

Memoranda :

MEDICAL, SURGICAL, OBSTETRICAL.

RENOVATION OF TERMINAL PHALANX OF THUMB.

IN April, 1908, I saw a boy, aged 10, who had suffered for some weeks from a whitlow of the left thumb. The nail was loosened from its bed, and a sinus led down to necrosed bone; pus was discharging from the sinus.



Fig. 1.—Skiagram taken by Mr. J. Taylor. The growth of the new bone from the epiphysis is well shown.

On April 3rd, 1908, the patient was given an anaesthetic, and I cut off the diseased skin, etc., removing the entire nail and the terminal phalanx, which was quite loose and completely necrosed. In fact I performed an amputation at the interphalangeal joint; and I told the parents there was no chance of any "end" ever growing to his thumb. The little operation wound healed quite well, and I did not see the boy again until January, 1909, when, to my great astonishment he had quite a well-shaped nail and a perceptible phalanx with good movement at the joint! I had a skiagram taken (Fig. 1) which shows very clearly the growth of the new bone. Obviously this new phalanx has developed from the epiphysis which was left behind.



Fig. 2.—The necrosed phalanx as removed.

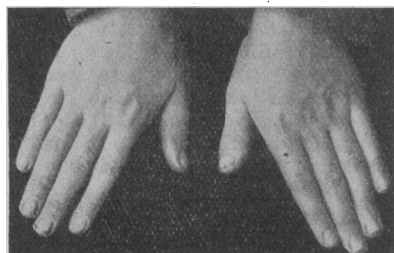


Fig. 3.—Photograph of hands two and a half years after operation.

Fig. 2 is a photograph of the necrosed phalanx removed in 1908. Fig. 3 is a photograph I took of my young friend's hands last September.

I referred to this case in my inaugural address to the Bath and Bristol Branch in 1909 as one of the best examples I ever came across of the *vis medicatrix Naturae* and I think this pictorial record may interest the readers of the JOURNAL.

Clifton.

G. MUNRO SMITH.

HYDATIDIFORM MOLE DURING THE FIFTY-FIRST YEAR.

THE following case is of more than usual interest, owing to the fact that conception took place towards the end of the fifty-first year.

Mrs. A., aged 50 years and 9 months, consulted me in September on account of persistent sickness and sanguineous discharge. Menstruation had been quite regular till the early part of this year, when it became irregular with long intervals, suggesting the onset

of the menopause. The last menstrual period occurred at the beginning of August, but the uterus was easily felt above the pubes by external examination.

The symptoms of sickness and discharge gradually ceased with complete rest in bed, but the uterus enlarged rapidly, and finally emptied itself, with considerable "pains," on November 14th. The mole, which filled a 3-lb. jam-pot, was typically hydatidiform, the cystic chorionic villi, with myxomatous degeneration of their stroma and proliferation of the trophoblast layers, being clearly shown. All discharges ceased in a week, and the patient is so far making an uneventful recovery.

There seems to be no reason to doubt but that this mole was the result of a recent conception, and the case seems to support the theory that such moles occur as a result of pregnancy in advanced life.

Newton Ferrers, Plymouth.

A. E. GLADSTONE.

Reports

ON

MEDICAL AND SURGICAL PRACTICE IN THE HOSPITALS AND ASYLUMS OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE.

HAMIRPUR DISTRICT HOSPITAL.

CASE OF PENETRATING WOUND OF THE ABDOMINAL WALL WITH PROTRUSION OF THE SMALL INTESTINE.

(By S. K. CHANDHURI, M.B., B.A., Assistant Surgeon.)

T., an orphan male child, aged 8 years, was admitted to the District Hospital, Hamirpur, U.P., with the report that the boy had been gored by an enraged bull; he had been carried in a bullock cart from a distant village. The accident was said to have occurred about four hours previously. A dirty cloth was wrapped round his abdomen, on uncovering which a coil of the small intestine a little above a foot in length was seen protruding through a more or less transverse wound across the middle line of the abdomen about an inch above the navel. On inspection two superficial puncture marks were discovered in the visceral peritoneum of the protruded gut, the rest of the intestinal wall being intact. The whole of the protruded organ had a deeply injected appearance. His temperature on admission was 99°.

Under chloroform, when the toilet of the protruded organ with sterilized salt solution was nearly finished, his pulse became feeble and the rest of the operation was hurried through. The gut was pushed back by enlarging the abdominal wound. The severed aponeurotic fibres were drawn together by buried sutures, and last of all superficial stitches uniting the skin were applied.

The patient was kept under the influence of opium, and a little milk was given for the first time since the operation on the third day; next day flatus and faeces were passed. He made an uninterrupted recovery, the temperature never rising beyond 101.4°—recorded on the second day—and no peritoneal complication supervened.

On the eighth day, on removing the first dressing, supuration was noticed to have occurred superficially; it is strange pus did not travel beyond the muscular wall and did not affect the site of the buried stitches. No drainage for the wound had been provided and yet nothing untoward happened. Another departure from the common practice was that the peritoneal rent had not been united by stitches. Five months have elapsed since the accident took place, and the boy has no complaint whatever.

THE first Congress of French Medical Journalists will be held in Paris on Thursday, March 23rd, 1911. Among the questions to be discussed are the right of reproduction of medical papers; the relations of the medical press with congresses and other manifestations concerning the art and practice of medicine; the organization of a fund for the immediate relief of necessitous cases; the usurpation of the title of doctor.

Medico-Ethical.

The advice given in this column for the assistance of members is based on medico-ethical principles generally recognized by the profession, but must not be taken as representing direct findings of the Central Ethical Committee, except when so stated.

PRACTITIONERS AND PUBLIC VACCINATORS.

VEXATUS.—If the facts stated can be substantiated, our correspondent should address a letter to the public vaccinator in question, giving the particulars of this and any other cases, also asking for an explanation and an undertaking that the irregularity would not be repeated. Should this plan fail, a similar letter should be addressed to the clerk of the guardians, to be laid before the Vaccination Committee. A public vaccinator is exceeding his duty if he visits the home of a child before it is 4 months and 1 week old, unless he has received a "request" from the parent or guardian of the child. A public vaccinator is not justified in seeking to divert a parent from any expressed intention of employing the regular medical attendant. It sometimes happens that the father requests the public vaccinator to call without mentioning the fact to the mother. It also often happens that public vaccinators are questioned about the lymph they use, and the conversation in such cases might be erroneously repeated or misunderstood. It would be well for our correspondent to satisfy himself on these points, and, having done so, he need have no hesitation in adopting the course suggested above.

THE UNQUALIFIED ASSISTANT.

M. F. D. asks to what extent, in addition to dispensing and dressing, is a final year's student who has completed his hospital curriculum allowed to assist in a general practice.

* * The resolution of the General Medical Council (November 24th, 1897) prohibits the use of unqualified assistants to attend or treat any patient, and only modifies this so far as to say that this is not intended "to restrict the proper training and instruction of bona fide medical students as pupils, or the legitimate employment of dressers, midwives, dispensers, and surgery attendants under the immediate personal supervision of registered medical practitioners." To visit or prescribe for patients except under "direct supervision," which we understand to mean in the presence of the registered medical practitioner, would be, in our opinion, a contravention of the letter and spirit of the resolution of the General Medical Council.

Universities and Colleges.

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD.

The following candidates have been approved at the examination indicated:

D.P.H. (Part I).—H. S. Burnell-Jones, D. G. Evans, F. R. Seymour, C. B. Roserow.
D.P.H. (Part II).—G. Finch, Rachel E. W. Mackenzie.
D.P.H. (Both Parts).—P. N. Cave, T. Chetwood, R. A. Clapham, W. P. MacArthur, A. C. Parsons, O. P. Turner, G. C. Welch.

GLASGOW UNIVERSITY.

Statistical Report.

The secretary of the University Court has issued the report of statistics relative to the University of Glasgow for the academic year ending September 30th. The teaching staff comprised 32 professors, 54 lecturers, and 88 assistants and demonstrators. The salaries paid to principal and professors amounted to £26,512; to lecturers, £8,217; and to assistants and demonstrators, £9,747. The total number of students (including 642 women) was 2,728, of whom 701 (including 71 women) were in the faculty of medicine and 449 (including 24 women) in the faculty of science. The total degrees in medicine conferred were 109, and in the faculty of science 64. The general council of the university as at September 30th numbered 7,660.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF LONDON.

An extraordinary comitia was held at the college on Thursday, December 1st, the President, Sir Thomas Barlow, in the chair.

Arms of Harvey.

It was announced that Sir James Sawyer had offered a reproduction of the Arms of Harvey to the college. Its preparation had entailed a considerable amount of labour and research, and a cordial vote of thanks was passed to Sir James Sawyer for his welcome gift.

Communication.

A communication was received from the Secretary of the Royal College of Surgeons, dated November 11th, regarding the proceedings of the council.

The rest of the business was ordered to be regarded as *secreta collegii*.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS IN IRELAND.

Fellowship Examination.

The following candidates have been approved at the examination indicated:

FIRST FELLOWSHIP.—J. D. Cherry, Miss Z. A. De Cruz, T. O. Graham, J. R. May, G. E. Pepper, S. B. Rao.
FINAL.—Miss I. M. Clarke, H. English, K. T. Nath, G. F. Shepherd, Miss C. F. Williamson.

Public Health

AND

POOR LAW MEDICAL SERVICES.

MILK PROSECUTIONS IN SCOTLAND.

LAST month an interesting development regarding milk prosecutions occurred when the Justiciary Appeal Court, sitting in Edinburgh, quashed a conviction obtained in a sheriff court against an Argyllshire farmer for having sold milk as pure sweet milk when it was 28 per cent. under the standard in fat. The questions submitted to the court were whether the manner of taking the samples was a fair one, whether the method of averaging was a proper one, and whether a respondent in such circumstances discharged the onus laid upon him by the regulations, by the evidence of himself and his servants. The court answered all the questions in the affirmative, the last being the important one. Lord Salvesen said it was open to the person accused to show his bona fides in the matter, and to establish by such evidence as was available to him that the milk had not failed to reach the proper standard through his tampering. This is an important decision in view of the movement to ensure the punishment of the actually guilty persons in cases of milk deficiency. Hitherto a person selling milk under the standard was liable to conviction and the same penalty whether he unintentionally or wilfully offered inferior milk for sale. The man who skimmed milk or watered it was in exactly the same position as the man whose cows yielded milk below the standard, or the man who purchased milk which he did not know to be inferior, and resold it as he got it. At a recent meeting of the Scottish Chamber of Agriculture, the report of a committee which considered this question was not adopted. It failed to state clearly the real difficulties, and offered only a partial remedy. Tampering is so easy, and so difficult to detect in the case of milk, and the public interest in a pure milk supply is so paramount, that some more satisfactory and fairer method of dealing with offenders is called for.

The remedy which has been suggested as most likely to meet the difficulty is to treat the unintentional offender in a different way from the wilful offender. Keep the standard as at present and treat any one—farmer, middleman, or retailer—in possession of inferior milk as guilty of a police offence. But as a further safeguard to the public, have increased penalties for repeated offences. The usual causes for inferiority, such as recent calving, wet grass, nature of feeding, quality of cow, can all be ascertained by the farmer and guarded against, so that he may not guarantee milk which is inferior. With the retailer the case is different. He must take the risk of buying from a reliable seller and getting a guarantee. If this does not make him escape conviction and fine, it enables him to recover the penalty from the seller. For the wilful offender the onus of proof should be, as in other charges, on the prosecutor, previous convictions of having inferior milk to be allowed as evidence. The mere possession of inferior milk should not hold him guilty of the graver offence. That milk in his possession is inferior may be a presumption that it has been tampered with by some one, but it should not without further proof be presumption of the guilt of the retailer. The usual course of criminal procedure should be followed, making the offence a serious one, and an Act framed on these lines would, it is suggested, meet the case of those who are moving for some alteration in the law, and yet give the public the requisite protection.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD REPORTS.

Bridgnorth Borough and Rural District (by Dr. F. St. George Mivart. New series, No. 25).—No reason is given for the inspection of these two Shropshire districts. The need for houses in the town of Bridgnorth appears to be very great, and not alone for the poorer labouring classes but also for the well-to-do. A striking feature of some of the older dwellings is the manner in which they are built into the rock or against the steep hillsides. There is a duplicate public water supply, after the manner of the county town of Shrewsbury; spring water intended only for drinking purposes is laid on to public stand pipes, and filtered water from the river Severn is delivered through pipes at or into houses. A portion of the sewage is treated at outfall works and a portion enters the Severn untreated. Practically all the houses in the town have water-closets. The most serious nuisance in the borough is that caused by the keeping of pigs. In one case, where a pigsty was placed upon an enormous accumulation of manure and

Medical News.

DR. SYLVANUS G. MORRIS has been appointed a Knight of Grace of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem in England.

DR. F. W. MOTT, Fullerian Professor of Physiology, will give six lectures on heredity at the Royal Institution before Easter, and Professor Arthur Keith two lectures on giants and pigmies.

DR. EBEN H. EDWARDS has received the Royal permission to accept the Third Class of the First Division of the Imperial Chinese Order of the Double Dragon, conferred upon him by the Emperor of China in recognition of valuable services rendered by him.

WE regret to have to record the death on December 5th of Mr. W. H. Horrocks, F.R.C.S., senior surgeon to the Bradford Royal Infirmary, formerly president of the Bradford Division of the British Medical Association, and for five years representative of the Bradford Division at the Representative Meeting.

THE thirty-second meeting of the German Balneological Congress will be held in Berlin from March 2nd to 6th, 1911. There will be an exhibition of apparatus and preparations in connexion with the congress. All communications should be addressed to the General Secretary, Geheimrat Brock, Berlin, N.W., 52, Thomasstrasse 24.

IN a note appended to an account of the discussion in the Academy of Medicine on the new colonial bill on the Notification of Infectious Diseases, the editor of the *Semaine Médicale* states that a new case of Malta fever by laboratory contagion has been reported to the Academy of Medicine by Dr. S. Arloing and Drs. P. Courmont and J. Gaté of Lyons. The last-named is a worker in the Department of Experimental Medicine and having handled cultures of *Micrococcus melitensis* during the whole of the month of April showed on May 8th the first symptoms of the disease, which lasted sixty days. The patient had never been in contact, either at the moment when he was taken ill or during the preceding months, with any patient affected with typhoid fever, Malta fever, or other analogous diseases; he had not quitted Lyons for a long time nor had he drunk goats' milk for years previously, but as has been already stated during the month which preceded the commencement of his illness he had constantly manipulated cultures of *Micrococcus melitensis*, and it is noteworthy that he was the only experimenter in the laboratory in contact with them.

THE dinner of the Glasgow University Club, London, has always been well attended, but the gathering on November 5th must have been one of the largest in its annals. Lord Curzon of Kedleston, who was in the chair, found himself presiding over an assembly which, including several distinguished guests with Lord Lamington at their head, numbered upwards of 200. The toast to "The University and The Club" was moved by the Chairman, who reminded his audience that he had the double honour and advantage of being both Rector of Glasgow and Chancellor of Oxford. This led him on to a consideration of the respective values of different forms of university life. In a general way the old universities of England were, he indicated, best fitted to the needs of those seeking culture for itself, while men for whom study at a university meant the commencement of a professional career should resort to the younger bodies. The University of Glasgow held a mediate position, being equally capable of supplying technical knowledge and pure culture. It was specially successful in its medical and scientific teaching. Between the old universities and the new ones there should not be any sense of rivalry, and he did not think there was. Each recognized the special scope of its congeners, and the directions in which its own strength lay. The toast to "The Guests" was proposed by Sir Donald Macalister, President of the General Medical Council, several members of which were present. While endorsing all that had been said in praise of Glasgow by Lord Curzon, he would like to add a further point in its favour. It was always hospitable not only to new ideas, but to those who embodied them. Among the guests whom he more specifically mentioned were Lord Lamington, Sir Thomas Barlow, the President of the Royal College of Physicians of London; Sir Christopher Nixon, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Dublin; Sir John Moore, and Sir John Batty Tuke.

Letters, Notes, and Answers.

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS.—The telegraphic address of the EDITOR of the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL is *Attitology, London*. The telegraphic address of the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL is *Articulatelo, London*.

TELEPHONE (National):—

2531, Gerrard, EDITOR, BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL.

2530, Gerrard, BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

2534, Gerrard, MEDICAL SECRETARY.

Queries, answers, and communications relating to subjects to which special departments of the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL are devoted will be found under their respective headings.

QUERIES.

M.O.H. asks where he can get a portable and efficient sprayer for disinfecting with formalin.

HAIRY MOLES.

H. S. asks whether the effect of treating hairy moles by carbonic acid snow is permanent as regards the removal of the hairs.

. Sometimes coarse hairs can be removed by the action of the snow, but to obtain this effect a more depressed scar than is advisable is produced. When the hairs resist the snow, electrolysis must be employed to destroy them. This resistance of hair is observed, too, after liquid air. Of course, the coarse hairs could be removed by electrolysis before employing the snow to the hairy mole.

REBATE OF LICENCE DUTY.

J. L. K. sends an extract from the *Justice of the Peace* of September 24th, 1910, in which the opinion is expressed that the use by a practitioner or his family of a car for other than professional purposes destroys the right to "exemption."

. Section 86 of the Finance (1909-10) Act, 1910, provides for the allowance of one-half the licence duty on a car "if a duly qualified medical practitioner proves to the satisfaction of the Commissioners or Council, by whom the licence is granted, that any car kept by him is kept for the purpose of his profession." The words adopted in this section, which allows remission of only one-half the duty, are clearly intended to bear a meaning different from that attaching to the words "used solely" for certain purposes. The latter words are the words that are applied to vehicles in respect of which complete exemption from licence duty is granted under other Acts. There is no doubt that the intention of the Legislature was that, in considering the title to relief from one-half the duty, regard shall be had to the purpose for which the car is kept, and not to the question whether an entirely incidental use is made of the car for private purposes. So long as the use of the car for non-professional purposes is, in fact, purely subsidiary and incidental, the title to relief will, in our opinion, remain.

INCOME TAX.

RETIRED sold his one-quarter share in a partnership to the remaining partner on June 30th, 1910. He inquires what share of the income tax for the year 1910-11 each should pay.

. As our correspondent enjoyed one-quarter of the profits for one-quarter of the fiscal year he should pay one-sixteenth of the income tax charged.

NORFOLK has one-half share of a practice, the profits of which are assessed at £320. He inquires whether each partner can claim to be assessed at £410 and obtain the abatement of £150, or whether income tax must be paid before the profits are divided.

. Though not entitled to separate assessment, either partner can claim the allowance of £150 if his total income from all sources, including any that his wife may have, does not exceed £500. He may claim £120 if his total income does not exceed £600, or £70 if not exceeding £700. Application should be made to the surveyor of taxes.

ASSISTANT, who receives a salary of £200 a year with board and residence desires to know what sum should be returned for assessment to income tax.

. The salary only should be returned. The benefit of board, etc., is not assessable to income tax.

ANSWERS.

F. B.—The next meeting of the International Medical Congress will be held in London in 1913; the exact date has not yet been decided on. The secretary is Mr. G. H. Makins, C.B., F.R.C.S., 47, Charles Street, Berkeley Square, London, W.