

## Obituary

CHARLES PLANCK, M.A., M.R.C.S.

Late Medical Superintendent, Brighton Mental Hospital

We regret to record the death, on June 18th, of Dr. Charles Planck at his residence in Haywards Heath, Sussex, at the age of 78.

Charles Planck, son of Surgeon General Charles Planck, J.P., was born in November, 1856, at Dhiapore, India, while his father was serving in the Indian Medical Service. He was educated at Marlborough and Peterhouse, Cambridge, graduating B.A., with honours in mathematics, in 1880, and proceeding M.A. three years later. He was a student at St. Thomas's Hospital, holding the Peacock Scholarship in 1889-90, and obtaining the diplomas M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. in 1892. Having served as house-surgeon at St. Thomas's in 1893-4, he was appointed assistant medical officer and pathologist to the East Sussex County Asylum. After six years in this post he became medical superintendent of the Brighton County Borough Mental Hospital at Haywards Heath, and so continued until his retirement in 1923.

A man of wide culture and attainments, Dr. Planck was vice-president of the British Chess Federation and of the Sussex County Chess Association; he contributed to the *Chess Problem Text Book*. He was also interested in astronomy, mathematics, rose culture, and book collecting. He joined the British Medical Association in 1897, and continued a member until the end of his life.

We regret to announce the death, on June 20th, of Dr. VICTOR A. CHATELAIN, a prominent Ilford practitioner, at the age of 63 years. He had been in failing health for some months past on account of a malignant trouble in the throat, but only relinquished active practice two months ago, having stuck to his work, in spite of pain and suffering, with indomitable perseverance. Dr. Chatelain was born in Brixton in 1871 of French parents. He was educated at Berne, Switzerland, from whence he passed on to the University of Leipzig, graduating B.A. in 1891. His earlier years after graduating were spent in teaching and travelling tutorships, but he ultimately directed his attention to medicine, securing the M.B.Lond. and the conjoint diplomas in 1903. In 1905 he settled at Goodmayes, then a rising residential suburb of Ilford, where he founded a large practice, which he has maintained for the past thirty years, with the exception of one year's absence on active service in 1915. Though not very well known to the younger generation of his medical colleagues, Dr. Chatelain was a leading figure in the earlier days of the local Medical Society, and very prominent in his opposition to the acceptance of service under the National Insurance Act. Besides being a skilful physician Dr. Chatelain had a strong personality, and though rather brusque and combative in disposition, was greatly liked and highly esteemed by patients and associates. He leaves a widow and an adopted son.

Dr. JOSEPH HENRY ENSOR TROUT of Birmingham, who died on June 14th, was born seventy-three years ago, and when a boy was employed as page in a doctor's surgery. Here he showed promise of such ability that Mr. Lawson Tait used his influence to secure for him instruction at Mason's College, Birmingham, whence he proceeded to Queen's College, and afterwards to Surgeons' Hall, Edinburgh. In 1894 he obtained the qualifications L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S.Ed., and L.R.F.P.S.Glas. He then returned to Birmingham to join the resident staff at the Queen's Hospital, after which he entered general practice and built up a very large connexion among working-class patients, with whom he was deservedly popular. His numerous appointments included that of surgeon to the

Actors' Benevolent Association, and his delight in occasional unorthodox behaviour led him on one occasion to ride an elephant through the streets of Birmingham in a procession of the Bostock menagerie, to which he was veterinary surgeon. He was one of the oldest members of the Birmingham Board of Guardians at the time when it was replaced by the Public Assistance Committee. During the war he gave free medical services to the wives of all men who had joined the Army from the district in which he practised. He joined the British Medical Association in 1897. Dr. Trout married forty-three years ago Miss Helen Elizabeth Abell, theatre sister at the Queen's Hospital under the late Mr. Jordan Lloyd.

Dr. KENNETH WALTER INGLEBY MACKENZIE, for many years a prominent figure in medical circles in the Isle of Wight, died on June 13th at his house in Ryde. He was a student at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and obtained the diplomas M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. His early appointments included those of clinical assistant to the Central London Ear and Throat Hospital and resident medical officer to the Royal Isle of Wight County Hospital. In addition to his general practice, he was referee for various assurance companies, police surgeon, and medical officer to the Ryde Dispensary and the Hazelwood Home of Rest. He held the commission of major R.A.M.C.(T.), 8th Battalion Isle of Wight Regiment. Dr. Mackenzie joined the British Medical Association in 1887, and was chairman of the Isle of Wight Division in 1912. A keen student of Freemasonry, he was treasurer of the Vectis Rose Croix Chapter, and a past M.W.S.

We regret to record the death of Dr. JOHN JOSIAH DOUGLAS of Upper Norwood on June 12th, at the age of 69, from streptococcal septicaemia following an unsuspected post-mortem examination wound—a small puncture just above the edge of the gloves. Dr. Douglas received his medical education in Edinburgh, where he graduated M.B., C.M. in 1889. In 1893 he obtained the diploma M.R.C.P.Ed., and in the following year was elected to the Fellowship. In 1897 he proceeded M.D., and in 1902 took the D.P.H.Oxon. His first appointments included those of house-physician to the Royal Infirmary; medical officer to the New Town Dispensary, Edinburgh; assistant house-surgeon to the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital; and Emden Scholar at the Cancer Research Laboratory at the Middlesex Hospital. From 1895 onwards he had practised in Upper Norwood, where he was honorary surgeon to the Norwood Cottage Hospital and medical officer to the Beulah Home for Boys. In his earlier years he contributed to various medical periodicals, including the *British Medical Journal*, principally on pathological research work.

The following well-known foreign medical men have recently died: Professor GEORG GJORGJEVICS, director of the Dermatological Clinic and medical officer of health for Belgrade; Geh. Hofrat Dr. KARL TURBAN, founder, and for many years director, of the Park Sanatorium at Davos, aged 78; Dr. HERMANN ZINGERLE, extraordinary professor of psychiatry and pathology of the nervous system at Graz, aged 65; Professor ALFONSO CRUTO, co-editor of *La Rassegna di Clinica, Terapia e Scienze Affini*, aged 40; Dr. C. DUISBERG, the inventor of aspirin; Professor VINCENZO ROCCHI, an eminent physician and medical historian of Rome, aged 65; Dr. JABEZ NORTH JACKSON, director of health for Kansas City and former president of the American Medical Association, aged 66; Dr. RALPH WALKER McDOWELL, consulting surgeon for the American Navy in the district of Columbia and formerly editor of the *Naval Medical Bulletin*, aged 52; Dr. PAUL SCHMIDT-WEYLAND, senior physician to the University Medical Clinic, Königsberg, aged 38; Dr. J. F. LEHMANN, the Munich publisher who was recently given the shield of nobility on the occasion of his seventieth birthday; and Dr. OTTO LANZ, professor of surgery at Amsterdam, aged 65.

## Universities and Colleges

### UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

The Osler Memorial Medal, which is awarded every five years to the Oxford medical graduate who has made the most valuable contribution to the science, art, or literature of medicine, has been awarded to Arthur F. Hurst, M.D., F.R.C.P., senior physician to Guy's Hospital.

### UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

At a congregation held on June 22nd the following medical degrees were conferred:

M.D.—R. A. Ratcliff, F. J. Wright.  
M.CHIR.—R. J. V. Battle.  
M.B., B.CHIR.—C. J. G. White.  
M.B.—W. H. Gabb.  
B.CHIR.—W. S. Haynes.

The following candidates have been approved at the examinations indicated:

THIRD M.B.—*Part I (Surgery, Midwifery, and Gynaecology)*: R. A. Andrews, G. B. Barbour, K. O. Black, A. C. Blandy, A. W. Bone, R. E. Bonham-Carter, A. S. Bookless, A. F. Bryson, J. B. Bunting, H. A. Burt, G. R. Debenham, C. A. Dowding, D. G. Evans, R. D. Ewing, I. C. Fletcher, R. T. Gabb, C. J. Gordon, C. N. Gosse, G. N. St. J. Hallett, A. E. M. Hartley, W. S. Haynes, H. D. Johnson, A. R. Kelsall, J. R. Kerr, J. W. Lacey, W. A. Law, S. A. H. Lesser, J. F. Lown, K. G. F. Mackenzie, H. S. Mellows, C. R. Morison, W. G. Murray-Browne, R. O. G. Norman, G. W. Palmer, A. H. Pirie, R. R. Prytherch, C. N. Pulvertaft, C. G. Rob, V. C. Robinson, P. G. Scott, C. W. A. Searle, J. A. Seymour-Jones, R. Solley, A. F. Stallard, R. H. Taylor, F. B. Thomas, G. C. Tooth, W. Warren, H. S. Wigfield, B. L. Williams, A. Winder, C. H. F. Wood. *Women*: M. Ball, S. L. Bhatia, D. M. Norman-Jones. *Part II (Principles and Practice of Physic, Pathology, and Pharmacology)*: A. W. Abramson, D. G. Allen, H. F. Anderson, T. G. Armstrong, C. E. Bevan, G. Blackburn, W. G. Brander, S. G. Brook, J. W. D. Bull, N. A. Buxton, A. E. Cohen, J. S. Cookson, C. J. F. Coombs, T. M. Daniel, R. B. Davis, G. R. Debenham, W. J. B. de Gruchy, J. F. Dow, E. P. H. Drake, T. S. R. Fisher, I. C. Fletcher, R. T. Gabb, L. R. Gardner, C. J. Gordon, E. M. Griffin, N. J. P. Hewlings, E. D. Hoare, R. D. Holloway, M. Hynes, R. F. Jarrett, A. R. Kelsall, D. P. King, W. A. Law, H. T. Laycock, N. C. Lendon, P. H. Lenton, L. N. G. Lytton, P. E. C. Manson-Bahr, F. R. R. Martin, T. D. F. Money, J. F. Paterson, J. H. Patterson, E. E. Pochin, G. R. Rawlings, J. S. Richardson, R. E. Rodgers, J. R. Rose, C. W. A. Searle, H. S. Sharp, A. H. M. Siddons, F. A. Simmonds, D. A. Smith, J. H. Stothert, W. F. Walton, J. G. Webb, H. S. Wigfield. *Women*: A. G. Carr, D. M. Norman-Jones, M. C. A. Robson, O. K. Tubby, H. M. Wilson.

### UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

The University Studentship in Physiology for research in physiology, of the value of £100, has been awarded to R. A. Gregory of University College.

### UNIVERSITY OF DURHAM

The following honorary degrees will be conferred at the convocations in Durham and Newcastle-upon-Tyne to be held at the close of this week.

D.C.L.—Thomas Beattie, M.D., F.R.C.P., lately Professor of the Principles and Practice of Medicine in the University.

D.Ch.—George Grey Turner, M.S., F.R.C.S., Professor of Surgery in the University of London and Director of the Surgical Unit in the British Post-Graduate School.

### UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

Mr. C. G. Anderson, B.Sc., a member of the teaching staff of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, has been appointed Lewis Cameron Teaching Fellow in the Department of Bacteriology in Edinburgh University. This is the first appointment under the scheme of the Lewis Cameron Fund.

### UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW

The following degrees were conferred at a ceremony of graduation on June 19th:

HON. LL.D.—Walter King Hunter, M.D., Emeritus Professor, the Muirhead Chair of Medicine, University of Glasgow; John Martin Munro Kerr, M.D., Emeritus Professor, the Regius Chair of Midwifery, University of Glasgow; Dame A. Louise McIlroy, M.D. London.

M.D.—(1) With honours: D. F. Anderson, Eleanor Badenoch, T. Nicol, J. B. Rennie. (2) With high commendation: W. Gilmour, Jessie W. Ogilvie.

Ch.M.—T. J. B. A. MacGowan (with high commendation).

### UNIVERSITY OF ST. ANDREWS

At a meeting of the University Court on June 22nd, Robert Campbell Garry, D.Sc., M.B., was elected to the Chair of Physiology. Dr. Garry is at present senior physiologist to the Rowett Research Institute, Bucksburn, Aberdeen.

### SOCIETY OF APOTHECARIES OF LONDON

The following candidates have passed in the subjects indicated:

SURGERY.—N. F. Bishay, E. M. Craggs, C. R. Hopper, J. B. Mair, J. E. T. Munn, S. Roberts, J. S. Scott, D. Walton.

MEDICINE.—A. Aspinall, N. A. Bicchieri, S. E. Osborne, S. Roberts.

FORENSIC MEDICINE.—A. Aspinall, G. G. O. Evans, S. E. Osborne, S. Roberts, G. W. van Mentz, H. M. R. Waddell.

MIDWIFERY.—E. Le Feuvre, J. B. Mair.

The diploma of the Society has been granted to N. A. Bicchieri, J. S. Scott, H. M. R. Waddell, and D. Walton.

## The Services

### ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS

Major-General D. J. Collins, C.B., C.M.G., has been appointed Colonel Commandant, Royal Army Medical Corps, in succession to Major-General Sir Alfred P. Blenkinsop, K.C.B., C.M.G., who has attained the age limit for the appointment.

### INDIAN MEDICAL SERVICE: ANNUAL DINNER

The annual dinner of the Indian Medical Service took place in London at the Trocadero Restaurant on June 19th, with Major-General E. A. Walker, Director of Medical Services, India, in the chair. The official guests were Sir James Hartigan, Director-General A.M.S., Professor F. R. Fraser, Mr. F. H. Brown, Mr. W. D. Tomkins, Dr. N. G. Horner, and Dr. Egbert Morland, together with the six officers on probation.

After the health of "The King-Emperor" had been honoured, the chairman proposed the toast of "The Service," and read a message of greetings from Major-General C. A. Sprawson, Director-General I.M.S., and other officers in India. General Walker said that his predecessors, in proposing this toast, had usually dwelt on the past; he felt that the Service had a future, because it possessed flexibility and the power of adaptation to circumstances. In former times it was primarily a civil service, but now the military element was bulking more and more largely. Congratulating General Hartigan on the honour of K.C.B. conferred upon him on the King's birthday, he spoke of the value of co-operation between the I.M.S. and the R.A.M.C., who realized that they were members of one team. The chairman concluded with a reference to the high quality of the new Indian officers joining the Service, and expressed a hope that recruits would be "caught young" in future. The chairman's health was proposed by Sir Leonard Rogers, who referred to General Walker's distinguished achievements in the military branch of the Service. Both branches, he said, had a great future; the attraction of the I.M.S. was the varied opportunities it held out to its members.

The officers present at the dinner were:

*Major-Generals*: W. V. Coppinger, H. Boulton, B. H. Deare, W. C. H. Forster, Sir John Megaw, C. W. F. Melville, Sir Leonard Rogers, G. Tate.

*Colonels*: H. Ainsworth, J. Anderson, J. Crimmin, P. Dee, A. B. Fry, T. A. Granger, C. R. M. Green, E. C. Hodgson, W. H. Leonard, H. M. Mackenzie, F. P. Mackie, Sir Richard Needham, J. J. Pratt, A. H. Proctor, Ashton Street, H. H. Thorburn, R. G. Turner, J. Norman Walker, N. M. Wilson, C. N. C. Wimberley.

*Lieutenant-Colonels*: H. W. Acton, A. C. Anderson, F. J. Anderson, L. A. P. Anderson, S. Anderson, C. H. Barber, A. N. Bose, R. H. Bott, N. Briggs, H. H. Broome, R. N. Chopra, H. P. Cook, A. G. Coullie, D. G. Crawford, J. M. Crawford, J. B. Dalzell Hunter, C. D. Dawes, J. C. De, A. Macdonald Dick, H. R. Dutton, S. C. Evans, C. H. Fielding, J. K. S. Fleming, E. S. Goss, G. F. Graham, V. B. Green-Armytage, F. Griffith, A. E. Grisewood, A. F. Hamilton, W. G. Hamilton, W. L. Harnet, H. Hingston, J. M. Holmes, T. A. Hughes, E. V. Hugo, M. L. C. Irvine, S. P. James, I. Davenport Jones, R. N. Khosla, J. B. Lapsley, J. C. H. Leicester, A. C. Macrae, E. C. G. Maddock, J. S. S. Martin, W. A. Mearns, T. R. Mulrone, B. E. M. Newland, F. O'Kinealy, E. J. O'Meara, E. S. Phipson, H. Ross, J. D. Sandes, R. B. S. Sewell, M. Anup Singh, H. B. Steen, R. Steen,

*Pulmonary Tuberculosis in Basutoland Miners.*—On June 25th Lord STANLEY told Mr. Paling that according to the recent report of the Basutoland Commission the average number of Basutos employed in the Witwatersrand gold mines during 1931-3 was 29,374. He had no information of the number of Basutos who were suffering from miners' phthisis contracted as a result of such employment, but the total number of cases of pulmonary tuberculosis reported in Basutoland during the period in question averaged 323 a year.

*Superannuation of Local Government Officers.*—Mr. SHAKE-SPEARE states that the Minister of Health has no power to compel local authorities to adopt the Local Government and Other Officers Superannuation Act, 1922, and although further legislation has been under consideration the present state of Parliamentary business is such that it is impossible to contemplate it.

*Prison Medical Officers' Duties.*—Mr. LEONARD asked Sir Godfrey Collins the terms of the prison rule, No. 225, governing the duties of the medical officer. Sir GODFREY COLLINS said the rule read: "The medical officer shall see every prisoner at least once a week, so as to ascertain his general state of health, physical and mental, and whether he is clean in his person, and free from disease, and if his clothing and bedding are sufficient, and shall record the result of his inspection in his journal." Sir Godfrey added that if the state or appearance of any prisoner rendered any action necessary, or if the prisoner made any request or complaint which inquiry proved to be justified, action was duly taken.

#### Notes in Brief

The Departmental Committee on Street Lighting expects to make an interim report by the end of July.

The Minister of Transport is prepared sympathetically to receive applications for leave to enforce silence zones for the whole twenty-four hours. No such applications have yet been made.

It is not proposed to introduce legislation to enable married women who contribute to national health insurance to qualify for pensions at the age of 55.

## Medical News

The St. Cyres Lecture for 1935 will be delivered by Dr. Paul Dudley White of Boston, U.S.A., at the Royal Society of Medicine, on Wednesday, July 10th, at 5 p.m. His subject will be: "Congestion without Myocardial Failure, with special reference to the Diagnosis and Treatment of Chronic Constrictive Pericarditis, sometimes called Pick's Disease." Members of the medical profession are cordially invited.

The annual dinner of the St. Bartholomew's Hospital Ninth Decennial Contemporary Club will be held at the Langham Hotel, Portland Place, W., on Wednesday, July 3rd, at 7.30 p.m., for 8 o'clock. (Tickets 10s. 6d.) The hon. secretaries are Mr. R. C. Elmslie and Dr. C. M. Hinds Howell.

The ninety-fourth annual meeting of the Royal Medico-Psychological Association will be held at 11, Chandos Street, W., and the Guildhall of the Middlesex County Council, Westminster, S.W., on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, July 3rd, 4th, and 5th, under the presidency of Dr. Reginald Worth, who will deliver his presidential address, on "Four Decades of Psychiatry," in the afternoon of July 3rd. At 8 p.m. the same day the annual dinner of the association will be held at Claridges Hotel. Papers will be read on July 4th by Dr. Thomas D. Power, on "Modern Endocrinology and Mental Disorder," and Dr. H. C. Beccle, on "Recent Investigations in the Haematology of the Psychoses," and on July 5th by Dr. W. D. Nicol, on "Clinical Aspects of G.P.I."

A meeting of the Society for the Study of Inebriety will be held at 11, Chandos Street, W., on Tuesday, July 9th, at 4 p.m., when the president, Dr. William Brown, will deliver a short address on "Psychology in Relation to Alcohol and Drug Addiction." The address will be followed by a discussion, to be opened by Dr. S. W. Patterson, on "Addiction to Endocrine Gland Extracts."

A provincial meeting of the Section of Orthopaedics of the Royal Society of Medicine will be held at the Bath and Wessex Children's Orthopaedic Hospital by invitation of Miss Maud Forrester-Brown, Dr. R. G. Gordon, and Mr. John Bastow, on Saturday, July 6th, at 2.15 p.m., when cases will be shown, including nerve cases, of orthopaedic importance.

The Ex-Services Welfare Society (51, Victoria Street, S.W.1) is inviting all its consultants in the British Isles (numbering about forty-five) to a conference to be held at the Hyde Park Hotel, Knightsbridge, S.W., on Wednesday, July 10th, at 10 a.m. The subject for discussion will be "The Persistent Effects of the War Neuroses," and Dr. Edward Mapother, the Society's chief consultant, will preside. At a luncheon party after the conference the chair will be taken by the president, Admiral of the Fleet Sir Reginald Tyrwhitt.

H.R.H. The Princess Victoria will open the new building of the Sussex Eye Hospital on Tuesday, July 2nd, at 3 p.m.

Prizes will be presented to students of the London School of Medicine for Women by Mrs. Kinnell on Wednesday, July 3rd, at 3.30 p.m., in the Albert Levy Hall, Royal Free Hospital.

Founders' Day will be celebrated at the Lord Mayor Treloar Cripples' Hospital and College, Alton, Hants, on Saturday, July 6th, when the Marquess of Reading will lay the foundation stone of the Silver Jubilee Treatment Centre (so-named by permission of H.M. the King).

The Fellowship of Medicine (1, Wimpole Street, W.) announces that the second "refresher" course in medicine, surgery, and the specialties at the Prince of Wales's General Hospital will take place from July 1st to 13th. Other courses will be held as follows: proctology at St. Mark's Hospital, July 1st to 6th; urology at All Saints' Hospital, July 8th to 27th; general medicine and surgery at Southend Hospital, July 13th and 14th; dermatology at Blackfriars Hospital, July 15th to 27th. A special demonstration, intended for candidates for the M.R.C.P. examination, on the fundus oculi will be given at West End Hospital for Nervous Diseases (in-patient department), Gloucester Gate, N.W., on July 2nd, at 8.30 p.m. A panel of teachers is prepared to give clinical instruction in various branches of medicine and surgery. Courses of instruction, clinics, etc., arranged by the Fellowship are open only to members and associates of the Fellowship.

The second Congress of French-speaking Electroradiologists will be held at Brussels on the occasion of the universal exhibition from July 30th to August 3rd, when the following subjects will be discussed: changes discoverable radiologically and endocrine disturbance, by Professor Morelle of Louvain; teleroentgen therapy, by MM. Cottentot (Paris) and Sluys (Brussels); and new conceptions on electrodiagnosis, their therapeutic consequences, by MM. Bourguignon, Delherm, and Duhem (Paris). Further information can be obtained from M. Dariaux, 9 bis, Boulevard Rochechouart, Paris.

The eleventh congress of the National Association for the Protection of Childhood will be held at Brussels on July 20th, on the occasion of the international exhibition.

The eleventh Congress of French-speaking Radiologists will be held at Brussels under the presidency of Dr. Gobeaux, from July 30th to August 3rd.

The second annual edition of the *Empire Social Hygiene Year Book*, prepared by the British Social Hygiene Council, will be published by Allen and Unwin on July 4th. The survey of the administrative position in Great Britain and Northern Ireland has been extended to include mercantile marine welfare, housing, maternity and child welfare, illegitimacy, juvenile delinquency and probation, deafness, prostitution, and tuberculosis.

The issue of *Paris Médical* for June 15th is devoted to the surgery of children and orthopaedics.

The issue of *Bibliografica Ortopedica* for April 30th contains the proceedings of the twenty-fifth Congress of the Italian Society of Orthopaedics, held in Rome last October.

For the purpose of necessary redecoration and repair the Library of the British Medical Association will be closed for three weeks from Saturday, August 10th.

The medal of the Society of Chemical Industry has been awarded to Dr. E. F. Armstrong, F.R.S., for "Conspicuous Services to Chemistry." The presentation will be made during the annual meeting and conference of the society in Glasgow next week, when Dr. Armstrong will deliver his medallist address on "The Past, the Present, and the Future."

Dr. A. Douglas Cowburn, the South London Coroner, has been elected president of the Coroners' Society of England and Wales, and Sir Walter Schröder, who recently celebrated his eightieth birthday, has again been elected honorary secretary.

Mr. G. M. Huggins, F.R.C.S., Prime Minister of Southern Rhodesia, has been entertained this week at a dinner given by members of the staff of St. Thomas's Hospital, where he was a student and house-surgeon before migrating to Southern Rhodesia twenty-five years ago.

Professor Gregorio Marañón of Madrid has been elected a member of the Spanish Academy of Sciences, in succession to the late Professor Ramón y Cajal.

Dr. Robert Debré, professor of bacteriology in the Paris Faculty of Medicine, has been elected a member of the Académie de Médecine in the Section of Hygiene in succession to the late Professor Léon Bernard.

The permanent office of the Latin Medical Press has elected the Professor and Senator Davide Giordano of Venice as president in succession to Dr. Leopold Mayer of Brussels, who has been nominated an honorary member.

A monument to the Austrian doctors who died during the war has recently been erected at Vienna.

## Letters, Notes, and Answers

All communications in regard to editorial business should be addressed to **The EDITOR, British Medical Journal, B.M.A. 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. Authors over-seas should indicate on MSS. if reprints are required, as proofs are not sent abroad.

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### QUERIES AND ANSWERS

#### Liquid Extract of Ergot

"L. A." asks for information about the activity of the B.P. 1932 liquid extract of ergot as compared with the liquid extract of the B.P. 1914.

\*\* We understand that Dr. Chassar Moir, at an early stage of his recent work (*British Medical Journal*, March 16th, 1935, p. 520); tested extracts made from the same ergot in the dispensary at University College Hospital—(1) by the old watery process of the B.P. 1914, and (2) with acid alcohol, according to the B.P. 1932. Both extracts, when administered by the mouth in the same doses, pro-

duced the stimulating effect on the puerperal uterus which we now know to be due to ergometrine. There was no basis for an accurate quantitative comparison, but it appeared that the B.P. 1932 extract was, if there were any difference, rather the stronger. What we now know about the solubilities of ergometrine makes it quite certain that the B.P. 1932 process extracts it at least as completely as the watery process of the B.P. 1914. The question, which is still open for decision by experience, is whether the presence of the other alkaloids—ergotoxine, etc.—in the 1932 extract is advantageous or otherwise. The 1914 extract is practically devoid of these. The position has certainly shifted, to the extent of reinstating the old watery extract as a useful preparation; but there is no proper ground for regarding it as better than the alcoholic extract of the B.P. 1932, or any certainty, indeed, that it is as good.

#### Vulvo-vaginitis in a Child

In response to the query by "Z. Y. X." (June 15th, p. 1249) a correspondent draws attention to a note on vulvo-vaginitis in children by Dr. C. Paget Lapage of Manchester, which appeared in the *Lancet* of April 28th, 1934 (p. 897). In this Dr. Lapage reported encouraging results from treatment with a 1 per cent. silver nitrate ointment made up with anhydrous wool fat, as described by G. C. Schauffer in the *American Journal of Diseases in Children* (1932, xliii, 350). Small collapsible metal tubes are filled with the ointment, and a piece of rubber tubing is attached to the nozzle of the tube. This rubber tubing nozzle is inserted into the hymenal opening of the vagina, and the ointment is injected by pressure on the metal tube from the bottom.

#### Income Tax

##### Sickness Benefit

"J. S. J." is in receipt of sickness benefit under an insurance policy; relief was not allowed on the premium paid. Are the amounts now being received liable to tax?

\*\* No; they are outside the scope of the Acts.

##### Obsolescence Claim

"A. E. I." has claimed an obsolescence allowance in respect of a car bought in 1925 and sold in 1931, and has been informed that his claim is out of date, as it should have been made within twelve months from the end of the year of assessment affected.

\*\* Section 24 (1) of the Finance Act, 1923, provides for relief in the case of an overcharge arising out of an error or mistake. That provision applied to Schedule D, but was extended to Schedule E by Section 45 (8) of the Finance Act of 1927. The claim can be made within six years of the year of assessment concerned. It is admitted by the Revenue authorities that an omission to claim depreciation allowance can be remedied under those sections, and we should have thought it beyond serious doubt that the same would apply to an omission to claim the obsolescence allowance. "A. E. I." might usefully point this out to his inspector of taxes.

##### Change in Partnership—Transfer of Surgery

"PARTNER" explains that owing to the retirement of one partner—at whose house the firm's main dispensary and surgery were situated—accommodation has had to be provided at the house of another partner. It has cost £120 to fit up the rooms there for professional purposes. Is this sum allowable?

\*\* In our opinion—no. The case seems to be covered by the principle laid down in the case of the Granite Supply Association v. Kitton, where it was held that the expense of transferring a business to a different situation must be regarded for that purpose as capital expenditure.

##### Locumtenent's Fees

"M. A. J." received £22 10s. as fees for acting as locumtenent in August, 1933. He was assessed to tax on that amount as for the year 1933-4. He has again been assessed on the same amount as for 1934-5, and the local inspector states that this is correct as "the locumtenency is considered to be a new appointment."

\*\* If the locumtenency is regarded as a new appointment (and there was presumably no binding arrangement for future work for the same practitioner) the answer to the inspector's point is that the appointment ceased in 1933-4, and is therefore outside the scope of any assessment for 1934-5.