hospital, Dublin, and in 1877 became a licentiate in midwifery of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland. In 1880 he was appointed surgeon-apothecary to Queen Victoria's Household at Windsor, and surgeon to Prince and Princess Christian, in place of his elder brother, Dr. Thomas Fairbank, who had just died suddenly. He then became in turn surgeon-apothecary at Windsor to Queen Victoria, to King Edward, and to King George.

Sir William Fairbank held a number of hospital and public appointments. For many years he was surgeon to the Windsor Royal Infirmary, being at the time of his death honorary consulting surgeon to its successor, the King Edward VII Hospital; he was local consulting physician to the Royal Ventnor Hospital for Consumption; chairman and president of the Royal Albert Institute at Windsor; examiner, and for thirty-nine years lecturer, to the Order of St. John of Jerusalem; a member of the Berkshire County Council, and from 1919 to 1920 mayor of Windsor. In recognition of his many services he was created M.V.O. in 1911, and promoted C.V.O. in 1921 and K.C.V.O. in 1924. In 1921 Fairbank was a member of the delegation of British mayors who visited the devastated areas of France, and after Windsor had adopted Hardecourt-aux-Bois he raised funds for the reconstruction of the village, which afterwards he visited every year. In appreciation of his efforts the inhabitants of the village renamed after him their square and main street.

Sir William Fairbank married in 1879; he is survived by two sons and three daughters.

Dr. JOHN BROWN, who died near Capetown on May 7th, in his eighty-sixth year, received his medical education at Aberdeen University, where he graduated M.D. (with honours) and C.M. (highest honours) in 1863. After spending ten years in Wynberg, Cape Colony, where he built up a successful practice, he returned to Edinburgh, and became demonstrator in anatomy at the University. In 1877 he took the diploma of public health, Cambridge, and in 1878 the Fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, and a degree in public health at Edinburgh. We are indebted to Dr. Athelstane Nobbs for the following

appreciation: So well equipped was John Brown that he might successfully have invaded Charlotte Square, or come South to the purlieus of Cavendish Square, but he elected to work among the workers of Lancashire, and became junior partner to a Dr. Briggs in Burnley. In due course he became the senior partner when a certain brother Aberdonian, one James Mackenzie, became the junior—Brown being the surgeon, as it were, and Mackenzie the physician of the partnership. There can be no doubt that the man who later was to become the acknowledged master of the science of cardiology benefited by this early collaboration, and to the end Sir James Mackenzie, as he became, and his old senior, whose partner he had been in Burnley for twenty years, were the closest friends. John Brown, who, by the way, was a cousin of his namesake, the author of *Rab and His Friends*, had married a daughter of a former Premier of Cape Colony, and when he retired from practice, shortly after the South African war, returned to the Cape, but never to idleness. He leaves behind him the memory of one of God's good men, absolutely straight and humane, a scholar void of pedantry, with the capable hands of the ideal surgeon.

Universities and Colleges.

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD.

At a congregation held on June 8th the following medical degrees were conferred:

D.M.—G. I. Evans.

B.M.—R. M. J. Harper, D. C. Shields, M. V. Bhajekar, H. G. Wells.

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE.

DR. R. A. WEBB has been appointed University Demonstrator in Pathology, and Messrs. G. Aurep and H. E. Tunncliffe University Demonstrators in Physiology.

At a congregation held on June 8th the degree of Bachelor of Medicine (M.B.) was conferred on R. Gallimore.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.

The following candidates have been approved at the examination indicated:

THIRD M.B., B.S.—*†C. F. Cosin, *†H. E. A. Hunter (University medal), *†A. L. Light, *†E. G. M. Palmer, *†S. F. Russell, *†H. A. H. Selbourne, *†C. E. W. Wheaton, Lucy E. Arthur, Mabel A. Baker, C. G. Bowen, Annie G. Busher, E. C. B. Butler, Alison M. Clark, Rosa O. J. Clark, S. L. A. Clarke, Joan C. Clatworthy, F. S. Cooksey, Hilda C. Dean, C. G. de Couilliard, V. P. de Zoysa, C. J. Donelan, D. E. Dunnill, Dorothy V. Dunolly, A. M. Easton, A. C. Elkin, C. N. Evans, G. S. Ferraby, Kathleen E. Gambrell, I. Gordon, D. P. Gray, Bridget S. P. Gurney, C. E. Hagenbach, Emily M. Hall, H. N. W. Harley, R. L. Harvard, F. F. Hellier, C. F. Howes, E. C. H. Huddy, W. F. Hudson, H. E. James, P. Kaplan, D. W. S. Kaye, H. J. Kricheski, S. C. H. Lane, A. J. G. Latchmore, I. B. Limbery, G. H. Livingstone, W. S. McConnell, J. V. Macgregor, M. L. Mistri, Anna P. Montgomery, Jocelyn A. M. Moore, Joyce Morgan, D. T. R. Morris, C. B. Nicholson, C. G. MacM. Nicol, C. G. Paine, Keren I. Parkes, G. C. Pether, A. P. Pettigra, C. B. Picken, Betty J. W. Pilsworth, G. L. S. Plumbly, H. W. A. Post, I. Preiskel, K. H. Pridie, E. I. Puddy, W. G. Richards, Marjorie E. Roberts, I. M. Robertson, R. D. Robinson, Janet M. Roche, A. P. Ross, A. S. D. Russell, Beatrice A. Savill, J. E. Schneider, E. M. Sharples, D. Shaw, C. G. Sinclair, N. Sinnadurai, E. J. J. Smith, P. A. M. Soutter, J. B. Sugden, A. R. Thompson, F. S. Thornton, Decima M. Tracey, Frances J. Vinter, Nora W. Wamsley, A. J. Watson, S. A. Wickamasinghe, P. Wiles, W. A. Wilson, A. Wiseman, E. A. Wood, Joyce R. Woods, Mary Worthington, T. C. Yip, B. A. Young.

Group I.—Ellen M. Barnes, J. N. Bhada, C. V. Bloom, W. E. R. Brauch, Eileen A. Chennell, Mabel J. Cooke, W. V. Cruden, Catherine Day, R. F. Fidler, Alice E. N. Gibby, D. R. Griffith, E. Grundy, F. R. Gusterson, G. F. Harrison, E. F. Hewitt, J. F. L. King, G. Lee, Dorothy M. Lufkin, Dorothy F. McIntosh, T. H. Negus, A. T. Pagan, L. M. J. A. Pilot, J. C. Saldanha, C. P. Scott, Mary Scouloudi, Mary E. Sharp, R. Shelley, A. G. Signy, Marjorie V. N. Sudds, K. G. Sugden, C. B. V. Tait, L. E. Vine.

Group II.—A. M. Boyd, Bertha A. Briant, Lilian P. Edwards, H. K. Evans, R. Evans, B. M. Fonseka, Ruth C. Galletly, V. F. Hall, Margaret L. Hamburger, G. B. M. Higgs, R. A. King, K. E. Lane, L. P. E. Laurent, A. Levy, F. J. G. Lishman, E. W. Martindell, R. Oliver, R. Purvis, Sylvia M. Ransford, J. A. Robson, R. C. N. Shires, W. D. Steel, S. A. Underwood, E. M. Wijerama, N. R. W. Wynn-Williams.

* Honours. † Distinguished in Medicine.
‡ Distinguished in Forensic Medicine. § Distinguished in Surgery.
¶ Distinguished in Midwifery.

UNIVERSITY OF DURHAM.

On June 5th the Duke of Northumberland was installed as Chancellor of the University of Durham, in succession to the late Earl of Durham. The first part of the ceremony was held in the quadrangle of Durham Castle, where the Vice-Chancellor, Sir Thomas Oliver, M.D., conferred upon the Duke the degree of D.C.L. by diploma and installed him in office. After a thanksgiving service in the cathedral, when an address was given by the Bishop of Durham, convocation was resumed in the Chapter House, where the new Chancellor conferred honorary degrees upon a

number of distinguished persons, including the President of the Royal College of Physicians of London and the President of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, who each received the degree of D.C.L. Sir John Rose Bradford was presented by Professor Stuart McDonald (Dean of the College of Medicine) and Lord Moynihan by Professor Grey Turner. The degree of D.Sc. was conferred on Lord Rayleigh, Emeritus Professor of Physics in the Imperial College of Science, and on Dr. C. Tait Regan, Director of the Natural History Museum.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF IRELAND.

DR. DENIS JOHN COFFEY, President of the Irish Medical Council, President of University College, Dublin, and Vice-Chancellor of the National University of Ireland, has been unanimously elected an honorary Fellow of the College.

The following candidates, having passed the examination for the Membership, were duly admitted as Licentiates in Medicine and Members of the College: J. Lait and F. MacSorley.

Reports have been received from the representatives of the College on the Irish Medical Council and on the General Medical Council on the recent proceedings of those bodies.

Medical News.

THE William Mackenzie medal for 1928 for original contributions to ophthalmology of outstanding merit has been awarded to Mr. W. S. Duke-Elder of London. The Glasgow Eye Infirmary, the custodians, have made the award on the advice of a committee representative of the University of Glasgow, the surgeons of the Glasgow Eye Infirmary and of the Glasgow Ophthalmic Institution, and the Fellows of the Royal Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow.

PROFESSOR GREY TURNER, M.S., F.R.C.S., professor of surgery in the University of Durham, is taking charge of the teaching in the surgical unit of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, in place of Professor Gask, for a fortnight from June 10th to 22nd. It will be remembered that on former occasions Professor Harvey Cushing of Boston, Professor Hugh Cabot of Ann Arbor, and Lord Moynihan have acted in a similar way.

THE third annual MacAlister Lecture of the London Clinical Society will be delivered at the London Temperance Hospital, Hampstead Road, N.W.1, on Thursday, June 20th, at 8.45 p.m., by Sir Humphry Rolleston, on "Medical friendships, clubs, societies." The lecture is open to all medical practitioners, who are invited to bring their friends, ladies or gentlemen. The honorary secretary, Dr. F. Temple Grey, 86, Harley Street, W.1, will be glad to be notified of those who propose to attend.

A COURSE of instruction in the technique of tissue culture will be given at the Strangeways Research Laboratory from July 9th to August 10th. Only a limited number of applicants can be received. Notification from those wishing to take the course should be sent, not later than June 30th, to Dr. H. B. Fell, Strangeways Research Laboratory, Cambridge.

THE summer meeting of the Section of Otolaryngology of the Royal Society of Medicine will be held at Cambridge on June 21st and 22nd. A cinematograph demonstration of a prostatectomy, a litholapaxy, and an internal urethrotomy will be given at the summer meeting of the Section of Urology on June 27th, at 8.30 p.m.

A MEETING of the Biochemical Society will be held at the John Innes Horticultural Institution, Merton, Surrey, to-day (Saturday, June 15th), at 11.45 a.m. The subjects on which communications will be made include: carbohydrate metabolism in avitaminous birds, absorption of liquid paraffin from the alimentary tract of the rat and pig, the association of vitamin A activity with carotene in the carrot root, and the nature of the vitamin A constituent of green leaves.

THE annual meeting of the Incorporated Lancashire and Cheshire Society for the Permanent Care of the Feeble-minded will be held at the Sandlebridge Institution, Alderley Edge, on Friday, June 21st. The chair will be taken by Sir Lewis Beard at 3.15 p.m.

THE annual meeting of King Edward's Hospital Fund for London was held at St. James's Palace on June 11th, the Prince of Wales presiding. In the course of his address His Royal Highness read a message from His Majesty the King, expressing delight at the response which had been made to the recent appeal for funds, and stated that during 1928 the amount distributed had for the first time reached a total of £250,000. Loans of radium, bought with Sir Otto Beit's gift, had been made to twenty hospitals, on the principle that there should be a few hospitals with a sufficient supply to act as radium centres, and a rather larger number with enough radium to provide effective treatment. The Prince paid a tribute to the generosity of the British public, which in the course of a single week contributed the money required for

the radium side of the Thank-offering Fund. An account of the proceedings of the meeting will be given in next week's issue.

A CROWDED congregation, consisting largely of patients of the late Dr. R. E. Ingram-Johnson, filled the parish church of South Moor, Durham, on June 2nd, when a brass tablet to his memory was unveiled by Sir Thomas Oliver, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Durham. After its dedication by the Rural Dean, Sir Thomas Oliver addressed the congregation, paying a special tribute to the unselfishness that had always characterized Dr. Ingram-Johnson. Sir Thomas spoke in warm terms of the friendship between them, and mentioned the regret he had felt when Dr. Ingram-Johnson decided to go out to India and later to Malaya. There he had devoted himself particularly to the problem of malaria, and had conducted research which led him to the belief that treatment with the serum of dengue fever cases had a definite curative value in malaria. Dr. Ingram-Johnson, who died in May, 1928, was a strong supporter of the British Medical Association.

THE Fellowship of Medicine and Post-Graduate Medical Association has arranged two lectures for candidates for the M.R.C.P. examination, one by Dr. H. Gardiner-Hill on June 18th, and the other by Dr. Harold Pritchard on June 21st, at 8.30 p.m., at 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, W. A free lecture on the management of patients suffering from cancer of the breast will be given on June 18th, at 4.45 p.m., by Dr. Herniman-Johnson, at the British Institute of Radiology, 32, Welbeck Street, W. There is one week left of the following courses: in ophthalmology, at the Royal Westminster Ophthalmic Hospital, in diseases of the chest, at the Victoria Park Hospital, Victoria Park, E., in gynaecology, at the Chelsea Hospital for Women. From June 24th to 29th an all-day course in proctology will be given at St. Mark's Hospital for Diseases of the Rectum; fee £3 3s. From June 24th to July 6th the North-East London Post-Graduate College (Prince of Wales's General Hospital, Tottenham, N.) has arranged an intensive "refresher" course in medicine, surgery, and the specialties; fee £5 5s. or £3 3s. for either week. Also beginning on June 24th and continuing until July 7th, the Children's Clinic, in association with several other hospitals, will give a comprehensive course of instruction in diseases of children and infants; fee £2 2s. Copies of all syllabuses, the complete list of special courses for 1929, information on general post-graduate work, and specimen copies of the *Post-Graduate Medical Journal*, may be obtained from the secretary, Fellowship of Medicine, 1, Wimpole Street, London, W.1.

WE are informed by Sir James Barr that the following names are to be added to the signatories of the letter published on May 11th (p. 879) in support of the testimonial to Sir Ronald Ross: Professor Umberto Gabbi (Turin), Professor C. Savas (Athens), Dr. Anton Breinl (Townsaville), and Professor C. Schilling (Berlin). A list of contributors to the fund was printed in our last issue (p. 1065). Donations should be sent to Lloyds Bank, Ltd., 110, High Street, Putney, S.W.15, cheques to be crossed "Ross Award Fund a/c."

THE Medical Research Council, after consultation with the Ministry of Health and the Board of Education, has appointed a committee to inquire into the prevalence and mode of spread of minor epidemics in residential schools, especially those believed to be spread by "droplet infection," and to report upon the means by which they may be prevented or restricted. The personnel of the committee is as follows: Sir George Newman, M.D. (chairman), Dame Janet Campbell, M.D., Dr. R. H. Crowley, Surgeon Commander S. F. Dudley, Dr. J. A. Glover, Professor M. Greenwood, F.R.S., Dr. L. R. Lempriere, Miss E. M. Newbold, M.A., and Professor W. W. C. Topley, M.D., with Dr. Joyce Wilson as secretary.

IN continuation of the series of visits to famous buildings in aid of King Edward's Hospital Fund for London, arrangements have been made for parties to visit the Foreign Office, India Office, and Admiralty on Saturday, June 22nd, at 2.45 p.m. On Friday, July 19th, at 4.30 p.m., a party will be conducted round Westminster Abbey, and on August 9th and 21st, at 2.30 p.m., visits will be paid to the Tower of London, when Mr. Walter Bell will give an address on the Tower and its history. Tickets, price 7s. 6d., can be obtained on application to King Edward's Hospital Fund for London, 7 Walbrook, E.C.4.

AT a meeting of the Central Midwives Board for England and Wales held on June 6th, with Sir Francis Champneys in the chair, a letter was read from the town clerk of York, submitting a scheme of lectures to be delivered at York Maternity Hospital by Dr. A. M. Hughes and Dr. Lister. The scheme was approved.

THE Medical Research Council announce that on behalf of the Rockefeller Foundation they have made the following awards of travelling fellowships for the academic year 1929-30: Olive Burton Buckley, B.M., M.R.C.P., King's College Hospital, London; George Aleck Crocker Gough, B.Sc., Ph.D., National Institute for Medical Research,

London; William Robert Henderson, M.B., Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh; Donald Hunter, M.D., F.R.C.P., assistant physician, London Hospital; George Eric Lewis, B.A., M.R.C.S., London Hospital; Moses Myer Suzman, M.D., M.R.C.P., College of Medicine, Newcastle-upon-Tyne; Janet Maria Vaughan, B.A., B.M., University College Hospital, London. These Rockefeller medical fellowships are awarded to graduates who have had some training in research work either in the primary sciences of medicine or in clinical medicine and surgery, and who are likely to profit by a period of work at a chosen centre in America or, in special cases, in Europe, before taking up positions for higher teaching or research in the British Isles. Dr. Gough's fellowship is tenable at the University of Munich; the others at centres in the United States. Dr. Lewis has been appointed on modified conditions while receiving emoluments from another source.

On June 10th, at the Tower Bridge Police Court, a man charged with obtaining money by false pretences and with intent to defraud, pleaded guilty and was sentenced to imprisonment for three months in the second division. On behalf of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain it was stated that the accused, having represented himself as a fully qualified chemist, obtained the post of manager to a chemist's shop. In substantiation of his claim he had produced a certificate under the Act which, though genuine, had been altered by the substitution of the accused's name for the one it bore originally. The accused, in the course of a statement, said that since he had managed the shop he had dispensed 50,000 prescriptions, and there had never been any trouble and everything had been in order.

THE ninth annual congress known as the Journées Médicales de Bruxelles will be held at Brussels from June 22nd to 26th, under the presidency of Professor Henry Coppez. Addresses will be delivered, among others, by Emile Sergent of Paris, Blum of Strasbourg, Nordenson of Upsala, Spillmann of Nancy, Putti of Bologna, Froment of Lyons, Eastman Sheehau of New York, Gouin of Lausanne, Hymans van den Bergh of Utrecht, and Tricot-Royer of Antwerp. The opening discourse will be given by the Parisian oto-rhino-laryngologist, Dr. Nepveu, who is well known in the literary world, as Luc Durtain. The subscription is 75 francs. Further information can be obtained from the general secretary, Dr. R. Beckers, 62, Rue Froissart, Brussels.

DR. G. WAYLAND ANCRUM of Gloucester and Dr. Richard Davies of Cheltenham have been appointed to the Commission of the Peace for the county of Gloucester.

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:
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FINANCIAL SECRETARY AND BUSINESS MANAGER (Advertisements, etc.), Articulate Westcent, London.
MEDICAL SECRETARY, Medisecra Westcent, London.

The address of the Irish Office of the British Medical Association is 16, South Frederick Street, Dublin (telegrams: *Bacillus, Dublin*; telephone: 62550 Dublin), and of the Scottish Office, 7, Drumshough Gardens, Edinburgh (telegrams: *Associate, Edinburgh*; telephone 24361 Edinburgh).

QUERIES AND ANSWERS.

UMBILICAL DISCHARGE.

"W. D." writes: Can anyone suggest the cause of an occasional discharge from the umbilicus in a woman of 32? The discharge is serous in character, and occurred first at about the age of 14 years, and reappeared about three years ago.

WATER SOFTENERS.

"MEMBER OF FORTY YEARS' STANDING" asks whether it is advisable to use for the whole of the water supply (Kentish hard water) to his house one of the water softeners on the market. Is the softened water palatable, and does it contain any substance injurious to health? Is any one method of softening specially recommended?

INCOME TAX.

Appointment: Whether Liable to Tax.

"W. H. P." first commenced earning a salary in September, 1926, as an assistant, and his earnings have been as follows:

| | |
|------------------------------------|------|
| September, 1926, to December, 1926 | £69 |
| Year to December, 1927 | £231 |
| Year to December, 1928 | £290 |
| Three months to April, 1929 | £109 |

He inquires whether he is liable to assessment, and as to what steps he should take.

* * He is liable as follows:

For the year 1926-27: £69+one-quarter of £231—that is, £127—exempt.

For the year 1927-28: three-quarters of £231+one-quarter of £290—that is, £245—£6 18s. tax.

For the year 1928-29: three-quarters of £231+one-quarter of £290—that is, £245—£6 18s. tax.

In explanation of the above the basis of assessment was the current year's earnings up to 1927-28 inclusive, and afterwards the previous year's earnings; in calculating the tax payable only earned income relief and the £135 personal allowance have been deducted; any life assurance relief would reduce the tax payable still further. It will probably be best for "W. H. P." to get in touch with the local inspector of taxes and make his formal returns.

Change of Employment.

"R. C. F. S." was acting as a general assistant to December 20th, 1927, and became a school medical officer under a public authority as from January 1st, 1928. What is his correct basis of assessment for the year to April 5th, 1928?

* * The actual amount of his earnings for that year. Where a substantial change in the nature and conditions of the employment takes place, as has occurred here, the correct method is to regard the former employment as having ceased and a new one as having commenced. The facts do not justify a claim to continuity of employment.

LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.

THE COCKTAIL HABIT IN FRANCE.

IN our issue of January 5th (p. 31) we noted Professor W. E. Dixon's warning about the injurious effects of cocktail addiction; recently a similar denunciation has been made at the Académie de Médecine by Professor Georges Guillaumin, who occupies the chair of nervous diseases in the Paris Faculty of Medicine. Before the war, he states, this practice, imported from America, had been confined to certain sections of French society, particularly racing, literary, and dramatic circles, but lately it has become prevalent among the well-to-do classes generally. The cocktail bar is to be found not only in hotels and restaurants, but even in the homes of the rich. Furnishing firms make it their business to supply more or less elegant bars suitable for drawing rooms, even for motor cars, while special hampers containing the ingredients and utensils used in the preparation of cocktails are on sale everywhere. As in this country, the principal victims of the habit are young men and women of the "smart" set, and among them Professor Guillaumin has often found obvious signs of chronic alcoholism. Commonly met with are digestive disturbances, manifested as loss of appetite, hyperchlorhydria, pyloric spasm, congestion of the liver, and enteritis, and such circulatory symptoms as tachycardia, precordial pain, and a tendency to syncope. The most important disorders, however, are referable to the nervous system, and include insomnia, physical and psychical asthenia, depression, and disinclination for mental work. In several instances epileptic attacks, attributed to the cocktail habit, have occurred for the first time in individuals of 25 to 35 years of age. Professor Guillaumin urges that young people of the wealthy classes should be enlightened as to the disastrous effects of cocktail drinking, both on their own physical and mental equilibrium and on that of their descendants.

VOTES FOR EPSOM COLLEGE.

DR. BERNARD ROWLANDS (London, N.15) writes: I appeal on behalf of John Horace Brockman White to any who have votes for Epsom College. Contemporaries of his father, Charles Powell White, M.A., M.D.Camb., F.R.C.S.Eng., who knew him as a good surgeon and research worker, will regret to know that this appeal is necessary.

VACANCIES.

NOTIFICATIONS of offices vacant in universities, medical colleges, and of vacant resident and other appointments at hospitals, will be found at pages 41, 42, 43, 47, 48, 49, and 50 of our advertisement columns, and advertisements as to partnerships, assistantships, and locumtenencies at pages 44, 45 and 46.

A short summary of vacant posts notified in the advertisement columns appears in the *Supplement* at page 235.