

treatment of occupational diseases of the skin, and devote much space to considering the prevention of dermatitis in different industries, which leads to some repetition. One of the introductory chapters is, however, devoted to general methods of prevention under the headings of protective clothing, protective ointments, and industrial skin cleansing. The investigation of occupational skin disease is described in detail, with emphasis on patch-testing to identify the causal agent or agents, but variations in the methods of work of individuals or groups is evidently of less significance than in Britain. Extensive bibliographies are given at the end of each chapter, and the index is comprehensive.

SIBYL HORNER.

### ST. THOMAS'S HOSPITAL

*The Story of St. Thomas's 1106-1947.* By Charles Graves. (Pp. 72. 8s. 6d.) London: Faber and Faber.

The great teaching hospitals of London have on the whole been well served by historians. St. Thomas's in particular owes much to the devoted labour of the late Prof. F. G. Parsons, whose three-volume history (1932-6) is a model of its kind. Although admirably adapted to the needs of historians and antiquarians Parsons' book left room for a short popular account of the hospital designed for the general reader. The choice of so experienced an author as Mr. Charles Graves to write such a book was a happy one, and has resulted in the production of a worthy tribute to the spirit and tradition of an institution that has "survived the dissolution of the monasteries, the depredations of kings, fire, plague, and some of the worst bombing of the blitz." It was printed in Czechoslovakia, and special praise is due to the illustrations, which are well chosen and set a new standard of excellence.

In the first chapter the author tells how the Priory of St. Mary the Virgin was established in Southwark before the Norman Conquest and how it carried out its work of relieving the sick. The Infirmary, situated on the site now occupied by Southwark Cathedral, was known as St. Thomas's Spital from the time of Thomas à Becket's canonization in 1173. Mr. Graves sets the early history of the hospital against its social background and sketches in the state of contemporary medicine with great skill. The closure of the priory and hospital at the Dissolution of the Monasteries in 1540, its restoration as one of the three Royal Hospitals by Edward VI in 1553, and its fortunes during the Great Plague and the Fire of London are notable episodes in the story. Many interesting extracts are given from old hospital records and standing orders relating to methods of treatment, nurses, resurrectionists, and the exclusion of illicit beer from the wards. The beginnings of modern medicine and the growth of the teaching hospital are next described, with special reference to such great figures as Wharton, Mead, Cheselden, and Astley Cooper. There is a good account of that period of nearly a century when St. Thomas's and Guy's were united for teaching purposes, as well as of the more recent history of the medical school and the establishment of special clinics and services. Almost half the book is about Florence Nightingale and the development of modern nursing, but this section is very well done and is not disproportionately long in a book intended for the general reader. There is an inspiring account of St. Thomas's part in the war years. At this turning point in the history of British medicine it is well to be reminded of the achievements and traditions of a hospital that has given continuous service to the sick and poor of London for more than 800 years.

W. J. BISHOP.

The report of the Water Pollution Research Board for 1946 outlines some of the activities of the Water Pollution Research Laboratory at Watford, Herts, and describes the work done on the cleansing of mussels from polluted waters. Sea water is pumped to the cleansing station and treated with chlorine; the mussels are then immersed in it for about 16 to 20 hours, and during this time they excrete a compact mass of faeces and pseudo-faeces. After two treatments with sterilized sea water the mussels are free from pathogenic organisms. Research has also been conducted on the application of D.D.T. and gammexane to percolating filters at a number of sewage works. Questions relating to pollution from beet-sugar factories and by cutting oils from engineering works have also been the subject of study. The report is published by H.M.S.O. (price 1s., by post 1s. 2d.).

### BOOKS RECEIVED

[Review is not precluded by notice here of books recently received]

*New and Nonofficial Remedies.* 1947. Issued by the Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry, of the American Medical Association. (Pp. 749. 21s.) London: J. B. Lippincott. 1947.

A list of preparations found acceptable by the American Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry up to Jan. 1, 1947.

*The British Journal Photographic Almanac, 1948.* (Pp. 492. 6s.) London: Henry Greenwood. 1948.

Contains details and formulae of photographic methods.

*Human Physiology.* By F. R. Winton, M.D., D.Sc., and L. E. Bayliss, Ph.D. 3rd ed. (Pp. 592. 25s.) London: J. and A. Churchill. 1948.

A textbook intended primarily for medical students.

*What Life Has Taught Me.* By W. R. Inge and others. (Pp. 310. 10s. 6d.) London: Odhams Press. 1948.

A collection of essays by 25 distinguished men and women.

*Tuberculosis.* By F. M. Pottenger, A.M., M.D., LL.D., F.A.C.P. (Pp. 597. 60s.) London: Henry Kimpton. 1948.

An account of the pathology, symptomatology, diagnosis, and treatment of pulmonary tuberculosis.

*Practical Photomicrography.* By R. F. E. Miller. (Pp. 101. 5s.) London: Percival Marshall and Co. 1948.

A practical manual for the beginner.

*The Mothercraft Manual.* By M. Liddiard, S.R.N. 11th ed. (Pp. 176. 5s.) London: J. and A. Churchill. 1948.

An outline of the principles taught by the late Sir Truby King.

*A Text-Book of Midwifery.* By R. W. Johnstone, C.B.E., M.A., M.D., F.R.C.S.Ed., M.R.C.P.Ed., F.R.C.O.G., F.R.S.Ed. 13th ed. (Pp. 570. 30s.) London: Adam and Charles Black. 1948.

The text has been revised and there is a new section on the Rh factor.

*Hospital Care in the United States.* (Pp. 631. \$4.50 or 25s.) New York: The Commonwealth Fund. London: Geoffrey Cumberlege (Oxford University Press). 1947.

A study of the hospital services by the Commission on Hospital Care.

*Inside the Asylum.* By John Vincent. (Pp. 115. 6s.) London: George Allen and Unwin, Ltd. 1948.

An autobiography.

*Principles of Management.* By M. A. Cameron, M.A. (Pp. 51. 2s. 6d.) London: George G. Harrap and Co. 1948.

A short discussion of management, administration, and leadership.

*Die Röntgendiagnostik der Wirbelsäule.* By Adolf Liechti. 2nd ed. (Pp. 364. Paper covers, 56 Swiss francs; stiff covers, 60 Swiss francs.) Vienna: Springer-Verlag. 1948.

A textbook of the radiological diagnosis of disorders of the vertebral column.

*The British Encyclopaedia of Medical Practice.* "Medical Progress" and "Cumulative Supplement," 1948. Edited by Lord Horder and others. (Pp. 539. £2 7s. 6d.) London: Butterworth and Co. 1948.

*Radon: Its Technique and Use.* By W. A. Jennings, B.Sc., A.Inst.P., and S. Russ, C.B.E., D.Sc., F.Inst.P. (Pp. 222. 18s.) London: John Murray (for the Middlesex Hospital Press). 1948.

An account of the production of radon and its uses in medicine and industry.

*A History of the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital.* By A. Cleveland, O.B.E., M.D., F.R.C.P. (Pp. 179. 15s.) Norwich: Jarrold and Sons. 1948.

The history covers the years from 1900 to 1946.

*The Venereal Diseases.* By J. Marshall, M.D., B.S. 2nd ed. (Pp. 369. 21s.) London: Macmillan. 1948.

A practical manual for students and practitioners.

difference of opinion might obtain between members of the medical profession, and it might be difficult to find out which opinion should be preferred, but the question whether Dr. Ferguson was correct or incorrect in the view she had formed was not for the jury. It was, of course, the fact that the desire of a woman to be relieved of pregnancy was no justification for the performance of an operation. However much a doctor might be tempted or persuaded, whatever appeal might be made to sympathy, he or she must not operate unless to preserve the life of the mother. Dealing with the cases in which both doctors were concerned, there appeared to be no evidence that Dr. Bergmann insisted on Dr. Ferguson as the second doctor; only when one of the women said that she had no doctor of her own was Dr. Ferguson's name mentioned. There was also no evidence that Dr. Ferguson had taken more than the ordinary consultation fees. But the question of collusion had been raised, and it was for the jury to consider it.

After an absence of seventy minutes the jury returned a verdict of "Not guilty" in the case of both defendants. Dr. Bergmann pleaded guilty to a charge of attempted suicide, and was sentenced to eleven days' imprisonment, which meant her immediate release.

## Universities and Colleges

### UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

In a Congregation held on April 29 the following degrees were conferred:

B.M.—\*G. F. M. Carnegie, \*G. O. Jelly.

\* In absence.

### UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER

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

THIRD M.B., CH.B.—*Pharmacology, Pathology, and Bacteriology*: H. G. Arnall, R. M. Ashton, Anne R. Barlow, Margaret Bolland, N. C. Brown, K. D. Buckley, R. B. Charnock, C. Cohen, D. Davies, Audrey E. Draycott, R. B. Haigh, Jean M. Halliwell, F. G. Hardman, H. Holgate, G. M. Ingall, A. G. Jackson, G. Jessup, J. H. Latham, Kathleen M. Lord, I. Macpherson, Lavinia M. Mallott, J. M. Midgeley, A. Noar, Marjorie E. Petch, J. A. Platt, N. E. Quin, R. E. Raworth, Margaret E. Reynolds, Marjorie Rivers, Audrey Seddon, Jeanette S. Shankland, I. Sieff, T. A. J. Thorp, J. M. Watt, A. Wilkinson. *Pathology and Bacteriology*: Mrs. Barbara M. Benson.

### ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF LONDON

#### Election of Fellows

At a quarterly comitia of the College held on April 29, with the President, Lord Moran, in the chair, the following were elected Fellows:

Percy Stocks, M.D. (London); F. F. Tisdall, M.D. (Canada); H. L. Heimann, M.D. (South Africa); H. S. Morley, M.D. (Midhurst); G. E. F. Sutton, M.D. (Bristol); K. B. Noad, M.B. (Australia); C. A. Keele, M.D. (London); F. C. Golding, M.B. (London); W. H. McMenemey, D.M. (Great Malvern); J. E. Coughy, M.D. (New Zealand); C. H. Fitts, M.D. (Australia); W. Phillips, M.D. (Cardiff); Ursula Shelley, M.D. (London); N. L. Rusby, D.M. (London); I. Shawki (Cairo); F. R. Bettley, M.D. (London); J. E. Debono, M.D. (Malta); M. J. F. McArdle, M.B. (London); C. G. Baker, M.D. (London); T. R. C. Fraser, M.D. (London); C. J. Gavey, M.D. (London); A. L. Banks, M.D. (London); K. M. A. Perry, M.D. (London); Brigadier J. Bennet, M.D. (London); J. S. Richardson, M.D. (London); N. S. Alcock, M.D. (Truro); H. T. Howat, M.B. (Manchester); F. A. Elliott, M.B. (London); J. F. Dow, M.B. (London); K. A. Latter, M.D. (Norwich); R. Lewthwaite, D.M. (Malaya); G. W. Marshall Findlay, M.D. (London); A. R. D. Adams, M.D. (Liverpool); A. M. Jones, M.B. (Manchester); Dorothy S. Russell, M.D. (London); D. M. Dunlop, M.D. (Edinburgh).

Dr. Helen M. M. Mackay was appointed representative to attend the Annual Conference of Maternity and Child Welfare, June 23 to 25.

A Report of the Prophit Tuberculosis Survey was received.

#### Membership

The following candidates, having satisfied the Censors' Board, were elected Members:

R. H. Andrews, M.B., S. T. Anning, M.D., C. E. Astley, M.D., E. H. Back, M.B., A. J. Bailey, M.B., D. Banerji, M.B., R. G. G. Barry, M.D., N. C. Begg, M.B., J. N. Berry, M.D., M. C. Binnie, M.B., L. G. Blair, L.R.C.P., D. J. Brennan, M.B., E. J. S. N. Briggs, M.B., D. B. Buckley, M.D., J. S. Calnan, L.R.C.P., E. F. Carr, M.B., L. W. Carstairs, M.B., J. R. Carter, M.B., T. M. Chalmers,

M.B., R. B. Coles, M.B., N. F. Crofts, M.B., P. G. Dalgleish, M.B., F. J. Davidson, M.B., J. H. Deakin, M.B., J. T. M. De Villiers, M.B., J. Donnellan, M.B., R. G. Dreadon, M.B., B. K. Ellenbogen, M.B., Surgeon Commander F. P. Ellis, M.D., R. N., B. Epstein, M.B., J. W. Fawcett, M.B., Charlotte Feldman, M.B., D. Foskett, M.B., J. H. Gar, M.B., J. A. Glover, M.B., R. R. Gordon, M.B., A. A. Guild, M.B., A. H. M. Halim, J. D. L. Hansen, M.B., J. H. S. Heller, M.B., A. G. Hesling, M.B., D. Hilson, L.R.C.P., F. W. B. Hurlburt, M.D., R. E. Irvine, M.B., J. Isbister, M.B., F. S. Jackson, M.B., J. H. Jacobs, M.B., S. Jacobson, M.B., H. R. Jolly, M.B., E. O. W. Jones, L.R.C.P., J. W. Jordan, M.B., S. L. Kaye, M.D., W. E. King, M.D., R. Kirk, M.D. (*in absentia*), P. O. Leggat, M.B., V. M. Leveau, M.B., R. D. K. Levy, B.M., T. R. Littler, M.B., D. L. Lloyd-Smith, M.D., J. Lorber, M.B., D. Lurie, M.B., Vivien U. Lutwyche, M.B., B. E. McConnell, M.B., R. Macpherson, M.B., D. Macrae, M.B., J. Marks, M.B., R. Marshall, M.B., D. Mickelwright, B.M., Alison M. Miles, B.M., J. P. D. Mounsey, M.B., G. A. Newsholme, M.B., G. D. Owen, M.D., W. J. Penman, M.B., E. J. T. Prettejohn, M.B., R. D. Puffett, M.B., J. F. P. Quinton, M.B., C. S. Rennie, M.D., J. M. Rice-Oxley, B.M., M. J. Riddell, M.B., F. L. Ritchie, M.B., L. M. Rose, B.M., F. F. D. Rosenthal, M.B., N. J. Roussak, M.B., E. Sanders, M.B., T. R. Savage, B.M., Daphne M. Scott, M.B., V. V. Shah, M.D., J. Sharp, M.B., G. M. Shv, M.D., C. P. Silver, B.M., Daphne Smith, M.B., I. O. B. Spencer, M.B., D. G. H. Stone, M.B., G. O. Storey, M.B., W. S. Suffern, M.D., G. F. Swann, M.B., P. N. Swift, L.R.C.P., W. K. Taylor, L.R.C.P., R. Tepper, M.B., J. W. Thompson, M.D., J. J. Tillie, M.B., R. H. Townsend, M.B., R. S. Weetch, M.B., H. N. B. Wetenhall, M.D., L. A. Wilson, M.B., P. A. O. Wilson, M.B., G. E. Wodehouse, M.D., O. H. Wolf, M.B., C. J. Zerny, M.B., F. Ziady, M.D.

#### Licences

Licences to practise were conferred upon 130 candidates (including 32 women) who had passed the final examination in medicine, surgery, and midwifery of the Conjoint Board and who have complied with the necessary by-laws. The names of the successful candidates are printed below in the report of the meeting of the Royal College of Surgeons of England.

#### Diplomas

Diplomas in Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, in Child Health, in Ophthalmic Medicine and Surgery, in Physical Medicine, and in Public Health\* were granted, jointly with the Royal College of Surgeons of England, to the following successful candidates:

DIPLOMA IN TROPICAL MEDICINE AND HYGIENE.—M. S. Holman and the 37 other candidates whose names were printed in the report of the meeting of the Royal College of Surgeons of England in the *Journal* of April 24 (p. 813).

DIPLOMA IN CHILD HEALTH.—H. S. de Silva and the 121 other candidates whose names were printed in the report of the meeting of the Royal College of Surgeons of England in the *Journal* of April 24 (p. 813).

DIPLOMA IN OPHTHALMIC MEDICINE AND SURGERY.—To the 65 candidates whose names were printed in the report of the meeting of the Royal College of Surgeons of England in the *Journal* of April 24 (p. 813).

DIPLOMA IN PHYSICAL MEDICINE.—B. E. Brocks, I. H. M. Curwen, W. F. Dunham, F. B. Edmundson, E. F. Mason, N. R. W. Simpson.

DIPLOMA IN PUBLIC HEALTH.—A. W. Mearns.

### ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND

At an extraordinary meeting of the Council of the College held on April 28, with Sir Alfred Webb-Johnson, Bt., President, in the chair, Prof. Brian Windeyer was co-opted to the council as a representative of radiology.

Sir Hugh Cairns, the first of the Arthur Sims' Commonwealth Travelling Professors, who had recently returned from Australasia, handed to the Council a copy of the Australian reprint of Jenner's *On Cow-pox*, a gift to the College from the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons.

#### Diplomas

Diplomas of Membership were granted to the following successful candidates:

J. A. S. Amos, J. A. Archer-Hall, Marion M. Ashforth, F. Ashton, G. D. Banvard, S. Basu, Phyllis M. Batchelor, Josephine Batey, S. J. Beales, R. L. Bell, R. C. T. Bellamy, M. J. Bhavnani, J. Bihari, M. D. M. Bowen, Jean M. Boyd, H. E. Braun, R. H. Brayshaw, H. C. Brown, F. Brun, W. W. Bryett, J. D. Bury, P. O. G. Butler, Cicely I. Butterworth, J. Caisley, Joan M. China, P. H. Coldwell, P. C. Conlon, L. Coueslant, Christian R. Cumming, P. Darby, F. J. Davis, L. R. Davis, E. Li. Dawe, J. V. Deakin, P. F. Doherty, M. J. F. Donovan, P. H. Drake, V. G. Edwards, Mary McA. Elias, Sylvia C. Ellison, P. Freedman, D. E. I. Friedman, L. K. Garstin, Annie I. M. A. Gregory, I. W. de G. Gregory, J. A. Griffiths, Barbara G. Grime, R. L. Grynch, Eve Hammer, J. J. Handler, Betty P. Harris, F. C. Harris, H. W. L. Harrison, W. J. Hatton, C. E. D. Hearn, Cherry D. Heath, J. D. E. Heighway, P. G. Hill, J. E. Jacques, D. A. James, Nancy C. Janes, J. S. Jenkins, Joan E. Jermy, Daphne G. Jones, N. Kennedy, Catherine E. Large, G. N. Lumb, Flora Macdonald, E. L. Magee, Joan Marshall, Elizabeth A. Martin, G. C. Mathers, Anne D. Mellor, G. R. J. Moodie, A. D. Moore, H. S. Moore, J. R. Morgan, B. J. L. Moss, Elizabeth M. W. Mostyn, T. O. W. Myrddin-Evans, J. F. Nunn, R. H. P. Oliver, D. S. Parker, M. S. N. Pathy, W. Peters, G. W. Piper, K. A. Porter, Jean M. Randall, S. K. Ray, P. A. Read, Alison D. Reid, H. R. C. Riches, D. W. T. Roberts, J. Roper, L. J. Rubinstein, L. Russell, Pamela D. Rustin, J. T. Ryan, D. Sacks, D. E. G. Sayers, B. U. F. R. Seneviratne, R. G. Shorter, A. K. Siddiqui, B. J. Silkoff, J. A. Slattery, P. J. D. Snow, Jean P. Spalding, Betty J. Spedding, W. Stern, D. C. Stevenson, Mary L. Stokes, C. M. Sutherland, C. G. W. Sykes, Anita J. Thomas, E. T. Thomas, Mary E. Tomlinson, D. G. H. Tutton, K. Tuxford, G. D. Tweedy, A. E. P. Twort, P. S. Vassar, Kathleen E. Wallace, R. W. Wallis, P. D. Warren, G. H. Warwick, H. J. C. Watson, R. J. A. Webb, L. J. Wood, V. P. Wordsworth, J. Zarrick.

Diplomas in Physical Medicine were granted, jointly with the Royal College of Physicians of London, to the following successful candidates:

B. E. Brocks, I. H. M. Curwen, W. F. Dunham, F. B. Edmundson, E. F. Mason, N. R. W. Simpson.

## ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF EDINBURGH

At a quarterly meeting of the College held on May 4, with the President, Dr. W. D. D. Small, in the chair, Drs. H. A. Raeburn (North Berwick), G. M. Wilson (Edinburgh), and D. N. Dobbie (Bromley, Kent) were introduced and took their seats as Fellows of the College. Drs. E. H. Duff (Selkirk) and E. K. Morris (Edinburgh) were elected Fellows of the College.

Drs. R. C. L. Batchelor (Edinburgh), C. W. Clayson (Lochmaben, Dumfries), J. F. Galpine (Coventry), R. J. McGill (New Milton, Hants), J. E. A. David (Bulawayo, S. Rhodesia), Yu Hans Tang (Hong Kong), V. Solomon (Johannesburg), G. W. Senter (Edinburgh), W. S. Thomson, Jr. (Leicester), M. R. Clarke (Capetown), C. G. Williams (Durban), K. J. Dunlop (Edinburgh), T. B. Binns (Middlesbrough), A. V. Bird (Johannesburg), R. J. G. Sinclair (Edinburgh), J. O. Forfar (Dundee), M. Medalie (Johannesburg), D. K. Stevenson (York), J. R. Fountain (West Hartlepool), I. D. B. Bottomley (Wallasey), D. Hilson (London), K. Greenwood (R.A.M.C.), B. B. Manna (Bengal), F. L. Ritchie (Sydney), H. Shrand (Capetown), and Beatrice M. Wilson (Edinburgh) were elected Members of the College.

The Lister Fellowship (value £100), for original research carried out in the laboratory of the College, was awarded to Dr. T. W. Lees (Edinburgh).

Dr. Douglas Kerr was re-elected Representative of the College on the General Medical Council for a period of five years.

## SOCIETY OF APOTHECARIES OF LONDON

The fifth Joseph Strickland Goodall Memorial Lecture on Cardiology will be delivered by Prof. John McMichael, M.D., F.R.C.P.Ed., Director of the Department of Medicine, Postgraduate Medical School of London, at the Apothecaries' Hall, Black Friars Lane, Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C., on Thursday, June 3, at 5 p.m. His subject is: "The Pharmacology of Heart Failure." Members of the medical profession and senior students are invited to attend.

## Medical Notes in Parliament

The Report of the Inter-Departmental Committee on the remuneration of general dental practitioners was presented to Parliament on May 11.

The Factories Bill and the Veterinary Surgeons Bill, both of which have passed the House of Lords, were read a first time in the House of Commons on May 11.

Mental Deficiency Regulations dated May 10, 1948, were laid on the Table of the House on May 12.

The National Insurance (Industrial Injuries) Bill was read a second time in the House of Commons on May 12.

## National Insurance Contributions

Mr. ERROLL asked on May 13 how much of the weekly insurance contribution payable by the individual on and after July 5 would be a contribution to the Health Service.

Mr. STEELE answered that Section 37 of the National Insurance Act provided for lump sum payments to be made out of the National Insurance Fund to the Exchequer as a contribution towards the cost of the National Health Service. These lump sum payments were financed by allocating 8½d. out of each weekly National Insurance contribution paid by an employed man and 6½d. by an employed woman. In addition, 1½d. of the employer's contribution was allocated to the National Health Service. In the case of self-employed and non-employed persons the corresponding allocations were 10d. for a man and 8d. for a woman.

## Special Procedure

On May 13 Sir ERNEST GRAHAM-LITTLE asked the Minister of Health which existing committee fulfilled the request by the Royal College of Physicians, which he promised to consider, for a special procedure by way of a committee to provide a check on the issue of Regulations such as would determine the qualifications, remuneration, and conditions of service of doctors and dentists under the National Health Service Act, 1946.

Mr. BEVAN replied that the present procedure, under which all Regulations had to be examined by a special committee in Parliament, coupled with his undertaking to remove from the scope of Regulations a full-time salaried general practitioner service, should be sufficient to remove any apprehension on this point.

## Choose Your Doctor Now

Sir JOHN MELLOR asserted on May 12 that the phrase "Choose your doctor now" in a pamphlet to which he had drawn attention was meaningless at the present time. He asked whether Mr. Bevan knew that the London Executive Council asked inquirers to call again in a month, by which time it hoped that the difficulties would be removed.

Mr. BEVAN promised to inquire at once to find whether the London Executive Council was giving that advice. He was fairly certain that the allegation was untrue and that Sir John Mellor was misinformed. He thought all members of the House were now anxious to facilitate the starting of the Act on July 5.

Mr. ASSHETON asked if Mr. Bevan knew that whereas some propaganda put forward by his Department advised the public that lists of doctors could be found in post offices, these lists could not be found there.

Mr. BEVAN said the lists would appear in post offices and town halls as they were filled up by doctors applying to join the Service. There was obviously some delay among certain doctors at present, but they were participating in larger and larger numbers. It was to the financial interest of the doctors to get these lists filled as early as possible. As soon as the doctors had indicated their intention of participating in the Service their names would be put in the places indicated by the leaflet. He added, "We must have the support of the public and medical profession unless great inconvenience is to be caused to millions of people."

Mr. DRIBERG said public-spirited doctors in places such as Maldon had made public their intention of coming in, and the only difficulty was that the supply of application forms ran out at post offices because of the enthusiasm of the public.

Mr. BEVAN promised to see that the supplies of leaflets marched with the mounting enthusiasm. Answering Squadron-Leader FLEMING, he said the House had been speaking about general practitioners and not of specialists and consultants, who were attached to Regional Boards and teaching hospitals.

## Children's Bill

The Children's Bill, which had passed the House of Lords, was read a second time in the House of Commons on May 7. During the discussion Dr. HADEN GUEST said the feeling in the minds of medical officers was that in no circumstances must the power be taken from local authorities to go into premises to see the children and to inspect the premises.

The Nurseries and Child-Minders Regulation Bill was read a first time in the House of Commons on May 6.

Mr. STRACHEY said on May 10 that steps recently taken by the Ministry of Food should ensure that reasonable supplies of the various brands of infants' foods were available in all districts. National dried milk was readily available in all areas.

A resolution approving the Purchase Tax No. 1 Order, 1948, on drugs and medicines was moved by Sir STAFFORD CRIPPS on May 6 and was carried without debate.

## Exchange Control Medical Advisory Committee

Commander NOBLE on May 11 asked how many people suffering from tuberculosis and recommended treatment in Switzerland had been refused the necessary exchange during the past twelve months.

Mr. GLENVIL HALL said that of 1,317 cases considered by the Exchange Control Medical Advisory Committee since its formation in December last, 22 involving tuberculosis of all types were not considered suitable cases for which currency should properly be provided.

**Shortage of Beds.**—Mr. BEVAN stated on May 13 that hospital authorities returns at Dec. 31, 1947, gave the number of vacant beds for which staff was not available as 61,146. This was about 2,000 less than the corresponding figure at Sept. 30, 1947. He added that his Ministry was doing what it could to remedy the shortage of nurses.

**Opticians Register.**—Mr. MITCHISON asked on May 13 whether Mr. Bevan had considered representations from the Joint Emergency Committee of the optical profession asking that provision should be made by legislation for the registration of opticians. Mr. BEVAN said that Mr. Woodburn and he proposed to set up an Inter-departmental Committee to consider and advise whether such legislation would be to the public advantage and if so how registration could best be carried out and what qualifications should be required as a condition of registration. They would consult the professions concerned as to the constitution of the Committee.

**Mental Defectives.**—The number of mental defectives in public institutions on Jan. 1 was 53,207. The number awaiting removal to institutions on that date was 3,905.

## Thursday

BRITISH INSTITUTE OF RADIOLOGY.—At Reid-Knox Hall, 32, Welbeck Street, London, W., May 27, 6 p.m. "*The Roentgen-Anatomical Appearance of Infantile Pyloric Stenosis, Before, During, and After the Manifest Stage of the Disease,*" by Dr. Gosta Runström (Gothenburg).

EDINBURGH ROYAL INFIRMARY.—May 27, 4.30 p.m. Honyman Gillespie Lecture: "*Partial Gastrectomy for Peptic Ulcer,*" by Mr. H. W. Porter.

MEDICO-LEGAL SOCIETY.—At 26, Portland Place, London, W., May 27, 8.15 p.m. "*The Investigation of Crime,*" by Cyril R. M. Cuthbert, Chief Detective Inspector, Metropolitan Police Laboratory.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON: DEPARTMENT OF PHARMACOLOGY.—At Physiology Theatre, Gower Street, London, W.C., May 27, 5.15 p.m. "*Biological Responses to Drugs,*" by Mr. J. F. Danielli, Ph.D., D.Sc.

## Friday

KENT AND CANTERBURY HOSPITAL, Canterbury.—May 28, 5 p.m., Monthly Clinical Meeting.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON.—At Physiology Theatre, St. Mary's Hospital Medical School, Paddington, W., May 28, 5 p.m. Special Lecture: "*The Localization and the Role of Nucleic Acids in the Embryo,*" by Prof. J. Brachet (Brussels). At Anatomy Theatre, University College, Gower Street, W.C., 5.30 p.m. Shearman Lecture: "*The Origin and Nature of Scientific Thought,*" by Mr. E. Schrödinger, Ph.D., D.Sc.

## Saturday

BIOCHEMICAL SOCIETY.—At Department of Biochemistry, University Museum, Oxford, May 29, 1 p.m., 267th meeting of the Society. Papers will be read.

## APPOINTMENTS

Duncan Yuille, M.B., Ch.B., has been appointed to succeed Dr. Gebbie as Divisional Surgeon of the Hull Northern Division of the St. John Ambulance Brigade.

HOSPITAL FOR SICK CHILDREN, Great Ormond Street, London, W.C.—*First Assistant Anaesthetist*, T. B. L. Roberts, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.A. *Resident Medical Registrar and Pathologist*, D. A. Williamson, M.D., M.R.C.P., D.C.H. *House-physician*, J. D. H. Matthews, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.P., D.C.H. *House-surgeon*, J. P. Rochford, B.M., B.Ch.

LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL.—The following appointments in the Council's Mental Health Services are announced at the hospitals indicated in parentheses. *Assistant Medical Officers*: J. Donnelly, M.B., Ch.B. (Cane Hill); M. Engler, M.D. (St. Lawrence's); A. L. Hughes, M.B., Ch.B. (The Manor); R. Krambach, M.D., D.P.M., and E. J. Rich, M.B., B.S. (Claybury); J. Kruger, M.D., M.R.C.O.G. (Banstead); H. H. Robinson, M.B., B.Ch. (St. Ebba's); T. St. J. H. Silvester, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. (Bexley).

LUPLAM, G. B., M.B., Ch.B., D.L.O., D.T.M. & H., Director, City Bacteriological Laboratory, Nottingham.

MITCHELL, ROBERT, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., Assistant Medical Officer of Health, County Borough of Bury.

PETERS, P. M., B.M., B.Ch., Assistant Pathologist, Department of Morbid Anatomy, Prince of Wales's General Hospital, London, N.

## BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS

## BIRTHS

Fisk.—On May 5, 1948, at Stella Maris Nursing Home, Cambridge, to Dr. Susan Airey, wife of Geoffrey Fisk, M.B., F.R.C.S.Ed., Wing Commander, a daughter—Susan Clare.

Howat.—On May 11, 1948, at Newcastle, to Margaret Harker, wife of James Howat, a son.

## DEATHS

Aitchison.—On May 9, 1948, at Cotswold Sanatorium, Charles Umpherston Aitchison, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., aged 38.

Arnold.—On May 10, 1948, Edwin Gilbert Emerson Arnold, M.D., M.R.C.P.

Arthur.—On May 12, 1948, at Noys End, Brockham, Betchworth, Surrey, Joseph Hugh Arthur, M.D., aged 73.

Caddy.—On April 15, 1948, in Melbourne, Arnold Caddy, F.R.C.S., of Chandpara, Tylden, Victoria, Australia, aged 81.

Dickinson.—On May 8, 1948, at Royal Hospital, Sheffield, William Robinson Dickinson, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., of Loxley, Hough Lane, Wombwell, Yorks, aged 52.

Gray.—On May 4, 1948, at Girvan, Alexander Gray, M.B., Ch.B.Glas., of 46, Main Street, St. Ninians, Stirling.

Kilkelly.—On May 9, 1948, at Cooldaniel, Greystones, Co. Wicklow, Eire, Patrick Percy Kilkelly, M.B., B.Ch., Lieutenant-Colonel, I.M.S., retired.

Macintyre.—On May 11, 1948, at The Neuk, Lanark, John Macintyre, M.B., Ch.B.Glas., D.P.H.

Richardson.—On May 11, 1948, at Bucklands, Dover, Joseph Richard Whitehead Richardson, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., aged 48.

Stone.—On April 10, 1948, at 6, Cheyne Walk, Northampton, David Stone, M.D., C.M.Glas., aged 82.

Thom.—On May 8, 1948, at Castlepark, Lanark, Ernest Graham Young Thom, M.B., Ch.B.

Vines.—On May 8, 1948, at Brodawel, Newport, Mon., Charles Stuart Vines, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., aged 82.

## Any Questions?

Correspondents should give their names and addresses (not for publication) and include all relevant details in their questions, which should be typed. We publish here a selection of those questions and answers which seem to be of general interest.

## Pleural Effusion

**Q.**—What is the correct method of investigation of a pleural effusion? When the diagnosis is in doubt, is guinea-pig inoculation of value? I have difficulty in distinguishing between effusions of tuberculous, pneumonic, neoplastic, and transudate origin. The problem is particularly difficult in the following two circumstances: (a) in patients who have been treated—e.g., by chemotherapy—for some little time before admission to hospital; and (b) where the effusion is so large that it obscures all, or the greater part of, the underlying lung tissue. I have always regarded guinea-pig inoculation as a pointer to diagnosis, but some of my colleagues maintain that it is of little value.

**A.**—In the investigation of a pleural effusion the history and clinical findings are of the greatest importance. The chief varieties which must be distinguished are the "idiopathic"—the majority of which are tuberculous—the pyogenic, and the malignant. In the malignant group the history, age of the patient, and blood-staining of the effusion are important diagnostic points. A tuberculous effusion is relatively uncommon in a patient of carcinoma age. The frankly pyogenic effusion—e.g., complicating pneumonia or lung abscess—rapidly becomes an acute empyema, but after chemotherapy a sterile effusion may result. It may be very difficult to differentiate between this and a tuberculous effusion, but the predominant cells are usually polymorphs and the history of an acute pulmonary infection may be a guide. In a tuberculous effusion the age of the patient, mode of onset, and history of contact may aid the diagnosis. Loewenstein culture or, better still, guinea-pig inoculation of the fluid should be performed in all cases, and some authorities claim a positive result from inoculation in three out of four tuberculous effusions. This is an optimistic estimate. A negative result does not exclude tuberculosis.

## Alternative to Venesection

**Q.**—While in America during the war I was told of a clinical procedure carried out in acute left-sided heart failure. The rationale of venesection in acute pulmonary oedema or in a hypertensive "cardiac asthma" attack is to relieve the load on the left ventricle and also perhaps on the right. In the U.S.A. it seems to be a common alternative to venesection to apply two sphygmomanometer bands to alternate limbs for, say, 20 minutes, and then to repeat on the other two limbs. The bands are applied at a pressure midway between the diastolic and systolic. This acts at once in stopping large quantities of venous blood returning to the heart, and is apparently effective in treating these conditions. Has this treatment been tried in this country?

**A.**—The method of reducing the return of blood to the heart described in the question has been used in this country for a number of years. The effect is immediate, the pressure in the right auricle being reduced and the cardiac output increased. On releasing the cuffs the blood return is reduced for some time by the vasodilatation induced in the treated limbs. Its danger lies in the possible production of thrombophlebitis by obliteration of superficial veins or in the formation of thrombi in deep muscle capillaries which may spread and result in pulmonary infarction.

## Removal of Tattoo Marks

**Q.**—Is it possible to remove tattoo marks from the body by plastic surgery or by any other method?

**A.**—Tattoo marks are foreign bodies in the skin and can only be removed surgically. The removal of tattoo marks from most of the favourite sites on the body is possible by excision and plastic repair. In the case of small designs the defect can often be closed by sliding flaps and direct suture.