

for the future except by the death of the child. Other illegitimate babies there are who are brought to the hospital when practically moribund, in whose cases death is obviously wished for, and the doctor is looked upon not as a curer of disease, but as a necessary means of securing a death certificate!

Let us not salve our conscience with the unctious that three out of four illegitimate babies are properly attended to. They are not. But all I have been able to show is that one out of four is improperly attended to.

In Hungary since 1903 every homeless child—every child for whom there was no obvious means of suitable support—has had a right to support by the State, and has been so supported.

The result has been that during the years 1904 to 1908 the number of births in the country increased by over 2 per cent., while the number of illegitimate births decreased by over 4 per cent.!

In Edinburgh an infants' home was opened in 1912. Unmarried girls with their first illegitimate baby are admitted to it on quitting the maternity hospital, and on signing a promise to remain in the home for at least two months, and to suckle their babies. Each girl pays 5s. weekly for the first two weeks, and thereafter 2s. 6d. weekly. Girls who spend three months in the home may leave their babies there at a charge of 5s. weekly until they are a year old. The mothers of babies who have been left in the home visit them almost invariably twice a week, and stay to bath, feed, and put them to bed.

The home saves many girls from finding themselves in a hopelessly difficult position on leaving the maternity hospital at the expiry of ten days. Some have no home, and others are forbidden by their relations to return with their babies to the home they have disgraced. The only course open to them is to board out their young babies with the first person who offers, and to seek work, however unfit physically they may be. In the home they have a refuge. A certain amount of the money in payment is sometimes obtained at first from the father of the child, and otherwise the amount is usually obtainable from relatives, or, if necessary, from charitable sources.

The babies are cared for and nursed by their own mothers. They usually thrive well and become strong and healthy. When the baby cannot later go with his mother or to her relatives, the mother has time and the assistance of the matron to find a good home, where he may be boarded out or adopted. This "good home" is, however, extremely difficult to find.

As regards the mother, the first object of the home is to strengthen and develop her character generally, so that when she leaves she may be able to lead a better life.

## Memoranda:

### MEDICAL, SURGICAL, OBSTETRICAL.

#### PLUMBISM IN A BRANCH OF THE HOSIERY INDUSTRY.

THE following brief report may lead, in other places where the making of military pants is carried on, to the detection of further cases of plumbism.

A. K., a man aged 28, came to see me on May 31st, 1915, complaining of abdominal pains, so severe at times that he could not sleep at nights. On the night of May 30th he was "up all night" in pain. He had been very costive for some weeks. There had been no vomiting, but his appetite was poor and he had lost flesh lately. He referred the pain to the umbilical region. The abdomen was flaccid, not tender to touch; in fact, the pain was somewhat relieved by pressure. He had also "rheumatic" pains in the left arm and leg during this period of poor health, of some weeks' duration. There was a typical blue line on the gums, but no ankle or wrist drop.

The condition at once suggested plumbism, but his employment, which he described as that of cotton spinner in the hosiery trade, seemed at first to negative this possible source of the poison. On closer inquiry, however, he explained that, in passing the cotton through a rolling machine, it was impregnated with a dry ochre pigment, which gave the pants the regulation tint.

In visiting the "blowing room" where he worked, it

was seen that a cloud of this pigment pervaded the room in the neighbourhood of the machine, and even at some considerable distance from it, covering the walls and roof. The workers stated that they were frequently spitting up the pigment "from their lungs." The strong air draught from below upwards is necessary in order to drive the cotton into the machine. Since a new machine had been introduced some weeks previously the dust had been much more dense. There had also been a much heavier pressure of work owing to large Government orders.

Two other rooms in the same factory have similar machines, and many of the operatives within the dust radius, including some women, are reported to have had poor health lately.

A sample of the ochre revealed the fact that it consisted of "almost pure basic chromate of lead." This induced me to make further inquiry.

A. K. rapidly recovered from his acute symptoms under treatment, while absenting himself from work, and has now returned to the blowing room.

Another worker, G. S., a man aged 40, was seen by me at his home on June 20th. He had been under another medical man's care for some weeks for symptoms similar to those of A. K., accompanied by marked loss of weight and weakness. When I examined him I found a well-marked blue line on his gums.

As no other source of plumbism could be discovered (the water supply of Nottingham being now above suspicion) both cases were notified to the Home Office.

Subsequent inquiry was made by the Medical Inspector of Factories, and I learn from A. K. that precautions are being taken by using another pigment.

Nottingham.

A. CHRISTIE REID, M.D.

## Reports of Societies.

### OXFORD OPHTHALMOLOGICAL CONGRESS.

THE annual meeting of the Oxford Ophthalmological Congress was held on July 15th and 16th in the Department of Human Anatomy of the University of Oxford, by the kind permission of Professor Arthur Thomson. Notwithstanding the inevitable absence of some of the regular attendants owing to military duties and other reasons connected with the war, a good number were present during the proceedings, which were opened at 9 a.m. on July 15th by a hearty welcome from the Master, Mr. Sydney Stephenson. The morning of this, the first day, was devoted to addresses by Sir ST. CLAIR THOMSON, Sir MACKENZIE DAVIDSON, Lieutenant-Colonel R. H. ELLIOT, Messrs. W. H. H. JESSOP, HARRISON BUTLER, and STEPHEN MAYOU. The subjects chosen were of considerable interest, and each address was followed by discussion. Lieutenant-Colonel ELLIOT prefaced his remarks with words of congratulatory welcome to Mr. Sydney Stephenson on his first appearance as Master of the Congress in place of Mr. Robert W. Doyne, now the Past Master. The afternoon was spent at the Oxford Eye Hospital, where interesting cases were shown by Messrs. P. H. ADAMS, WILLIAM ROBINSON, N. C. RIDLEY, E. H. EDWARDS STACK, and B. CRIDLAND. Messrs. RIDLEY, STACK, and MADDOX also gave demonstrations. The whole of the second day (July 16th) was occupied by a discussion, opened by Dr. FRANK SHUFFLEBOTHAM, on *Industrial diseases and accidents*. The subjects dealt with comprised coal-miner's nystagmus, eye injuries caused by occupation with their prevention and first aid treatment, industrial cataract, plumbism as it affects the eye, siderosis, and the rarer industrial diseases and injuries of the eye, and were introduced by Messrs. PERCIVAL J. HAY, EDGAR COLLIS, WILLIAM ROBINSON, S. McMURRAY, J. GRAY CLEGG, and SYDNEY STEPHENSON respectively. The papers were extremely interesting and evoked considerable discussion, in which many members took part. During the two days demonstrations were given by Mr. SYDNEY STEPHENSON, Lieutenant-Colonel R. H. ELLIOT, Messrs. J. BURDON-COOPER, R. J. COULTER, W. H. H. JESSOP, P. H. ADAMS, N. C. RIDLEY, J. GRAY CLEGG, C. T. REES WOOD, and S. E. WHITNALL, comprising pathological specimens, apparatus, and instruments of much interest. An exhibition of ophthalmological instruments and apparatus was open daily. The official dinner of the Congress took

was elected on the honorary staff of St. Mary's Hospital and an examiner in anatomy at the College of Surgeons. This early recognition was not misplaced, for he rapidly became one of the most popular teachers both in anatomy and surgery. He was a well known figure in his earlier days at several meetings of the British Medical Association. I went with him to America on the occasion of the Congress at Washington in 1887, and ten years later to St. Petersburg, when we represented the Royal College of Surgeons of England at the celebration of the centenary of the foundation of the Russian Army Medical Service, and at which an enormous number of delegates from all parts of the world were present. We had the especial honour of being in a small party of European surgeons who were one by one received in conversation by H.I.M. the Czar and afterwards took lunch with General Kuropatkin. Owen was always in good spirits, courteous, and amusing, but not at the expense of others. I never remember him saying an unkind word of any colleague, and he showed no unfair bias against opinions he did not agree with. If he could not speak well or kindly of men or matters he did not discuss them. He was a hard worker. He wrote and spoke forcibly and well. Perhaps by nature somewhat impulsive, he carefully considered his subject with ability, shrewdness, and common sense, and, having formed his opinion, he was fearless and honest in expressing his views, which were usually sound and accurate. His work for the Royal College of Surgeons as an examiner and on the council was whole-hearted and of the highest value. He had been an active member of all the subcommittees, and the personal knowledge and long experience that he had of its affairs made him one of its most trusted leaders. He has been spared from old age, and has gone down at his post and in his work.

## Universities and Colleges.

### UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD.

THE following degree has been conferred:

M.Ch.—A. H. Southam, Christ Church College.\*

The following candidates have satisfied the examiners:

DIPLOMA IN PUBLIC HEALTH (*Part D*).—E. B. Argles, E. Clarke-Cohen, R. V. Shivashwarkur, A. K. Soutar. (*Part ID*).—A. E. A. Carver.

\* Mr. Southam was, we regret, reported in last week's issue as taking the degrees of B.M., B.Ch.; these were conferred on him in 1913.

### UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.

THE following candidates have been approved at the examinations indicated:

M.D.—BRANCH I (*Medicine*).—D. E. Morley, P. T. Patel, \*J. H. Sheldon, Catherine V. Turner (University Medal). BRANCH II (*Pathology*).—A. Renshaw. BRANCH IV (*Midwifery and Diseases of Women*).—Kate A. Platt. BRANCH V (*State Medicine*).—W. A. Brend (University Medal).

\* Obtained the number of marks qualifying for the University Medal. M.S.—BRANCH I (*Surgery*).—C. E. Shattock.

SECOND M.B., PART II.—A. L. Abel, S. E. Barraza, E. V. Beaumont, Ursula P. Blackwell, J. C. Blake, A. O. Bolton, J. E. A. Boucaud, G. Bourne, J. W. Brash, R. B. Britton, Ellinor M. Burnett, F. Caldecott, D. Cameron, H. Carpenter, J. E. Carpenter, O. C. Carter, B. R. Chaudhri, H. J. C. Churchill, \*D. C. Clark, E. V. Corry, †H. Das, E. de Robillard, Phyllis D. Dixon, E. F. Fernando, Maud Gazdar, Johan C. Gie, A. Giris, E. N. Glover, L. B. Goldschmidt, R. C. Goument, R. B. Green, J. F. Howells, O. H. Hyman, N. R. Jenkins, N. Kamchorn, G. E. Kidman, C. A. Kirton, E. A. Levisseur, K. McFadyean, T. H. McLeod, H. I. Marriner, Cecily M. E. Maude, Annie S. Mules, Edith M. Newman, M. J. Panthaky, Sigrid Letitia S. Pearson, †A. W. Peiris, S. H. de G. Pritchard, J. S. L. Roberts, H. Rowan, J. F. Ryan, S. Sacks, C. K. Scales, Charlotte A. Shields, K. L. Singer, E. C. Spaar, R. Theron, A. R. Tothill, J. A. Van Heerden, Gladys M. R. Webster, Kathleen S. Vine, K. T. K. Wallington, K. M. C. Woodruff, E. B. Woolf, Irene Yates, W. Yeoman.

\* Distinguished in Anatomy.

† Distinguished in Pharmacology.

‡ Distinguished in Physiology.

### LONDON SCHOOL OF TROPICAL MEDICINE.

THE following candidates have been approved at the examinations held at the end of the forty-eighth session:

Miss G. J. Campbell, N. Wilson, Miss M. E. E. Smith, A. C. d'Arifat, S. K. Vaidya, V. L. Sathe, Miss J. A. Vaughan.

### ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF EDINBURGH.

THE following candidates have been admitted to the Fellowship:

C. Burnham, C. Gibson, E. Greene, C. H. Hayton, Satya Sakha Maitra, A. Z. Philips, J. C. Potter, V. L. Sathe, and W. D. Yuille.

### CONJOINT BOARD IN SCOTLAND.

THE following candidates have been approved at the examinations indicated:

FIRST COLLEGE.—J. Lees, J. M. Speirs, B. M'Laughlin, T. W. Stewart, T. T. Read, W. Grant, A. W. Buchan, D. C. Scotland, S. S. Barton, G. P. Walker.

SECOND COLLEGE.—A. B. MacDougall, R. Smith, C. G. Magee, W. H. Duff, R. Austin, W. B. Lawson, A. P. Robb.

THIRD COLLEGE.—J. W. Morris, P. Hayes, W. A. Mein, W. Templeton, J. F. M. O'Flaherty, R. S. Watt, J. G. M'K. Macaulay, R. Woodside, H. G. Anderson, N. S. Bruce, A. Morrison, F. J. Jack, J. J. Mulvey, J. B. Minford, V. A. Rankin, A. D. Gorman, C. J. Middleton.

FINAL.—J. M'Farlane, C. Read, J. MacRae, D. A. Imrie, J. Crawford, W. M'Alpine, J. W. Irvine, Marion C. Pruitt, Chembil V. Appunni, G. B. Hanna, J. P. Denny, H. V. Fitzgerald, G. T. Makhijani, P. M. Saptarshi, N. B. Morris, P. Milnes, C. M. Bradley.

### SOCIETY OF APOTHECARIES OF LONDON.

THE following candidates have been approved in the subjects indicated:

SURGERY.—†F. W. Chamberlain, \*†H. A. Cottin, \*†R. N. Cozier, †K. M. Dyott, \*†N. Hoffmeister, \*†H. L. Hughes, \*†H. S. Jeffries, †H. Morrison, \*†J. E. Rusby, †M. C. Stark.

MEDICINE.—†J. A. A. Boddy, \*†K. M. Dyott, \*†J. E. Rusby, †M. C. Stark.

FORENSIC MEDICINE.—W. E. P. Briggs, W. Fox, H. S. Jeffries, J. G. T. Thomas.

MIDWIFERY.—G. T. Baker, J. Y. Dent, H. S. Jeffries, W. J. May, A. Traill, G. C. N. Younger.

\* Section I.

† Section II.

The diploma of the Society has been granted to Messrs. J. A. A. Boddy, F. W. Chamberlain, H. A. Cottin, R. N. Cozier, K. M. Dyott, N. Hoffmeister, H. Morrison, J. E. Rusby, and M. C. Stark.

## Medical News.

THE medical publishing business founded in 1844 by Mr. Henry King Lewis has been converted into a private limited company under the name of H. K. Lewis and Co., Ltd. Mr. E. J. Sowerby, Mr. J. L. Jackson, Mr. J. E. Simpson, and Mr. R. H. Smith, who have been responsible for the conduct of the business in the past, have been appointed governing directors. There will thus be no alteration in the proprietorship or management.

THE premises of the Royal Society of Medicine will be closed during the month of August. Owing to the war the number of meetings of Sections had been reduced to ninety-two, with an average attendance of about thirty-one. Sir William Church, the senior honorary treasurer, announced that Mr. Lord, the accountant, estimated that the society would be £1,100 within its income this year; this, considering that subscriptions had diminished on account of the war, was regarded as very satisfactory.

A SPECIAL meeting of the Central Midwives Board was held on July 20th for hearing penal charges. Sir Francis Champneys presided. Fourteen women had been cited, and there were also six cases adjourned for reports from local supervising authorities. Of the former, ten were struck off the roll, of the latter four. In two cases no action was taken, and the other women were cautioned, and judgement postponed for reports from the local supervising authorities. The most frequent charges were, as usual, inability to take temperatures and pulses, want of scrupulous cleanliness, and failure to send for medical aid at times when according to the rules they should have done so. Unfortunately, in addition to these charges there were a large number of puerperal cases, some of which ended fatally, and several cases of neglected ophthalmia neonatorum. The Board held another meeting to hear penal cases on July 21st. Sir Francis Champneys again presided. Eight cases were heard. Four women were struck off, judgement was adjourned in three of the other cases for reports in three to six months. One midwife was cautioned to obey the rules. At the monthly meeting, on July 22nd, the Standing Committee reported correspondence which included a letter from Dr. A. Stookes, one of the Board's examiners at the Manchester Centre, commenting on the propriety of allowing a midwife to undertake intrauterine manipulations as suggested by one of the questions set at the examination of June 15th. A reply was sent pointing out that such manipulations were only permissible in great emergencies, when there was dangerous haemorrhage and all other means had failed. The names of seven women were removed from the roll on their own application on account of old age, ill health, and inability to obey the rules.