

within its prescribed limits, sound. If he were to write on dynamic psychology and peace of mind it would certainly be possible for a psychologist to say whether or not his presentation was reliable. But when a "religionist," to use his own words, "attempts to find new answers to the basic problems of human nature," "to explain what modern psychology has discovered about human beings" and "why we lose faith in life and in God," he puts himself beyond scientific criticism. He may be, as indeed Dr. Liebman believes of himself, the bearer of a new idea of God, or he may be, as the success of his book in America suggests, a not too accurate dispenser of bromides.

It is not within the reviewer's province to determine these points. All he can say is that, judged by psychological standards, the book falls flat at the first hurdle. No amount of lip service to Freud—which incidentally Dr. Liebman renders freely throughout his book—can redeem the author's first and irretrievable error about repression. This he describes as the "over-all strategy employed by religion in the struggle against evil"—that is, according to Dr. Liebman, against "sensual thoughts and impulses." It is frankly impossible to take any book on psychodynamics seriously which begins with such a common and constantly refuted error. Indeed the main interest of *Peace of Mind* is the light it sheds on the post-war tendencies of popular psychology in America. Equipped with a bird's-eye acquaintance with psycho-analysis and an equally fleeting and uncoordinated knowledge of psychiatry and "psychosomatic" medicine, the author makes a running survey of the field of mental conflict. The reader might gather therefrom that the aims and techniques of psychiatry can strengthen the therapeutic force of religious belief and *vice versa*. Comforting thoughts, no doubt, for those ready to be so comforted.

EDWARD GLOVER.

Brompton Hospital Reports are always a welcome addition to the library of the chest physician, for in spite of their modest subtitle they include some of the best papers of the year on various chest conditions, medical and surgical. Volume XV (Research Department of Brompton Hospital, 10s.) is no exception. It opens with a short but eloquent appreciation of the late Mr. Tudor Edwards, by whose "passing the Hospital has lost a distinguished surgeon." The first paper is a modified version of his Presidential Address in 1946 to the Association for the Study of Diseases of the Chest on "Carcinoma of the Bronchus." This is a masterly survey of the main advances in knowledge over the past 25 years. No one was more competent than he to sum up these advances in pathology, diagnosis, and treatment, for he had taken a leading place in all three. The last paper is also a Presidential Address, that of Dr. Maurice Davidson to the Section of Medicine of the Royal Society of Medicine. It should be widely published, for his remarks on the present trends in medical policy are interesting and savour of Wilfred Trotter's wisdom and philosophy. In their classical monograph, "The Segments of the Lungs," reprinted from *Diseases of the Chest*, 1945, Foster-Carter and Hoyle review all previous work and give a full bibliography. They state clearly all the investigations necessary for the mapping out of the segmental areas in both lungs, give their radiological features with ample and excellent illustration, and discuss the application of these to medical and surgical problems. The postgraduate student will find this monograph particularly useful because it sums up the advances now possible in differential diagnosis and local treatment by the judicious combination of film examination and bronchoscopy in lung abscess, bronchiectasis, and bronchial carcinoma.

The Medical Annual, edited by Sir Henry Tidy and Mr. A. Rendle Short (John Wright and Sons, 25s.), provides in its 65th year its usual wealth of information, and criticism is disarmed by the publisher's apology for its late appearance. The slow tempo of book production is particularly unfortunate in a publication of this type, which undertakes to review the year's work. A random glance at 100 references reveals the effect of the publisher's difficulties, for 45 were dated 1945, 38 1946, and only one 1947. But these minor criticisms do not detract from the usefulness of the book. It is difficult to select specific articles for comment when the range is so wide and the standard so high, but Prof. Crew's review of social medicine, the article by Dr. Swan on rubella and congenital malformations, and that by Drs. Blodgett and Elliott Cutler on the surgical treatment of hypertension would alone make the book a profitable investment. The format and production are in accord with the traditions of John Wright, but, presumably for reasons of economy, the type face is small enough to be inconvenient to all but the most orthoptic.

BOOKS RECEIVED

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

Hallmarks of Mankind. By F. Wood Jones, D.Sc., M.B., B.S., F.R.S., F.R.C.S. (Pp. 86. 10s. 6d.) London: Baillière, Tindall, and Cox. 1948.

Two lectures on the origin of man and his relation to the monkeys and apes.

Private Enterprise or Government in Medicine. By L. H. Bauer, A.B., M.D., F.A.C.P. (Pp. 201. 25s.) Springfield, U.S.A.: Charles C. Thomas. 1948.

An account of private and State-controlled systems of medical service throughout the world, with special reference to the U.S.A.

Dentists Register. (Pp. 415. 18s.) London: Dental Board of the United Kingdom. 1948.

Fundamentals of Human Reproduction. By E. L. Potter, M.D. (Pp. 231. 21s.) London: McGraw-Hill. 1948.

Intended principally for nurses.

Elements of Surgical Diagnosis. By Sir Alfred Pearce Gould, revised by Sir Cecil P. G. Wakeley, K.B.E., C.B., D.Sc., F.R.C.S., F.R.S.Ed. 9th ed. (Pp. 718. 15s.) London: Cassell. 1947.

A manual for students and practitioners.

The Battle of the Conscience. By E. Bergler, M.D. (Pp. 296. \$3.75.) Washington: Washington Institute of Medicine. 1948.

A psychiatric study of the conscience.

Annata Terapeutica. Edited by M. Coppo. (Pp. 672. No price.) Rome: Clinica Nuova. 1947.

A review of recent therapeutics.

Experimental Physiology. By G. H. Bell, B.Sc., M.D., F.R.F.P.S.G., F.R.S.Ed. 4th ed. (Pp. 228. 10s. 6d.) Glasgow: John Smith. 1947.

A practical manual for the medical student. More experiments are described in this edition.

1947 Year Book of Endocrinology, Metabolism, and Nutrition. Edited by W. O. Thompson, M.D., and Tom D. Spies, M.D. (Pp. 575. 21s.) London: H. K. Lewis.

Abstracts and notes on recent advances.

Science News 7. (Pp. 127. 1s. 6d.) Penguin Books. 1948.

Includes an article on antivitamin by Prof. J. Yudkin and notes on recent scientific research by Mr. A. W. Haslett.

Genetics. By H. Kalmus, Sc.D., M.D. (Pp. 171. 1s. 6d.) Pelican Books. 1948.

An account for the layman.

Trichomonas Vaginalis and Trichomoniasis. By R. E. Trussell, M.D. (Pp. 277. 30s.) Oxford: Blackwell. 1947.

An experimental and clinical account, with a section on treatment.

Teaching Psychotherapeutic Medicine. Edited by Helen L. Witmer, Ph.D. (Pp. 464. 21s.) London: Geoffrey Cumberlege (O.U.P.). 1947.

An account of a short experimental course in psychiatry taken by general physicians.

The Practice of Local Anaesthesia. By George Bankoff, M.D., D.Ch., F.R.F.P.S., F.R.C.S. 3rd ed. (Pp. 290. 30s.) London: Staples Press. 1948.

A practical guide to local analgesia, with many illustrations.

Rheology in Relation to Pharmacy and Medicine. By G. W. Scott Blair, M.A., D.Sc., F.R.I.C., F.Inst.P. (Pp. 20. 2s.) London: Pharmaceutical Press.

Two lectures on the flow of matter.

Hernia. By L. F. Watson, M.D., F.I.C.S. 3rd ed. (Pp. 732. 67s. 6d.) London: Henry Kimpton. 1948.

A textbook of the surgical treatment of hernia, with references and many illustrations.

included Mr. Miller's firm, the agency found employment for nurses at the salary which the nurses required. Mr. Miller introduced the nurses to the patient, rendered the accounts to the patient, collected the sum due, and paid it to the nurse after deducting 10% commission. The Council conceded that there was nothing wrong in an agency supplying nurses on the basis that they made their own bargains, nor in a nurse supplied at the Council's maximum rate making some additional bargain with the patient and recovering some extra money. As the court pointed out, if the nurse would not work for the maximum fixed by the Council, the curious position would be reached that the patient would have to pay one sum to the agency and another to the nurse. In the view of the court this was not a condition for securing the proper conduct of the agency. The provision in the Act was aimed at undue fee-snatching: it had often been found that unscrupulous agents charged excessive fees and prevented people from getting proper employment unless they paid such fees or imposed on their employees improper or undesirable terms. If, however, a nurse demanded, say, seven guineas a week and the agent told the patient that that was the charge, that was perfectly proper conduct by the agency. Mr. Justice Singleton agreed that the condition objected to was not in any sense necessary for securing the proper conduct of the agency but went outside anything of the kind. The court therefore upheld the justices' decision that the maximum fee in this licence was invalid.

The issues in this case affect about 20,000 nurses, half of them in London.

Universities and Colleges

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

The following degrees were conferred on May 15.

M.CHIR.—L. L. Bromley.
M.B., B.CHIR.—*M. T. Gillies, *H. W. H. Kennard.

* By proxy.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

The following candidates have been approved at the examination indicated:

THIRD M.B., B.S.—135 P. Freedman, 15 Aileen M. Hampton, 15 L. A. Hatch, 13 E. T. Hughes, 17 Catharine E. Large, 14 F. H. Lumb, 14 G. C. Mathers, 14 H. W. Matthews, 15 C. P. Mills, 15 G. R. J. Moodie, 15 P. R. B. Noel, 134 L. J. Rubinstein, 13 D. B. Stone, 13 Elizabeth K. Tang, 16 N. L. Teck-Kam, 16 L. J. Temple, 134 F. W. Thompson, 15 A. W. R. Williamson, R. C. P. Aldridge, J. G. U. O. Alexander, D. B. Allbrook, J. A. S. Amos, K. Anderson, W. McC. Anderson, D. R. Bangham, Anne L. Barlow, Audrey Beder, R. C. T. Bellamy, Nancy L. C. Berry, J. Bihari, G. L. Blewett, A. S. Bligh, Barbara A. Boodson, Joan M. Bremner, D. S. N. Brierley, C. O. S. B. Brooke, A. E. Brown, W. W. Bryett, J. P. Bush, R. St. J. Buxton, A. R. P. Calder, Dorothy B. D. Callander, Pamela H. Canham, Jill C. Clark, J. Clark, Jeanne M. Clements, K. W. Colebourne, R. O. N. G. Colley, A. W. Cook, M. H. D. Cooper, Kathleen Corbishley, E. L. Corsi, R. S. C. Couch, L. Coueslant, L. A. Cruttenden, A. P. Curtin, Phyllis Dagnall, Brenda M. Davies, H. E. F. Davies, R. L. G. Dawson, J. V. Deakin, H. R. De Vitre, B. P. Doyle, P. H. Drake, C. J. Earl, C. N. d'E. Eastes, M. W. Eddings, P. W. Edward, V. G. Edwards, S. E. Ellison, P. F. Eminson, D. B. A. Evans, D. K. Evans, P. A. Eyre, B. Fairburn, D. D. Felix-Davies, O. D. Fisher, P. R. Fleming, D. D. Forbes, Mary E. Forrester, Veronica M. Gammon, P. H. Garrard, B. A. Gavourin, S. S. B. Gilder, T. W. A. Glenister, J. L. Goodger, Janie F. Gordon, P. R. Harben, G. Harris, R. H. Harris, Pamela N. Harris-Wright, R. T. T. Harrison, T. G. Harvey, M. C. Head, C. E. D. Hearn, H. Herbert, D. W. Hill, H. W. Holland, P. W. T. Hollis, M. C. Holtby, Annie Hosker, A. C. Hume, V. E. Ireland, H. M. R. James, Rosalind E. S. James, Nancy C. Jakes, J. W. G. Johnson, Millicent M. Johnston, H. E. Kane, H. Keen, K. J. Kingsbury, J. E. H. Lahaise, J. M. Ledingham, A. L. Levene, M. J. Livera, E. C. Livingston, D. Lonsdale, K. N. H. Low, R. W. Lyle, Flora Macdonald, L. L. Macfarlane, Elizabeth A. Martin, M. J. May, W. E. Medd, R. A. Miller, E. R. Mitchell, J. C. Mitchell, P. R. Morgan, H. S. Moore, Jean M. Moore, B. J. L. Moss, R. J. Moylan-James, A. C. Mulvaney, R. H. P. Oliver, B. C. H. O'Neill, B. D. Orr, J. T. Owen, Margaret G. Oyston, D. L. Palmer, J. D. K. Palmer, D. S. Parken, D. J. Parr, G. R. Parry, R. A. Payne, Winifred I. Pearce, J. R. B. Peckover, C. I. G. Phillips, R. S. Pine, A. J. Popert, K. A. Porter, J. R. Prentice, A. V. Price, Jean M. Randall, M. W. Reece, E. R. Reid, Joan Rendall, T. W. Renton, P. G. Roads, W. D. V. Roderick, J. Roper, I. R. L. Rose, O. T. Samani, D. E. G. Sayers, L. Schaffer, R. Schwingner, Una Scorer, H. M. G. Shanly, P. A. Shave, D. J. Sheerboom, J. G. H. Sheppard, J. H. Sherrey, R. G. Shorter, B. J. Silkoff, K. Simpson, C. W. Smith, R. A. G. Smith, E. S. Snell, R. J. Sollars, G. F. Spaul, B. J. Stephens, N. A. Stephens, D. C. Stevenson, J. A. Stewart, L. V. Stihyr, J. A. Sutton, F. Taylor, P. B. J. Taylor, N. B. Thadani, J. M. Thompson, Valerie M. Thompson, E. W. Thurston, P. Timmis, G. C. Turle, W. C. Turner, A. E. P. Toot, Betty M. L. Underhill, J. A. Vyse, N. H. Warburton, J. W. Watson, L. A. Watson, P. S. Watson, A. B. Wayne, K. F. Weeks, M. M. Whiteley, D. A. G. Williams, H. G. Williams, Betty M. Winterbotham, L. P. J. Wright, D. E. Yates.

1 With honours. 2 Distinguished in pathology. 3 Distinguished in hygiene and forensic medicine. 4 Distinguished in medicine. 5 Distinguished in applied pharmacology and therapeutics. 6 Distinguished in surgery. 7 Distinguished in obstetrics and gynaecology.

HUNTERIAN TRUSTEES

A meeting of the Hunterian Trustees was held at the Royal College of Surgeons of England on May 12 with the Earl of Athlone in the chair. Others present were Sir Alfred Webb-Johnson, Bt., President of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, Sir Arthur Keith, F.R.S., Sir Holburt Waring, Mr. R. H. Burne, F.R.S., Prof. Matthew J. Stewart, Viscount Leverhulme, Prof. F. Wood Jones, F.R.S., Sir Frank Colyer, Prof. H. A. Harris, Sir Adolphe Abrahams, and Dr. E. Bellingham Smith.

The Trustees inspected the surviving parts of the Hunterian Collection, once more on exhibition in the museum. They also approved the plans for rehousing the Collection in the new museums which are to be built to replace those destroyed by enemy action.

Medical Notes in Parliament

The Mental Treatment Rules, 1948, and the National Health Service (Emergency Mental Treatment) Regulations, 1948, were presented to Parliament on May 25. On the same date the Report to the Lord Chancellor on the number of visits made and patients seen by the Visitors of Lunatics between Oct. 1, 1947, and March 31, 1948, was laid on the Table.

The Mental Treatment (Adaptation of Forms) Rules, 1948, were presented to Parliament on May 26.

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE

On May 27 Mr. PETER FREEMAN asked whether the Minister of Health would provide for a reduction or abolition of premiums to the National Health Service where no claim had been made after a period of years in order to discourage frivolous applications and encourage personal responsibility for good health.

Mr. BEVAN, in reply, said the National Health Service was free to all and there were no premiums of any kind. The benefits available did not include cash benefits, which were provided under the National Insurance Act.

Answering Colonel STODDART-SCOTT, Mr. BEVAN said a relatively small part of the cost of the National Health Service was met by a grant from the National Insurance Fund. This grant would not be allocated to any particular part of the Service. As there would be persons eligible for the full benefits of the Health Service, although they made no contributions, the Service obviously was non-contributory. Colonel Stoddart-Scott suggested that as on July 5 Mr. Bevan was not going to provide the service laid down in the Act, he should advise his colleagues to reduce the weekly contributions of 8d. or 10d. which every member was asked to pay toward the Health Service.

Mr. BEVAN told Mr. COLLINS on May 27 that he accepted in principle the recommendations of the Committee on the Remuneration of General Dental Practitioners. Discussions were about to take place with representatives of the dental profession and he hoped to reach a speedy conclusion on the detailed application of these recommendations.

RADIOACTIVE SUBSTANCES BILL

On May 28 Mr. ANEURIN BEVAN moved the Second Reading of the Radioactive Substances Bill, the purpose of which, he said, was to secure protection for the health of workpeople and of the public against the harmful effects of exposure to dangerous radiation. He said the safety code of the X-ray and Radium Protection Committee, which was appointed about twenty-five years ago by the Medical Research Council, was not always observed. The need for the Bill was greater because the country was on the verge of a vastly extended use of radioactivity. The power of the apparatus used and the quantity of radioactivity available had increased enormously. There was under construction in this country a cyclotron which would give 300,000,000 volts. In medicine x-ray apparatus had reached 250,000 volts and betatrons might shortly be used giving 30,000,000 volts. Artificial radioactive substances were becoming freely available for therapeutic use. All had different rates of emission and were difficult to define. This difficulty had led to the unusual structure of the Bill. The relatively cheap rates at which many of these products might be available would mean that, unless they were restricted in their use, untrained people might do themselves great damage. The effects of exposure to radioactive substances of high emission rates were often insidious and the consequences known only after a number of years. Therefore experts advised that it was necessary to provide for the protection of the public. Safeguards had been introduced into this Bill which had not been present in the Bill which was introduced a year ago. The present Bill had been discussed in the House of Lords and he believed it could

SOCIETIES AND LECTURES

Sunday

LONDON JEWISH HOSPITAL MEDICAL SOCIETY.—At Rose Hertz Hall, Woburn House, W.C., June 6, 3 p.m. "Some Clinical Entities Frequently Misdiagnosed," by Mr. Hamilton Bailey.

Monday

EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY: PHYSIOLOGY CLASSROOM.—June 7, 5 p.m. "Medicine in Literature," by Dr. Douglas Guthrie.

WESTMINSTER HOSPITAL SCHOOL OF MEDICINE: MEYERSTEIN LECTURE THEATRE, Horseferry Road, London, S.W.—June 7, 5.30 p.m. Clinico-pathological demonstration. Discussion: "Whooping-cough."

Tuesday

BRITISH ASSOCIATION OF PHYSICAL MEDICINE.—At Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, London, W.C., June 8, annual meeting, 2.30 p.m. *Clinical Demonstration of Physical Medicine in Children*, by Dr. F. B. Kiernander. 3.30 p.m. Discussion. At Royal College of Surgeons, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, W.C., 5.30 p.m. Annual general meeting. 7 for 7.30 p.m. Annual Dinner at the College.

INSTITUTE OF DERMATOLOGY, 5, Lisle Street, Leicester Square, London, W.C.—June 8, 5 p.m. "Occupational Dermatitis," by Dr. F. R. Bettley.

Thursday

INSTITUTE OF DERMATOLOGY, 5, Lisle Street, Leicester Square, London, W.C.—June 10, 5 p.m. "Tuberculous Infections of the Skin," by Dr. L. Forman.

WEST LONDON HOSPITAL, Hammersmith, W., June 10, 8.30 p.m. "Haematemesis and Melaena: An Investigation of the Place of Surgery in its Treatment"; First Alex. Simpson Smith Memorial Lecture by Mr. Norman Tanner.

Friday

NATIONAL HOSPITAL, QUEEN SQUARE, MEDICAL SCHOOL, London, W.C.—June 11, 5 p.m., "The Cerebellum Reconsidered," by Prof. John Fulton (Yale).

ROYAL COLLEGE OF OBSTETRICIANS AND GYNAECOLOGISTS, 58, Queen Anne Street, London, W.—June 11, 2.15 p.m. "Accelerated Painless Labour," by Prof. N. C. Louros (University of Athens).

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON.—At No. 1 Lecture Theatre, University College Hospital Medical School, W.C., June 11, 4.30 p.m. Holme Lecture: "Burns and Fluid Balance," by Prof. Oliver Cope (Harvard Medical School).

Saturday

SURREY COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY.—At Milford Sanatorium, June 12, 3 p.m. Clinical meeting.

APPOINTMENTS

The Director of Medical Services is included in a list of officials who have been appointed Nominated Official Members of the Legislative Council of the Colony of Kenya.

GRAY, WILLIAM D., M.B., Ch.B., Clinical Tuberculosis Officer, Liverpool.
STEWART, A. B., M.D., D.P.H., Divisional Medical Officer, National Health Service.

WALLACE, W. H. S., M.D., D.P.H., Divisional Medical Officer, National Health Service.

WARWICK, NINA S. S. SEAFORD, M.B., Ch.B., D.O.M.S., Assistant Honorary Ophthalmic Surgeon, Macclesfield General Infirmary.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS

BIRTHS

Elsom.—On May 24, 1948, at Victoria Hospital, Lichfield, to Joyce (née Grand), wife of Dr. A. R. Elsom, Burntwood, Lichfield, a daughter—Ruth Margaret.

Lush.—On May 19, 1948, to Dr. Margaret Lush, wife of Dr. Brandon Lush, a daughter.

McCullough.—On May 23, 1948, to Dr. and Mrs. J. K. H. McCullough, a daughter—Elizabeth Jane.

MARRIAGES

Davey—Pearson.—On June 5, 1948, at Christ Church, Summerfield, Birmingham, Charles James Constantine Davey, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., son of Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Davey, of Dorridge, Warwickshire, to Gwynneth June Pearson, M.B., Ch.B., daughter of Dr. and Mrs. A. S. Pearson, Gillott Road, Birmingham.

Morrison—Myles.—On May 8, 1948, Dr. Leslie Gordon Morrison, M.C., to Dr. Alexina Myles.

DEATHS

Davey.—On May 25, 1948, at Bampton, Oxford, Thomas Ronald Davey, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., aged 62.

Field.—On May 24, 1948, at Worthing, Oliver Field, M.D.Ed.

Gill.—On May 27, 1948, at 22, Gladstone Place, Aberdeen, Frank Austin Gill, M.D.Aberd.

Lyon.—On May 24, 1948, at Deal, Thomas Lyon, M.D.Ed., aged 66.

McFall.—On May 24, 1948, at Guy's Hospital, London, S.E., George Edens McFall, M.B., B.S., late R.A.F.V.R.

Macnair.—On May 26, 1948, at Avondale, Marple, Cheshire, Frank Gordon Macnair, M.D.Ed., aged 46.

Moran.—On May 21, 1948, at a private nursing home in Dublin, Louis Augustus Moran, L.R.C.P.&S.I.&L.M.

Newman.—On May 26, 1948, Sir George Newman, G.B.E., K.C.B., M.D., F.R.C.P., of Grims Wood, Harrow Weald, Middlesex, late Chief Medical Officer, Ministry of Health, aged 77.

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.

Morphine in Obstetrics

Q.—What is the action of morphine on unstriated muscle generally, and on the uterine muscle in particular? What influence does morphine exert on the uterine muscle in the treatment of the following conditions: (a) threatened abortion; (b) placenta praevia ("expectant" treatment); (c) prolonged labour due to secondary uterine inertia caused by rigid soft parts? Does morphine even in full therapeutic dosage abolish, or in any way modify, the contractility of the pregnant uterus?

A.—Morphine does not have a specific action on all plain muscle throughout the body. The organs whose muscle is said to be influenced are the stomach, small and large bowel, and the uterus. Its action on the alimentary tract is still subject to dispute, its well-known constipating effect being said to be due either to diminished peristalsis and to contraction of sphincters or to a generalized increased tone of the intestine associated with diminished contractions. The views of different authors are contradictory, and it would seem that the effects may not only vary in different parts of the bowel but with the dosage. Whatever its effect, it is not known whether morphine acts directly on the muscle or whether it interferes with the peripheral reflex. In practice, however, it seems highly probable that morphine often influences bowel function indirectly through its action on the central nervous system. This is particularly true in the case of post-operative ileus, where the beneficial effect of morphine may well be due, in part at least, to the relief of anxiety, nervousness, and pain, which can be important aetiological factors.

There are again conflicting opinions on the effect of morphine on the uterus, but the balance of experimental work carried out on the human subject goes to show that morphine has no significant direct effect on expulsive uterine contractions associated with abortion, labour, or the puerperium. It does, however, reduce uterine spasm in labour and is therefore valuable in all forms of incoordinate uterine action. Here, too, its effect is probably explained by its action on the brain; by relieving pain and nervous tension it frees the uterus from the influence of an overactive autonomic system. More efficient action of the uterus and easier dilatation of the cervix, which are commonly observed when morphine is used in cases of inertia or of normal labour, are due to the removal of the inhibitory effects of the central nervous system rather than to any direct action on the muscle. When the obstetric condition is characterized by haemorrhage, as in placenta praevia or abortion, morphine is again valuable, but only because it induces comfort and quiet, which in turn favour haemostasis. If morphine does not inhibit uterine contractions and may, even indirectly, facilitate dilatation of the cervix, it might be argued that it is contraindicated in threatened abortion. This is not necessarily true, for morphine does not initiate dilatation of the cervix, and by ensuring mental and physical rest it helps to remove possible uterine irritants.

Parkinson's Disease

Q.—(a) Is the operation of division of the pyramidal tracts in the spinal cord of value in the treatment of Parkinson's disease? What are the indications and results?

(b) The fact that Parkinsonian tremor disappears when the patient is asleep leads me to ask whether hypnosis has ever been tried as a means of controlling tremor and, if so, with what degree of success?

A.—(a) This operation has been carried out on small groups of people with Parkinson's disease. It is too early yet to give an indication of its value, but there is no doubt that some patients with severe paralysis agitans have benefited. The purpose of the operation is to destroy the upper motor neurone, either in the cerebral cortex or in the pyramidal tract itself,