

Dr. Stungo said that in his view it was possible to shorten the period of treatment and at the same time obtain satisfactory results by means of the technique he described. This consisted of injecting evipan sodium intravenously in sub-anaesthetic doses and producing a light narcosis or hypnotic state. Evipan acted on the higher cortical centres and its effect was to inhibit inhibition. In that way resistance, conscious or unconscious, on the part of the patient was overcome. Thus he was enabled to obtain intimate details of personal history which did not depend on the discretion, judgment, or good taste of the patient. Information was neither suppressed nor distorted. Uncooperative patients became accessible; the development of transference was not as essential as with other psychological techniques.

Local News

ENGLAND AND WALES

Sir Henry Brackenbury

The following is an extract from the minutes of the County of Middlesex Education Committee, April, 1940:

"The Chairman reminded the Committee that in consequence of his decision not to offer himself for re-election Sir Henry Brackenbury, who had been a member of the Committee for about thirty-six years, had ceased to be a member. It was resolved: That the sincere thanks of the Middlesex Education Committee be accorded to Sir Henry Brackenbury for the valuable services which he has rendered during an exceptionally long period of office as a co-opted member of the Committee."

The following is an extract from the annual report of the Executive Committee of the Association of Education Committees for 1939-40:

"Sir Henry Brackenbury, having retired from his representation of the Middlesex Education Committee, ceases to be a member of the Executive Committee. Dr. Brackenbury was first elected a member in the year 1905, and has been a member of the Executive Committee up to 1940. He was President of the Association for four successive years of the last world war, the years ending in 1914, 1915, 1916, and 1917. Sir Henry's record of work, not only for education but also for the professional service which he himself adorns, is a record of which he may well be proud."

The Birmingham United Hospital

The Birmingham United Hospital includes the General and Jaffray Hospitals, Queen's Hospital, and the new Queen Elizabeth Hospital at Edgbaston. These are worked as one; this is exemplified in the honorary medical and surgical staff, who serve as a single group, the interchangeability of members between the units having been clearly established. For some weeks after the outbreak of war many hundreds of void beds were reserved from the ordinary peacetime establishment, and in addition large consignments of Government beds were received and made ready for expected casualties. Eventually, as the result of strong representations to the Ministry of Health, normal arrangements were to a large extent resumed, and at the date of the annual report (March, 1940) the number of beds in ordinary daily use at all the units was 1,155; the number reserved for emergency from ordinary peacetime establishment was 154, and there were 1,025 special Government beds standing ready.

When the great new hospital was opened recently the understanding was that as soon as it reached a complement of 200 to 250 beds any further expansion should be followed by a reduction at Queen's Hospital. At the moment Queen Elizabeth Hospital has upwards of 400 beds in use, but war conditions have prevented any corresponding reduction taking place at Queen's, and the arrangement is for the time being in abeyance. A proposal, however, is being made that Queen's

should become a fracture and traumatic centre, for which there is an admitted need in a city and area such as Birmingham. About 280 to 300 beds would be required for the specialist treatment of fractures and early rehabilitation, and Queen's at a small expenditure could be admirably adapted for the purpose. In that event the Queen Elizabeth Hospital would yield to the city the full quota of "new" beds which it was always intended that it should. The United Hospital Board is prepared to consider transferring Queen's to some new body for the purpose, itself retaining, of course, the ownership of the buildings and the freehold site. On the financial side the annual report sounds a grave note. The United Hospital is a voluntary institution, still depending on the support of the public, although that support has become, under the aegis of contributory schemes, more corporate in nature. The gap between a more or less static subscription revenue and the increasing costs of a modern hospital has been valiantly filled for a time by the contributory method of support, which in Birmingham is second only in magnitude to the London achievement. But the Board now finds the burden of maintaining its units beyond the present range of its income. The hospital is, in fact, eating up its limited capital.

IRELAND

Medical Research Council of Ireland

The Medical Research Council of Ireland, under the chairmanship of Professor R. P. Farnan and the honorary secretaryship of Professor J. W. Bigger, according to its third annual report, is passing through a phase of financial difficulty, and has been compelled to alter its policy with regard to awards until more funds become available. The Council originally believed that a grant of £10,000 would be made to it for its work each year, but the appropriation during 1939 (received from the Hospitals Trust Board under the guarantee of the Minister for Local Government and Public Health) was only £5,000. A certain amount of unexpended balance has been added to this sum for use during 1939 and 1940, but when this is exhausted at the end of the present year the Council is likely to be compelled further to restrict its commitments. At present existing grant-holders are being supported so far as possible. Only eight new grants were made during 1939, but grants to eighteen workers were renewed for a further period. In the annual report brief summaries are given of the work done by the grant-holders, which embraces many fields of investigation, and more than twenty papers were contributed to medical and scientific literature by grant-holders during the year.

In the report of Crichton Royal Infirmary, Dumfries, for 1939 mention is made of various improvements, including the installation of a ward for the application of insulin therapy. Under the guidance of Dr. Mayer-Gross, formerly Professor of Psychiatry at Heidelberg University, this treatment was given to twenty-five patients suffering from schizophrenia during the later months of the year, and the results were satisfactory. The report stresses the importance of varying the procedure to suit the individual patient, and of combining it with psychotherapy. Eighteen patients, seventeen suffering from melancholia and one from mania and obsessional neurosis, were treated by prolonged narcosis. Small doses of somnifaine over a period of fourteen days were given, supplemented, when necessary, by paraldehyde or chloral hydrate. Convulsive therapy was employed not only in cases of schizophrenia but also in other psychoses and even neuroses, with especially gratifying results in cases of involutional melancholia. Up to the time the report was compiled 149 patients had been treated with cardiazol and seventy-four with triazol. It is stated that the latter drug appeared to produce the better results. The total number of patients under treatment in the institution during the year was 1,346.

Locating Foreign Bodies in the Limbs

SIR.—I believe the method of locating foreign bodies in the limbs so well described by Dr. Leonard Ley (May 11, p. 771) was introduced by Dr. Shenton of Guy's Hospital. He was good enough to show me the method at the beginning of the last war, and advised me to practise it by hiding a coin in a lump of dough. After a little experience it was easy to locate the coin exactly. Later on in the war I found the method very useful when I was in charge of the x-ray department of the Military Hospital, Plymouth.—I am, etc.,

W. H. STEELE, M.B., D.M.R.E.,
Hon. Radiologist, Newton Abbot Hospital.

May 13.

Medico-Legal

DAMAGES FOR NEUROSIS

Those who desire to see the growth of mutual understanding between medical men and lawyers will rejoice at a judgment of the Court of Appeal in a recent running-down case.¹ His Majesty's judges may still now and again tend to interpret too strictly the rules in Macnaghten's case, but Lord Justice Slesser gave ample proof that he understands the nature of neurosis.

A young girl was injured in a taxicab accident and claimed damages, among other things, for neurosis. When the action was tried before Mr. Justice Stable the judge said she impressed him as having one major preoccupation in life—how ill she was. He was satisfied that if she could only persuade herself that she could do so, she could be working and living a perfectly normal life in a couple of months. If she had made a resolute effort, or if someone had made it for her, to get back to the normal active life of a normal active young woman, and if the circumstances were such that she was compelled to do so, there was nothing in the world to prevent it. Dealing with the quantum of damages, he thought she had only persuaded herself that every time she did something a little energetic it hurt her, but when she did something else—because the pain was really in her mind—it stopped aching. He thought she had derived a certain amount of enjoyment from contemplating the peculiar sort of existence which she had elected to live. He awarded £300 damages for the neurosis, and she appealed, saying that this amount was insufficient. The Court of Appeal ordered a new trial on the ground that the learned judge, having come to the conclusion that the condition was neurotic, allowed considerations to enter his mind which must have affected his estimation of the damage. Lord Justice Slesser dealt effectively with the argument of counsel that, the pain being neurotic and not organic, if the girl did not attempt to do the things which gave her pain or indulge in that particular kind of activity, then she would not suffer pain. That, he said, was exactly the dilemma with which counsel was faced. If the plaintiff could avoid the pain by not doing certain normal things, then she had been damaged because she could not do them. Conversely, if she attempted them and felt pain, then there was no basis for saying that the pain did not cause much suffering. Obviously, if the true conclusion was that she had suffered much pain for three years, she would be entitled to more damages than she would be on the view that she had suffered very little pain. The matter could not be determined conclusively by merely saying that she was neurotic. That she could not make the effort to live normally was part of the illness. In other words, the learned Lord Justice exploded the view that "neurotic" is a synonym for "unreal."

¹ *Liffen v. Watson.* 1940 2 All E.R., 213.

CARDIAC SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND

The annual meeting of the above society was held in the Cardiac Department of the London Hospital on May 9, under the chairmanship of Dr. John Parkinson. After a debate on fitness for war service, a committee was appointed to investigate and make recommendations on the cardiac examination of recruits.

In the afternoon there was a demonstration of cases, x-ray films, and electrocardiograms. This was followed by a discussion on the effort syndrome, the problem being considered as it is now presenting itself in military service. Means of obviating incapacity from this cause were examined, as well as its treatment. The original communications in the programme, as arranged by the honorary secretary, Dr. Maurice Campbell, concerned auricular septal defect, special forms of infective endocarditis, and surgical aspects of hypertension with unilateral renal damage.

Universities and Colleges

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

In Convocation on May 14 a proposal to confer the honorary degree of D.Sc. on Dr. Mariano Rafael Castex of Buenos Aires was approved. It will be conferred by delegates elected by the Chancellor, Lord Halifax. Dr. Castex has been for more than twenty-five years professor of clinical medicine at the University of Buenos Aires, and was for a time Rector.

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

The Vice-Chancellor gives notice that a Congregation will be held on Saturday, August 3, at 2 p.m. Degrees may be conferred at this Congregation (1) upon supplicants for medical and surgical degrees who are qualified to proceed to degrees on that day under *Ordinances*, p. 3, section 9; (2) under Grace 8 of May 10, upon supplicants for degrees whose qualifications therefor include the emergency allowance of one or more terms or of an examination.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

LONDON (ROYAL FREE HOSPITAL) SCHOOL OF MEDICINE FOR WOMEN

The following postgraduate scholarships will be awarded for the session 1940-1: (a) A. M. Bird Scholarship, £200 for one year tenable from August 1, 1940, to enable a medical graduate to obtain general experience in pathology; (b) Mabel Webb and A. M. Bird Research Scholarship, £200 a year for assistance in carrying on research. Further particulars and forms of application can be obtained from the warden and secretary of the Medical School, Hunter Street, Brunswick Square, W.C.1. Applications must be received by June 10.

UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

The following appointments have been made to the staff of the Department of Surgery in consequence of the impending retirement of Professor E. R. Flint, F.R.C.S., from the chair of surgery and the directorship of surgical research: Professor P. J. Moir, F.R.C.S., who at present holds the chair of clinical surgery, becomes professor of surgery, and Mr. H. W. Symons, F.R.C.S., succeeds him as professor of clinical surgery. Mr. L. N. Pyrah, F.R.C.S., is appointed director of surgical research.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF EDINBURGH

At a meeting of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh held on May 14, with Dr. H. M. Traquair, president, in the chair, the following, having passed the requisite examinations, were admitted Fellows:

J. C. Andreas, H. Barat, L. L. Bernstein, B. B. Bhatia, W. A. Coe, R. J. Crompton, B. J. D. Dunne, K. J. Eager, J. R. Frank, D. F. Freebody, J. G. O. Hamman, B. A. Jackson, J. O. Kelly, A. B. Morrison, K. S. Mullard, G. D. Oliver, G. I. M. Ross, L. M. Rouillard, G. Singh-Janda, E. Thomas, L. R. Williams, R. W. Wise, J. D. Younghusband.

Dr. GEORGE WHITLEY MICKLETHWAIT, who died on May 10 at St. Albans, was for many years one of the leading medical practitioners in York. He came of Yorkshire stock on both sides of the family and was educated at Charterhouse, at Trinity Hall, Cambridge, and at St. Bartholomew's Hospital. He took the English Conjoint diplomas and the B.Ch. of Cambridge in 1902, proceeding to the M.D. in 1907. He held house appointments at the West London and the Paddington Green Children's Hospitals, and then practised for a time in Shropshire before moving to York, where he was elected to the staff of the York County Hospital and became senior physician. Dr. Micklethwait was a past president of the York Medical Society, and served on the Special Diseases Subcommittee of the York Health Committee some twelve years ago.

Dr. CHRISTOPHER KILVINTON MOWLL, whose recent death at the relatively early age of 47 will leave many friends to mourn his loss, was the son of a well-known Kentish family. He was educated at King's School, Canterbury, at Cambridge, and at the London Hospital, and he served in Mesopotamia in the last war. In 1921 he joined the Headquarters Medical Branch of the Post Office, and had soon endeared himself to both his colleagues and patients. In 1937 he left the Post Office on being appointed Chief Medical Officer to the Southern Railway. H. H. B. writes: Mowll was a big man physically, with deeply held evangelical religious views; and he never travelled without a Bible in his pocket or dispatch case. He was a very well-known lay preacher, and particularly interested in Sunday school and missionary work. But he never obtruded his religious views, although they were implicit in his every action. Anybody who needed his help could be certain of getting it, and the profession has lost in him a singularly fine staunch type of high-souled and conscientious Englishman.

We regret to announce the death of Dr. VIOLET KELYNACK, medical secretary of the Medical Women's Federation, which took place at Harpenden, Herts, on May 17. Clara Violet McLaren, daughter of James Grieve McLaren, was born in Calcutta, and was educated at Bedford High School and at the Medical College for Women, Edinburgh. She graduated M.B., Ch.B.Ed. in 1903 and was for a time clinical assistant at the Evelina Hospital for Sick Children and assistant medical officer to the National Children's Home and Orphanage. Besides her work for the Medical Women's Federation she was a member of the council of the Society of Inebriety, of which her husband, Dr. T. N. Kelynack, was for many years honorary secretary; they married in 1904.

Dr. GILBERT PERCY HUMPHRY, who died at Old Court, Abergavenny, on May 17, was born at Wisborough Green, Sussex, in 1885. He studied at St. George's Hospital, and after qualifying in 1909 as M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., held in turn the posts of house-surgeon, house-physician, resident obstetrician, and resident anaesthetist. He served in Mesopotamia, Egypt, and France during the last war with the rank of captain R.A.M.C. Dr. Humphry was honorary physician to the Abergavenny Cottage Hospital and had been a member of the British Medical Association since 1914.

The British Standards Institution have just issued a specification in the A.R.P. series for anti-gas ointment. The object of the standard is to provide a guide as to the quality of a satisfactory ointment for anti-gas treatment. The ointment is the type generally known as bleach ointment, which is compounded by mixing stabilized bleaching powder with white mineral jelly. The specification defines not only the properties of the ointment itself but also those of the bleaching powder and the mineral jelly from which it is made. The manner in which the tests are to be carried out to determine whether the material conforms to the specified properties is described in a number of appendices. Copies of this specification may be had from the British Standards Institution, 28, Victoria Street, S.W.1, price 2d. each (4d. post free).

The Services

MEDICAL EXAMINATION FOR THE SERVICES

Mr. Ernest Bevin, the new Minister of Labour and National Service, has appointed a committee to advise him on medical questions arising out of the examination of men by civilian medical boards under the National Service (Armed Forces) Act, 1939. The committee will consider questions on which authoritative advice is desired, the principal of which are the detection of cases of pulmonary tuberculosis and of effort syndrome. On these two questions it will be asked to advise immediately. The members are Lord Horder (chairman); Surgeon Captain G. H. M. Gimlette, Admiralty; Dr. W. Haward, Acting D.M.S., Ministry of Pensions; Dr. T. W. Kennedy, Senior Regional Medical Officer, Department of Health for Scotland; Colonel J. A. Manifold, A.M.S., War Office; Dr. Geoffrey Marshall, nominated by the Royal College of Physicians; Group Captain D'Arcy Power, Air Ministry; Dr. N. F. Smith, Medical Officer, Ministry of Health; Mr. G. C. Veysey, Ministry of Labour and National Service; and Dr. R. E. Whitting, Divisional Medical Officer, Ministry of Health.

DEATHS IN THE SERVICES

Lieutenant-Colonel VICTOR EDWARD HUGH LINDESAY, Bengal Medical Service (ret.), died at Burley, New Forest, on May 2, aged 70. He was born on May 22, 1869, the son of the late Frederick Lindesay, D.L., J.P., of Loughry, County Tyrone, was educated at Owens College, Manchester, and at St. Mary's Hospital, and took the M.B., Ch.B. of Victoria University of Manchester in 1893. He entered the Indian Medical Service as surgeon lieutenant on January 29, 1896, became lieutenant-colonel on January 29, 1915, and retired on May 24, 1924. Most of his service was spent in civil employ in Bihar and Orissa. He served in the China War of 1900, receiving the medals, and received the Royal Humane Society's bronze medal for saving a man from drowning on July 29, 1903, when stationed in North China. He had been a member of the British Medical Association for thirty-two years.

Lieutenant-Colonel PERCY CLARENCE DOUGLASS, R.A.M.C. (ret.), died suddenly at Eastbourne on May 8, aged 65. He was born on March 23, 1875, was educated at St. Mary's Hospital, and took the M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. in 1900. He entered the Royal Army Medical Corps as lieutenant on July 26, 1900, reached the rank of lieutenant-colonel on December 26, 1917, and retired in December, 1928. He had been a member of the British Medical Association for twenty-seven years.

Lieutenant-Colonel WILLIAM ERNEST MCKECHNIE, I.M.S. (ret.) died at Hastings on May 13, aged 65. He was born on August 12, 1874, at Cronstadt in the Orange Free State, and was educated at the University of Edinburgh, where he acted as demonstrator of anatomy in the school of the Royal College of Surgeons, and graduated M.B., Ch.B. in 1897. Entering the Indian Medical Service as lieutenant on July 27, 1899, he became lieutenant-colonel on January 28, 1919, and retired on January 23, 1922. He served in the China War of 1900 (medal) and in the Mohmand campaign on the North-West Frontier of India in 1908 (Frontier medal with clasp). In 1911 he was posted to civil employ in the United Provinces, but reverted to military employ at the beginning of the war of 1914-18. After the war he served for a short time as civil surgeon of Lucknow and professor of midwifery at King George's Medical College, Lucknow. He had been a member of the British Medical Association for twenty-two years.

Major ALEXANDER STABLES, R.A.M.C. (ret.), died at Pitgaveny, Elgin, on May 10, aged 80. He was born at Cawdor on March 12, 1860, and was educated at the University of Edinburgh, where he graduated M.B., C.M. in 1883, also taking the M.R.C.S. Eng. in 1884. Entering the Army as surgeon on January 31, 1885, he became major on January 31, 1897, and retired on January 31, 1905. He served in the Sudan, in the Frontier Field Force, in 1885-6 (medal and Khedive's bronze star); in the Chitral campaign of 1895, with the relief force (Frontier medal with clasp); and in the Tirah campaign of 1897-8 (two clasps). He rejoined for service in the war of 1914-18, from August 8, 1914. He had been a member of the British Medical Association for thirty-eight years.