

of joint stiffness is stimulating, and there is a useful account of plaster-of-Paris technique.

In the second and major part of the book the author describes the conservative treatment of all the common fractures from a strictly practical point of view. The methods advocated will, with few exceptions, be endorsed by most orthopaedic surgeons, and there are few minor points to criticize. The section on fractures of the fingers leaves the impression that all phalangeal fractures should be immobilized for three weeks—surely an undesirable doctrine for the young surgeon, who should learn rather that some finger fractures need no immobilization at all. And if in distant old age the author himself is unfortunate enough to fall down and sustain a trochanteric fracture it may be that he will elect to walk again after three months at the risk of incurring some degree of coxa vara, rather than doddle about on crutches trying to avoid bearing weight on the limb “for at least six months” as he now advocates for others.

The illustrations and the production as a whole are first-class, but the text is marred by an irritating excess of italics and bold type, which presumably are meant to give emphasis but which in reality give too little credit to the reader's intelligence.

The book is a notable contribution towards the better treatment of fractures, and it should be read by all who have to deal with these injuries in their recent, tractable phase.

J. CRAWFORD ADAMS.

TEXTBOOK OF OBSTETRICS

Williams' Obstetrics. By Nicholson J. Eastman. Tenth edition. (Pp. 1,176; illustrated. No price.) New York: Appleton-Century-Crofts, Inc. 1950.

Williams' Obstetrics dates from 1902 and is one of the famous products of the Johns Hopkins Medical School. For its seventh, eighth, and ninth editions it depended on the late Professor H. J. Stander, of New York. Now, however, it returns to its original home to receive careful guidance in modern ways at the hands of Professor N. J. Eastman and his staff, the assistance of the latter being generously acknowledged by the author. It is claimed that in this edition one-half of the text and one-third of the illustrations are new. Despite extensive rewriting and drastic cutting of the historical sections (necessary to keep the size within bounds), it is still possible to recognize the style and outlook characteristic of Whitridge Williams himself.

In general and as always the theoretical aspects of obstetrics receive preference over the details of operative technique. When the latter are given the author has resorted to the very useful method of serial diagrams rather than wordy description. Anyone searching for errors and omissions will, of course, find them; they are inevitable in a book of this kind. Some will not be satisfied with the account of the pathology of hyperemesis gravidarum; others will wish to see emphasized the importance of uterine malformation as a cause of malposition of the foetus. It is a nuisance, too, to have to refer to two different sections to learn the management of breech delivery or occipito-posterior position. But the book as a whole is satisfying, and the modernity of its outlook can be gauged by its recognition of the fact that even a dead foetus is sometimes best delivered by caesarean section.

How pleasing it is to learn that Professor Eastman and the authors of the other important American text-

books have now agreed on the use and meaning of certain terms such as engagement and primiparity, and even more pleasing that these conform to the definitions generally applied in Britain. “Whitridge Williams” has for many years been regarded here as one of the two American obstetric classics. The new edition still justifies this viewpoint and easily lives up to the reputation of its predecessors.

T. N. A. JEFFCOATE.

BOOKS RECEIVED

Review is not precluded by notice here of books recently received

Handbook of Biolinguistics: The Structures and Processes of Expression. Part 1, section A. By C. L. Meader, Ph.D., and J. H. Muyskens, Sc.D., L.H.D. (Pp. 330. 63s.) London: Sir Isaac Pitman. 1950.

Tropical Dispensary Handbook. By C. C. Chesterman, O.B.E., M.D., M.R.C.P., D.T.M.&H. 5th ed. (Pp. 313. 12s. 6d.) London: Lutterworth Press. 1951.

Woman: Her Change of Life. By M. Lincoln, M.D., F.A.C.P. (Pp. 116. 6s.) London: Williams and Norgate. 1951.

Problems in Cerebellar Physiology. By G. Moruzzi, M.D. (Pp. 116. 23s. 6d.) Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1950.

Recent Advances in Diagnostic Psychological Testing. Edited by M. R. Harrower, Ph.D. (Pp. 120. 20s.) Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1950.

Epidemiology of Mental Disorder. Papers presented at a round table at the 1949 Annual Conference of the Millbank Memorial Fund. (Pp. 198. 50 cents.) New York: Millbank Memorial Fund. 1950.

Seven Against Edinburgh. By M. Masefield. (Pp. 324. 10s. 6d.) London: William Heinemann. 1951.

The Cry and the Covenant. By M. Thompson. (Pp. 498. 15s.) London: William Heinemann. 1951.

The Anatomy of Man and Other Animals. By D. Stark Murray, B.Sc., M.B., Ch.B., and G. M. Jeffree, B.Sc. (Pp. 158. 18s.) London: Watts. 1951.

The Biology of Human Starvation. By A. Keys and others. Vols. 1 and 2. (Pp. 1,385. No price.) London: Geoffrey Cumberlege. 1950.

McClung's Handbook of Microscopical Technique. Edited by Professor R. McClung Jones. 3rd revised ed. (Pp. 790. 90s.) London: Cassell. 1950.

The Daytime Population of the Central Business District of Chicago. By G. W. Breese. (Pp. 267. \$6.) Chicago: University of Chicago Press. 1949.

Terminal Care for Cancer Patients. A Survey of the Facilities and Services Available and Needed for the Terminal Care of Cancer Patients in the Chicago Area. (Pp. 211. No price.) Chicago: The Central Service for the Chronically Ill of the Institute of Medicine of Chicago. 1950.

Goethe und der Arzt von Heute. By Professor C. Oehme. (Pp. 47. M. 2.50.) Stuttgart: Marquardt. 1950.

Biologisch-Medizinisches Taschenjahrbuch 1951. By the late Professor Vogal and Dr. H. Haferkamp. (Pp. 584. M. 7.50.) Stuttgart: Marquardt. 1951.

Hypnosetherapie und Psychosomatische Probleme. By Dr. F. A. Volgyesi. (Pp. 203. M. 8.25.) Stuttgart: Marquardt. 1950.

Menschen in Not. By Dr. G. R. Heyer. Vol. 2. (Pp. 367. M. 15.) Stuttgart: Marquardt. 1951.

Urologische Endokrinologie. By R. Chwalla. (Pp. 560. 560 sch.) Vienna: Springer. 1951.

advised that their proposed extension must await the completion of another scheme of higher priority.

Admission for Chronic Sick

On March 22 Mr. S. PRESCOTT asked whether Mr. Marquand was aware of the difficulty experienced by medical practitioners in obtaining admission to hospital for the chronic sick and that many deaths had resulted directly from the failure to obtain hospital accommodation for such persons.

Mr. A. BLENKINSOP answered that he knew that over the country as a whole there was a serious shortage of beds for the chronic sick. This could be finally cured only by the provision of additional beds, but Mr. Marquand was meanwhile considering a number of measures which he hoped will alleviate the position.

Spa Treatment

On March 23 Mr. B. JANNER reported that Harrogate was cutting spa fees to private patients as a result of the influx of National Health patients, who had brought prosperity to that spa. He asked how far other spas similarly benefited by the Health Service.

Mr. H. MARQUAND said that the regional hospital board concerned had contractual arrangements with the authorities responsible for the Harrogate spa and that similar arrangements had been made elsewhere, where reasonable terms could be secured and the treatment was regarded as medically valuable. The general jurisdiction and management of spas were outside his control.

Divorce.—Mr. Attlee has decided to recommend to His Majesty the appointment of a Royal Commission to review the law relating to divorce.

Westminster Hospital.—The site of the old Westminster Hospital was bought by the Government for £405,000.

Chemists' Pay.—Mr. Marquand, on March 15, refused to consider the appointment of a committee to inquire into the average earnings of pharmacists within the Health Service. He said remuneration of chemists was under review by the appropriate Whitley Council.

Sheep Carcasses.—Asked what is done with the carcasses of sheep after they have been used for the manufacture of vaccine lymph, Mr. Marquand states that producers of the lymph are responsible for getting rid of the carcasses. These are unsuitable for disposal to the meat trade.

Extra Rations.—Regional Food Officers have no authority to grant extra rations except under the direction of the Minister of Food. On medical matters the Ministry of Food is advised by a Special Diets Advisory Committee of the Medical Research Council. Their advice in a case raised by Dr. Reginald Bennett on March 14 was that extra rationed food was not necessary for any of the conditions mentioned in the medical certificate.

Dental Trade Prices.—Mr. Marquand said on March 15 that he hoped to lay before the House within the next few days an Order under Section 10 of the Monopolies and Restrictive Practices (Inquiry and Control) Act, 1948. He hoped that elimination of the practices which at present restricted competition in the dental trade would result in a reduction of prices.

Dental Schools.—The annual intake of dental schools in the years 1946, 1947, 1948, 1949, and 1950 respectively, was 641, 654, 662, 611, and 606.

Nurses from Overseas.—It is not possible to say how many nurses recruited from overseas are at present employed or in training in hospitals. In 1950 about 600 women, including about 350 student nurses, were recruited under official schemes in Germany, Persia, Italy, and the Colonies, while 564 men and women were transferred from the Irish Republic. In addition over 900 individual permits were issued for aliens to take up nursing employment or training in this country.

Age at Death.—The average age at death in Great Britain in the years 1939 and 1945 was 59 and 60 respectively. The provisional figure for 1949 was 64.

Opticians' Pay.—Fees for sight-testing accounted for £4,719,847 in the financial year 1949-50. Separate figures are not available

for optical dispensing fees and the cost of supplying appliances, but the estimated apportionment is £8,800,000 and £8,200,000 respectively.

Consumption of Liquid Milk.—From October, 1950, to March, 1951, inclusive, this is provisionally estimated at 779 million gallons in the U.K. Comparable figures for the winters of 1949-50 and 1948-9 are 755 million gallons and 725 million gallons.

N.H.S. in Wales.—The total gross cost in 1949-50 was £19,602,000; the estimate for 1950-1 is £20,364,000.

The Services

AUXILIARY R.A.M.C. FUNDS

The annual general meeting of the members of the Auxiliary Royal Army Medical Corps Funds will be held at 11, Chandos Street, London, W., on Monday, April 9, at 5 p.m., to receive the report and accounts, to appoint officers, and to consider and, if thought fit, pass the following resolution: "That the administration of the Auxiliary Royal Army Medical Corps Funds be handed over to the Royal Army Medical Corps Fund, to be administered in accordance with the Trust Deed of 1916 and objects of the 1939 Fund, representation of the interests concerned being secured on the appropriate central committee."

A Supplement to the *London Gazette* has announced the following awards:

Four Clasps to the Territorial Efficiency Decoration.—Colonel H. F. Humphreys, O.B.E., M.C., T.D., R.A.M.C., retired.

Three Clasps to the Territorial Efficiency Decoration.—Colonel J. F. O'Grady, T.D. (Honorary Colonel 42nd (East Lancashire) Divisional R.A.M.C., T.A.), and Colonel M. H. Summers, D.S.O., T.D., R.A.M.C.

Two Clasps to the Territorial Efficiency Decoration.—Brigadier A. L. Crockford, D.S.O., O.B.E., M.C., T.D., K.H.S., Colonel W. W. Crawford, T.D. (now S.R., R.A.M.C.), Lieutenant-Colonels M. W. Gonin, D.S.O., T.D., and A. H. D. Smith, M.C., T.D., retired, Major (Honorary Colonel) E. Walsh, T.D., retired, and Majors R. E. M. Fawcett, T.D., and K. W. N. Palmer, T.D., R.A.M.C.

First Clasp to the Territorial Efficiency Decoration.—Colonel R. W. Nevis, T.D., R.A.M.C.

Territorial Efficiency Decoration and Two Clasps.—Lieutenant-Colonel G. L. Malcolm-Smith, R.A.M.C.

Territorial Efficiency Decoration and First Clasp.—Major (Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel) W. P. Purvis, R.A.M.C.

Territorial Efficiency Decoration.—Colonel R. F. Guymer, Lieutenant-Colonel H. L. Sheehan, Major (Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel) C. K. Colwill, Major C. H. Pauli, and Captain (Honorary Major) F. C. O'Mara, R.A.M.C.

Universities and Colleges

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

In Convocation on March 14 A. G. McD. Weddell, M.D., Fellow of Oriol College, was admitted to office as Senior Proctor for the ensuing year.

UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW

During the five hundredth anniversary celebrations of the founding of the University of Glasgow in June a number of honorary degrees will be conferred, including that of LL.D. on Professor Dorothy S. Russell, M.D., F.R.C.P., professor of morbid anatomy in the University of London and director of the Bernhard Baron Institute of Pathology at the London Hospital.

UNIVERSITY OF DUBLIN

Professor J. Harold Burn, M.D., F.R.S., professor of pharmacology in the University of Oxford, has been appointed John Mallet Purser Lecturer for 1951. It is hoped that Professor Burn will deliver the lecture on "The Importance of Noradrenaline." in Trinity College, Dublin, on Wednesday, May 9.

UNIVERSITY OF DURHAM

Ernest Farquhar Murray, M.D., F.R.C.S., F.R.C.O.G., Professor of Midwifery and Gynaecology from 1935 to January this year, when he retired from the Chair, has had the title of Emeritus Professor conferred upon him by the University.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

The Langley Memorial Prize, value £21, is open to competition among officers of the Colonial Medical Service who are serving, or who have served, in West Africa. The prize will be awarded for the best paper submitted on a topic falling within one of the following subjects, special consideration being given to original work: (a) tropical medicine or surgery; (b) tropical hygiene and sanitation; (c) tropical entomology and parasitology. Papers, which may consist of either published or unpublished work, should be delivered to the Dean, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Keppel Street, Gower Street, London, W.C.1, not later than November 1.

UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD

At a special degree Congregation to be held on July 12 the honorary degree of Litt.D. will be conferred on Geoffrey Langdon Keynes, M.D., F.R.C.S., Emeritus Surgeon at St. Bartholomew's Hospital and Vice-President of the Bibliographical Society of London.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND

At a meeting of the Council of the College, held on February 8, with Sir Cecil Wakeley, President, in the chair, a Past-President's Badge was presented to Sir Holburt Waring.

Charles David Read, F.R.C.S.Ed., F.R.A.C.S., F.R.C.O.G., was elected to the Fellowship of the College *ad eundem*.

Mr. J. M. Wyatt was reappointed representative of the College on the Central Midwives' Board.

Professor H. H. Stones was appointed Charles Tomes Lecturer for 1951. It was reported that Dr. Loyal Davis (Chicago) would deliver a Moynihan Lecture on October 9. The Hallett Prize was presented to Mr. M. W. Reece (St. Thomas's Hospital).

The Council decided that the first award of the James Berry Prize would be made in 1952. The subject for essays will be "The Treatment and Preservation of the Injured Hand."

The following hospitals were recognized under paragraph 23 of the Fellowship regulations for the posts specified: Royal United Hospital, Bath (one registrar, one house-surgeon to ear, nose, and throat department); Selly Oak Hospital, Birmingham (surgical registrar, for one year, and first, second, and third house-surgeons, for six months); Black Notley Hospital, Braintree (resident surgical officer, general house-surgeon, orthopaedic house-surgeon, for six months); Hereford County Hospital (surgical registrar, for one year, house-surgeon, for six months); Lewisham Hospital (two general registrars, one orthopaedic registrar, for one year, senior house-surgeon, junior house-surgeon, for six months); St. Mary's Hospital, Portsmouth (senior surgical registrar, surgical registrar, for one year, general house-surgeon, general and orthopaedic house-surgeon, for six months); St. Albans City Hospital (two surgical registrars, for one year, two house-surgeons, for six months); Royal Albert Edward Infirmary, Wigan (surgical registrar, for one year, two house-surgeons, casualty officer, orthopaedic house-surgeon, orthopaedic registrar, for six months).

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF EDINBURGH

At a ceremony held in the College on March 14 with Mr. W. Quarry Wood, President, in the chair, the following were admitted Fellows in Dental Surgery without examination: J. Aitchison, *A. B. P. Amies, D.D.Sc., F.R.C.S.Ed., D.L.O., F.R.A.C.S., F.R.S., *A. J. Arnott, *W. Balendra, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., L.D.S., G. A. Ballantyne, J. Boyes, F.R.C.S.Ed., L.D.S., A. J. Brown, F.R.C.S.Ed., L.D.S., T. R. Calder, J. R. J. Cameron, F.R.C.S.Ed., L.D.S., *E. Charron, *H. M. Crombie, M.B., Ch.B., L.D.S., A. Cubie, J. W. Daunt, *V. Desai, T. H. J. Douglas, F.R.F.P.S., F.D.S., *R. C. S. Dow, L.R.C.P.&S.Ed., L.D.S., H.D.D., E. S. Friel, F. G. Gibbs, F.R.C.P.Ed., F.R.C.S.Ed., L.D.S., A. D. Hitchin, A. P. Husband, A. C. W. Hutchinson, J. D. H. Jamieson, C. H. Kembell, *E. Lapira, W. R. Logan, L.R.C.P.&S.Ed., L.D.S., H.D.D., *S. F. Lumb, J. Lyons, *K. McGrath, M.B., B.Ch., B.D.S., *A. Macgregor, D. Macgregor, A. G. Mackay, W. F. Mackenzie, M.B., Ch.B., F.R.F.P.S., L.D.S., D. S. Middleton, F.R.C.S.Ed., L.D.S., A. E. Miller, *C. F. Mummery, T. Rankin, C. Read, F.R.F.P.S., L.D.S., D. L. Rogers, *A. E. Rowlett, *M. A. Rushton, M.D., L.D.S., *H. R. Shah, H. M. Strutrock, L.R.C.P.&S.Ed., L.D.S., W. R. Tattersall, E. K. Tarrant, *J. P. Walsh, D.D.Sc., M.B., B.S., F.D.S., J. F. Webster, F.R.F.P.S., L.D.S., *F. R. P. Williams, J. T. Wood.

*In absentia.

CONJOINT BOARD IN SCOTLAND

The following candidates, having passed the final examination, were admitted L.R.C.P.Ed., L.R.C.S.Ed., and L.R.F.P.&S.Glas. on March 9: Patricia F. D. Anderson, J. Boyd, G. McG. Campbell, C. MacP. Christie, G. Clarke, D. M. Cunningham, A. de Mello, J. Y. N. Devine, J. A. Eykelenboom, Hannah Furman, J. Goldie, A. E. D. J. Hellegers, D. W. Kidd, Ruth Kope, June M. Litt, J. T. Lunn, R. Martin, J. Minsky, M. H. Pinsky, T. Rice, June Rosin, W. S. Thompson.

CONJOINT BOARD IN IRELAND

The following candidates were duly admitted licentiates in medicine and midwifery on March 16, having passed the final examination in medicine, surgery, and midwifery of the Conjoint Board in Ireland: D. B. Barnett, P. B. Carvill, W. F. Clifford, J. L. Davidson, E. Fischer, J. C. Grogan, P. D. McCarthy, E. S. McDaniel, P. McGovern, Dymphna MacNamara, Margaret M. J. O'Dea, I. Ryan, D. White.

Vital Statistics

Influenza

The influenza epidemic of this year has been the worst since 1933, when the maximum weekly deaths in the great towns numbered 1,934, compared with 1,269 in the present outbreak. The severity and length of the local outbreaks have varied considerably between the great towns. The present outbreak first appeared in Newcastle-upon-Tyne and then in Liverpool and the neighbouring large towns. In the former area the maximum number of deaths occurred in the week ending January 6, while in the latter area the maximum occurred a week later. Generally the outbreaks appeared earlier in the North, with the exception of Yorkshire, than in the remainder of the country. The large cities of London, Birmingham, and Glasgow had relatively a light mortality experience. The death rates for the past 13 weeks for the towns with the largest number of deaths are shown in the Table below:

Influenza in the Great Towns: Annual Death Rates Per 10,000

Town	December			January			February			March		Total Deaths		
	16	23	30	6	13	20	27	3	10	17	24		3	10
Newcastle ..	2	14	18	62	55	12	12	4	11	5	5	—	11	116
Leeds ..	—	—	1	1	13	24	27	33	23	7	10	5	1	141
Sheffield ..	—	2	—	—	1	8	19	30	26	11	13	4	1	115
Bradford ..	4	4	2	2	5	11	34	34	36	21	12	16	4	103
Blackburn ..	5	5	5	5	9	19	89	154	51	23	23	5	5	85
Birkenhead ..	—	4	—	51	154	84	40	22	4	—	—	4	—	99
Blackpool ..	—	—	—	18	7	102	88	42	39	14	14	—	—	92
Bootle ..	—	—	7	52	37	163	44	22	7	—	—	—	—	45
Liverpool ..	—	1	10	58	140	94	39	16	12	6	3	2	5	598
Manchester ..	—	1	1	11	16	33	53	32	23	9	8	4	1	259
Preston ..	—	—	—	9	17	69	52	87	22	9	4	4	4	64
Southport ..	6	6	12	73	91	109	85	30	36	6	—	—	6	76
St. Helens ..	—	—	5	135	232	107	42	28	14	32	14	5	—	132
Wallasey ..	—	—	15	169	257	236	72	41	—	21	—	15	5	162
Wigan ..	12	—	6	—	98	153	79	85	31	12	6	12	18	84
Leicester ..	—	—	—	2	13	24	62	51	31	20	13	2	5	122
Nottingham ..	5	2	2	2	2	3	26	39	32	27	12	3	9	96
Wolverhampton ..	3	3	—	3	3	29	84	68	52	16	6	—	—	84
Birmingham ..	1	—	1	2	6	12	25	35	25	14	11	6	3	297
Coventry ..	2	2	—	4	24	41	—	18	22	8	14	2	4	70
Stoke-on-Trent ..	—	—	2	8	26	76	—	60	45	25	21	8	6	146
Norwich ..	—	—	4	4	9	22	69	78	87	13	48	—	4	78
Cambridge ..	—	6	—	—	—	17	68	114	51	51	23	—	17	62
Bristol ..	5	1	1	5	7	18	48	42	36	22	7	5	7	174
Cardiff ..	2	4	—	6	4	30	25	40	25	8	6	—	2	77
Swansea ..	—	3	—	—	—	29	78	65	45	42	13	—	6	87
London ..	0.3	0.6	1	6	12	16	19	22	12	8	3	3	2	689
Glasgow ..	1	—	1	4	16	24	18	14	5	2	2	1	0.5	185
Belfast ..	—	1	—	9	39	70	40	13	3	8	7	2	2	178
Dublin ..	—	—	—	—	1	18	52	35	20	9	8	3	2	166

Week Ending March 17

The notifications of infectious diseases in England and Wales during the week included: scarlet fever 1,007, whooping-cough 5,516, diphtheria 50, measles 31,837, acute pneumonia 1,106, acute poliomyelitis 18, dysentery 1,672, paratyphoid fever 5, typhoid fever 1. Deaths from influenza in the great towns numbered 88.

Wednesday

GLASGOW UNIVERSITY: DEPARTMENT OF OPHTHALMOLOGY.—April 4, 8 p.m., "*Ascorbic Acid and Corneal Lesions*," by Dr. T. A. S. Boyd.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, W.C.—April 4, 3.45 p.m., "*Tubercle of Bone*," Erasmus Wilson Demonstration by Mr. P. H. Mitchiner.

●ROYAL INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND HYGIENE, 28, Portland Place, London, W., April 4, 3.30 p.m., "*The Common Cold*," by Dr. C. H. Andrewes, F.R.S.

SOCIETY OF PUBLIC ANALYSTS.—At Chemical Society, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London, W., April 4, 7 p.m., papers by (1) J. Hubert Hamence, M.Sc., Ph.D., F.R.I.C., (2) E. I. Johnson and J. King, O.B.E., F.R.I.C., and (3) J. A. Kitchener, Ph.D., A. Liberman, B.Sc., Ph.D., D.I.C., and D. A. Spratt, B.Sc., A.R.C.S.

Thursday

FACULTY OF HOMOEOPATHY, Royal London Homoeopathic Hospital, Great Ormond Street, London, W.C.—April 5, 5 p.m., "*Experiences in Recent Influenza Epidemic*," by Dr. James Hamilton; "*Observations on Influenza Complications and Their Treatment*," by Dr. C. O. Kennedy. Discussion to be opened by Dr. Hector MacNeill.

INSTITUTE OF OPHTHALMOLOGY, Judd Street, London, W.C.—April 5, 5.30 p.m., "*Some Aspects of the Pathology of Fat*," by Mr. E. Wolff.

QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY (GREAT HALL), Belfast.—April 5, 8.30 p.m., "*A Medical Survey of the Irish Famine of 1846*," Robert Campbell Memorial Oration by Sir William MacArthur (postponed from January 11).

SOCIETY OF ENDOCRINOLOGY.—At Royal Society of Medicine, 1, Wimpole Street, London, W., April 5, 5.30 p.m., "*Studies on A.C.T.H. and Cortisone in Disease*," by Professor J. S. L. Browne (Montreal).

Friday

BIOCHEMICAL SOCIETY.—At Department of Physiology, University of Bristol, Bristol, April 6, 2 p.m., 296th meeting. Papers will be read.

INSTITUTE OF OPHTHALMOLOGY, Judd Street, London, W.C.—April 6, 5.30 p.m., "*The Ophthalmological Aspects of Disseminated Sclerosis and Allied Diseases*," by Dr. S. Behrman.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, W.C.—April 6, 5 p.m., "*Diagnosis of Stone in the Urinary Tract*," Urology Lecture by Mr. F. J. F. Barrington.

WHIPPS CROSS HOSPITAL MEDICAL SOCIETY, Whipps Cross Hospital, London, E.—April 6, 8.30 p.m., "*The Action of Carcinogenic Chemicals on the Skin*," by Dr. M. H. Salaman.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS

BIRTHS

Alexander.—On March 10, 1951, to Mary (formerly Stubbs), wife of David F. Alexander, M.B., Ch.B., D.R.C.O.G., Stratton St. Margaret, near Swindon, Wits, a daughter.

Collins.—On March 13, 1951, at the General Infirmary, Burton-on-Trent, to Violet, wife of Dr. W. Collins, a son.

Perrott.—On March 17, 1951, at Fernwood House, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, to Nancy (formerly Hodgson), wife of Dr. John William Perrott, twin sons.

Playfair.—On March 21, 1951, at Cambridge, to Margaretta, wife of Dr. A. S. Playfair, a daughter—Anthea.

Smith.—On February 14, 1951, at Preston, to Dr. Kathleen Smith (formerly Turner), wife of Irvine Smith, F.R.C.S., a daughter—Anne.

Smithson.—On March 12, 1951, to Harriet (formerly Gregson), wife of Dr. R. G. Smithson, of Wetherby, Yorks, twin sons.

Tate.—On March 12, 1951, at Mansfield Nursing Home, to Margaret, wife of Malcolm Tate, B.M., a brother for Philip—Alan.

Waldron.—On March 9, 1951, at Bristol, to Laura, wife of Dr. E. A. Waldron, 124, Pembroke Road, Bristol, a son.

DEATHS

Cromie.—On March 15, 1951, at Surbiton, Surrey, Mortimer John Cromie, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., Lieutenant-Colonel, R.A.M.C., retired, aged 70.

Crowe.—On March 2, 1951, at Witney, Oxon, George Arthur Crowe, L.M.S.S.A., aged 80.

Dalglish.—On March 11, 1951, William Dalglish, M.B., Ch.B., of Hill-rise, Witney, Oxon, aged 70.

Eatough.—On March 15, 1951, Robert Eatough, M.D., late of Mossley, Manchester, aged 88.

Gibson.—On March 20, 1951, at The White House, Aldershot, John Hutchinson Gibson, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., aged 92.

Hirst.—On March 18, 1951, at Southmead Hospital, Bristol, Geoffrey Greatrix Hirst, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., Lieutenant-Colonel, I.M.S., retired, formerly of Heath House, Finchampstead, Berks, aged 72.

Jack.—On March 14, 1951, at his home, 67, Forest Road, Aberdeen, William James Jack, M.B., Ch.B., late of Adlington, Lancs, aged 54.

Kryszek.—On March 15, 1951, at Kota Kota, Nyasa'and, Monica Margaret Kryszek (formerly Renner), M.B., Ch.B.

Lundie.—On March 20, 1951, at Dundee Royal Infirmary, Alexander Lundie, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., of 25, Charlotte Street, Dundee.

Milne.—On March 21, 1951, at Greystones, Witham, Essex, Charles Milne, O.B.E., M.B., C.M., Colonel, I.M.S., retired, aged 81.

Mitchell.—On March 19, 1951, at "Three Trees," Dukes Wood Drive, Gerrard's Cross, Bucks, Godfrey William Mitchell, M.D., D.P.H., D.M.R.E., aged 65.

Oliver.—On March 21, 1951, at the Brighton General Hospital, Matthew James Oliver, M.B., C.M., D.P.H., of Hove, Sussex.

Sandoe.—On March 15, 1951, at "Greenbank," Bodmin, Cornwall, John Worden Sandoe, M.D., aged 89.

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.

Rh Antibody and Precautions at Confinement

Q.—Is it safe for an Rh-negative mother, whose husband is Rh-positive, to be delivered of her second child in a nursing-home where there are no facilities for blood-typing or for transfusion? The first child was normal in every respect. Maternal blood tests during the 30th and 34th weeks of the present pregnancy showed no rhesus antibodies.

A.—If no Rh antibody is present in the mother's serum at the 34th week of pregnancy it is still possible that the antibody may develop during the last six weeks. However, experience shows that Rh antibody which is detected for the first time during the last few weeks of a pregnancy never causes severe signs in the infant, and in the great majority of cases the infant pursues an entirely normal course. Accordingly, if a test at 34 weeks shows that no Rh antibody is present it may be assumed that the infant is not going to need treatment, and the infant can safely be born in a place where there are no facilities for blood typing or for transfusion.

Sensitization to a Plastic Eye

Q.—I have a patient, a boy of 8, who wears an artificial eye. It is found that when he wears a plastic eye the socket becomes inflamed and discharges. Could this be an allergic reaction to the plastic, and, if so, is there any test, in the nature of a patch test, which could be carried out to discover if it is, in fact, the plastic which is responsible?

A.—The simplest test whether a discharge from a socket is due to a plastic shell is to change the plastic shell for one of glass or porcelain. Some sockets tend to become inflamed with any artificial eye, but provided the socket is well healed this should be readily amenable to control. There is, however, no doubt that some patients do not tolerate plastic shells, just as a number of people develop contact dermatitis from plastic spectacles. J. Macivor (*Canad. med. Ass. J.*, 1950, **62**, 164) reported eight cases of contact allergy in a series of 100 patients with an artificial eye. In two of these eight cases there was a plastic implant and the remaining six patients wore plastic artificial eyes. The patch test on the forearm with a powdered polymer and liquid monomer of methyl methacrylate gave a positive result for the polymer in 96 hours in three cases, and in a fourth case the test was positive for both polymer and monomer. In the remaining four cases the skin patch test was negative to both, but in all cases the insertion of a small button of clear plastic in the socket produced a typical allergic response. In these eight cases the removal of the plastic implant or the substitution of a glass eye for a plastic artificial eye cleared the symptoms.

Treatment of Raynaud's Disease

Q.—What recent advances have there been in the treatment of Raynaud's disease? What is considered the best treatment for this condition?

A.—Recent changes in the treatment of Raynaud's disease have been directed to the search for an effective vasodilator drug the effect of which would be of sufficient duration to be of real value for a constitutional disease, and which would not have unpleasant secondary effects. At present 2-benzyl-4:5-imidazoline hydrochloride ("priscol") offers the nearest approach to these requirements.