

"Guard That Fire"

Mr. R. A. BUTLER, replying to Mrs. McLAUGHLIN (Belfast, West, U.U.), said he shared her concern at the extent of burning accidents caused by clothing in contact with unguarded fires. He believed that the biggest single contribution to its solution lay in persuading householders and other responsible persons to provide and use efficient fireguards. A "Guard that Fire" campaign was to be launched next November. Circulars had been sent to local authorities inviting them to co-operate by organizing local campaigns on this theme.

London Teaching Hospitals

Mr. M. LIPTON asked the Minister of Health on May 12 what plans he was considering to reduce or change the number of London teaching hospitals. Mr. WALKER-SMITH.—None. Mr. LIPTON asked the Minister if he had seen reports that he was considering closing three London teaching hospitals—Charing Cross, Westminster, and St. George's. Was there any truth in the report? Mr. WALKER-SMITH replied that he had seen the report, which was in a usually reliable newspaper, but he was not considering that course. There were certain processes in mind with regard to Charing Cross Hospital and the Royal Free Hospital, but there was no question of amalgamation.

Merit Awards

Mrs. LENA JEGER (Holborn and St. Pancras, South, Lab.) asked the Minister why the identity of consultants who received merit awards was kept secret; and whether he would consider the abolition of the present system. Mr. WALKER-SMITH stated that the balance of advantage was against the general publication of the identity of the consultants in question. The Government's views on the merit award system itself had been given in evidence submitted to the Royal Commission on doctors' and dentists' remuneration, and it would be more appropriate if he deferred further comment until the Royal Commission's report was received.

Artificial Limbs

Mr. C. J. SIMMONS (Brierley Hill, Lab.) asked the Minister to indicate the steps being taken to develop the work of the department of research and experiment to secure improvements in the design, performance, and fitting of artificial limbs; and the extent of any co-operation which existed to secure precise information about new artificial limbs and appliances available in other countries. Mr. RICHARD THOMPSON, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Health, stated that since last year the work of the research department at Roehampton had been under the regular supervision of a small executive committee of the Standing Advisory Committee on Artificial Limbs. On the recommendation of these committees a special plastics laboratory was about to be established. The research staff kept in close touch with colleagues in other countries by correspondence, exchange of literature and samples, and by visits. Two members of the staff were at present visiting research establishments in the United States.

Universities and Colleges**UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD**

The following have been reappointed University Demonstrators, in the subjects indicated in parentheses, from October 1, 1958, to September 30, 1963: Dr. J. E. French (Pathology); Mr. T. P. S. Powell (Human Anatomy); and Dr. G. Gordon (Physiology).

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

In Congregation on March 8 and 10 the following degrees were conferred:

M.D.—M. H. S. Bound, K. J. Martin, P. E. Hughesdon, P. J. Crowley.
M.CHIR.—R. G. Beard.
M.B., B.CHIR.—By proxy: D. S. Filler.
M.B.—J. G. Miller, C. S. Goodwin.

Medico-Legal**HYPERTHERMIA IN THE NEWBORN****FAILURE OF AN INCUBATOR**

[FROM A PAEDIATRIC CORRESPONDENT]

A premature baby weighing 4 lb. 2 oz. (1.87 kg.) at his birth on December 1, 1957, was being cared for in an incubator. He had had a few septic spots which were healing, and a number of loose motions containing blood. At 8 p.m. on December 11 a nurse noticed that he was rather warm, and the lid of the incubator was therefore raised. At about 9 p.m. the baby was noted to have mucus round his mouth and his head was lowered, but at 9.45 p.m., as his condition did not appear satisfactory, the incubator lid was closed so that oxygen could be given. At about 10 p.m. the incubator temperature was found to be 105° F. (40.6° C.) and the baby's rectal temperature 106° F. (41.1° C.). The baby seemed to have recovered during the next few hours, but died next morning.

Post-mortem examination showed a male child, weighing under 4 lb. (1.8 kg.), with "a trace of old intraventricular and subarachnoid haemorrhage" in the brain, patchy pulmonary collapse and pleural petechiae, and dilatation of all the chambers of the heart. There was intense congestion of the jejunum and evidence of acute enteritis. The kidneys, ureters, and adrenals were markedly congested. The incubator concerned was found to have the thermostat set at the maximum position of ten. Testing showed a faulty electrical connexion causing a heater under the thermostat not to function properly, and a failure of the excess temperature cut-out to operate at the correct temperature of 105° F. (40.6° C.). The audible warning system, which gives a signal when the temperature rises above this temperature, was not fitted to this incubator.

A coroner's jury concluded that death in this case was due to acute infective enterocolitis, prematurity, and subarachnoid birth haemorrhage. Whether the incubator played any part was uncertain.

Comment

A case such as this raises the question of the diagnosis of hyperthermia in the newborn. The usual symptoms of overheating are fairly well known and are similar in both the premature and the full-term infant. Most commonly they are seen in a baby who has been over-zealously wrapped up and kept in a warm room to prevent chilling, but they are also encountered for the same reasons in the pyrexial or ill baby who has to be transported by ambulance to hospital. There is generalized bright-red erythema, respirations and pulse are very rapid, and the baby may be restless. Sweating is absent in the premature, and absent or almost unnoticeable in the full-term child. Continued hyperpyrexia, as in an incubator failure, leads to cerebral signs—contraction of the pupils, twitching, fits, increased cerebrospinal fluid pressure—and death. Woodruff¹ states that at necropsy there is invariably congestion of the internal organs and petechial haemorrhages in the lungs, gastrointestinal tract, and viscera. The meninges are congested and subarachnoid haemorrhages are present.

Newborn babies, and premature ones in particular, are more susceptible to sudden changes in temperature than older children, and their inability, or relative inability, to sweat renders them particularly sensitive to high temperatures. The scientific literature as distinct from the anecdotal is very scanty on this subject, and there seems no reliable evidence on the degree or duration of fever an infant can stand without coming to harm.

REFERENCE

- ¹ Woodruff, A. W., *Paediatrics for the Practitioner*, Supplement, 1956, p. 90. Butterworth and Co., London.

May 22. His subject will be "The Changing Emphasis in Medical Research." Tickets (free) from the Dean of the School.

Société Française de Médecine Psychosomatique.—Meeting May 31 and June 1 in Paris. Details from Dr. L. CHERTOK, 22, rue Legendre, Paris, 17e.

Babinski Centenary.—La Société Française de Neurologie at its Réunion Neurologique Internationale in Paris will celebrate on June 2 the centenary of the birth of J. Babinski. The speakers will be Professor RAYMOND GARCIN, Sir FRANCIS WALSH, F.R.S., and Dr. AUGUSTE TOURNAY. The two ensuing days of the meeting will be devoted to a symposium on the cerebellum.

Institute of Cardiology.—Dr. HOWARD BURCHELL, of the Mayo Clinic, U.S.A., will deliver the St. Cyres lecture at the Royal Society of Medicine on June 4 at 5 p.m. His subject will be "Studies of Pulmonary Hypertension in Congenital Heart Disease."

Second Ciba Foundation Lecture.—Professor Dr. F. BOURLIÈRE, of Paris, will lecture at the Royal Institution, London, on June 19 at 5 p.m. on "The Comparative Study of Age Changes." Tickets (free) from the Ciba Foundation, 41, Portland Place, London, W.1.

Anaesthetics for the G.P.—Two-weeks course in anaesthetics for general practitioners, from June 23, at the Postgraduate Medical School of London. Further details on p. 57 of the advertisements.

NEW ISSUES

SPECIALIST JOURNALS AND ABSTRACTS

The journals listed below are obtainable from the Publishing Manager, B.M.A. House, Tavistock Square, London, W.C.1.

Archives of Disease in Childhood.—Issued six times a year (£4 4s. annually). The new issue (Vol. 33, No. 168) includes:

REGIONAL OBSTRUCTIVE EMPHYSEMA IN INFANCY. James Thomson and John O. Forfar.

AN INBORN ERROR OF METABOLISM WITH THE URINARY EXCRETION OF α -HYDROXY-BUTYRIC ACID AND PHENYLPIRUVIC ACID. Alan J. Smith and Leonard B. Strang.

A CASE OF HARTNUP DISEASE. Walter Henderson.

DISSOCIATION AS A GUIDE TO DEVELOPMENTAL ASSESSMENT. R. S. Illingworth.

DYSMATURITY. S. Sjöstedt, G. Engleson, and G. Rooth.

CONGENITAL INTERRUPTION OF THE AORTIC ARCH. Bridget V. Foley.

NORMAL DIAMETER OF THE HEART IN RADIOGRAPHS OF PRE-SCHOOL CHILDREN. David Hewitt.

THE CHANGING AETIOLOGY OF ERYTHEMA NODOSUM IN CHILDREN. John Lorber.

CLINICAL AND BIOCHEMICAL CHANGES DURING EXCHANGE TRANSFUSION. James W. Farquhar and Hyton Smith.

TREATMENT OF PERSISTENT ENURESIS WITH THE ELECTRIC BUZZER. Ian G. Wickes.

RECURRENT ABDOMINAL PAINS: A FIELD SURVEY OF 1,000 SCHOOL CHILDREN. John Apley and Nora Naish.

SALMONELLA MENINGITIS. Kenneth C. Watson.

CALCIFIED MESENTERIC LYMPHANGIOMA. R. L. Bishton, C. P. Sames, and Hugh R. E. Wallis.

SWEAT TEST FOR THE DIAGNOSIS OF FIBROCYSTIC DISEASE OF THE PANCREAS. K. A. Misch and H. M. Holden.

Abstracts of World Medicine.—Issued in the first week of each month, this journal contains abstracts of important papers selected from the current medical literature of the world. Annual subscription £4 4s.

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 19

MANCHESTER MEDICAL SOCIETY: SECTION OF GENERAL PRACTICE.—At Large Anatomy Theatre, Manchester University, 8.30 for 9 p.m., Presidential Address by Dr. C. Vipont Brown: All Change.

MARLBOROUGH DAY HOSPITAL.—8.15 p.m., Dr. E. M. Bluestone (New York): Social Psychiatry—A Critique.

POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL SCHOOL OF LONDON.—4 p.m., Dr. F. R. Keating: Diagnosis of Hyperparathyroidism.

ROYAL INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND HYGIENE.—5 p.m., Harben Lecture by Professor A. Bradford Hill, F.R.S.: Experimental Approach in Preventive Medicine—Problems of Experiments in Man (illustrated).

WRIGHT-FLEMING INSTITUTE OF MICROBIOLOGY.—5 p.m., Almroth Wright Lecture by Dr. R. G. White: Cellular Aspects of the Immune Response.

Tuesday, May 20

BRITISH ASSOCIATION OF SPORT AND MEDICINE.—At Middlesex Hospital Medical School, W., 5.30 p.m., Mr. A. E. H. Kendall: Athletes and Adaptation to Stress.

INSTITUTE OF DERMATOLOGY.—5.30 p.m., Miss Phyllis Wade: Radiation (Cancer II).

●INSTITUTE OF OBSTETRICS AND GYNAECOLOGY.—At Hammersmith Hospital, 3 p.m., Professor J. L. Wright (Otago): Modern Management of Placenta Praevia.

ROYAL INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND HYGIENE.—5 p.m., Harben Lecture by Professor A. Bradford Hill, F.R.S.: Experimental Approach in Preventive Medicine—Controlled Trials of Vaccines (illustrated).

Wednesday, May 21

INSTITUTE OF DERMATOLOGY.—5.30 p.m., Miss Christine Hodges: Radiation (Superficial).

INSTITUTE OF DISEASES OF THE CHEST.—5 p.m., Dr. J. Smart: Unilateral and Localized Emphysema of the Lung.

MANCHESTER MEDICAL SOCIETY: SECTION OF PATHOLOGY.—At Large Anatomy Theatre, Manchester University, 4 for 4.30 p.m., Dr. J. E. Kench: Aminoaciduria.

MEDICAL RESEARCH COUNCIL.—At National Institute for Medical Research, Mill Hill, N.W., 5 p.m., Professor J. Waldenström (Sweden): The Porphyrias.

POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL SCHOOL OF LONDON.—2 p.m., Dr. D. G. Evans: Immunization Against Poliomyelitis.

ROYAL INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND HYGIENE.—5 p.m., Harben Lecture by Professor A. Bradford Hill, F.R.S.: Experimental Approach in Preventive Medicine—Influenza and the Common Cold (illustrated).

WILLESDEN GENERAL HOSPITAL MEDICAL SOCIETY.—At Department of Physiological Medicine, 8.45 p.m., Mr. P. D. Trevor-Roper: Influence of Eye Disease on Pictorial Art.

Thursday, May 22

●CHARING CROSS HOSPITAL MEDICAL SCHOOL.—5.30 p.m., Huxley Lecture by Sir Howard Florey, F.R.S.: Changing Emphasis in Medical Research.

HONYMAN GILLESPIE LECTURE.—At Anatomy Theatre, University New Buildings, Edinburgh, 5 p.m., Dr. J. W. Farquhar: Child of the Diabetic Mother.

INSTITUTE OF DERMATOLOGY.—5.30 p.m., Dr. R. W. Riddell: Epidemiology of Fungus Infections.

●INSTITUTE OF OBSTETRICS AND GYNAECOLOGY.—At Chelsea Hospital for Women, 3 p.m., Professor J. L. Wright (Otago): Exotics in Ectopics.

POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL SCHOOL OF LONDON.—4 p.m., Professor O. L. Wade: Output of the Heart in Exercise.

ROYAL SOCIETY.—4.30 p.m., Croonian Lecture by Professor P. B. Medawar, F.R.S.: Homograft Reaction.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON.—At Chemistry Theatre, Gower Street, W.C., 5.30 p.m., Inaugural Lecture by Professor D. McKie: Science and History.

Friday, May 23

HILL END HOSPITAL MEDICAL SOCIETY.—8.45 p.m., Dr. D. J. Williams: What Keeps us Conscious.

●INSTITUTE OF DERMATOLOGY.—5.30 p.m., Dr. S. C. Gold: clinical demonstration.

INSTITUTE OF DISEASES OF THE CHEST.—5 p.m., Mr. W. P. Cleland: clinical demonstration.

●INSTITUTE OF OBSTETRICS AND GYNAECOLOGY.—At Queen Charlotte's Hospital, 2 p.m., Mr. J. Hewitt: Variations on an Old Theme.

POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL SCHOOL OF LONDON.—10 a.m., Mr. Dillwyn Thomas: Some Observations on the Post-operative Care of Thoracotomy Cases.

ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL MEDICAL SCHOOL.—At Wright-Fleming Institute Theatre, 5 p.m., Dr. J. D. Martin: Relief of Foetal Anoxia.

Saturday, May 24

SCOTTISH OTOLARYNGOLOGICAL SOCIETY.—At Royal Northern Infirmary, Inverness, 2.30 p.m., 76th meeting.

APPOINTMENTS

SOUTH-WESTERN REGIONAL HOSPITAL BOARD.—C. M. Jain, M.B., B.S., D.L.O., Registrar in Ear, Nose and Throat Surgery at South Devon and East Cornwall Hospital, Plymouth; G. W. Burgess, M.B., B.S., Surgical Registrar at Weston-super-Mare General Hospital; Joan J. Hudson, M.B., B.Chir, D.P.M., Assistant Psychiatrist at Horton Road and Coney Hill Hospitals, Gloucester; Mark Hewitt, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.P., Part-time Consultant Venereologist in West Cornwall Clinical Area; Jean M. Sheach, M.D., D.M.R.D., Consultant Radiologist in Exeter Clinical Area; J. E. A. Bartlett, M.D., M.R.C.P.Ed., D.P.M., Consultant Psychiatrist and Medical Superintendent at Exminster Hospital, near Exeter; W. Johnson, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., Registrar in Child Psychiatry and Mental Deficiency, Bristol.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS

MARRIAGES

Keeler—Donaldson.—On April 30, 1958, in Nairobi, Kenya, Walter Richard Cubitt Keeler to Ann Kenya Donaldson (formerly Wilson).

DEATHS

Dunn.—On April 28, 1958, Wilfred James Dunn, O.B.E., M.B., B.Ch., Lieutenant-Colonel, R.A.M.C. (retired), of Shandon, Chorley Wood, Herts.

Fowell.—On April 28, 1958, at his home, Brackdene, Grayshott, Hindhead, Surrey, Patrick Harvey Clive Fowell, M.D.

Hibbert.—On April 28, 1958, at 13, Lower Brook Street, Ipswich, Suffolk, Wilfrid Lawrence Hibbert, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Jackson.—On April 22, 1958, Robert Best Jackson, O.B.E., M.D., D.P.H., of 21, Hazeldene Avenue, Bangor, Co. Down, late of Malaya and Hong Kong.

Kidd.—On April 27, 1958, Walter Shirley Kidd, M.B., B.S., of The Mount, Ingatestone, Essex, formerly of 4, Leeds Road, Harrogate, Yorks.

Manser.—On April 28, 1958, at Kent and Sussex Hospital, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, Frederick Bailey Manser, M.B., B.Ch., of 19, Calverley Park, Tunbridge Wells, aged 82.

Marshall.—On April 27, 1958, in London, William Porte Marshall, M.D., of Canada.

Monckton.—On April 28, 1958, at 9, Park Road, Ipswich, Suffolk, Robert Vernon Giraud Monckton, M.D., aged 80.

Pimm.—On May 4, 1958, at Bristol Royal Infirmary, Allan Pimm, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.