

Memoranda : MEDICAL, SURGICAL, OBSTETRICAL.

RUPTURE OF BOTH QUADRICEPS EXTENSOR CRURIS TENDONS.

TOWARDS the end of January, 1909, I was sent for to see Mr. W., aged 64, who gave me the following history: On December 23rd, 1908, he jumped from a cask to the ground, a distance of 3 or 4 ft. He landed on his feet, but his legs seemed to give under him, and "he fell in a heap." He noticed that he could not extend his right leg, but not thinking there was much the matter, tried to walk to his house a few yards away, after he had been helped up by some of his workmen. He managed to get along for 20 or 30 yards, when he felt his legs double up under him, and he fell again. After this he felt that he could walk no more alone, and was assisted home. He went to bed and remained there till I saw him, thinking that by degrees he would get back his strength. He told me that he had pain in both legs, below the knees, and was too weak to stand or walk alone. On examination, there was nothing to be seen below the knees, beyond some extravasated blood below the outer side of the right knee. Above the patella, however, on each side, was a well marked oval hollow, extending upwards 2 or 3 in. He was able to raise either leg from the bed, with some difficulty, but could not stand alone. It was quite obvious that he had ruptured both quadriceps extensor tendons. I advised him to have the tendons sutured, to which he agreed.

On February 11th Dr. Day kindly gave him an anaesthetic, whilst Dr. Renny assisted me in the operations, which were precisely similar in both legs. A vertical incision was made, long enough to expose the upper end of the patella and the lower end of the retracted tendon, which had given way quite close to its insertion into the bone. The ruptured tendon was then with very considerable difficulty brought down to its original position, some small cross cuts through the muscular tissue above the tendon being made to facilitate matters. It was held in position by means of two stout silk ligatures, passed through holes drilled in the patella, and then passed twice, backwards and forwards, through the tendon, in such a way as to get a firm grip. Several thick catgut sutures were also passed between the tendon and the fibrous structures, in front of and at the side of the patella. I found it necessary to use silk, as catgut would not stand the strain, even when doubled. In both legs the knee-joint was freely opened.

Recovery was quite uneventful, though for several days the temperature ranged as high as 100° to 101°, probably on account of absorption from fluid effused into the joints. I kept the limbs for about five weeks in backsplints, which were then removed, and gradually increasing passive, and then active, movements were begun. Before many more weeks were over he could stand alone and walk fairly well across the room, and now, September 20th, 1909, he can walk about again as well as ever. For a long time after he began to try to walk he was troubled with very considerable oedema of the legs, and though this has not yet disappeared it is much better, and getting less and less.

Although rupture of one quadriceps extensor tendon is not very uncommon, I have not seen or heard of a case where both snapped, and Mr. Openshaw, who was in Colchester at the time and saw the patient, tells me that he also has not met with a similar case, so that I think it is deserving of being put on record.

ED. CHICHESTER, M.B.Lond.,
Honorary Surgeon, Essex County Hospital, Colchester.

THE SEARCH FOR PERFORATING ULCER OF THE STOMACH.

IN the EPILOGUE of October 23rd, paragraph No. 209, appears an interesting abstract of an article by Ewald, of Vienna, on this subject, its object being to indicate an area 1 cm. to 2 cm. above or below the pyloric ring, in which it is asserted the perforation is almost always situated. My purpose in writing is not to express any opinion on this statement, but to call attention to a guide to the perforation which I have found almost invariably present when operating.

I always look for a vivid scarlet injection of some portion of the peritoneum; this has its source and centre in the area round the perforation. When the abdomen is opened and the stomach or duodenum exposed, a red streak can usually be seen, which becomes more intense in one direction; if this is followed the ulcer is found. In other instances the incision exposes the inflamed area towards its centre. The next step is to expose the portion which is most intensely red. This immediately surrounds the lesion. The colouring of the peritoneum is quite distinctive; it is bright red, with patches of lymph on the surface. It is swollen and pulpy looking.

The guidance is so good that I have closed a perforation which I never saw. The operation was done under unfavourable circumstances. It was in a small farmhouse; everything had to be done by two of us. Our light was from three or four tallow candles. All efforts failed to bring the perforation into sight; it was somewhere near the cardiac end of the stomach, but, relying on this sign, the area of greatest intensity of inflammation was folded in and sutured. This closure held and the patient recovered.

The extent and intensity of this appearance vary in accordance with the length of time which has intervened between the occurrence of perforation and the operation, and probably also in proportion to the irritating qualities of the effused stomach contents, but whatever its amount, its centre is the ulcer, and it diminishes in degree from it outwards. There is an obvious advantage in being able to use for guidance an appearance which has its source in, and which is relative to, the individual local condition under consideration.

Carlisle.

RODERICK MACLAREN.

"NASTIN" IN THE TREATMENT OF LEPROSY.

My attention was called to "nastin" only a year ago, prior to my taking charge of the E. F. Allbless Leper Home at Trombay. I commenced to use it on three lepers on August 14th, 1908.

Case I, Mathew X. Rodrigues, a native Christian, aged 29, from Africa, had suffered from mixed leprosy for the last eleven years. The skin of the whole face, chin, and ears was enormously thickened, and there were clusters of tubercles on the body, face, arms, forearms, fingers, legs, and feet. There was discoloration of the skin of both thighs, scaly dark patches here and there on the feet, anaesthesia in the fingers of the left hand and from the knee downwards to the tips of the toes of both lower extremities. The nails of the toes were wasted away. In conformity with Professor Deycke's directions, the injections were weekly on and after August 14th, 1908, the patient having forty-four injections in all. His condition to-day (September 24th, 1909) is as follows: Sensation has returned completely in fingers, knees, and tips of toes. The tubercles on the body, legs, feet, and hands have subsided, but not those of the face, although the thickening here shows decided symptoms of going down. Ulcerations have healed, discolorations and scaly patches have faded, and the nodules softened. The skin is much moister than before.

Cases II and III are instances of tuberculous and mixed varieties respectively; they have had the same number of injections as Case I, and show decided improvement and feel generally better than they did before the commencement of nastin. I have treated a few other cases in the hospital, side by side with the above three, with arsenic, iodides, salol, Chaulmoogra, etc., but can hardly vouch for the utility of these drugs either in curing leprosy or arresting its progress. Further, iodides—and Chaulmoogra in particular—have caused pronounced general and local reaction. Considering that leprosy is a disease requiring a steady persevering course of treatment, extending over months, possibly years, it is but fair that Professor Deycke's nastin should be given a wider and more extensive trial.

Dr. D. A. D. Monte, M.D., L.R.C.P.Lond., J.P., of Bandra, Bombay, Honorary Secretary, Treasurer, and Consulting Physician to this home, saw my cases quite recently, and agrees with this my report.

F. RASCHID,
Medical Officer in Charge, E. F. Allbless
Leper Home, Trombay.

* Described by Professor Deycke in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, vol. i, 1908, p. 802.

retired from the navy in 1792 after about seven years' service, and probably settled in practice at Stonehaven. In 1794 he married Margaret Dyce, daughter of a merchant and Burgess at Aberdeen. He continued to practise at Stonehaven till his death in 1827, a period of thirty-four years. He continued his habit of diary keeping, and a portion of these records, covering from 1802 to 1804 are in the hands of his distinguished grandson. It shows that he must have led a strenuous life, in full practice of medicine, surgery and midwifery. He was surgeon to the militia and to a corps of volunteers embodied at that time of European disturbance. He made his rounds on horseback. The famous athlete, Captain Barclay, of Ury, Stonehaven, who walked a thousand miles in a thousand hours, was his patient. Dr. Nichol practised inoculation with cow-pox very extensively, and no mention is made of untoward results. He was popular in the town and neighbourhood, and often dined at the houses of the local magnates of Ury and Fetteresso. On one occasion he restored to life a youth who had been overcome by the fumes of burning charcoal, and Sir Dyce Duckworth has in his possession the gold medal presented to his ancestor by the Royal Humane Society on the occasion. Dr. Nicol was evidently a man of strong character, fitted for energy and action. Sir Dyce Duckworth says that, as a firm believer in hereditary transmissions and atavism, he imagines that his own inherited predilection for matters both medical and naval led to his joining the medical service of the navy for a short period at the outset of his career. Dr. Nicol's only son, James Dyce, after a career in Bombay, acquired the estate of Ballogie and others, and sometime M.P. for Kincardineshire. A son of Dr. Nicol's second daughter, General Sir Alexander Low, K.C.B., rode in the Balaclava charge, and afterwards commanded his regiment, the 4th Hussars. Sir Dyce Duckworth concludes by saying that he hears with some apprehension of developments in Stonehaven, and he expresses a pious hope that these may not lead to its vulgarization as a holiday resort. He regards it as a duty to posterity to preserve such little towns in their pristine simplicity, while having due regard to modern sanitation, and he deprecates the desecration of the speculator and the abominations of the jerry builder.

Medical News.

THE first scientific meeting for the session of the Zoological Society of London will be held in the Society's rooms at 3, Hanover Square, on Tuesday next, at 8.30 p.m.

THE dinner of the past and present students of the Royal Dental Hospital of London will be held at the Hotel Metropole on Saturday, November 20th, when Mr. C. F. Rilot will take the chair.

THE students' annual dinner of the National Dental Hospital will be held at the Trocadero Restaurant, Piccadilly, W., on Friday, November 19th, under the presidency of Sir Thomas Barlow, K.C.V.O.

THE opening meeting of the one hundred and fifty-sixth session of the Royal Society of Arts will be held on Wednesday, November 17th, at 8 p.m., when Sir William White, K.C.B., F.R.S., Chairman of Council, will deliver an address on an Imperial Navy.

ON the occasion of the opening of the winter session of the Central London Throat and Ear Hospital, Gray's Inn Road, on Monday next, at 4.30 p.m., Mr. Charles Ballance, M.V.O., will deliver an address on the lesson to be learnt in London from the history of the mastoid operation.

THE annual meeting and dinner of the Glasgow University Club of Manchester and district will be held at the Queen's Hotel, Manchester, on Tuesday, November 16th, when Sir Henry Craik, M.P., Sir Hector Cameron, and Dr. G. S. Middleton will be present. Further particulars can be obtained from Mr. D. Richmond, 176, Drake Street, Rochdale.

AT a meeting of the council of the University of Birmingham on November 3rd, Mr. J. Sholto Cameron Douglas, M.A., M.B., B.Ch.Oxon., was appointed lecturer in pathology and bacteriology; Mr. Leonard Doncaster, special lecturer in heredity and variation; Mr. Edward Bach and Mr. Samuel Lewis Graham, M.B., prosecutors of anatomy.

THE long expected has at length happened, the Lord Mayor of the City of London having issued last week an

appeal for assistance on behalf of St. Bartholomew's Hospital. The annual working deficit is now some £12,000. The probability of such an appeal becoming imperative was pointed out in a review of the financial position of hospitals in the metropolis, published in the JOURNAL early last year. The institution, with a history of 800 years' work behind it, is one of the most famous and scientifically successful hospitals in the kingdom, and its appeal will no doubt meet with a ready response.

THE thirteenth annual conference of the Parents' National Education Union will be held in Birmingham on November 15th and the four following days. The first meeting will take place in the great hall of the university, under the chairmanship of the Earl of Lytton, when an address will be given by Sir Oliver Lodge. On the following day Miss Helen Webb, M.B., will read a paper on environment in relation to nervous stability. Other subjects to be discussed will be social work for girls at leisure, how to interest young people in art, and co-education of boys and girls.

ON October 19th the weekly board of Newark Hospital held an inquiry into an accusation recently made against the institution in the *Newark Advertiser* by the squire of a neighbouring village. The allegation was to the effect that a woman sent by him to the hospital had been wrongfully refused admission, and that life had thus been endangered. The inquiry showed that all the officials of the hospital, including the house-surgeon and the matron, had acted according to its regulations and also wisely, and that it was untrue that the patient had in any wise suffered in health from the refusal to admit her. On examination there proved to be nothing the matter with her beyond being very dirty and of considerable age. She was therefore inadmissible as a case of urgency and equally inadmissible as an ordinary case, because no letter of recommendation stating that she was a fit subject for hospital treatment and signed by a medical man was sent with her. Instead of sending her away forthwith the house-surgeon brought the case to the notice of the Poor Law authorities; but the relieving officer, finding she did not belong to a village within the union, nor appear to be in need of indoor treatment at all, refused to deal with the case. The patient was then, after being given tea and carefully wrapped up, sent back home in the same vehicle and with the same companions—a woman and the squire's groom. Within forty-eight hours she was also examined by the Poor Law medical officer of the district, who also found nothing the matter with her. The board is to be congratulated on having met this charge boldly and promptly by a public inquiry.

AT King Edward VII Hospital, Windsor, two interesting events took place recently—the opening of a library and the unveiling of a portrait of Dr. W. B. Holderness, the first President of the Windsor and District Medical Society. Dr. Francis Hawkins (Reading), President of the society, who occupied the chair, said that about a year ago one of their members, Mr. Tippetts, of Staines, made a suggestion that books should be circulated amongst members, and expressed a wish that the society should have a library. At that time such a scheme seemed almost impossible. But at their last annual dinner Dr. Hurry, President of the Reading Pathological Society, spoke of the desirability of that society having a library. Dr. Holderness at once came forward with a generous gift of 10 guineas. Then the Committee of King Edward VII Hospital placed a room in the hospital at their disposal. By this means and by a grant of £20 from the funds of the society, a possibility had now become a reality. A library committee consisting of the Treasurer, Mr. Gooch, Dr. Holderness, Dr. Norris, senior surgeon to the hospital, Mr. Tippetts, Dr. Spurrier, and Dr. Elgood, was formed, and contributions in the form of books and money began to come in. The company then proceeded to the new library, and Sir Richard Douglas Powell, having declared it open, unveiled the portrait of Dr. Holderness. On returning to the meeting room, Sir Richard Douglas Powell said he thought the library furnished another link in the association of all those who were practising in the district, and rendered their ethical relations happier; it was one of the obligations of a society like that to bring men into touch with one another—in larger sympathy with one another in their work and in their ethical relations. He also thought the formation of a library brought out the sympathy and generosity of many people. Sir Richard Douglas Powell then presented to the library a copy of the facsimile executed under the auspices of the Royal College of Physicians of London, of the diploma presented to William Harvey at Padua at the beginning of the seventeenth century.

Universities and Colleges.

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE.

Appointments.

THE following appointments are announced: *Additional Demonstrator of Physiology*, Mr. V. H. Mottram, M.A., Trinity College. *John Lucas Walker Students*, W. McDonald Scott, M.B., Ch.B., B.Sc.Edin., and Constant W. Ponder, M.A., M.D., Emmanuel College. *Curator Botanical Museum*, H. H. Thomas, B.A., Downing College. *Superintendent Museum of Zoology*, C. L. Boulenger, B.A., King's College. *Studentship in Medical Entomology*, Gordon Merriman, Trinity Hall.

Examinations.

The following candidates have been approved at the examinations indicated:

- FIRST M.B. (Part I, Chemistry).**—K. Bellwood, W. K. Bigger, H. A. Crouch, J. L. Davies, H. P. Dawson, C. D. Day, A. N. Drury, W. H. Edgar, H. A. C. Goodwin, L. M. Ingle, L. H. James, J. B. Leather, E. C. Malden, S. C. Miskin, D. F. A. Neilson, S. H. Rhodes, E. J. Selby, T. H. Somervell, P. Stocks, C. R. A. Thacker, W. G. Thompson, T. T. B. Watson, W. R. Wilson, F. B. Winfield.
- FIRST M.B. (Part II, Physics).**—A. C. Ainsley, K. Bellwood, W. K. Bigger, C. C. Brewis, A. A. Cockayne, H. A. Crouch, J. L. Davies, H. P. Dawson, A. N. Drury, L. M. Ingle, S. H. M. Johns, J. B. Leather, E. C. Malden, E. W. Mason, S. C. Miskin, E. J. Selby, T. H. Somervell, G. E. Spicer, P. Stocks, C. R. A. Thacker, T. T. B. Watson, E. Watson-Williams, W. R. Wilson, F. B. Winfield.
- FIRST M.B. (Part III, Biology).**—H. S. Bartlett, W. K. Bigger, H. R. Buttery, B.A., G. F. Clifton, H. A. Crouch, H. P. Dawson, A. N. Drury, L. M. Ingle, M. L. Loveless, J. R. McFarland, E. C. Malden, S. C. Miskin, D. M. Muir, D. F. A. Neilson, S. D. Nurse, R. A. W. Proctor, S. H. Rhodes, J. W. Sewill, H. N. Stafford, P. Stocks, C. R. A. Thacker, W. G. Thompson, E. Watson-Williams.
- D.P.H. (Both Parts).**—L. A. Clutterbuck, R. R. Elworth, T. S. Hale, F. J. Henry, E. L. Hunt, R. B. Khambata, N. P. O'G. Lalor (Major, I.M.S.), R. McC. Linnell, G. H. K. Macalister, A. S. M. Macgregor, Alice Oberdorfer, J. W. Parker, A. H. Parkinson, F. J. Pierce, S. Rowland, Mabel Russell, G. H. Skinner, R. M. Srinivasa, D. Thomson, G. D. H. Wallace, A. G. Wells.

Degrees.

The following degrees have been conferred:

- M.D.—W. H. Brailey, Queens'.
M.B., B.C.—W. M. Jeffreys, Trin., C. C. Holman, Gonv. and Cai., A. V. Poyser, Magd., L. T. Dean, Sid. Suss.
B.C.—J. P. Buckley, Trin., P. G. Fildes, Trin., E. T. Shann, Gonv. and Cai.

UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL.

THE total number of undergraduates registered in the Medical Faculty at the beginning of the present session was 132. These include 23 new entries for degree courses, and 8 new entries for diploma courses. For the diplomas in tropical medicine and public health there have been 14 and 13 new entries respectively.

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH.

THE MEDICAL CURRICULUM AND EXAMINATIONS.

At the meeting on October 29th Dr. Norman Walker moved the following motion:

To remit to the Business Committee to consider and report as to the desirability of procuring by an amending ordinance of the university court, or otherwise, further improvements in the medical curriculum and examinations.

In the course of his remarks Dr. Walker said that the question of medical examination was by no means special to Edinburgh at the present time; he referred the council to the report of the Pathological Club, whose further report and suggestions, the Business Committee stated, were of much assistance towards the framing of the recent ordinance. (A note on this report, giving the recommendations in full, was published in the JOURNAL of October 23rd.) Dr. Walker entered into some of the details of the recommendations, and said that a great difficulty arose from the fact that under the existing ordinances the subject of anatomy split up the winter session. He pointed to the advantage that would follow if study were to begin three months earlier. All were anxious that the students turned out from Edinburgh should be the best product of medical education anywhere, and there was no antagonism to the existing state of affairs. All that was wanted was to make the fullest possible use of the great advantages held out in Edinburgh. The motion was seconded by Dr. James Ritchie, and, after a few remarks by Professor Harvey Littlejohn, was approved.

NORTH WALES COLLEGE.

At the half-yearly meeting of the governors of the University College of North Wales, Bangor, held at Chester on October 27th, Lord Kenyon, who presided, said the new annual Treasury grant of £4,000 was a great relief to the finances. That morning the council had set apart about half of it for increasing the salaries of the professors. That was an act of justice too long delayed. The Drapers' Company had made a further grant of £10,000 to the building fund. In the English and philosophy

department the professors had reported that students came up with perhaps an insufficient preparation, and thought the college matriculation examination might be improved. The professors frequently deplored the number of examinations in secondary schools, and anything the governors could do to lessen the number and to increase individual attention was a matter worthy of consideration. In the discussion Professor James Gibson said that the frequent examinations did not encourage a scholar to make the best use of his intellectual faculties; intelligence was inevitably subordinated to the effort of mere memory. Sir Harry Reichel said the tendency of a highly specialized system of examination like the Central Welsh Board system was to become more severe in its demands every year. That difficulty must be dealt with soon. The Court of Governors agreed to instruct the committee attending the Modern University Congress to represent their views upon this subject.

THE ROYAL UNIVERSITY OF IRELAND.

THE CLOSING SCENES.

THE last meeting of the Royal University of Ireland, which has now been replaced by the two universities, the National University and the University of Belfast, was held at 3 p.m. on October 29th. Before that hour the undergraduates had taken possession of one of the galleries where their exuberant spirits found expression in the singing of songs, the blowing of bugles, the throwing of rice and flour, and, finally, of squibs. Ultimately while the new graduates were being presented for degrees, a hose pipe which had been used in unavailing attempts to lasso them, was connected with a hydrant, and most of those who had withstood the squibs retired under umbrellas before the water.

The Vice-Chancellor, Sir Christopher Nixon, presided, but the address which he delivered was unfortunately almost inaudible owing to the tumult. After expressing his regret at the absence of the Chancellor (Lord Castletown), Sir Christopher Nixon was understood to pay an appropriate tribute to the services of former chancellors and vice-chancellors. He then stated that the senate at its last meeting had decided that it would be appropriate that the university should present honorary degrees to those members of the senate who had not yet received that distinction. Among those to receive the degree of LL.D. under this decision of the senate were Sir Francis Cruise, M.D., Dr. John Walton Browne, Dr. R. W. Leslie, and Dr. John Campbell. At the same time the honorary degree of D.Sc. was conferred on Professor Alexander MacAlister. Having referred to the spirit of toleration which had characterized the organization of the university, the Vice-Chancellor said that he was authorized to confer the honorary degree of LL.D. on certain distinguished graduates, including Dr. W. R. Huggard of Davos Platz, Switzerland. Turning then to the subject of the new universities, Sir Christopher Nixon said that the gratitude of Irishmen was due to the distinguished statesman, Mr. Birrell, for having carried legislation to establish for the first time in the history of Ireland a university for Catholics. The Royal University, though it had fallen short of the ideal, had exercised an important influence on higher education in Ireland; it had opened its portals to women, and during its existence there had been phenomenal activity with respect to intermediate education in Ireland, culminating in the record return of candidates for examination during 1909; they numbered 11,332, the number of passes being about 55 per cent. The university had provided substantial rewards and encouragements, and had placed its distinctions and honours within the reach of all. In the various professions, both at home and abroad, names of Royal University graduates could be cited as holders of positions of rank and influence; it had given encouragement also to a large number who prepared themselves for the position of professors and lecturers in the various colleges connected with it. Its constitution had compelled it to concentrate its attention upon examinations, but it had set itself to maintain as high a standard as was possible. In the profession of medicine the university had been pre-eminently successful, and could claim in the strictest sense to be a teaching university. The defects in its organization, however, and the too great influence on its work exercised by the examination system had developed an intense feeling that it could not be maintained without reform. The university had fulfilled its destiny, and the two universities would bring to fruition the seed which it had sown.

The following have been approved at the examinations indicated:

- M.D.—J. Finnegan, S. J. Killen, C. B. Pearson, S. B. Walsh, T. Walsh, S. H. Whyte, J. E. Wilson.

DIPLOMA IN MENTAL DISEASES.—D. Gillespie.

The following have been awarded honours in one or more groups of the examination indicated:

- FINAL M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O.—*E. G. Kennedy, *J. J. Gilmore, *J. B. Butler, †J. M. M'Cloy, *W. Dickey, †T. Scanlan, *B. Byrne, *S. B. Campbell, †J. A. Hanrahan.

* First class.

† Second class.

(Mr. E. G. Kennedy also received exhibitions, valued £21 each, both in the medicine and surgery group, and Mr. B. Byrne received the exhibition in the midwifery group.)

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF LONDON.
An ordinary quarterly comitia was held at the college on Thursday, October 28th, the President, Sir R. Douglas Powell, in the chair.

Membership.

Wm. David Keyworth, M.B., B.C.Cantab., and Charles Joseph Singer, M.B.Oxon., L.R.C.P., were admitted Members of the College.

Licence.

The Licence of the college was granted to 104 gentlemen.

Jenks Memorial Scholarship.

Philip Dennis Scott was elected Jenks Memorial scholar.

Parkes-Weber Prize.

The following was announced as the subject for the Parkes-Weber Prize for the year 1912: "The influence of mixed and secondary infections upon pulmonary tuberculosis in man, and the measures, preventative and curative, for dealing with them."

Communications.

The following communications were received: (1) From Professor Emil Fischer, thanking the college for the award of the Baly medal to him. (2) From the Secretary of the Royal College of Surgeons, reporting proceedings of the Council of the College on July 29th and October 14th last.

International Medical Congress.

A report was received from Dr. Pavy, college representative at the International Congress at Budapest, on the proceedings of the Congress. On the motion of the President, a vote of thanks was passed to Dr. Pavy by acclamation.

Imperial Cancer Research Fund.

The resignation of Dr. Pye-Smith as a member of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund was accepted, and Dr. Newsholme was appointed a representative of the college in his place.

Committee of Management.

Dr. Norman Moore, who retired by rotation, was re-elected a member of the Committee of Management.

Examinations.

The quarterly report of the Examiners for the Licence on the results of the July examinations was received.

Library.

Books and other publications presented to the library during the past quarter were received, and thanks returned to the donors.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.

As already announced, the annual meeting of the Fellows and Members will be held on Thursday, November 18th, at 3 p.m.

THE ANNUAL REPORT.

The annual report of the Council for 1909 has recently been issued. Most of the matters dealt with in it have already been recorded in these columns.

Proposed Combination with the University of London.

In the section of the report which deals with this subject, the report of the delegates of the two colleges published in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL of March 6th, p. 607, is set out, and it is added that the college has learnt that it will be afforded the opportunity of giving evidence before the Royal Commission on University Education in London at some date in 1910. In the meantime, the Royal Colleges have approached the University of London, and on July 2nd, 1909, the delegates of the Royal Colleges met representatives of the university and placed the proposed scheme for combination before them.

Administration of Anaesthetics.

In reply to the letter received in December, 1908, from the General Medical Council, inquiring how far effect had been given to the recommendation of that Council communicated to the College in June, 1907, to require students to procure evidence of having received practical instruction in the administration of anaesthetics, a letter was sent stating that the desirability of making practical instruction in the administration of anaesthetics a compulsory part of the medical curriculum was recognized by the Council of the College in 1901, and that in December of that year, in conjunction with the Royal College of Physicians, a regulation was adopted requiring a candidate before admission to the final examination to produce a certificate "of having received, at a recognized medical school and hospital, instruction in the administration of anaesthetics to the satisfaction of his teachers," and that, moreover, questions on the subject were from time to time put to candidates by the examiners of the college. The letter went on to express the hope that the General Medical Council would be successful in its endeavour to induce other examining bodies to adopt a regulation which had long been in force at the English Royal Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons. Upon the recommendation of the Board of Examiners in Dental Surgery candidates for the licence in dental surgery of the college are now required to produce evidence that they have received instruction in the administration of anaesthetics, and all candidates for the licence who enter at a recognized dental hospital or school on or after

October 1st, 1909, will be required to produce a certificate "of having attended a recognized dental hospital and school a course of practical instruction in the administration of such anaesthetics as are in common use in dental surgery."

The Central Midwives Board.

The report made by Mr. J. Ward Cousins, the then representative of the Council of the College upon the Central Midwives Board, sets out the facts which make it evident that the Midwives Act, 1902, could never effectually work without considerable alteration. The experience of the past, he stated, clearly indicated the necessity for amendments in the following directions: (1) The county councils and county borough councils should be granted power for defraying all expenses incurred by the local supervising authorities in the discharge of their duties; (2) the payment of medical men summoned by certified midwives should be regulated by a definite scale suitable to the local circumstances and the services rendered; (3) some provision ought to be introduced for securing better co-operation between the local supervising authorities and the Central Midwives Board.

From a tabular statement embodied in the report, it appears that of the 92 cases reported to the Central Midwives Board during 1908 by local supervising authorities throughout the country, 44 were charges of neglect to send for medical aid. In 24 of these 44 cases the midwife was struck off the roll, in 13 she was censured, in 6 cautioned, and in 1 no action was taken.

Examination Hall.

The report states that the site for the new examination hall acquired in Queen Square, Bloomsbury, has cost £23,200, and that it will also be necessary to purchase the furniture to the several houses, the net cost of which is not likely to exceed £1,000.

Finance.

The gross income of the college amounted to £25,401, an increase of £427 on the gross income of the previous year. The expenditure amounted to £23,076, an increase of £1,895 on the expenditure of the previous year. The most noticeable item in which increase occurred was under special expenses for the museum, where there was a difference of £1,000, largely attributable to an expenditure of £663 on furniture and fittings. The special expenses of the library showed little variation, and, as in the previous year, amounted to over £1,600. The original cost to the college of the Examination Hall buildings amounted to £30,251, but the share of the sinking fund transferred to the college was £1,736. The net sum realized by the college from the sale of the Examination Hall buildings and lease was £24,512; the loss on the original cost thus amounted to £4,000, but the price received was considered satisfactory, having regard to the depreciation of the buildings during some twenty-two years.

Issue of Diplomas.

The number of diplomas issued was as follows: Membership, 356; Fellowship, 66; Licence in Dental Surgery, 81; Diploma in Public Health granted jointly with the Royal College of Physicians, 30.

Museum.

Alterations are being effected in the system of cataloguing and labelling the contents of the Museum. Each specimen is to be furnished with its own explanatory card, to be found with others contained in specially designed boxes attached to each case or adjacent pair of cases, throughout the Museum so that visitors may find at hand a full history and explanation of the specimens. Already thirty boxes are in use. Four cabinets have been designed by Mr. E. C. Frere, A.R.I.B.A., to contain the hall catalogue; a double series of cards which will serve the same purposes for the Museum as the "index" and "list of contents" do for a book. It is estimated that the "index series" will involve the preparation of 250,000 cards—an enormous labour—but one which will greatly increase the utility of the Museum. Owing to the rapid growth of certain sections of the Museum it was found necessary to introduce a system of numbering the specimens which will admit of unlimited additions at a point in the collection without disturbing pre-existing numbers. The method adopted is a modification of the decimal system.

Alterations have been effected during the past year in the organization and equipment of the museum. The anatomical plates prepared in Padua in 1646 under the direction of John Evelyn, F.R.S., the diarist, the oldest anatomical studies in this country, with the exception of the "Harvey plates" in the Royal College of Physicians, have been removed from one of the staircases and placed with the modern anatomical preparations. Two important additions have been made to the equipment of the articulator's department, a dental engine and a mechanically driven saw for the accurate preparation of large sections.

A small collection of about forty stuffed animals, purchased over a hundred years ago at the sale of the Ashton Lever collection, being of historical rather than scientific interest, were offered to and accepted by the authorities of the British Museum. Hunter's pea-hen showing male plumage has been retained for the museum.

Mr. J. Herbert Parsons, F.R.C.S., has been appointed by the Council to revise, extend, and recatalogue the collection illustrating injuries and diseases of the eye, and Dr. R. T. Leiper, of the Tropical School of Medicine, has undertaken a similar revision of the collection of entozoa.

The collection of specimens shown at the Franco-British Exhibition was safely returned and the Diploma of the Grand Prize was awarded to it. Mr. Shattock's series, sent to the International Tuberculosis Congress held at Washington in 1908, formed an important part of the British section of specimens exhibited there, to which a gold medal was awarded. Specimens presented to the museum by Darwin have been sent on loan to the British Museum Natural History Collection, to be placed on exhibition there in connexion with the Darwin centenary celebration. Specimens have also been sent to the exhibition given in Whitechapel under the auspices of the National Association for the Prevention of Consumption.

The Nubian Pathological Collection presented last year has been arranged and catalogued by Mr. Shattock, and the Council of the College has accepted as a trust the collection of the Odontological Section of the Royal Society of Medicine, one of the most valuable odontological collections in the world.

Six demonstrations explanatory of the contents of the museum were given during the past year by the Conservator and six by the Pathological Curator. These demonstrations were well attended.

Their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales, accompanied by Sir Frederick Treves, Bart., visited the museum, and were received by the President of the College. Two large parties of French physicians, introduced by Dr. Leonard Williams, were received, and twenty-eight Saturday afternoon student parties paid visits in the course of the year.

CONJOINT BOARD IN ENGLAND.

THE following candidates have been approved at the examination indicated:

SECOND COLLEGE.—E. S. Abraham, H. A. Ash, R. Brewitt-Taylor, N. Cheune, E. R. C. Cooke, B.A.Cantab., F. C. Cowtan, W. T. Dobson, A. R. Esler, M. Ffoulkes, A. A. H. Fyze, H. Gibson, N. Grellier, C. C. Harrison, B.A.Cantab., W. G. Helsby, G. A. Hodgson, G. A. Hooton, G. J. P. Huddleston, F. M. Hughes, F. M. S. Hulke, A. R. Jennings, B.A.Cantab., J. E. T. Jones, G. W. King, E. T. H. Lea, C. C. Ling, E. M. Mahon, C. H. G. Penny, J. L. Perceval, M. Pern, O. Pitt, M. Radford, H. Robinson, A. B. Rosher, H. Sharpe, B.A.Cantab., E. W. Twining, C. B. Vakil, A. Viney, T. M. O. Williams, B.A.Cantab., and H. S. Young.

Medico-Legal.

VERONAL POISONING.

AT an inquest in Marylebone on November 1st the jury returned a verdict of death by misadventure in a case of supposed veronal poisoning. The deceased was a barrister who suffered occasionally from sleeplessness. Just before bedtime on the night before his death a medical friend who shared house with him suggested his substituting for the veronal a bottle of stout. Between 8 and 9 the following morning the patient came to the medical man's room in what seemed to be a state of fright. He said that he had had a seizure in the night, and that he had no control over his limbs. He was taken back to bed, and after some breakfast seemed better. Two hours later he became unconscious and died about 9 p.m. Meantime another medical man had been called in, and was informed by the patient that he had taken 15 grains of veronal about 3 a.m. Both medical witnesses regarded veronal poisoning as the cause of death.

VALUE OF A SHARE.

M.—According to our correspondent's figures, the practice has diminished in value one-third while he has been a partner; if, therefore, he were to retire from it now, he could not fairly expect to receive for his share more than two-thirds of the price he originally paid for it.

CURIOUS.—Strictly speaking, the letters "Brux." should be placed after an unregistered Brussels M.D., but it could not be said to be illegal for a registered medical practitioner to omit this affix when simply using the M.D. as an ordinary academic distinction.

Medico-Ethical.

THE OBLIGATIONS OF A SUBSTITUTE.

T. W. M.—It not uncommonly happens that a practitioner who has acted as substitute for another in a case of acute illness is asked to see the case to the end, and as the patient in this case made a great point of it, we think our correspondent was justified in agreeing; as he considered himself throughout as acting as the substitute for A., but for whose absence he would not have been called into the case, the fees for the whole attendance should be divided between them.

GRATIS ATTENDANCE ON NURSES.

DEVON RURAL.—Not to make any charge for professional services to a nurse is purely an act of grace. Our correspondent is fully entitled to make a charge if he thinks the circumstances justify it.

Public Health

AND

POOR LAW MEDICAL SERVICES.

DISINFECTION OF CLOTHING.

A. E.—The powers which local authorities possess to enforce the disinfection of infected clothing are contained in Section 120 of the Public Health Act, 1875, and in Sections 5 and 6 of the Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act, 1890. Section 120 of the latter Act, which is adoptive, enables the authority to require the owner of articles certified by a medical officer of health or registered medical practitioner as infectious to be disinfected, and in default the authority may carry out the disinfection at the owner's cost. Sections 5 and 6 give the same power with slightly varied procedure. If action is taken under Section 6 the cost of disinfection must be borne by the authority, which must compensate the owner for any unnecessary damage occurring during the process of disinfection.

NOTIFICATIONS.

R. J. H.—There is no obligation upon a medical practitioner to notify a case of infectious disease to any one but the medical officer of health of the district in which the case occurs.

Obituary.

WE regret to record the death of Dr. HUGH ARTHUR, of Airdrie, Lanarkshire, in the sixty-fifth year of his age. It occurred suddenly on October 5th, from cerebral hæmorrhage, almost immediately after his return very late in the evening from a long day's work. Dr. Arthur, a native of Old Cumnock, Ayrshire, and a Glasgow student, graduated M.B., C.M.Glasg., in 1869, proceeding to M.D. some three years later. Among his teachers, as he used to record with pride, were Professors Gairdner and Muirhead, and Lord Lister. In Airdrie he settled down some forty years ago, and in the course of time acquired a large practice, and received a large number of public appointments. At the time of his death he held the health officership of the burgh, and was surgeon to the police, public vaccinator, parochial medical officer, physician to the Airdrie Fever Hospital, and certifying factory surgeon. In the course of his long professional life Dr. Arthur had formed and was ready to support very definite notions on several points. He regarded the old apprenticeship system with high esteem, and thought that it was to its abolition that many latter-day difficulties were in some degree due. The difficulty, for instance, of exercising proper control over contract practice and obtaining adequate remuneration would, he thought, be much less if young men on commencing independent practice possessed the same kind of knowledge and ethical training as that which was instilled into pupil apprentices in past times. He also regarded surgical interference in cases of appendicitis as rarely necessary, and in proof thereof used to state that he had never had occasion to call in a surgeon, nor had ever had a fatal result, treatment by calomel and opium having brought about a favourable outcome in all the cases which had passed through his hands. Among drugs he attached great value to ammonium carbonate, which he regarded as almost specific in the treatment of scarlet fever. He was a member of the Lanarkshire Division of the British Medical Association, a Fellow of the Royal Institute of Public Health, and a regular attendant at the annual public health congresses in Scotland, frequently taking part in discussions. He was also for a good many years an active volunteer, and held rank as surgeon-major in the 5th Volunteer Battalion of the Scottish Rifles. Personally Dr. Arthur was a man not alone of genial manners, but of most unselfish spirit, beloved by his friends and esteemed by the whole countryside. He was married, and is survived by his wife and five daughters.

At a meeting of the Royal Sanitary Institute to be held in the Council Chamber, Exchange Buildings, Nottingham, on Saturday, November 20th, at 10.30 a.m., a discussion on the improvement of city slums by housing reforms and otherwise will be opened by Alderman T. J. Dabell, J.P., M.R.C.S., chairman of the Health Committee, Nottingham.