

ONE HUNDRED AND FOURTH ANNUAL MEETING  
of the  
**British Medical Association**  
OXFORD, 1936

THE one hundred and fourth Annual Meeting of the British Medical Association will be held at Oxford next summer under the presidency of Sir E. Farquhar Buzzard, Bt., M.D., Regius Professor of Medicine in the University, who will deliver his address to the Association on the evening of Tuesday, July 21st, in the Sheldonian Theatre. The Sectional Meetings for scientific and clinical work will be held on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, July 22nd, 23rd, and 24th, the morning sessions being given up to discussions and the reading of papers, and the afternoon to demonstrations. The Annual Representative Meeting for the transaction of medico-political business will begin on the previous Friday, July 17th. The full list of presidents, vice-presidents, and honorary secretaries of the twenty Scientific Sections was published in the *Supplement* of January 18th; also a list of hotels, etc., and the provisional programme. Other details of the arrangements for the Annual Meeting will appear in later issues. We publish below the second of a series of descriptive and historical articles on the City and University and the medical institutions of Oxford. The first appeared on February 8th (p. 265).



#### THE BEGINNINGS OF THE UNIVERSITY

There are two questions which visitors to Oxford always ask. First, where is the University? Secondly, when did it begin? The first is easily answered. The University is everywhere within two or three miles radius of St. Mary's Church. There is no building which you can point out and say: There is the University. There are buildings, however, which the University owns either entirely or in part—for example, the Bodleian Library, the Divinity School, the Ancient House of Convocation, and St. Mary's Church. It also has, just inside the Ancient House of Convocation, its own court, in which members of the University can still be tried for minor offences before the Vice-Chancellor if they claim that privilege. But it may be said at once that the University as any definite group of buildings does not exist. It is rather to be considered as a corporate body, presided over by a Chancellor, Vice-Chancellor, Council, and a Legislative Assembly, consisting of two houses having jurisdiction over all its members, graduate or undergraduate. The two houses are known as Congregation and Convocation. Congregation consists of all resident Masters of Arts who are engaged in teaching. Convocation is a body made up of all Masters, whether resident or not.

The second question is more difficult to answer, and within the limits of my space still more so. When the Roman Empire broke up Europe was given over to incessant struggles between various races for supremacy, and the succeeding centuries are generally known as the Dark Ages, either because of the eclipse of learning or because comparatively little is, or perhaps we should say was, known about them. But if the age, say, down to about the year 900, does appear nebulous, it has, like every nebula, many brilliant spots, and these bright spots of learning were confined to monasteries and cathedrals. In Ireland in the fifth century there was a high level of culture. Latin and Greek were taught, and manuscripts were copied and illuminated. Her scholars travelled over Scotland and into Germany. Bede, the father of English letters, was at Jarrow at the end of the seventh century in command of a library filled with classical learning. He says of the school at Canterbury, founded by Archbishop Theodore, that the scholars there knew Latin and Greek as if these were their native tongues. Canterbury had its great rival in St. Peter's School at York, which attained its great fame under Alcuin in the ninth century.

The Emperor Charlemagne gathered round him scholars from all over Europe, and one of his bishops was an advocate of free education for all those who could not afford to pay for it. In England, too, education was not

without royal patronage, especially under Alfred the Great. The centres of all these activities were to be found in the great monastic houses round the bishops' palaces. Therefore the beginnings of education must be sought in Oxford, as elsewhere, round her churches and monastic houses.

The earliest monastic house in Oxford probably sprang up round the shrine of St. Frideswide, a Saxon princess (c. 725). A small portion of the Saxon church which contained her shrine is still to be seen at the east end of the Cathedral. Oxford soon became a place of pilgrimage, and rapidly increased in importance. Why? The answer must be, partly, a geographical one. The city was situated on the border of the kingdom of Mercia. Through it passed four high roads, which crossed, and still cross, at the centre of the town: the north road leading up into the very heart of England; the south, through Winchester, the ancient capital of England, towards Southampton and the sea only seventy miles away; the east to London; and the west towards the Severn. Further, it was surrounded by water on three sides, fordable at several points, making the city an admirable centre for offence or defence.

The first mention of the city in a charter is under the date 912, when Edward the Elder, a Saxon King, made the city "his own." Canute held a court here. And here his son, Harold Harefoot, was crowned King of all England (1036). Henry I built his Palace of Beaumont just outside the walls, and held constant converse with the scholars.

What was the organization for teaching? Apparently, very early, following the example of the great University of Paris, the Masters formed themselves into a Guild, and scholars attached themselves to a Master, or Masters, who eventually gave them their licence to teach, and they in their turn became Masters, or, more usually, went forth, as now, to their vocations in life. The first name we have of a teacher is that of Theobald Stampensis (1096), who came hot-foot from Paris, aflame with the teaching of Abelard, where the great twelfth century Renaissance was just beginning.

In the twelfth century Henry II had his quarrel with St. Thomas à Becket. The French King sided with St. Thomas, so Henry II forbade all scholars to cross the seas without his permission. This brought many more scholars to Oxford, and the King himself was in constant residence at his Palace of Beaumont. Here Richard of the Lion Heart was born. By the middle of the twelfth century the renown of Oxford as a centre of learning increased rapidly. Towards the end of it we read of faculties of Arts, Theology, and Law. The next thing

is the appearance of the office of Chancellor. The Chancellor was, in those early days, the bishop's delegate; Oxford was then in the diocese of Lincoln. The Chancellor presided over the meetings of the Masters. The first scholar on the Roll of the University who had the definite title, or degree, of Master of Arts was the great Edmond Rich (Saint), Archbishop of Canterbury, who had studied in Oxford and Paris. He also is the first to appear as D.D., or Doctor of Divinity.

Throughout the thirteenth century development went on apace. Charters defining the privileges of the University were given by Popes and Kings. The Masters nearly always won in any struggle in which they might be involved. They had one constant and ever-respected plea—"This is, or has been, the custom"—and the custom developed into a charter on this or that question. If they looked like losing in a struggle with the townspeople they had one potent threat—"Very well, we will all go away and teach somewhere else." They actually carried out this threat on two or three occasions, migrating in large bodies to Cambridge and Northamptonshire. This was easily done, as they were handicapped with no special buildings, and the University chest, with their money, could be easily transported. This chest probably came into existence during one of these quarrels. It was in the reign of King John that one of the most serious quarrels broke out. A scholar had killed a woman, fled, and could not be found. The town thereupon arrested

the half-dozen other occupants of the scholar's lodging and hanged them. The punishment for this high-handed act was severe. Fifty of the leading townsmen had to perform various ingenious penances. The rent which they could charge scholars for lodging was fixed for twenty years, and for two years half the said rent was forfeited. Further, a fine of fifty shillings a year was imposed, to be paid into a chest, which was kept at St. Frideswide's, for the relief of poor scholars, and it was settled once and for all that no scholar could be arrested without right of appeal to the Chancellor. This right all members of the University still possess, and the fine is still paid by the City into the University chest—£3 free of income tax.

The thirteenth century is so full of the activities of the adolescence of the University, so full of great events which have left their mark for all time, that one is tempted to go on. It was the century which saw the friars arrive (1234); the century which saw great men of world-wide fame, such as Bishop Grosstete, St. Thomas of Cantelupe, Friar Bacon, and Adam Marsh treading her streets. It was this century which saw the arrival of the "College" in Oxford. Hitherto Oxford had been modelled on the lines of the two great Continental universities, Paris and Bolögnna. In the thirteenth century Oxford and Cambridge started out on a different path, and so to the advent of the Colleges we must turn our attention.

H. E. C.

## *Nova et Vetera*

### HISTORY OF THE CANADIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

It is fitting that not long after the issue of a history of the British Medical Association in its centenary year there should be published a history of the Canadian Medical Association.<sup>1</sup> It has been compiled by Dr. H. E. MacDermot, at the request of the Archives Committee of the C.M.A. The author is admirably qualified for his task, has accomplished it excellently, and has, as Sir Andrew MacPhail says in his preface, "brought clarity into a record that was long obscure." This has called for much industry and research, laborious delving into minutes and records not easily accessible and into the columns of early journals and other publications, and a good deal of historical sense and literary skill. A general review of both the histories referred to may, in some minds, raise the question whether they might not well have been prepared by an interested and suitable layman, who might, with a truer perspective, perhaps, than a purely medical historian, have related the development and results of professional organization to the wider social and even political movements of which they were only a part. This aspect of his subject has not been ignored by Dr. MacDermot, nor is the official history of the parent body entirely without reference thereto; but it may be held that such considerations are to-day of more interest and importance than a great multiplicity of detail about relatively unimportant resolutions, some individual contributions to discussions of long ago, some items of superseded organization, or even events in the lives of minor personages. Nevertheless, it is possible that to many readers such details as these will prove the most interesting part of the work.

#### 1867-1921

The title-page of the book indicates that the history covers the years 1867 to 1921. It is not, in fact, quite

so restricted as this would imply. It begins with an admirable chapter on "conditions of medical practice in Canada before 1867," and this is followed by some account of early attempts, unfortunately abortive, to form an Association in 1844 and in 1849. Reference is also made, in its appropriate place, both to the visit of Sir Jenner Verrall and Dr. Alfred Cox in 1924, which happily resulted in the affiliation with the British Medical Association completed in the following year, and to the conjoined meeting of the two Associations at Winnipeg in 1930, under the presidency of Dr. Harvey Smith. The history of the Canadian Association between the title-page dates is more fully set out, the difficulties of its organization and the continued maintenance of its vitality, largely due to the existence of a number of local and provincial medical societies, are recounted, and its more recent satisfactory extension and progress are explained and recorded. Proper tribute is paid to outstanding personalities in the work of the C.M.A., and it is interesting and gratifying to note, *inter alia*, the emphasis on the influence of such men as Sir Thomas Roddick, the first Canadian president of the British Medical Association on the occasion of its first meeting outside the British Isles in 1897; Sir William Osler (of course); Dr. F. N. G. Starr of Toronto, a remarkable secretary for eight years and president in 1927; and Dr. A. D. Blackader, whose delightful personality and conversation, as well as his brilliant editorship, will long be remembered.

The volume records many interesting and sometimes amusing incidents or anecdotes of annual meetings of the Association. As a sample we may quote the following:

"A reporter on the *Winnipeg Telegram*, wishing to impress the people with the great importance of the Canadian Medical Association, intended to say that it would add infinitely to the sum of human knowledge; but he was quite tired when he scribbled his stuff and put 'infinitesimally,' and nearly got fired by his editor. Nothing about the whole convention so delighted the President, Dr. Blanchard, as this very slip. He chuckled over it, slapped his thigh, and said 'Gad! The funniest thing about it is that it is so true.'"

The book is illustrated by a number of well-produced photographs of individuals and groups, and there are some useful lists of annual meetings, presidents, and secretaries.

<sup>1</sup> *History of the Canadian Medical Association, 1867-1921*. By H. E. MacDermot, M.D., F.R.C.P.(C.). Toronto: Murray Printing Co., Ltd. 1935. (Pp. 209; illustrated.)

SIR,—The words "fire dance" in the official programme of the ceremony shown to the B.M.A. party at Suva on August 29th, 1935, and the term "fire-walking" used by Sir James Purves-Stewart and Professor Waterston in their description of it, are misleading. The amplification of these words into "fire-walking over red-hot stones"—a phrase used by Sir James Purves-Stewart in his letter of February 3rd—is still more misleading.

On my arrival with the party at the place of the ceremony I saw a shallow circular pit covered with partly charred tree boughs, only a few of which still smouldered and showed live embers. A number of Fijians removed the wood and then turned and moved the stones. The ostensible object of this was to make a more level surface, but an incidental result was that fifteen minutes were given to the stones to cool. Another possible object was to turn the less heated parts of the stones uppermost. A band of Fijians then rushed to the pit, tripped hastily over the stones, and, at the further edge of the pit, divided—one-half continuing round one edge of the pit, the other half round the other edge—and when they met they sat down on the stones, their buttocks protected by the voluminous long skirts they were wearing. The stones were unpleasantly warm to my finger-tips, but they were not red-hot, or anything like red-hot.

The show did not come up to my expectations, and I felt that, given six months' walking over the hot roads and hot stony beaches of Fiji, and a few lessons in placing my feet correctly, I could have done the thing myself without discomfort.—I am, etc.,

Havant, Hants, March 2nd.

C. THACKRAY PARSONS.

\* With these three letters out of a number received on the question of fire-walking this correspondence is closed. We would refer those readers interested in the subject to an article by Ernest S. Thomas which appeared on page 213 of *Nature*, February 8th.—Ed., *B.M.J.*

### Light on Rheumatism

SIR,—I believe many of your readers to be, like myself, interested in the problems of rheumatism, and consequently anxious to obtain early knowledge of any considerable advance which may take place in this sphere of knowledge.

In these circumstances I believe that the following extract from an article in the current number of the *British Osteopathic Review* will be of interest as showing that the modern osteopath's knowledge of the aetiology of this group of diseases would appear to have reached a considerably more finite stage than our own.

"Rheumatism is an effect caused by failure of the heart to deliver blood in living quantity to the joints and their vicinity. Before pain begins at the joints all gas or wind will have left the joints. Thus electricity burns because of bone friction. Some gas must be situated between all bone joints. Thus we find great use for atmospheric pressure to hold bones far enough apart to let the joint water pass freely over the opposite ends of bones. There is a natural demand for gas in all healthy joints of the body. Gas is constantly being conveyed to or generated in all joints. Before rheumatism appears the separating gas has been exhausted and there follows friction and electric heat because two or more joints are in one electric circuit.

"By way of explanation, take the thigh bone at the socket or knee articulation filled with fluids and gas. Bind the bones by ligaments or membranes so as to hold the bones in place with a chamber to hold joint fluids. Would it be complete without gas pressure to hold the bones from pressing so closely together as to cause friction and heat to cause an electric action equal to nerve poison?"

"Thus we contract what is called neuralgia, rheumatism, sciatica and so on, to the full list of aches and pains."

—I am, etc.,

London, W.1, Feb. 29th.

W. S. C. COPEMAN.

## The Services

The King has conferred the Efficiency Decoration of the Territorial Army upon Lieut.-Colonels J. P. Clarke and J. B. Scott, *M.C.*, *R.A.M.C. (T.A.)*, and Majors A. H. D. Smith, *M.C.*, A. G. Williams, *O.B.E.*, P. Lloyd-Williams, *C.W.* Healey, *M.C.*, and J. D. Hart, *M.C. (deceased)*, *R.A.M.C. (T.A.)*.

## Universities and Colleges

### UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

At a congregation held on February 29th the following medical degrees were conferred:

*D.M.—C. Wilson.*

*B.M.—J. F. Loutit.*

### UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

A meeting of the Senate was held on February 26th, when the vice-chancellor, Mr. H. L. Eason, was in the chair.

The Graham Legacy Committee has, under the regulations for the administration of the Charles Graham Medical Research Fund, awarded a gold medal of the value of £20 to Sir Thomas Lewis, *C.B.E.*, *M.D.*, *D.Sc.*, *F.R.C.P.*, *F.R.S.*, physician in charge of the department of clinical research at University College Hospital, for research work in connexion with the treatment of cardiac disease conducted at the hospital and its medical school.

Professor William Bulloch, *M.D.*, *C.M.*, *LL.D.*, *F.R.S.*, was appointed Heath Clark Lecturer for the year 1936.

The title of "Fellow of University College, London," was conferred on the following: Dr. H. P. Himsworth, Deputy Director of the Medical Unit at University College Hospital Medical School; Dr. Arthur MacNalty, Chief Medical Officer, Ministry of Health; and Mr. Julian Taylor, *O.B.E.*, Assistant Surgeon, University College Hospital.

Mr. Wilfred Trotter, *M.D.*, *M.S.*, *F.R.C.S.*, *F.R.S.*, has been appointed to the University Chair of Surgery, tenable at University College Hospital Medical School, as from October 1st, 1935.

### UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

The University Clinical Board, on the recommendation of the examiners, has approved the following awards to students: *Senior Medical Prize (Gold Medal)* and *Senior Surgical Prize (Gold Medal)*, Isabel Martineau; *Midwifery Prize (Gold Medal)*, Abdul H. M. Tabataba; *Junior Medical Prize (Silver Medal)*, Claude W. Taylor; *Junior Surgical Prize (Silver Medal)*, Arthur B. Watson.

### UNIVERSITY OF READING

At the yearly meeting of the University Court, held on February 27th, Mr. J. L. Joyce, *F.R.C.S.*, was reappointed one of the representatives of the Court upon the University Council for a further period of three years.

### UNIVERSITY OF DUBLIN

On the nomination of the University Council the Board of Trinity College, Dublin, has appointed Professor John Kaye Jamieson, *M.B.*, *C.M.Ed.*, to the Chair of Human Anatomy and Embryology in succession to the late Professor Andrew Francis Dixon. Dr. Jamieson has been Professor of Anatomy since 1910 and Dean of the School of Medicine since 1918 in Leeds University.

### UNIVERSITY OF BELFAST

At a meeting of the Senate, held on February 27th, Dr. S. Andrews, Lecturer in the University, was appointed Warden of Queen's Chambers, the new hostel for men students of the University, which is due to be opened in October of this year.

### SOCIETY OF APOTHECARIES OF LONDON

The following candidates have passed in the subjects indicated:

*SURGERY.—H. Bentovim, H. Burrows, O. A. L. Goode.*

*MEDICINE.—H. A. Koretz.*

*FORENSIC MEDICINE.—H. A. Koretz.*

*MIDWIFERY.—H. A. Bhuttacharji, J. A. G. Gulliford, J. F. O'Malley.*

The diploma of the Society has been granted to H. Burrows and O. A. L. Goode.

*Deaths from Vaccinia.*—At the request of Mr. J. W. Banfield Sir KINGSLEY WOOD circulated, on February 27th, the following figures:

	Deaths Associated with Vaccination and Classified to Vaccinia	Deaths Classified to Chicken-pox		Deaths Classified to Erysipelas	
		Under 5 Years	Over 5 Years	Under 5 Years	Over 5 Years
1933	3	31	12	296	895
1934	5	36	10	231	1,227
1935	4	Not yet available		Not yet available	

*Tuberculosis in Wales.*—Sir KINGSLEY WOOD told Sir William Jenkins, on February 21st, that returns for tuberculosis in Wales during 1934, according to details furnished by the local authorities and the King Edward VII Welsh National Memorial Association to the Welsh Board of Health, were:

Number of tuberculous persons on the registers of medical officers of health at December 31st, 1934, per 1,000 of the population	9.64
Number under treatment or observation at sanatoria or other suitable residential institutions on December 31st, 1934	1,650
Number of recoveries recorded during 1934	1,213

Figures for 1935 were not yet available, nor could figures be given of deaths under the age of 12 years, 20 years, or under 30 years. Deaths from tuberculosis by ages were published by the Registrar-General for the thirteen Welsh counties.

*Deaths from Chloroform.*—On February 27th Sir KINGSLEY WOOD informed Mr. G. D. S. Hardie that in 1933 ten deaths from chloroform poisoning (five suicides and five accidental deaths) were registered in England and Wales, of which four were attributable to chloroform alone and six to liniment (aconite, belladonna, and chloroform). The corresponding figures for 1934 were four deaths (three suicides and one homicide), of which two were attributable to chloroform alone, one to chloroform and iodine, and one to liniment. The figures for 1935 were not available.

*Nutrition of the Unemployed.*—Mr. DAVID ADAMS, on February 27th, asked the Minister of Health whether, in view of the fact that the consumption by families of the unemployed of meat, including beef, mutton, bacon, etc., and of eggs, was, like that of milk, only about one-third of the average of the whole country, he would take steps, as in the case of milk, to ensure cheaper supplies to unemployed of these essential foodstuffs, and raise the low nutritional standards of these citizens. Sir KINGSLEY WOOD answered that the consumption of the commodities mentioned, as well as of other foodstuffs, by various classes of the community received the constant attention of his Advisory Committee on Nutrition, but the most effective step that could be taken to raise nutritional standards was to reduce unemployment and increase purchasing power.

*Dental Condition of School Children.*—On March 2nd Mr. OLIVER STANLEY, replying to a question, said that complete information on the number of children attending public elementary schools in England and Wales in 1935 who were inspected by school dentists was not yet available. In the year ended December 31st, 1934, 3,302,838 children were inspected by school dentists: 2,273,508 were found to require treatment, and 1,431,775 were treated.

*Mortality Rate of Disabled Pensioners.*—Mr. R. S. HUBSON informed Mr. Mabane that the mortality rate of disabled pensioners was, and would be for some years to come, greater than the normal. In framing the Estimates of the Ministry of Pensions this factor was taken into account.

#### Notes in Brief

Sir John Simon has told Mr. Leach that he is prepared to consider suggestions showing where and how medical arrangements and procedure under the Silicosis Schemes could be improved.

Mr. Duff Cooper states that the percentage of men applying to join the Army served with notice papers who were rejected for medical or physical reasons during the three years ending September 30th, 1933-5, was 52, 46, and 33 respectively.

## Medical News

The Sir Charles Hastings Lecture for 1936 will be delivered in the Great Hall of British Medical Association House, Tavistock Square, W.C., on Tuesday, March 10th, at 8 p.m., by Professor Winifred Cullis and Dr. R. Cove-Smith, on the subject of "Keeping Fit." The chairman will be Dr. Adolphe Abrahams, and admission is free by ticket obtainable from the Financial Secretary and Business Manager, B.M.A. House, Tavistock Square, W.C.

Dr. Arthur MacNalty, Chief Medical Officer of the Ministry of Health, will deliver a Chadwick Public Lecture on "Epidemic Poliomyelitis" at the Royal United Service Institution, Whitehall, S.W., on Thursday, March 19th, at 5.30 p.m., when Sir James Crichton-Browne will occupy the chair. Admission is free.

We are asked to announce that the date of the lecture by Dr. T. A. Henry on "The Chemotherapy of Malaria" before a joint meeting of the London Section of the Society of Chemical Industry and the London and South-Eastern Counties Section of the Institute of Chemistry at Burlington House, Piccadilly, W., has been changed to Monday, March 9th, at 8 p.m.

Professor E. W. Hey Groves will deliver two lectures, on "Fractures," at the British Post-Graduate Medical School, Ducane Road, W., on Fridays, March 6th and 13th, at 2.30 p.m.; and on Tuesday, March 10th, at 2.30 p.m., Dr. Janet Vaughan will speak on "Tests for Pregnancy." Dr. Leonard Colebrook will repeat his lecture on "Puerperal Sepsis" on Tuesday, March 17th, at 2.30 p.m.

On Thursday, March 12th, at 8 p.m., in the rooms of the Royal Society of Arts, John Street, Adelphi, W.C., a lecture will be given by Mr. F. Le Gros Clark on "Men, Medicine, and Food in the Soviet Union" (under the auspices of the Society for Cultural Relations). The chair will be taken by Mr. Julian Huxley, and questions will be invited. Tickets, at 1s. and 6d., can be obtained from the Committee against Malnutrition, 19c, Eagle Street, Holborn, W.C.1.

Professor Brückner of Basle will give a series of six lectures on "Physiological Optics and their Relation to Clinical Ophthalmology and Special Ophthalmological Clinical Problems" in the ophthalmic department of Glasgow University on April 15th, 17th, 20th, 22nd, 24th, and 27th.

Sir Edmund Spriggs, Dr. B. S. Nissé, Dr. J. B. Mennell, and Dr. F. Nagelschmidt will contribute to a symposium on "Rheumatism" at a meeting of the London Jewish Hospital Medical Society at the London Jewish Hospital, Stepney Green, E., on Thursday, March 12th, at 4 p.m., when Dr. David Nabarro will be in the chair.

The Institute of Psycho-Analysis (96, Gloucester Place, W.1) has arranged three public lectures on the emotional life of civilized men and women, by Dr. Sylvia Payne, Mrs. Joan Riviere, and Mrs. Melanie Klein, at the Caxton Hall, Westminster, S.W., on Thursdays, at 8.30 p.m., March 12th, 19th, and 26th, under the chairmanship of Dr. Ernest Jones. Each lecture will be followed by a discussion. Tickets: for the course, 6s.; single lecture, 2s. 6d.

A sessional meeting of the Royal Sanitary Institute will be held at Ipswich Town Hall on Saturday, March 14th, at 2.30 p.m., when discussions will take place on "The Disposal of House Refuse by Controlled Tipping," to be opened by Mr. E. McLauchlan, and on "Baths and Bath Water," to be opened by Dr. A. M. N. Pringle.

The fifth annual conference of the women's section of the Alliance of Honour (112, City Road, E.C.1) will be held at Caxton Hall, Westminster, S.W., on Wednesday, March 11th. At 3 p.m. Dr. Alice Hutchison will open the proceedings with an address on "Self-expression in the Developing Personality," and at 6.30 p.m. Miss Mary Macaulay will speak on "Self-expression in the Adult." A discussion will follow each address, and the conference is open to all social workers and interested friends.

On Monday, March 9th, the offices of the National Radium Commission will be removed from 5, Adelphi Terrace, London, W.C.2, to 18, Park Crescent, Portland Place, W.1.

The Fellowship of Medicine announces that surgical tutorial classes will be given at the National Temperance Hospital at 8.30 p.m. on March 10th and 12th. Courses particularly intended for M.R.C.P. candidates are as follows: chest diseases, at Brompton Hospital, March 10th to April 4th, at 4 p.m.; chest and heart diseases, at Royal Chest Hospital, March 16th to April 4th, Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, at 8 p.m.; fundus oculi demonstration, at West End Hospital for Nervous Diseases, on Tuesday, March 31st, at 8.30 p.m. A course in orthopaedics will be given at the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital from March 9th to 21st, and in infants' diseases from March 30th to April 4th. Week-end courses include chest diseases, at Brompton Hospital, March 7th and 8th; clinical surgery, at Royal Albert Dock Hospital, March 14th and 15th; general medicine, at Miller General Hospital, March 21st and 22nd; and urology, at All Saints' Hospital, March 28th and 29th. A series of four lectures on diseases of children will be given by Dr. Reginald Lightwood at the National Temperance Hospital on March 25th and 27th and April 1st and 3rd, at 8.30 p.m. Courses and lectures are open only to members and associates of the Fellowship of Medicine, 1, Wimpole Street, W.1.

The second Congress of the Pan-Pacific Surgical Association will be held in Honolulu, Hawaii, on August 6th to 14th, and an invitation is extended to the surgeons of all the countries bordering on the Pacific to take part in the proceedings. The congress will be divided into fourteen major sections for discussion and study: general surgery, surgical research, neuro-surgery, plastic surgery, traumatic surgery, orthopaedic surgery, proctology, anaesthesia, gynaecology and obstetrics, roentgenology, neurological surgery, oto-laryngology, ophthalmology, malignancy. Those desiring information should write to Dr. Forrest J. Pinkerton, secretary-treasurer of the Pan-Pacific Surgical Association, Young Building, Honolulu, T.H., who is in charge of arrangements for delegates from the Pacific countries, or (to avoid the time lost in corresponding at such a distance) communicate with one of the following chairmen: Sir James Barrett, 103, Collins Street, Melbourne, Australia; Dr. Hardie Neil, 64, Symonds Street, Auckland, New Zealand; Dr. J. H. Liu, Executive Yuan, Nanking, China; Dr. Makoto Saito, Higashiku, Chikaramachi 228, Nagoya, Japan; Dr. Y. S. Lee, Severance Hospital, Seoul, Korea.

A health centre created by the Rumanian Health Office in collaboration with the Rockefeller Foundation was opened at Bucarest on January 9th. The centre will be devoted to all forms of preventive medicine, including the control of infectious diseases; immunization, public health, sanitation of dwelling houses, infant consultations, school hygiene, and health education of the population by visits made by special nurses.

In deference to the wish of King Edward VIII that public functions connected with the sciences and the arts should not be cancelled, the Council of the Royal Society of Medicine has decided that the Society's biennial dinner shall be held at the May Fair Hotel on Wednesday, May 6th.

The first case of codeine addiction in Poland, which occurred in 1935, is reported by Dr. W. Chodzko in the December issue of the *Bulletin de l'Office International d'Hygiène Publique*.

The issues of *Paris Médical* for January 25th and February 22nd are devoted to tumours of the fourth ventricle.

Geh. Medizinalrat Professor Dr. Richard Otto, departmental director of the Robert Koch Institute for Infectious Diseases of Berlin, has been nominated director of the State Institute of Experimental Therapy and of the Georg Speyer House at Frankfurt-on-Main as successor to Geheimrat Kolle.

## 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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## QUERIES AND ANSWERS

### Gas-Air Anaesthetic Apparatus for Midwifery

"OBSTETRICIAN" writes: A few weeks ago I bought one of the new gas-air midwifery anaesthetic machines, and have tried it out in a single case. All went well during the comparatively infrequent first-stage pains, and the patient expressed the view that the gas gave her great relief. It was her first confinement. As soon, however, as the second stage was established, and respirations became rapid and deep, with almost continuous pains, the inlet valve became frosted up, so that expiration failed completely to shut off the flow of gas. I had a strenuous time rushing round the bed every few minutes in order to shut off the gas with the cylinder tap. I returned the machine to the makers, and received a report that there was nothing whatever wrong with the apparatus, and that they were at a loss to understand how the trouble occurred. I wonder if any doctors have had similar experiences, and whether anyone can suggest a practicable remedy?

### Telangiectasis

"G.P." (Kent) writes: I have a patient, a man aged 46, who has a telangiectasis, the small venules being most marked in and about the nose. They appear to be too small for electrolysis, and carbon dioxide snow has been tried without avail. I should be grateful for suggestions as to treatment.

### ? Lithiasis of Bile Ducts

Dr. KARL SCHNITZLER (Isle of Man) writes: I should be interested to know whether in the course of cholelithiasis one type of end-stage is known, or specially written about, where the dilated bile ductlets all over the liver and up to the liver surface are filled with countless gall-stones.

### Arthritis and Water Supply

"G. L. P." writes: A male patient, aged 56, recently changed his residence from the North to the South-West of England, and ascribes developing arthritis of the knees to the change of drinking-water from soft to hard. His business life, mode of living, social activities, and weight remain the same as before. Is there any scientific treatise bearing on this subject, and can a line of treatment be suggested? On the other hand, is his condition unlikely to be due to the water supply? Electrotherapy, massage, and diet, tried for three months, have made no appreciable difference. As this problem may not infrequently present itself to other medical practitioners, its ventilation might prove useful.