

any way superior to Schäfer. So far nothing has been discovered to supersede this very well tried and successful method.—I am, etc.,

London, W.1.

ALWYN E. BISCOE,
Chief Secretary, Royal Life Saving Society.

Erythrocyte Sedimentation Rate in Malaria

SIR,—Please allow me to make the following brief addendum to my letter published on March 10.

The differentiation of malaria—of the falciparum type—from sandfly fever at an early stage is important; many cases of this type of malaria have proceeded to "cerebral malaria" and death while being treated for "sandfly." The mortality is also high in cases of falciparum malaria treated as infective hepatitis, unexpected coma giving an indication too late for effective interference. Truly a living problem may prove a dead certainty.—I am, etc.,

FRANK MARSH.

Check your References

SIR,—Dr. C. Langton Hewer (Feb. 17, p. 233) usefully discusses the most convenient method of reference to earlier papers, but makes no mention of the need for accuracy of actual references.

In writing on commission a comprehensive review of radiological progress, I lost much time looking up references because of their inaccuracy. Lawrence in (I believe) his first description of the cyclotron in the *Physical Review* gives due reference to the prior work of Wideroe published in the *Archiv für Elektrotechnik*, but his reference is incorrect and much time was wasted tracking down the original paper. A still more glaring example was about planigraphic (tomographic) methods. Andrews in his excellent paper in the *Amer. J. Roentgen*. (1936, 36, 575) refers to the work of Portes and Chausse and gives their French patent as No. 541,941 of 1922. Reference to this patent at the Patent Office showed other patentees of a patent having no relation to radiology. Extensive search failed to reveal the Portes patent and, as a consequence, all reference to it was deleted. No assistance could be obtained from other authors as all gave this patent number, including Grossman (*Fort. a.d. Geb. d. Roentgenstrahlen*), Keiffer (*Amer. J. Roentgen. and Radiology*), and Twining (*Brit. J. Radiol.*), the inference being that the reference was merely copied with its error. After omission further attempt was made to track down this much-quoted patent, and, after much time in acrobatic feats on the high steps of the Patent Office, it was tracked down to a different French patent.

Having a personal library which comprises journals not otherwise available, I have in the past been asked to supply details of references for papers being published. While doing so with pleasure I have later been surprised to note the amount of information which is presumably obtained from a mere reference only.

Mention of an earlier publication usually infers first-hand acquaintance, but unfortunately it appears to have become the vogue to quote prior papers without actual personal reference as to correctness, etc. It is, of course, quite possible that circumstances are such that a reference is merely quoted for its priority; for example, in dealing with the Ziedes des Plantes method of planigraphy, I personally gave references to his publications in the *Fort. a.d. Geb. d. Roentgenstrahlen* and *Acta Radiologica*, journals moderately easy of access and personally owned, but for priority reasons gave the first publication in a Dutch medical journal not accessible or read by myself. My editor, however, even in this case queried the unusual page number of 5218 and would not include it until this journal had been located and the page number checked.—I am, etc.,

London, E.7.

BERNARD LEGGETT.

Present Practice of Diphtheria Immunization

SIR,—In reply to Dr. Evelyn MacLagan's questions (March 3, p. 309) the ages of the positive Schick reactors were: 2 1/12 (1), 2 3/12 (2), 2 5/12 (1), 2 1/2 (2), 3 (1), 3 1/12 (1), 3 1/4 (1), 3 10/12 (1), 4 (3), 4 1/12 (1), 4 2/12 (1), 4 4/12 (1), 4 1/2 (3).

A Schick test was performed three months after immunization, and all were negative.

No mother produced a certificate stating that the whole procedure was satisfactory. (We are issuing one to each mother at this nursery.)

The two children who developed diphtheria (positive cultures) were one boy, aged 4, immunized here Jan., 1943, Schick-negative, diphtheria July 28, 1943, mild case, returned to nursery Sept. 14, 1943; another boy, aged 4 4/12, immunized at L.C.C. school 1941, Schick-negative, diphtheria Aug. 27, 1943, mild case, returned to nursery Sept. 14, 1943.

It is our practice here to carry out a further Schick test after two years and re-immunize positive reactors.—I am, etc.,

Battersea Central Mission.

J. L. BLONSTEIN.

The Services

Col. K. S. Master, M.C., I.M.S., has been appointed Honorary Physician to the King in succession to Col. A. C. Macrae, I.M.S.(ret.); and Col. W. C. Spackman, I.M.S., V.H.S., has been appointed Honorary Surgeon to the King in succession to Major-Gen. R. H. Candy, C.I.E., I.M.S.(ret.).

Temp. Acting Surg. Lieut.-Cmdr. R. N. Martin, R.N.V.R., has been mentioned in dispatches for courage, endurance, and determination in transporting stores, vehicles, and men in L.S.T.s and L.C.T.s and other vessels to the Normandy beaches.

Acting Temp. Surg. Capt. W. B. D. Miller, D.S.C., R.N.V.R., has been mentioned in dispatches for good services in organizing the evacuation of casualties from the forefront of the battle during the liberation of France and Belgium.

L/Cpl. Henry Eric Harden, R.A.M.C., who, after bringing in to safety two badly wounded men, was killed while endeavouring to rescue another, has been awarded a posthumous Victoria Cross.

The following awards have been announced in recognition of gallant and distinguished services in Italy:

D.S.O.—Majors E. H. Anderson and R. W. Boyden, R.C.A.M.C. M.C.—Capt. J. K. Pugh, R.A.M.C.; Capt. T. C. Hopkins-Husson, S. Anand, and S. R. C. Muthuswamy, I.A.M.C.; Capt. H. F. Owen and T. Statten, R.C.A.M.C.

CASUALTIES IN THE MEDICAL SERVICES

Killed in action in Burma.—Capt. Peter Hamilton Barkey, R.A.M.C.

Previously reported missing, now officially recorded killed in action.—Major Clarence Alexander Calder, R.A.M.C.

Accidentally killed.—Lieut.-Col. Maurice Baylis King, M.C., R.A.M.C.

Died on active service.—Capt. Bernard Alfred Maclean Brown, M.C., R.A.M.C.

Died of wounds.—Capt. Joseph Campbell Swanson, R.A.M.C.

Died.—Flight Lieut. Ernest Alexander Wallis, R.A.F.V.R.

Wounded.—Temp. Lieut.-Col. R. B. Wright, O.B.E., R.A.M.C.; War Subs. Capt. A. R. Elsom and T. M. Rowatt, R.A.M.C.

Universities and Colleges

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

At a Congregation on March 2 the degrees of M.D. were conferred on N. H. L. Ridley and of M.B., B.Chir. on G. Hartridge, both by proxy.

During the month of February titles of the degrees of M.B., B.Chir. were conferred by diploma on E. M. Davies, M. Farquharson, and M. H. Jordan, of Girton College, and on E. M. Kingsley-Pillers, of Newnham College.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF LONDON

Dr. Henry MacCormac, F.R.C.P., will deliver the Lumleian Lectures on "Prospect and Retrospect" at the College (Pall Mall East, S.W.) on Tuesday and Thursday, April 17 and 19, at 4.30 p.m.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND

A cheque for £100,000 has been received by the President from Sir William Henry Collins for the endowment of the Department of Anatomy and the institution of a Chair of Human and Comparative Anatomy. Last year he gave £100,000 for a Chair of Pathology.

Médecin-Colonel Merle d'Aubigné, Conseiller technique au Ministère de la Guerre, and two other French military surgeons, Major-Commandant Toulemonds and Captain P. Lance, were received at the Royal College of Surgeons on March 8 and entertained to luncheon. They brought to the meeting of the Council greetings from the President of the Académie de Chirurgie at Paris, received a cordial welcome, and took back from the President and Council of the College greetings of friendship and an expression of hope that it would soon be possible for normal relations between the two bodies to be resumed.

SOCIETY OF APOTHECARIES OF LONDON

Prof. E. C. Dodds, M.D., F.R.S., will deliver a lecture on "Ancient Apothecaries and Modern Biochemists" at Apothecaries' Hall, Black Friars Lane, Queen Victoria Street, E.C., on Tuesday, March 27, at 4 p.m. Members of the medical profession and senior students are cordially invited.