

aggressor. In this way, if we are not already too late, war may be averted.

If the danger is real, then there is no time for argument amongst ourselves, but we should look for guidance and action to our recognized organizations, such as the British Medical Association. We are told that the B.M.A. is what we, the general practitioners of this country, make it. We, like the public, are often inarticulate, and are content to leave our vital interests in the hands of, often apathetically, elected representatives. This is a matter that strikes deeper than just what will happen to our practices; it affects our very existence, and we dare not, much less our representatives, preserve apathy towards it. —I am, etc.,

London, S.W.2, May 3rd.

JAMES MELVIN.

"The Injured Workman"

SIR,—I hope everybody who is interested in medico-legal evidence will read "The Injured Workman: A Medico-Legal Fable of our Times," by Dr. G. F. Walker, on page 913 of the *Journal* of May 2nd. It is a gem of purest ray, and illustrates the difficulties the county court judges are up against almost daily in valuing medical evidence in Workmen's Compensation Acts cases. I was one of the first medical assessors appointed when the Acts came into force, and have many memories of the discussions with the judges in their attempts to reconcile the contradictions of the evidence put before them. The last paragraph of the "Fable" suggests a drastic solution of the difficulty; but I fear it would be impracticable! Perhaps the committee now sitting on the revision of these Acts will evolve some scheme which would bring out the true value of medical evidence.—I am, etc.,

May 6th.

C. H. M.

Universities and Colleges

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

At a congregation held on April 30th the degree of B.M., B.Ch. was conferred upon C. D. Coode, Magdalen College.

The next Dean's dinner will be held at the Chanticleer Restaurant, Frith Street, Soho, W., on Thursday, May 28th, at 7.30 p.m. All medical students wishing to attend should communicate with the Dean of the Medical School, Dean's Office, University Museum, Oxford, by May 25th.

The first examination for the degree of Bachelor of Medicine starts on Monday, June 15th, and the second examination on Wednesday, June 17th. Names must be received by the Registrar of the University by 10.30 a.m. on June 2nd, 1936.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE HOSPITAL MEDICAL SCHOOL

Professor Charles Singer delivered the first of a series of three lectures on the history of medicine at the University College Hospital Medical School, University Street, W.C., on May 14th. The remaining two lectures will be given on Thursdays, May 21st and 28th, at 5.15 p.m., on "The History of the Theory of Infection" and "Recent Light on the History of Some Tropical Diseases" respectively. The lectures are open to all medical students of the University of London.

Lord Dawson of Penn has been reappointed and Professor T. B. Johnston appointed to the Senate for the period 1936-40 by the Faculty of Medicine and the General Medical Schools respectively.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF EDINBURGH

At a quarterly meeting of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh, held on May 5th, with the President, Dr. W. T. Ritchie, in the chair, Dr. Thomas Carlyle Mitchell (London) and Dr. John James Black Martin (Dorchester) were elected Fellows of the College.

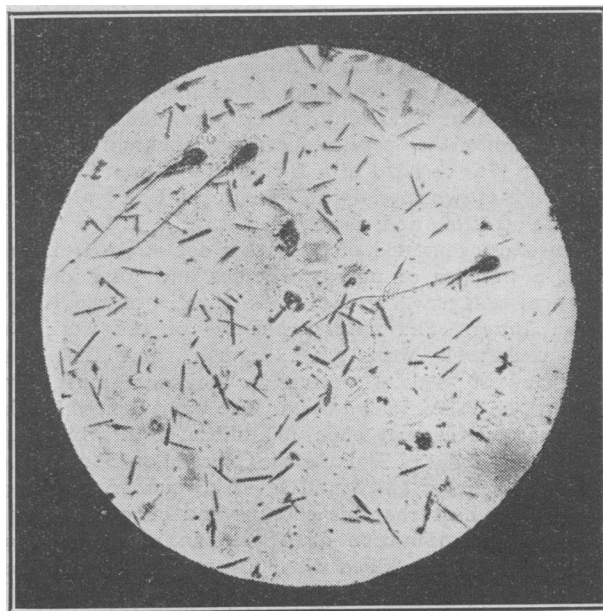
The Lister Fellowship was awarded to Lieut.-Colonel W. F. Harvey, C.I.E., F.R.C.P.Ed., I.M.S. (ret.).

Medico-Legal

SEMINAL STAIN EXAMINATION

Dr. FRANK W. MARTIN writes from the Forensic Medicine Department of the University of Glasgow:

In order that a definite opinion may be expressed that a stain is one from seminal fluid, it is essential that complete spermatozoa be found on microscopical examination. For medico-legal purposes, especially for production in court, a photomicrograph should always be made of the slide. The following procedure gives excellent results, and being rapid in execution saves much time, since both



crystals and spermatozoa are shown at once, and may be photographed.

The stain should first be extracted in 0.3 per cent. acetic acid, in which it should soak for at least two hours. A drop of the stain extract is placed on a slide, and one drop of Lugol's solution added. The slide is then examined under the high power. If the stain be seminal crystals appear almost at once, and spermatozoa if present stand out prominently. The photomicrograph must be taken at once because semen cysts rapidly disappear.

The accompanying photomicrograph was taken by this method.

UNSUCCESSFUL DEFENCE OF AUTOMATISM

At the recent Manchester assizes a labourer aged 28 was convicted and sentenced to death by Mr. Justice Lewis for strangling his wife. The defence was that he committed the act in a state of automatism in which he was completely unconscious. Dr. Reginald Ellis, who examined the accused after the tragedy, found that he was suffering from hysteria resulting from an injury but in a disproportionate degree. Hysteria, he said, could give rise to automatism in which acts of violence might be committed. It was possible that the accused killed his wife without knowing what he was doing at the time. The accused was not a normal person, but his abnormality was not of the type or degree which would be regarded as insanity, and automatism was a very rare result of hysteria.

In the short account of the trial available¹ no summary is given of the other evidence, and the jury were apparently convinced beyond reasonable doubt that the accused both knew what he was doing when he killed his wife and knew that it was wrong. Automatism is more usually pleaded when there is evidence that the accused is an epileptic, for it is a fairly common accompaniment of the

¹ *Manchester Guardian*, May 6th, 1936

The members of the local authority would not know the capacity and character of the midwives as did the women in the voluntary organizations, who were in touch with the mothers. The committee adjourned till May 14th.

Nutritional Experiments on Rats.—Mr. WM. LEACH asked on May 7th if the attention of the Home Secretary had been drawn to the recent experiments on rats, in which the animals were fed on food commonly used by the poor, the result being the development of rickets and other diseases. Mr. LLOYD presumed that Mr. Leach referred to the report of a series of lectures contained in the issue of the *British Medical Journal* for February 29th. The experimental research on nutrition referred to therein did not appear to have been performed in this country.

The Services

MOHMAND OPERATIONS: NORTH-WEST FRONTIER OF INDIA

The names of the following have been brought to notice by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief in India for distinguished services rendered in connexion with the Mohmand operations, North-West Frontier of India, August 15th-16th to October 15th-16th, 1935: Lieut.-Colonel R. K. Mallam, R.A.M.C.; Majors C. A. Slaughter and M. P. Power, O.B.E., M.C., R.A.M.C.; Lieut.-Colonel H. B. Scott, O.B.E., I.M.S.; Captain F. J. Doherty, I.M.S.; Second-class Assistant Surgeon B. A. Hoogewerf, Jemadar Jogindar Singh, and Jemadar Muhammad Sarwar Khan, I.M.D.

Medical News

Sir William Bragg, O.M., President of the Royal Society, will distribute the prizes to successful students at the London Hospital Medical College and Dental School on Friday, June 26th, at 3 p.m.

The Edinburgh University Club of London will dine on June 19th at the May Fair Hotel, with Lord Amulree in the chair and the Right Hon. J. Ramsay MacDonald as the guest of the evening. Any members who know graduates of the University who wish to become members are requested to communicate with Dr. Bruce Williamson, 12, Wimpole Street, W.1.

The President and Council of the Royal Society of Medicine have arranged a reception to be held at 1, Wimpole Street, W., on Wednesday, June 10th, at 8.30 p.m., to celebrate the centenary of the Royal Medical Benevolent Fund. The President of the Society, Dr. Robert Hutchison, and the President of the Fund, Sir Thomas Barlow, will receive invited guests from 8.30 to 9 p.m., and a variety entertainment and light buffet supper will follow. As the seating capacity of the hall is strictly limited, admission tickets will be issued in the order in which applications are received.

The summer meeting of the Sections of Laryngology and Otology of the Royal Society of Medicine will be held in London on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, June 4th, 5th, and 6th.

The annual general meeting of the Chelsea Clinical Society will be held at the Hotel Rembrandt, Thurloe Place, S.W., on Tuesday, May 19th, at 8.30 p.m., when Mr. C. Lambrinudi will open a discussion on "Backache." The meeting will be preceded by a dinner at 7.30 p.m.

A meeting of the Fever Hospital Medical Services Group of the Society of Medical Officers of Health will be held at 1, Thornhaugh Street, Russell Square, W.C., on Friday, May 22nd, at 4 p.m., when an address on "Medico-Legal Problems in Hospital Practice" will be given by Dr. Robert Forbes.

The Earl of Granard, presiding at the annual meeting of the Cancer Hospital (Free), Fulham Road, S.W., on May 6th, announced that the King had conferred the title of "Royal" on the hospital.

The thirty-seventh annual meeting of the General Committee of the Lebanon Hospital for Mental Diseases, Beirut, Syria, will be held at Friends House, Euston Road, N.W., on Monday next, May 18th, at 3.15 p.m. Sir Hubert Bond, M.D., Senior Commissioner of the Board of Control, will take the chair.

At a sessional meeting of the Royal Sanitary Institute, to be held at Worcester Guildhall on Friday, May 22nd, at 5.30 p.m., in conjunction with the Midland Branch of the Society of Medical Officers of Health, Dr. A. J. B. Griffin will open a discussion on "The Survey of Overcrowding," and Dr. J. W. T. Patterson a discussion on "Some Medical and Social Aspects of Chronic Rheumatism."

Dr. Alfred Adler will hold a demonstration clinic on cases of child neurosis and behaviour disorder at the East London Child Guidance Clinic, Jews' Free School, Bell Lane, Bishopsgate, E., on Wednesday, May 27th, at 3 p.m.

The Minister of Health, Sir Kingsley Wood, will open the Middlesex Colony for Mental Defectives, Shenley, on Wednesday, May 20th, at 3.30 p.m.

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Office, Mr. Geoffrey Lloyd, M.P., will inspect the National V.A.D. Training Camp of the British Red Cross Society at Northwood Park, Sparsholt, near Winchester, on Wednesday, May 20th, at 3 p.m.

The Fellowship of Medicine (1, Wimpole Street, W.) announces the following courses: urology, at St. Peter's Hospital, May 18th to 20th; proctology, at Gordon Hospital, May 25th to 30th; venereal diseases, at London Lock Hospital, May 25th to June 20th; gynaecology, at Chelsea Hospital for Women, June 8th to 20th; medicine, at Prince of Wales's General Hospital, June 6th and 7th; obstetrics, at City of London Maternity Hospital, June 13th and 14th; fevers, at Park Hospital, June 20th and 21st; surgery, at Prince of Wales's General Hospital, June 27th and 28th; children's diseases, at Princess Elizabeth of York Hospital, July 4th and 5th. Courses for M.R.C.P. candidates will be given as follows: clinical and pathological, at National Temperance Hospital, Tuesdays and Thursdays at 8 p.m., June 9th to 25th; chest and heart diseases, at Victoria Park Hospital, Wednesdays and Fridays at 6 p.m., June 17th to July 10th; chest diseases, at Brompton Hospital, two afternoons weekly at 5 p.m., June 15th to July 11th; neurology and psychotherapy, at West End Hospital for Nervous Diseases, June 8th to July 4th. On June 11th (8.30 p.m.), at 1, Wimpole Street, W., Dr. Roland T. de Hellebranth will lecture on "Present-day Treatment of Gastric and Duodenal Ulcers in the United States."

A course of post-graduate lectures will be given by Dr. W. J. S. Reid, at Ancoats Hospital, Manchester, on Thursdays, at 4.15 p.m., from May 21st to June 11th.

The Société de Neurologie de Paris has organized an international congress, to be held at La Salpêtrière on May 26th and 27th, when the subject for discussion will be the cerebral circulation in its physiological, pathological, and radiological aspects. Further information can be obtained from the general secretary, Dr. Crouzon, Avenue de Jéna 70 bis, Paris XVIe.

The ninth Congress of the French Paediatric Society will be held at Bordeaux, under the presidency of Professor C. Rocaz, from May 28th to 30th, when the subjects for discussion will be insulin treatment in the child, epidemiology and pathogenesis of acrodynia in children, and dystrophic deformities of the thorax. Further information can be obtained from Dr. Boisserie-Lacroix, Cons Xavier-Arnozan 27 bis, Bordeaux.

At a special meeting of Fellows of the Royal Society of Medicine held on April 21st it was resolved that on the expiry of the current session the Section of Tropical Diseases and Parasitology of the Society shall dissolve and cease to exist.

The Home Secretary has, by warrant bearing date May 1st, appointed George Hugh Culverwell, O.B.E., M.D., B.Ch., D.P.H., to be an inspector for the purpose of the Cruelty to Animals Act, 1876.