

**Action of Eumydrine in Pyloric Hypertrophy**

SIR,—In Sir Walter Langdon-Brown's fascinating address (Jan. 13, p. 35) mention is made of a subject that has long puzzled me. That is the use of eumydrine in infantile pyloric hypertrophy. The action of the vagus is generally given as that of an "emptier" and that of the sympathetic as a "filler." Now, as Sir Walter Langdon-Brown says, "atropine paralyses the vagus," and a few lines later that eumydrine, which has an atropine-like effect, is particularly useful in relieving pylorospasm. Surely its only possible action can be in abolishing the peristalsis of the stomach and so diminishing the vomiting. What is wanted is something that will paralyse the sympathetic.—I am, etc.,

Nelson.

O. WILSON.

**The Services****AMERICAN HONOUR FOR SIR E. M. COWELL**

The President of the United States has awarded the military decoration of the Legion of Merit to Major-Gen. Sir Ernest M. Cowell, K.B.E., D.S.O., F.R.C.S., "for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services from September, 1942, to March, 1944," as director of medical services at Allied Headquarters, Mediterranean Theatre. General Cowell was responsible for the medical services of the Allied landings and later operations in North Africa, Sicily, and Italy. "He welded together the medical services of the American and British Forces and produced a highly successful organization which resulted in the saving of many lives and contributed to the well-being and comfort of the sick and wounded of both nations." He received the decoration at the hands of General Eisenhower on Jan. 15.

The following have been mentioned in dispatches in recognition of gallant and distinguished services in Italy: Brigs. (Acting) J. J. Magner, M.C., and J. G. Morgan, O.B.E., T.D.; Cols. (Temp.) C. B. C. Anderson, O.B.E., A. Angus, T.D., J. T. McQuat, O.B.E., T.D., R. M. Savege, O.B.E., M.C., C. H. K. Smith, O.B.E., M.C., J. R. N. Warburton, M.C.; Col. (Acting) G. G. Drummond; Lieut.-Col. J. H. Ward, D.S.O., M.C.; Majors (Temp. Lieut.-Cols.) W. A. Ball, T.D., W. S. Brindle, H. A. Brittain, J. D. Easton, O.B.E., W. Graham, L. J. Haydon, L. G. Irvine, D. MacD. Lyon, D. M. Mitchell, W. Patrick, G. W. Molyneux, E. F. S. Morrison, M.C., J. J. O'Connell, O.B.E., J. Pyle, M.C., J. H. Sangster, A. Wilcox, and P. H. Wood; Capt. (Temp. Major) (Acting Lieut.-Col.) N. G. G. Talbot; Major S. S. Chesser; Capt. (Temp. Major) S. Alstead, A. H. Baker, E. L. Carter, F. A. Denz, J. F. Ford, E. M. Griffin, W. F. Hamilton, W. A. Heggie, M.C., C. C. Hurst, D. B. Jagger, D. Jefferiss, R. C. Little, J. C. MacKillop, B. J. Malley, D. Matheson, J. M. McKiddie, J. D. N. Nabarro, A. I. Ross, H. M. D. Shepherd, N. J. Y. Simpson, A. Stuart, H. Waters, W. R. West-Watson, M.B.E., J. H. Whittles, and E. G. Wright; Capt. H. Auger, E. Batley, O. H. Belam, C. Cameron, J. W. M. Christie, T. B. Davidson, K. B. Dawson, D. C. Devine, G. F. Edwards, M.B.E., J. T. A. Essex, C. Giles, S. J. G. Gilmour, R. T. Grime, A. Henderson, A. W. F. Heron, E. W. Lindeck, J. G. Macarthur, M.C., D. Macdonald, J. McLean, L. F. McWilliams, F. E. Milson, A. E. Rampling, E. M. Sewell, J. M. M. Steven, M. G. Sutton, R. T. B. Watson, C. W. M. Whitty, and M. Wirtheim; Lieuts. C. Creffield, F. B. Lee, and R. C. Medland, R.A.M.C.; Capt. (Temp. Major) L. N. O'Hara, A. K. M. Mazhar, and V. Parkash; Capt. S. C. Gosh, I. Singh, M. K. Ray, S. Kesavelu, S. K. Misra, and P. N. Swift; Subadar (Acting Subadar Major) H. Narian; Subadars M. K. Choudhury, B. N. Ray, and S. N. Lal; Jemadar B. H. Faroque, I.A.M.C.

The Cross of Merit (with Swords) has been conferred upon Acting Squad. Ldr. P. A. Carrie, R.A.F.V.R., by the President of the Republic of Poland in recognition of valuable services rendered in connexion with the war.

**CASUALTIES IN THE MEDICAL SERVICES**

*Died in Italy.*—Capt. Michael Robert Mullins, S.A.M.C.

*Wounded.*—Capt. N. G. D. Campbell, War Subs. Capt. J. H. Bennett, S. M. P. Conway, M.C., J. C. F. Cregan, and J. Scott, R.A.M.C.

*Repatriated in September, 1943, now known to be wounded.*—War Subs. Capt. N. C. Rogers, R.A.M.C.

*Reported missing at Arnheim, now known to be wounded and prisoner of war in Germany.*—Major C. J. Longland, R.A.M.C.

*Missing.*—Capt. B. d'E. Barclay, R.A.M.C.

*Prisoners of war.*—Lieut.-Col. W. C. Alford, O.B.E., R.A.M.C., Major C. Russell, M.C., R.A.M.C.

**Obituary****SIR BUCKSTON BROWNE, LL.D., F.R.C.S.**

The death of Sir Buckston Browne at the age of 94 removes a picturesque and attractive figure from his favourite haunts in Marylebone and Lincoln's Inn Fields. He retained a remarkable vigour till the end of his life. Buckston Browne belonged in spirit to a much later age than the mid-Victorian in which he was born, and physically too, for anyone listening to his strong voice and robust utterance would never have guessed his years. When he was 90 he announced his intention of living to be a hundred, and in token thereof renewed the lease of his Wimpole Street house for another ten years. At that same advanced age, after the second European war had broken out, he dismissed with contempt any suggestion that he should go to live in the country, and insisted on taking his usual walks in the "black-out." Within a few weeks of becoming a nonagenarian he addressed a public meeting on great athletic feats he had witnessed in his time, and famous pedestrians and pugilists who had been among his acquaintance. Their achievements he attributed to total abstinence, which he himself had practised for sixty years. His own particular "vanity"—to use a Wellerism which is appropriate with reference to one who was president of the Dickens Fellowship—was snuff, which he took as a prophylactic against colds in the head, but we believe he strictly rationed his allowance by putting the snuff receptacle in a distant part of his house so that some real effort was necessary if he wanted another pinch.



[Photo by Bassano, Ltd.]

George Buckston Browne was born in Manchester and educated at Owens College. He was the only son of Dr. Henry Browne, physician to the Manchester Royal Infirmary and lecturer on medicine to the Medical School. Five successive generations of Brownes were doctors, the first of this line being Dr. Theophilus Browne of Derby, fellow-townsmen and contemporary of Dr. Erasmus Darwin, grandfather of Charles Darwin, who lived in Derby from 1783 to 1802. George Buckston Browne was the fifth of this dynasty, and his great sorrow was that, having lost his only son, Lieut.-Col. George Buckston Browne, D.S.O., in the last war (he died in 1919), there was no one to follow him in the profession. But he found solace in the fact that his only daughter is the wife of Sir Hugh Lett, Past President of the Royal College of Surgeons.

In 1866, at the age of 16, Buckston Browne matriculated as a student of London University and entered University College, where he was presently awarded medals in anatomy, chemistry, and midwifery, gaining the gold medal for practical chemistry and the Liston gold medal in surgery. He qualified M.R.C.S. in 1874, and was made house-surgeon at University College Hospital, where he served under Sir John Erichsen, then at the end of his term as surgeon there, and was made demonstrator in anatomy under Prof. George Viner Ellis. Later he was invited by Sir Henry Thompson, then consulting surgeon to University College Hospital, with a fashionable practice in Wimpole Street—he had just numbered the Emperor Napoleon III among his patients—to be his private assistant and afterwards his collaborator. He remained in association with Sir Henry Thompson for 14 years in private surgical practice in London, and then for 30 years he practised alone. His application to his profession was so complete that it was said that for 27 years he had neither a free day nor a holiday. When he was quite a young man the Harveian Society, which he joined in 1874, and of which after 50 years he was made Life President, honoured him by asking him to give the Harveian Lectures. The remuneration was not to be despised—15 guineas for three lectures—but the giving of those lectures had an immense effect on whatever success he had met with in his profession as a private surgical practitioner in London. Later in life he showed his gratitude by endowing the annual dinner of the Harveian Society and a biennial prize for essays by young practitioners.

the British Medical Association throughout his professional life; he took a keen but unostentatious interest in its work and was a diligent reader of the *Journal*. He attended and enjoyed many of the Annual Meetings, and was a member of the World Tour in the summer of 1935 when the B.M.A. met in Melbourne.

Dr. EDWARD SMALLWOOD, of Knight's Hill, West Norwood, S.E., died on Jan. 15 at King's College Hospital. He studied medicine at University College, Liverpool, and in London, took the L.S.A. in 1894 and the M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. in 1901, and soon afterwards obtained the M.D. Brussels degree. He held various junior posts at the Royal Infirmary, Liverpool, before settling in practice at Norwood, where he became medical officer to the Home for the Aged Poor and visiting medical officer to the local children's hospital. During the last war he served as honorary physician to the Chelsea War Hospital, the Meynell Hospital for Officers, and the Lambeth Auxiliary War Hospital. Dr. Smallwood joined the B.M.A. in 1889 and was a past president of the Norwood Medical Society.

A great personality has gone with the death of Dr. JANE LORIMER HAWTHORNE. She was one of the pioneers of sex education for the young and attempted successfully to tear down the veil of prurient mystery with which it had been enveloped. As a lecturer for the Alliance of Honour and the British Social Hygiene Council she had great success. A sense of humour helped her in this, as also did her power of ranging herself along with her audience. She was not a lecturer "telling people" but one of themselves discussing the matter. She positively welcomed interruptions, and would follow them down any by-way that her audience wanted. As medical officer to child welfare centres in the early days she was able to give information in a form acceptable to the working-class mother. Her views (as in all matters) were very definite, and those on the subject of dummies for babies overflowed on to the walls of her Canning Town clinic. It was not enough for her that a normal healthy child had been produced and that the mother had satisfactorily established breast-feeding; there was always a careful examination with a note on the involution or position of the uterus and the condition of cervix and perineum. New ideas were always being tried out: there was no fear of mental stagnation when Dr. Hawthorne was about. Ill-health had diminished her activities for some time, and a love of gardens and plants was added to her other interests. One could not be in her company without realizing a very remarkable, original, and many-sided personality.—L. M. P.

Dr. ERNEST WORLEY's death, while a great loss to the B.M.A. as a whole, will be particularly felt at the meetings of the City Division. Every year (writes a colleague) he drew up a programme of monthly scientific meetings where the lectures were much appreciated and followed by good discussions. He was able to infuse informality and friendliness so that the youngest, shyest, and most retiring members were made to feel that their opinions were wanted. Those who had held office will long remember the dinners before the scientific meetings, where they had an opportunity of making personal contact with the lecturer. All this meant a good deal of organizing work, which was never shirked when medical work was heavy or when Dr. Worley might have been thought to be fully occupied as organizing secretary for the Centenary Meeting. Dr. and Mrs. Worley loved the Division, and the Division loved them.

C. J. de V. S. writes: To everyone who knew J. J. O'MULLANE, whether as friends or patients, his early death will cause much sorrow and leave behind a void it will be hard to fill. His great understanding and sympathy for those in trouble, his readiness to give a helping hand to whomsoever needed it, endeared him to all who came in contact with him. He had an outstanding sense of humour—a ready Irish wit which would often waft away the cares and troubles of his patients. For many years he suffered from indifferent health, but his insuperable energy and his indomitable courage made him carry on his practice, never sparing himself day or night to go to the aid of those who needed him. Although his practice was large he never failed to keep in touch with the latest advances in medicine, and his treatment was always the most modern. His knowledge of medicine was extensive, and if he had not felt his work lay in general practice he would have attained great heights. I have worked with him, and no words can speak too highly of him as a colleague. His early death at the age of 52 years has cut short the work he was doing in Plumstead—work in which his heart lay; but in the minds of all who knew him one thought remains above all: "He was a man."

## Universities and Colleges

### UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

The programme of lectures on science in the history of thought, to be delivered in Mill Lane Lecture Rooms at 12 noon, includes one on Saturday, Feb. 10, by Dr. A. E. Clark-Kennedy on medicine and the progress of thought. These lectures are open, without fee, to all members of Cambridge or London University or of Girton or Newnham College.

### UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

L. S. Penrose, M.D., has been appointed to the Galton Chair of Eugenics tenable at University College. He has been attached since 1939 to the Provincial Department of Health, Ontario, Canada, and is also a physician at the Ontario Hospital, lecturer in psychiatry in the University of Western Ontario, and medical statistician for the Province.

C. Rimington, Ph.D., B.Sc., has been appointed as from May 1 to the University Chair of Chemical Pathology tenable at University College Hospital Medical School. Since 1937 he has been on the staff of the National Institute for Medical Research.

The following candidates have been approved at the examinations indicated:

M.D.—BRANCH I (*Medicine*): James Marshall. BRANCH II (*Pathology*): R. E. O. Williams. BRANCH IV (*Midwifery and Diseases of Women*): G. C. Brentnall, E. Garland Collins. BRANCH V (*Hygiene*): Sarah C. B. Walker.

### UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW

A graduation ceremony was held on Jan. 13, when the following medical degrees were conferred:

M.D.—\*Thomas Anderson, †H. W. Bowyer, †T. McM. Curran, R. D. Campbell.

M.B., Ch.B.—A. R. Beaton, J. E. Bennett, Katharine N. Brittain, D. F. Bruce, J. P. G. P. Burnie, A. C. Connell, M. S. Crawford, W. A. Crawford, J. L. Crichton, W. Cullen, W. J. A. Dobson, Agnes P. Downie, R. E. Evans, R. C. Forrest, J. Freedman, Arthur Jamieson, J. L. Kelly, L. Kennedy, W. I. Kenyon, G. J. Ker, R. Lindsay, R. McP. Livingston, Margaret J. MacArthur, J. B. Macmillan, T. P. Magee, S. S. Meighan, W. Napier, A. J. Nelson, I. A. Porter, G. B. Prentice, Jean A. Furdie, J. T. W. Robertson, S. J. T. Robertson, Janette C. Russell, T. Smart, J. R. Smith, Raymond Smith, Rose K. Smith, Isobel D. Stewart, J. B. Stirling, F. H. Stone, K. J. Whitelaw, T. C. D. Whiteside, A. M. Williamson, Alexander Young.

\* With honours. † With commendation.

The Brunton Memorial Prize was awarded to J. K. Watt as the most distinguished graduate in medicine of the academic year 1943-4, and the West of Scotland R.A.M.C. Memorial Prize to C. M. Ross as the candidate with the highest aggregate number of marks in surgery, medicine, and midwifery in the final examinations for the degrees of M.B., Ch.B., 1943-4.

### UNIVERSITY OF WALES

#### THE WELSH NATIONAL SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

The following candidates have satisfied the examiners at the examination indicated:

M.B., B.Ch.—(*Hygiene*): D. Anthony, J. H. Edworthy, Hannah P. Evans, J. C. Ham, I. D. Jacobs, Jane W. James, D. G. Jones, D. O. Lewis, D. R. Lewis, W. T. Lloyd, Olwen V. Rees.

### ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND

A quarterly meeting of the Council of the College was held on Jan. 11, under the chairmanship of the President, Sir Alfred Webb-Johnson, who was warmly congratulated by the Council on the award of a baronetcy. Arrangements were made for the delivery of professorial lectures on anatomy by Prof. A. J. E. Cave and on physiology by Prof. John Beattie. The first course will begin on Feb. 19. It was reported that the trustees of the Prophit Trust had reappointed Dr. D. E. Lea of the Strangeways Laboratory, Cambridge, and had appointed Mr. Peter C. Williams of the Middlesex Hospital, Prophit Research Students.

It was decided to recognize the posts of first and second house-surgeon of the Royal Northern Infirmary, Inverness, for the six months' surgical practice required of candidates for the Final Fellowship examination.

#### Diplomas

Diplomas of Membership were granted to Flavia Z. L. B. James and H. B. Marsden.

Diplomas in Public Health, in Psychological Medicine, and in Laryngology and Otolaryngology were granted jointly with the Royal College of Physicians of London to the following candidates:

DIPLOMA IN PUBLIC HEALTH.—P. S. Jaikaran, H. G. Williams.  
DIPLOMA IN PSYCHOLOGICAL MEDICINE.—P. Cassar, Louise F. W. Eickhoff, R. K. Freudenberg, G. W. Green, D. Jackson, P. D. Scott, L. M. Shorvon, G. D. F. Steele, E. Wellisch.  
DIPLOMA IN LARYNGOLOGY AND OTOLARYNGOLOGY.—R. G. Boyd, A. S. Davidson, N. A. Punt, G. Snowden, P. A. Thorpe.

## ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS IN IRELAND

Prof. W. N. Rae, Sc.D., Registrar of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, Dublin, has received the following letter from Sir Alfred Webb-Johnson, President of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, dated Dec. 28, 1944:

"I beg to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of your letter of the 22nd instant enclosing a donation of one hundred guineas from the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland to the fund for the restoration of my College. I shall be glad if you will inform the President, Vice-president, and Council of your College that this spontaneous gesture is very deeply appreciated by me and my colleagues on the Council of this College. The gift will always be remembered as a token of our friendly relationships and as an earnest of our cordial co-operation in the future."

## Medical Notes in Parliament

### Women Medical Students: Admission a Condition of Grant

Dr. SUMMERSKILL on Jan. 18 asked Mr. Willink to make a statement on the report of the Interdepartmental Committee on Medical Schools.

Mr. WILLINK replied that the committee recommended a comprehensive programme for the reform and development of medical education and research. Certain of the matters involved would require legislation. These the Government proposed to discuss with the bodies concerned. Apart from these the committee's recommendations were in the first place for the responsible educational authorities to study in framing their future policy. The Government accordingly invited universities, medical schools, and teaching hospitals to give the report early consideration. Recognizing the fundamental importance of medical education and research to the future of the country's health services, the Government accepted the principle of increased grants for the purposes of medical education and research to be distributed by the University Grants Committee through the universities to medical schools, postgraduate schools and institutes, and hospitals used for teaching and research. They also accepted the suggestion that for a limited period these additional grants should be separated from the block grants received by universities for their work as a whole. The amounts of grant to be made from time to time, whether for capital or for recurrent expenditure, would be determined after consideration in the light of the recommendations of the University Grants Committee and the general financial position prevailing. The Government shared the views expressed in the report on the importance of affording to women equal opportunities to those enjoyed by men for medical training and for obtaining postgraduate experience. They had therefore decided, as recommended by the committee, that future payments of grant to medical schools should be conditional on the adoption by the school of the principle of admitting a reasonable proportion of students of both sexes. They recognized that schools at present open to one sex only might need periods of varying lengths to adjust their arrangements to a co-educational basis. They therefore proposed that the University Grants Committee in consultation with the university authorities concerned should be charged with the responsibility of determining from time to time whether the action taken by each of these schools complied with the principle to the extent that is reasonable. The Government attached equal importance to the revision of the medical curriculum. Their acceptance of the principle of increased grants for medical education and research was dependent on the early completion of this process. They were glad to learn that, as recommended by the committee, the General Medical Council had already taken the initiative in the matter.

### Deaf Aids Committee

Sir D. HACKING asked on Jan. 8 for the names of the members of the committee appointed to advise and assist the Medical Research Council in promoting research into electro-acoustical problems of design and application of instruments in alleviation of deafness.

Mr. ATTLEE: The members of the committee are as follows: Dr. W. G. Radley (chairman), Mr. E. J. Barnes, Sir Lawrence Bragg, Mr. N. Fleming, Dr. C. S. Halpike, Mr. L. C. Pocock, and Dr. T. S. Littler (secretary). The committee has formulated a detailed programme of research, and investigations in which physicists are collaborating with otologists and physiologists are in progress. The investigations will take some time to complete, and it is not anticipated that the committee will be in a position to make any recommendations before the end of the year.

### Tuberculosis in Repatriated Prisoners of War

On Jan. 16 Miss WARD asked the Secretary of State for War whether he was aware of the dissatisfaction of relatives with the arrangements made for repatriated prisoners of war suffering from tuberculosis; and if he would consider these complaints with a view to an alteration of the present policy. Sir JAMES GRIGG replied: It is the policy of the Army to discharge soldiers suffering from tuberculosis as soon as possible so that if necessary they may enter civil sanatoria near their homes. Repatriated prisoners of war are given special consideration, but I am aware that there is sometimes delay in admission owing to pressure on accommodation. The Minister of Health has therefore set aside a number of beds in E.M.S. hospitals specially for Service patients awaiting transfer to sanatoria. This should materially help to remove any cause for complaint.

Miss WARD asked if Sir James Grigg would inform the Minister of Health that his arrangements were most unsatisfactory and ask him to improve them in the future. Sir JAMES GRIGG said he would certainly pass on the message, but whether he should do it in quite those truculent terms was a matter he would like to consider. Dr. SUMMERSKILL: In view of the fact that these men contracted the disease in the Army, can Sir James Grigg say why he is shelving his responsibility in this matter? Sir JAMES GRIGG: Because that happens to be the arrangement prescribed in the Army Regulations. The Army does not look after tuberculous patients. Patients discharged for disability in the Army are looked after, in the case of tuberculosis, by the Ministry of Health, and in the case of other diseases in Ministry of Pensions hospitals.

### Distillation of Salt Water

On Jan. 16 Capt. STRICKLAND asked the Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of War Transport what steps had been taken by the Government to encourage research into the conversion of salt water into drinking-water by demineralization, evaporation, or other processes; whether any effective and convenient method had been evolved; and whether it was proposed to make the fitting of the necessary apparatus compulsory on all sea-going vessels, including their boats. Mr. NOEL BAKER said that the Government had done extensive research into the distillation of salt water by demineralization and evaporation, and apparatus designed by private inventors had been examined and tested. As a result two types of fresh-water producers for lifeboats were now issued on free loan to shipowners. A third and smaller pattern for use in emergency rafts was in production. Sea-going vessels carried adequate supplies of drinking-water for use on board. The filtering type as well as the distillation type was being used.

## Medical News

A meeting of the Medical Society for the Study of Venereal Diseases will be held at 11, Chandos Street, W., to-day (Saturday, Jan. 27) at 2.30 p.m., when Dr. David Erskine will give an address on "Difficulties in the Successful Treatment of the Venereal Disease Patient."

Dr. Andrew Topping will speak on the "Aims of U.N.R.R.A. in the Health Field" at a meeting arranged by the Polish Medical Association in the U.K. to be held in the Hastings Hall of B.M.A. House, Tavistock Square, on Jan. 30, at 5 p.m. The lecture is open to all and will be followed by questions and discussion.

Prof. T. Wallace, D.Sc., will deliver two lectures on "The Diagnosis of Mineral Deficiencies in Crop Plants" before the Royal Institution, 21, Albemarle Street, W., on Tuesdays, Jan. 30 and Feb. 6, at 5.15 p.m.

The Science (Research) Society has arranged two public lectures. The first, on Wednesday, Jan. 31, at 6.45 p.m. in the City Literary Institute, Stukeley Street, Drury Lane, W.C., will be by Lady Eve Balfour, of the Haughley Research Trust, on "The Living Soil"; the second, on Saturday, Feb. 24, at 3 p.m. in the Hastings Hall of B.M.A. House, Tavistock Square, will be a technical discussion on "Soil Biology," by Lady Eve Balfour and Dr. E. W. Russell of the Rothamsted Experimental Station.

The Seventh Addendum to the *British Pharmacopoeia, 1932*, which was noticed in an annotation last week (p. 89) will be published on Feb. 1, and becomes official from that date. Constable and Co. Ltd., 10, Orange Street, Leicester Square, London, W.C.2, publish it for the General Medical Council.

Prof. F. Wood Jones, F.R.S., F.R.C.S., will give an address on "The Mammalian Toilet" before the Royal Institution, 21, Albemarle Street, W., on Friday, Feb. 16, at 5 p.m.