

inevitably from its value, but students of the subject will be grateful for the history of coeliac disease, for the full discussion of clinical symptoms, and for a most useful bibliography. (It is again a minor piece of bad luck that in quoting a small contribution to the subject by the reviewer the authors have spelt his name wrongly and repeated this error in the bibliography.)

Experience gained over many years of treating hundreds of patients gives the authors much to discuss, but it has perhaps also blinded them to the value of the work of others. Coeliac disease to-day can be cured without the bananas which Professor Haas pioneered. Few would accept (pp. 123-4) that, "if cystic fibrosis of the pancreas is treated by the same dietary regimen that is used in celiac disease, the diarrhea will cease, nutrition will become normal, and if the pulmonary infiltration has not become too severe, it too will clear up." After this it is not surprising to find that the authors make light of the diagnostic value of estimating the trypsin in duodenal juice. The authors' final summarized hypothesis reads as follows: "The diarrhea of celiac disease is caused by an anthroquinone irritant produced by a micro-organism from a polysaccharide substrate." Various paths of investigation to test this hypothesis are outlined.

ALAN MONCRIEFF.

### U.S. PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

*Medical Care of Seamen.* The Origin of Public Medical Service in the United States. By Robert Straus. With preface by Leonard A. Scheele, Surgeon General, Public Health Service. (Pp. 166. £1 4s.) Merchant Seaman Studies, Volume 1. New Haven: Yale University Press. London: Geoffrey Cumberlege (Oxford University Press). 1950.

The title of this book is misleadingly restricted, for the author defines the conditions under which the U.S. Federal Government has entered the field of medical services, and he traces certain trends which in his view indicate the future development of a general medical service. He shows how the Federal services have evolved through expansion and amalgamation of schemes started to meet new needs. The process is illustrated by the history of the Public Health Service, which has grown out of the Marine Hospital Service, founded in 1798 on a contributory basis.

American merchant seamen appear to have been less socially integrated than those of other countries, who came within the framework of the general public medical provision. This factor, together with the concentration of the population on the Atlantic coast, the many inland waterways crossing state boundaries, and the boarding-house racket, created a problem peculiar to the U.S.A., and one which only the Federal Government could solve. Dr. Straus summarizes the developments made in the service and the contributions from welfare agencies, unions, and ship-owners; in tabular form he compares these with the services in other countries. He shows how in 1884 the service ceased to be contributory and how it became responsible for certain preventive measures protecting the whole nation, so that in 1912 its title was changed to the Public Health Service. Dr. Straus discusses the impetus which it received from two world wars and from the Social Security Act of 1935, and brings its history up to date with brief references to its growing responsibilities and authority. The early emphasis on preventive measures is remarkable, and quotations reveal a strong social medical approach as early as 1873.

This brief study is presented in a pleasant and clear style, but the weighty reading on which it rests is apparent in the references. The author is incorrect in stating that the Marine Hospital Service had a precedent in the United Kingdom. The mistake is due to his believing that the Chatham Chest and Greenwich Hospital made provision for merchant seamen as well as for naval ratings. He has high authority for his error, since it was apparently made in Congress in 1884. It would, however, be ungenerous to dwell on this minor point in a book which so completely fulfils its purpose and which provides English readers with much information about American public medical services, previously available to them only from scattered and obscure sources.

J. J. KEEVIL.

### BOOKS RECEIVED

*Review is not precluded by notice here of books recently received*

*Human Anatomy and Physiology.* By N. D. Millard, R.N., M.A., and B. G. King, Ph.D. 3rd ed. (Pp. 596. 22s.) London: W. B. Saunders. 1951.

*Science News* 21. Edited by A. W. Haslett. (Pp. 126. 2s.) Harmondsworth: Penguin Books. 1951.

*Handbook of Experimental Psychology.* Edited by Professor S. S. Stevens. (Pp. 1,436. 120s.) London: Chapman and Hall. 1951.

*The British Encyclopaedia of Medical Practice.* Edited by Lord Horder, G.C.V.O., M.D., F.R.C.P. 2nd ed. Vol. 6: Gastritis to Hypermetropia. (Pp. 712. 60s.) London: Butterworth. 1951.

*Microbiology for Nurses.* By M. E. Morse, M.D., and others. 8th ed. (Pp. 540. 20s.) London: W. B. Saunders. 1951.

*Estado Actual de la Terapéutica Antimalárica.* By Dr. R. V. Ulloa. (Pp. 203. 20 pesetas.) Barcelona: Byp. 1951.

*Bevölkerungsdynamik und Bevölkerungsbilanz.* By Professor F. Burgdörfer. (Pp. 116. M. 8.) Munich: J. F. Lehmanns. 1951.

*Die Narkeanalyse als initiale Methode in der Psychotherapie.* By Professor C. Fervers. (Pp. 120. M. 7.50.) Munich: J. F. Lehmanns. 1951.

*Die Lungentuberkulose im Röntgenbild.* By Dr. W. Hirsch and Dr. H. Liebau. (Pp. 142. M. 20.) Leipzig: Georg Thieme. 1951.

*Atlas der Pathologischen Anatomie.* By Dr. R. Rössle and Dr. A. Apitz. (Pp. 298. M. 87.) Stuttgart: Georg Thieme. 1951.

*Wissenschaftstheoretische Aufsätze für Ärzte.* By Professor G. Ricker. 2nd ed. (Pp. 82. M. 5.70.) Stuttgart: Georg Thieme 1951.

*Das Verstehen und Begreifen in der Psychiatrie.* By Professor F. A. Kehr. (Pp. 58. M. 5.70.) Stuttgart: Georg Thieme. 1951.

*Bionome Psychotherapie.* By Professor J. H. Schultz. (Pp. 186. M. 11.70.) Stuttgart: Georg Thieme. 1951.

*Die Intravenöse Anwendung der Lokalanästhetika in der Inneren Medizin.* By Dr. G. K. Kraucher. (Pp. 116. 13s.) Vienna: Springer. 1951.

*Arzneitherapie der Herzkrankheiten.* By Dr. H.-J. Oettel. (Pp. 253. M. 27.) Stuttgart: Georg Thieme. 1951.

*Fixyopatoloji.* By Professor S. Tavat. (Pp. 775. No price.) Istanbul: Mazlum-Kitabevi. 1949.

*Pratikte iç Hastalıkları.* By Professor R. P. McCombs, B.S., M.D., F.A.C.P. (Pp. 733. No price.) Istanbul: Mazlum-Kitabevi. 1949.

faced what seemed hopeless odds most courageously—one operation followed another, but for long we had no good news. Contrary to expectations, he recovered, as he himself had never doubted he would. I met his future wife when he was recovering and understood what her staunch support had meant to him. His long illness probably helped him a great deal to know the disease in which he later specialized, and made him the understanding doctor he was. Our paths diverged, but I heard from time to time of the good work he was doing at Kelling Sanatorium, Holt, and later at Ventnor. In 1946 he was appointed medical superintendent to the Nayland Sanatorium, and it was a delight to welcome to one's own neighbourhood an old friend who, one knew, would add so much to the local fraternity. His worth was soon appreciated in the Essex-Suffolk countryside, and, though he was only with us a few years, his parting leaves an irreplaceable gap among his doctor friends. He will be deeply mourned by the past and present sanatorium patients whom he served so well. It is sad indeed that when he had won such a notable victory over tuberculosis his brave heart yielded at last to hypertension. Our kind thoughts go out to his wife and to his two children.

THOMAS LANDLES GORDON, surgeon to out-patients in the Western Infirmary, Glasgow, died in the Gardner Institute of Medicine on November 29, aged 49. Tom Gordon was educated at the Glasgow Academy and the Glasgow University, graduating M.B., Ch.B. in 1925. While he had an early leaning towards surgery, it was not until the middle nineteen-thirties that he finally adopted surgery as a career and joined the staff of the Western Infirmary. He became a Fellow of the Royal Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow in 1937, and a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh in 1938. It was obvious before long that he was a surgeon of great promise. From the very outset his judgment was sound and his manipulative dexterity rapidly became of a high order. His most comforting attribute was his absolute reliability. During the second world war he was a tower of strength in the unit to which he was attached. He was an indefatigable worker, and his strong physique made him appear untiring. He was a most helpful and considerate colleague and a recognized guide, philosopher, and friend to the younger members of the staff. He was a capable teacher and a penetrating clinician. For a period he served as an examiner for the triple qualification on behalf of the Royal Faculty. He was an all-round sportsman. In his youth he excelled at rugby football (he was a notable forward for Glasgow Academicals in their halcyon days), cricket, swimming, and tennis. Later he took up golf and became a scratch player. In 1949 he was captain of the Western Golf Club at Gailles, and in that same year he had the added distinction of being the champion of the club. His untimely death came as a stunning blow to his colleagues and friends. On December 1 a funeral service was held in the David Elder Memorial Chapel of the Western Infirmary, where a large congregation of colleagues, friends, and West of Scotland golfers fully testified to the regard and respect in which he was held by the community. Mr. Gordon is survived by his wife, to whom we offer our deepest sympathy.—A. J. H.

## The Services

Surgeon Lieutenant-Commander I. G. W. Pickering, R.N.V.R., has been awarded the R.N.V.R. decoration.

Brigadier (Temporary Major-General) J. C. Collins, C.B.E., late R.A.M.C., has been appointed Honorary Surgeon to the King, in succession to Major-General J. M. Macfie, C.B., C.B.E., M.C., late R.A.M.C., retired.

Colonel (Temporary Brigadier) Albert Sachs, late R.A.M.C., has been appointed Honorary Physician to the King, in succession to Major-General K. A. M. Tomory, C.B., O.B.E., late R.A.M.C., retired.

## Medico-Legal

### DIVORCE FOR INCURABLE INSANITY

#### "Continuously Under Care and Treatment"

By Section 2 of the Matrimonial Causes Act, 1937, a divorce petition can be founded in England on the ground that one party to the marriage is incurably of unsound mind and has been "continuously under care and treatment" for a period of at least five years immediately before the presentation of the petition. Being under care and treatment includes detention pursuant to inquisition or order under the Lunacy or Mental Treatment Acts, or order or warrant under the Naval Discipline Act or Army or Air Force Acts, detention under the Criminal Lunatics Act, and treatment as a voluntary patient under the Mental Treatment Act, 1930.

The Court of Appeal recently<sup>1</sup> had to decide the meaning of "continuously" on an appeal by a husband whose petition for divorce on the ground of incurable insanity had been dismissed. The wife first came under care and treatment on admission to a mental hospital in October, 1945. Her condition did not improve, and she was discharged and removed to a hospital in Scotland, where she remained under detention until March, 1948. She then came to London, and was within a few days admitted to hospital in Surrey, where she had remained until the petition was presented. Mr. Commissioner Bush James dismissed the petition on the ground that the wife was not under detention during the journey from one hospital to another, and therefore had not been "continuously" under care and treatment for the necessary period.

The Court of Appeal allowed the husband's appeal and granted him a decree. The Lords Justices held that the period of detention in Scotland could be added to the periods in England, and that it was not the intention of Parliament that the five-years period of detention should be broken by the removal of the patient from one hospital to another.

<sup>1</sup>Scotsman, July 7, 1951.

## Universities and Colleges

### UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

Denis Haigh Marrian, Ph.D., has been appointed an Assistant Director of Research in Radiotherapeutics, from October 1, 1951.

The Raymond Horton-Smith Prize for 1950-1 has been awarded to Dr. Hugh Reginald Jolly for his essay entitled "A Study of Sexual Precocity." *Proxima accessit*: Dr. J. A. R. Miles, for his essay on "Diet and Exercise in Relation to Certain Infections."

In Congregation on December 15, 1951, the following medical degrees were conferred:

M.D.—N. C. Lendon, D. H. Mackenzie, B. F. Brearley, H. B. Dodwell.

M.B., B.Chir.—H. A. Sanford (by proxy), Patricia L. Broadhead (by proxy).

### UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW

On December 5, 1951, the degree of M.D. (with commendation) was conferred *in absentia* by diploma upon J. Vaughn, M.B., Ch.B.

### UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

At a Graduation Ceremony on December 14 the following medical degrees and diplomas were conferred:

M.D.—<sup>1</sup>P. F. de Caires, <sup>1</sup>R. McK. Fulton, <sup>2</sup>C. E. L. Haffner, <sup>2</sup>T. Harrison, H. Oswald-Smith, A. S. L. Rae, <sup>1</sup>A. R. Somner.

Ph.D.—*In the Faculty of Medicine*: D. P. Basu, M.B., B.S., A. S. Ootschoorn, M.B.

M.B., Ch.B.—Audrey N. H. Andrew (née Robertson), W. R. C. Andrew, E. S. Blackadder, F. K. P. Brydon, R. C. Buchanan, Isobel C. Campbell, G. M. Dewar, J. M. P. Dippenaar, W. F. M. Dorward, <sup>2</sup>Margaret J. Field, P. T. Fraser, P. W. E. Hayward, R. S. Jarema, J. H. Jennings, D. F. Kerr, Margaret L. Liddell, D. W. Lyon, Mary I. McArthur, R. Macdonald, M. A.

McFadyen, D. W. Maxa, A. E. Meek, C. C. Moir, G. D. E. Morris, J. E. Munro, A. E. M. Reekie, W. D. Riddell, A. A. Robertson, A. H. I. Scott, W. A. Simpson, R. M. Stewart, J. H. Sutherland, G. P. Syme-Thomson, J. M. Tainsh, Jean C. Taylor, C. G. M. Third, F. A. Viapree, F. E. B. Wills.

DIPLOMA IN MEDICAL RADIODIAGNOSIS.—A. Lien-yiu Chen, J. MacG. McKay, M. K. Mitter.

DIPLOMA IN MEDICAL RADIOTHERAPY.—W. D. Rider.

The following scholarships, bursaries, and prizes were awarded in the Faculty of Medicine: *Vans Dunlop Scholarship in Forensic Medicine and Obstetrics*, J. P. Laidlaw, *James Cropper Scholarship and Waldie Griffith Prize Scholarship*, Rena E. Hogg, *Andrew Graham Ritchie Bursaries*, A. W. McKenzie and Margaret A. Loraine, *Mackie Bursaries*, A. J. Duff and K. McL. Stewart, *Coldstream Memorial Medical Missionary Bursary*, A. B. Partridge, *Llewellyn Bevan Prize*, J. F. O. Mitchell, M.D. *Russell Crighton Prize*, Margaret A. Loraine.

<sup>1</sup>Highly commended for thesis. <sup>2</sup>In absentia.

#### UNIVERSITY OF DURHAM

In Congregation on December 14, 1951, the following medical degrees were conferred:

M.B., B.S.—J. R. B. Ball, E. I. Blenkinsop, R. Bruce, G. Y. Caldwell, A. I. A. Charlton, Z. H. Cywicky, J. Dixon, J. Fitzgerald, Joyce H. Hindmarsh, W. Holmes, W. E. J. Kirby, P. H. D. Lewars, J. B. Lilly, Jean M. McIvor, J. F. Mather, F. C. Pickering, I. R. Pyle, J. B. Richardson, T. M. C. Saint, W. A. Shiels, Margaret Sibson, H. Tubmen.

#### UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

Dr. Charles Felix Harris has been appointed representative of the Faculty of Medicine on the Senate for the remainder of the period 1950-4, in place of the late Mr. J. B. Hunter.

The following have been appointed, or nominated for appointment, or reappointment, as representatives of the University on the governing bodies indicated in parentheses: Professor W. D. Newcomb (Institute of Orthopaedics); Professor J. M. Mackintosh (London School of Economics and Political Science); Mr. P. H. Mitchiner (Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons); Dr. C. F. Harris (School of Pharmacy).

The appointment of house-surgeon to the neurosurgery department at the London Hospital has been approved for the purposes of Branch I of the M.D. examination.

Dr. Norman Henry Ashton has been appointed to the University Readership in Pathology tenable at the Institute of Ophthalmology, from January 1, 1952.

Dr. Ian Donald has been appointed to the University Readership in Obstetrics and Gynaecology tenable at the Postgraduate Medical School of London and attached to the Institute of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, from January 1, 1952.

The title of Reader in Veterinary Physiology in the University has been conferred on Hans Friedrich Rosenberg, M.D., Ph.D., in respect of the post held by him at the Royal Veterinary College.

The following candidates have been approved at the examinations indicated:

ACADEMIC POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN MEDICAL RADIOLOGY (DIAGNOSIS).—P. Purcell, Una Scorer, R. F. Stubbs, Tha Din.

ACADEMIC POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN MEDICAL RADIOLOGY (THERAPY).—Ethel P. Johnson.

#### UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER

The following candidates have been approved at the examinations indicated:

FINAL M.B., CH.B.—*Old Regulations*: J. R. Jaffe, D. W. Preston. *New Regulations*: J. Ashworth, F. N. Bamford, Freda A. Broadhurst, Barbara Clough, E. M. Coates, J. Cragg, L. Duggan, J. H. A. Dwek, Margaret J. Foulds, P. Fulton, P. W. Gilman, T. T. Glancy, E. N. Gold, Dorothy M. Gratton, P. G. Haddock, C. S. Hajikakou, E. G. R. Jones, R. J. Lande, J. B. Law, B. E. Marks, G. H. Mazey, Elsa M. Mellor, G. W. H. Oldfield, L. Poller, H. J. Reynolds, G. B. Ross, D. Rothwell, G. J. Ryder, F. Smith, G. F. Smith, O. T. Taylor, P. R. Ward, W. A. Whittaker, A. Withnell.

DIPLOMA IN PSYCHOLOGICAL MEDICINE.—H. S. Coulsting, M. M. Lidgate, Edith M. Thorp.

#### UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL

The following candidates have been approved at the examinations indicated:

M.D.—K. McCarthy, I. P. Madhok, H. Roberts.

M.CH.ORTH.—W. J. Betts, P. Chandra, K. R. Daymond, G. F. Fischer, F. J. Gruar, D. R. Gunn, A. K. Gupta, M. Natarajan, J. A. O'Garra, J. S. Roarty, I. W. Winchester, W. H. de W. de Wyt.

FINAL M.B., CH.B.—*Part IV*: Jean D. Birtles, J. H. G. Brown, R. W. H. Clarke, Josephine Dec, K. M. Fraser, B. Freeman, Morilee Garside, Pamela Garside, K. C. Greenwood, F. R. Howell, Roma McDonald, J. J. D. Macpherson, Marianne A. Phillips, M. A. H. Rayman, S. J. Rogers, J. A. Seddon, Ellen G. Williams, D. Winter. *Part III*: Elizabeth Bownass, W. E. Cooper, G. Corney, Enid C. Davies, J. C. Denmark, A. J. Entwistle, L. A. Guile, F. B. Hartley, Margaret J. Hellaby, N. St. J. Hennessy, Joan Knowles, A. M. Laylee, I. Miller, S. Naylor, L. A. Nettleton, W. G. W. Parry, H. G. Row, W. A. Weston, A. H. Wilde, J. D. Wright.

D.P.H.—*Part I*: M. S. Boparai, D. Brahott, J. L. Cotton, Hla Han, V. Israngura Na Ayudhia, O. Jitavare, N. N. Kanyarutoke, A. R. Kennedy, E. Lutfi, L. L. Munro, R. Muscat, R. C. O'Grady, W. H. Parry, T. Sukhanenya, T. A. J. Thorp, K. O. Torgersen, P. H. Waage.

CERTIFICATE IN PUBLIC HEALTH.—H. Frederiksen, E. F. W. Richards.

#### UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL

The following candidates have been approved at the examinations indicated:

FINAL M.B., CH.B.—C. Barwick, Audrey M. Blake, G. V. Catford, Ann M. Haines, G. J. Hillier, R. J. Hunt, D. J. A. Jarvis, June P. Lawson, Mary Motton, I. C. Murison, P. Norris, A. J. Rowland, N. Sartori, M. Sheldrick, N. C. Tricks, D. W. Trump, D. W. Wright. *In Group I completing the examination*: R. A. Iles, M. H. B. Joyce, Gillian F. Peacock. *In Group II completing the examination*: Denise G. Macleod, Antonina J. Sidorowicz. *In Group II (Surgery and Obstetrics) only*: Helena B. M. Bailey, S. H. Brown, A. G. Walker.

#### CONJOINT BOARD OF IRELAND

The following candidates were duly admitted licentiates in medicine and midwifery on December 7, having passed the final examination in medicine, surgery, and midwifery of the Conjoint Board of Ireland: A. S. Beilin, F. Coyne, Anita C. Doherty, J. E. Flanagan, R. F. Frost, N. L. G. Gough, Mary M. B. Hillery, B. J. P. Leahy, Maire M. P. Leahy, M. J. Murphy, Mary P. Murray, G. J. McManus, D. J. O'Kelly, E. O'Neill, D. O'Reilly, J. F. X. O'Sullivan, Katherine P. Prendiville, B. D. Quigley, Mary T. C. Rahill, M. J. Ryan, M. Ryan, W. A. Ryan, J. P. Stewart, R. A. Wade.

The following candidates have been approved at the examinations indicated:

DIPLOMA IN ANAESTHETICS.—C. A. G. Armstrong, J. C. Clarke, Patricia Delany, E. A. Frayworth, L. McArdle, J. A. McNeilly, Patricia O'Neill, J. H. Tyrrell, N. Zwick.

DIPLOMA IN CHILD HEALTH.—V. Barry, D. C. J. Carter, G. Cremer, C. P. Nanavati, W. P. O'Keeffe, K. J. Quinn, Carmel P. Ryan.

#### ROYAL SOCIETY

The Council of the Royal Society has appointed Alan Lloyd Hodgkin, F.R.S., to be a Royal Society Research Professor from January 1, 1952. Mr. Hodgkin will continue to work at the physiological department of the University of Cambridge on the processes of excitation and conduction in nerve.

## Vital Statistics

### Salmonella Minnesota Infection

A large outbreak of food-poisoning caused by *Salmonella minnesota* has occurred in Northamptonshire and the surrounding country. Several hundred people have been affected, and a man and a woman have died. The source of infection has been traced to meat pies manufactured at a pie factory in Northamptonshire. In nearly all cases the symptoms are very mild, lasting for about three days. They include headache, nausea, and diarrhoea, and the patient is often left feeling rather depressed. As is usual in such outbreaks, elderly people are more liable to show symptoms of infection than the young. The incubation period is about 18 hours.

The first case was identified on December 21, 1951. The source was traced the next day and immediate action taken. No fresh cases are known to be occurring now. The precise origin of the infection in this outbreak is not yet known—that is, how the meat pies came to be infected.

YORKSHIRE SOCIETY OF ANAESTHETISTS.—At Leeds General Infirmary, January 9, 8 p.m., "*The Heart and Anaesthesia*," by Dr. B. G. B. Lucas.

#### Thursday

ALFRED ADLER MEDICAL SOCIETY.—At 11, Chandos Street, London, W., January 10, 8 p.m., "*Some Problems of Homosexuality*," by Dr. Erwin Popper. Discussion to be opened by Dr. A. R. Redfern.

FACULTY OF HOMOEOPATHY, Royal London Homoeopathic Hospital, Great Ormond Street, London, W.C.—January 10, 5 p.m., "*Potentized Medicines for Use in Homoeopathy—Some Points on their Preparation and Care*," address by Dr. W. R. McCrae.

GLASGOW UNIVERSITY MEDICO-CHIRURGICAL SOCIETY, The Union, University Avenue, Glasgow.—January 10, 7.30 p.m., Honorary Presidential Address by Professor Stanley Alstead.

●INSTITUTE OF DERMATOLOGY, Lisle Street, Leicester Square, London, W.C.—January 10, 5.30 p.m., "*Histopathology of Lichen Planus and Lichenoid Eruptions*," by Dr. H. Haber.

LIVERPOOL MEDICAL INSTITUTION, 114, Mount Pleasant, Liverpool.—January 10, 8 p.m., ordinary meeting. "*Duodenal Ulcer*," by Professor R. A. Gregory and Mr. James Moroney.

MEDICAL ART SOCIETY.—At 11, Chandos Street, London, W., January 10, 8 p.m., "*The Use of Pastels*," talk and demonstration by Mr. J. K. Popham. He will afterwards criticize members' work.

ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL COLLEGE.—At Lecture Theatre, John Islip Street, London, S.W., January 10, 5 p.m., "*The Proper Sphere of Social Medicine*," by Dr. Andrew Topping.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, W.C.—January 10, 5 p.m., "*The Carcinogenic Process*," Imperial Cancer Research Fund Lecture by Professor Alexander Haddow

#### Friday

●INSTITUTE OF DERMATOLOGY, Lisle Street, Leicester Square, London, W.C.—January 11, 5.30 p.m., "*Medical Photography*," by the Institute Photographer.

OSLER CLUB.—At Medical Society of London, 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, W.C., January 11, 7.45 p.m., History of Pneumonia Evening. "*Osler and Pneumonia*," by Lord Horder; "*The Advent of the Sulphonamides*," by Sir Lionel Whitby; "*The Changing Character of the Disease*," by Sir Adolphe Abrahams.

ROYAL MEDICAL SOCIETY, 7, Melbourn Place, Edinburgh.—January 11, 8 p.m., "*Hypnotism and Medicine*," by Mr. J. A. Gillies.

## BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS

### BIRTHS

Revill.—On December 23, 1951, to Vivienne (formerly Macpherson), wife of Dr. Hugh Revill, of Snodland, Kent, a sister for Timothy.

Wyman.—On December 15, 1951, at Westminster Hospital, London, S.W., to Joan (formerly Beighton), wife of Dr. J. B. Wyman, a son.

### MARRIAGES

Swan—Ede.—On December 19, 1951, at Edinburgh, Dr. Harold T. Swan to Dr. Elisabeth A. Ede.

Williams—Thomas.—On October 27, 1951, at Machynlleth, Montgomeryshire, David Lloyd Williams, L.R.C.P.&S.Ed., L.R.F.P.S., to Gwyneth Thomas.

### DEATHS

Brownlie.—On December 13, 1951, at his home in Hamilton, Lanarkshire, Andrew Brownlie, M.B. Ch.B., aged 75.

Busteed.—On December 18, 1951, at 31, Glenleigh Avenue, Bexhill-on-Sea, Sussex, John Hancock Busteed, L.R.C.P.&S.Ed., L.R.F.P.S., aged 85.

Fletcher.—On December 21, 1951, Nigel Corbet Fletcher, O.B.E., M.B., B.Chir., of 166, Haverstock Hill, London, N.W., aged 74.

Gibson.—On December 11, 1951, at Banbridge, Co. Down, Thomas Jordan Gibson, M.B., F.R.C.S.Ed., aged 57.

Hugo.—On December 24, 1951, at his home in Richmond, Surrey, Edward Victor Hugo, C.M.G., M.D., F.R.C.S., Lieutenant-Colonel, I.M.S., retired, aged 86.

Kelly.—On December 18, 1951, at Wareham, Dorset, William Davenport Crawley Kelly, D.S.O., M.B., B.Ch., Colonel, A.M.S., retired, aged 74.

McComas.—On December 13, 1951, at a hospital, Dorking, Surrey, Cyril Henry McComas, M.D.

Maskew.—On December 25, 1951, at The Wilderness, Langton Matravers, Dorset, Charles Henry Maskew, M.B., Ch.B., of 17, Weymouth Avenue, Dorchester, Dorset, aged 90.

Nathan.—On December 13, 1951, Nestor John Stanley Nathan, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., D.Obst.R.C.O.G., of Talke, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs, formerly of Dewsbury, Yorks, aged 41.

Patterson.—On December 19, 1951, at a hospital, Edinburgh, William Berwick Ure Patterson, M.B., Ch.B., of 6, Magdala Crescent, Edinburgh.

Robinson.—On December 22, 1951, at Little Ghebe, Fontwell, Arundel, Sussex, Charles Allen Robinson, M.B., B.Ch., D.M.R.E.

Smith.—On December 18, 1951, at Hemel Hempstead, Herts, Frederick Hugh Smith, M.B., Ch.B., formerly of Leeds, aged 56.

Square.—On December 18, 1951, William Holberton Square, L.R.C.P.&S. Ed.&L.M., J.P., of Bridge House, Leighton Buzzard, Beds, aged 91.

Strasheim.—On December 17, 1951, at Rondebosch Hospital, Capetown, South Africa, Pietrus Albertus Strasheim, M.B., Ch.B.

Sumpter.—On December 21, 1951, at Brancaster Staithe, Norfolk, Berners George Sumpter, M.B., M.R.C.S., aged 87.

Witney.—On December 15, 1951, Myfanwy Dyfed Witney, M.B., Ch.B., late of South India.

## 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.

### Seasickness

Q.—How may seasickness best be prevented and treated ?

A.—L-Hyoscine hydrobromide is probably the best preventive against seasickness, although some people will be seasick whatever treatment they get and others can be prevented only from vomiting but continue to feel nausea. Hyoscine is best taken about one hour before exposure to motion, and it is less effective, though by no means ineffective, if taken five to ten minutes beforehand. It can be used to treat seasickness after vomiting has begun, but only if it is retained for a little while. The dose is 0.6 to 1 mg. This dose will cause drowsiness in some people, but other remedies also cause drowsiness, and so does untreated seasickness. The dose can be repeated at intervals of 6 to 12 hours up to a total of 2 mg. in 24 hours. If rough weather persists most people become adapted to the motion after about two days, but they soon lose this adaptation in calm weather or ashore and then treatment must be renewed. There is no evidence that seasickness remedies either hasten or delay the onset of adaptation.

Some antihistamine substances also prevent seasickness, but recent evidence suggests that they are less effective than hyoscine and, if anything, more toxic. Promethazine hydrochloride ("phenegan") is probably the best seasickness remedy among the antihistamine substances, and the dose is 25 mg. for adults, one to two hours before sailing.

Impulses from the vestibular apparatus are lessened if a person lies down, and people are less liable to seasickness when they do so.

All that has been said above applies also to other forms of motion sickness, although there are great differences in the way in which people respond to various types of motion.

### Molluscum Contagiosum

Q.—What treatment is recommended for molluscum contagiosum? Are antibiotics effective?

A.—Individual lesions are easily removed with a small sharp spoon, and the base may then be cauterized with pure phenol or trichloroacetic acid applied on a blunt stick. No anaesthetic is needed for this treatment and recurrences are unusual. It is perhaps as well, however, to warn the patient that further lesions may be "on the way" and may require treatment in two or three weeks' time. Recently there have been three reports from America of single cases of molluscum contagiosum treated apparently successfully with "aureomycin" (*Arch. Dermat. Syph.*, 1949, 60, 629; *J. Pediat.*, 1949, 36, 797; *Pediatrics*, 1951, 7, 206).

It is of interest to note that although molluscum contagiosum seems to be auto-inoculable, case-to-case infection is not very common. Dr. B. B. Barrack, in Brisbane, has raised the question whether bird mites could be carriers of the virus.

### Safe Period

Q.—Where can I find information on the reliability of the "safe period"?

A.—On p. 124 of the book "*Any Questions?*" The book can be obtained for 7s. 6d. (postage 6d.) from the Publishing Manager, B.M.A. House, Tavistock Square, W.C.1.