

Medico-Legal

DEATH NOT DUE TO SWAB

[FROM OUR MEDICO-LEGAL CORRESPONDENT]

On October 8, 1953, Mrs. Mary Petty, a married woman 38 years old with four children, died in the Bradford Royal Infirmary. At the inquest held by the Bradford city coroner, Mr. R. S. Bishop, the verdict was recorded that the cause of death was general peritonitis due to multiple perforations of the large bowel due to ulcerative colitis (natural causes).

At necropsy a surgical swab 17½ by 11½ in. (45 by 30 cm.) was found. Dr. J. Eastwood, who performed the necropsy, thought at the time that the swab was inside the intestine, but Professor C. J. Polson, of the Department of Forensic Medicine of Leeds University, after consultation with Dr. Eastwood, came to the conclusion that it had probably been lying in the abdominal cavity beside the intestine and closely applied to it by fibrinous adhesions. The strong probability, he considered, was that the swab had been introduced during the delivery of Mrs. Petty's fourth child by caesarean section in March, 1953. He thought it most unlikely that such a swab could have entered through the mouth, and that, if it had, symptoms of digestive disturbance could not have been delayed until the third week of July, 1953, the first time they had become apparent. There was ulceration of the lower part of the large bowel at the recto-sigmoid junction well below the position in which the swab was found, and there were natural changes found capable of causing intestinal obstruction. Where the swab was found there was no sign of obstruction. There was also ulceration and perforation of the colon at the recto-sigmoid junction. Professor Polson concluded that the presence of the swab did not cause the disease from which Mrs. Petty died, and had no effect in accelerating her death.

Universities and Colleges

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

In Congregation on November 21 the degree of D.M. was conferred on P. B. S. Fowler.

The Welsh Memorial Drawing Prize in Anatomy has been awarded to Richard Charles Cook, scholar of Merton College.

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

Dr. G. A. Gresham has been appointed a University Demonstrator in Pathology with tenure from October 1, 1953, for three years.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

The following have been nominated, appointed, or reappointed as representatives of the University on the governing bodies of the institutions indicated in parentheses: Dr. J. F. Smith (Guy's Hospital Medical School); Sir Francis Fraser (Board of Management of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine); Professor A. A. Moncrieff, Professor J. Z. Young, F.R.S., and Mr. R. C. Davenport (Court of Governors of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine).

The following have been recognized as teachers of the University in the subjects indicated in parentheses: *St. Thomas's Hospital Medical School*, Dr. H. E. de Wardener (Medicine); *University College Hospital Medical School*, Dr. B. G. B. Lucas (Anaesthetics); *St. Mary's Hospital Medical School*, Dr. M. W. Ll. Owen (Anaesthetics).

Probationary recognition as teachers of the University in the subjects indicated in parentheses for two years from November, 1953, has been granted to the following: *University College Hospital Medical School*, Dr. W. B. Balderston (Dental Surgery); *St. Mary's Hospital Medical School*, Dr. R. H. Heptinstall (Pathology).

The following candidates have been approved at the examination indicated:

THIRD M.B., B.S.—¹D. A. Alderson, ^{1,2}C. J. Edmonds, ^{1,3}C. J. Hayter, ^{1,5}P. J. Huntingford, ^{1,5}Gillian A. J. Lomax, ^{1,2}D. J. Parry, ^{1,4}A. C. Pollard, ^{1,2}V. M. Rosenoer, ^{1,4}F. T. Sai,

^{1,3}Gisela S. Seligmann, ¹Elizabeth J. Steele, M. E. N. Anfilogoff, P. D. Arnold, T. O. Atkinson, G. M. L. Baer, P. A. Barker, K. E. Barrett, Monica K. Barrett, A. A. Bartholomew, J. R. S. Barton, M. C. Batcheldor, M. C. Bate, B. S. Beardsworth, A. O. C. Beattie, P. J. Bell, Ruth Bell, E. D. L. Bennett, G. H. Bevan, J. A. Bevan, F. A. F. Biddle, D. L. J. Bilbey, F. Bilbey, C. E. S. Bill, A. O. Billingham, C. Bishop, R. C. Blake, P. O. Bodley, Evelyn A. M. Boesen, D. F. Boomla, J. L. Bourdillon, C. C. Bratt, M. Bray, D. W. Breese, R. G. Brenchley, O. V. Briscoe, Nancy G. Brockbank, J. R. Brook, R. C. Brookes, N. C. Brooks, J. R. Brown, Hilary E. S. Budd, J. Bullen, W. Bust, Pamela M. Butcher, J. E. Cairns, N. V. S. Calderon, J. D. Campling, J. L. H. Capper, Y. M. Chaiken, D. R. Chambers, F. A. Chandra, P. S. N. Chappell, B. Cheng, G. J. R. Clarke, H. J. Clarke, T. A. P. Clarke, A. Clark-Jones, H. J. W. Cleeve, W. E. Clifford-Jones, J. T. Coals, R. J. C. Cobbold, A. D. Cole, J. D. C. Cook, Barbara P. Coppen, R. McK. Corfield, J. Cottam, J. Crause, M. d'A. Crawford, D. J. Cripps, Elizabeth Cross, Margaret R. Cudkovic, W. E. N. Cummings, Joan M. Curtis, P. Cushman, H. F. Davies, Margaret B. Davies, W. F. T. Davies, José A. Day, J. Dobbing, J. R. Duke, R. A. S. Dunn, B. J. MacD. Duxbury, K. Dyson, A. W. T. Eade, H. B. Edghill, Mary T. Edmonds, J. D'A. Edwards, D. R. Elam, W. J. Elder, Joan Endean, M. Evans, Frances M. Fisher, Gillian France, R. C. Francis, P. J. Frost, A. J. Fry, D. R. Gander, R. C. Giles, B. Gillespie, J. H. Goode, G. T. Goodey, Elizabeth B. Grantham, A. N. Green, F. V. Griffiths, M. V. Gruchy, R. Haggett, Mureen E. Hall, Dorothy J. Harden, Audrey Hardwick, D. Harris, R. W. Harris, W. C. Harris, J. A. Harrison, R. J. C. Hart, R. E. G. Harvey, Margaret A. Hatton, G. L. Haworth, Margaret M. Heley, M. D. Hickman, C. J. M. Hill, E. J. Hill, Rosemary A. Hill, P. O. Hirsch, C. F. Hoad, G. Y. P. Hobart, J. M. Hughes, A. G. Hughesdon, C. A. Hyde, R. K. Hyland, D. S. Iles, Eileen S. Jackson, H. G. Jenkins, Emily B. John, Anne F. Jones, J. J. Jones, R. F. N. Jones, A. R. Jordan, Sylvia J. Jordan, Brigid Keane, Sylvia J. Keet, D. B. Ker, M. Laurence, C. E. Lay, Pamela F. Lind-Smith, R. M. Liscombe, A. V. Livingstone, H. M. Lloyd, Robina S. Lock, D. B. Longmore, R. L. J. Lovick, Ann H. Low, J. A. Lunnon, T. M. McNeny, R. M. A. McClelland, I. R. McDonald, J. G. Macdonald, W. M. McIsaac, Chloe Majolier, T. S. Mangat, H. St. J. Mansbridge, Patricia S. Matthew, Bridget d'E. Matthews, O. V. Maxim, Jean E. Moffat, R. O. Mohabir, J. B. Montgomery, R. J. Morgan, S. D. Morgan, J. C. Muir, Ann G. Mullins, T. N. Munro, A. P. Murphy, D. S. Nachshen, D. Naidoo, B. E. H. Neal, R. H. Neeve, C. G. Nicholson, Sheila Nourse, M. R. Oates, A. B. Oliveira, R. G. Orr, Patricia O'Sullivan, H. R. Owadally, R. B. Pardoe, J. V. Parson, J. D. W. Peck, P. R. Penty, J. P. Perry, J. H. Peters, Elizabeth M. Phillips, L. A. Phillips, A. F. W. M. Pooler, Caroline R. F. Port, L. J. Posener, April G. L. Powlett, J. W. H. Pretty, J. F. Pritchard, I. E. Purkis, Margaret J. Purser, I. F. S. Rae, H. J. Rayner, B. E. L. C. Reedy, M. T. Richards, Priscilla A. Ridge, A. H. M. Rimmer, Sheila M. Ritchie, A. A. Roe, J. A. Roopchand, F. E. N. Roper, J. R. Samuel, J. W. Scopes, H. G. Scott, Jean E. Septon, Rita W. Shannon, D. E. Sharland, D. M. Shaw, F. E. Shaw, P. Sheldermine, D. C. Shields, Jean M. Shields, J. D. Shone, W. S. Sinton, S. Sivasithamparam, D. A. D. Slatery, G. F. Slocombe, Marguerite L. Sloper, P. C. Smart, C. G. L. Smith, E. B. O. Smith, J. Southgate, Ethel M. Spencer, G. R. Stevenson, A. P. O. Stewart, T. F. Stoyler, R. J. Sturt, F. L. H. Sugden, R. L. G. Sutcliffe, N. D. V. Swallow, A. P. Tannen, W. H. H. Taylor, E. M. Thomas, G. E. Thomas, R. V. L. Thomas, S. G. Thompson, A. D. Tuddenham, F. B. Valentine-Hagart, Heather F. A. Vickery, R. MacD. Vining, T. Wade West, D. J. Waller, H. W. C. Ward, D. Wardale, I. C. Ware, A. M. Warrington, S. A. Watkins, D. S. Watson, H. P. Watson, R. Watts, E. L. Webb, G. F. K. Webb, J. W. S. Webb, Jean M. Weddell, Dorothy A. Westcott, J. A. Whillis, C. J. White, Dorothy J. Whitney, J. R. Wilde, D. Wilkinson, C. A. Williams, J. L. Wilson, A. S. Wint, Edna D. C. S. Wood, J. G. Wotherspoon, C. E. Wright, R. W. P. Yates, T. G. Young, W. O. C. Young.

¹With honours. ²Distinguished in pathology. ³Distinguished in medicine. ⁴Distinguished in applied pharmacology and therapeutics. ⁵Distinguished in surgery. ⁶Distinguished in obstetrics and gynaecology.

UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

Dr. J. A. H. Waterhouse, Lecturer in Human Genetics, has been given the title of Reader in Medical Statistics.

Dr. P. L. Krohn has resigned his Readership in Endocrinology in order to accept a Nuffield Gerontological Research Fellowship, to date from October 1, 1953, in the Department of Anatomy.

Dr. W. D. Carruthers has provided funds to establish an annual prize in social medicine to the value of five guineas. The prize

is in memory of the late Dr. Bostock Hill, professor of hygiene and public health from 1893 to 1919.

The following appointments are announced: Dr. Douglas B. Brewer, Senior Lecturer in Pathology, Dr. R. Lannigan, Lecturer in Pathology, and Dr. E. A. Smith, Research Fellow in Social Medicine, all from October 1, 1953; Dr. E. J. Hamley, Lecturer in Physiology from December 1, 1953; Dr. E. A. Cooper, University Research Fellow in the Department of Medicine from October 16, 1953.

Dr. P. B. Marshall, Lecturer in Pharmacology, Dr. J. L. Stafford, Lecturer in Pathology, and Dr. K. White, Lecturer in Physiology, have resigned their appointments.

UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD

The following appointments are announced: Dr. T. J. Rendle-Short, Full-time Lecturer in Child Health; Dr. K. S. Holt, Full-time Tutor in Child Health; and Dr. D. H. Anderson, Part-time Clinical Teacher in Chest Diseases.

Dr. Irving Gordon, of the New York State Department of Health, has been appointed Visiting Senior Lecturer in Bacteriology during his visit to the University during the present session.

Dr. J. Mackinnon has resigned his appointment as Research Assistant in the Department of Medicine.

At a degree Congregation held on December 15, 1953, the following degrees were conferred:

M.B., Ch.B.—S. H. Harrison, T. G. Kershaw, G. F. Mackenzie, G. F. C. Rosser, P. Sykes, Helen F. Taylor, P. Taylor, D. W. Warrell, Cynthia M. Worrall.

QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY, BELFAST

Dr. R. A. Womersley, M.R.C.P., has been appointed to a lectureship in medicine in the University.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND

At a meeting of the Council of the College held on November 12, with Sir Reginald Watson-Jones, Vice-President, in the chair, Professor Lambert Rogers was appointed as the Bradshaw Lecturer and Professor F. Wood Jones as the Thomas Vicary Lecturer for 1954.

The death of Mr. R. H. Burne (Hunterian Trustee and past Physiological Curator) was reported and the Council unanimously adopted a resolution of condolence.

Professor F. C. Wilkinson was co-opted as the Member of the Council representing Dental Surgery in place of Sir William Kelsey Fry.

The Begley Prize was awarded to Margaret M. Heley (Royal Free).

Licences to practise were conferred upon the successful candidates whose names were printed in the report of the meeting of the Royal College of Physicians of London (*Journal*, December 26, 1953, p. 1437) and to I. P. Vaughan.

Diplomas were granted, jointly with the Royal College of Physicians of London, in Medical Radio-Diagnosis, in Medical Radiotherapy, in Child Health, and in Ophthalmology, to the successful candidates whose names were printed in the report of the meeting of the Royal College of Physicians of London (*Journal*, December 26, 1953, p. 1437).

ROYAL FACULTY OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS OF GLASGOW

At a meeting of the Faculty held on December 7, 1953, with the President, Dr. Andrew Allison, in the chair, the following were admitted Fellows of Faculty: *qua Physician*, Saw Mra Aung, H. W. Boyd, T. Cochrane, A. F. Toboku-Metzger; *qua Surgeon*, J. P. Fraser, S. R. Ganeshiya.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS IN IRELAND

On November 20 the Fellowship of the College was conferred on B. G. Leahy and A. McCalister.

ROYAL MEDICO-PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

The following candidates were successful at the November examination for the Diploma in Psychological Medicine:

D.P.M.—Part I: M. J. Raymond, H. K. Rose, G. S. Stirling. Part II: J. D. C. Currie, R. S. Ferguson, T. E. Hall, I. E. J. McLaughlan, M. J. Raymond, A. Smellie, Elizabeth Shoenberg.

ROYAL AUSTRALASIAN COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS

The following, having satisfied the Board of Censors in Australia, were admitted to the Membership of the College in October, 1953: J. Benecke, G. L. Bennett, J. W. Bennett, R. B. Blacket, W. H. Cary, G. W. Cooper, D. L. Hobson, K. S. Millingen, N. M. Newman, R. F. O'Shea, J. G. Richards, P. M. Robertson, L. C. A. Watson.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND VITAL STATISTICS

Summary for British Isles for week ending December 19 (No. 50) and corresponding week 1952.

Figures of cases are for the countries shown and London administrative county. Figures of deaths and births are for the 160 great towns in England and Wales (London included), London administrative county, the 17 principal towns in Scotland, the 10 principal towns in Northern Ireland and the 14 principal towns in Eire.

A blank space denotes disease not notifiable or no return available. The table is based on information supplied by the Registrars-General of England and Wales, Scotland, N. Ireland, and Eire, the Ministry of Health and Local Government of N. Ireland, and the Department of Health of Eire.

CASES in Countries and London	1953					1952				
	Eng & Wales	London	Scot	N. Ire	Eire	Eng & Wales	London	Scot	N. Ire	Eire
Diphtheria	16	1	5	0	2	23	3	7	1	1
Dysentery	503	95	156	3	1	328	10	75	2	2
Encephalitis, acute ..	3	0	0	0		10	1	0	0	
Enteric fever:										
Typhoid	1	0	1	0		1	0	1	0	6
Paratyphoid	4	0	0	0		4	1	2(B)	0	0
Food-poisoning	141	10		0		74	11		1	
Infective enteritis or diarrhoea under 2 years				14	14				13	13
Measles*	778	12	42	16	66	17,742	1404	241	27	113
Meningococcal infection	22	1	13	1	2	39	4	13	2	2
Ophthalmia neonatorum	30	2	6	0		32	1	7	0	
Pneumonia†	692	43	242	12		1,135	131	472	8	1
Poliomyelitis, acute:										
Paralytic	39	2		8	3	41	1		2	3
Non-paralytic	12	1			7	17	2			2
Puerperal fever‡	259	47	10	0		233	35	16	1	1
Scarlet fever	1,284	61	202	30	46	2,229	131	302	34	70
Tuberculosis:										
Respiratory			142	22				133	22	
Non-respiratory			24	4				24	5	
Whooping-cough	2,304	101	396	60	32	1,865	75	129	21	122

DEATHS in Great Towns	1953					1952				
	Eng & Wales	London	Scot	N. Ire	Eire	Eng & Wales	London	Scot	N. Ire	Eire
Diphtheria	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Dysentery	0	0		0		1	0		0	
Encephalitis, acute ..		1			0		0			0
Enteric fever	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	
Infective enteritis or diarrhoea under 2 years	7	1	0	1	1	10	2	3	1	0
Influenza	17	3	3	1	0	60	24	4	1	1
Measles		0	0	1	0		0	0	0	0
Meningococcal infection		0	1				1	2		
Pneumonia	226	28	21	10	6	597	168		8	16
Poliomyelitis, acute ..	6	1			0	4	1			0
Scarlet fever		0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0
Tuberculosis:										
Respiratory	88	14	17	6	6	259	77	31	3	7
Non-respiratory		1	1	0	0		5	1	0	2
Whooping-cough	2	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0
Deaths 0-1 year	217	20	25	10	21	295	54	49	18	18
Deaths (excluding stillbirths) ..	5,072	725	559	106	184	9,452	2484	861	143	224
LIVE BIRTHS	6,680	996	783	212	352	7,157	1050	854	211	342
STILLBIRTHS	199	25	19			202	22	26		

* Measles not notifiable in Scotland, whence returns are approximate.

† Includes primary and influenzal pneumonia.

‡ Includes puerperal pyrexia.

Wednesday, January 13

INSTITUTE OF DERMATOLOGY.—5.30 p.m., Dr. R. W. Riddell: Histopathology of Fungal Infections.
MIDLAND MEDICAL SOCIETY.—At Selly Oak Hospital, Birmingham, 8.15 p.m., clinical meeting.
ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.—5.30 p.m., Hunterian Lecture by Mr. R. Charles Evans and Dr. Michael Ward: The Ascent of Mount Everest: Medical Studies.
ROYAL EYE HOSPITAL.—5.30 p.m., Mr. L. H. Savin: Ophthalmic Operations and their Indications (3).
ROYAL FACULTY OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS OF GLASGOW.—5 p.m., Finlayson Memorial Lecture by Professor L. J. Wits: Anaemia and the Alimentary Tract.
ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL MEDICAL SCHOOL.—5 p.m., Dr. D. F. O'Neill: Lecture-demonstration in Psychiatry.
SOCIETY FOR APPLIED BACTERIOLOGY.—At Institution of Civil Engineers, 10 a.m., business meeting, 2.15 p.m., joint meeting with Microbiology Group of Society of Chemical Industry. Symposium: Industrial Methods of Sterilization. Papers by Dr. M. Ingram, Mr. Osman Jones, Dr. R. Maxwell Savage, and Mr. G. Sykes.

Thursday, January 14

ALFRED ADLER MEDICAL SOCIETY.—At 11, Chandos Street, W., 8 p.m., Mr. R. W. Raven: Psychological Reaction to Surgical Disease.
BRITISH INSTITUTE OF RADIOLOGY.—8 p.m., Dr. J. Blair Hartley: Significance of Placental Calcification.
BRITISH POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL FEDERATION.—At London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, 5.30 p.m., Dr. E. A. Carmichael: Hemispherectomy and Localization of Function.
INSTITUTE OF CHILD HEALTH.—5.30 p.m., Dr. H. N. Davy: Behaviour in Epilepsy.
INSTITUTE OF LARYNGOLOGY AND OTOLGY.—5 p.m., Professor F. C. Ormerod: Use of Antibiotics and Chemotherapy.
LIVERPOOL MEDICAL INSTITUTION.—3 p.m. and 8 p.m., Mr. Charles Evans: Everest, 1953.
LONDON UNIVERSITY.—At Middlesex Hospital Medical School, 5 p.m., special university lecture in Human Anatomy and Morphology by Professor J. Pasteels (Brussels): Present Views on Embryonal Induction.
ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL COLLEGE.—5 p.m., Dr. W. C. Cockburn: Early Field Investigations of Typhoid Vaccines.
ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.—5 p.m., Hunterian Lecture by Professor R. Milnes Walker: Place of Venous Shunts in the Treatment of Portal Hypertension.
ST. ANDREWS UNIVERSITY.—At Physiology Department, Dundee, 5 p.m., Professor L. J. Wits: Anaemia and the Alimentary Tract.
ST. GEORGE'S HOSPITAL MEDICAL SCHOOL.—5 p.m., neurology demonstration by Dr. J. H. Paterson.
SURREY INTER-HOSPITAL PSYCHIATRIC ASSOCIATION.—At West Park Hospital, Epsom, 7.30 p.m., clinical meeting. Papers by Dr. J. Zelmanowits, Mr. M. Klein, Dr. O. F. Garai, and Dr. M. K. Beattie.
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON: DEPARTMENT OF BIOCHEMISTRY.—Physiology Theatre, 4.45 p.m., Public Lecture by Professor Jean Brachet (Brussels): Role of Ribonucleic Acid in Morphogenesis.

Friday, January 15

BRITISH INSTITUTE OF RADIOLOGY.—5 p.m., meeting of medical members.
FACULTY OF RADIOLOGISTS.—At Royal College of Surgeons of England, 2.15 p.m., Radiodiagnosis Section Meeting. Dr. P. G. Keates: Physical, Physiological, and Hormonal Aspects of Hydronephrosis; Dr. C. J. Don: Bronchography in Pulmonary Tuberculosis.
INSTITUTE OF DERMATOLOGY.—5.30 p.m., clinical demonstration by Dr. R. G. Cochrane: Leprosy.
OSLER CLUB OF LONDON.—At 11, Chandos Street, W., 7.45 p.m., Professor J. M. R. Cormack, M.A.: Black Magic (in honour of Sir James Frazer, January 1, 1854-1941). Discussion: Professor Raymond Firth, H.E. Mme. Subandrio, and Dr. Michael S. M. Fordham.
POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL SCHOOL OF LONDON.—2 p.m., Professor R. Milnes Walker: Lesions of the Small Intestine.
ROYAL EYE HOSPITAL.—5 p.m., Miss M. Savory: Differential Diagnosis of Corneal Lesions.
ROYAL MEDICAL SOCIETY, Edinburgh.—8 p.m., Dissertation by Mr. K. Chapman: Toxaemia of Pregnancy.
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON: DEPARTMENT OF PHARMACOLOGY.—At Physiology Theatre, 5.30 p.m., Public Lecture by Professor Werner Koll (Göttingen): Experimental Studies on Analgesics—Tooth Stimulation and Other Methods.

Saturday, January 16

BIOCHEMICAL SOCIETY.—At Department of Chemical Pathology, Postgraduate Medical School of London, 11 a.m., 325th meeting. Scientific papers.
SOUTH-EAST METROPOLITAN REGIONAL TUBERCULOSIS SOCIETY.—At Farnborough Hospital, Kent, 10.30 for 11 a.m., extraordinary general meeting. Dr. D. G. Madigan will speak on his experiences in America.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS**BIRTHS**

Batten.—On November 26, 1953, at Queen Charlotte's Hospital, London, W., to Mary, wife of Henry Batten, M.B., F.R.C.S., a daughter—Jane.
du Heaume.—On December 30, 1953, at Enfield, Middlesex, to May (formerly Giffin), wife of Brian du Heaume, M.B., B.S., D.Obst.R.C.O.G., a daughter—Susan.
Lewes.—On December 29, 1953, at Bedford General Hospital, to Daphne (formerly Wailes), wife of David Lewes, D.M., M.R.C.P., a fourth daughter—Christina.
McLaren.—On December 19, 1953, to Patricia Annette, wife of William J. McLaren, F.R.C.S., of Tranquille, British Columbia, Canada, a third son—Niall Fullerton.
Vowles.—On December 16, 1953, at the Royal Infirmary, Cardiff, to Mary (formerly Knowles), M.B., Ch.B., D.C.H., and Keith D. J. Vowles, M.B., F.R.C.S., a brother for Robert—Andrew John.
Woodall.—On December 17, 1953, to Jennifer, wife of John Woodall, M.B., B.S., of The Lodge, Cray Hall, North Cray, Kent, a son—Christopher John.

DEATHS

Douglas.—On December 10, 1953, at his home, 38, Prestbury Road, Cheltenham, Glos, Kenneth Harrington Douglas, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., formerly of 41, Prospect Hill, London, E., aged 80.
Ewen.—On December 15, 1953, Gerald Anglin Ewen, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., of Ryde House, Twickenham, Middlesex, aged 43.
Schaefer.—On December 14, 1953, in a nursing home, London, Hans H. Schaefer, L.R.C.P.&S.Ed., L.R.F.P.S., of 251, Hertford Road, Enfield Highway, Middlesex.

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.

Coronary Disease and Dental Analgesics

Q.—*Are local analgesics for dental operations contra-indicated in those with coronary artery disease? Are any special precautions advised in such cases?*

A.—There is no reason why the average patient with coronary artery disease should not have a local analgesic of this sort. Where there is a history of a recent heart attack it is perhaps better to avoid the adrenaline. In any case the concentration of adrenaline in the solution should not exceed 1 in 200,000. Solutions commonly supplied for dental use often have a higher concentration of adrenaline than this.

Blood Pyruvates

Q.—*What is the value of a blood pyruvate estimation? What conclusions can be drawn if the level is raised, particularly in relation to peripheral neuritis?*

A.—Pyruvic acid is formed as an intermediary in the oxidation of glucose by the tissues. Vitamin B₁ (thiamine) is required for its further oxidation, and if this vitamin is not available in adequate amounts pyruvate accumulates in the blood. The estimation of blood pyruvate levels is therefore of interest as a means of assisting in the diagnosis of vitamin B₁ deficiency states. In the more chronic and less severe forms of thiamine deficiency the fasting blood pyruvate level is usually within the normal range; raised levels can, however, be demonstrated in many such patients if a "loading" dose of glucose is first given.

It must be realized also that conditions other than a deficiency of this vitamin can also cause impaired pyruvate oxidation with a resulting rise in the blood pyruvate level. In a patient with peripheral neuritis a raised level cannot by itself therefore be taken to indicate thiamine deficiency, although it would support this diagnosis. If, however, parenteral treatment with thiamine for, say, two weeks results in a return to normal of a previously elevated level, it would seem likely that a deficiency of this vitamin had existed. As the clinical response of such patients is often slow, blood pyruvate estimations before and after thiamine therapy can often provide a more rapid and surer indication of response to this therapy.

Malaria Prophylaxis

Q.—*What is the best malaria prophylactic for a European family visiting a malarious area? Please give details of dosage and frequency of administration, including any variations of these for infants and children. Are mosquito nets necessary if chemoprophylaxis is thorough?*

A.—Proguanil is probably the best antimalarial for a European family visiting a malarious area. The drug is prepared in tablets containing 100 mg. or 25 mg. Where proguanil-resistant strains of *P. falciparum* have been demonstrated, chloroquine should be taken instead.

The dosage of proguanil for adults is 100 mg. daily. Exceptionally—for example, in a big individual—twice this dose may be needed. For children, the dosage from birth to the second birthday is 25 mg. daily, and from the second to fifth birthday 50 to 100 mg. daily. Prophylaxis should begin a fortnight before entering the malarious area and continue for one month after leaving the area.

Most people find it easier to form the habit of taking a drug daily than once or twice a week. If, however, the latter is desired, chloroquine is advised. The drug is usually