

might allow the escape of a certain amount of air expired between the tube and rima glottidis, but would not permit of the entrance of anything into the larynx, acting to a certain extent as a valve. He had used the tube on a few occasions and been extremely pleased with it. He also desired to thank Dr. Hill for having given the anaesthetist a very convenient and portable direct laryngoscope, provided with small battery complete which enabled him to be independent of others if he wished at any time to pass the intratracheal tube. He had used this method with success, and another anaesthetist had told him that having originally in some forty or fifty cases passed the tube by touch, he had after one or two experiences of the direct-vision method decided to always adopt it in future as being easier and less likely to injure the patient. Dr. Hill had advocated the use of this tube as a deliberate manoeuvre previous to operations on the upper air passages associated with much bleeding or laryngeal spasm; but the operator thought that it would be useful as an alternative in any operation when, owing to sudden asphyxial conditions arising, tracheotomy and artificial respiration were indicated. He remembered a case in his practice some years ago in which asphyxia occurred, rapidly followed by heart failure; tracheotomy and artificial respiration were promptly resorted to, but, unfortunately, the chest walls were rigid and practically no air entered. Had this tube then been available it could have been rapidly passed and the lungs insufflated with oxygen under pressure, and the patient's life probably saved.

Mr. E. D. D. DAVIS (London) said that Dr. Hill very kindly gave him one of his pro-tracheal catheters, but he had only had one opportunity of seeing it used. Dr. Phillips, anaesthetist to Charing Cross Hospital, had had considerable experience in the different methods of intratracheal administration of anaesthetics, and he had asked him to try Dr. Hill's catheter. The case was removal of half the tongue for epithelioma, and Dr. Phillips found it difficult to introduce it, because the thin rubber umbrella was too large and obscured the view, and the catheter was also too rigid, so he finally used a soft catheter passed through the nose and administered ether under pressure (Eisenfeldt's method) with great success. Dr. Phillips introduced the catheter into the trachea with considerable skill and dexterity. He used a direct laryngoscope tube, and when the light failed used a hook to direct the catheter into the larynx.

Dr. HASTINGS suggested the use of an india-rubber tube as being more pliable.

Memoranda:

MEDICAL, SURGICAL, OBSTETRICAL.

THE TUBERCLE BACILLUS AND THE PHAGOCYTE.

It is always the case that a brilliant discovery is apt, for a time, to put all previous discoveries and hypotheses out of court, although they may have been the result of long and honourable work. This is exactly what happened with regard to Koch's striking discovery of the tubercle bacillus; and since that event nothing but tuberculin has held the field in attempts at cure. The time has come when it is beginning to dawn upon our minds that, after all, the phagocyte is Nature's hero in the fight. I must confess that the discovery of the bacillus came as a great shock to me, and I felt that, after my long, careful clinical and scientific observations and conclusions, "my wicket was down and I was honestly bowled out." But after a while, when the glamour of the bacillus had somewhat faded and I had been able to go over some of the ground again, it occurred to me that possibly my work might be brought into line with the new discovery; for all my therapeutical experiments had resulted in the conclusion that the administration of pancreatized fats to tuberculous patients increased the number of phagocytes in the blood, although the meaning of their presence there had been misapprehended. Then I wrote my book on *Bacillary*

Consumption to endeavour to bring the increase of phagocytes and their destruction of the bacilli into line, and to account, therefore, for the improved condition of consumptive patients, which I had recorded as the result of the free administration of pancreatized fats. I fear that the tuberculin craze prevented my work from attracting much attention. Now, however, after many years of comparative oblivion, the phagocyte holds the palm as Nature's champion in the fight with the bacillus. The object of this note, therefore, is to suggest to those who are working so creditably on the therapeutics of tuberculosis whether it is not worth while to repeat my experiments with pancreatized fats, and to test the validity of my conclusions as to their power to increase the number of phagocytes in the blood.

HORACE DOBELL, M.D.,

Consulting Physician to the Royal Hospital for
Parkstone Heights. Diseases of the Chest, etc.

A CASE OF POISONING BY PENNYROYAL.

It is generally considered that *Hedeoma* or pennyroyal, especially in the form of essence, is quite harmless, it is regarded as a substance allied to peppermint; but the following case will show, I think, that it is by no means always harmless, and that its action is more nearly allied to camphor than to any other body.

A lady in excellent health was advised by a friend to take four drachms of essence of pennyroyal. About half an hour later she commenced to feel confused; she grew fidgety, passed into a dreamy state, and became delirious; her face was pinched and pale, the pupils slightly dilated and sluggish; she yawned incessantly and complained of a hot camphor taste, her breath gave off a strong peppermint-like odour, which permeated the whole house. There was great restlessness, with frequent twitchings of the limbs; the pulse was 90, soft, small, and inclined to be irregular. Her memory was very feeble, the same question being repeated by her over and over again; and she was haunted by dreams of falling down precipices and the like. Presently she vomited about half a cupful of pale, yellow, glairy mucus, smelling strongly of pennyroyal, after which the restlessness and twitchings became less frequent. She was given hot strong tea, which caused her to vomit profusely, the vomit containing some blood, due probably to gastric irritation; and the delirium and twitching then gradually passed off, though she still complained of the hot camphor taste.

She remembered nothing of what took place after taking the drug; she was delirious for nearly four hours. She had no pains, and the effect of the drug on the uterus appeared to be *nil*. Next day, except for some nausea and the disagreeable odour given off in the breath, she was well again.

The toxic effect is produced by the volatile oil or some by-product, which is fortunately very slowly absorbed by the stomach. The alcohol used as solvent is quickly removed, and the undiluted oil acting as an irritant causes emesis, and consequent removal of the poison.

The treatment is an emetic and the withholding of any alcohol, which would dissolve the oil and cause more to be absorbed.

New Brighton.

C. O. JONES, M.D., M.Sc., M.R.C.S.

LEAD NITRATE FOR INGROWING TOENAIL.

For many years I have been in the habit of using lead nitrate for ingrowing toenail with satisfactory results. The procedure has been to cleanse the affected parts and dust on a little of the powder. This forms a white scab, which must be carefully removed the next day, as otherwise pus is liable to collect under it. Having removed the scab I apply some more powder as long as is necessary. I saw a medical friend to-day who told me that one application had in his case got rid of some exuberant granulations on his great toe which he failed to remove with the usual remedies.

I may add that I have also found it very useful in the case of exuberant granulations at the umbilicus in infants.

C. E. LIESCHING,

Consulting Surgeon to the Tiverton Hospital.

concerning the state of the patient whose mental condition was in question, and as to the general character of the home maintained by the defendant and his relations with his patients, including those whom he was accused of ill-treating. A large number of other witnesses were waiting to be called, but at this point the Recorder, intervening, said that the question for him and the jury was whether the truth of the indictment had been proved beyond any reasonable doubt, and that the calling of evidence such as that already given on behalf of the defendant made it appear as if the issue before the court was whether certain witnesses for the prosecution had been guilty of wilful and corrupt perjury. On this the foreman of the jury stated that he and his fellows did not consider that the case for the Crown had been proved, and then returned a verdict of not guilty. Their declaration was followed by a remarkable scene of enthusiasm on the part of spectators, and eventually a large crowd awaited Dr. Hamilton in the central hall of the building and carried him out of it shoulder high.

The case originated in the inquiries which the Lunacy Commissioners caused to be made as to the previous history of the patient whose mental condition was in question when the papers connected with her certification came into their hands, and the chief evidence for the prosecution was given by certain nurses, all of whom had left the defendant's institution in what was described by counsel for the defence as "curious circumstances." The allegations of these witnesses were to the effect that the defendant had beaten one patient, a certified lunatic who had been six years in his charge, and had caused a second patient to be stripped, and had then beaten her on one occasion with a razor strop and on another with an india-rubber shoe. The defendant admitted that on one occasion he had given this patient two taps with a soft bedroom slipper because she was fighting her nurse and refusing to allow her outdoor coat to be taken off; but she was fully dressed at the time, and it would have been cruel to regard her then or at any time while she was under his control as an insane person. She had lost her temper, and in giving her these taps with the felt slipper he had merely treated her as he would one of his own children. She was put in his charge originally as a girl who had had a severe nervous shock, and required change of air, feeding up, and society. In appearance and ways she was just a schoolgirl of 15 or 16, although her real age was 19. A little nervous at being with strangers when she first arrived, she rapidly improved in health, and, besides playing croquet and other games with visitors at the house, used to accompany the defendant when he was paying professional visits and take charge of his carriage while he was in his patients' houses. She seemed like a child who had never been controlled, and always wanted her own way; when she could not get it she lost her temper. Evidence was also given to the effect that the defendant had a large practice, and for some fifteen or sixteen years had been in the habit of receiving patients in his house, where he maintained a domestic and nursing staff of between fourteen and eighteen persons. By way of providing his patients with cheerful surroundings he kept open house, and his establishment was always open to visits from the Lunacy Commissioners, as he had authority to receive three certified lunatics. Visits were also paid by the private medical attendants of his various patients, and his house, though very large, had only two floors.

Medical News.

DR. ERNEST MACBRIDE, F.R.S., has been appointed Professor of Zoology in the Imperial College of Science at South Kensington, in succession to the late Professor Adam Sedgwick. Professor MacBride has been for the last four years assistant professor; he is a graduate of Cambridge and London, and for twelve years was Strathcona Professor of Zoology at McGill University, Montreal. He is known especially for his researches in embryology.

THE French Minister of Marine has issued a circular inviting the officers of the navy to call attention to the efficacy and the harmlessness of the prophylactic vaccination against typhoid fever. The men belonging to the service who had been vaccinated since April, 1912, numbered 3,652, and in no case did the local or general reaction exceed the normal, and none of the men had since suffered from typhoid fever.

HERR EDUARD WOERMANN of Hamburg has placed the sum of £300 at the disposal of the professors of the Colonial Institute in Hamburg as a prize for the best study of the means of increasing the birth-rate and diminishing the infantile death-rate in German colonies. The writer is to take account, not only of medical, but also of religious and ethnographical, considerations. Essays in competition must be received, addressed to the Professorenrat des Kolonialinstituts, Hamburg, not later than December 31st, 1914.

At the concluding meeting of the British Association on September 17th a vote of thanks to the Corporation of Birmingham, moved by the President, was acknowledged by the Lord Mayor, and another by Principal Griffiths of Cardiff to the University of Birmingham by the Vice-

Chancellor, Mr. Gilbert Barling, who expressed the hope that the meeting would prove to have stimulated the promotion of higher education, so that the efficient buildings and staff provided for research might be fully utilized and appreciated by a population permeated with the desire to take advantage of them. Principal Griffiths, in the course of his speech, said that he hoped the visits of the British Association to Manchester in 1915 and to Newcastle in 1916 might be followed by a visit to Cardiff.

THE first congress of the Franco-British Travel Union will be held in London, September 23rd-27th. The object of the congress is the discussion of means of encouraging Franco-British travel and questions connected therewith. Among the questions to be discussed are the Channel tunnel and Franco-British relations, the possibilities of encouraging popular travel between France and England, and of improvement in passengers' Custom House formalities. Among the members of the honorary committee are the President of the French Republic, the Right Hon. H. H. Asquith, Sir Edward Grey, Lord Crewe, and M. Paul Cambon, the French Ambassador at the Court of St. James. Lord Montagu of Beaulieu is the President of the Council.

DR. J. BREWARD NEAL, who has recently retired from the position of medical superintendent of St. John's Hill Infirmary, Wandsworth, was last week the recipient of a most gratifying testimonial from those who had worked with him. It consisted of a silver tea-service, rose bowl and cake basket, a settee, and a reading stand. The rose bowl bore the following inscription: "Presented to Dr. J. Breward Neal, medical superintendent of the St. John's Hill Infirmary, on his retirement, after thirty-four years' service, by his fellow officers of the Wandsworth Union, June 30, 1913." The presentation was made by Mr. F. W. Piper, chairman of the board of guardians, who said that the excellence of Dr. Neal's work was universally appreciated. Dr. Atkinson, Mr. Hickmott (master of Tooting Home and the senior officer of the union), Dr. Maccormac (medical superintendent of St. James's Infirmary), and Mr. Mark Mantle (senior relieving officer) all bore testimony to the same effect, the latter observing that when Dr. Neal joined the infirmary it was passing through a stage of transition, and he had had for many years to contend with lack of space and insufficient staff. Dr. Neal, in response, spoke of the pleasant relations which had existed between himself and other officers of the Poor Law service, and mentioned that he had during his thirty-four years' service admitted 103,000 patients, including upwards of 10,000 mental cases. He had witnessed a vast change in the Poor Law infirmaries, which had improved in design, structure, and equipment; he also bore strong testimony to the vast improvement that had come over the nursing arrangements. In the presentation Mrs. Neal was associated with her husband.

THE fifty-eighth annual exhibition of the Royal Photographic Society, which is being held at the Gallery of the Royal Society of British Artists, Suffolk Street, Haymarket, from August 25th to October 4th, contains an unusually large collection of pictorial, colour, natural history, and scientific photographs. There are in all nearly 800 exhibits on view contributed by home, foreign, and colonial workers, some of the most interesting being samples of Roentgen-ray work in its latest forms of development. Dr. Bela Alexander, for instance, has contributed a series of photographs in which the bones of the hand, the tissues of flowers, and other objects are shown in solid form, whilst another scientist has produced microradiographic representations of extremely minute foraminifera which show every detail of the structure with absolute fidelity. Some remarkable results in the way of tracing injuries and diseases in the human body are also to be seen in this section. Another section contains a number of photomicrographs showing impurities in jams; and three of the rooms in the gallery are entirely given up to pictorial photography, of which some extremely beautiful examples are shown. A large number of colour transparencies, arranged over a looking-glass in desks, forms an interesting illustration of the progress made of recent years in the art of photography; whilst the secret process shown at last year's exhibition, by means of which facsimile reproductions of monetary documents can be multiplied, is also exhibited, visitors being invited to distinguish between the genuine and forged specimens of postage stamps, which are displayed together in the same case. Lantern lectures by well-known photographers are given on three evenings a week throughout the course of the exhibition, which should be of interest not only to the professional but to every amateur who indulges in one of the most delightful of all hobbies.