

The
British Medical Journal
THE JOURNAL OF THE BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION



Including an Epitome of Current Medical Literature
WITH SUPPLEMENT

No. 3913

SATURDAY, JANUARY 4th, 1936

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be cured by the correction of an astigmatism. In chronic cholecystitis "waves of nausea" are complained of, but there are usually other definitive symptoms. The treatment here should include avoidance of eggs and fried dishes, and the administration of biliary antiseptics, such as hexamine or salicylates. Nausea, with or without retching or vomiting, and occurring especially in the morning, and independently of pregnancy, nearly always means a true gastritis. If there is insufficient justification for lavage with the stomach tube a long drink, on rising, of one pint of water, in which one drachm of sodium bicarbonate has been dissolved, is often effective. Alcohol, strong tea and coffee, condiments, curries, coarse or uncooked vegetables, and twice-cooked meats should be avoided until the symptoms have disappeared, and in any alcoholic case alcohol in all forms should be permanently forbidden.

Water-brash and Hiccups

Water-brash.—By water-brash is meant a sudden arrival in the mouth of a copious, tasteless, watery secretion. It is due to a sudden overactivity of the salivary glands. It is generally a symptom of organic disease, and appears more frequently in association with duodenal ulcer than with any other lesion. Arriving in concert with the hunger-pain it may be regarded as an exaggeration of the mouth-watering (more common in dogs than men) which accompanies physiological hunger. Its treatment is the treatment of the underlying cause.

Hiccups.—Seemingly due to a diaphragmatic twitch or spasm with simultaneous closure of the glottis, hiccups are a reflex consequence of gastric irritation. In children they are readily caused by bolting or injudicious feeding. In some people they are evoked immediately by peppery soups or other condiments. They are a familiar accompaniment of acute alcoholic gastritis. They are sometimes a symptom of uraemic gastritis, and have an equally grave significance in the dilated stomach, irritated by fluid regurgitation from the small bowel, in paralytic ileus, and in intestinal obstruction. Gastric lavage may prove valuable in these cases. In the more benign forms of hiccups drinking a large glass of cold water, holding the breath, or the induction of sneezing may all cut short an attack. There remain certain obscure forms of hiccups so prolonged and distressing as to give rise to anxious states of exhaustion. These occur especially in the elderly. A few drops of tincture of iodine in water, or oil of cajuput or of peppermint are usually tried, and usually fail. If induced sneezing or sudden cold applications to the epigastrium are also ineffectual it may be necessary to give morphine or heroin to secure rest and sleep.

A memorandum has been issued by the British Institute of Cinematography (incorporating the Institute of Amateur Cinematographers) on proposals that have been adopted to encourage the use and development of the cinematograph as a means of entertainment and instruction. The new institute will function as a society for amateur and professional interests, will organize meetings and discussions, conduct a monthly periodical, and encourage the extension of cinematography into educational spheres. A medical and scientific section has been created to assist the research worker to record his observations pictorially, and to make these illustrations of procedures, reactions, and clinical cases available for his fellow workers. A library of such films is being accumulated. Further information is obtainable from the offices of the British Institute of Cinematography, Burley House, 5-11, Theobalds Road, W.C.1.

A "CHILDREN'S MINIMUM"

POSITIVE NUTRITION POLICY URGED ON GOVERNMENT

A general uneasiness about the nutrition of children in the poorer section of the population has been focused by the Children's Minimum Committee, which is pointing out the real danger that large numbers of children in this generation may grow up permanently handicapped through insufficient nourishment. The committee, of which Miss Eleanor Rathbone, M.P., is chairman, and Sir Edward Grigg, M.P., a prominent member, has the support of more than thirty societies concerned with health and child welfare, education, Christian social service, and the position of women in citizenship and industry.

A long statement, almost a treatise, has been prepared by the committee, and was presented on December 18th, 1935, to Lord Eustace Percy, as representing the Prime Minister. In this statement certain immediate steps are advocated for improvements in unemployment assistance by an increase of allowances and an extension of milk provision, also the overriding of some local authorities which interpret the regulations too narrowly or neglect to use their powers. But beyond this a more positive nutrition policy is called for, by the closer co-ordination of agricultural and health programmes. The debate at the last League of Nations Assembly, when in particular the British and Australian delegates, Lord De La Warr and Mr. S. M. Bruce, enlarged upon the strange position whereby surplus food supplies coexist with large areas of semi-starvation,¹ finds an echo here, and the committee points out that advances in agricultural science and technique have for the first time brought within reach a food supply adequate for the health of the community, while at the same time research on nutrition has shown how a deficiency of certain protective foodstuffs makes for minor degrees of ill-health. Reference is also made to the work of the British Medical Association Committee on Nutrition, which reported in 1933, giving specimen minimum diets for unemployed families.² That report, say the promoters of the new campaign, has provided a yardstick against which can be measured the adequacy of the actual amounts available for food at different income levels; though it is added that inquiries undertaken by a large number of housewives belonging to Labour women's organizations throughout the country show that in many localities the items specified in the B.M.A. family budgets cannot be purchased at as low a price as the one mentioned in the report.

The Subsistence Level

Against the large background of this and other work on nutrition the Government is asked to consider proposals for more generous provision for unemployed families and for extending school meals and the supply of cheap and free milk. What is already done by the "milk in schools" scheme and by the increase in children's allowances under unemployment benefit from 2s. to 3s. for each child is acknowledged, but more remains to be done if the children of this class of the population and also their mothers during the child-bearing period are to be safeguarded. (In this connexion the recommendations of the League of Nations Expert Committee on Nutrition are of interest. See *British Medical Journal*, December 21st, 1935, p. 1215.) The standard benefit for families with two or more children still falls below the minimum of bare necessity, and the gap between benefit and need widens with the number of dependent children. It is urged that if a further increase in children's allowances is not to be expected in the

¹ *British Medical Journal*, September 28th, 1935, p. 589.

² Report reprinted in pamphlet form. B.M.A. House. (6d.)

the drug had a perfectly proper use in tablets of this kind in minute doses. There was no reason to suppose that the tablets contained any more of the drug than was stated. His verdict was "Death by Misadventure."

DOCTOR'S APPEAL AGAINST CONVICTION

In the Scottish Court of Criminal Appeal at Edinburgh on December 20th, on the appeal of Dr. Alexander Gorrie Paton, a conviction for culpable homicide and a sentence of six months' imprisonment which had been passed on him at the Lanark Sheriff Court on October 20th was set aside, and a conviction for an offence under the Road Traffic Act, 1930, and a fine of £50 substituted. The charge of culpable homicide followed an accident in which Dr. Paton's car knocked down two men, one of whom died from his injuries. There was no suggestion of drink in the case, and on behalf of the defence it was stated that owing to the defective camber of the road at the spot where the accident took place a back wheel of the car was carried six inches on to the verge, where it struck a stone, throwing the car momentarily out of control, so that it swung across the road and hit the men. Evidence showed that Dr. Paton was going at about thirty-five miles an hour, but a Crown expert witness at the first hearing gave evidence that there was no reason why sixty miles an hour should not have been done on that particular stretch.

The judgement on the appeal was given by Lord Aitchison, who said that he thought the Sheriff had misdirected the jury when he told them that under the indictment as presented they could not find the accused guilty of an offence under Section 11 of the Road Traffic Act (reckless or dangerous driving). He had a feeling that what occurred was not satisfactory in a criminal trial, and that this was a case in which the court was justified in substituting one verdict for another. Lord Anderson concurred, but the third member of the court, Lord Hunter, could find no trace of misdirection. By a majority of two to one, therefore, the original conviction was set aside, and a conviction for reckless and dangerous driving substituted.

Universities and Colleges

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

The following candidates have been approved at the examinations indicated:

THIRD M.B.—*Part I (Surgery, Midwifery, and Gynaecology)*: L. J. Bacon, R. G. Bickford, R. A. Binning, G. L. Broderick, S. C. Buck, W. A. Burnett, R. S. Castle, E. M. Darmady, R. B. Davis, J. Diver, F. S. A. Doran, E. W. Dorrell, R. C. Droop, C. H. C. Ferguson, T. D. Fraser, I. N. Fulton, B. S. C. Gaster, M. H. Harding, E. W. Hart, F. E. S. Hatfield, C. M. Heath, A. L. Jackson, D. B. Keall, R. G. M. Keeling, J. W. Landells, D. C. Lavender, A. B. Lintott, L. N. G. Lytton, J. MacKellar, F. C. Maddox, D. N. Matthews, H. K. Meller, J. S. Minett, T. J. Morton, B. C. M. Palmer, J. W. Parks, W. J. E. Phillips, G. C. L. Pile, J. M. Ranking, G. R. Rawlings, G. Rigby-Jones, O. N. Roussel, H. P. Ruffell Smith, R. S. Saxton, D. R. Seaton, R. H. A. Swain, W. H. Valentine, J. H. Ward, S. Ward, D. J. Watterson, A. S. Wigfield, J. R. C. Williams, H. T. H. Wilson, J. R. J. Winter, H. R. Wynne. *Women*: B. J. Travers, E. H. Western, E. L. Willis, E. M. Wright. *Part II (Principles and Practice of Physic, Pathology, and Pharmacology)*: L. J. Bacon, W. M. Beattie, N. B. Betts, K. O. Black, A. C. Blandy, R. E. Bonham-Carter, F. Braithwaite, G. L. Broderick, A. F. Bryson, W. T. Cooke, E. M. Darmady, D. H. Davies, H. S. Davis, C. A. Dowling, R. D. Ewing, C. U. Gregson, G. N. St. J. Hallett, J. W. Hannay, C. Hardwick, J. R. G. Harris, A. E. M. Hartley, N. T. Holden, C. S. Humphries, H. D. Johnson, J. R. Kerr, J. W. Lacey, D. C. Lavender, J. F. Lown, K. G. F. Mackenzie, I. W. MacKichan, D. N. Matthews, S. G. Mayer, R. S. Morris, J. R. Owen, R. J. Porter, C. N. Pulvertaft, C. G. Rob, A. G. Salaman, D. S. Scott, P. G. Scott, J. A. Seymour-Jones, A. F. Stallard, F. Stansfield, W. H. Valentine, H. J. Wallace, B. L. Williams, J. R. J. Wipier. *Women*: M. Ball, S. L. Bhatia, E. L. Willis, W. F. Young.

UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD

The following medical degrees were conferred by the Vice-Chancellor at a congregation held on December 20th, 1935:

M.D.—D. L. Brown.
M.B., Ch.B.—L. A. Bull, W. Ellis.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

The following candidates have been approved at the examinations indicated:

M.S.—*Branch I (Surgery)*: T. W. Mimpriss. *Branch III (Ophthalmology)*: Jean M. Dollar. *Branch IV (Laryngology, Otology, and Rhinology)*: W. H. Bradbeer.
EXTERNAL DIPLOMA IN CLINICAL PATHOLOGY.—D. H. Haler.
ACADEMIC POST-GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN CLINICAL PATHOLOGY.—Abdalla Abdel Razzak.

UNIVERSITY OF DURHAM

The Chancellor (Lord Londonderry) has appointed Sir Robert Bolam, M.D., LL.D., F.R.C.P., to be Vice-Chancellor of the University as from February 11th.

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

A graduation ceremonial was held in the Upper Library Hall on December 20th, 1935, when the following degrees and diploma were conferred:

M.D.—J. Bennet, Major R.A.M.C. (with second-class honours), B. S. Bindra (*in absentia*), †John Douglas, E. H. Duff, †H. J. Gibson, †I. Gordon (*in absentia*), †J. J. B. Martin (*in absentia*), Helen S. E. Murray, †D. C. Osborne, †T. M. J. Stewart, J. L. Swanston, *Mary B. Walker, J. White, Captain I.M.S. (*in absentia*).
Ch.M.—†I. Aird.
D.Sc. (*Faculty of Medicine*).—J. P. Dickson.
M.B., Ch.B.—A. F. H. Aeria, C. H. Bannerman, E. W. Q. Bannerman, E. G. Barnes, W. M. Burgess, A. P. Burnett, R. J. C. Campbell, T. M. S. Clark, A. H. Crichton, Winifred M. Dempster, H. Ferguson, W. G. S. Harden, H. O'B. Howat, R. P. Jack, J. M. M. Jamieson, P. M. Kirkwood, R. K. M'All, T. A. MacGibbon, A. I. M'Kendrick, D. S. M'Kenzie, D. MacKenzie, K. I. E. Macleod, A. B. Milligan, T. R. N. Parhar, R. G. Parker, Isabella A. Purdie, A. S. L. Rae, A. N. Reid, R. J. S. Smith, R. Somerville, A. Stern, H. H. Stott, G. L. Walker.
D.P.H.—T. A. Don.

* Awarded gold medal for thesis. † Highly commended for thesis. ‡ Commended for thesis.

UNIVERSITY OF ST. ANDREWS

The University Court on December 26th, 1935, announced the appointment as professor of surgery of Mr. R. C. Alexander, M.B., F.R.C.S.Ed., and as lecturer in clinical surgery of Mr. R. S. Melville, F.R.C.S.Ed.

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF IRELAND

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, CORK

The following candidates have been approved at the examinations indicated:

M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O.—*O. T. D. Loughnan, †W. Kearney, †T. J. Seavers, V. Bennett, W. Kearney, M. Kirwan, O. Loughnan, C. McGrath, S. Nathan, V. J. O'Sullivan, W. O'Sullivan, Bridget F. Riordan, T. J. Seavers, Catherine M. Sullivan. *Part I*: J. O'Sullivan, Margaret M. Reynolds, G. F. Russell, J. Russell, Helen P. Tracey.
D.P.H.—D. F. Burke, T. G. A. Carroll, R. A. Good, M. J. Kennefick, J. P. Morehan (first-class honours in Part II), J. J. Murphy (second-class honours in Part I), J. P. O'Leary, Elizabeth J. H. Philpott (second-class honours in Part II).

* First-class honours. † Second-class honours.

QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY, BELFAST

The winter graduation ceremony was held on December 21st, 1935, when the Vice-Chancellor conferred the following medical degrees:

M.D.—*J. C. C. Crawford, *J. V. Hurford, *T. W. H. Weir, E. A. J. Byrne (*in absentia*).
M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O.—†J. E. Morison, F. C. Banks, J. P. Cosgrove, W. W. Davey, W. McKeown, C. C. D. Martin, B. V. Megarry, W. D. Miles, N. J. Y. Simpson, Louise Skillen, W. McL. E. Topping.

* With commendation. † With second-class honours.

SOCIETY OF APOTHECARIES OF LONDON

The following candidates have passed in the subjects indicated:

SURGERY.—W. C. Heunis, J. M. Lea, N. O. Lucas.
MEDICINE.—C. W. Mills, J. F. O'Malley, G. M. Williams.
FORENSIC MEDICINE.—C. W. Mills, J. F. O'Malley.
MIDWIFERY.—G. K. Coombes, B. Anderson, H. Bentovim.

The diploma of the Society has been granted to B. Anderson, N. O. Lucas, and G. M. Williams.

The Services

The King has approved the award of the Distinguished Service Order to Captain Francis John Doherty, I.M.S., attached to the 5th Battalion, 12th Frontier Force Regiment, Indian Army, for gallant and distinguished service in action in connexion with the recent Mohmand operations, North-West Frontier of India, 1935.

Major H. H. Elliot, M.B.E., M.C., I.M.S., has been appointed surgeon to Lord Linlithgow, the Viceroy-Designate of India.

Medical Notes in Parliament

[FROM OUR PARLIAMENTARY CORRESPONDENT]

Anaesthesia in Animal Experiments

Mr. Groves asked on December 19th whether electric immobilization or injection of starch grains into the carotid artery were held as complying with the provisions as to anaesthetics under the Act 39 and 40 Vic., c. 77, relating to experiments on animals; whether these respective methods were in use for the purpose of producing anaesthesia in experiments on animals; and whether there were any specific regulations laid down in connexion with the granting of licences for such experimentation as to what constituted an anaesthetic within the meaning of the Act. Mr. LLOYD replied that electric immobilization and the injection of starch grains into the carotid artery were effective methods of causing complete insensibility in animals, but were never used in the laboratories as substitutes for the recognized anaesthetics. There were no specific regulations defining anaesthetics, and no definition in the Act, but there was attached to every Certificate B (the certificate permitting cutting operations with subsequent recovery) a condition requiring that the anaesthetic administered must be of sufficient power to prevent the animal feeling pain.

Inquiry Commissions

Mr. W. S. MORRISON tabled on December 20th a list of Commissions and Committees, excluding Standing and Statutory Committees, appointed by the Government during the last Parliament. This list showed that reports had not been made by the commissions or committees appointed to inquire into the following subjects:

- Health Services (Scotland).
- Nurses Training and Registration (Scotland).
- Social Services connected with Courts of Summary Jurisdiction.
- Coroners.
- Road Safety Instruction for School Children (England).
- Road Safety Instruction for School Children (Scotland).
- Workmen's Compensation Acts (to inquire into and make recommendations on (1) the operation of the Acts in relation to workmen affected by miners' nystagmus; (2) the system of medical examination and certification by medical referees and certifying surgeons in force under the Acts).
- Poor Law (Scotland).

Supply of Lymph in Scotland.—Sir GODFREY COLLINS stated, on December 20th, that there were no public vaccinators in Scotland, but that arrangements existed for the supply by the Department of Health for Scotland of lymph free of charge to vaccinators appointed under the terms of the Vaccination (Scotland) Act, 1863, who cared to apply for it. The Department had no vaccine institutions, the lymph being obtained from a firm of lymph manufacturers. No information was available as to the source from which vaccinators obtained their lymph when they did not avail themselves of the Department's arrangements.

A Physiological Experiment.—Mr. T. GROVES asked on December 20th whether the attention of the Home Secretary had been drawn to an experiment performed by Dr. Adli Samaa at University College, London, the report of which was published in the *Journal of Physiology* for August 22nd, 1935,

under the title of "The Effect of Pituitary (Posterior Lobe) Extract Upon the Urinary Flow in Non-anaesthetized Dogs"; and what anaesthetic, if any, was used by the experimenter who reported that five healthy bitches, trained to remain calm in a Pavlov stand and to receive a stomach tube without resentment, were operated upon aseptically. Mr. GEOFFREY LLOYD replied that a copy of Dr. Samaa's paper referred to was forwarded by him to the Home Office. The surgical operations described in the paper were done under complete anaesthesia under the authority of Certificates B and E. No procedure under the Act except the injection of pituitary extract was done without anaesthetics.

Overcrowding.—Sir FRANCIS FREMANTLE, on December 19th, asked if the Minister of Health was aware that, until he declared the appointed day under Section 3 of the Housing Act, 1935, new tenants could be added without offence, and, in fact, were being so added to already overcrowded houses. Sir Francis asked how soon the Minister could declare the appointed day for London and for the rest of the country. Sir KINGSLEY WOOD said he knew the desirability of fixing the appointed day in such a way as to minimize the difficulties to which Sir Francis referred, but he must take into account progress made in the provision of new accommodation required for the abatement of overcrowding.

Notes in Brief

The Unemployment Insurance Statutory Committee has practically completed taking evidence on the insurance of professional workers, and is considering its report.

The Local Government and Other Officers Superannuation Act, 1922, had, at December 1st, 1935, been adopted by fifty-two county councils, sixty-six county borough councils, and 479 other local authorities. In addition, officers and servants of 457 local authorities had been admitted to participate in the benefits of the Act by means of agreements under Section 5 (3).

Medical News

The Hunterian Society announces that Dr. Sven Ingvar, professor of medicine in the University of Lund, Sweden, will deliver the Hunterian Lecture at the Mansion House on Monday, January 20th, at 9 p.m. His subject will be "The Physical Basis of Psychoneurosis." The Hunterian Oration on "John Hunter's Time and Our Own Times" will be delivered by Sir G. Lenthal Cheatle at the Mansion House on Monday, February 24th, at 9 p.m.

Professor Edward Mellanby, F.R.S., secretary of the Medical Research Council, will give an address on "Recent Advances in the Treatment of Disease," at the Royal Institution, 21, Albemarle Street, W., on Friday, January 31st, at 9 p.m.

At the meeting of the Medical Officers of Schools Association to be held in the Mechanics Theatre, University College, Gower Street, W.C., to-day, (Friday, January 3rd), at 5 o'clock, a discussion on "School Pressure in Work and Play" will be opened by Dr. G. O. Barber.

A meeting of the Society for the Study of Inebriety will be held at 11, Chandos Street, W., on Tuesday, January 14th, at 4 p.m., when Dr. W. Norwood East and Dr. Hubert J. Norman will open a discussion on "The Relationship of Alcoholism and Crime to Manic-depressive Disorder."

The London Jewish Hospital Medical Society announces that a symposium on "Headaches" will take place at the London Jewish Hospital, Stepney Green, E., on Thursday, January 9th, at 4 p.m., when the speakers will be Mr. A. D. Griffiths, Mr. H. A. Kisch, and Dr. C. C. Worster-Drought. The chair will be taken by the president, Dr. D. Nabarro.

The next series of post-graduate demonstrations at the General Infirmary at Leeds opens on January 7th, at 3.30 p.m., and will be continued on Tuesdays until April 7th inclusive. Details will appear in the diary column of the *Supplement* week by week.

The University of Durham College of Medicine has arranged a series of lectures and clinical demonstrations on diseases of children at the Babies' Hospital, West Parade, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, on Thursdays at 2.15 p.m. from January 9th to March 5th. The fee for the course is £3 3s. A composite course, arranged in three parts, will be given at the Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, on January 9th, 23rd, and 30th, February 6th, 13th, and 27th, and March 5th, 12th, and 19th, from 2.15 p.m. This course includes x-ray interpretation, diseases of the skin, demonstrations on clinical pathology, and recent advances in therapeutics, and is specially designed to meet the daily needs of the practitioner. The fee for the whole composite course is £3 3s.; any section may be taken separately at a fee of £1 1s. Post-graduate classes for clinical instruction in medicine and surgery, or lecture-demonstrations, will be given at the Newcastle General Hospital on Sundays at 10.30 a.m., from January 19th to March 22nd, both dates inclusive. There is no fee, and all medical practitioners are invited to attend.

The Fellowship of Medicine announces the following courses: cardiology, at National Hospital for Diseases of the Heart, January 13th to 24th; proctology, at St. Mark's Hospital, February 3rd to 8th; gynaecology, at Chelsea Hospital for Women, February 10th to 22nd; heart and lung diseases, at the Royal Chest Hospital, January 18th and 19th; physical medicine, at St. John Clinic and Institute of Physical Medicine, February 8th and 9th; children's diseases, at Princess Elizabeth of York Hospital, February 22nd and 23rd. Surgical tutorial classes (specially suitable for F.R.C.S. candidates) will be given at the National Temperance Hospital on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 8.30 p.m. from January 14th to March 5th. Detailed syllabuses of all courses may be obtained from the Fellowship of Medicine, 1, Wimpole Street, W. A course in anatomy and physiology, in preparation for the Primary F.R.C.S. examination, will be given at Infants Hospital, Vincent Square, S.W., from February 24th to April 24th on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at 8 p.m.

Under the auspices of the permanent committee of the International Congresses of Military Medicine and Pharmacy a conference will take place at Monaco from February 10th to 12th. A discussion on the present state of war legislation, with especial reference to that concerning the safeguarding of the civil population, will be opened by M. Dehousse, professor of international law in the University of Liège; Dr. Voncken, director of the International Office of Documentation of Military Medicine, will introduce a debate on first-aid services in the war of the future; and there will be inaugurated an international association for the protection of humanity throughout the world. The fee for membership of the conference is 15 francs. Further information may be obtained from Dr. Voncken, Session d'Etudes Médico-juridiques, Quai de Plaisance, Monaco.

In our last issue, at page 1287, the initials of Dr. W. G. Clark, who has been appointed to the Scottish Housing Advisory Committee, were incorrectly given. The composition of the committee has been completed by the appointment of Dr. James R. Adam, medical officer of health for the county of Roxburgh. The Housing (Scotland) Act, 1935, provides for the setting up of two sub-committees of the committee for the purpose of dealing with matters relating to urban and rural housing respectively, and Dr. Clark has been appointed to the former subcommittee and Dr. Adam to the latter.

The Council of the Faculty of Medicine of Paris decided at a meeting on November 7th to reintroduce the Hippocratic Oath, to be taken on graduation in medicine. The Medical Faculties of Montpellier and Strasbourg have been consistent in requiring this oath of would-be doctors since it was first introduced into the ceremony of graduation in medicine.

The November issue of the *Bulletin of the New York Academy of Medicine* contains a list of the late Colonel Fielding Garrison's articles and book reviews published in the journal.

The Minister of Health is issuing this week to local authorities in England and Wales a memorandum (Memo. 191 Med.) on precautions against anaesthetic explosions in operating theatres. A full summary of the recommendations will appear in our next issue. The memorandum is obtainable through any bookseller from H.M. Stationery Office (price 1d.).

Owing to the illness of Professor von Eiselsberg, Dr. Schoemaker of The Hague, one of the vice-presidents, was appointed president of the tenth International Congress of Surgery, which is being held in Cairo this week. The secretary-general is Dr. Léopold Mayer of Brussels.

At the last annual meeting of the American Gynecological Society Professor William Fletcher Shaw, M.D., of Manchester, was elected an Honorary Fellow.

The Dutch Genetic Association has offered a prize of 250 gulden for an essay on the inheritance of differences in resistance to disease in men and animals. The essay must contain a review of the literature, especially as regards diseases of the blood, with personal observations and conclusions. The essay should be sent to the secretary of the society, Dr. A. L. Hagedorn, Soesterberg, Holland, before a date to be announced later.

Professor Hans Meyer, the editor of *Strahlentherapie* (address: Park Allee 73, Bremen), on the occasion of the fortieth anniversary of the discovery of Roentgen rays, has issued an appeal to radiologists of all nations for portraits and short biographies of medical men, physicists, nurses, and others who have lost their lives as the result of x-ray work.

A medallion has recently been affixed to the house at Confolens in the Department of Charente, in which the late Dr. Émile Roux was born.

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.**

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The **TELEPHONE NUMBER** of the British Medical Association and the *British Medical Journal* is EUSTON 2111 (internal exchange, five lines).

The **TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESSES** are
EDITOR OF THE BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, Aitiology Westcent, London.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY AND BUSINESS MANAGER
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The address of the Irish Office of the British Medical Association is 18, Kildare 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

Priapism

Dr. A. E. CARSBURG (West Malvern) writes: In reply to "C. C. H." (December 21st, 1935, p. 1240) I had a case of persistent priapism that apparently yielded readily to 5 grains of pot. iod. three or four times daily, after many other treatments, local and constitutional, had failed. After a search of medical journals for many years I found that this simple remedy had succeeded in several cases. Anyhow, it is simple to try. Leukaemia should be excluded; also alcoholism and injury. There is, I fear, a grave possibility of impotence following.