

Memoranda :

MEDICAL, SURGICAL, OBSTETRICAL.

TEMPERATURE IN CROUPOUS PNEUMONIA.

In acute febrile conditions the evening temperature is usually higher than the morning record; in critical pyrexia the most restless and trying time is generally at night, and the crisis is often reached during that period. In a case of pneumonia of recent date these conditions were reversed, the morning temperatures being higher than on the previous evenings, and the accompanying symptoms appeared aggravated during the day.

J. T., aged 15 years, was first seen on the evening of April 4th. He had kept his bed since the night of April 1st, but his mother had thought him to be suffering from a cold. He was seriously ill, with congested face, respirations 36, pulse 100, irritable cough, and acute pain in the right side of thorax, accompanied by râles. The temperature was higher each morning and fell in the evening. Crisis took place during the daytime of April 7th.

Date.	Morning.	Evening.
April 4th	—	101°
April 5th	103°	101°
April 6th	104°	102.5°
April 7th	103.5°	99.5°
April 8th	99°	98.4°

The youth, who had been at work twelve months, had been employed at night time in a mine, and afterwards in an iron foundry, also working at night. Whether this had anything to do with the peculiar variation in temperature I cannot say, but it is the only solution I can find. Possibly in night workers the temperature chart is upset in this way. It would be interesting to know if practitioners in attendance on men whose employment takes them on duty at night have observed a similar phenomenon.

Handsworth Wood.

WM. DOWNING, M.R.C.S.

GASTRO-INTESTINAL HAEMORRHAGE IN A NEWBORN INFANT.

MR. MILLS's note of a case of this nature and its alleged rarity (*BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL*, April 29th, p. 993) induce me to put on record a similar case which has recently occurred in my practice.

The child, a male, was born after a normal labour, the membranes remaining intact until just before the head was born, birth taking place at 11.55 p.m. No interference of any kind was necessary. Both parents are healthy, the mother being a primipara, aged 32. Next day the child was apparently quite well, but in the early afternoon of the day following I went to the house, as the result of an urgent message, to find that the child had passed per rectum a large amount of soft red blood clot and vomited bright fluid blood. The child, when I saw it, was apparently little the worse for this loss of blood, and was taking the breast. This haemorrhage was shortly followed by another, even larger, from the bowel, and a small amount by the mouth. The baby was then blanched and evidently suffering abdominal pain. I could, however, detect nothing abnormal on examination, and the bowels had acted quite normally before the bleeding first occurred.

Believing that this haemorrhage was of the nature of a general oozing rather than due to rupture of a large vessel or vessels, the treatment I adopted was to stop breast feeding, and give in its place a fair quantity of water and albumen water, directing a given quantity of gelatine to be dissolved in the former. I also gave *calci chlorid. gr. j.*, with *tinct. camph. co. mij.*, every four hours. Haemorrhage ceased after twenty-four hours, the child began to make headway, and is now in every respect, to all appearances, quite normal.

It is quite probable that if all cases of this nature which are met with by medical practitioners were put on record, it would be found that the condition is not so rare as the textbooks assert.

Bakewell.

THOMAS FENTEM.

Reports

ON

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

CITY HOSPITAL, ABERDEEN.

A CASE OF MULTIPLE INFECTION BY THE DIPHTHERIA BACILLUS.

(Reported by GEORGE S. BANKS, M.B. Edin., D.P.H.,
Resident Physician.)

It may be of interest to report on a case of diphtheria recently discharged from this hospital, which showed a multiple infection by the specific bacillus.

The patient was a girl aged 7 years, who was admitted on March 14th with a history of having suffered since the beginning of the year from chronic ulcerous condition of the skin round the inner canthus of the right eye.

History.—The mother described the ulcer as having begun like a sty at the extreme inner end of the lower eyelid. This, despite treatment, developed into the comparatively extensive ulcer which was present on admission. The persistence of the condition had led to a suspicion of diphtheria, and the bacteriological report was corroboratory.

State on Admission.—The ulcer was found to extend from the inner canthus to about the middle of the side of the nose. The lower edge was about a sixth of an inch below the margin of the eyelid, and extended to about the centre of the lid. The appearance was that of an indolent ulcer, the base being formed by small unhealthy granulations. There was no formation of pseudo-membranous exudate, doubtless owing to the continuous treatment. The edges were red, raised and rolled. The neighbouring conjunctiva was injected, and there was slight epiphora, but there seemed to be no definite specific involvement of that mucous membrane. The papilla lachrymalis was normal.

The throat was distinctly congested, but showed no exudation. The facial appearance of the patient was that usually associated with a chronic naso-pharyngeal obstruction due to adenoids. On examining the nose the turbinated bodies were found to be much congested and swollen, and there were several easily-detached flakes of mucus on the surface of the inferior bodies. There was no actual rhinorrhoea.

The fourth locality was the vulva. On the inner aspect of each labium majus there was a raised, reddened, somewhat indurated area, with a serpiginous margin, the condition on the left labium being rather more extensive and advanced than on the right. The skin papillae showed as white points on this red surface. There was no extension beyond the labia majora.

Bacteriology.—Swabs from these four localities—eye, throat, nose, and vulva—were all reported positive on examination by Dr. Watt, City Bacteriologist, Marischal College.

Treatment and Result.—This consisted of diphtheria antitoxin and the application of pure phenol to the vulva and the ulcer at the corner of the right eye. The nose and throat were treated in the routine way. In three weeks the ulcer was healed, and the vulva was practically normal. The nose was more intractable and the turbinal bodies were still swollen when the patient was discharged after two consecutive negative swabs from the nose.

Remarks.—It only remains to speculate on the sequence of events. Probably the throat or nose was the first habitat of the bacillus. From the nose it is conceivable that infection travelled by nasal duct and lacrymal canaliculus to the eye, though it is at least equally possible that it was conveyed thither indirectly through the agency of the fingers. The labia majora might have been infected at any stage.

UNDER the will of the late Colonel Francis Haygarth, St. George's Hospital, the Belgrave Hospital for Children, King Edward's Hospital Fund for London, and the Great Northern Central Hospital each receive a sum of £1,000; half such sum going also to the Westminster Hospital.

A COMMITTEE has been formed to collect funds for the erection of a monument to the late Professor S. Arloing, of Lyons. Full information on the subject may be obtained from Professor Nicolas, of the Medical Faculty, 19, place Morand, Lyons.

UNDER the will of the late Sir John Edward Dorington, of Stroud, Gloucestershire, Stroud Hospital, Gloucester Infirmary, and the Westminster Hospital receive bequests of £500, £200, and £100 respectively.

the exception mentioned, be conserved to general practitioners?

Of course, publicly elected bodies will go to the cheapest market, and it seems likely that they will obtain what they want simply because a new and distinct body of medical men will be created who will be pure officials, out of touch with men in practice, and wholly dependent on their official salaries.

The results will certainly be harmful to the general body of practitioners, from whom it is sought to take away an important source of revenue to subsidize a body of officials at an average salary of about £200 a year.

Surely it will not be pretended that it is in the interests of public health to create important posts at such remuneration.—We are, etc.,

RASHELL DAVIDSON,

Chairman.

DAVID A. BELILIOS,

Honorary Secretary.

Association of Medical Officers of Health.

Wimbledon, S.W., June 24th.

INSTINCTIVE ANTIPATHY.

SIR,—If any of your readers have had an experience of any case or cases similar to the following I should be extremely interested to receive an explanation.

The subject under discussion is one of "instinctive antipathy." My wife has since birth suffered from an absolute horror of spiders—in childhood this used to give rise to fearful screaming fits, lasting until the offending spider was removed—and at the present time the horror has not abated at all.

Only two nights ago I was hastily summoned to our bedroom, and was requested to "find the spider." As I have frequently been the subject of similar requests in the past, all I asked her to tell me was, "Which side of the room is it?" A short search revealed a large spider at rest on a dark patch on the wall-paper, and all the time that it remained there my wife evidenced this horror of it. The signs by which she tells are a peculiar spinal thrill, and then a kind of mental "aura" proclaims the presence of the spider. The test is, so far as I have in four years been able to prove it, infallible, as I have never been needlessly summoned, and, moreover, she can tell at once in an absolutely dark room on which wall it is probably crawling—at any rate, which of the four corners it is nearest. Her father's sister suffers from a similar faculty, only not nearly so well developed.

It seems to me that, in the absence of any other explanation, the phenomenon should be regarded as an extra sense. My wife frequently laughingly says that she must have been a "fly" in a previous state of existence. Can any of your readers supply a parallel, or an explanation?—I am, etc.,

June 18th.

GOLD MEDALLIST.

CONCENTRATED INFUSION OF QUASSIA.

SIR,—The following paragraph appears in the *British Pharmaceutical Codex*, 1907 edition, page 953, line 24 et seq.:

An infusion of quassia (1 in 20) or liquor quassiae concentratus mixed with an equal quantity of water is used as an injection for the thread worms of children.

Infusion of quassia 5 per cent. is found at page 541, and contains 20 per cent. of 90 per cent. alcohol; and liquor quassiae concentratus, at page 640, contains quassia wood in No. 40 powder 10.00, alcohol (20 per cent.) sufficient to produce 100.00. I generally use the ordinary infusion, but on June 16th, for a child aged nearly 4 years, I used 5 oz. of concentrated infusion of quassia diluted up to 10 oz. with warm water. In twenty minutes alarming symptoms of acute alcoholic poisoning supervened and lasted nearly four hours, fortunately followed by complete recovery. The infusion which I used was supplied by a well-known firm of druggists who have since informed me that it contains 23.4 per cent. of 90 per cent. alcohol, equal to 37 per cent. proof spirit. The label on it (and no doubt that of other firms) reads:

To make infusion of quassia, add 1 part to 7 parts of water.

Infusion of quassia contains no alcohol; therefore the label is not strictly accurate. There is no doubt that

concentrated infusions or the liquor quassiae concentratus should not be used as injections for children, on account of the high proportion of alcohol present.—I am, etc.,

Tamworth, June 19th.

C. H. JOY, M.D., B.S.

Universities and Colleges.

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD.

DR. C. THEODORE WILLIAMS, Honorary Fellow of Pembroke College, has offered to the university a sum of £2,500 upon trust to apply the income to the encouragement of the study of pathology and bacteriology in relation to medicine. It is proposed to found two scholarships, each tenable for two years. A decree has been introduced in Convocation gratefully thanking the donor.

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE.

Degrees.

THE following were among the degrees conferred at a meeting of the Senate in June:

M.D.—Alfred L. Sachs.

M.D., B.C.—Lancelot Bromley.

UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL.

Diploma in Ophthalmic Surgery.

THE Council of the University has established a diploma in ophthalmic surgery on the recommendation of the Senate and the Faculty of Medicine. A candidate must possess a qualification or diploma in medicine which entitles him to registration in the United Kingdom, and must subsequently to obtaining the diploma have attended (a) a three months' course of study in the anatomy, physiology, and pathology of the eye in the university; (b) a course of instruction extending over not less than three terms in an ophthalmic clinic recognized by the university.

The subjects of the examination, which will be held twice a year, at the end of the summer and autumn terms, are: (1) The anatomy and histology of the visual organs and centres; (2) the physiology of vision; (3) the physiological optics; (4) bacteriology in relation to diseases of the eye; (5) the morbid anatomy of diseases of the eye; (6) the diagnosis and treatment of diseases of the eye; (7) the estimation and correction of errors of refraction.

The fee for the examination is £5 5s.; for each subsequent examination £3 3s.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.

The Fellowship.

THE following candidates have been approved at the examination indicated:

FINAL FELLOWSHIP.—J. B. Reid, F. T. Talbot, E. C. Bevers, D. W. Smith, R. J. L. Sladen, A. E. A. Loosely, G. C. Adeney, H. A. Kisch, C. W. Greene, G. S. Thompson, C. M. Kennedy, W. H. Miller, J. P. Buckley, E. G. Gauntlett, D. D. Baria, W. E. Wilks, A. H. Crook, W. E. Haigh, B. Hughes, G. Jefferson, B. C. Roy, H. C. Bazett, J. Morley, H. Fearnley, E. F. Finch, G. M. Gray, A. R. Jordan, T. B. Mouat, H. C. Wilson, A. C. T. Woodward, C. Yorke.

SOCIETY OF APOTHECARIES OF LONDON.

THE following candidates have been approved in the subjects indicated:

SURGERY.—†H. H. Budd, *†R. F. Eminson, *†A. A. E. Newth.
MEDICINE.—*N. S. Adler, *L. K. Edmeades, *†R. F. Eminson, *†C. C. Messiter, *†A. A. E. Newth, *†G. H. Varley.
FORENSIC MEDICINE.—R. F. Eminson, C. C. Messiter, A. A. E. Newth.
MIDWIFERY.—H. Cox, R. F. Eminson, A. A. E. Newth, J. E. Taylor.
* Section I. † Section II.

The diploma of the society has been granted to Messrs. H. H. Budd, R. F. Eminson, A. A. E. Newth, and G. H. Varley.

PROFESSOR KLEMENS, FREIHERR VON PIRQUET, of Breslau, has been appointed to the Chair of Children's Diseases in the University of Vienna, in succession to the late Professor Escherich.

THE third International Congress on the Hygiene of the Dwelling will be held at Dresden next October (2nd to 7th). The work of the congress will be distributed among nine sections as follows: (1) Town planning; (2) construction and buildings; (3) internal arrangements of the dwelling; (4) sanitation; (5) town dwelling houses; (6) country dwelling houses; (7) school buildings, boarding schools, prisons, hotels, lodging houses, convalescent homes, baths, churches, theatres, and other public buildings; (8) work-rooms and workshops; (9) legislation, executive, statistics. Communications relative to the congress should be addressed to the General Secretary, Herr Stadtrat Dr. Hopf, 4 Reichstrasse, Dresden.

of the respect and affection with which she was regarded. Diffidence of her own attainments, a delicate humour, a lighting of the eye at approval when some difficulty had been overcome, a keen interest in all aspects of the cancer problem earned her the thorough appreciation of all. And when at length we learnt that her interest in cancer research had largely been actuated by knowledge of the disease in herself, we recognized that she had, in addition, set us all an example in altruism which we should do well never to forget.

WE regret to have to record the death of a well-known and highly-respected Forfarshire practitioner, Dr. DICKSON, of Carnoustie. Dr. Dickson had been an invalid for some months, but hopes were entertained that by rest and change of air his condition might improve, but this was not to be, and he died at his home in Carnoustie. Dr. Dickson had a distinguished career as a student at Edinburgh University, taking the degrees of M.B. and C.M. with honours in 1882, proceeding for his M.D. in 1889. He was Tyndall-Bruce Bursar in Materia, Medica, and Pathology, and Murchison Scholar in Clinical Medicine. He succeeded his father in Carnoustie about 25 years ago, and held most of the public appointments in connexion with the burgh and district. Dr. Dickson was a man of culture and of literary tastes, somewhat reserved in manner. He was of a most kindly disposition. He leaves a widow and two sons, one being a member of the medical profession. Much sympathy will be extended to members his family by their many friends in the district.

The Services.

R.A.M.C. TERRITORIAL TRAINING GRANT.

THE General Officer Commanding in Chief, Scottish Command, has made allotments to the Highland and Lowland Divisions and mounted brigades for extra training and services from 1st April, 1911, to March 31st, 1912. The commanders of the Highland and Lowland Divisions will each earmark the sum of £350 of their allotments for training the R.A.M.C. Territorial Force in their respective areas.

GLASGOW UNIVERSITY OFFICERS' TRAINING CORPS. The Glasgow University contingent of the Officers' Training Corps will go into camp on July 3rd. Both infantry and engineer units will attend the Royal Review at Windsor, and thereafter the infantry will proceed to Shorncliffe and the Engineers to Chatham. The former will have eight officers and 250 rank and file, the latter 3 officers and 83 rank and file. Both units will return to Glasgow on July 17th.

GLASGOW R.A.M.C. UNITS.

THE Glasgow units of the Royal Army Medical Corps, Territorial Force, held a combined field day at Blackhill Manoeuvre Ground on June 10th, when field work and exercises were practised by the various units. Lieutenant-Colonel W. F. Somerville was in command. On June 11th the units had their Church Parade, which by the courtesy of the Court and Senate of the University was held in the Bute Hall. The service was conducted by the Rev. Dr. T. Adamson, Chaplain to the Corps, who preached a sermon on patriotism. Lieutenant-Colonel Somerville was in command, and a number of the officers and of the professors of the university were present.

Public Health

AND

POOR LAW MEDICAL SERVICES.

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH FOR THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD.

THE President of the Local Government Board has authorized the following special researches to be paid for out of the annual grant voted by Parliament in aid of scientific investigations concerning the causes and processes of disease:

1. A research into the causes of premature arterial degeneration in man, by Dr. F. W. Andrewes, Pathologist to St. Bartholomew's Hospital.
2. An inquiry by Dr. J. H. Thursfield, of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, into the causes of death in measles.
3. A comparison by Professor Nuttall, F.R.S., Quick Professor of Biology at the University of Cambridge, of the number and kind of fleas found on rats.

4. A continuation by Dr. C. J. Lewis, of Birmingham University, of his investigation into the degree of prevalence and the characteristics of micro-organisms known as non-lactose fermenters in the alimentary canal of infants.

5. An investigation into the same subject by Dr. D. M. Alexander, of Liverpool University.

6. An inquiry by Dr. Graham Smith, of Cambridge University, into the incidence of non-lactose fermenters in flies in normal surroundings and in surroundings associated with epidemic diarrhoea.

7. A study by Dr. F. A. Bainbridge, of the Lister Institute, of the anaerobic bacteria in the alimentary canal of infants.

8. An investigation by Dr. Graham Smith into the possibility of pathogenic micro-organisms being taken up by the larva and subsequently distributed by the fly.

DOMICILIARY VACCINATION.

JACOBUS.—We known of no case in which payment has been claimed from the person making a "request" to visit for the purpose of vaccinating on the prescribed form. If the child is over 4 months old it would be the duty of the public vaccinator to call, and no payment could be demanded even though the parent had forwarded the "request" and afterwards changed his mind. In the case of a child under 4 months there is no obligation on the part of the public vaccinator to call at the house without such "request," and a parent who sends a request for a visit under such circumstances and declines vaccination when a visit is made, might properly be charged a fee for the visit. Whether such fee would be legally recoverable does not appear to have been tested in any case.

Medical News.

DR. CHARLES BOULLÉ, formerly Mayor of Saint Valérien (Yonne), celebrated his 101st birthday on March 3rd. A great ball was given to the young people of the district in honour of the occasion.

MAJOR F. F. CARROLL, M.B., Royal Army Medical Corps, who is serving with the Egyptian Army, has been appointed by the Khedive of Egypt to the 4th Class of the Imperial Ottoman Order of the Osmanieh.

At the meeting of the Manchester South Division on June 16th, on the motion of Dr. Grant Davie from the chair, the Secretary was instructed to convey to Dr. Sawers Scott the meeting's sincere sympathy with him in his recent severe accident, and its earnest hope for his speedy recovery.

THE medals and prizes will be distributed to the students of Guy's Hospital by the Right Hon. Alfred Lyttelton, K.C., M.P., on Tuesday next, at 3 p.m., when a garden party will be held and the laboratories, museums, and college and the Henriette Raphael Nurses' Home and wards will be open to inspection.

THEIR Excellencies the Lord Lieutenant and the Countess of Aberdeen will attend the opening of the Congress of the Royal Sanitary Institute at Belfast on July 24th. The Earl of Aberdeen, as Patron, will install the Right Hon. Lord Dunleath as President of the Congress, and will open the Health Exhibition.

IN a reference to the future home of the Cardiff Medical School at page 1401 of our issue for June 10th, Dr. Berry Haycraft was mentioned both as Professor of Physiology and as Dean of the Medical Faculty. It is the former office Dr. Haycraft fills, that of Dean of the Medical Faculty being held, and having been held for some eight years past, by the Professor of Anatomy (Dr. David Hepburn), Vice-President of the Anatomical Society of Great Britain and of the Royal Physical Society of Edinburgh.

THE museum committee of the annual meeting of the British Dental Association, to be held in the University of London on August 3rd-5th, is desirous of obtaining on loan specimens illustrating affections (infections and growths) of the periodontal membrane. Those willing to lend specimens are asked to communicate with Mr. F. Coleman, 129, Harley Street, London, W., honorary secretary of the museum, who will forward notices giving further particulars, including an outline of the classification proposed to be adopted.

IN his report for the four weeks ending June 10th the medical officer for the City of London mentions that on a recent occasion a meat inspector at Smithfield, while examining the carcasses of pigs for tuberculosis, observed one presenting lesions suggestive of anthrax, and that, thanks to the establishment not long ago of a completely equipped laboratory at the Central Markets, a definite diagnosis was made within fifteen minutes and all necessary measures promptly taken. He also observes that pathological lesions in pigs dead of anthrax may often be so slight as to escape recognition without microscopic examination.

THE Medical Golfing Society held its Annual Tournament on June 15th at Canons Park at Edgware, by kind invitation of Edgware Golf Club. The Henry Morris Challenge Cup and the Medical Golfing Society's Gold Medal were won by M. J. Bulger (4) with 3 up. The cup presented by Mr. Canny Ryall for the best score against bogey played from scratch was tied for by M. J. Bulger and R. Creasy (2) all square, Mr. Kolesar (+1) being 1 down. On playing off the tie, R. Creasy won, so M. J. Bulger took the first prize in Class I, and H. MacCormac (12), who tied with R. Creasy at 1 up, took the second prize. The prize for the best last nine holes in this class was tied for by R. Creasy, F. A. Juler (5), and J. Mechan (10), with 2 up, the winner of this to be decided by F. A. Juler and J. Mechan playing off the tie. In Class II, E. I. Spriggs (16) was first with 2 up, while A. D. Williams (18) was second with all square; the prize for the last nine holes was tied for by E. I. Spriggs, A. D. Williams, and C. R. Salisbury (15), with 1 up; C. R. Salisbury took this prize. For the prize for the best first nine holes presented by the medical members of Edgware Golf Club, M. J. Bulger was 4 up, while E. F. Buzzard (7), H. MacCormac, and E. I. Spriggs were 1 up. E. F. Buzzard took this prize.

As already announced, the meeting of the Oxford Ophthalmological Congress for this year will take place at Keble College, Oxford, on Thursday and Friday, July 13th and 14th. The members will meet informally at dinner in Keble Hall on the evening of Wednesday, July 12th, and those who propose to attend the congress are asked to communicate their intention as early as possible to Mr. Sydney Stephenson, F.R.C.S., honorary secretary, 33, Welbeck Street, London, W. On Thursday morning the congress will be welcomed by the Master, Mr. R. W. Doyne, F.R.C.S., and addresses will be delivered by Professor Arthur Thomson, Dr. Lieven, and Major R. H. Elliot, I.M.S. After luncheon at Keble College there will be demonstrations and operations at the Eye Hospital, and at 4.30 tea in Balliol College garden. At 7.30 p.m. the dinner of the congress will take place in Keble Hall under the chairmanship of Sir William Osler, Bart., F.R.S. On Friday morning addresses will be given by Professor Francis Gotch, F.R.S., and Dr. Harold Low, and a lantern demonstration by Dr. StClair Thomson. In the afternoon there will be demonstrations at the Eye Hospital, a visit to the colleges and to the Clarendon Press, and dinner in Keble Hall, followed by a smoking concert in the common room. On both days the museum of the congress will be opened in the department of physiology, and demonstrations will be given. On Saturday there will be an excursion by river to Reading or Henley.

At the annual dinner of the University of Durham Medical Graduates' Association, held at the Imperial Restaurant, London, on June 17th, Dr. Inglis Parsons, who was in the chair, dwelt on the part played by the association in connexion with the recent alteration in the constitution of the university. Thanks in a large measure to its efforts, the College of Medicine was now properly represented on the Senate, and by combining with Armstrong College on any particular question, could command as many as sixteen votes. Dr. Brunton Angus, who spoke on the same subject as representative of the northern council of the association, regarded the representation of medical graduates as still inadequate, and hoped for very much stronger representation in convocation at an early date. The toast to the visitors was proposed by Dr. F. W. Sandwith, who drew attention to the excellent work being carried out by Dr. Eric Pritchard in his endeavours to establish the system of infant consultations. He spoke also of the unity of purpose at present prevailing in the medical profession, as represented by its individual members and by the great medical journals, the *Lancet* and the *BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL*. It was of great importance on all occasions, and of the highest importance at the present crisis, which probably was merely the commencement of a new phase of medical life. Both private practitioners and hospitals as voluntary charities were threatened, and to emerge successfully all must work together for the common good. Other speeches came from Sir Henry Morris, who, in responding for the guests, pointed out some interesting features in the history of Durham, and spoke of the success of the students in its medical faculty at examinations; from Dr. F. S. Palmer, who responded to the toast to the University of Durham; from Dr. Edridge-Green, who mentioned that reciprocity in the matter of clubs existed between Oxford, Cambridge, and Durham; and from Mr. Charters Symonds, who, speaking as president of the Medical Society of London, proposed the toast to the chairman. The evening ended with the singing of "Auld Lang Syne."

Letters, Notes, and Answers.

AUTHORS desiring reprints of their articles published in the *BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL* are requested to communicate with the Office, 429, Strand, W.C., on receipt of proof.

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

TELEPHONE (National):—

2631, Gerrard, EDITOR, *BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL*.

2630, Gerrard, *BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION*.

2634, 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.

R. A. C. would be very grateful for any advice as to the treatment of an obstinate case of phosphaturia, in which the mineral acids, ammonium benzoate, dieting, etc., etc., have proved of no avail. He would highly appreciate any help, especially in the direction of checking the error of metabolism, which is most probably the cause of this condition. Apart from this trouble the patient is in perfect health.

ANOTHER ARSENIC COMPOUND FOR SYPHILIS (HYDRARSAN). DR. W. HARDMAN (Blackpool) writes: On p. 1429 of the *JOURNAL* of June 17th is a recommendation of a new and complex compound of mercury, arsenic, and sodide of potassium. Is the compound resulting from the ingredients merely a mixture, or is it a definite chemical compound? If it is a definite chemical compound, what is its formula? Prima facie, I see no chemical reason why an organic compound should result from such a mixture. The organic compounds of arsenic and mercury are not formed so easily as this. If they were, 10s. a dose for an organic compound of arsenic seems a pretty stiff price to pay. Dr. McWalter does not say if "Hydrarsan" can be used hypodermically or intravenously. I presume not. May I remark that the name "hydrarsan" does not seem particularly well chosen, as it does not recognize one of its important constituents—iodine? If we are to have a made-up name, let us have all the active ingredients duly represented. How would hydrarsiod do?

ANSWERS.

J. J. H. H.—We are not aware of any fee being payable to a midwife for notifying a birth under the Notification of Births Act. It may be done in some places as an act of grace and to encourage notification, but the Health Committee is under no obligation to pay a fee.

"SECONDS" FLOUR.

J. E. B.—"Seconds" flour is principally produced from the outer layers of the grain just below the bran; it contains a larger proportion of protein than the whiter flours (known as "patents," "whites," etc.) from the same wheat, which are principally produced from the inner and more starchy portions. The difference in protein content is by no means constant, depending partly on a more or less arbitrary line of separation between the grades, which may vary according to the practice in different mills, and partly on the very wide differences between different kinds of wheat. A "seconds" flour from one wheat may easily contain less protein than a "whites" from another.

LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.

A MAL-PRESENTATION OF VOWELS.

SENEX OBSTETRICUS.—We plead guilty to a "mal-presentation" of vowels in "Sybil" (p. 1396), and thank our correspondent for calling attention to the slip. But may we in turn say with Holofernes, that we smell false Latin in the pseudonym he has chosen? The classical form of the adjective is *obstetricius*, and even then we fancy that such a description as *Senex Obstetricius*, if it did not make Quintilian stare and gasp, would have been to the ears of Cicero *pingue quiddam sonans atque peregrinum*.

SCALE OF CHARGES FOR ADVERTISEMENTS IN THE BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL.

	£	s.	d.
Eight lines and under	0 4 0
Each additional line	0 0 6
A whole column	2 13 4
A page	8 0 0

An average line contains six words.

All remittances by Post Office Orders must be made payable to the British Medical Association at the General Post Office, London. No responsibility will be accepted for any such remittance not so safeguarded.

Advertisements should be delivered, addressed to the Manager, 429, Strand, London, not later than the first post on Wednesday morning preceding publication, and, if not paid for at the time, should be accompanied by a reference.

NOTE.—It is against the rules of the Post Office to receive *postes restante* letters addressed either in initials or numbers.