

Memoranda:

MEDICAL, SURGICAL, OBSTETRICAL.

A PREPARED BARIUM MEAL.

NEARLY eighteen months ago a committee appointed by the Electro-Therapeutic Section of the Royal Society of Medicine considered the question of a standard opaque meal for *x*-ray examinations of the stomach and intestines. It was considered that a meal of 2 oz. of bismuth oxychloride, or 2 oz. of barium sulphate, made up to about half a pint with bread and milk, or porridge, was about the proper amount to administer. Dr. Morton added a note to the report that the opacity of bismuth oxychloride was about double that of an equal weight of the barium sulphate. For this reason it has appeared to me better in most cases to use a meal containing 4 oz. of barium sulphate in these examinations.

In the discussion on this subject I advised that a meal should be recommended of pleasanter composition than the one mentioned. The grittiness of the barium salt, the unpleasantness of the mixture, and the difficulty in hospitals of getting it well made, militated against its usefulness. I have formulated a meal which, I think, overcomes many of the difficulties in connexion with this form of examination. It is made of 75 per cent. of pure barium sulphate with 25 per cent. of a pabulum of cocoa, arrow-root, desiccated milk, etc. The whole is ground together into an impalpable powder in such a way that there is no grittiness and great evenness in distribution.

All that is required in the preparation of this meal is to rub it up with a little cold water into a paste, in a small pan over a spirit lamp, add some more water and bring it to the boil, when, on allowing it to cool for a few minutes, it can be administered. It is pleasant to take, can be always prepared in the *x*-ray room without each time troubling nurses to have the material weighed out in a dispensary, find milk, etc., and on account of the thorough admixture of the material the definition of any irregularities in the contour of the hollow viscera are more readily discovered.

It can also be used for rectal examinations through a long tube.

The meals have been prepared for me by Messrs. Allen and Hanburys, and are in boxes containing 2 oz., 4 oz., and 6 oz. of barium respectively.

JAMES METCALFE, M.D.,

Honorary Physician in Charge of the Electrical and *X*-ray Departments, Prince of Wales's Hospital, N.

A CASE OF ECLAMPSIA.

Mrs. G. was attended by me at her first confinement on September 4th, 1913. Having ascertained the presence of albuminuria in the seventh month, precautions were taken, but, in spite of them, eclampsia came on. Delivery was accomplished with chloroform and forceps. On this occasion the baby died after living about two hours; the eclamptic seizure stopped about ten hours after the birth of the child.

Recently I attended her at the birth of her second child. Precautionary measures as to diet, condition of bowels, and general health were adopted on this occasion from an early date in the pregnancy. At no time was I able on this occasion to discover the presence of albumin in the urine.

On May 16th labour commenced some three or four weeks prematurely, and was again ushered in with eclampsia. I saw her about 10 a.m.; the membranes were intact, and the os uteri was dilating. Morphine was injected hypodermically. At 3 p.m. the os was more fully dilated; the posterior lip was torn, probably a relic of the first confinement; the anterior lip was somewhat rigid. To save the posterior lip and facilitate delivery I cut through the anterior lip with scissors, and then, having administered chloroform, rapidly delivered. After separation I removed the placenta with the hand in the uterus; the placenta was adherent and the placental site had an unusual hard feeling.

The child breathed feebly for a short time. The breath sounds began to grow feebler and the baby more livid in colour. I then once more cut the umbilical cord on the proximal side of the ligature and allowed it to bleed as

freely as it could, at the same time continuing artificial respiration; the colour of the baby began to improve, and finally normal breathing was restored; the cord was then retied.

At 6 p.m. the mother was still having severe attacks of eclampsia. I then removed about 20 oz. of blood from the median basilic vein. She had no more convulsions after this, and recovered consciousness next morning. The mother and baby are now both doing well.

The main interest of the case lies, I think, in the fact that the infant's life was saved by relieving it of some of the poisoned blood due to the eclamptic state. Had the same procedure been carried out at the first confinement I think the first baby might have lived.

Bradford.

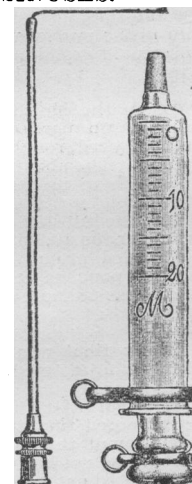
EDGAR WM. SHARP, M.B., Ch.B.

DISINFECTION OF DEEP SINUSES.

WHEN I first had under my care in the Mumbles Red Cross Hospital cases with septic sinuses I experienced difficulty in getting any disinfectant into them so as to reach to the deeper parts. I then asked Messrs. Ferris and Co., Ltd., of Bristol, to make me a German silver cannula to fit a hypodermic syringe. This has been a most successful method of washing the sinuses with hydrogen peroxide or any other solution in small quantity, and appears to hasten healing very materially; liquor alantoininae has also been used in this way with success. The cannula can be bent in any way required, and the blunt end prevents it doing harm to the tissues. I find 3 in. a convenient length for the cannula.

F. DE COVERLY VEALE, M.D.

Mumbles.



Reviews.

REPORT OF THE NATIONAL BIRTH-RATE COMMISSION.

THE National Birth-rate Commission has published its report in a volume entitled *The Declining Birth-rate: Its Causes and Effects*.¹ At the time when the Commission began its investigation, in the autumn of 1913, an account was given in this JOURNAL² of its composition and objects, and now, after the lapse of almost three years, the public is placed in the position of judging whether the time and energy expended upon the work have been justified by the results. The war has immensely enhanced the value of infant life in the combatant nations, and even in the perusal of the evidence laid before the Commission a stronger note of urgency and intensity seems to make itself heard after the autumn of 1914. The volume consists of two parts—the report proper, and an “addition” signed by twenty-three out of the twenty-seven who append their names to the former, whilst one member of the Commission signed the addition but not the report, and Monsignor W. F. Brown adds a note of reservation.³

The first part of the report dealing with the statistical evidence contains no facts of startling novelty. In the United Kingdom the birth-rate has declined to the extent

¹ *The Declining Birth-rate: Its Causes and Effects*. (Being the report of, and the chief evidence taken by, the National Birth-rate Commission, instituted, with official recognition, by the National Council of Public Morals—for the Promotion of Race Regeneration—Spiritual, Moral, and Physical.) Pp. 450. London: Chapman and Hall, Ltd. 1916. (Price 10s. 6d. net.)

² November 1st, 1913, p. 1167.

³ I have signed the report and the addition thereto, subject to the following reservation, which, as representing the Roman Catholic Church, I consider essential: The Church forbids the destruction of the product of conception even when the life of the mother is at stake; and also all antiphysiological methods of preventing conception.

WOMEN MEDICAL STUDENTS AT KING'S COLLEGE, LONDON.

SIR,—I note that in your issue of July 1st Professor Halliburton states "that St. George's Hospital has made a step forward in admitting a limited number of women students to 'their' wards, and that the experiment has proved such a complete success that he is hopeful that other hospitals will follow their example."

Professor Halliburton, however, does not mention the fact, of which he is doubtless aware, that St. Mary's Hospital has already thrown open its doors to women students at the request of the authorities of the London School of Medicine for Women. Since May 1st women students have been admitted to the wards of St. Mary's Hospital for clinical instruction, and at the present time twelve are working there. This number, it is expected, will be largely augmented in October. No request was made for admission of women students to courses of instruction in preliminary or intermediate subjects.

In justice to St. Mary's Hospital Medical School I thought it my duty to place these facts before you.—I am, etc.,

JOHN F. H. BROADBENT,
Dean of St. Mary's Medical School.

July 3rd.

* * * The facts as to St. Mary's and St. George's Hospital were noted on p. 24 of the same issue of the JOURNAL as contained Professor Halliburton's letter.

Universities and Colleges.

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE.

THE following candidates were approved at the examination indicated:

THIRD M.B.—Part II, *Medicine, Pathology, and Therapeutics*: E. H. R. Alkounyan, K. B. Bellwood, S. L. Bhatia, H. V. Deakin, E. H. Dendy, W. F. T. Haultain, S. H. M. Johns, V. C. Pennell, J. Rickman, W. G. A. Schüddekopf, B. H. Swift, H. A. Whyte-Venables, R. S. Woods.

UNIVERSITY OF DURHAM.

At the Convocation held on June 27th the following degrees and diplomas were conferred:

M.D.—T. C. Storey.
M.D. (for Practitioners of Fifteen Years' Standing)—J. A. Barnes, H. E. C. K. Murray, M. H. Smith.
M.B.—H. C. Broadhurst, Mary R. Campbell, J. A. Charles, H. G. B. Dove, H. Evers, N. A. Martin, G. N. Metzger, D. O. Richards, W. O. F. Sinclair.
B.S.—H. C. Broadhurst, Mary R. Campbell, J. A. Charles, H. Evers, R. A. Hooper, N. A. Martin, G. N. Metzger, D. O. Richards.
B.H. AND D.P.H.—J. E. Baker.

The following candidates have been approved at the examinations indicated:

FIRST M.B.—*Elementary Anatomy and Biology, Chemistry and Physics*: *Dorothy Holmes, *H. N. C. Jaffé, *Edith C. M. Jones, *M. Myers, J. E. Basham, W. N. Crowe, E. C. Dagger, S. W. Davidson, E. R. Dingle, Kate Gray, Mary L. Griffiths, G. A. Haydock, Margaret B. Herbst, W. E. D. Hodgson, H. Holtby, L. Hunter, T. H. Kirk, J. J. Laydon, M. A. R. Mansoor, G. McCoull, T. S. Severs, J. Silverston, J. Stonehouse, Kathleen M. W. Watts, A. G. Weston, A. Woodman.

SECOND M.B.—*Anatomy and Physiology*: *P. C. Arnold, *C. N. Armstrong, *E. D. Charles, Dorothy O. S. Blair, W. D. Forrest, E. Giris, Mary I. A. Grimmer, J. Hetherington, G. Hurrell, L. Lavine, R. Sanderson, R. P. Wanless, A. H. Whyte.

THIRD M.B.—*Materia Medica, Pharmacology and Pharmacy, Public Health, Medical Jurisprudence, Pathology and Elementary Bacteriology*: *J. Gilmour, *E. G. Anderson, *W. A. Freedman, Mary K. Henegan, W. A. Jaques, Phyllis Marriott, B. Sergeant, W. E. M. Wardill.

* With second-class honours.

VICTORIA UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER.

THE following candidates have been approved at the examinations indicated:

FINAL M.B., CH.B.—J. H. Albinson, H. Chadwick, R. Chevassut, W. Christopher, R. Colley, W. C. C. Easton, *E. W. Fish, Eva L. Glasier, G. Lapage, R. L. Newell, F. C. Ormerod, N. H. Perry, Dorothy Potts, G. B. Wild.

Forensic Medicine and Toxicology.—G. E. Archer, Alice M. A. Arnold, Mercy D. Barber, W. T. G. Boul, Hilda K. Brade, Frances G. Bullough, O. F. J. Carruthers, Kathleen L. Cass, Ruth E. Conway, J. Holker, N. Kletz, E. N. P. Martland, J. A. Panton, R. S. Paterson, A. B. Platt, Elizabeth C. Powell, J. Shlosberg, D. M. Sutherland, H. Taylor.

* Awarded distinction in Surgery.

THIRD M.B., CH.B.—*Pharmacology and Therapeutics and Hygiene*: N. Abdo, T. H. Almond, Sybil Bailey, T. Colley, S. E. Critchley, F. L. Heap, A. N. Kirkham, J. Mills, Kathleen O'Donnell, Harriet B. L. Reid, Norah H. Schuster, L. J. Schwartz, Marie Wardman, F. L. Whincup. *Hygiene*: Mary G. Cardwell, E. Pigott, H. T. Savage, V. T. Smith, G. R. Wadsworth.

UNIVERSITY OF ST. ANDREWS.

THE following candidates have been approved at the examinations indicated:

FIRST M.B., CH.B.—*Bessie M. Davidson, †D. W. Dawson, †V. S. Ewing, †Annie A. Fulton, †A. H. Harkins, *C. N. Little, †Gracie M. M'Rorie, †R. Norrie, †Amy M. Thoms.

SECOND M.B., CH.B.—*Physiology*: Margaret J. M. Cuthbert, Lorna Lennox, Mary R. Mitchell.

THIRD M.B., CH.B.—*Forensic Medicine and Public Health*: Frances Braid, Shiela Bridgeford, Annie R. Campbell, A. Chodak, J. M. Clark, J. C. Coutts, Mary I. S. Cuthbert, Kathleen I. David, J. Ferguson, D. Fisher, W. A. Fraser, J. Irvine, J. Kinnear, A. M. M'Gillivray, J. C. M'Gregor, J. K. T. Mills, G. R. Rose, J. Shirlaw, Margaret W. Shirlaw, Dora M. Walker.

SECOND D.P.H.—*Practical Sanitation and Epidemiology and Sanitary Law and Vital Statistics*: A. C. Craighead, D. M. M'Gillivray.

* Inorganic Chemistry.

† Organic Chemistry.

UNIVERSITY OF DUBLIN: TRINITY COLLEGE.

THE following degrees in the Faculty of Medicine were conferred at the summer commencements in Trinity Term held on July 1st, 1916.

M.B., B.CH., B.A.O.—Esther V. Adderley, A. A. L. Albertijn, L. Blumberg, C. H. Comerford, Violet M. Deale, R. M. Gordon, Marie A. Hadden, P. A. Hall, T. J. Lane, E. Lipman, O. L. M'Donogh, E. O. Marks, C. C. Meeready, F. J. Murphy, A. H. Price, T. Stanton, H. J. Wright, C. O. J. Young.

D.Sc.—W. Caldwell (stip. cond.).

M.D.—Eileen M. Hewitt, T. D. Power.

Medico-Legal.

FORCIBLE FEEDING.

AN echo of the embittered controversies of two years ago was heard in the King's Bench Division on July 3rd, when an action for libel in respect of an article published in the issue of the *Suffragette* of June 12th, 1914, was tried. The plaintiffs were Dr. F. E. Forward, Dr. F. J. W. Sass, and Dr. W. D. Higson, who, at all material times, were medical officers at Holloway Prison. Mr. Gordon Hewart, who appeared for the plaintiffs, said that the organization responsible for the *Suffragette* was the Women's Social and Political Union. The publishers were the Women's Press, and part of the matter complained of was written by Dr. Frank Moxon. The defences of the Women's Press, Mrs. Pankhurst, Mrs. Tuke, Mrs. Fox, and Mrs. Sanders, had been struck out as the defendants had refused to obey an order of the court. Dr. Moxon had originally sought to justify, but had since written a letter in which he withdrew all charges against the plaintiffs. Dr. Moxon was not present; he is now serving with the R.A.M.C. in France. The libel had reference to the fact that a considerable number of women detained in Holloway prison began a hunger strike. The plaintiffs came to the conclusion that these women must be protected against themselves, and that it was their duty, if the women refused food in the ordinary way, to administer it by artificial means. The operation was a simple one of allowing food to enter by gravitation, and not by the use of a pump. Dr. F. E. Forward, in his evidence, said that every prisoner admitted to Holloway was examined, and, according to her condition, was sent into the prison or the hospital. Hunger-striking was very detrimental to health, and in such cases it was a doctor's duty to order artificial feeding. In this the judge, Mr. Justice Darling, concurred. In reply to counsel, witness said that he had never, when forcibly feeding any of these women, administered drugs of a sedative and hypnotic character; the charges made in the *Suffragette* were absolute falsehoods. Dr. Sass and Dr. Higson also denied that there was any truth in the statements of which they complained. The only question left to the jury with reference to the defendants was that of damages, which they assessed at £750, to be divided equally among the three plaintiffs. Messrs. W. H. Smith and Sons, who distributed the paper, were joined as defendants, but the jury found in their favour. It was stated that the Scottish Newspaper Press, which had printed the paper, had apologized.

The Services.

EXCHANGES.

CAPTAIN, R.A.M.C.(T.), M.O. Yeomanry regiment, desires exchange overseas or military hospital home or abroad.—Address, No. 2600, BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL Office, 429, Strand, W.C.

IT is announced that Professor Emil von Behring of Marburg has retired from active service owing to the state of his health.

THE Massachusetts State Legislature has appointed a commission to study sickness insurance, and to recommend legislation to be introduced in January, 1917. California has a similar commission at work on the problem. Bills for health insurance have been introduced in the Legislatures of New York and New Jersey.

Obituary.

GEORGE HARRY MELVILLE DUNLOP, M.D.,
F.R.C.P.E.,

FORMERLY SENIOR PHYSICIAN, ROYAL EDINBURGH HOSPITAL FOR
SICK CHILDREN.

DURING the last days of June news came from the front that Major Melville Dunlop, R.A.M.C., was suffering from pneumonia, and on July 3rd the sad intelligence reached Edinburgh from No. 6 Red Cross Hospital, Etaples, France, that the illness had ended fatally on that day. Meantime, Mrs. Melville Dunlop had been able to reach her husband's bedside, and was with him when he passed away. Dr. Melville Dunlop's face and figure were well known in Edinburgh streets till a little more than twelve months ago, when, as Major in the Royal Army Corps, he left for France; with the exception of a short week's leave quite recently, he had been at his post there ever since. He was in charge of the medical side of a general hospital, and was engaged alongside of his friend Professor Alexis Thomson of Edinburgh, who was doing surgical work there.

George Harry Melville Dunlop was born in Edinburgh fifty-seven years ago; he was educated at the Collegiate School and at the University, where he graduated M.B., C.M. in 1880, and proceeded to the degree of M.D. in 1884. He became M.R.C.P. in 1885, and F.R.C.P. in 1887. Among the junior appointments he held were those of house-surgeon at Leith Hospital and in the Royal Edinburgh Hospital for Sick Children, of clinical assistant in the skin wards, and of clinical assistant to the gynaecological department in the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary; but his life-work was centred in the Royal Edinburgh Hospital for Sick Children. He was elected an extra physician of that institution in 1886, and twelve years later he was advanced to the post of ordinary physician. This appointment he held for the maximum period of fifteen years, retiring in 1913. During these years of his hospital appointment Dr. Melville Dunlop also lectured first on diseases of children in the Extra-mural Medical School, and then, later, he gave clinical instruction in the hospital, and later still held the post of lecturer on diseases of children in the University of Edinburgh. He served for many years as an examiner in medicine and diseases of children for the Licence and for the Membership of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh. Among other positions filled by him were those of physician to the Royal Blind Asylum and to the Royal Public Dispensary, Edinburgh. Dr. Dunlop's retirement, comparatively early in life, from his hospital duties set him free to render such help as his country required of him when the war broke out, and this help he very readily and very heartily gave. He has died whilst striving to bring to others the alleviations of suffering which the medical art offers, especially when administered by kindly and skilled hands. The measure in which his patients in Edinburgh missed his professional services (which he always gave as friend as well as physician) is that in which his work among the soldiers in France was accepted and appreciated; there was no more popular doctor than Dr. Melville Dunlop, and, as was to be expected, he was always the children's favourite.

Dr. Melville Dunlop was a member of several medical societies, including the Edinburgh Medico-Chirurgical and Obstetrical and the Harveian; and he made a number of notable contributions to the science of medicine. He wrote mainly on children's diseases, and his articles on chloroma, on cerebral tuberculous tumours, on syphilitic synovitis, on pneumonia, and on constipation in children are all worthy of study. Much earlier (1893) he contributed notes of six cases of myxoedema treated by thyroid extract, and his latest article was that on diseases of the colon, completed since the war began and published a few weeks ago in the third volume of the new edition of the *Encyclopaedia Medica*.

Dr. Melville Dunlop was eminently a friendly man, kindly, courteous, sympathetic, careful above the common of the name and reputation of a brother practitioner, and absolutely straight in all his dealings with his fellow men. He loved the open air too, and was an expert in fishing and shooting and curling and golfing. He was a strong supporter of the Church of Scotland, and whilst he was a

Scotsman to the backbone, he had travelled and took wide views and had interests which found no narrow national limits. An appreciative writer in an Edinburgh newspaper describes Melville Dunlop as "a true friend, a bright companion, and a trusted physician," and whilst he was all these he was likewise a skilled specialist in pediatrics and the accomplished author of valuable articles couched in graceful English.

One of his former colleagues writes: He was a ready and inspiring speaker, and a popular and conscientious teacher in the wards. Although his contributions to medical literature were not numerous (he was often far too busy in other ways to write much) they were interesting and valuable, and they have been widely appreciated and quoted. In his hospital relations Dunlop was one of the best of colleagues—kind, unselfish, and "straight" in the last degree—and the staff to which he till lately belonged owed very much of its hearty good fellowship to the influence of his generous as well as genial personality. He was always a warm friend to what his heart and judgement approved, and an out-and-out opponent of what he held unworthy. His influence is one the loss of which cannot fail to be felt in the Edinburgh Medical School. Of his personal character and personal charm I need not write, but it was indeed no wonder he had so many friends.

DR. EVAN NAUNTON DAVIES, J.P., of Gadair-Wen, Pontyclun, Glamorganshire, died on April 26th, aged 60. He was born at Cymmer in the Rhondda Valley in February, 1856, and was the son of Dr. Henry Naunton Davies, Alderman and J.P. for the county of Glamorgan. He was educated at Cardiff and Taunton College, and studied for the profession at Guy's Hospital, which he entered in October, 1875. He took the diploma of L.S.A. in 1879, and that of M.R.C.S. in 1881. After assisting his father for two years he married and settled down in Penygraig, Rhondda Valley, in the district where his grandfather, Dr. Evan Davies, had practised before him. He retired from active practice in 1899, and a few years later removed to the country residence where he died. Dr. Davies was an active member of the British Medical Association, and in 1907 was President of the South Wales and Monmouthshire Branch; he was also a member of the Cardiff Medical Society. He took a keen interest in the Porth Cottage Hospital, was J.P. for the county of Glamorgan, for a few years was a member of the Glamorgan County Council, and served for a longer period on the Pontypridd Board of Guardians. He was buried on May 1st at Llantrisant Parish Church. He leaves a widow and three daughters.

Medical News.

AT the meeting of the Society for the Study of Inebriety, to be held at 4 p.m., on Tuesday next, at the house of the Medical Society of London, after a short presidential address by Sir W. J. Collins, Lord D'Abernon will speak on "Some aspects of the drink problem."

THE Harben lectures will be delivered this year at the Royal Institute of Public Health, 37, Russell Square, by Dr. A. C. Houston, Director of Water Examinations, Metropolitan Water Board, on Thursdays, July 13th, 20th, and 27th, at 5 p.m. The subject is "Rivers as sources of water supply."

A DISCUSSION on warfare injuries and neuroses of otological interest will be held by the section of otology of the Royal Society of Medicine on February 16th, 1917. Early notice is given because it is hoped that reports of cases will be sent, not later than November 30th, to Mr. E. D. D. Davis, F.R.C.S., 81, Harley Street, W., and that later on a further report on the progress of the cases, or pathological notes in any fatal case, may be sent, as it is intended to classify the reports in order to facilitate discussion.

THE Lady Priestley memorial lecture before the National Health Society was delivered by the Duchess of Marlborough on June 29th, the title of the address being "Saving the Children." After reviewing the causes of infant mortality, dwelling especially on the influence of the maternal health on the children, and of the effect of venereal diseases and alcoholism, the lecturer discussed possible remedies, and referred to the importance of ante-

natal care, longer absence of the mother from work, proper training and remuneration of midwives, the importance of breast-feeding, and the supply of pure cow's milk. The need for education of the girl, the adolescent, and the mother in personal hygiene, mothercraft, and domestic science was emphasized. Though some 750 infant welfare centres had been established there was great need for more, and for more health visitors. Finally, the importance of sanitation, adequate housing, and the prevention of overcrowding was discussed, and the development of garden suburbs, and cheap transit urged.

IN spite of a westerly wind people in Rouen on Friday, June 30th, knew from the sound of the guns that a vigorous bombardment was going on at the front, the nearest point of which must be at a distance of about ninety miles. We have not yet read of the guns being heard on this occasion in the south-east of England, parts of which are about the same distance from the front, but they have been heard on many others. In a paper on the audibility of the gun-firing in Flanders over the south-east of England September 1914–April 1916, read by Mr. Miller Christy and Mr. W. Marriott before the Royal Meteorological Society on June 21st, it was stated that the sound varied considerably; sometimes three to twelve shots a minute, each quite loud and distinct, were heard. They were believed to proceed from the bombardment by ships of the German positions on the Belgian coast. The sounds of firing have, as a rule, been more rapid, less distinct, and apparently more distant, due probably to fighting around Ypres, Dixmude, or Arras. The sound was faint, though unmistakable, from four to five shots up to one hundred a minute having been counted. This gun firing has been heard at one time or another over the counties of Essex, London, Kent, Surrey, and Sussex, the most distant place being about 150 miles from Ypres; it was heard usually when light surface winds prevailed, mostly between north and east, over the neighbourhood of the North Sea.

Letters, Notes, and Answers.

THE telegraphic addresses of the BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION and JOURNAL are: (1) EDITOR of the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, *Attilology, Westrand, London*; telephone, 2631, Gerrard. (2) FINANCIAL SECRETARY and BUSINESS MANAGER (Advertisements, etc.), *Articulate, Westrand, London*; telephone, 2630, Gerrard. (3) MEDICAL SECRETARY, *Medisecra, Westrand, London*; telephone, 2634, Gerrard. The address of the Irish office of the British Medical Association is 16, South Frederick Street, Dublin.

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.

INCOME TAX.

INCOME TAX inquires whether "the Income Tax Commissioners can claim tax on earned incomes at the rate of 1s. 6d. in the £ plus 20 per cent. for the whole of the financial year 1915–16."

* * * The Finance (No. 2) Act, 1915, increased the rates by 40 per cent. for the last six months of the financial year, it being provided that this increase should take effect as a rise of 20 per cent. for the whole year. The minimum rate of duty was 1s. 6d. in the £, and the corresponding increased rate is therefore 1s. 9½d. in the £. In most cases this will operate to render an additional 20 per cent. of the January tax payable in July, but in those cases in which the total income of the person assessed was less than £600 the reduction in the scale of abatements effected by the same Act—that is, from £160 to £120, and from £150 or £120 to £100—will also increase the amount payable in July, and cause it to exceed one-fifth of the amount payable in January. Our correspondent does not give sufficient details to enable his point to be dealt with except in general terms.

W. P. has purchased a small practice, the consideration to be given by him being three annual payments of £100 free of interest. Can he make any deduction of these payments in making up his income tax return?

* * * No. So far as our correspondent is concerned the payments represent further capital laid out in the purchase of a practice, and not expenses incurred in the conduct of that practice.

ANSWERS.

F. P. H. B.—In the last edition of *Tomes's Manual of Dental Anatomy*, edited by Dr. Marett Tims and Mr. Hopewell-Smith, it is stated that though the lower molars are commonly implanted by two roots, yet the groove in the median line of each root may be deepened so that four roots are produced; or this may happen with one root only, so that a three-rooted tooth is the result.

HARVEST BUGS.

M.O.H. writes in reply to "M.D.": I have had a good deal of experience of these bites, both personally and in regard to members of my family. I have found that the best treatment was the application of a minute drop of pure carbolic acid to the centre of the swelling. As a rule one application is enough, but in some cases a further treatment may be necessary. In the West of England these bumps are called "heat bumps" among the country folk, and many a poor child is dosed with nauseous concoctions under the delusion that his "blood is out of order."

LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.

THE "MEDICAL DIRECTORY."

MESSRS. J. AND A. CHURCHILL, publishers of the *Medical Directory*, appeal to members of the profession to return the annual circular of inquiry posted on July 4th as promptly as possible, since the difficulty in obtaining labour is embarrassing them as well as all other persons concerned with printing and publishing. Messrs. Churchill express the hope that medical men serving in the navy or army have arranged for the circular to be forwarded to them.

SCHOOL CHILDREN AND THEIR DISEASES.

J. C. MCWALTER, M.D., R.A.M.C.(T.) (Dublin), writes: The note on the inspection of school children in Boston (June 17th, p. 848) states that of 49,777 pupils only 24 had tuberculous pulmonary disease. This proportion—less than 1 in 2,000—seems incredibly small. I happen to have examined, just at the same time, a number of army school children. These are undoubtedly better fed and better cared for than the average child of the same age, but the proportion of tuberculous I found was between 1 in 100 and 1 in 200. On the other hand, the proportion of cardiac cases which I discovered was about one-third of that shown by the Boston figures. The proportion of the Boston children classed as "defective" is about 70 per cent. My figures showed a proportion very much the same if the presence of one or two carious teeth constituted a "defect." A more lenient standard of perfection would bring the "defectives" down to under 10 per cent.

VALUE OF TUBERCULIN TREATMENT.

DR. HAROLD DOWNES (Ilminster) writes: The point raised by "Medicus" as to whether the discontinuance of tuberculin was a leading factor in the cure of his laryngeal symptoms (on which I beg leave to congratulate him) is one which I will not attempt to answer, although I think most specialists in tuberculosis will agree that they have observed great benefit from the use of tuberculin, especially in laryngeal cases. I would like, however, to emphasize the extreme value of complete rest of the voice in these cases, a line of treatment not sufficiently recognized. I would strongly recommend the ordinary perforated zinc inhaler as an auxiliary. Let this be worn while the patient is in company with others and only laid aside when at meals or alone. A few drops of any essential oil are used, but the kind of inhalant is immaterial. Local applications to the larynx, when skilfully applied, are of great use.

MEDICAL HERALDRY.

DR. W. FINGLAND (Liverpool) writes: A short time ago (BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, January 1st, 1916, p. 24) you presented your readers with an interesting article on medical heraldry. In the *Bibliophile*, vol. i, March, 1908, Dr. George C. Peachey, in his paper on "History in bookplates," figures some further examples of the armorials of medical men, together with some curious biographical information relating thereto. They include the names of:

Thomas Bradford of the city of Durham, Doctor of physick.
Sir John Hill, Physician, Author, Playwright and Editor, of Derham Place, Bucks.
William Henry Fitton, M.D., who by marrying a lady of means was able to retire from medical practise and devote himself to geological research.
Sylvester Douglas, Lord Glenbervie, the son of a country apothecary, one of the few members of the medical profession who have been raised to the peerage.
Benjamin Bates, M.D., of Little Missenden, Bucks, chiefly remarkable as being the last survivor of the so-called "Medmenham Monks."

Dr. Caius, the co-founder of Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, as a charge in the arms granted to him in 1561 has, "on a square marble stone vert, two serpents erect, their tails nowed together azure."

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