

this type. In fairness to the authors it should be noted that the work is intended for "the practitioner, house-physician, and senior student," but even those persons might occasionally feel the need to refer to a larger volume or to original papers on some special subject. It is suggested that this point might be considered in future editions.

N. F. MACLAGAN.

SLIT-LAMP MICROSCOPY

Ocular Signs in Slit-lamp Microscopy. By James Hamilton Duggart, M.A., M.D., F.R.C.S. (Pp. 112; 93 illustrations, of which 85 are in colour. 21s.) London: Henry Kimpton. 1949.

English ophthalmic literature has need of a small compact survey of the practical essentials of the slit-lamp biomicroscopy of the eye. The early works of Harrison Butler and the English translation of Koby's work are quite out of date and now out of print. For the advanced worker larger treatises are available, although none has originated in this country: the five-volumed *Atlas* of the French Ophthalmological Society published before the war is admirable, Berliner's two-volumed *Atlas* (New York) is good, and Vogt's monumental work (three volumes) is superb. But the junior postgraduate student has had no guide within his compass until the book under review appeared. The subject-matter includes all the essential techniques and the appearances of the normal, deformed and diseased eye. It is simply expressed in very readable form, not over-laden with detail, and comprehensively and beautifully illustrated with many original pictures; it contains a useful bibliography. The publishers have done their job well.

STEWART DUKE-ELDER.

OBSTETRICS FOR MIDWIVES

A Textbook for Midwives. By Wilfred Shaw, M.D., F.R.C.S., F.R.C.O.G. (Pp. 689; 223 illustrations. 12s. 6d.) London: J. and A. Churchill, Ltd. 1948.

Wilfred Shaw has already set a high standard as a writer of textbooks and his reputation will certainly be enhanced by this new book for midwives. It is clear that in preparing the work he has had in mind what he himself calls "the serious student," and particularly the nurse who is preparing herself for the Teachers' Diploma. Realizing, however, that the nurse may be deficient in her knowledge of basic sciences, he has included sections on certain aspects of physiology, chemistry, and physics; he discusses, for example, osmotic pressure, dialysis, crystalloids and colloids, adsorption, and the mechanisms of cell division. He has thoughtfully added a glossary of the more difficult technical terms used throughout the book.

In the main subject-matter there is little to criticize and much to praise. The teaching is similar to that presented in the author's well-known textbook on obstetrics for medical students, though he has necessarily modified certain aspects to make it suitable from the point of view of the midwife. As with Shaw's other textbooks, this one contains numerous and carefully chosen illustrations, many of which are reproductions or redrawings of the illustrations in standard German textbooks.

The concluding chapters take the form of short sections on cancer of the uterus and breast; definitions and statistics; a short history of the development of midwifery; the Central Midwives' Board and the local supervising authority; the midwife-doctor relationship and the future of midwifery.

This book can be thoroughly recommended to the more advanced midwife. The style of writing is simple and clear and a full explanation is given—when explanation is possible—of the whys and wherefores of obstetric practice.

J. CHASSAR MOIR.

Zinc Ions in Ear, Nose, and Throat Work, by A. R. Friel, M.D., F.R.C.S.I. (pp. 60; 41 illustrations; 5s. 6d.; Bristol: John Wright and Sons, 1948), is a small book that sets out in detail the methods of performing zinc ionization as a curative treatment of chronic middle-ear suppuration, hay fever, asthma, and vasomotor rhinitis. In a preliminary chapter the author recites the history of the origin of this treatment, instituted by Dr. Leduc, and with the help of many clear illustrations explains the electrical principles involved. Zinc electrolysis is also advocated for destruction of tissues, including bone and aural polypi. The value of the thesis would be enhanced if it included results of the therapy. The clear illustrations will be of great help to those who intend to use this treatment.

BOOKS RECEIVED

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

On the Contributions of Hugh Owen Thomas, Sir Robert Jones, and John Ridlon to Modern Orthopedic Surgery. By H. W. Orr, M.D. (Pp. 253. 25s.) Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1949.

Shaw on Vivisection. Edited by G. H. Bowker. (Pp. 65. 5s.) London: George Allen and Unwin. 1949.

Dentistry in Public Health. Edited by W. J. Pelton, B.S., D.D.S., M.S.P.H., and J. M. Wisan, D.D.S., M.S.P.H. (Pp. 363. 27s. 6d.) London: W. B. Saunders. 1949.

Population Trends and Policies. By W. D. Borrie, M.A. (Pp. 263. 21s.) London: George G. Harrap. 1948.

No Place to Hide. By D. Bradley. (Pp. 191. 7s. 6d.) London: Hodder and Stoughton. 1949.

The British Encyclopaedia of Medical Practice: Medical Progress 1949, and Cumulative Supplement 1949. (Pp. 409 and 423. 32s. 6d. and 27s. 6d.; combined price 50s.) London: Butterworth. 1949.

Inmovilization. By P. Reggi. (Pp. 326. No price.) Buenos Aires: Lopez and Etchegoyen. 1948.

Surgical Technique. By A. V. Partipilo, M.D., F.A.C.S. (Pp. 676. 75s.) London: Henry Kimpton. 1949.

Conférences Cliniques de Médecine Infantile. By H. Grenet. 3rd ed. (Pp. 275. No price.) Paris: Vigot. 1949.

The Mind in Action. By E. Berne. (Pp. 348. 15s.) London: Lehmann. 1949.

Skin Diseases in General Practice. By F. R. Bettley, T.D., M.D., F.R.C.P. (Pp. 260. 21s.) London: Eyre and Spottiswoode. 1949.

Proceedings of the University of Otago Medical School, 1949. Edited by J. B. Dawson, K.B.E., M.D., F.R.C.S., F.R.C.O.G. No. 26. (Pp. 208. No price.)

Neuroradiology. By A. Orley, M.D., F.F.R., D.M.R.&E. (Pp. 421. 63s.) Oxford: Blackwell. 1949.

Mathematical Biophysics. By N. Rashevsky. (Pp. 669. 42s.) London: Cambridge University Press. 1948.

Pathology. Edited by W. A. D. Anderson, M.A., M.D., F.A.C.P. (Pp. 1,453. 75s.) London: Kimpton. 1948.

Tuberculosis in History. By S. L. Cummins, C.B., C.M.G., LL.D., M.D. (Pp. 205. 21s.) London: Baillière, Tindall and Cox. 1949.

The Natzweiler Trial. Edited by A. M. Webb, M.A., F.R.S.A. Vol. 5. War Crimes Trials. (Pp. 233. 18s.) London: William Hodge. 1949.

Mostly Memories. By W. Guy, LL.D., F.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., L.D.S., F.R.S.Ed. (Pp. 360. 15s.) Edinburgh: C. J. Cousland. 1948.

Psychiatry. By W. C. Menninger, M.D. (Pp. 138. 11s. 6d.) London: Geoffrey Cumberlege. 1948.

Age is Opportunity. Issued by the National Old People's Welfare Committee. (Pp. 118. 2s. 6d.) London: National Council of Social Service. 1949.

Cybernetics. By N. Wiener. (Pp. 194. 18s.) London: Chapman and Hall. 1948.

Über die Nierentuberkulose im Kindesalter. By R. W. Müller. (Pp. 49. M. 6.30.) Stuttgart: Georg Thieme. 1948.

Die Pathologisch-Anatomischen Grundlagen der Allergie. By W. Eickhoff. (Pp. 95. M. 8.40.) Stuttgart: Georg Thieme. 1948.

Funktionelle Dünndarmdiagnostik im Röntgenbild. By W. Naumann. (Pp. 96. M. 9.60.) Stuttgart: Georg Thieme. 1948.

complete fog, and their Lordships thought the time had come when the position might be clarified by further legislation.

Comment

The most difficult element in this important case was, of course, the absence of a clear prohibition against practice by an unregistered person, and the presence in its place, in Section 40, of the prohibition against the use of titles suggesting registration, with the requirement of proof of a guilty intent. The Court's decision settles a question which has been perplexing the profession and their legal advisers for the best part of a century, but it also legalizes the use of a variety of titles conferred by reputable foreign universities without specifying their source. What, also, is the position if a practitioner calls himself M.D. on the strength of a doctorate conferred by a Dominion university which is reputable enough but the medical qualifications of which the General Medical Council will not for the moment accept for registration, perhaps because the teaching or the examinations do not come up to the Council's standards? Will a court be asked to say that use of the title M.D. conferred during the period of the Council's displeasure infringes the Act, although one conferred at another time is registrable?

It is probably too much to hope that Parliament will find time for the legislation suggested by the Court, or that if it did it would restrict the practice of medicine to registered persons; but much trouble would be saved if it would remove the requirement "wilfully and falsely" and make the use of an unregistered title unlawful irrespective of motive. Regius professors of medicine, presumably, could safely be left to look after themselves.

Universities and Colleges

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

In a Congregation held on June 4 the following degrees were conferred:

D.M.—P. S. Buckley, *E. H. Brown.
B.M.—P. S. Buckley.

* In absence.

UNIVERSITY OF WALES

The following candidates at the Welsh National School of Medicine have satisfied the examiners at the examination indicated:

TUBERCULOUS DISEASES DIPLOMA.—I. L. Briggs, A. R. Corrado, K. B. Gore, *E. H. Horton, S. C. Laha, *D. R. Lewis, A. W. E. Moreira, D. R. Nagpaul, K. Z. Nowak, B. F. X. Scallan, S. D. Sharma, M. H. Sherif, N. M. Sinha, *J. M. Smith.

* With distinction.

UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

W. K. J. Walls, M.B., Ch.B., has been appointed Lecturer in Anatomy in the University.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND

At a meeting of the Council of the College held on June 9, with Lord Webb-Johnson, President, in the chair, the Honorary Medal of the College was presented to Mr. Arthur Sims, Professor F. Wood Jones, and Professor W. E. Gye.

A Certificate of Honourable Mention for his Jacksonian Essay was presented to Mr. C. G. Rob.

The following were co-opted to the Council for the year 1949-50, representing the branches of practice indicated in parentheses: Dr. H. Guy Dain (General Practice), Mr. J. M. Wyatt (Gynaecology and Obstetrics), Mr. V. E. Negus (Oto-laryngology), Mr. A. D. Marston (Anaesthetics), Mr. J. H. Doggart (Ophthalmology), Professor R. V. Bradlaw (Dental Surgery), Mr. B. W. Windeyer (Radiology).

Dr. H. D. Ross was appointed as Lecturer in Pathology in the College.

Diplomas of Fellowship were granted to the following successful candidates:

C. W. F. Burnett, W. H. H. J. de W. de Wyt, R. D. Ewing, G. W. V. Greig, J. M. M. Drew, P. H. Jayes, H. H. W. Jackson, B. D. Stutter, E. N. Owen, Mary Savory, J. R. Hudson, G. R. Fisk, H. M. Jamison, J. P. Jackson, W. H. W. Jayne, E. P. Kempsey, R. T. Hinde, P. A. L. Roberts, M. Hershman, H. P. Jones, M. Bates, R. C. Bell, D. H. C. Harland, C. C. K. Smith, J. H. Peacock, P. H. Wood, P. B. Counsell, D. H. Teasdale, J. Wilks, T. L. Schofield, T. O. Candler, J. H. L. Ferguson, T. G. Harvey, G. C. Lloyd-Roberts, H. O. Thomas, H. Davis, M. P. Pick, H. Hassall, T. B. Smith, C. H. Barnett, N. G. McGuire, J. L. Wakelin, R. E. Connor, M. R. Williams, R. D. de Vere, D. H. Woodhead, C. H. de Boer,

W. H. Lonsdale, F. W. P. Dixon, W. Herschell, W. G. Schulze, D. J. Waterston, T. D. Kelly, A. P. Sandrasagra, J. R. Frylinck, K. C. McKeown, A. Y. Mason, J. E. Buck, P. K. Duraiswami, J. B. Korkis, W. R. McKechnie, J. A. B. Thomas, J. D. Hallissy, K. Harrison, J. R. Magarey, D. M. Morrissey, C. J. Rustomjee, G. R. Yarwood, W. R. Carwell, B. M. Hay, F. I. Herbert, J. D. Sidey, S. C. F. Stephenson, A. R. Zadik, H. K. Bourns, H. L. Brunow, T. C. H. Davies, K. N. Kashyap, F. I. Lichter, G. G. C. McKenzie, N. S. Rao, E. A. Turner, A. G. A. Albers, A. Glass, N. C. Newton, H. I. Rees, C. R. E. Stephens, C. Balakrishnan, S. de C. Barclay, G. G. Ferguson, J. B. Foster, N. A. Fowler, H. W. Gowland, D. Mack, Hamilton, L. A. Jacobs, E. L. H. Jones, H. H. Mirza, D. W. H. Ruddick, W. A. Wilson, G. Y. Akrawi, W. Burnett, O. O. Cowpe, I. D. Henderson, E. R. Lecutier, W. J. S. Melvin, A. F. Robinson, F. Robinson, P. J. M. van Miert, D. J. Wurth, D. Yassa, I. F. Barwell-Clarke, N. K. Connolly, M. Fredman, J. J. C. Frew, N. S. Hooton, S. Konar, J. M. Langham, D. M. McG. Portley, I. H. Saunders, Barbara F. Smith, M. R. Stanley, J. K. Watt, A. R. Anscombe, P. F. Boreham, R. Brearley, J. E. Critchley, R. B. Lynn, S. Sen.

Diplomas of Membership were granted to Eleanor H. Barrington, Thelma W. Dafforn, and S. N. Mathur.

Dr. C. W. Freeman (U.S.A.), Colonel J. L. Bernier (U.S.A.), Dr. R. Ahmed (Calcutta), Dr. N. N. Bery (Delhi), Dr. V. M. Desai (Bombay), and Dr. H. P. Moolganonkar (Bombay) were elected Fellows in Dental Surgery.

A Diploma in Tropical Medicine and Hygiene was granted jointly with the Royal College of Physicians of London to Y. G. Abdelal.

Diplomas in Medical Radio-diagnosis, in Medical Radiotherapy, and in Anaesthetics were granted jointly with the Royal College of Physicians of London as follows:

DIPLOMA IN MEDICAL RADIO-DIAGNOSIS.—D. H. Bodger, P. Cliff, J. F. Doherty, P. K. D. Edmunds, A. Giordani, T. Griffiths, P. K. Haldar, D. I. Harries, B. B. Harrison, Hung-Chin Ho, G. T. Holroyd, G. A. MacDonald, J. P. MacLaughlin, H. F. March, T. L. C. Pratt, S. P. Robson, F. G. M. Ross, J. Rubin, Jean M. Sheach, J. A. Shiers, G. M. Sinclair, D. S. Singh, C. C. Smith, R. Smith, P. H. D. Stone, Z. L. Szur, R. J. S. Walker, A. S. Whitehead, F. B. Wright.

DIPLOMA IN MEDICAL RADIO-THERAPY.—I. G. D. Bell, W. H. Bond, I. F. J. Churchill-Davidson, L. Cohen, W. J. L. Francis, J. McD. Glennie, A. W. G. Gooden, G. F. Green, S. Kramer, V. B. Levison, S. Londoño, Lillian J. Mallender, Marjorie S. Milln, R. F. Parfitt, J. J. Phelan, Y. Sidiq, H. C. Warrington.

DIPLOMA IN ANAESTHETICS.—D. C. Adamson, T. D. Ap Ivor, Agnes W. Baker, D. K. Ballingall, D. Beaton, F. W. Chippindale, H. A. Condon, Margaret R. Connolly, Elizabeth S. N. Fenton, E. N. S. Fry, K. B. Glynn, J. J. Hargadon, C. B. Holland, C. D. T. James, R. D. Levis, O. I. Lewis, S. Lipton, W. G. G. Loyn, L. E. McDonnell, W. G. McEwen, B. H. McGuirk, E. S. Machell, H. G. Middleton, B. G. P. Oakenfull, N. P. Read, M. E. Samrah, R. G. Sykes, J. E. Tees, J. G. Warnock, H. Y. Wishart.

The following hospitals were recognized under paragraph 23 of the F.R.C.S. regulations: Bromley Hospital (Senior and junior house-surgeon); Cirencester Memorial Hospital (Senior house-surgeon) (until June, 1950); Farnborough Hospital (Registrar to ear, nose, and throat unit); Central Middlesex Hospital (Surgical registrar otorhino-laryngology).

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF IRELAND

The following have been admitted as Fellows of the College: Honor M. Purser, J. A. O'Sullivan, S. P. Dundon, B. G. Alton, B. Mayne.

The following have been admitted as Members of the College: W. L. Burrows, C. P. Dempsey, R. S. Garewal, J. B. Lyons, M. A. Majekodunmi, B. E. Swain, J. M. Taylor, E. L. Wilson, M. B. Conlon (*in absentia*).

ROYAL COLLEGE OF OBSTETRICIANS AND GYNAECOLOGISTS

At a meeting of the Council of the College held on May 28, with the President, Sir William Gilliatt, in the chair, the following were elected to Council to fill vacancies caused by retirement, statutory and otherwise: As representatives of the Fellows: Professor O'Donel Thornley D. Browne (Dublin), Mr. George Frederick Gibberd (London), Professor Hilda Nora Lloyd (Birmingham), Mr. John Eric Stacey (Sheffield). As representatives of the Members: Mr. Gavin Boyd (Belfast), Leslie Bonthron Patrick (Sheffield).

The following were admitted to Fellowship of the College: Doris C. Bates, R. B. Charlton, K. M. K. Duff, M. D. A. Evans, J. D. S. Flew, B. Gilbert, J. W. Johnstone, W. I. C. Morris, Margaret M. Nolan, C. K. Vartan, W. Waddell, R. G. Worcester.

The following were admitted to Membership of the College: G. McG. Barr, A. C. Barthels, D. W. Bentinck, B. Bhattacharya, D. K. Black, Kathleen M. Bower, Muriel Brighton, C. H. Brown, J. M. Buchanan, D. P. Cocks, H. J. A. Conte-Mendoza, E. Cope, S. E. Craig, F. A. L. da Cunha, F. B. Davidson, J. Dei, F. Denny, N. S. Devi, C. J. Dewhurst, Kathleen A. Dru Drury, J.-G. Dumoulin, J. M. Duncan, L. T. El-Badri, B. H. Ellis, H. R. England, I. B. Faris, B. J. Frankenberg, J. S. Fraser, W. K. Frewen, H. G. Furnell, L. W. Gall, G. B. Gibson, L. S. Glass, Cecilie Greig, G. T. H. Harris, E. I. Holloway, C. G. Irwin, W. H. Laird, R. G. Law, Silvia C. Lewin, Ethna W. Little, L. E. Lotimer, R. L. Lunt, J. G. McCarroll, H. A. McCredie, J. A. McGhie, J. F. McInerney, R. M. McIntosh, I. D. Macintyre, A. A. McKirdy, A. T. McNeil, D. S. Mathews, G. Mitchell, J. E. E. Morgan, N. F. Morris, N. Noble, A. F. Pearson, H. E. Pellew, H. K. Porter, D. A. Ranasinghe, B. C. M. Reed, J. S. Reid, W. A. Robson, E. S. Rogers, J. K. Russell, H. Sayeed, C. R. Sluming, D. F. Smith, R. B. C. Stevenson, A. S. Subramani, J. Suchet, B. M. Sutherland, Eleanor Tennant, Mary E. Tighe, Mary U. Wilkin, E. O. Williams, E. G. Zacks.

APPOINTMENTS

COYNE, W. J., M.D., F.R.C.P.I., D.P.H., D.P.M., Governor, Central Criminal Asylum, Dundrum, Co. Dublin.

SMITH, J. MACLEAN, M.B., F.R.F.P.S., Fellow in the Department of Medicine, Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, 5, Maryland, U.S.A.

THOMAS, H. ORISHILOLOMI, M.B., F.R.C.S., Lecturer, Department of Surgery, University College, Ibadan, Nigeria.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS

BIRTHS

Ackner.—On June 11, 1949, at Bromley, Kent, to Jean (née Marley), wife of Dr. Brian Ackner, a son.

Clynton Reed.—On May 29, 1949, at Military Families Hospital, Moascar, M.E.L.F., to Jean Neilson (née Roy), wife of Lieutenant Colonel J. Clynton Reed, O.B.E., R.A.M.C., a son.

Cox.—On June 9, 1949, at 29 British Military Hospital, Hanover, to Dr. Irene, wife of Captain John Cox, R.A.M.C., a son—Jonathan Michael.

Ismay.—On June 3, 1949, in London, to Solange (née de la Motte), wife of Dr. D. G. Ismay, a daughter.

Laurance.—On June 9, 1949, at Weekley Rise, Kettering, to Audrey (née Kidner), the wife of Dr. Bernard M. Laurance, a son.

Rainer.—On June 10, 1949, at Bristol, to Iris, wife of E. H. Rainer, F.R.C.S., a second daughter—Madeleine Dorothy.

Tallack.—On June 4, 1949, at the Government Hospital, Wete, Pemba, Zanzibar, to Joyce, wife of Dr. R. J. K. Tallack, Colonial Medical Service, a daughter.

MARRIAGES

Milo-Turner—Burne.—On June 10, 1949, at St. Bartholomew's Church, Penn. Gilbert Milo-Turner, M.B., Ch.B., D.R.C.O.G., Tamworth, Staffs, to Felicity Mary Burne, S.R.N., "Wayford," Coalway Avenue, Wolverhampton.

Richards—Tighe.—On June 4, 1949, at St. Paul's Church, Sketty, Swansea, Denis George Blackwood Richards, M.R.C.P., to Mary Elizabeth Tighe, M.R.C.O.G.

DEATHS

Elliott.—On June 10, 1949, Charles Norton Gavin Elliott, L.R.C.P.&S.Ed., L.R.F.P.S.Glas., formerly of Old Portsmouth, and of Hilston, Denmead, Hants.

Johnston.—On June 4, 1949, at Kendal, George Ainslie Johnston, M.D., F.R.C.S.I., of Old House, Ambleside, Westmorland.

Macaulay.—On June 6, 1949, at Hawthornbank, Selkirk, Scotland, Thomas Symington Macaulay, M.D., F.R.F.P.S., D.T.M.&H., aged 67.

MacDonald.—On June 5, 1949, at 20, Brislington Hill, Bristol, William Forbes MacDonald, M.D., C.M.

McGrath.—On June 2, 1949, at 230, Kingston Road, Staines, Middlesex, John Joseph McGrath, M.D., D.P.H., formerly of Surbiton, Surrey.

Nicholls.—On June 3, 1949, at Clairfaye, Seaton, Devon, Thomas Burtonshaw Nicholls, M.B., Ch.B., Lieutenant-Colonel, R.A.M.C. (ret.).

Routh.—On June 6, 1949, at 141, Durlough Road, Bridgwater, Somerset, Randolph Henry Felix Routh, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., aged 87.

Salkeld.—On June 7, 1949, at 36, Dean Park Road, Bournemouth, Charles Salkeld, M.B., B.S., aged 81.

Sharp.—On June 6, 1949, suddenly, on Okhampton golf course, Christopher James Lewen Sharp, M.C., M.B., B.Ch.

Slattery.—On June 10, 1949, at "The Shanty," Totnes, Devon, James Beary Slattery, M.D.

Southey.—On May 30, 1949, William George Southey, M.B., B.S., D.P.H., of 44, Wellowgate, Grimsby, Lincs.

The need for the greatest possible economy in the running of the hospital services was emphasized by the Rt. Hon. Arthur Woodburn, M.P., Secretary of State for Scotland, when he met the chairmen of the five Scottish regional hospital boards and of the boards of management in the four Northern and Eastern Regions in St. Andrew's House, Edinburgh, recently. Mr. Woodburn added, however, that the Government had no intention of cutting down on essential services—such as the provision of beds and nurses. If a thing was absolutely necessary it should be provided. He had no doubt that hospitals were already being run economically and that charges of gross extravagance were unjustified. People who thought, perhaps naturally, that the cost of hospital service was enormous forgot that, apart from the recent necessary increase in salaries, the vast bulk of hospital expenditure was not new. It was not his intention to issue any specific instructions on how economies were to be effected. The boards of management, as the people on the spot, would know best what developments could be postponed and what services spared. But, especially in view of the recent increases in nurses' salaries, he had to ask the boards to take a second look at their services and see if anything could be cut down. Real economies were more likely to come from small savings here and there throughout the Service than from any one spectacular cut. He thanked the boards for the excellent work they had done. It was a measure of their success that, despite the natural tendency to criticize public bodies, the only point of serious criticism about the hospital service had been its popularity and hence its cost. In the course of general discussion it was said that while relationships were good there was not enough contact between regional hospital boards and boards of management. A plea for more round-the-table conferences was advanced. Various chairmen argued that everything possible was being done to secure economies, but a great deal of lee-way had to be made up, particularly in view of the neglect during the war years.

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.

Penicillin Enhancement Factor

Q.—My clinical experience has been that the new crystalline pure penicillin is not so effective as the sodium salt which preceded it. Is this the general view and, if so, why?

A.—There are several different penicillins with a common nucleus but with different side-chains. Up to 1944 most of that produced commercially was in the form of penicillin G; thereafter purer compounds appeared which contained a larger proportion of the less active penicillin K. The amorphous penicillin seems to contain impurities which enhance its effect *in vitro* and in animal experiments. These substances are heat-stable, and are together known as the "enhancement factor"; they are, of course, absent from crystalline penicillin G. Many clinicians have entertained suspicions similar to those of the questioner, but careful clinical trials have not shown that crystalline penicillin combined with enhancement factor is more effective than crystalline penicillin alone.

Cremor Sulphanilamidi et Sulphathiazoli, N.W.F.

Q.—The National [War] Formulary, 1947, contained a valuable antiseptic cream—cremor sulphanilamidi et sulphathiazoli. Is there any valid reason for its omission from the National Formulary, 1949? How can sulphanilamide and sulphathiazole cream be prescribed in future unless the prescription is written in full? Incidentally, what justification is there for the new cremor proflavinae? There seems to be more than a suspicion that oily preparations of proflavine are useless as bacteriostatic preparations.

A.—The National Formulary contains no sulphonamide cream because the balance of evidence is unfavourable to the local use of this group of drugs. There is, indeed, little satisfactory evidence that they are effective, but definite evidence that they may give rise to toxic reactions. The current view in the U.S.A. is summarized in the statement in *New and Non-official Remedies*, 1948:

"Experience gained in World War II seems to indicate that the use of crystalline sulphonamides and of sulphonamide ointments, creams, lotions, etc., as topical agents was not very successful in the management of wound infection or in treatment of infections of the skin or mucous membrane. The routine use of sulphonamides as topical applications in wounds, burns, and in superficial infections is therefore to be discouraged."

Sulphonamides locally applied may be harmful, since they may produce sensitization reactions in the skin if they are used for more than a few days. Once this has occurred it may prove impossible to give the same or even a different sulphonamide by mouth or locally without inducing a generalized eruption. Sulphathiazole is particularly liable to give rise to this form of sensitization.

The preparation cremor proflavinae replaces the emulsio acriflavinae, B.P.C., which is popular mainly because it does not cause dressings to adhere to abraded surfaces. Garrod and Keynes (*British Medical Journal*, 1937, 2, 1286) state of the emulsio acriflavinae, B.P.C., that "it has no demonstrable action whatever." The cremor proflavinae, N.F., though it contains the less toxic substance proflavine, is nevertheless still an oil-in-water emulsion, and, as the question suggests, the active drug will tend to remain in solution in the oily phase where it cannot exert much antiseptic activity. Wood (*Pharm. J.*, 1939, 1, 327) has pointed out that emulsions of the water-in-oil type have far greater antiseptic activity in laboratory tests, and describes methods for making such preparations. The cremor aminacrinae, N.F., could be used as an application to wounds, ulcers, and burns, though it is intended primarily as an obstetric cream for application to the hands. The aminacrine is non-staining and is presented in a glycerin-jelly base.