

Memoranda:

MEDICAL, SURGICAL, OBSTETRICAL.

THE NEED OF A VISION TEST FOR DRIVERS.

The need for a systematic examination of the vision of drivers of motor cars and horse-drawn carts has been deeply impressed on me while doing duty as ophthalmic specialist to the South London Recruiting Board. At the present time any person, no matter how defective his vision, can obtain a licence to drive a private or trade motor car; there is no vision test made. Without examination, any person may drive a horse drawn vehicle through busy thoroughfares. Taxi-cab drivers have to pass a sight test on first obtaining their licences, but there is no periodic re-examination.

To illustrate the necessity of introducing some form of test, and incidentally to point out the very defective vision of some drivers, I will quote a few of the cases that have come under my observation:

CASE I.—V. T. T., a taxi-cab driver. Vision is $\frac{3}{4}$ in each eye, and the vision cannot be improved with glasses. The corneae are nebulous, and there is old and extensive disseminated choroiditis. Three years ago he obtained his licence at a garage. He was employed there, but was discharged after a month or two because of defective vision. He still drives a taxi-cab.

CASE II.—G. T., a taxi-cab driver, obtained his licence four years ago. Since then he has had several attacks of iritis in the right eye. As a result of occlusion of the pupil, the vision of this eye is reduced to counting fingers at 2 feet. He is still driving.

CASE III.—B. J. T., a coachman, has never worn glasses. He is myopic to the extent of -12 D. There is marked choroidal atrophy, with pigmentary degenerative changes at the macula. An important point in this case is the marked increase of the light minimum sense. This is a common occurrence in cases of higher degrees of myopia. As a result, these people see badly at night. This man has had several accidents while driving.

CASE IV.—H. B. drives a fast-going cart. Vision is $\frac{3}{4}$ in each eye. The right eye can be brought up to $\frac{5}{8}$ with suitable glasses. As a result of old iridocyclitis there is seclusion and occlusion of both pupils, with a secondary cataract in the left lens.

CASE V.—G. G. drives a single-horsed four-wheeled cart. Vision, $\frac{3}{4}$ right, $\frac{5}{8}$ left. There is right internal squint, and fixation is lost in this eye. There is old extensive peripheral choroiditis in this eye. Seven months ago, while crossing a main road, he did not see a tramcar approaching from his right. The tram broke up the cart, but no one was injured.

CASE VI.—H. S. drives a slow-going one-horse cart. He, slowly and with great difficulty, reads $\frac{3}{8}$ right and $\frac{5}{8}$ left. There is nystagmus in all directions of gaze, and the optic nerves are the seat of secondary atrophy. Two years ago a tramcar ran into his cart. The cart was smashed up and the man was in hospital for four months.

CASE VII.—J. N. drives a single-horse cart. Vision $\frac{3}{4}$ in each eye. Right vision cannot be improved; there is detachment of the retina. The left can be improved to $\frac{3}{8}$ with -12 D sphere, and in this eye there is marked choroidal changes, and a very large posterior staphyloma. He complains of inability to see at night, and the light minimum sense is markedly increased. Last year, one night at dusk, he collided with a tramcar. Three months ago a man fell from a tram; the patient's story is that he did not have time to pull up his horse. The result was that the man was killed.

There is no need to multiply cases, but I have notes of many others. The foregoing will show how defective is the vision of some men engaged in driving, and throws an interesting sidelight on a possible cause of street accidents. It seems very necessary that all persons engaged in driving should at least once a year be submitted to a vision test, and this applies equally to men driving slow-going carts, for there is about as much danger, in the mixed traffic of city streets, from men with defective vision driving slow as fast travelling vehicles.

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MR. AUGUSTUS CHURCHILL, of the firm of medical publishers, J. and A. Churchill, left estate valued at £47,532.

AFTER an agitation of twenty-five years the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University, New York, not long ago consented to admit women students. Now it is announced that Dr. Rosalie Slaughter Morton has been appointed attending surgeon at the Vanderbilt Clinic, and Dr. Vera Dantschakoff instructor in anatomy.

British Medical Association.

CLINICAL AND SCIENTIFIC PROCEEDINGS.

BOMBAY BRANCH.

Clinical Meeting.

A MEETING of the Bombay Branch was held at the Jamsetji Jeejeebhoy Hospital on June 29th, when Lieutenant-Colonel ASHTON STREET, I.M.S., occupied the chair. There were twenty members and visitors present. Dr. C. FERNANDES showed a case of lichen planus, and demonstrated the points of difference between that disease and syphilis, for which it is always mistaken. Lieutenant-Colonel ASHTON STREET, I.M.S., showed a patient with very large and severe glandular enlargements in the neck, with a small melanotic sarcoma in the inside of the mouth over the left superior maxilla. He also showed a boy whose cystic kidney he had successfully removed, and the specimen. He also showed a twig of the Babul tree, used by Indians as toothbrush, accidentally swallowed by a man from Kathiawar, and successfully removed after opening the stomach. Major E. F. GORDON TUCKER, I.M.S., showed the thorax and uterus and its appendages of an extreme case of osteomalacia. Dr. A. POWELL showed specimens of double ruptured aneurysms of the ventricle, and of ruptured aneurysms of the ductus arteriosus and of the arch of the aorta. Dr. S. R. KOTHARE showed a splint useful for compound fracture of the leg and foot. Dr. J. R. JAGOSH showed some interesting skiagrams on behalf of Dr. S. B. Nayak.

Reviews.

STUDIES IN BLOOD PRESSURE.

THE untimely death of Dr. GEORGE OLIVER prevented him from carrying to completion the third edition of his *Studies in Blood Pressure*.¹ The greater portion of it, however, was found to be ready for the printer and to have been entirely rewritten.

At the request of his widow the preparation of the new edition was placed in the hands of Professor W. D. HALLIBURTON, who has carried out the work as "a true labour of affection and respect," leaving the new and greater part in the same form as it was left by the writer, and supplementing the volume by reprinting from the 1908 edition such parts as were wanting to make the whole subject complete.

The book is prefaced by a short obituary note, and by the reprint in full of an article published in a contemporary journal in January, 1916, in which the present position of sphygmomanometry is fully set forth and its value as a guide to diagnosis and treatment critically examined. The question is often asked as to the practical outcome of mechanical observations on the circulatory apparatus. The article in question supplies the answer in full. Much has undoubtedly been achieved, and, although still more remains behind, the genius of Dr. Oliver will always be recognized as having shown the way by which such knowledge may be acquired and demonstrated. In the present series of *Studies* he does more than justice to the labours of other observers of all nationalities, and in some respects the loyal desire to present all sides of the question may leave the reader in doubt as to the conclusion to be drawn. All users of the sphygmomanometer in ordinary clinical practice must have been occasionally puzzled by widely varying results under similar, or apparently similar, conditions. The earlier chapters of the book are devoted to the consideration of the fundamental data upon which clinical observations must be founded, and a clear comprehension of these must be essential to the intelligent use of the instrument.

Of the many different influences that may be combined to affect arterial pressure, by far the most important from the clinical point of view are the bio-chemical substances

¹ *Studies in Blood Pressure, Physiological and Clinical.* By George Oliver, M.D.Lond., F.R.C.P. Edited by W. D. Halliburton, M.D., F.R.S. Third edition. London: H. K. Lewis and Co., Limited, 1916. (Demy 8vo, pp. 263; 10 figures. 7s. 6d. net.)

Scholtz, Marschalko, and Bruck. During the war Neisser gave great attention to combating venereal diseases in the German army.

DR. VALENTIN GILBERT, of Geneva, who died on August 9th, was a leading authority on tuberculosis in Switzerland. He was born at Carouge in 1862 and educated at the University of Geneva, where he graduated M.D. in 1889. In 1890 he was sent by the State Council to Berlin to report on the effects of tuberculin; while not condemning the new remedy he did not allow himself to be carried away by the enthusiasm which it at first excited. In 1893 he was appointed secretary to the first committee formed at Geneva for the prevention of tuberculosis. At the International Congress of Medicine held in Rome in 1894 he read a paper on the treatment of tuberculous pleurisy by the hypodermic injection of small amounts of liquid from the effusion; by this method of auto-serum-therapy, which is known by his name, he claimed to have obtained good results. He was consulting physician of the Federal railways. In 1911 he was elected president of the Société Médicale de la Suisse Romande. Since the outbreak of the war he had been serving as a medical officer of the Swiss army.

Universities and Colleges.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.

KING'S COLLEGE HOSPITAL MEDICAL SCHOOL.

A Burney Yeo Scholarship for 1916 has been awarded to E. A. Woods, B.A., of New College, Oxford.

The Services.

EXCHANGES.

CAPTAIN R.A.M.C. (France) desires to exchange with M.O. in any capacity at home, or with M.O. in ambulance train, hospital ship, or base hospital. Address No. 3700, BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL Office, 429, Strand, W.C.

Medical Officer in military hospital, Southern Command, desires exchange to Northern Command, any appointment. Address No. 3699, BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL Office, 429, Strand, W.C.

Medical News.

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN will open the extension of the London (Royal Free Hospital) School of Medicine for Women on October 2nd at 3 p.m.

A BOOK on the practice of gynaecology has been written by Dr. Jellett, Master of the Rotunda Hospital, and will be issued with coloured plates by Messrs. Churchill at an early date.

THE President of the Local Government Board has issued a circular to local authorities stating that he has decided to establish a Register of Work which might be undertaken at the conclusion of the war, and inviting the authorities to supply him with forecasts of what is likely to be requisite and possible in their several areas.

A THREE months' course of lectures and demonstrations in hospital administration for the D.P.H. will be given at the North-Western Hospital, Hampstead, and the Grove Hospital, Tooting, beginning on October 2nd and 5th respectively. Particulars can be obtained on application to the Clerk of the Metropolitan Asylums Board, Embankment, E.C.

DR. WILLIAM BARRETT ROUÉ, recently deceased, has left £300 to the Bristol General Hospital for the purpose of founding a scholarship for medical students of the hospital, to be called the "Barrett Roué Scholarship." Dr. Roué was himself an old and distinguished student at the hospital, in which he always took a warm interest. He practised for many years in Clifton, and was physician to the Bristol Royal Hospital for Sick Children and Women.

THE sum of £1,000 has been collected through Mr. T. R. St-Johnston, M.R.C.S., District Commissioner of the Lau Islands, for the purchase of a pair of the latest type of Red Cross Motor Ambulances for the front. The Lau Islands are a group lying about 200 miles to the east of Fiji; and the natives, an intellectual type of the Polynesian race, are intensely loyal, and have previously subscribed largely to

various patriotic funds. The islands annually produce about £100,000 worth of the all-important copra.

A FACSIMILE of Lord Kitchener's letter of May 16th, 1915, calling for 300,000 more men, has been prepared by Messrs. Raphael Tuck and Sons, and is issued in an ornamental cover, designed by Mr. Brangwyn, for the benefit of the Lord Kitchener National Memorial Fund and the British Red Cross Fund. The cheapest edition is in a khaki cover, price 1s. The next more expensive is in a white cover, price 2s. 6d. It is also to be obtained in more expensive forms.

THIS is the jubilee year of the Reigate and Redhill Hospital, which was founded on September 1st, 1866. It began with six beds, and in the first year thirty-nine cases were treated, and nine operations were performed. The growth of the hospital may be gathered from the fact that last year the number of cases was 665 and 408 operations were performed. The total number of patients treated since the opening of the institution, not including dental cases, is 11,699, and 4,210 operations have been performed. There have been 276 deaths—a mortality of 2.35 per cent.

ON September 7th the medical and lay staff of Claybury County Asylum presented to the retiring medical superintendent, Dr. R. Armstrong-Jones, a silver tea and coffee service. The presentation was made by Mr. Chapman, Chairman of the Asylums Committee, and speeches were made by Dr. Ewart (who will succeed Dr. Armstrong-Jones) and other members of the staff. On the previous evening Dr. Armstrong-Jones was given a silver inkstand in the name of "a few of the 16,000 patients, present and past," and he received from the Asylums Committee of the Council an illuminated address.

IN the autumn list of forthcoming books announced by the Oxford University Press is one entitled *Dr. John Radcliffe, His Fellows and Foundations*, by Dr. J. Baldwin Nias. It is a commemorative volume containing a sketch of the life of the famous physician who offended William III by saying that he would not have the King's two legs for his three kingdoms, with an account of his generous benefactions to his Alma Mater. It also includes biographical notices of the travelling fellows elected on Radcliffe's foundation at Oxford, "collected as a labour of love in the course of many years by the author, himself sometime Travelling Fellow."

THE *Daily Express* has published for the benefit of its Cheery Fund a *book of Limericks*, the result of a competition started by that paper. The rhymes are very many, and range from A.B., who was a theatrical sailor, to Ypres and beyond. There are a good many illustrations, some of them good, particularly the one of a gentleman who considered that people drink far too much tea. Although the correspondents tell us that the noise at the front is appalling it would appear that the soldiers desire to add to it, for the Cheery Fund has sent out 50,000 mouth organs, not to mention many other wind instruments and gramophones. It has also supplied 4,500 sets of boxing gloves, nearly 5,000 footballs, and nearly 2,000 cricket sets, as well as a large number of cigarettes and pipes and much tobacco. It has in addition a prisoners of war branch. The book can be ordered (price 1s. 6d.) from any bookseller or newsagent, and all the profits go to the fund.

THE usual monthly committee meeting of the Medical Sickness Assurance Society was held at 300, High Holborn, London, W.C., on August 18th, with Dr. F. J. Allan in the chair. The reports submitted showed that the sickness experience for the year, in spite of claims from many members on active service, which in some cases have been of a protracted nature, has so far been well under the expectation. It is estimated that some fifteen hundred members of the society are serving in the R.A.M.C. or navy and other war services. The society has up to the present invested over £20,000 in various war loans and Exchequer Bonds, and has decided that such investments as they hold which may come under the new loans to Treasury Scheme B, should be lent under such scheme. A resolution of deep sympathy with Lady Horsley was passed at the last meeting on the death of Sir Victor Horsley, who has for many years been a trustee of the society. It was decided to continue to accept new members holding temporary commissions in the R.A.M.C., and to insure them against war risks, within certain limits, without payment of any extra premium. Members of the profession over military age and between the ages of 45 and 55 can insure in the society against sickness and accident and life assurance at rates which compare favourably with the terms offered by other companies for the same benefits. All inquiries should be addressed to the Secretary, Medical Sickness and Accident Society, 300, High Holborn, London, W.C.