

Medico-Legal

DEATH FROM TOXAEMIA AFTER BLOOD TRANSFUSION

[FROM OUR MEDICO-LEGAL CORRESPONDENT]

At the adjourned inquest held on January 28 before the coroner for the Borough of Southend the cause of the death of Raymond Lawrence Webb was found to be toxæmia due to infected blood being given in the course of transfusion.

Webb, a turret lathe operator, aged 26, entered Southend General Hospital on October 28, 1951, for an operation for the excision of haemorrhoids. The operation was performed on October 29, and on November 8 and 10 he had haemorrhages, after which he was given five transfusions in all. On November 18 his fourth transfusion was stopped, after half a pint had been given, because of nausea. The blood was cultured and was found to be sterile.

On November 21 it was decided to give him one more transfusion before he went home. After one-third of the bottle had been given he showed a reaction of rigor, nausea, vomiting, and a rise of temperature. The transfusion was therefore stopped. Some of the blood was returned to the laboratory and the group checked and found to be correct for the patient. The remainder was left in the bottle, which inadvertently was left uncorked. Later the patient complained of pain and suffered from incontinence. On examination his pulse was weak, he had a temperature, and was restless and perspiring. Anti-shock and other treatment was given, but he died that evening at about 8 p.m.

As a result of the evidence of peripheral circulatory failure and toxæmia which he found at necropsy, Dr. J. W. Lacey, pathologist of St. John's Hospital, Chelmsford, carried out a bacteriological examination of the blood and spleen. Histological examination of the internal organs had shown the presence of a large number of Gram-negative bacilli in the spleen only. The further examination of spleen and blood showed the presence of a Gram-negative rod identified as an intermediate form of the coli-aerogenes group. This is not a normal inhabitant of the intestinal tract, although it can occur there, and is more commonly met in soil, water, and dust.

Dr. Lacey confirmed that the toxæmia was due to infected blood. There was no evidence of how the infection occurred, but in his view the three possibilities were that the citrate solution into which the blood was taken had been incompletely sterilized, or that the bottle was infected during the process of taking the blood, or that it was infected when opened for cross-matching in the laboratory, if it was so opened before use. Dr. Caldwell, of the Southend General Hospital, said that nearly 700 transfusions a year were given at the hospital, and this was the first fatality for six years.

Universities and Colleges

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

Sir Russell Brain, President of the Royal College of Physicians of London, has been elected to an Honorary Fellowship of New College.

Dr. Keith Breden Taylor has been elected to a Radcliffe Travelling Fellowship.

Dr. W. Ritchie Russell has been re-elected a member of the board of studies for psychology for two years from the first day of Michaelmas Term, 1952.

UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW

The following degrees were conferred on April 26:

M.D.—J. H. Bell, ²R. M. Gibson, ¹Mabel E. Mitchell, ¹Mary D. Smith.

¹With high commendation. ²With commendation.

UNIVERSITY OF DUBLIN

SCHOOL OF PHYSIC, TRINITY COLLEGE

The following candidates have been approved at the examination indicated:

DIPLOMA IN GYNAECOLOGY AND OBSTETRICS.—Dulcie G. Rayment, G. V. Chaphekar, H. L. Suri, J. P. Botha, Chin Thin Mann, D. Mukhopadhyay, E. F. Harben, Mary Abraham, S. K. Kundu, A. Joubert, A. Basu.

The following awards are announced: *Dr. Henry Hutchinson Stewart Second Medical Year Scholarship and Daniel John Cunningham Memorial Medal and Prize*, A. W. C. Stewart. *Dr. Henry Hutchinson Stewart Second Medical Year Prize*, Barbara Holmes. *Additional Dr. Henry Hutchinson Stewart Second Medical Year Prize*, I. J. Temperley. *John Mallet Purser Medal*, J. A. Scott.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

The following scholarships at the Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine have been awarded for 1952-3: *A. M. Bird Entrance Scholarship* (£40 a year for six years), M. Charlesworth, Appleby Grammar School, Westmorland. *Mabel Sharman-Crawford Scholarship* (£40 a year for four years), Miss E. M. Palmer, Fairfield High School, Droylsden, Manchester. *Sir Owen Roberts Memorial Scholarship* (£65 a year for four years), Miss E. M. Newland, Norwood Technical College. *Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Scholarship* (£40 a year for four years), Miss G. C. Smith, Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine. *Lieutenant Edmund Lewis, R.A.F., and Lieutenant Alan Lewis, R.N.A.S., Memorial Scholarship* (£40 a year for four years), Miss K. M. Howard, Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine. *A. M. Bird Scholarship for Clinical Studies* (£40 a year for three years), Miss E. H. Shaw, Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine.

UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL

The following candidates have been approved at the examination indicated:

DIPLOMA IN MEDICAL RADIODIAGNOSIS.—*Part II*: D. C. R. Burrows, W. A. Copland, Lien Chuan Yew.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF OBSTETRICIANS AND GYNAECOLOGISTS

The Diploma in Obstetrics has been awarded to the following candidates: K. I. A. Alexander, A. C. Anderson, Elizabeth J. F. Anderson, Patricia Arnold, H. Aufrichtig, H. M. Baird, J. Barr, B. G. J. Barrett, M. M. Baskin, A. Bates, Margaret E. Beynon, J. P. Bingle, H. C. H. Bird, Margaret C. Black, Dorothy J. Blake, Olga Bolitho, J. Breeze, V. R. Bruce, P. Bryan-Brown, J. L. Butler, L. S. Calvert, D. M. Cameron, D. S. H. Cannon, J. Cantor, E. F. Cassar, G. G. Champion, S. P. Chandra, G. V. Chaphekar, Thin Mann Chin, J. M. Clarke, G. Clayton, A. W. Cook, Patricia B. Corston, Margaret J. Croall, H. E. Crosskey, D. M. Curtis, C. J. Davis, Esther M. Davis, Marie T. D'Netto, E. J. Fairlie, J. R. C. Flett, Agnes A. Flewett, T. S. Forsyth, W. Fullerton, J. A. J. Geaghan, R. H. Gelb, G. L. Gleeson, C. Gold, Ruth Y. Golder, J. Gower, B. P. Green, A. C. Griffith, Brenda M. Grimmett, G. R. S. Grogono, Margaret E. Hall, Antoinette I. Hallett, R. P. C. Handfield-Jones, G. Hands, R. G. Hendrey, Muriel S. Hill, F. Hillman, C. Hodes, M. McA. Holmes, M. F. Holt, P. T. Howse, A. Hunter, N. Hussain, A. F. M. Nural Islam, G. A. Jamieson, Nafra A. F. Johnston, A. J. Keane, H. Keidan, A. A. Khattab, M. R. Khot, A. Kilpatrick, D. M. D. King, R. V. Knight, R. G. Krause, S. K. Kundu, Anne M. Legge, M. Lesser, G. P. Love, Alicia A. Lubicz-Sawicka, R. W. Lyie, A. Macdonald, A. D. Macdonald, Mary E. McGavin, R. A. McGregor, Patricia C. Mackay, W. T. Mackie, A. G. McKnight, Sheila C. McNally, S. Mallick, Lorna D. Malloch, Margaret B. Malloch, P. Manolis, J. P. Masterton, Leela Menon, M. C. Michelow, Marion C. Miller, W. Moore, A. D. Muirhead, P. H. Mulhern, G. J. Pack, D. Patnaik, A. B. L. Peake, J. K. P. Perera, Joan K. Perkins, B. W. Petty, D. L. Phillips, Margaret Pugh, Dulcie G. Rayment, Alison M. Richardson, E. J. E. Rochekelly, G. J. Rockley, Esmé S. Rogers, Irene H. Rogers, J. H. Ross, A. Ryle, J. R. Saunders, Audrey Seddon, Z. K. Shaikh, H. G. I. Shanks, K. K. Sharma, J. B. Smith, M. H. Southall, J. T. Spenser, I. W. Stoddart, Evelyn Swangren, R. T. Swinburn, F. Taylor, P. R. Thompson, Anne G. Tighe, S. P. Udani, W. H. Watson, Sheila M. Watts, N. W. F. Weir, Sheila M. E. West, A. J. White, V. T. White, D. J. Wilson, M. E. York-Moore, Bozena K. B. Ziolkowska.

At a meeting of the council of the College held recently a further grant of £3,000 was received from the Leverhulme Foundation, to be awarded for research in obstetrics and gynaecology.

Royal Statistical Society.—The study section of the society has recently formed a study circle for the purpose of examining statistical problems in medicine. Meetings, at which informal papers are read and discussed, are held monthly and are open to all who are interested. The next meeting is arranged for 6 p.m. on May 27, and will be held in the Westminster Hospital Medical School, Horseferry Road. Mr. J. A. Heady will discuss the work of the M.R.C. Social Medicine Research Unit. Further information may be obtained from Miss M. Landreth, the Gordon Hospital, Vauxhall Bridge Road, London, S.W.1.

Great Ormond Street Centenary.—Preliminary arrangements are announced for celebrating the hospital's centenary. On May 26 clinical demonstrations will be given. At noon the following day a service will be held in St. Martin-in-the-Fields, and in the afternoon the Princess Royal will lay a stone commemorating the 100th birthday and the beginning of the new out-patient department. A tea party will be given on May 28 for 250 former patients, and on May 29 the hospital will be open to past members of the medical and lay staffs.

SOCIETIES AND LECTURES

A fee is charged or a ticket is required for attending lectures marked ●. Application should be made first to the institution concerned.

Monday, May 12

INSTITUTE OF PSYCHIATRY, Maudsley Hospital, Denmark Hill, London, S.E.—5.30 p.m., lecture-demonstration for postgraduates by Dr. E. Stengel.

MEDICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON, 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, W.—8.30 p.m., general meeting; 8.45 p.m., "Whither Medicine?" Annual oration by Sir Heneage Ogilvie.

●POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL SCHOOL OF LONDON, Ducane Road, W.—4 p.m., "The Adaptation Problem in Calcium Metabolism. Long Time Studies in Men and Rats," by Professor R. Nicolaysen.

ROYAL EYE HOSPITAL, St. George's Circus, Southwark, London, S.E.—5 p.m., "Factors Affecting Binocular Vision," by Dr. T. H. Whittington.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, LONDON: DEPARTMENT OF BIOCHEMISTRY.—At Physiology Theatre, Gower Street, W.C., 4.45 p.m., "Chemical Structure, Interaction, and Fractionation of Proteins," public lecture by Professor J. T. Edsall (Harvard). (See also April 28, May 5, 19, and 26.)

Tuesday, May 13

CHADWICK TRUST.—At Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, 26, Portland Place, London, W., 2.30 p.m., "Food and Health," Chadwick Public Lecture by Dr. E. L. Sturdee.

●CHELSEA CLINICAL SOCIETY.—At South Kensington Hotel, Queensgate Terrace, London, S.W., 7 for 7.30 p.m., annual dinner.

ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL COLLEGE.—At Lecture Theatre, John Islip Street, London, S.W., 5 p.m., "The Diagnosis of Early Pulmonary Tuberculosis," by Dr. J. G. Scadding.

ROYAL EYE HOSPITAL, St. George's Circus, Southwark, London, S.E.—5 p.m., "Genetics in Ophthalmology," by Professor Arnold Sorsby.

WRIGHT-FLEMING INSTITUTE OF MICROBIOLOGY, St. Mary's Hospital Medical School, London, W.—5 p.m., "Some Aspects of Immunity to Virus Diseases," by Professor W. I. B. Beveridge, D.V.Sc.

Wednesday, May 14

GLASGOW UNIVERSITY: DEPARTMENT OF OPHTHALMOLOGY.—8 p.m., "A Visit to India," by Dr. J. N. Tennent.

●INSTITUTE OF DERMATOLOGY, Lisle Street, Leicester Square, London, W.C.—5.30 p.m., "X-ray Technique," by Dr. C. W. McKenny.

LONDON SCHOOL OF HYGIENE AND TROPICAL MEDICINE, Keppel Street, W.C.—6 p.m., "Medical Research—Its Methods, Problems, and Social Significance (I). History, Methods, Individual, and Organized Research," First Newsholme Lecture by Sir Edward Mellanby, Sc.D., F.R.S. (See also May 15 and 16.)

MANCHESTER MEDICAL SOCIETY: SECTION OF PATHOLOGY.—At Large Anatomy Theatre, Medical School, Manchester University, 4.30 p.m., annual meeting of section. "The Forensic Pathologist," by Dr. W. K. Grace.

PHYSICAL SOCIETY: COLOUR GROUP.—At Imperial College, Imperial Institute Road, London, S.W., 3.30 p.m., 67th Science Meeting. Discussion: "Visual Problems in Colour Television."

●POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL SCHOOL OF LONDON, Ducane Road, W.—11.45 a.m., medical clinical-pathological conference.

Thursday, May 15

BRITISH INSTITUTE OF RADIOLOGY, 32, Welbeck Street, London, W.—8 p.m., A.G.M.; 8.30 p.m., "Studies in Optimum Dosage—A Therapy Lecture," 29th Mackenzie Davidson Memorial Lecture by Mr. Ralston Paterson.

DUBLIN UNIVERSITY.—At Physiology Theatre, School of Physic, Trinity College, 4.30 p.m., "Recent Work on the Psittacosis-Lymphogranuloma Group of Viruses and its Bearing on the Question of Virus Pneumonia and Other Problems," John Mallet Purser Lecture by Professor S. P. Bedson, F.R.S.

EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY, University New Buildings, Teviot Place.

—(1) At Surgery Lecture Theatre, 10 a.m., lecture by Dr. A. Blalock (Baltimore); (2) at Anatomy Theatre, 5 p.m., "Anticoagulants," Honyman Gillespie Lecture by Dr. Catherine C. Burt.

INSTITUTE OF PSYCHIATRY, Maudsley Hospital, Denmark Hill, London, S.E.—3 p.m., "The Integration of Research on Personality Factors," public lecture by Professor R. B. Cattell (Illinois).

LONDON JEWISH HOSPITAL MEDICAL SOCIETY.—At Medical Society of London, 11, Chandos Street, W., 8.30 p.m., "Endocrinology in Paediatrics," by Dr. S. L. Simpson.

LONDON SCHOOL OF HYGIENE AND TROPICAL MEDICINE, Keppel Street, W.C.—6 p.m., "Medical Research—Its Methods, Problems, and Social Significance (II). Achievements, Future Tasks, and Objectives," Second Newsholme Lecture by Sir Edward Mellanby, Sc.D., F.R.S. (See also May 14 and 16.)

●POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL SCHOOL OF LONDON, Ducane Road, W.—4 p.m., "Observer Error in Clinical Medicine," by Dr. Charles Fletcher.

ROYAL SOCIETY, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London, W.—4.30 p.m., "The Elementary Nervous System," Croonian Lecture for 1952 by C. F. A. Pantin, Sc.D., F.R.S.

ROYAL SOCIETY OF TROPICAL MEDICINE AND HYGIENE, 26, Portland Place, London, W.—7.30 p.m., "Animal-Man Relationship in Tropical Diseases in Africa," by Dr. J. Carmichael. A discussion will follow.

ST. ANDREWS UNIVERSITY.—At Materia Medica Department, Medical School, Small's Wynd, Dundee, 5 p.m., "Uterine Action: Normal and Abnormal," by Professor W. C. W. Nixon.

ST. GEORGE'S HOSPITAL MEDICAL SCHOOL, Hyde Park Corner, London, S.W.—5 p.m., lecture-demonstration in neurology by Dr. J. H. Paterson.

WEST END HOSPITAL FOR NERVOUS DISEASES.—At 48, Cosway Street, Marylebone Road, London, N.W., 5.30 p.m., "Psychological Methods of Treatment: I," by Dr. E. A. Bennet.

Friday, May 16

BIRMINGHAM UNIVERSITY: FACULTY OF MEDICINE.—At Large Anatomy Theatre, Medical School, 4 p.m., "The General Adaptation Syndrome," Guest Lecture by Professor Hans Selye (Montreal).

BRITISH INSTITUTE OF RADIOLOGY, 32, Welbeck Street, London, W.—5 p.m., meeting of medical members; 6.30 p.m., "Super-voltage Rotational Therapy at Massachusetts Institute of Technology," by E. W. Webster, Ph.D.

FACULTY OF RADIOLOGISTS.—At Royal College of Surgeons of England, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, W.C., 3.30 p.m., "Congenital Bone Dysplasias and Their Correlation," Skinner Lecture by Dr. H. R. Sear (Sydney).

INSTITUTE OF CHILD HEALTH, Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, London, W.C.—5 p.m., "Respiratory Disturbances in Newborn and Premature Infants," Guest Lecture by Professor A. Ylppö (Helsinki).

●INSTITUTE OF DERMATOLOGY, Lisle Street, Leicester Square, London, W.C.—5.30 p.m., clinical demonstration by Dr. R. G. Cochrane.

●INSTITUTE OF OBSTETRICS AND GYNAECOLOGY.—At Queen Charlotte's Maternity Hospital, Goldhawk Road, Hammer-smith, W., 2 p.m., "Caesarean Section," Guest Lecture by Mr. H. Malkin.

LONDON SCHOOL OF HYGIENE AND TROPICAL MEDICINE, Keppel Street, W.C.—6 p.m., "Medical Research—Its Methods, Problems, and Social Significance (III). Scientific, Social, and Political Impacts," Third Newsholme Lecture by Sir Edward Mellanby, Sc.D., F.R.S. (See also May 14 and 15.)

●POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL SCHOOL OF LONDON, Ducane Road, W.—11.15 a.m., surgical clinical-pathological conference; 4 p.m., "The Effects of Dust Inhalation on the Lungs," by Dr. Charles Fletcher.

ROYAL INSTITUTION, 21, Albemarle Street, London, W.—9 p.m., "The Structure of Proteins," by L. C. Pauling, Sc.D.

Saturday, May 17

INSTITUTE OF LARYNGOLOGY AND OTOTOLOGY, 330, Gray's Inn Road, London, W.C.—11.30 a.m., "The Replacement of Resected Cervical Trachea," by Dr. J. J. Pressman (California).

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS

BIRTHS

Ancill.—On April 30, 1952, at Bristol Maternity Hospital, to Sheila Kendrick (formerly Parrott), wife of R. J. Ancill, M.B., Ch.B., a son—Paul Kendrick.

Calnan.—On April 24, 1952, at Oxford, to Joan (formerly Williams), wife of James Calnan, F.R.C.S., M.R.C.P., a daughter—Lavinia Cherry.

Jarvis.—On April 29, 1952, at Luton, Beds, to Anne, wife of Dr. H. Jarvis, a son—Allan.

Livingstone.—On April 29, 1952, at University College Hospital, London, W.C., to Mair (Dr. M. E. Morgan Thomas) and James Livingstone, a daughter.

Schorstein.—On April 28, 1952, to Mrs. Schorstein, wife of Mr. Joseph Schorstein, F.R.C.S., of MuirLead, Killearn, Stirlingshire, a daughter.