

About 220,000 sections were cut on the four hearts. The anatomical and pathological part of the work was carried out under a grant made by the Medical Research Council of Ireland.

General Discussion

The president, Dr. E. T. FREEMAN, said that this was the first account which had been presented to the Academy of any work that had been done with monetary help from the Research Council. Dr. P. O'FARRELL said that he had seen eleven cases of bundle branch block, all in males; ten were of the common type, one of the rare type. Of these patients six had died within two years—three of them died suddenly—three were alive, and two he had not been able to trace. It was possible that bundle branch block might be an expression of coronary disease.

Dr. W. J. E. JESSOP and Dr. ALAN THOMPSON also took part in the discussion, to which Professor MOORE replied.

At the same meeting Dr. C. J. MCSWEENEY showed a new and improved model of the Bragg-Paul pulsator.

Local News

FRANCE

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT IN PARIS.]

The Medical Examination of all Motor Drivers

Hitherto in France a special medical examination has been required only of the drivers of motor lorries, omnibuses, and other heavy motor vehicles. The extension of this privilege or imposition, call it what you like, to the drivers of all motor vehicles has recently been debated with much keenness at meetings of the Academy of Medicine, which has finally decided in favour of it, in spite of the misgivings voiced by several speakers. The resolution adopted on March 8 says, in effect, that such a medical examination would be useful for every driver and necessary in the interests of all motorists. It concludes with the proposal that the Minister of Public Works should appoint a commission to examine this problem. The critics of this measure within the Academy dwelt on the difficulties which would be encountered when a limited number of medical examiners would be called on to deal with an unlimited number, running into millions, of candidates for medical certificates. It was also pointed out that motor accidents are more often due to flaws in a man's character than to flaws in his physique, and that one cannot expect the ordinary medical examiner to be gifted with such transcendent psychological insight that he can "spot" the road-hog in advance. One speaker quoted statistics supposed to show that only 0.74 per cent. of road accidents had been traced to the faulty physique of the driver. On the other hand, there must be many physically ailing motorists, including elderly country doctors, whose earnings would be seriously threatened by the proposed measure, although the likelihood of such drivers causing a serious accident would be very small indeed. What was perhaps the most effective answer to all these inhibitory considerations was the question put by one speaker: "Is there a single one of our colleagues who would consent to be driven from Paris to Nice by an epileptic chauffeur?" It is remarkable how such a pertinent question can crystallize opinion during a debate conducted with so much ability on both sides that many a listener must have felt that both were in the right, or very nearly so.

The late Dr. Raimond Sabouraud

Though many obituary notices fail to carry conviction because of the well-known and on the whole laudable inclination of the writer to give his subject the benefit of the doubt one cannot help being charmed and im-

pressed by the volume and quality of the tributes paid by his friends to the late Dr. Sabouraud. He is a remarkable illustration of the proverb, imputed to a certain biblical whale, that you cannot keep a good man down. From the very outset of his medical career Sabouraud was recognized as a coming man. Then a rude check awaited him: a thesis which he had prepared on the subject of ringworm and which represented four years' research was rejected by his examiners in favour of another thesis whose comparative mediocrity was obvious. This judgment, a mere incident for the examiners, made Sabouraud decide once and for all not to seek promotion by the usual paths, but by the intrinsic merit of his own researches. For some time this decision cut him off from the laboratory and hospital appointments that normally go to those who best succeed in pleasing their examiners. But with the support of Roux and others Sabouraud was enabled to pursue his studies as a bacteriologically minded dermatologist, and in due course the importance of his work was so universally recognized that the hospital appointment he had refused to seek sought him, and he was installed at the Saint-Louis Hospital, where for some thirty years he was the presiding genius to whom the whole world of dermatology came to pay homage. But with all his success he remained the kindly, genial, modest, helpful man at the service of all who sought his advice. The motto up to which Sabouraud lived throughout nearly the whole of his scientific career was: When you are someone, you need not be something.

Insurance against Professional Risks by Sou Médical

Sou Médical is a co-operative enterprise, all of the profits of which go to swell a reserve guarantee fund. For an annual subscription of 100 francs each its members are insured against all the risks entailed by the practice of medicine. The lively appreciation of these risks by the medical profession is shown by the fact that in only two years the membership of this body has risen from 7,019 to more than 8,000. In 1937 it dealt with 461 affairs, 109 of which concerned disputed doctors' bills. Third-party actions accounted for twenty-two cases, medical care at road accidents for twenty, occupational accidents for fifty-eight, conflicts with the tax authorities for seventy-five, and misunderstandings between colleagues for twelve. There were eight cases of slander and four penal cases. Only about 10 per cent. of all the cases dealt with in 1937 would have been taken up by an ordinary insurance society confining its liabilities only to professional responsibilities. Sou Médical is linked up with the weekly journal *Concours Médical*, the annual subscription to which is 70 francs. Thus for a total of 170 francs every French doctor who wants to can enjoy a first-class medical journal and insurance against the almost countless risks of legal troubles in this highly contentious age.

Retirement of Professor Emile Sergent

When a medal was presented to Professor Sergent recently on the occasion of his retirement several among his most distinguished colleagues recalled various incidents in his career. Professor Roger went back some thirty-seven years and called to mind his first meeting with Professor Sergent, when, in 1901, they had sat opposite each other at an examination table. A fellow examinee whispered on this occasion to Professor Roger: "Look at his head! He is going to be Potain's successor!" This remarkable prognostication came true, and for many years Professor Sergent drew crowded audiences at the Charité where Potain had taught. Professor Sergent's gifts as a teacher were so conspicuous that in 1921 a unanimous vote of the council of the Faculty of Medicine endowed him with a new chair, as professor of clinical propaedeutics at the Charité. He was not only a great teacher, however, he was also a brilliant research worker who has contributed much to our knowledge of endocrinology, the diseases of the respiratory system, and tuberculosis of this system and of the bile passages.

and non-industrial, to make contributions for hospital purposes. The non-industrial staff numbered approximately 370,000.

Tuberculosis Inquiry in Wales.—Mr. BERNAYS, replying to Mr. J. Griffiths on April 11, said that a committee, of which Mr. E. C. Davies was chairman, had not yet completed its inquiries into the problem of tuberculosis in Wales. It proposed to hold a further sitting towards the end of this month. The Minister of Health would consider the question of the publication of the report as soon as he received it.

Health of Abyssinian Refugees.—The number of Ethiopian refugees in Kenya is 6,181. In a report prepared at the end of October last by the medical officer in charge of the camp it was stated that as a result of measures taken by the authorities in Kenya a great improvement had taken place in the health of the refugees, especially of the children.

Notes in Brief

During the year ended March 31, 1937, thirty-eight pedestrians were killed and 1,778 injured in Great Britain while crossing the road at junctions where traffic lights are installed.

The scheme for giving additional nutritive foodstuffs to expectant and nursing mothers in the special areas is being followed with the closest attention by the Medical Research Council and by the Minister of Health, but must, in the opinion of the latter, be regarded as in the experimental stage. The Minister is not in a position to make any general statement upon the results obtained.

The Government cannot provide special facilities for the Contraceptives Bill during the present session.

Returns received from 1,271 local authorities in England and Wales show that during the seven years ending on that date 621,578 houses had been reconditioned under the Housing Acts, 1930 and 1936, in the areas of those authorities.

Slum clearance programmes of the local authorities outside London affect some 387,000 houses. Of these about 240,000 have been included in clearance and demolition orders. Up to the end of last year about 150,000 of these houses had been demolished and about 161,000 new dwellings provided for persons so displaced.

The Services

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 29, at 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, W., when the annual report and financial statement for the year ended December 31, 1937, will be presented and the officers and committee for the current year elected.

No. 4 FIELD AMBULANCE OLD COMRADES' ASSOCIATION

Staff Sergeant J. McKEOWN, R.A.M.C., writes from 90, Ashurst Road, North Finchley, N.12: As organizer of the reunion and dinner of the above unit I am desirous of getting in touch with all the officers who served with the unit during 1914-19. Will any officer who has not heard from me please communicate with me at the above address? I should also be pleased to hear from any medical officer who served with the No. 3 or No. 9 Field Ambulance or in the Guards Division.

DEATHS IN THE SERVICES

Major DANIEL McKELVEY, M.C., R.A.M.C., died recently in the Queen Alexandra Military Hospital, Millbank, London, aged 46. He was born on September 5, 1891, the elder son of John H. McKelvey of Dunbunraver, Gortin, Co. Tyrone, and

was educated at Edinburgh University, where he graduated M.B., Ch.B. in 1913. He proceeded M.D. in 1919. He also studied at St. Mary's and Guy's Hospitals, and took the F.R.C.S. in 1927. After filling the posts of resident house-surgeon at Edinburgh Royal Infirmary and at the Dreadnought Hospital, Greenwich, when the war began he took a temporary commission as lieutenant in the Royal Army Medical Corps. On November 1, 1914, he became temporary captain, took a permanent commission in that rank on May 1, 1918, and became major on November 1, 1926. He served throughout the war of 1914-18, when he gained the Military Cross and later two bars to the Cross, also the French Croix de Guerre, with palm leaves. He was once taken prisoner, but escaped. After the war he served in Egypt, Hong Kong, and India. He gained the Alexander Memorial Prize and gold medal at the Royal Army Medical College in 1923. He was unmarried. He had been a member of the British Medical Association since 1915, and from November, 1931, to February, 1933, was president of the Hong Kong and China Branch.

Universities and Colleges

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

The George Herbert Hunt Travelling Scholarship for 1938 has been awarded to W. E. Gibb, B.M., of Oriel College.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

Recognition of Teachers

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

University College: Dr. Matthew Young (Anatomy).

St. Thomas's Hospital Medical School: Dr. Evan Jones (Medicine).

Westminster Hospital Medical School: Mr. E. S. Lee (Surgery).

London (Royal Free Hospital) School of Medicine for Women: Dr. F. P. Lee Lander (Medicine).

University College Hospital Medical School: Dr. M. W. P. Hudson (Anaesthetics); Dr. A. J. Morland and Dr. E. A. B. Pritchard (Medicine); and Mr. S. G. Suggit (Oto-rhino-laryngology).

M.B., B.S. Examination: Amendment of Regulations

New regulations for internal and external students will come into force in and after the session 1938-9, but up to and including May, 1940, internal and external students are permitted to proceed to the M.B., B.S. degrees either under the present regulations or under the revised regulations.

Presentation Day

The ceremony of presentation for degrees will take place at the Royal Albert Hall on Wednesday, May 11, at 2.30 p.m., and at 5.30 p.m. the same day the annual service for members of the University will be held at St. Paul's Cathedral, when the preacher will be the Right Rev. Ernest Morell Blackie, Dean of Rochester. Applicants for tickets should enclose a stamped addressed envelope, and state their sex, and whether they are teachers in the University, graduates (giving degrees), or undergraduates.

Lectures

A lecture on "Comparative Histophysiology of the Vertebrate Nephron" will be given by Dr. Pol Gérard, professor of histology in the Université Libre de Bruxelles, at King's College, Strand, W.C., on May 4, at 5.30 p.m. The chair will be taken by Dr. F. R. Winton.

Dr. J. W. Trevan will give a course of three lectures on "Variation in the Response of Animals to Drugs" at the Wellcome Institute for Medical Research, Euston Road, N.W., on May 23, 24, and 25, at 5.30 p.m. At the first lecture the chair will be taken by Sir Henry Dale, F.R.S.

A public lecture on "Some Aspects of Heart Sounds in Normal Pathological Conditions" will be delivered by Dr. E. Braun-Menendez of the Institute of Physiology in the Faculty of Medical Sciences, Buenos Aires, at University College, Gower Street, W.C., on Tuesday, May 3, at 5 p.m.

UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER

On Founder's Day, May 18, the honorary degree of Doctor of Science will be conferred on Sir Henry Dale, M.D., F.R.S., who was unable to attend to receive it last year.