

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, Physician-in-Ordinary to H.M. the King, who will deliver his Address on the evening of Tuesday, July 21st. 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 April 11th; 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 third 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), and the second on March 7th (p. 479).



THE RISE OF THE COLLEGES

Before discussing the rise of the colleges one very common mistake must be dismissed. The colleges never were, except in two or three instances, monastic. To these two or three exceptions allusion will be made later on.

First of all, What is a college as we now know it? A college is a society consisting of a head, a body of fellows or tutors, and a certain number of scholars. The head, whose title varies with every college (warden, rector, master, provost), is elected by the fellows. The fellows are elected by the other fellows, either after examination or as a reward for some academic distinction. The scholars are elected after an examination held by the fellows of the college. This society is master of its own house. It holds property, first and foremost, of course, in its own buildings. Besides this local property it owns land in all parts of the country, and, further, draws its revenue from profitable investments of all kinds. It has acquired this property from its founder or founders, from pious benefactors, or from the foresight and thrift of its bursars. Another source of income is the commoners, who form the great mass of undergraduate members of the University; they pay the college for their board, lodging, and tuition. The scholars, like the fellows, live more or less upon the college endowments.

Every college is equipped from among its fellows, or dons as they are popularly called, with a complete tutorial staff for all the various faculties. The teaching staff will of course vary in its size with that of the college. A large college will have two or more classical, theological, law, or history dons. A member of a college can in this way obtain all the tuition that he requires within the gates of his own college. He rarely so confines himself, as he is free to attend lectures in any part of the University, and if he is reading science he is bound to attend laboratories in the science department.

Inside the college each man has his tutor, to whom he reads essays once or twice a week, and who is always ready to give him assistance in his work. In the course of his career an undergraduate will probably come under several tutors. It is this individual tutorial system which constitutes the genius of Oxford education. No mass lectures can ever take its place. Once or twice a year the college sets examination papers to test its members' general progress. At the end of his third or fourth year the undergraduate is ready to present himself for his final examination before the University examiners for his degree. If successful he is entitled to supplicate, through his college authorities, for the status of B.A. He is then free to proceed to study in the special faculties, and to

take a degree in theology, medicine, or science. Seven years after his entrance he may further supplicate for the degree of M.A.

Some colleges are rich, others comparatively poor. Their finances are absolutely independent of the University, to which, up to quite recent days, they contributed nothing. Since the middle of the last century they have been obliged to give a percentage of any surplus funds they may have. In addition, many of the richer colleges make free gifts to the University Chest.

This is the college system as it exists to-day. In a university which can claim to be at least 800 years of age it is certain that such a system did not spring up in a day, and must have seen many changes. How did it all begin? Think for a moment of the Oxford which the Danes burned down in 1010, a mass of wooden houses with straw roofs; of the town which rose up in its place with a larger proportion of stone dwellings but still far too much of wood, and which was again almost totally destroyed by fire in 1199. Then an Oxford springs up of which we very soon begin to get maps. It is an Oxford of huddled courts and lanes. There are, of course, its main thoroughfares, but off these you are soon in a labyrinth of byways. In these streets dwelt the students and the townsfolk side by side. A party of students would club together and rent a house, and it became a custom, upon which the University authorities insisted, that after a certain number of years the house must always be let to students if required. These houses became known as halls. It was not absolutely necessary for a student to live in one of them; he might live in a garret or a cellar. All that was required of him was that his status, as a member of the University, must be defined by his entering his name on some master's roll. The students in a hall elected their own head from among their own number. He then became responsible for the common purse and the general control of the house. The menial tasks in the house might be performed by a poor student, who received his board and lodging in return for his services.

The next stage was that someone who had been at a certain hall, in memory of the days he had spent there, gave money towards its upkeep and the common table. Then comes the most important stage of all. The hall is bought from its owners, and everyone who resides in it is given money for his support. Who did this first? Three foundations dispute this honour between them: University College, Balliol, and Merton. What is certain is that between the years 1240 and 1280 the great founders of these colleges acted in that way. They bought halls or

other tenements, and gave money or land towards their upkeep and drew up charters for the regulation of their inmates. These charters fixed the numbers of inmates and the amount of money which they were to receive. There was a head and a certain number of scholars or fellows. The rules for election were laid down, their studies, and the length of time they might occupy their position. Then as time went on further endowments from pious benefactors began to accumulate. More houses and halls were bought up, until at last there was money enough to pull the old houses and halls down and start building.

Very rarely is there a bit of these early colleges of which it can be said with any certainty that it was built in the founder's time. But a little later, in 1389, we not only have a bit, but a whole college planned out and finished, as it is to-day, by William of Wykeham: New College, of St. Mary of Winton, at Oxford. Early in the same century Exeter and Oriel Colleges had been founded, but of their original buildings nothing remains. By the time of Queen Elizabeth almost all the colleges had been built. This must have occasioned a great destruc-

tion of the old halls and lodging-houses, and it was then that the great mass of commoners, or undergraduates, had to move into, and so became members of, a college.

The halls which survived had to be under the control of at least one master of arts. The few survivors grew in importance, possessing almost the status, and frequently the outward appearance, of a college. There is now only one left, St. Edmund Hall. There are, however, three modern halls: St. Benet's Hall for the Benedictine Order, Campion Hall for the Jesuits, and St. Peter's Hall for members of the Church of England.

Seventy years ago Oxford revived its mediaeval system by creating a new collegiate society. It is a growing society, which has recently put itself under the patronage of St. Catherine. Those who join it may lodge where they please, so long as the house has a licence to receive them. The head of the society must of course be a master of arts, and the whole educational system of the University is open to its members. This society was formed to enable men of small means once more to come up to Oxford.

HEALTH OF SCOTLAND

REPORT FOR 1935

The Department of Health for Scotland, in its report for the year 1935,¹ states that the general death rate was 13.2 per 1,000, which was slightly higher than the record low rate for the previous year. The principal causes of death were heart disease (12,523), malignant tumours (7,793), cerebral haemorrhage (6,480), pneumonia (4,600), and all forms of tuberculosis (3,647). Improved diagnosis has tended to increase the number of deaths attributed to malignant disease, while the slight increase in mortality from bronchitis and pneumonia was mainly associated with the prevalence of influenza and whooping-cough in the early months of the year. The tuberculosis death rate was lower than ever before. The improvement was least in females between 15 and 25; in the later age groups it was less marked among males than among females. It seems probable, the report continues, that an important part of the higher male mortality from this disease is occupational in origin. With the improvement in methods of diagnosis and the introduction of collapse therapy treatment of pulmonary tuberculosis is now more promising than it ever was. The infantile mortality rate for the year was 76.8 per 1,000 births—the lowest on record—but the Department considers that this rate is still too high.

Maternity and Child Health

The maternal mortality rate was 6.3 per 1,000 births, which, although 0.1 above the rate for the previous year, approximates to the average for the preceding five years. The Department emphasizes the need for improvement in the standard of midwifery, and states that recommendations were made in a recent report submitted to the Clinical Subcommittee of the Scientific Advisory Committee for a comprehensive scheme designed to cover the whole field of maternity service in Scotland. The report states that actual figures are not available of the number of expectant mothers who receive ante-natal supervision in any year, but on the basis of the total registered births the percentage attending ante-natal centres during 1934 was 35. Concerning the health of the school child, there is evidence of improvement in several directions, notably in the rising standards of physique as judged by the average height and weight, the decline in such affections as rickets and tuberculosis, and the greatly improved cleanliness and appearance of the children. The annual returns compiled from the records of school medical inspection of the selected age groups in all areas in Scotland

showed that of a total of 236,923 children examined during the year the number whose state of nutrition was classified as "below average" was 12,598, or 5.35 per cent., while the number classified as "very bad" was 528, or 0.22 per cent. The corresponding percentages for the previous year were 5.34 and 0.19 respectively.

Housing and Town Planning

Substantial housing progress was made during the year. The output of local authorities, 18,651, was the highest yet achieved, and the number of houses built with State aid since 1919 has now reached the total of 200,284. These accommodate probably a fifth of the total population of Scotland. Altogether over 235,000 working-class houses, with and without State aid, have been built in Scotland since 1919. Progress in slum clearance during 1935 was especially gratifying, over 15,000 of the total output of houses of local authorities being built under slum clearance schemes. An excellent start has been made also in bringing into action the programme of local authorities, under the Housing Act of 1935, for the relief of overcrowding.

Food Supply

A continued improvement in the health of children who are supplied with milk was evident, and it is hoped that as time goes on liquid milk will form a much greater part of the diet of the people than it does at present. Approved milk schemes for children stipulate that so far as possible the milk shall be from licensed tubercle-free herds, and the year 1935 has shown a large increase in the number of such herds.

Highlands and Islands Medical Service

The Highlands and Islands Medical Service continues to work well. The air ambulance service and the wireless and telephone services in the Highlands have been extended. Good reports are received of the work done by the surgeons who have been established in Zetland, Orkney, Lewis, Caithness, Sutherland, and Fort William.

National Health Insurance

A further increase in the contribution income for health and pensions insurance is regarded by the Department as reflecting a further general improvement in trade. Some £3,300,000 was paid in the way of sickness and other benefits under the National Health Insurance Act during the year. Over 395,000 insured persons were incapacitated, aggregating more than 18,500,000 days of incapacity; the corresponding figures for the previous year were 341,000 and 16,870,000 respectively. The increase is mainly attributed to an influenza epidemic in the spring of 1935.

¹ Cmd. 5123. H.M. Stationery Office, 120, George Street, Edinburgh. (3s. 6d.)

Roberts, for some years, but to the majority of the nation for about one week. If Dr. Leff has a wife and children surely his anxiety on leaving them, if war should come in spite of all efforts to avert it, would be less if he knew that a plan to protect their future would come into operation. Such a proposal as that made by Colonel Walsh and supported by me is no more anti-ideal than is the taking out of an insurance policy. To ignore life as it is will not help to preserve civilization.—I am, etc.,

April 10th.

B.E.F., 1914-18.

Indoor Assistantships

SIR,—Is it in keeping with the dignity of the profession of medicine for this discussion to be given such publicity? It seems to be forgotten that the *British Medical Journal* lies on the table of the large majority of clubs and many public libraries. It is comparable to the letters written to the daily papers by disgruntled general servants. The obvious remedy for the complainants was to have resigned.

"The fault, dear Brutus, is not in our stars,
But in ourselves . . ."

—I am, etc.,

Ascot, April 19th.

H. C. CROUCH.

** This correspondence is now closed.—ED., *B.M.J.*

Universities and Colleges

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

Presentation for Degrees

The ceremony of presentation for degrees will take place at the Royal Albert Hall on Wednesday, May 13th, at 2.30 p.m. The annual service for members of the University will be held at Westminster Abbey at 5.30 p.m., when the preacher will be the Rev. Prebendary R. Hanson. The graduation dinner will take place in the evening at the Grocers' Hall, when the Chancellor will preside.

Appointment of Representatives

The following appointments have been made by the Senate: Mr. W. G. Spencer as a member of the Educational Board of the British Social Hygiene Council; Dr. R. A. Young as representative of the University at the twenty-second Annual Conference of the National Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis, to be held in London from July 16th to 18th; and Sir Cooper Perry as representative of the University on the governing bodies of the National Training College of Domestic Subjects and the Battersea Polytechnic.

Lectures

A course of three lectures on biochemistry of the sterol group will be given at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Keppel Street, W.C., by Professor A. Butenandt of the Organisch-Chemisches Institut, Technische Hochschule, Danzig, on May 5th, 7th, and 8th, at 5.30 p.m. At the first lecture the chair will be taken by Professor E. C. Dodds.

Professor Arthur Stoll of Basle will deliver a course of three lectures on cardiac glucosides at the Pharmaceutical Society, 17, Bloomsbury Square, W.C., on May 12th, 13th, and 14th, at 5.30 p.m.

A lecture on the laws of excitation of the autonomic nervous systems, with reference to chemical mediators, will be delivered by Professor Henri Fredericq of the University of Liège at King's College, Strand, W.C., on May 15th, at 5 p.m., with Sir Henry Dale, F.R.S., in the chair.

A course of two lectures on perimetry will be given by Mr. H. M. Traquair at University College Hospital Medical School, University Street, Gower Street, W.C., on May 18th and 19th, at 5.30 p.m.

A lecture on some recent developments in individual psychology will be given by Dr. Alfred Adler of Vienna at University College, Gower Street, W.C., on May 21st, at 5.30 p.m., with Professor C. L. Burt, D.Sc., in the chair.

Admission to all the above lectures is free without ticket.

Fishmongers' Company Studentship

The Fishmongers' Company Studentship provides free tuition for one academic year in the course for the Diploma in Public Health at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. It is awarded on the results of an examination, the scope of which is within the syllabus for the third examination for medical degrees (or the M.B., B.S. examination) of the University of London. The examination for the Studentship will next be held at the school on June 29th and 30th, and applications must reach the secretary by June 15th.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

Bucknill Scholarship

The examination for the Bucknill Scholarship, value 160 guineas, and for two exhibitions, value 55 guineas each, will begin on May 11th. The subjects for the examination are chemistry, physics, botany, zoology, and English essay. The scholarship and the two exhibitions are tenable at University College, London. Entry forms should be obtained from the secretary of University College, Gower Street, W.C.1, and returned forthwith.

UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW

A graduation ceremony was held on April 18th, when the following degrees, among others, were conferred:

M.D.—†R. T. Fletcher, †M. Jackson, †E. A. Underwood, †R. MacN. Buchanan (*in absentia*), A. T. Elder, J. Hill, A. R. Miller, R. H. Moyes, Helen I. Robertson (*in absentia*), Elizabeth N. Young.

B.Sc. (PURE SCIENCE).—B. N. P. Bannatyne, M.B., Ch.B. M.B., Ch.B.—†I. Zerlin, †R. A. R. Taylor, †A. Dunn, †J. Devine, †S. Mair, I. Aitchison, J. G. Aitken, G. McG. Barr, J. B. Barr, G. F. Boyle, J. G. Brown, J. L. Burnet, J. G. Cairns, K. Cameron, Barbara C. Carment, L. Cohen, P. J. Connolly, D. Cryan, A. D. Cuthbert, Janet B. Dalgetty, M. Dantow, W. L. Girvan, C. W. H. Gourlay, W. J. Gray, J. H. Hamilton, R. M. Heggie, R. Hillman, K. C. Hutchin, J. M. Livingston, J. P. S. McConnell, R. S. McDougall, R. M. Maxwell, J. W. Miller, W. S. Miller, A. S. Moodie, R. A. Murphy, W. Y. Smith, W. A. McE. Stewart, H. A. Sutherland, Alice M. Taylor, W. J. Walker, D. Watson, D. B. Watson, Mary G. W. Watson, S. Weinbaum, W. E. Whyte, A. L. Wilson, J. Wishart, C. N. Young.

UNIVERSITY PRIZES.—Captain H. S. Ranken, V.C., Memorial Prize: J. G. McMenemy. Bellahouston Gold Medals: T. Nicol, J. B. Rennie, W. R. Snodgrass. Macewen Medal in Surgery: R. G. Henderson.

SPECIAL CLASS PRIZES.—Surgery—Macleod Gold Medal: R. T. S. Gunn. Laryngology and Rhinology—Asher-Asher Gold Medal: C. W. MacLay.

* With honours. † With high commendation.
‡ With commendation.

CONJOINT BOARD IN SCOTLAND

The following candidates, having passed the requisite examinations, have been admitted L.R.C.P.Ed., L.R.C.S.Ed., L.R.F.P. and S.Glas.:

C. Abramson, E. Brauer, C. P. Bringle, G. Chelvadoray, D. G. W. Clyne, Y. M. Dadoo, W. J. Ess, F. H. Feldman, S. Fertig, Margaret A. H. Godfrey, M. Green, F. H. Haine, A. D. Hoffmann, Mildred P. Hudson, C. K. Joannidis, L. Jost, Edith L. Kander, W. Lees, J. D. Milne, B. K. Palit, T. Reiter, J. C. Reveillaud, S. J. Shapiro, K. Shepherd, H. Simchowit, D. D. Simmons, Irma Simon, O. F. Warner, A. Wassef, C. M. Wells, J. D. T. Wilson.

The Services

HONORARY SURGEON TO THE VICEROY

Colonel A. A. McNeight, I.M.S., has been appointed Honorary Surgeon to the Viceroy and Governor-General of India, vice Colonel W. T. McCowen, I.M.S. (ret.).

DEATHS IN THE SERVICES

Lieut.-Colonel Arthur Edward Morris, R.A.M.C. (retired), died at Cheltenham on February 13th, aged 76. He was born on August 31st, 1859, was educated at Queen's College, Galway, where he gained an exhibition in natural philosophy and physiology, and graduated M.D. and M.Ch. of the Royal University of Ireland in 1883. Entering the Army as surgeon on May 30th, 1885, he became lieutenant-colonel after twenty years' service, and retired on December 26th, 1917. He served during the war of 1914-18, and was granted an honorary colonelcy from June 3rd, 1919.

found that the learned judge was wrong, and that it was A.'s duty to disclose the change, although the contract was an ordinary one and did not fall into either of the two classes mentioned by Mr. Justice Bennett. The representation is not merely made once for all; once A. makes the representation the law considers that he continues to make it at all times until the agreement is signed and the contract is completed. If the circumstances change, then the representation which he has continued to make has become false, and he must set matters right.

This applies to contracts of all kinds where the agreement is not concluded until some time after the representation has been made. It therefore follows that every doctor who sells a practice or a share in one must see that the buyer, at the time when he signs the agreement, knows the true value and nature of the practice at that time, and that every doctor who buys a practice and is not satisfied that it comes up to the description given by the seller may repudiate the contract if he can show that a substantial change took place in the circumstances since the seller's representation and that he was not informed.

Medical Notes in Parliament

[FROM OUR PARLIAMENTARY CORRESPONDENT]

The House of Commons reassembled on April 21st and Mr. Chamberlain opened the Budget. He proposed to increase the standard rate of income tax for 1936-7 by 3d. to 4s. 9d. in the £, and to increase the personal allowance for married couples to £180 and the allowance in respect of children to £60 annually for each child. He further proposed amendments to the law to prevent evasion of surtax by formation of one-man companies, and to enact that the income tax liability of parents shall not be affected by the establishment of educational trusts for their children. The tea duty was increased by 2d. a lb. Mr. Chamberlain announced measures to continue the key industry duties for ten years with amendments, extending these duties in lieu of those now charged under Part I of the Import Duties Act. A surtax is proposed on lager beer from non-Empire countries. The Treasury is to take £5,750,000 from the Road Fund in 1936-7 without curtailing the five-year programme of road construction, and asks powers to bring the produce of the Motor Licence Duties into the general account in 1937-8. The Medicine Duties are unchanged.

On April 21st the Royal National Pension Fund for Nurses Bill was read a second time without debate in the House of Commons. It had already passed the House of Lords.

Public Health: Consolidating Measure

The second reading of the Public Health Bill, a Government measure, was moved in the House of Lords before the adjournment by Lord GAGE. The Bill, he said, was based on the work of a Departmental Committee appointed in 1929 to report on the consolidation of the law of local government in England and Wales. From the labours of that committee resulted the Local Government Act, 1933. The committee thereafter considered the codification of the law of public health, but since a Bill dealing with the whole law on this subject would run to 1,000 clauses, it preferred a series of Bills of not more than 350 clauses each. The measure before the House was the first of these, and dealt with provisions strictly of a public health character, principally concerning sanitary matters and the prevention and treatment of disease. Later Bills would deal with streets, open spaces, markets, and food. This Bill covered the combination and division of districts and constitution of port health authorities; sanitation and buildings, including sewage disposal and building by-laws; nuisances and offensive trades; water supply; prevention, notification, and treatment of disease; hospitals, nursing homes, and so forth; notification of births,

maternity and child welfare, and child life protection; baths, washhouses, and bathing places; common lodging houses, canal boats, and other miscellaneous topics. In the main the clauses of the Bill re-enacted the Public Health Act of 1875 and amending Acts of 1878, 1885, 1890, 1907, 1921, and 1925. Other Acts, such as the Notification of Births Acts of 1907 and 1915 and the Maternity and Child Welfare Act, 1918, which did not technically form part of the public health code, would be re-enacted. The Bill did not deal with London, whose public health administration was founded on separate statutes, except for a few matters in which the L.C.C. asked for the Bill to be applied to its area. The Bill repealed in whole or part thirty to forty Acts of Parliament and substituted 334 clauses for some 600 sections of existing legislation. It combined consolidation with a limited amount of amendment to secure simplicity, uniformity, and conciseness. Opportunity had been taken to clear up points on which the law had been obscure and unsatisfactory, the chief relating to sewers. The Bill also sought to clarify the right of appeal against orders, requirements, and other decisions of local authorities. The Government hoped that a joint committee of both Houses would begin examination of the Bill soon after Easter, and that the measure would reach the Statute Book in the present session. The Bill was welcomed by the associations of local authorities and by the principal bodies concerned in its subject-matter. It did not seek to lay down a perfect public health code, but to gather in orderly and intelligible shape the whole of the law and to provide a firm starting-point for future legislation. To attempt to graft on the present Bill extensive amendments of the law might destroy its chance of reaching the Statute Book.

After some debate the Bill was read a second time without a division and referred to a joint committee, in the appointment of which the House of Commons subsequently joined.

Health Insurance Contribution.—On April 21st Miss RATHBONE asked the Minister of Health what had been the total amounts under health insurance of the contributions paid and benefits received by male and female contributors respectively during the last period of twelve months for which figures were available. Sir KINGSLEY WOOD replied that the total amount of contributions received in 1934, the latest period in respect of which complete information was available, was £18½ millions in respect of men and £8½ millions in respect of women. In the same period payments on account of benefits, including medical benefit, which could be definitely classified on a sex basis amounted to £17,700,000 for men and £10,100,000 for women. In addition £2,580,000 was expended on additional benefits not in the form of cash, the division of which between men and women was not available.

Medical News

A sessional meeting of the Royal Sanitary Institute will be held at Nottingham Guildhall on Friday, May 1st, at 4 p.m., when papers will be read on "A Municipal Common Lodging House," by Dr. Cyril Banks, and on "The Nottingham Main Drainage Works," by Mr. R. C. Aldous, and a discussion on "The Survey of Overcrowding" will be opened by Mr. Alfred Wade.

The British Health Resorts Association has arranged a conference at Woodhall Spa from May 8th to 10th. The two discussions on Saturday, May 9th, will be on "The Value of Spa Treatment in Gynaecological Cases," opened by Mr. J. Bright Banister, Professor Beckwith Whitehouse, and Dr. L. H. Boys; and on "Food at the Health Resort," opened by Professor E. C. Dodds, followed by Professor V. H. Mottram.

A lecture on the theory and practice of contraception will be given on May 8th, at 6 p.m., at the Walworth Women's Welfare Centre, 153A, East Street, S.E.17. Practical demonstrations will be given on May 15th, at 6 p.m. and 7 p.m. The lecture and demonstrations will be open to students who have completed their gynaecological course and to medical practitioners; those attending a demonstration should bring rubber gloves.

The Section of Neurology of the Royal Society of Medicine will meet in Amsterdam on Friday and Saturday, May 1st and 2nd. In the morning of May 1st there will be demonstrations at the Neurological Centrum, and in the afternoon a meeting of the *Amsterdamsche Neurologen Vereeniging*, at which clinical subjects and pathological specimens will be shown by the chiefs of the neurological departments of various hospitals. In the evening members are invited to dinner by Professor and Mrs. Brouwer. On May 2nd there will be a demonstration of neurosurgical cases by Dr. Oljenick, followed by luncheon with the committee of the *Amsterdamsche Neurologen Vereeniging*.

The Swiss Society for Internal Medicine will hold its annual meeting at St. Gallen on May 16th and 17th, when the chief subjects for discussion will be the relations of the gastro-intestinal canal to blood formation and the development of anaemia, introduced by Professor Naegeli of Zurich, and disturbances of absorption in the intestine and their treatment, introduced by Professor Gigon of Basle. Further information can be obtained from Professor Schüpbach, Seftegenstrasse 2, Berne.

The annual general meeting of the London and Counties Medical Protection Society Ltd. will be held at Victory House, Leicester Square, W.C., on Wednesday, May 6th, at 4 p.m.

At the annual conference of the College of Nursing, to be held on May 1st at 1, Henrietta Street, W.1, Mr. F. A. Lyon, secretary of the Seamen's Hospital Society, will speak on "The Problem of the Small Hospital."

The Fellowship of Medicine announces the following courses: psychological medicine, Maudsley Hospital, April 27th to May 30th; medicine, surgery, and gynaecology, Royal Waterloo Hospital, April 27th to May 9th; dermatology, St. John's Hospital, May 1st to 29th; thoracic surgery, Brompton Hospital, May 11th to 16th; urology, St. Peter's Hospital, May 18th to 30th; proctology, Gordon Hospital, May 25th to 30th; venereal diseases, London Lock Hospital, May 25th to June 20th; infants' diseases, Infants Hospital, May 2nd and 3rd; chest diseases, Brompton Hospital, May 9th and 10th; surgery, Cancer Hospital, May 16th and 17th. Courses in June include an M.R.C.P. clinical and pathological course, National Temperance Hospital; an M.R.C.P. clinical course in chest and heart, Victoria Park Hospital; neurology and psychotherapy, West End Hospital for Nervous Diseases; and week-end courses in medicine and in surgery, Prince of Wales's General Hospital; obstetrics, City of London Maternity Hospital; and fevers, Park Hospital. Courses arranged by the Fellowship of Medicine (1, Wimpole Street, W.) are open only to members and associates.

His Majesty the King has consented to become Patron of the British Red Cross Society. Since the formation of the Red Cross organization in 1870 each reigning monarch has been its Patron. Queen Mary is the President, the Duke of York is Chairman of the Council, and the Princess Royal is Commandant-in-Chief of British Red Cross Voluntary Aid Detachments.

Mr. Tom Eastham, K.C., has been appointed by the Lord Chancellor to be an official referee of the Supreme Court of Judicature in succession to Sir Francis Newbolt, K.C., who has retired. Mr. Eastham holds the degrees M.B., Ch.B., and was at one time resident medical officer at the Royal Boscombe and West Hants Hospital. He gave up medicine to practise law, and, after practising as a barrister in Manchester for eighteen years he became a King's Counsel. In 1924 he was appointed Recorder of Oldham, and has held that office for twelve years. In 1927 he was elected a Bencher of Lincoln's Inn.

The council of the National Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis has appointed Lieut.-Colonel Gordon G. Jolly, C.I.E., V.H.S., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., D.T.M., to the post of secretary-general as from July 1st, 1936. Colonel Jolly has had a distinguished career in the Indian Medical Service and is at present Officiating Public Health Commissioner with the Government of India. He has held high administrative posts and has taken much interest in questions concerning tuberculosis.

The League of Nations will award the Darling prize of 1,000 Swiss francs this year for the best work in the pathology, aetiology, and prophylaxis of malaria. Works which have been published within the last five years, as well as unpublished works, may be submitted.

The February issue of the *Bulletin de l'Office International d'Hygiène Publique* contains a preliminary report by Dr. J. H. L. Cumpston, Director-General of Public Health of Australia, of the second International Sanitary Congress of the Pacific, held at Sydney from September 3rd to 6th, 1935.

The issue of *La Presse Médicale* for March 25th contains a sympathetic obituary notice of Sir Charles Ballance.

The March issue of *Aesculape*, the organ of the International Society of the History of Medicine, is devoted to the foot and leg in art, history, and literature.

The University of Marburg has had a tablet placed on the house where Professor A. Bier of Berlin was born on November 24th, 1861. The official address was delivered at the ceremony by Professor Klapp, director of the surgical clinic at Marburg.

Professor M. Askanazy of Geneva has been awarded the Marcel Benoit prize of 30,000 francs for his pathological researches on cancer.

Letters, Notes, and Answers

All communications in regard to editorial business should be addressed to **The EDITOR, British Medical Journal, B.M.A. House, Tavistock Square, W.C.1.**

ORIGINAL ARTICLES and LETTERS forwarded for publication are understood to be offered to the *British Medical Journal* alone, unless the contrary be stated. Correspondents who wish notice to be taken of their communications should authenticate them with their names, not necessarily for publication.

Authors desiring REPRINTS of their articles published in the *British Medical Journal* must communicate with the Financial Secretary and Business Manager, British Medical Association House, Tavistock Square, W.C.1, on receipt of proofs. Authors overseas should indicate on MSS if reprints are required, as proofs are not sent abroad.

All communications with reference to ADVERTISEMENTS, as well as orders for copies of the *Journal*, should be addressed to the Financial Secretary and Business Manager.

The TELEPHONE 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 (Advertisements, etc.), *Articulate Westcent, London.*

MEDICAL SECRETARY, *Medisecra Westcent, London.*

The address of the B.M.A. Scottish Office is 7, Drumsheugh Gardens, Edinburgh (telegrams: *Associate, Edinburgh*; telephone: 24361 Edinburgh), and of the Office of the Irish Free State Medical Union (I.M.A. and B.M.A.), 18, Kildare Street, Dublin (telegrams: *Bacillus, Dublin*; telephone: 62550 Dublin).

QUERIES AND ANSWERS

Local Application of Phenol

Dr. RICHARD KERRY (Montreal) writes: What would be the effect of painting an initial lesion of lupus, leprosy, or syphilis with phenol? Erysipelas can be stopped and ringworm or other mould infection abolished by one treatment with carbolic acid. More deeply seated warts and corns can be eradicated by two or three applications if indurated tissue be first removed. I have used phenol for more than thirty years for corneal ulcer without one mishap. The suggested treatment seems to be entirely practical, can do no harm if carefully used, and does not contraindicate constitutional remedies. To try to prevent a local lesion from becoming systemic is surely worth while, and in two of the diseases mentioned the treatment will be valuable even after the infection has made progress.

Occupational Dermatitis

Dr. F. OPPENHEIMER writes: I should be grateful for suggestions regarding treatment of an old-standing and severe occupational dermatitis of the hands in the case of a man employed on plaster and cement work. Change of occupation is, unfortunately, not possible in his case.