

question was grossly incompetent in not recognizing the case of dysentery as such. Those with any experience of dysentery will realize that it is by no means easy to differentiate dysentery from a simple diarrhoea in the early stages. Even Dr. Hern takes pains to state that he reached his conclusion as to the correct diagnosis only after a bacteriological test supplemented by serological investigation. Neither of these refinements is available on board.

Let us therefore be not too harsh in condemning the ship surgeon for his failure to recognize the occasional case of bacillary dysentery, or the shipping company for its failure to provide within vessels a bacteriolytic atmosphere.—I am, etc.,

ALAN A. KLASS, M.D., M.C.P.S.

c/o Bank of Montreal, Waterloo Place,
London, W.1, March 4th.

Plastic Surgery

SIR.—In the *British Medical Journal* of February 29th (p. 434) you refer to the fact that a department of plastic surgery has just been established in Manchester, and that "this arrangement provides the first plastic surgery centre in the North." I desire to point out that in January, 1934, we established a plastic surgery centre at the North Staffordshire Royal Infirmary, Stoke-on-Trent, under the direction of Sir Harold Gillies, F.R.C.S., and Mr. A. H. McIndoe, F.R.C.S., and that clinics have been held here regularly ever since, both for in-patients and for outpatients.—I am, etc.,

W. STEVENSON,

Stoke-on-Trent,
March 10th.

Secretary and House Governor, North
Staffordshire Royal Infirmary.

Causes of Iridocyclitis

SIR.—I must apologize to Mr. Doggart for having overlooked the appendix in his list of general theories of causation in my letter to the *Journal* of February 15th (p. 337).—I am, etc.,

London, W.1, March 11th.

SYDNEY TIBBLES.

CONGRESS OF PHYSICAL MEDICINE, LONDON, MAY 12th to 16th

Twenty-five foreign countries have been officially invited by the Foreign Office, through their Embassies in London, to send medical representatives to the sixth International Congress of Physical Medicine, which will be held in London, May 12th to 16th. Belgium, Holland, France, Hungary, Russia, and the United States have formed organization committees, and will be strongly represented.

Papers will be read by British and foreign delegates upon scientific and clinical aspects of physical medicine in seven sections: kinesitherapy, hydrotherapy and climatology, electrotherapy, actinotherapy, radiology, and the teaching and organization of physical medicine in medical schools and universities.

Lord Horder will be Honorary President of the Congress, and Sir Robert Stanton Woods President and Chairman of the Executive Committee, of which Dr. Albert Eidenow (4, Upper Wimpole Street, W.1) is honorary secretary. The meetings will be held at the Royal Society of Medicine, the Hastings Hall of the British Medical Association, the Medical Society of London, and the British Institute of Radiology. An exhibition of physical medicine apparatus will be held during the week at the Cowdray Hall, College of Nursing, Henrietta Street, adjoining the Royal Society of Medicine.

On April 8th Lord Horder will take the chair at a luncheon at the Langham Hotel, W.1, and address the guests on the subject of "The Progress of Physical Medicine," with special reference to this international congress.

The Services

NAVAL MEDICAL COMPASSIONATE FUND

A meeting of the subscribers of the Naval Medical Compassionate Fund will be held on April 24th, at 3.15 p.m., at the Medical Department, Admiralty, S.W.1, to elect six directors of the Fund.

AUXILIARY R.A.M.C. FUNDS

The annual meeting of the members of the Auxiliary R.A.M.C. Funds will be held at 5.15 p.m. on Friday, April 3rd, at 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, W., when the annual report and financial statement for the year ended December 31st, 1935, will be presented and the officers and committee for the current year elected.

DEATHS IN THE SERVICES

Surgeon Captain John Edwin Coad, R.N. (ret.), died at Tunbridge Wells on February 27th. He was educated at the Newcastle Medical School and at St. Thomas's, and graduated M.B. Durh. in 1885 and M.R.C.S. in 1886, after which he entered the Navy. He attained the rank of fleet surgeon on February 28th, 1903, and that of surgeon captain on July 14th, 1917. He served during the war of 1914-18, receiving the medals.

Universities and Colleges

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

At a congregation held on March 13th the following medical degrees were conferred:

M.D.—R. H. Fish, M. S. Spink.

M.B., B.CHR.—*J. R. Duffield, R. M. Yeo, W. G. Q. Mills.

B.CHR.—C. U. Gregson, W. M. Beattie.

* By proxy.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

The following have been recognized as teachers of the University in the subjects indicated in parentheses:

London Hospital Medical College: Dr. Charles E. Brunton (Physiology); *London (R.F.H.) School of Medicine for Women*: Dr. Una C. Ledingham (Medicine); *St. Mary's Hospital Medical School*: Dr. Evan I. Jones (Biology), Mr. Douglas H. MacLeod (Obstetrics and Gynaecology); *British Post-Graduate Medical School*: Dr. John D. White (Radiology).

At a meeting of the Senate, on February 26th, it was resolved to institute in accordance with the regulations on University Titles (*Calendar*, 1935-6, pp. 249-60) a University Chair of Biochemistry tenable at St. Bartholomew's Hospital Medical College, and a University Readership in Anatomy tenable at the London Hospital Medical College.

It was resolved that in and after 1936 the regulations relating to the date of the examination for the Academic Post-Graduate Diploma in Medical Radiology (*Red Book*, 1935-6, p. 612, first two paragraphs) be amended to read as follows:

Part I of the examination will be held twice in each year, beginning on the Tuesday following the third Monday in March and on the second Monday prior to the first Monday in July.

Part II of the examination will be held twice in each year, beginning on the first Monday in July and on the first Monday in December.

It was resolved that in and after 1936-7 the regulations for the Academic Post-Graduate Diploma in Public Health be amended by the substitution of the following for paras. 5 and 6 on page 626 of the *Red Book*, 1935-6:

Part I of the examination will be held twice a year, beginning on the Monday following the first Friday in January; and on the first Monday in April, or, if that be a Bank Holiday, on the second Monday in April.

Part II of the examination will be held twice a year, beginning on the last Monday in June; and on the fourth Monday in September.

The regulations for the External Diploma in Public Health (*Blue Book*, September, 1935, p. 311) were similarly amended.

It was resolved that the following be inserted in the regulations for the second examination for medical degrees, Part II, for internal and external students (last paragraph).

Red Book, 1935-6, p. 275; *Blue Book*, September, 1935, p. 258):

At the practical and viva voce examinations reference may be made by the examiners to the candidates' class records. Candidates are also required to bring to the practical examination in physiology and to the oral examination in pharmacology their original laboratory notebooks in those subjects, certified by their teachers as being the actual working notes made by the candidates in the laboratory, for the inspection of the examiners should they so desire.

UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

LECTURES AND DEMONSTRATIONS

A course of five William Withering Memorial Lectures on the chemical and biological aspects of immunology will be given in the large theatre of the Medical Faculty Buildings, Edmund Street, on Thursdays, April 30th, May 7th, 14th, 21st, and 28th, at 4 p.m. The first, third, and fifth lectures will be given by Professor W. W. C. Topley, F.R.S., and the second and fourth by Dr. Percival Hartley. Members of the medical profession and students of medicine are invited to attend.

The Ingleby Lectures, 1936, will be given on Wednesday and Friday, May 20th and 22nd, at 4 p.m., in the medical lecture theatre, by Dr. Walter Schiller (Frauen Klinik, University of Vienna). The subject of Dr. Schiller's first lecture will be "Granulosa-cell Tumour and Brenner Tumour of the Ovary," and the second "Mesonephroma Ovarii, a New Ovarian Tumour."

Professor Arvid Wallgren, physician-in-chief, the Children's Hospital, Gothenburg, Sweden, has been appointed Ingleby Lecturer for 1937.

A course of post-graduate demonstrations has been arranged by the University Clinical Board at the General Hospital, the Queen's Hospital, and the Children's Hospital, Birmingham, on Tuesdays and Fridays, from 3.30 to 5 p.m., beginning on March 27th and ending on July 7th. The course will be given by members of the medical and surgical staffs of the hospitals, and will include demonstrations on cases. The fee is £2 2s.

In addition to the lectures and demonstrations referred to above, further courses will be held as follows: Post-graduate course in neurology, lectures and clinical demonstrations, May to July; fee £5 5s. (A detailed programme may be obtained from the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine.) Post-graduate course in industrial hygiene and industrial medicine for medical practitioners, at the University, from July 13th to 24th. Further details may be obtained from Dr. H. E. Collier, Department of Industrial Hygiene and Medicine, the University, Edmund Street, Birmingham.

An anonymous donor is placing funds at the disposal of the University for an investigation, by Professor W. N. Haworth, F.R.S., head of the Department of Chemistry, into the possibility of producing an improved form of insulin. Professor Haworth has accepted responsibility for this investigation on condition that he is assured of adequate co-operation in certain directions.

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

The Senatus of the University has resolved to confer the honorary degree of LL.D. upon Dr. Mervyn H. Gordon, F.R.S., consulting bacteriologist to St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and Colonel the Hon. Murray Maclaren, C.M.G., M.D., Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of New Brunswick.

The Paterson travelling scholarship has been awarded to G. Bowman Ludlam, M.B.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND

An ordinary council meeting was held on March 12th, with Sir Cuthbert Wallace in the chair.

Mr. E. K. Martin (University College Hospital) was elected a member of the Court of Examiners.

Mr. F. N. Doubleday (Guy's Hospital) was elected a member of the Board of Examiners in Dental Surgery (Dental Section).

Diplomas

Diplomas in Ophthalmic Medicine and Surgery were granted, jointly with the Royal College of Physicians, to the following candidates:

F. Badrock, P. N. Chaudhuri, J. E. Clark, T. K. Clifford, S. P. Divatia, G. B. Ebbage, W. H. V. D. Ferdinand, F. Heckford, T. J. Howell, H. A. Ibrahim, F. J. Jensen, A. de B. Joyce, J. Mazell, B. F. Moore, S. Nath, T. Nath, G. Pollock, E. P. Tulloh, N. Wren, E. C. Zorab.

A further guarantee of £1,625 from the Prophit Trust Fund was made towards the expenditure of the governing body of the Radium Beam Therapy Research for the year ending December 31st, 1937.

Professor E. W. Hey Groves was elected as representative of the College on the General Medical Council, and on the Interdepartmental Committee of the Ministry of Health on the restoration of the working capacity of persons injured by accidents.

Sir Holburt Waring was appointed a representative of the College at the centenary celebrations of the University of London from June 29th to July 3rd.

Professor G. E. Gask will give a lecture, on February 15th, 1937, on the recently acquired Hunterian MSS. relating to the British campaign in Portugal in 1762-3.

A College reception will be held on Monday, July 6th.

The best thanks of the Council were given to Dr. Mervyn Gordon for his continued interest and generosity in presenting Roman instruments to the Museum.

A letter was read from the Society of the Medical Sciences of Lisbon expressing sympathy with the College in the loss sustained by the death of King George V.

Medical Notes in Parliament

[FROM OUR PARLIAMENTARY CORRESPONDENT]

Navy and Air Estimates were introduced and discussed in the House of Commons this week.

In the House of Lords on March 17th Lord Balfour introduced the Public Health (London) Bill, which was read a first time.

On March 17th, in the House of Lords, Viscount Gage introduced a Bill to consolidate the enactments relating to national health insurance; another Bill to consolidate enactments relating to widows', orphans', and old age contributory pensions; and a third Bill to consolidate enactments relating to non-contributory pensions. These Bills were read a first time.

In the House of Lords on March 17th the Ministry of Health Provisional Orders Bills for the Bedford Joint Hospital District, the Bury and District Joint Hospital District, and the Mid-Sussex Joint Hospital District passed through committee on recommitment.

On the motion of Earl De La Warr the Milk (Extension of Temporary Provisions) Bill was read the third time, and passed by the House of Lords on March 17th.

On March 11th Sir FRANCIS FREMANTLE presided over a meeting of the Health and Housing Committee of the Conservative Party, when Mr. Murray N. Phelps spoke on the work of the Council for the Disposition of the Dead. The Council was concerned to secure revision or codification of the laws in relation to burial and cremation. Under the leadership of Lord Horder and with the support of affiliated bodies it was emphasizing the public health significance of this movement. With the rapid growth of great towns the sterilization of land required for cemeteries was regrettable and uneconomic, and crematoria were now available in most of the big centres of population. In the first ten years the number of cremations had increased from 2,800 to nearly 10,000 per annum. Hitherto cremation had made little progress among the working classes, but an insurance scheme with weekly payments, recently launched by the Cremation Society on lines that had proved successful on the Continent, was already enrolling many supporters. Mr. E. H. Keeling was appointed to assist Captain Elliston in the secretarial work of the committee.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer will open the Budget on April 21st.

A Select Committee to consider the Civil List was set up by the House of Commons on March 12th.

During the debate on the Army Estimates on March 12th Mr. J. J. Lawson alluded to the rejection of recruits for physical unfitness, but the subject was not pursued.

On March 16th there were presented to the House of Commons the accounts of the income and expenditure of the General Medical Council and of the Branch Councils for 1935, and of the Dental Board for the United Kingdom for 1935; also the report on the 1935 visit of

was correct, the case was exceptional, and they did not cite a single authentic case which in the opinion of the trial judge lent full support to this defence. There was no evidence that the patient was in fact suffering from latent alcoholic neuritis.

Mr. Gray, on the other hand, claimed that his foot-drop was caused by the action of the quinine on his sciatic nerve, either because the needle pierced the nerve or the quinine was injected close to it. His medical witnesses were satisfied that the injection was given outside the safe area and that the quinine injured the nerve, and that latent alcoholic neuritis did not and could not account for the foot-drop. Mr. Gray, in evidence, said that the doctor, in conversation with himself and his wife, did not mention alcohol or advise him to stop drinking, and that he did not in any way alter his habits with regard to alcohol after his disability. Counsel for Dr. Caldeira did not question the wife on this matter.

The trial judge formed very definite opinions on the respective trustworthiness of the witnesses. He disbelieved the doctor's evidence that he injected the quinine into the safe area, that he diagnosed alcoholic neuritis at an early stage, and that he communicated that diagnosis to the patient. Without mincing his words, he affirmed that the doctor deliberately told falsehoods in the witness-box. He found, however, that the doctor had the necessary skill and knowledge to give intramuscular injections into the buttock with safety and had considerable experience of giving them. He believed Mr. Gray and his medical witnesses and accepted their reasons for their opinion; and therefore awarded Mr. Gray damages and costs.

Judgement of the Judicial Committee

The Board—as the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council is called—had therefore to consider a pure question of fact and credibility. In reviewing findings of fact by a trial judge sitting without a jury they were bound by well-established law, of which the principles were recently illustrated in *Powell v. Streatham Manor Nursing Home*.* These are that the trial judge is normally in a better position to judge of the credibility of witnesses than is the appellate tribunal, and they will generally defer to his conclusions. In order to reverse him, they must not merely doubt whether his decision is right, but be convinced that it is wrong. The Board considered, on the doctor's behalf, that it was no doubt antecedently improbable that he should have committed the cardinal and elementary blunder alleged against him. On the other hand, they knew that familiarity bred contempt, and there were many cases on record where experienced signalmen and engine-drivers neglected their duty. Moreover, the patient's theory offered a simple and convincing explanation of his injury, while the doctor's theory was speculative and difficult. The Board were not surprised at the trial judge's refusal to accept the doctor's evidence on various vital points. This finding was based, not on the appellant's demeanour in the witness-box, but on certain other reasons given by the judge. The fact remained that the judge had found that the doctor was a person capable of committing perjury. The Board could not conceive that, if the doctor had diagnosed latent alcoholic neuritis at an early stage, he should not have referred to alcohol in conversation with the patient and his wife. Moreover, they could not believe that the doctor did not remember the patient developing foot-drop and holding on to him for support, or looking at the patient's foot at the time. The doctor's theory of alcoholic neuritis was, they thought, based on speculation rather than experience. There was no evidence that the patient suffered from this condition, and to hold that he did so suffer would be to pass from inference to conjecture. The theory required both the existence of latent alcoholic neuritis and its precipitation by the slight shock of injection; this, on the evidence, was highly improbable. On the other hand, the patient's symptoms were consistent with his explanation as well as with the doctor's explanation. His explanation was clear, simple, and straightforward, while that of the doctor was speculative, theoretical, and unconvincing, and it had not been displaced by the doctor's evidence. The two theories having been carefully weighed by the trial judge, it would not be proper or safe, or in accordance with sound practice, to reverse his clear conclusion in fact. The Board therefore dismissed the doctor's appeal and awarded the patient his costs.

* [1935] A.C. 243; *British Medical Journal*, 1935, i, 506.

Medical News

A Chadwick Public Lecture on "Modern Hospital Construction" will be delivered by Mr. Lionel G. Pearson, F.R.I.B.A., at the Royal Institute of British Architects, 66, Portland Place, W., on Thursday, April 2nd, at 8.15 p.m. Admission is free.

Dr. E. Kaye Le Fleming, Chairman of Council of the British Medical Association, will deliver a lecture on "The Problem of Physical Education in Schools" at the Royal Sanitary Institute, 90, Buckingham Palace Road, S.W., on Tuesday, April 21st, at 5.30 p.m.

The ninety-fifth half-yearly dinner of the Aberdeen University Club, London, will be held at the Café Royal on Thursday, April 2nd, at 7.30 p.m. Dancing will follow, and the chairman of the evening will be Lord Alness. The honorary secretary's address is 51, Harley Street, W.1.

A meeting of the Medico-Legal Society will be held at 26, Portland Place, W., on Thursday, March 26th, at 8.30 p.m., when an address will be given by Dr. L. A. Weatherly on "Debatable Medico-legal Episodes in the Long Life of an Alienist."

A meeting of the Medical Section of the British Psychological Society will be held at 11, Chandos Street, W., on Wednesday, March 25th, at 8.30 p.m., when Dr. H. Godwin Baynes will read a paper on "The Importance of Dream Analysis for Psychological Development." Dr. J. A. Hadfield and Dr. C. Wilson will open the subsequent discussion.

Meetings of the Association of Industrial Medical Officers will be held at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Keppel Street, W.C., on Friday and Saturday, March 27th and 28th. On March 27th, at 5.15 p.m., there will be a business meeting, and at 5.45 p.m. papers will be read by Sir David Munro and Dr. T. M. Ling, on "Physical Standards in Industry," and by Dr. Ling, on "Psychological Factors in Sickness Absenteeism." The third dinner of the association will be held at 7.30 p.m. At 10 a.m. on March 28th Dr. R. E. Lane will read a paper on "The Prevention of Industrial Plumbism."

A sessional meeting of the Royal Sanitary Institute will be held at Birkenhead Town Hall on Friday, March 27th, at 4.30 p.m., when there will be discussions on "The Basis of Modern Meat Inspection," to be opened by Mr. N. M. Clayton, and on "Some Snags in Housing Schemes," to be opened by Mr. B. Robinson.

The next monthly clinical demonstration for medical practitioners at the Hospital for Epilepsy and Paralysis, Maida Vale, W., will be given on Thursday, March 26th, at 3 p.m., by Dr. Russell Brain.

In connexion with the two-day regional conference of the British Social Hygiene Council, a special meeting, for medical men and women only, will be held in the chemistry theatre, University of Manchester, on Friday, March 27th, at 8 p.m., with Dr. J. J. Butterworth in the chair, when Dr. Morna Rawlins will speak on "The Treatment of Gonorrhoea in Women" and Dr. E. Tytler Burke on "The Congenital Child." All medical men and women will be welcome.

A provincial meeting of the Tuberculosis Association will be held under the presidency of Dr. L. S. T. Burrell in the Physiology School, Downing Street, Cambridge, on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, April 2nd, 3rd, and 4th. On the afternoon of the first day papers will be read on dispensary organization, and Dr. Russell Reynolds will demonstrate cinematography of the chest. The morning of the second day will be given up to joint meetings of the association with the International After-Care Committee of the Union International contre la Tuberculose; the afternoon will be spent at Papworth or the Strange-ways Research Laboratory; and in the evening there will be a film show in the Physiological School. On Saturday morning a paper on chronic miliary tuberculosis by Professor Sayé will be followed by a discussion of cases. The conference is open to health visitors and tuberculosis

nurses. Accommodation for men is available at St. John's College. Ladies, and those not wishing for rooms in college, should apply early to the manager of the Garden Hotel, Belle Vue, or the manager of the Blue Boar, Trinity Street, Cambridge. The honorary secretary of the association is Dr. F. R. G. Heaf, Colindale Hospital, The Hyde, N.W.9.

Members of the Maternity and Child Welfare Group of the Society of Medical Officers of Health have been invited to attend a joint meeting of the sections of Disease in Children, Obstetrics and Gynaecology, and Epidemiology and State Medicine of the Royal Society of Medicine, at 1, Wimpole Street, W., on Friday, March 27th, at 4.45 p.m., when there will be a discussion on "The Prevention of Neo-natal Death, Injury, and Disease." A meeting of the Fever Hospital Medical Service Group of the society will be held at Park Hospital, Hither Green, S.E., on Friday, March 27th, at 3.45 p.m., when Dr. H. Stanley Banks will give a demonstration. There will be an opportunity for inspection of the new isolation hospital.

The annual convention of the Incorporated Society of Chiropodists is being held this week-end at the Langham Hotel, Portland Place, London. The medical and surgical lecturers are Dr. H. W. C. Vines, Mr. C. Lambrinudi, and Mr. T. Pomfret Kilner.

A three-months course in clinical practice and hospital administration will be given at the Brook Hospital, Shooter's Hill, S.E., by Dr. J. V. Armstrong, on Mondays and Wednesdays, at 9.30 a.m., and alternate Saturdays, at a time to be arranged, beginning April 1st. It is intended for those studying for the D.P.H., and complies with the requirements of the General Medical Council's revised regulations, which came into force on October 1st, 1931. A course may, however, be taken under the previous regulations for £4 4s. The fee (£3 13s. 6d.) should be paid to the medical officer of health, L.C.C. Public Health Department (Special Hospitals), County Hall, S.E.1.

The Fellowship of Medicine announces that a demonstration on the fundus oculi for M.R.C.P. candidates will be given at the West End Hospital for Nervous Diseases, Gloucester Gate, N.W., on March 31st, at 8.30 p.m. Lectures on diseases of children will be given at the National Temperance Hospital, at 8.30 p.m., on March 25th and 27th and April 1st and 3rd. A week-end course in urology will be given at All Saints' Hospital on March 28th and 29th. Courses in April include: infants' diseases, from March 30th to April 4th; proctology, at St. Mark's Hospital, April 20th to 25th; ophthalmology, at Royal Eye Hospital, April 20th to May 1st; medicine, surgery, and gynaecology, at Royal Waterloo Hospital, April 27th to May 9th; psychological medicine, at Maudsley Hospital, April 27th to May 30th; and week-end courses in diseases of the heart and lungs, at Victoria Park Hospital, April 18th and 19th, and in medicine and surgery, at National Temperance Hospital, April 4th and 5th. Courses, etc., are open only to members and associates of the Fellowship of Medicine, 1, Wimpole Street, W.

A world congress of Jewish doctors will be held at Jerusalem on April 21st to study the health situation of Hebrew populations throughout the world, and the professional problems of Jewish practitioners and students in various countries. The congress is organized by the Society for the Protection of the Health of Jewish Populations, Avenue des Champs Elysées 92, Paris.

A dermatological congress will be held at Strasbourg on May 10th to discuss the new data on experimental syphilis and their application to the clinical study of human syphilis. Further information can be obtained from Dr. Pautrier, Faculté de Médecine, Strasbourg.

Sir Kingsley Wood, M.P., Minister of Health, will open the *Daily Mail* Ideal Home Exhibition at Olympia, on Tuesday, March 24th, at 11.30 a.m. The exhibition will remain open from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. until April 18th.

The February issue of the *Journal of Laboratory and Clinical Medicine* contains the papers read at the second annual meeting of the American Association for the Study and Control of Rheumatic Diseases, and the fourth Conference on Rheumatic Diseases in June, 1935.

The Rockefeller Foundation has provided a research fellowship at the Institute of Medical Psychology, London, from March 1st, 1936. The fellowship has been awarded to Dr. A. T. Wilson for purposes of research into the relation between the emotional and organic factors in certain physical disorders.

The issue of *Surgery, Gynecology and Obstetrics* for February 15th is devoted to the proceedings of the twenty-fifth Clinical Congress of the American College of Surgeons, and that of the *American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology* for February to the proceedings of the forty-eighth annual meeting of the American Association of Obstetricians, Gynecologists and Abdominal Surgeons.

Lord Willingdon, the retiring Viceroy and Governor-General of India, has consented to become chairman of St. George's Hospital Rebuilding Council.

The Post-Graduate Medical Institute at Leningrad has created a chair for the pathology and physiology of nervous activity, under the direction of K. Petrova, a pupil and collaborator of the late Professor Pavlov.

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.

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QUERIES AND ANSWERS

Gas-Air Anaesthetic Apparatus for Midwifery

Dr. R. J. MINNITT (Liverpool) writes in answer to "Obstetrician" (*Journal*, March 7th, p. 513): I would like to ask what make of gas-air midwifery apparatus he was using when he speaks of the "inlet valve becoming frosted up." Apparently there was a leak of gas at some nut not thoroughly tightened. If "Obstetrician" cares to write to me, explaining in detail his trouble, I should be pleased to advise him.

"Verrucae"

"H. S. (M.D.Leads)" writes in reply to the query of "O. F. S." (*Journal*, February 29th, p. 455): Monochloroacetic acid can be applied by working the acid into the growth with an orange stick, care being taken not to allow any excess of acid to run over adjacent parts. Applications should be made every fourth day, and the surface of the growth should be removed each time with a scalpel to encourage penetration. This method is usually painful. A suitable pad should be applied proximally to avoid pressure when walking. An alternative and preferable method is the weekly application of salicylic acid (60 per cent.) in ung. plumbi oleatis. A piece of felt having a perforation the exact size of the growth is applied to the part in such a manner that the growth alone is exposed, and the entire dressing should be protected by adhesive plaster. The destroyed tissue should be removed each time before reapplying the ointment.