

haemorrhage), and only one other gave rise to any anxiety—chiefly on account of her mental condition. This was the only case of septicæmia. The remaining eight cases were all mild infections; two of them were scarcely ill at all. It would seem, therefore, that though the presence of haemolytic streptococci in a culture from the uterus—especially if it is an abundant, nearly pure growth—should be looked upon as a potentially serious matter, it does not necessarily justify a grave prognosis. Secondly, it may be noticed that though strict isolation of the 10 patients who harboured haemolytic streptococci was impossible, the infection was not transferred—except possibly in one instance—to another patient in the hospital.

## REFERENCES.

Armstrong and Burt-White: *British Medical Journal*, 1929, i, 592.  
White, E. R.: *Med. Journ. of Australia*, 1927, ii, 38.  
Bryce, Lucy: *Med. Journ. of Australia*, July 28th, 1928.  
Brown, H. B.: Monograph of the 'Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research', No. 9, 1919.

## Memoranda:

## MEDICAL, SURGICAL, OBSTETRICAL.

## GASTROSTAXIS FOLLOWING BURNS.

THE tannic acid treatment of burns and scalds has given us very satisfactory results; of 80 children under 16 years of age admitted for these conditions during 1929 only 6 died, these deaths occurring either in children admitted several days after the accident, or in those treated with oil before admission. Yet recently a child, in spite of early and efficient tannic acid treatment, died on the nineteenth day, although at the time the wounds had almost healed, and we are in doubt as to the precise relation of the injury and of the tannic acid treatment to the fatal result.

K. G., aged 2 years and 10 months, at 11.30 a.m. sustained scalds of the first and second degree on the abdomen, left thigh from groin to knee, and left forearm. Tannic acid spray was used at 2 p.m. with the hot air bath. The coagulum was quite satisfactory. Two days later the child was restless and vomited; on the next day there was considerable thirst, but no vomiting. In a week the thigh crust was separating with slight purulent discharge, and by the end of the second week the coagulum on the abdomen had separated, healing being satisfactory. The thigh showed a small raw area. The arm wound was quite healed.

On the evening of the eighteenth day the child collapsed, being blue and cold with gasping breathing. There was slight persistent twitching, but no definite convulsion or loss of consciousness. Stimulants revived her slightly, but at 12.45 a.m. on the nineteenth day she died after vomiting altered blood.

Post-mortem examination showed ample subcutaneous fat, healed scalds of abdomen and arm, and a small unhealed clean wound of the thigh. The cerebral vessels were much engorged, but there was no haemorrhage or excess of fluid. There was no evidence of pneumonia. The stomach was full of coffee-ground material. The vessels were engorged and the mucous membrane showed punctiform haemorrhages, but no ulcer was present here or in the duodenum, nor could any source of the blood be detected in the pharynx or oesophagus. No naked-eye evidence of septic absorption or degeneration could be seen.

At the inquest the father pertinently inquired why a child making such satisfactory progress should die so suddenly. A satisfactory answer to this question will be much appreciated.

J. D'EWART,

Manchester. Medical Superintendent, Booth Hall Infirmary.

## ANAPHYLAXIS FOLLOWING INJECTION OF PITUITARY EXTRACT.

THE following case seems of sufficient interest to merit recording.

The patient was a married woman who suffered from a mild attack of lupus erythematosus, localized on the eyebrows and nose, and whose blood test by the Abderhalden method had shown an impairment in the function of the pituitary gland. I had prescribed and given to her injections of total pituitary extract. These injections were started on August 10th, 1929, at the rate of two a week, hypodermically. Five injections were given, with a definite improvement of her erythematoid patches. The patient had no ill effects after the injections, but complained of a little giddiness a few minutes later. I ascribed this to the presence of a certain amount of the posterior lobe in the solution.

The sixth injection was given on September 2nd. Twenty minutes afterwards the patient was taken suddenly ill at home with all the classical symptoms of anaphylaxis. Her eyes and face became puffy, her hands and feet were swollen, her respiration was characteristic, and a rash developed, covering the whole body. Itching was terrific. I gave her 2½ grains of calcium chloride, with the result that all the symptoms disappeared in twenty-four hours.

This was the first time that such an incident had occurred after dozens of injections of pituitary extract that I have given in the last four years, using always the same solution; but Fournier, Pomaret, Alexander, Besredka, and many other authors have described similar incidents when experimenting with infinitesimal doses of ophetherapeutic extracts in the veins of animals, and it is therefore quite possible that a certain amount of the pituitary solution which I injected into my patient had been absorbed too quickly through a venule, thus producing an anaphylactic attack of urticaria. The patient, however, does not remember having been injected before with any sort of serum.

London, W.2.

JAMES HASSON, M.D.

## British Medical Association.

## CLINICAL AND SCIENTIFIC PROCEEDINGS.

## SWANSEA DIVISION.

## Estimation of the Basic or Diastolic Blood Pressure.

At a meeting of the Swansea Division, at the Swansea Hospital, on December 12th, 1929, Dr. G. ARBOUR STEPHENS, consulting cardiologist to King Edward VII Welsh National Memorial Association, read a paper entitled "A new method of estimating the basic or diastolic blood pressure."

Dr. Arbour Stephens said that the importance of ascertaining the blood pressure demanded that the method of ascertaining it should be both simple and reliable, and he believed that his method complied with these requirements. The ordinary definition of the blood pressure was "that pressure which the blood exerts against the vessel wall in which it is contained." The speaker preferred, however, to define the blood pressure as "the pressure which the vessel walls exert on the blood inside them." He remarked that blood was composed of living cells which performed their work by exuding through the vessel walls; in order that the exudation might be satisfactory there must be a satisfactory blood pressure, or, in other words, the blood cells required an optimum pressure range. A knowledge of the systolic blood pressure was of little value without the diastolic, or what the speaker termed the "basic," blood pressure. The systolic pressure was fairly easy to determine by the present methods, but the determination of the basic or diastolic pressure presented difficulties to the majority of medical men. The optimum pressure range extended between the highest point of the systolic and basic pressures. The systolic pressure varied throughout the whole contraction of the heart muscle, whereas the basic pressure was relatively steady.

Determination of the basic pressure gave: a measure of the vasomotor tone; the lower limit of pressure commensurate with an adequate supply of blood to the vessel walls themselves; the constant pressure on the blood, to which the variable systolic pressure was additional; and an index of what the heart force had to overcome. The basic pressure was increased by: vaso-constriction; increased rapidity of the heart; increased intracerebral pressure, as, for example, in meningitis and tumour; and exercise. There was a consequent retention of products in the blood which tended to disturb the system. The basic pressure was lowered by: vaso-dilatation, as in fevers, neurasthenia, and hypothyroidism; heart-block; thickening of the arteries in the absence of increased capillary resistance; and aortic insufficiency.

The systolic pressure was estimated by means of the sphygmomanometer, and was just that pressure which was able to stop the pulse, or, in other words, that pressure

## AN OPTICAL ILLUSION.

SIR.—The following is possibly the most remarkable optical illusion that has yet been discovered, and very few fail to see it with ease.

Take a piece of black cardboard eight inches square, and place it on a wallpaper with a coloured pattern. The light in the room should not be too bright, but the experiment can be done easily in the daylight of the present time. The cardboard should be looked at with one eye at a distance of six feet, the eye being kept as immovable as possible. It will then be noticed that portions of the colours of the wallpaper will appear to detach themselves from the wallpaper and move with a slow spiral motion into the black area. This will go on until the whole black area has completely disappeared, the surface being covered with a mixture of colours similar to those on the wallpaper.

If a Persian carpet be used for the purpose of the experiment the area will be covered with a mixture of the colours of the carpet. If the background is of a uniform colour the black area will be covered by that colour. It may even make another colour disappear. For example, if a piece of red paper an inch and a half square is placed on a piece of yellow-green cardboard, the yellow-green will appear to invade the red until only a yellow-green surface is seen. If any difficulty is experienced the experiment should be tried in a dimmer light.

This experiment was deduced from my theory of vision—namely, that the cones of the retina are the percipient elements and the rods of the retina are the nervous elements which sensitize by means of the visual purple the liquid surrounding the cones, and are not themselves percipient elements. The central portion of the retina, the fovea, corresponding to the area of most acute vision, contains only cones, and therefore is sensitized from the periphery, there being a steady flow of sensitized liquid into this area.—I am, etc.,

Board of Trade, S.W., Jan. 22nd.

F. W. EDRIDGE-GREEN.

## Obituary.

DR. PHILIP HEDGELAND Ross, who died last year while on a visit to England, was the first director of laboratories in the British East African Protectorate. He was born in New Zealand in 1876, and received his medical education at the University of Otago and at St. Bartholomew's Hospital. He obtained the diplomas M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. in 1900, and the D.P.H. Cambridge two years later. In 1903 he was appointed to the East African Medical Service, and subsequently became Government bacteriologist to the East African and Uganda Protectorates, where he rendered most valuable services in combating epidemic diseases such as plague, and in research work relating to the transmission of trypanosomiasis and African relapsing fever. In March, 1916, he became honorary adviser to the Director of Medical Services in East Africa, and at Nairobi reduced the death rate from bacterial dysentery by means of a carbolized polyvalent vaccine which he prepared. Owing to failing health he was invalidated out of the East African Service and returned to New Zealand in 1919. He published a large number of articles in various medical journals relating especially to vaccine therapy and tropical diseases. Dr. Ross was a member of the British Medical Association. He leaves a widow and one son.

DR. JOHN HOWIE SMITH, who died on January 8th, was born in 1867, and received his medical education in Edinburgh, where he graduated M.B., C.M. in 1888. He had practised in Stockport for more than forty years, holding the appointments of medical officer to the Union Workhouse and Stepping Hill Poor Law Hospital, district medical officer and public vaccinator, and medical officer to the Cottage Homes. He had completed the full term of twenty-five years as an honorary surgeon to the Stockport Infirmary. J. T. B. writes: Dr. Smith possessed ability, wide experience, and sound judgement, and was always ready and willing to advise or assist a colleague. He was a man of the highest professional integrity, and was deservedly one of the most popular and most highly

respected members of the medical profession in the district. He took a great interest in all kinds of outdoor sport, and in his younger days he was a footballer, and latterly a golfer, of no mean ability. Dr. Smith will be affectionately remembered by a large circle of patients and friends.

We regret to announce the death, on January 1st, in Cairo, of Dr. C. FLOYD HAVILAND, superintendent of the Manhattan State Hospital, Ward's Island, New York. Dr. Haviland had a distinguished career in psychiatry. He was formerly State Commissioner in Mental Hygiene, and in 1926 president of the American Psychiatric Association. The news of his unexpected death at the age of 54 came as a shock to his American colleagues, and to a still greater number of other friends and admirers.

The death occurred, on January 22nd, of Dr. JOHN CROMIE, Auchencairn, Castle Douglas. Born in the North of Ireland in 1865, he studied medicine at Belfast and Newcastle-on-Tyne, and obtained the diplomas L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S. Edinburgh in 1885. For a time he acted as assistant to the late Dr. Trotter at Blyth, Northumberland, and afterwards conducted an extensive practice at Auchencairn. He took a great interest in the public affairs of the Stewartry, serving for many years on the education authority for Kirkcudbrightshire, of which he was vice-chairman at the time of his death. He had recently been elected to the Stewartry County Council; he was chairman of the National Health Insurance Committee, secretary to the local branch of the British Red Cross Society, and a Justice of the Peace for the county. He rendered valuable services to the British Medical Association, being secretary of the Dumfries and Galloway Division from 1923 to 1928, and chairman from May, 1929. He was a member of the Scottish Committee in 1924-25.

DR. WILLIAM EIDINOW died from heart failure at the early age of 34, on January 23rd, at Hampstead. After studying medicine at the London Hospital he obtained the diplomas of M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. in 1917, and held the appointments of emergency officer and surgical clinical assistant. He served during the war from 1917 to 1920 as captain in the R.A.M.C. in France, Italy, and Montenegro, and was awarded the Italian silver medal for valour for conspicuous bravery in the field. After demobilization he took up a busy practice among the working classes of Islington, where he was much esteemed and appreciated by all who knew him. Much sympathy is felt for his relations in their great loss.

News has reached this country of the death of Dr. DARWIN MILLS KEITH, who practised for more than thirty-five years in Rockford, Illinois. Darwin Keith was born in 1866, and his early education was received in Ohio and New York; he later attended the Universities of Michigan and Columbia, and subsequently studied at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London, and the University of Brussels. He obtained the diplomas M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. in 1906, and the M.D.Brux. degree. After graduation, and while he was practising in Rockford, he frequently engaged in post-graduate work in London, Vienna, Paris, Brussels, and Copenhagen, specializing in diseases of the eye, ear, nose, and throat. At one time he was clinical assistant in the throat department at St. Bartholomew's Hospital. Dr. Keith was a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons, a member of the American Academy of Oto-laryngology and Ophthalmology, and of the American Medical Association. During the war he served with the American Forces with the rank of captain, and subsequently held a commission as major in the Medical Reserve Corps until his death. He was head of the medical staff of the Rockford Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat Hospital. He had many friends in England and on the Continent. He leaves a widow and one daughter.

The following well-known foreign medical men have recently died: Professor DANIEL SABOLOTNIJ, president of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences, and one of the most eminent Russian bacteriologists; Dr. FRANK STADLER, formerly director of the Austrian Public Health Office,

aged 68; Geh, Med. Rat Dr. WALTER OERTEL, who took an active part in the campaign against tuberculosis; Dr. D. JONESCO, professor of clinical medicine at Bucarest, well known for his work on angina pectoris, aged 53; Dr. VIALLETON, professor of histology and embryology at Montpellier; Dr. N. VAN RIJNBERK, an eminent Amsterdam ophthalmologist, aged 84; Dr. RÓMULO H. CHIAFFONI, a Buenos Aires neurologist; Dr. HARRY MONROE McCLANAHAN, emeritus professor of paediatrics, University of Nebraska College of Medicine, aged 72; Dr. VICTOR CLARENCE VAUGHAN, formerly dean of the medical school and professor of hygiene at Michigan University; Dr. PAUL HEIM, professor of children's diseases at Budapest, and one of the editors of *Archiv für Kinderheilkunde*; Dr. CARLOS SEIDL, professor of public health at Rio de Janeiro, and formerly director of public health in Brazil; and Dr. ANTONIO JOSÉ D'ALMEIDA, formerly President of the Republic of Portugal.

## Universities and Colleges.

### UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.

#### UNIVERSITY COLLEGE.

A COURSE of six public lectures on antisepsics will be given in the department of pharmacology, University College, Gower Street, W.C.1, by Mr. H. R. Ing, M.A., D.Phil., on Mondays and Thursdays at 5.15 p.m., commencing on February 13th. The lectures are open, without fee, to students of the University and others interested in the subject.

### ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF LONDON.

AN ordinary comitia of the Royal College of Physicians of London was held on January 30th, when Sir John Rose Bradford, the President, was in the chair.

#### Mackenzie Mackinnon Research Fellowship.

The President announced that the Mackenzie Mackinnon Research Committee had elected Dr. G. Scott Williamson and Dr. Thomas Cecil Hunt to Mackenzie Mackinnon Research Fellowships.

#### Appointment of Representatives.

Sir John Rose Bradford was appointed to represent the College at the ceremonies of inauguration of the University buildings presented by the C. R. B. Educational Foundation and of the School of Medicine presented by the Rockefeller Foundation, to be held at Brussels in June next. Dr. S. A. Monckton Copeman was appointed delegate to the congress of the Royal Sanitary Institute to be held at Margate in June next.

#### Diploma in Gynaecology and Obstetrics.

The College adopted the regulations drawn up by the Committee of Management of the Conjoint Board for the institution of a Diploma in Gynaecology and Obstetrics.

#### Anaesthetics in Confinements.

In response to a request from the Ministry of Health for the views of the College on the use of anaesthetics in confinements and on the subject of maternal mortality and morbidity, reports on these subjects were considered and adopted for presentation to the Ministry.

#### Membership.

Dr. J. W. Springthorpe, who resigned his Membership in 1919, was re-elected a Member of the College.

The following candidates, having satisfied the Censors' Board, were admitted Members of the College:

John Bevan-Jones, M.D.Lond., Arnold Clark, L.R.C.P., Reginald Charles Clifford, D.S.O., M.C., L.R.C.P., Cuthbert Leslie Cope, M.B.Oxf., Gordon Crippwell Dewes, L.R.C.P., Hugh Alexander Dunlop, M.B.Lond., Florence Mary Edmonds, M.D.Lond., John St. Clair Elkington, M.B.Camb., Leonard Findlay, M.D.Glas., Saradindu Mohan Ghosal, M.B.Calcutta, Robert John Gittins, M.D.Birm., Leo Barclay Heath, M.B.Sydney, Albert Remington Hobbs, M.D.Bru., L.R.C.P., Benjamin Brian Hosford, M.D.Lond., Harold Parnell Jameson, M.D.Birm., Pandipeddi Kutiumbiah, M.B.Madras, Sydney Charles Lewson, L.R.C.P., Thomas Mortimer Ling, M.B.Oxf., Gunvantrai Bhagwatidas Mankad, M.D.Bombay, Hugh Leslie Marriott, M.B.Lond., Stanley Meiville, M.D.Bru., Ralph Henry Morley, M.B.Lond., Nathoobhai Dayalji Patel, M.D.Lond., William Gilchrist Patterson, M.D. Edin., Walter Maurice Ramsden, M.D.Lond., Sris Chandra Ray, M.B.Calcutta, Brian Fitzgerald Russell, M.D.Lond., John Howard Simmons, M.B.Lond., John Gordon Thomson, M.B.Edin., Gilbert Reynolds Troup, M.B.Melb., George Jasper Wherrett, M.D.Manitoba, John Wolstencroft, L.R.C.P.

#### Licences.

Licences were granted to the following candidates (including 17 women), who had passed the Final Examination in medicine, surgery, and midwifery of the Conjoint Board in England:

W. Addey, S. Ahmad, H. F. Aphorpe Webb, P. B. Ascroft, F. I. Ashton, J. C. Banerjee, A. Barber, F. R. Beetham, J. E. L. Bendor-Samuel, K. C. Bhattacharyya, J. G. Bowen, B. R. Bramwell, W. J. Burgess, A. C. Byles, W. H. P. Cant, A. Caplan, C. L. Carter, \*Rosa E. Channing, F. W. Chippindale, D. O. Clark, \*B. S. Cornell, D. W. C. Cox, H. J. Croot, J. E. Curnock, R. E. S. Dallaway, H. L. G. Davies, E. Dikshitulu, \*C. de M. Dorey, \*A. N. Duggal,

C. M. Duncan, F. B. P. Evans, H. R. Ferguson, \*Doreen P. Firmin, R. H. Franklin, J. F. Galpine, A. J. Gibbs, E. J. Goldsmith, \*Rebecca Goldstein, R. T. S. Goodchild, D. R. Goodfellow, R. K. Goyal, \*Charlotte Gray, \*A. H. Gurney, B. Halfpenny, S. S. Harrison, J. E. McC. Harrisson, W. Heard, \*Anneval Heaton, \*Katherine M. Heberlet, L. Hershfield, P. Y. Hicks, R. S. Hodge, H. B. Hough, \*Eugenie C. Illingworth, H. B. Jackson, W. D. G. James, J. L. Jekyll, E. K. Jones, G. L. Jones, H. J. Knight, E. O. Lakey, G. F. Langley, L. J. Lannaman, R. O. Lee, A. Lister, E. L. Little, W. E. B. Lloyd, V. J. Lopez, P. A. T. Lowden, F. D. MacCarthy, \*Laura H. Macfarlane, H. A. McGregor, G. K. McKee, F. M. Macleod, J. S. MacVine, \*E. Marks, I. W. Matheson, F. C. Mayo, B. R. Medlycott, S. J. Mehta, P. D. Motte, G. na Raong, L. B. Neel, A. H. Nelson, \*H. P. Nelson, J. E. Newton, A. P. M. Page, H. N. Palmer, R. A. H. Pearce, A. Phillips, W. Phillips, L. D. Pringle, \*Ruth Punphy, \*Alison J. Rae, D. S. Raju, H. Ramsay, P. V. Reading, J. G. Reid, B. C. Rennie, \*Colleen Rice, J. F. Riches, E. H. Rink, S. L. Robert, B. P. Robinson, \*(Mrs.) Alice I. Roughton, H. K. Said, J. F. Sandow, N. D. Sane, S. Segalov, R. L. Sethi, D. P. Settna, G. C. Sheldon, \*Helena Sidarous, H. Silverstein, \*Margaret Skeilton, L. A. H. Snowball, R. G. Sowter, H. H. L. Spitz, B. T. Squires, R. Stanley, A. E. Stevens, N. Stevens, F. H. Stevenson, \*Ada M. W. Stewart, T. S. Stone, S. Le R. Switzer, P. H. Taylor, D. M. Thomas, V. Thorne Thorne, D. P. Turner, S. C. Wake, \*Doris E. C. Walker, E. M. Ward, J. N. Warren, A. J. Whitaker, A. J. White, G. W. Whittall, R. C. Williams, E. R. Willis, H. M. Yardley, B. Yuill.

\* Women Candidates.

+ M.R.C.S. previously granted.

#### Diplomas.

The following diplomas were conferred jointly with the Royal College of Surgeons:

PUBLIC HEALTH—D. D. Anderson, S. Atta Ullah, B. N. V. Bailey, M. K. Biswas, Gwendolen J. Brooke, I. Caley, H. D. Chalke, Victoria M. Crosse, Jane G. E. F. Cummins, N. C. Dassupta, A. N. Duggal, J. B. Ellison, R. F. Fidler, S. J. Firth, Annie M. Gamble, T. S. Gill, S. A. U. Haque, L. W. Hearn, G. H. Hogben, J. D. Hourihane, D. F. Johnstone, M. L. Kalra, Y. M. Khan, R. A. V. Lews-Lloyd, E. A. Lumley, R. M. Macfarlane, M. Mitman, S. K. Mitra, P. McG. Moffatt, C. G. MacM. Nicol, P. Pattabhiramaiya, J. R. Pierie, S. L. Rikhye, Dora F. M. Rose, A. C. Sinclair, E. R. Smithard, R. C. Suri, H. W. Tilling, P. M. Wagle, Ethel M. Weir.

PSYCHOLOGICAL MEDICINE—D. I. Cameron, J. Carse, H. A. Cooper, R. T. Hay, J. F. MacMahon, J. D. W. Pearce, Margaret A. Quine, A. Shepherd, J. G. T. Thomas, G. S. Wilson, H. L. Wilson.

LARYNGOLOGY AND OTOLGY—W. M. Brown, S. Debono, D. N. Ghosh, G. B. Giris, K. Jatar, V. Kathirgamamamby, J. G. Kingsbury, F. E. Littlewood, M. MacGregor, N. M. Macindoe, H. G. Mitchell, J. H. Ott, M. D. Patel, D. R. Paterson, P. Pattabhiramaiya, T. Prasad, D. H. Rao, S. L. Vella.

## Medical Notes in Parliament.

[FROM OUR PARLIAMENTARY CORRESPONDENT.]

THE House of Commons this week discussed the Consolidated Fund Bill and went into committee on the Coal Mines Bill. The House differed with the House of Lords about the period for which the Unemployed Insurance Bill is to be valid. The Lords proposed one year, but the Government suggested three. A Slaughter of Animals Bill was down for discussion in the Commons on February 7th. In the House of Lords, on February 4th, the Road Traffic Bill was read a third time.

The second reading of the Mental Treatment Bill was put down for February 3rd in the House of Commons, but was not reached, and there appeared to be no likelihood of the Government moving it later in the week.

The Parliamentary Medical Committee's conference with representatives of the British Medical Association will not be held on February 11th, as at first arranged, but the committee will that day meet representatives of nursing organizations to hear statements about the registration of nurses and the work of the General Nursing Council. Mr. Remer's bill on the registration of mental nurses is postponed pending this month's meeting of the Royal Medico-Psychological Association.

At its meeting, on January 28th, the Parliamentary Medical Committee agreed unanimously on the desirability of Government inquiry into the general conditions of deaf and dumb persons and of those deafened by disease or accident. The committee arranged that Mr. Somerville Hastings should write to the Minister of Health on the subject. The committee discussed the position under the new Poor Law system of doctors who are employed by an authority and are also members of that authority. Representatives of the British Medical Association are to confer with the committee on this issue. The committee also talked about the General Nursing Council and the retention on the list of nurses of the names of nurses convicted of misdemeanours. In the discussion with Sir Hubert Bond which followed, members of the committee asked many questions concerning the Mental Treatment Bill. Discussion turned on two points: the first was whether the supervision of voluntary boarders by the Board of Control might prevent people seeking early treatment; the second was whether the bill would give more powers to the Board of Control at the expense of the Ministry of Health. The Medical Committee took no decisions on these questions. It did not arrange to see the Minister of Health concerning them, nor did it suggest amendments to the bill.

The Conservative Health and Housing Committee also considered the Mental Treatment Bill, Dr. Fremantle presiding.

*Silicosis.*

On January 30th Mr. CLYNES told Mr. Cecil Wilson that he had generally approved the medical arrangements recommended by the departmental committee on the diagnosis of silicosis, and a bill to give effect to them was in preparation. He had already acted on the committee's recommendation for further research by arranging with the Medical Research Council for appointment of an expert committee. Mr. Clynes also informed Mr. Morley, on the same day, that the Medical Research Council, at his request, were setting up a committee to institute and co-ordinate research into the subject of scheduling fibrosis of the lungs under the Workmen's Compensation Act. This committee was practically complete and would be appointed shortly. In reply to Mr. Lambert, Mr. Clynes said he had not received any protests from local authorities against the inclusion in the Sandstone Industry (Silicosis) Scheme, 1929, of workmen engaged in the open-air quarrying of stone for road work. He did not propose to modify the statutory rules to exclude such workmen. Cases of silicosis found among quarrymen and others engaged in manipulating sandstone proved that, notwithstanding that the industry was an open-air one, the risk was by no means slight, and there was no evidence of any immunity among those so employed.

*Tuberculosis in the Services.*—Mr. SHAW told Dr. Vernon Davies, on January 29th, that 165 men were discharged from the Regular Army in 1927 for pulmonary tuberculosis. Of these cases 57 were accepted as attributable, and awarded pensions, while 77 were awarded non-attributable gratuities. To 31 neither gratuities nor pensions were granted. In 1928 the number discharged for the same reason was 184, of whom 58 were accepted as attributable and received pensions, 77 were awarded non-attributable gratuities, and 23 received neither. Mr. MONTAGUE, answering a question on the same day from Dr. Vernon Davies about pulmonary tuberculosis in the Royal Air Force, said that in 1928 pensions were granted to 5 post-war cases and refused to 13 non-attributable cases. In 1929 pensions were granted to one great-war case and 10 post-war cases, but were refused to 15 cases.

*Notes in Brief.*

Statutory declarations of conscientious objection to vaccination in England and Wales were 277,169 in the year 1928. The figure for 1929 was not available on January 30th.

Mr. Greenwood does not consider it necessary in present circumstances to introduce legislation making it obligatory upon a medical practitioner to view a body after death before giving a death certificate.

Of 52,727 blind persons registered in England and Wales on March 31st last, 37,563 are unemployable.

In the year ended March, 1929, 2,781,877 dog licences were issued in England and Wales, and 171,141 in Scotland. The total for Great Britain in that year was 2,953,018, against 1,978,440 in 1914.

On January 28th Mr. Greenwood said he could not give a definite date for legislation amending the Childrens Act, 1908, to make it compulsory upon intending foster parents to apply to the local authority concerned for registration of their premises for the reception of infants before reception.

Mr. Buxton is considering a scheme for developing research into animal diseases. He proposes to include swine fever in the expanded programme of work.

Fifty-five local authorities have desired the Ministry of Health to consider the question of allowing municipalities to provide facilities for reliable and private information concerning birth control.

**The Services.****ARMY GOLF MEETING, 1930.**

THE annual meeting of the Army Golfing Society will be held on the links of the Prestwick Golf Club at Prestwick, Ayrshire, on Tuesday, April 29th, and following days.

The officers of the Royal Army Medical Corps have always taken a great interest in this society, and the present honorary secretary and treasurer is Major T. J. Mitchell, D.S.O., R.A.M.C. (12, Moray Place, Edinburgh). The present Director-General A.M.S. captained the following R.A.M.C. team, which won the Army Golf Challenge Cup at St. Andrews four years ago: Lieut.-General H. B. Fawcett, Major T. J. Mitchell, Major D. C. Monro, and Major P. E. D. Pank. General Fawcett and Major Mitchell have also won the chief handicap cups, and two other officers of the R.A.M.C.—Major F. Chandler and Major E. A. Strachan—won the foursome competition. Intending competitors at this year's Army Golf Meeting should send their entries to Major Mitchell not later than Monday, March 31st.

**DEATH IN THE SERVICES.**

Lieut.-Colonel Charles Alfred Stone, R.A.M.C. (ret.), died at Frinton-on-Sea on January 20th, aged 63. He was born at Bermuda on June 21st, 1866, was educated at Queen's College, Cork, and graduated as M.B. and Ch.B. in the Royal University, Ireland, in 1889. Entering the army as surgeon on February 1st, 1890, he attained the rank of lieutenant-colonel on May 21st, 1912, and retired, on reaching the age of 55, on June 21st, 1921. He served throughout the South African war of 1899-1902, when he took part in the relief of Mafeking, in operations in Rhodesia in 1899-1900, and in Cape Colony in 1900-2, and received the Queen's and King's medals, with two clasps each.

**Medical News.**

MEMBERS of the Panel Conference and many other readers will be interested to hear that Dr. Charles W. Graham of Silloth has been invited by the B.B.C. to broadcast vocally from Glasgow on Tuesday, February 11th, from 5 to 5.15 p.m.

A DINNER of the London Jewish Hospital Medical Society, in honour of Professor Neumann of Vienna, will be held on Sunday, February 9th, at 7.15 p.m. for 8, at the First Avenue Hotel, High Holborn. Application for tickets (price 6s. 6d.) should be made to Mr. M. Sourasky, 59, Queen Anne Street, W.1.

THE annual general meeting of the Medical Officers of Schools Association will be held at 11, Chaudos Street, Cavendish Square, W.1, on Friday, February 21st, at 5 p.m.; tea at 4.30. Dr. G. E. Friend will deliver the presidential address, entitled "Some notes on the value of clinical, dietetic, and physical records in public schools" (illustrated by lantern slides and diagrams).

A PROVINCIAL meeting of the Maternity and Child Welfare Group of the Society of Medical Officers of Health will be held at Bristol on February 20th and the two following days. Papers will be read on nasal hygiene in infants, the difficult child, respiratory disorders of infancy, congenital and postural deformities in children, and eye conditions in the pre-school child. Visits will be paid to various medical institutions in the neighbourhood, and excursions will be arranged. Further information may be obtained from Miss Grace Calver, 1, Holly Terrace, Highgate, N.6.

AT the meeting of the Royal Sanitary Institute on February 15th, in the Town Hall, Ipswich, discussions will take place on new methods of sewage disposal in Ipswich, and on meat inspection. The chair will be taken at 10.30 a.m. by Dr. Charles Porter.

THE eighteenth annual series of Chadwick Public Lectures will begin on Thursday, February 13th, when Dr. B. Blacklock, recently Director of the Alfred Lewis Jones Research Laboratory in Sierra Leone, and now professor of parasitology in the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, will lecture on "Health in West Africa." Dr. Blacklock will show pictures of the country and of methods of combating the diseases formerly so devastating. Sir James Crichton-Browne will preside. Admission is free. Particulars of future Chadwick Lectures may be obtained from the Secretary, Mrs. Aubrey Richardson, at the offices of the Trust, 204, Abbey House, Westminster.

A NEW post-graduate course at the National Hospital, Queen Square, W.C.1, began on February 3rd. It consists of out-patient clinics, clinical lectures and demonstrations, lectures on the pathology, anatomy, and physiology of the nervous system, and clinical demonstrations on methods of examination. The fee for the course, including pathology demonstrations, is £6 6s.; for those holding perpetual tickets or clinical clerks, £4 4s. Full particulars can be obtained from the Dean of the Medical School.

THE Fellowship of Medicine announces that Dr. M. B. Ray will lecture on the role of hydrology in medical practice on Tuesday, February 11th, at 4 p.m., in the lecture room of the Medical Society, 11, Chaudos Street, Cavendish Square. There will be a clinical demonstration by Mr. Cecil Rowntree at the Cancer Hospital, Fulham Road, at 2.15 p.m., on February 13th. At the Paddington Green Children's Hospital, on February 14th, at 4 p.m., Dr. D. W. Winnicott will give a lecture-demonstration on anxiety in children. This lecture and the demonstrations are free to medical practitioners. A course in gynaecology at the Chelsea Hospital for Women, from Monday, February 10th to 21st, will consist of lectures and demonstrations in the operating theatre. A course of eight clinical demonstrations will be given at the Hospital for Tropical Medicine, from February 11th to March 6th, on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons, at 2 o'clock. A four weeks' course in dermatology at St. John's Hospital, Leicester Square, from February 17th to March 15th, will comprise clinical work every afternoon and lectures twice weekly; instruction in pathology can also be arranged. From February 24th to March 8th a course in the diseases of children will be held at the Children's Clinic and other hospitals, occupying the afternoons and some mornings. An afternoon course in the diagnosis and treatment of diseases of the eye will be given at the Royal Eye Hospital from February 24th to March 8th. In March there will be courses in diseases of the chest at the Brompton Hospital, neurology at the West-End (Nerve) Hospital, and venereal diseases at the Lock Hospital. A special two weeks' course of lectures and demonstrations will be held at the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital, Great Portland Street, from March 10th to 22nd. Those taking the course will have access to operations and the practice of the hospital. Application

should be made to the secretary of the hospital or to the secretary of the Fellowship of Medicine, 1, Wimpole Street, London, W.1, from whom may be obtained syllabuses of the various courses.

THE Child-Study Society, London, has arranged the following lectures and discussions to be held on Thursdays at 6 p.m. at the Royal Sanitary Institute, 90, Buckingham Palace Road, S.W.1: February 20th, "Homeless children," Miss Muriel A. Payne; March 13th, "The new prospect for our adolescents," Mr. R. A. Raven; April 10th, "Parent education: the home and the school," Dr. Ralph H. Crowley, senior medical officer, Board of Education; May 8th, "The re-education of the difficult child," Mr. T. J. Faithfull.

A SERIES of lecture-discussions on mental health and the child will be delivered under the auspices of the National Council for Mental Hygiene in the lecture room of the Medical Society of London, 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, W.1, on Wednesdays, at 5 p.m., from February 26th to April 2nd. Dr. Hugh Crichton-Miller will open the course with a lecture on the new psychology and the parent, and on March 5th Dr. Letitia Fairfield will speak on the subject of the child and the teacher. Mr. W. Clarke Hall will give an address on the delinquent child, on March 22nd, and on the following Wednesday Dr. William Moodie will discuss the problem of the difficult child at home and at school. Mrs. Neville-Rolfe will speak on sex education on March 26th, and Dr. R. D. Gillespie will close the course, on April 2nd, with an address on choosing a career. Tickets, price 1s. 6d. for each lecture, or 7s. 6d. for the course, may be obtained from the secretary of the National Council for Mental Hygiene, 78, Chandos House, Palmer Street, S.W.1, or at the lecture room.

THE William Julius Mickle Fellowship, awarded annually to the graduate of the University of London "who has done most to advance medical art or science in the preceding five years," has been awarded to Dr. H. A. Harris, assistant professor of anatomy, University College, and assistant to the medical unit, University College Hospital.

THE committee of management of Queen Charlotte's Hospital has, on the recommendation of the medical staff, decided to appoint a paediatrician to the hospital, and Dr. Eric Pritchard has, at their invitation, accepted this office. It is understood that this appointment, which is allowed by the courtesy of the committee of management of the Infants Hospital, will not in any way conflict with Dr. Pritchard's work as medical director of that institution. Dr. J. Hartley Gibbons has been appointed assistant to Dr. Pritchard.

THE January issue of the *Journal of the Association of American Medical Colleges* appears in two parts. The first includes the address delivered by the president, Dr. Burton D. Myers, at the fortieth annual meeting of the association, held in New York last November, together with statistical accounts of the achievements of candidates for admission to various medical schools in the United States during recent years. There is also an article on State Boards and medical schools by the secretary for the Board of medical examiners in the University of New York, and one on the teaching of therapeutics. The second part—issued as a supplement—gives a list of fellowships and prizes available for medical graduate work offered by the medical schools of the United States and Canada. This periodical—which now appears six times a year—is published from 25, East Washington Street, Chicago, at 3 dollars a year; single copies, 75 cents.

With a view to reporting more widely the medical and surgical investigations in progress in South America a new journal, entitled *Revue Sud-Américaine de Médecine et de Chirurgie*, has now appeared, and will be published monthly in French in Paris. The first issue, dated January, 1930, contains original articles by medical practitioners in the Argentine, Bolivia, Brazil, and Chile, together with reviews of publications in South American countries, and summaries of the contents of various journals and bulletins. The *Revue* is published by Masson et Cie, 120, Boulevard St. Germain, Paris, and the stated price for an annual subscription of twelve copies is, in France and her colonies, 100 fr., and for other countries 120 fr., or 12 fr. for a single issue.

THE centenary of the birth of the Freiburg gynaecologist, Alfred Hegar, who was born on January 6th, 1830, and died on April 5th, 1914, has been commemorated by Professor Ernst Sonntag, his son, Professor Karl Hegar, and Professor Paul Diepgen of Freiburg in the issue of the *Deutsche medizinische Wochenschrift* for January 10th.

AN outstanding feature of the Malayan Medical Service list for October, 1929, is the high proportion of appointments above the time scale, of which there are no fewer than 57 as against 88 on the scale. The Service includes 17 women, who seem to enjoy the status of full establishment, as their names are not (like those of their fellows in West Africa) relegated to a separate list, which does not indicate any fixed scale of pay.

PROFESSOR K. F. WENKEBACH, who recently resigned his chair of clinical medicine at Vienna, has succeeded the late Professor Clemens Pirquet as president of the Austro-American Institute of Education in Vienna.

THE Department of Health for the Commonwealth of Australia has issued an epidemiological record of the Austral-Pacific Zone for the year 1928. This annual publication makes available a systematic record of the principal facts and occurrences of interest to medical men concerning numerous Pacific islands about which information is often difficult to obtain. It is published by authority of the Minister for Health by H. J. Green, Government Printer, Canberra.

A PARTY of doctors, conducted by Dr. Friedrich Barach, will leave Vienna on April 18th, on a visit to Spain, for the purpose of studying medical organization. The journey will be broken at Venice, San Remo, Mentone, Monte Carlo, and Nice. The party will visit Dr. Voronoff at Château Grimaldi, and then proceed to Barcelona and Madrid. Medical practitioners who wish to accompany the party are invited to apply for further information to Aerztliche Auslandsstudienreisen, Biberstrasse 11, Wien, I.

ALTHOUGH small-pox was less prevalent and not so virulent in the United States during the first six months of 1929 as in the corresponding periods of 1928 and 1927 three States had mortality rates of more than 1 per cent. No State reported cases in excess of 2,000, and no case was reported in the District of Columbia. The Province of Saskatchewan in Canada reported three deaths in the first half of 1929 among 65 cases, giving the relatively high case fatality of 4.62 per cent.

## 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 9861, 9862, 9863, and 9864 (internal exchange, four lines).

The TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESSES are:

EDITOR OF THE BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, Aitiology Westcent, London.

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

## QUERIES AND ANSWERS.

### LANOLINE AND THE GROWTH OF HAIR.

"SENEX" writes: I should be glad to have the opinions of some of your readers on the following: A good-looking, athletic young lady, aged 20, suffers from general dryness of the skin, especially on the face and neck. To improve her appearance she has been in the habit of frequently using lanoline. Both she and her mother are now worried about a growth of hair on her face, which they attribute to the lanoline. I should like to know: (1) does lanoline stimulate the growth of hair; (2) would a course of thyroid extract improve the dryness of the skin?

### INTESTINAL FLATULENCE.

"FLATULENTISSIMO" would like to know if saxon, 1½ to 2 grains taken daily for about twenty years, would be at all likely to aggravate extreme intestinal flatulence. The patient suffers from pancreatic insufficiency, with negligible glycosuria, but extreme intestinal flatulence and atony of the colon. Intestinal antiseptics and endocrine preparations are absurdly futile in their effect.

### BUCCAL ULCER.

"R. D." writes: A healthy woman, about 40, has had for the past three years, with only short intervals of complete freedom, successive crops of ulcers appearing on the inside of the cheeks and lips, also on the tongue, soft palate, and uvula. Having tried most of the known remedies, I should be grateful for suggestions as to treatment.