

throat and ear department of the St. Pancras Dispensary. During the war of 1914-18 he served for a time in the R.A.M.C. as an aural specialist with the rank of captain. For many years he was honorary laryngologist to the Royal College of Music, the Royal Choral Society, and the Royal Society of Musicians, and was a popular lecturer to non-medical audiences on such subjects as the anatomy and physiology of the larynx.

Cyril Horsford's contributions to medical literature were comparatively few, but they were all helpful and practical. In discussions at meetings of the section of laryngology of the Royal Society of Medicine he was an occasional but always pungent contributor; and he was a loyal and regular attendee at the dinners of the Edinburgh University Club in London, of which he was one of the oldest members. He married Miss Edith Louise Sayers, adopted daughter of the late Miss Lascelles-Jones, and had a son and a daughter, with whom he led a most happy and devoted family life.—R. S. S.

#### ADAM BARR, M.B., F.R.F.P.S., F.R.C.O.G.

Dr. Adam Barr, senior obstetrician and gynaecologist at Stobhill Hospital, Glasgow, died suddenly on December 11, 1953, while on his way home from hospital. He was 60 years of age.

Adam Barr was born on May 29, 1893, at Rutherglen, a royal burgh on the outskirts of Glasgow, and there he spent the early years of his life. He graduated M.B., Ch.B. at Glasgow University in 1921, his medical course having been interrupted by a period of service as a combatant in the first world war. After graduation he held several house appointments and then spent five years in general practice. But he had always been much interested in obstetrics, and as soon as the opportunity offered joined the staff of the Royal Maternity and Women's Hospital and the Royal Samaritan Hospital in Glasgow. In 1929 he was given charge of the obstetrical and gynaecological units of the Eastern District, Western District, and Stobhill Hospitals, and, while holding these appointments, acted for a time as professor of midwifery in the Anderson College of Medicine. He relinquished this post to become senior assistant to Professor S. J. Cameron at the university and at the Western Infirmary. He was elected F.R.F.P.S. in 1926 and two years later he took the diploma of L.M. of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland. In 1940 he became a Fellow—he was a founder member—of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists.

More recently he retired from private practice and from his other hospital appointments and devoted himself entirely to his work as senior obstetrician and gynaecologist at Stobhill Hospital. Under his supervision the obstetrical and gynaecological unit there developed into a department of over 200 beds. The university, recognizing its importance, appointed Dr. Barr an honorary lecturer in clinical obstetrics and gynaecology and arranged that he should undertake the teaching of a considerable number of the university students. He also acted as examiner to the university, to the Central Midwives Board, and to other institutions, including the Royal Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow.

Dr. Barr excelled as a clinician, a teacher, and a consultant. As a teacher, he never forgot that the majority of his students would enter general practice, and he made it his business to fit them for their task. His own early

experience and his gift of stating the essentials in plain terms enabled him to do this with outstanding success. For the same reason no postgraduate course was complete without his lecture on midwifery in general practice. He acquired a very large private practice, which with his hospital work kept him so busy that he had little time for research, even if his interests had leaned in that direction. But his main concern was with the purely practical aspects of his specialty, and his published work deals exclusively with practical matters. Perhaps his most outstanding contribution was the development (in conjunction with Dr. Andrew Tindal) of the Barr-Tindal apparatus for the self-administration of gas and oxygen. Other pieces of work included an investigation into the value of serum in the treatment of puerperal sepsis, and the use of "prontosil" in cases of renal infection.

Outside medicine his main pleasures were a love of the countryside and a keen interest in the Church. He was a devout churchman and took an active share in the services and in the social work of the congregation to which he was attached. He was particularly fond of the old Scottish psalm tunes, and when unable through pressure of work to attend a service he used to play over to himself the records of the old psalm tunes as sung by the Glasgow Orpheus Choir. Dr. Barr is survived by his wife, who is also a doctor, and by his only child (a daughter), who is a second-year medical student; to them, and to his other relatives, we extend our deep sympathy.—J. H.

#### WILFRED SHAW, M.D., F.R.C.S., F.R.C.O.G.

C. R. M. writes: As a house-surgeon—many years ago—of the late Wilfred Shaw, whose obituary was printed in the *Journal* of December 19, 1953 (p. 1380), I should like to pay a humble tribute to a great man. Although he will always be remembered for his work in science—especially on ovarian tumours—I shall always think of him as a superb clinician, operator, and teacher. He must occasionally, like all of us, have made clinical mistakes, and yet I cannot recollect an occasion when this occurred. The search for truth was the objective from which he never deviated. Ready at all times to consider the opinions of others, he was equally stubborn in defending his own unorthodox views, if he was sure that he was right. His genius for sifting the mass of material in the modern medical press was remarkable, and a day or two spent with him in the operating theatre, out-patients, or on a ward round were worth any postgraduate course or conference.

To his old students, or for that matter any visitor, he was an inspiration and ever ready to help, advise—or listen. I was privileged to see the proofs of his *Operative Gynaecology*, fortunately completed. This magnum opus, not yet published, will undoubtedly be the brightest star among his other well-known publications. The loss of this remarkable man at such an early age is indeed a severe one to British obstetrics and gynaecology.

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## The Services

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Brigadier A. Sachs, C.B.E., Q.H.P., late R.A.M.C., has been appointed D.D.M.S., and has been granted the temporary rank of Major-General.

Captains R. P. Hickey and D. R. Patchett, R.A.M.C., have been awarded the Military Cross in recognition of gallant and distinguished services in Korea.

Surgeon Captain A. A. Pomfret, O.B.E., R.N., has been appointed Honorary Surgeon to the Queen in succession to Surgeon Captain M. Brown, R.N., who has been placed on the Retired List.

## Medico-Legal

### BELL'S PALSY IN DRAUGHTY OFFICE

A South-western Electricity Board temporary clerk, Mr. N. L. Andrews, aged 53, of Minehead, Somerset, unsuccessfully brought an action for damages against the Board before Mr. Justice Parker at Devon Assizes recently on the grounds that when employed in the Board's office between December, 1951, and March, 1952, he had to sit in draughts which caused him to suffer from Bell's palsy, with a result that he was now prevented from doing any sustained work. His case was that for the rest of his life he would suffer a considerable degree of disability, and the disease was one which could be caused by exposure to draughts.

Since Mr. Andrews had contracted the disease the Board had fitted draught-excluding devices to the windows and doors of the premises.

Dr. P. B. Stirling Cooper, of Minehead, said he believed that Mr. Andrews's complaint was caused by a draught on the side of his face.

Dr. T. Rowland Hill, consultant in neurology, said the form of palsy from which Mr. Andrews suffered was nearly always caused by a draught striking the face. He thought Mr. Andrews was truthful when he said that he could not work for any longer than half an hour without getting a splitting headache. There had been a nervous reaction in Mr. Andrews, although in about 18 months the patient might be able to do a full day's work again.

The defendants contended that, if the plaintiff was right, even people who had got influenza might be taking out writs against the transport authorities for allowing draughts in trains and buses. An employer was bound to take reasonable precautions for the safety of his employees, but precautions against draughts fell into the category of welfare and not safety. It was not certain that Bell's palsy was caused by draughts. From clinical experience it was thought that was probable, but it had not been established.

### Judgment

Giving judgment, Mr. Justice Parker said that on March 30, 1952, Mr. Andrews woke up with his jaw distorted, his left eye closed, and the whole of the left side of his face paralysed. The complaint was correctly diagnosed as Bell's palsy.

It was the plaintiff's case that the disease was caused by the negligence of his employers. A plan showed the office in which Mr. Andrews worked for the Board to be a passage room. Witnesses had said that the office was very draughty and cold with badly fitting doors, and people who walked through left the doors open. But there had been a good deal of exaggeration in the evidence given on the part of the plaintiff, and he was satisfied that the office was no more draughty than any other office, subject of course to its being a passage room.

The latest theory was that certain people were predisposed to Bell's palsy. On the balance of probabilities he was satisfied that in the Board's office the conditions did precipitate that disease in a man already predisposed towards it in the sense that he already had a virus infection of a nerve. There was no question of the employers' having the slightest knowledge or suspicion that the plaintiff was so predisposed to that disease. Eliminating that, one asked oneself what steps a reasonable and prudent employer should take in regard to his office staff in conditions such as those in that case. Conditions in the Board's office were quite comparable with those existing in other offices and were not such as the employers ought reasonably to have foreseen injury to health, although they might well recognize that there was discomfort, as opposed to danger to health. The defendants in that case had not been guilty of any breach of duty and the claim therefore failed.

## Universities and Colleges

### UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

In a Congregation held on October 31 the following medical degrees were conferred:

D.M.—R. G. White, E. O. Field, E. C. Hoff.

The Board of the Faculty of Medicine has awarded medical scholarships to Roland David Stedeford (Worcester College) and Ortwyn Answald Alwin Bock (University of Pretoria).

### UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

In Congregation on November 14 the degree of M.A. was conferred on F. W. Campbell, Ph.D., M.B., Ch.B., University Lecturer in the Department of Physiology, and the degrees of M.B., B.Chir. on R. J. Hutchinson (by proxy).

The following degrees were conferred on October 31:

M.D.—D. H. M. Woollam, T. M. Robinson, R. B. Welbourn.

M.A.—C. W. McE. Pratt, M.B., Ch.B., University Demonstrator in Anatomy.

M.B., B.Chir.—Mrs. Stella M. E. Ambache (by proxy).

### UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN

The following medical degrees were conferred on October 28:

Ch.M.—G. E. Mavor.

M.B., Ch.B.—Frances Allan, J. G. Barnett, G. R. Buchan, Vera C. Coutts, B. B. Dale, N. L. Edmond, J. D. Garden, W. Geddes, J. D. Johnston, D. Macintosh, J. McNab, C. O. Macrae, A. N. Milne, V. J. Murphy, G. G. Rennie, T. F. Rennie, N. F. Stewart, J. V. Watt, Isobel M. Wood.

### UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

The Court of the University has re-elected Sir Archibald Gray as deputy chairman, and Dr. C. F. Harris has been elected chairman of the Academic Council.

Dr. P. W. Rowland has been reappointed representative of the University on the governing body of the Colchester Royal Grammar School.

Mr. J. H. Doggart has been recognized as a teacher of ophthalmology of the University at the Institute of Ophthalmology.

The Laura de Saliceto Studentship has been awarded to Dr. H. J. G. Bloom for a period of two years in the first instance from October, 1953; the A. H. Bygott Scholarship, tenable for one year, to Dr. T. A. Plumley; a University Studentship in Anatomy to A. W. Rogers (London Hospital Medical College); and a University Studentship in Physiology to J. J. Misiewicz (St. Bartholomew's Hospital Medical College).

The title of Reader in Entomology, as applied to Hygiene, in the University has been conferred on J. R. Busvine, Ph.D., D.Sc., in respect of the post held by him at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

The following degrees were awarded by the Vice-Chancellor on behalf of the Senate on September 30:

M.D. (INTERNAL).—Helen Ingleby.

M.S. (INTERNAL).—F. B. Cockett.

### UNIVERSITY OF WALES

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

TUBERCULOUS DISEASES DIPLOMA.—T. B. Master, J. Morgan, C. Michie, B. Sinha.

### UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

Dr. D. G. F. Harriman has been appointed Lecturer in Neuro-pathology in the Department of Pathology.

### UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD

The following appointments are announced: Dr. Alison Chapman, Whole-time Assistant Medical Officer to the Student Health Service; Dr. T. Smith, Part-time Lecturer and Clinical Teacher in Obstetrics and Gynaecology; Dr. D. H. Blakey, Part-time Honorary Tutor in Obstetrics and Gynaecology; Dr. R. S. Weetch, Part-time Honorary Lecturer in Therapeutics.

Dr. M. G. Philpott has resigned his appointment as Tutor in Child Health.

The John Stokes Medical Research Fellowship has been awarded to Mr. R. Whittam.

## ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF EDINBURGH

At a quarterly meeting of the College held on November 3, with the President, Dr. W. A. Alexander, in the chair, the following were elected Fellows of the College: R. V. Rajam, Sir Peter MacCallum, R. Morrison, Jean M. Grant, G. H. Armitage, S. Chaudhuri, I. R. C. Batchelor, A. G. S. Hill, E. M. Heller, R. C. L. Batchelor, J. O. Forfar, W. A. Karunaratne, J. H. Wright, G. M. Fyfe.

The following were elected Members of the College: T. K. MacLachlan, E. Hacker, S. S. Maitra, L. D. Walters, B. A. Bradlow, E. Taube, V. M. Hercus, W. Cooper, R. L. Walker, H. Watson, J. O. Taubman, M. G. Pradhan, F. W. Tadros, J. D. Andrew, S. A. Biggart, G. R. Tudhope, D. W. Dawson, H. M. Macleod, N. K. Sarkar, S. Sachdev, J. D. Haldane, A. K. Dutta, A. P. Kumbhani, T. T. S. Ingram, B. Zilberg, J. Blake.

## ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF EDINBURGH

At a meeting of the College held on October 21, with Professor Walter Mercer, President, in the chair, the following were admitted Fellows of the College after having passed the requisite examinations: F. O. Adewole, M. Ahmad, D. Crichton, A. B. McL. Currie, E. Davidowitz, K. R. Daymond, L. P. Eaton, F. Elahi, J. M. Foreman, T. E. Haddad, S. A. Hamid, J. M. Hastings, H. Kee, H. Klein, P. Lakshmiipathy, W. Markkanen, M. K. Mehra, N. D. Motashaw, H. H. Neifeld, K. M. Said, G. P. Srivastava, N. L. Stokoe, E. R. Treasure, M. A. Vali, G. S. Watson, J. B. R. Wells, A. O. Wilson, C. G. Wilson, A. I. Yashruti.

## ROYAL FACULTY OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS OF GLASGOW

At a meeting of the Royal Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow held on October 5, with the President, Dr. Andrew Allison, in the chair, Tayi Anjaneyulu Naidu, M.B., B.S., was admitted a Fellow of Faculty *qua* physician.

At the annual meeting of the Faculty held on November 2 the following office-bearers were elected for the ensuing year: *President*, Dr. Andrew Allison; *Visitor*, Professor Stanley G. Graham; *Honorary Secretary*, Dr. A. H. Imrie; *Honorary Treasurer*, Mr. Matthew White; *Honorary Librarian*, Dr. Archibald L. Goodall; *Representative on the General Medical Council*, Dr. Andrew Allison.

## ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF IRELAND

The following were admitted to the Licence and Membership of the College on November 6, 1953: C. P. Gore, R. L. McCorry, M. K. O'Driscoll.

G. Bheek was admitted, *in absentia*, to the Licence and Membership on October 2, 1953.

The following candidates were admitted to the Licence of Medicine and Midwifery of the College on July 3, 1953: A. Omololu, A. Onyejiaka.

## SOCIETY OF APOTHECARIES OF LONDON

The following candidates, having completed the final examination, are granted the diploma of the Society (L.M.S.S.A.), enabling them (upon complying with the requirements of the Medical Acts) to practise medicine, surgery, and midwifery: H. N. Orgel, N. G. Brockbank, B. Hatchick, D. J. Cripps, E. Jaques, G. L. Feldman, J. W. Jordan, B. N. Baijal, R. A. Rossdale, P. Sykes, E. R. Griffiths, G. C. Smith, A. Glover, J. B. Kriechbaum, J. K. Blackwell.

Dr. H. Seaward Morley, Master, presided at a recent meeting of the Court of Assistants of the Society, at which Dr. J. P. Hedley was reappointed Representative on the General Medical Council.

W. A. W. Dutton has passed the examination for the diploma of Mastery of Midwifery.

The following candidates, having completed the final examination, have been granted the diploma of L.M.S.S.A.: C. S. Chou, R. L. Cort, W. C. Newport, M. E. B. Carson, I. K. Nasr, W. P. N. Moore, A. C. Parry, P. M. C. Camm, E. C. Duerksen, J. D. Van Aswegen, D. S. Pickup.

## ROYAL COLLEGE OF OBSTETRICIANS AND GYNAECOLOGISTS

At a meeting of the Council of the College held on October 16, with the President, Mr. Arthur A. Gemmell, in the chair, the following were admitted to the Membership: L. J. Abramowitz, S. Alankaram, W. J. R. Anderson, G. S. Andrew, A. K. Bose, J. C. Brace, T. J. Buckley, S. Burke, R. K. Burt, J. G. Cameron, R. S. Casement, Po Wong Christina Chow, Maureen D. Connolly, R. L. Edwards, M. B. Flanagan, F. M. C. Forster, Kathleen M.

Frith, M. C. G. Grant, P. B. Guastalla, R. H. J. Hamlin, J. W. S. Harris, J. M. Holmes, C. A. Jones, R. L. Jones, I. R. Macdonald, Betty Mallace, G. A. Manly, D. N. Menzies, M. C. Michelow, J. J. Nattrass, H. H. Neifeld, F. N. Nesar, J. P. O'Dwyer, D. R. Patnaik, Clara Phillips, B. G. Pickles, W. Rotheram, J. S. Scott, J. M. Stewart, R. A. Struthers, Valerie M. Thompson, C. J. Thornberry, H. Ulman, C. G. Wilson.

## CONJOINT BOARD IN SCOTLAND

The following candidates, having passed the final examinations, have been granted the diploma of L.R.C.P.Ed., L.R.C.S.Ed., L.R.F.P.S.Glasg.: J. A. Childs, J. C. Douglas, E. Haniford, S. Khosla, T. J. McA. Kirby, G. D. B. Lindsay, P. Murray, Marie J. Ribchester, M. H. Rizvi, W. J. Ross, R. M. Wight.

## CONJOINT BOARD IN IRELAND

The following candidates were successful at the D.P.M. examination held in September: L. I. Shenken, R. E. Jenkins, T. H. Bewley, H. M. Flanagan, D. D. Ellis, J. A. Kelleher.

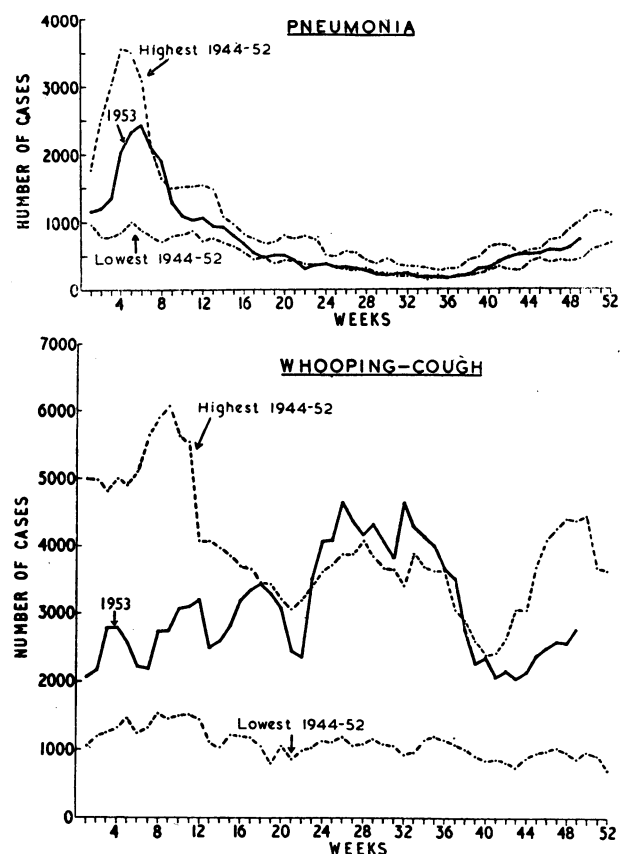
## Vital Statistics

## Week Ending December 19

The notifications of infectious diseases in England and Wales during the week included scarlet fever 1,284, whooping-cough 2,304, diphtheria 16, measles 778, dysentery 503, acute poliomyelitis 51, paratyphoid fever 4, and typhoid fever 1.

## Graphs of Infectious Diseases

The graphs below show the uncorrected numbers of cases of certain diseases notified weekly in England and Wales. Highest and lowest figures reported in each week during the nine years 1944-52 are shown thus -----, the figures for 1953 thus ————. Except for the curves showing notifications in 1953, the graphs were prepared at the Department of Medical Statistics and Epidemiology, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.



## COMING EVENTS

**Sao Paulo Quatercentenary.**—To celebrate the fourth centenary of the city of São Paulo the São Paulo Medical Association has organized 10 medical congresses to take place in the city during July, 1954. The congresses are: sixth International Congress on Cancer, nineteenth International Congress on Oto-Neuro-Ophthalmology, third Interim Congress of the Pan-American Association of Ophthalmology, fifth Pan-American Congress on Gastroenterology, first Latin-American Congress on Mental Hygiene, fourth Pan-American Congress on Puericulture and Paediatrics, second Latin-American Congress on Gynaecology and Obstetrics, twelfth Brazilian Congress on Cardiology, first Brazilian Congress on Physical Anthropology, and the third meeting of the Brazilian Society of Crenology and Climatology. Further details about any of these congresses may be obtained from the secretary of the São Paulo Medical Association, Caixa Postal 2103, São Paulo, Brazil.

**French Medical Week.**—"Les Journées Médicales de France," organized by the Société Médicale des Praticiens, will be held in Paris from April 21 to 25 under the chairmanship of Professor Camille Lian. The "Journées" are open to doctors and medical students of all countries. Further information may be obtained from the Secrétariat des Journées Médicales de France et de l'Union Française, 12, rue Pierre Geofroix, Colombes (Seine).

## SOCIETIES AND LECTURES

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

## Monday, January 4

INSTITUTE OF NEUROLOGY.—5 p.m., Dr. Michael Kremer: Research in Neurology.

ROYAL EYE HOSPITAL.—5.15 p.m., Dr. T. H. Whittington: Myopia, and the Care and Treatment of the Myopic Patient.

WEST LONDON HOSPITAL.—6 p.m., Professor T. Gualtierotti: Physiological Observations on Stimulating the Brain through External Electrodes in the Baboon and Man (illustrated by lantern slides).

## Tuesday, January 5

INSTITUTE OF DERMATOLOGY.—5.30 p.m., Dr. M. S. Thomson: Diseases Due to Animal Parasites.

## Wednesday, January 6

INSTITUTE OF DERMATOLOGY.—5.30 p.m., Dr. R. W. Riddell: Moniliasis.

ROYAL EYE HOSPITAL.—5.30 p.m., Mr. L. H. Savin: Ophthalmic Operations and their Indications (2).

YORKSHIRE SOCIETY OF ANAESTHETISTS.—At General Infirmary at Leeds. 8 p.m., Symposium arranged by Dr. H. J. Brennan.

## Thursday, January 7

FACULTY OF HOMOEOPATHY.—5 p.m., Mr. H. D. W. Powell: Some Surgical Aspects of Fluid Balance.

●INSTITUTE OF CHILD HEALTH.—5.30 p.m., Dr. E. M. Creak: Differential Diagnosis of Backwardness.

INSTITUTE OF PSYCHIATRY.—5.30 p.m., Inaugural Lecture by Professor G. W. Harris, F.R.S.: Emotional States and the Pituitary Gland.

LIVERPOOL MEDICAL INSTITUTION.—8 p.m., symposium: Overcoming Disabilities. Openers, Dr. C. A. Clarke, Dr. R. R. Hughes, Dr. A. Thelwall Jones, Dr. G. Sanderson, and Mr. G. E. Thomas.

ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL COLLEGE.—5 p.m., Mr. E. W. Riches: Recent Trends in Urology.

ROYAL EYE HOSPITAL.—5.30 p.m., Miss M. Savory: Differential Diagnosis of Proptosis.

ST. JOHN'S HOSPITAL DERMATOLOGICAL SOCIETY.—4.30 p.m., demonstration of clinical cases; 5.15 p.m., discussion of clinical cases.

## Friday, January 8

INSTITUTE OF DERMATOLOGY.—5.30 p.m., clinical demonstration by Dr. R. M. B. MacKenna: Psoriasis.

ROYAL EYE HOSPITAL.—5 p.m., Miss M. Savory: Differential Diagnosis of the Retinopathies.

## BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS

## BIRTHS

Hill.—On December 16, 1953, at Robinson Hospital, Ballymoney, to Nancy (formerly Hinchcliff), M.B., wife of Dr. W. J. C. Hill, a daughter.

Persey.—On December 11, 1953, at Mortimer House, Bristol, to Dorothy Joyce (formerly Blake), M.B., Ch.B., wife of Alexander Persey, M.B., M.R.C.O.G., a daughter—Nicola Susan.

## DEATHS

Benton.—On December 15, 1953, at 228, Old Shoreham Road, Hove, Sussex, Austin Lewis Benton, M.B., B.S.

Crofton.—On December 11, 1953, at Hertford, Herts, John Hutchinson Crofton, M.B., B.Ch.

Dobbin.—On December 15, 1953, Dorothy Isobel Dobbin, M.D., D.P.H.

## 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.*

## Is Penicillin Alone Enough for Contaminated Wounds?

**Q.**—If penicillin is given within a few hours of a contaminated laceration, can antitetanus and anti-gas-gangrene sera be omitted?

**A.**—No. Tetanus antitoxin should be given for a dirty wound regardless of any chemotherapy. Whether penicillin treatment removes the need for gas-gangrene antitoxin is more debatable and dependent on the circumstances of the individual case. Army experience during the Battle of Europe is usually held to have proved that penicillin given systemically in adequate doses for several days will prevent gas gangrene. If penicillin is to be relied on in the treatment of a wound involving any serious risk of this infection the administration should be continued for four or five days. Adequate initial surgical treatment is assumed.

## Treatment of Spidery Superficial Venules

**Q.**—Several women patients have lately sought my advice on the finely meshed superficial varicose venules which appear after childbearing. The purplish areas occur above and below the knee. There is usually a small dilated vein just above the affected area, lying very superficially in the skin. Would injection of the dilated vein be effective in improving the appearance, and would it be safe?

**A.**—The small spidery superficial venules occurring in women are by no means confined to those who have borne children. The lower part of the thighs and the upper part of the calves are the areas most often affected, and in general the venules are associated with a moderate amount of subcutaneous fat.

The affected areas are purplish in colour and of varying size, and when examined carefully or through a lens the appearance is seen to be due to a leash of very fine vessels. At the upper limit of the leash it is usually possible to find a small, thin-walled, cutaneous or subcutaneous vessel connected with the leash, while in some instances a vessel may be made out at the lower pole. The skin in the vicinity of the leash is thin and may show a little pigmentation. These areas of superficial vessels may exist alone, or they may be associated with actual varicosities or incompetence of larger veins. The affected areas usually tend slowly to increase in size, and give rise to progressive discoloration. The skin may be slightly sensitive, and some patients are prone to subcutaneous ruptures of the venules, giving rise to large bruised areas.

It is important from the point of view of treatment to determine whether or not the condition exists alone or is associated with changes in the larger veins, as in the latter event treatment of the superficial venules must be considered in relation to that of the larger veins. Treatment is rarely necessary when the superficial venules exist alone, but it may at times be advisable on account of the progress of the condition, local discomfort, relationship to varicose eczema, or for cosmetic reasons.

Injection treatment of any feeding veins is the only method of any value, and the effect of this is mainly to delay the progress of the discoloration. Some diminution in discoloration may follow successful treatment, but usually some of the skin changes are irreversible. Patients should never be told that treatment will get rid of all the discoloration.

Injection treatment of venules of this type is best left to the expert. The intravenous technique must be certain, a very fine needle is essential, and minutes doses of injection