

but oral administration is useless. Two cases may be cited in support of this view.

1. E. M., suffering from pneumococcal meningitis, was given 30 grains of hexamine one hour before lumbar puncture. The cerebro-spinal fluid was turbid, reaction neutral; it contained no hexamine or formaldehyde. (Rimini-Burnam test.)

2. D. H., suffering from meningococcal meningitis, was given 50 grains of hexamine. Lumbar puncture one hour later. Cerebro-spinal fluid turbid, acid reaction; it contained neither hexamine nor formaldehyde.

In reading reports of cranial and spinal injuries sustained during the present war one frequently encounters the statement that "hexamine was given," but an opinion is seldom expressed as to the value of such treatment. The matter can be settled only by further investigations along the lines indicated above.

I am indebted to Dr. John Thomson and to Dr. W. G. Porter for their permission to record the cases.

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Memoranda:

MEDICAL, SURGICAL, OBSTETRICAL.

CERTAIN BODIES FOUND IN THE URINE IN CASES OF TRENCH NEPHRITIS.

In the centrifuged deposit of the urines of twenty-five cases of trench nephritis treated at this hospital peculiar and distinctive bodies were discovered by our laboratory assistant, Mr. Mann. These bodies had the following characters:

The most striking consisted of three circular cells arranged somewhat in the form of a pair of spectacles. They were of a greenish or greenish-yellow colour. The individual cells measured about 26μ in diameter, but the combined three when joined together measured only 60μ in their greatest diameter, as they were superimposed or overlapped. The general outline was constant; in other words, each retained its original position. The contents were granular, with at times a nucleus circular in outline situated slightly out of the centre of the cell.

The second form met with was a circular granular body having all the characters of the laterally-placed bodies above described. This measured exactly the same as the individual cells described above. No doubt this was a free form.

The third form was an irregularly granular body with an indistinct outline, and probably this represents a degenerated form of the second form or the central cell of the first. From the second form distinct pseudopodic projections were seen.

In order to eliminate accidental contamination catheter specimens were taken in sterilized flasks from some of the patients.

A number of urines from other diseases were centrifuged and examined but no similar cells were found.

We are indebted to Dr. Coles of Bournemouth for much assistance.

Mont Dore Military Hospital,
Bournemouth.

A. R. FRIEL,
J. DRUMMOND,
Captains S.A.M.C.

THE VALUE OF A MILK DIET PRIOR TO THE USE OF KHARSIVAN OR SALVARSAN.

The following figures show, I think, that if a person to whom salvarsan or kharsivan is to be given is put on a milk diet for a period of twenty-four hours prior to the operation, the toxic effects of the drug are reduced to a minimum, and the patient suffers little or no discomfort.

Prior to the routine use of milk in all these cases, the majority of the venereal patients in the Union Hospital, Gateshead, were on an ordinary diet unless they were so ill that they could not take it, when, as a general rule, their diet consisted solely of milk.

My attention was drawn to the possible value of this diet one day when I saw five patients to whom salvarsan had been given the previous day. Of the five, two who had

had milk only had no toxic effects whatever, whilst the other three, who were on ordinary diet, were really ill. The same thing occurred in the case of four women shortly afterwards. Two on milk were very comfortable, while the other two, on ordinary diet, had vomiting and diarrhoea. We then tried the effect of milk in all cases, and the results in the first 100 injections are given below. The procedure was to give four pints of milk only for twenty-four hours prior to the injection and an ordinary diet afterwards. In some cases patients had a full dinner a few minutes after the injection with no ill effects.

The usual toxic results that we had previously met with were (1) persistent headache; (2) vomiting; (3) diarrhoea; (4) rigors; (5) albuminuria. Of the patients on milk diet, in 77 there were no toxic effects; of the remaining 23 all had headache and 19 of them vomited—1 six times, 2 four times, 6 three times, 8 twice, and 2 once. Of those who vomited, 9 had diarrhoea also, and so had 3 of the remaining 4; 1 patient had albuminuria; there were no rigors.

Prior to the use of the milk one might say that every patient complained of headache to a greater or less extent, whilst the same might be said of vomiting.

LIONEL L. WESTROPE, M.D.,
Medical Officer.

Union Hospital, Gateshead-on-Tyne.

THE PREVENTION OF GALL STONES.

WHEN a sufferer from the agonizing attacks of gall stones asks his medical adviser what he can do to prevent other attacks, he usually receives the conventional answer that he must diet himself, take active exercise, and a course of alterative medicine, such as sodium phosphate. I believe these methods are quite useless. Stone in the gall bladder is, like stone in the urinary bladder, caused by the bladder not being completely emptied each day, and the unexpelled residue decomposes and precipitates the solid matter of which the stone is composed.

It is common knowledge that the best way to prevent urinary stone is to make sure that the bladder is completely emptied daily, and if necessary the patient must use a catheter for that purpose. To prevent gall stones from forming it is just as essential to empty the gall bladder completely each day. The method is to make pressure over the gall bladder in the early morning, before breakfast, with the round end of a dumb-bell weighing 12 lb. The gall bladder is usually full in the early morning, and, with gentle pressure at first, the contents can be heard escaping with a characteristic gurgle, and by increasing the pressure and a sort of rolling movement from the fundus towards the neck, the whole of the contents are pressed out. It is as well to keep to the right of the abdominal middle line and to avoid pressing on the aorta, as such pressure constantly repeated might do harm.

I feel almost inclined to rename the gall bladder the "castor-oil gland," for the expression of the gall bladder mucus is always followed within half an hour by an action as grateful as would be produced by half an ounce of the oil. At the commencement of this method there may be in the gall bladder lumps of thickened mucus or concretions, and there would then be some discomfort as they passed along the duct, but in a few days, when this debris has been cleared out, the patient, who may have long suffered from agonizing attacks of gall stones for years, will begin to experience peace in his epigastrium.

Any one may easily learn to practise this method on himself, but it should never be used during the course of an attack; then a rubber hot water bag and morphine are the best treatment.

Sunderland.

THOS. A. WATSON, M.B., C.M.

MR. ALFRED GRACE, M.R.C.S., L.S.A., of Chipping Sodbury, Gloucestershire, brother of W. G. Grace the famous cricketer, left estate valued at, £2,134 gross, with net personalty £1,089.

STATISTICS collected by the American National Association for the Study and Prevention of Tuberculosis show that there are now nearly 3,000 agencies engaged in the fight against tuberculosis in the United States. The list includes 557 sanatoriums and hospitals, 158 tuberculosis boarding houses, 90 hospitals for the insane, 35 penal institutions making special provision for tuberculosis, 455 dispensaries, 310 open-air schools, and 1,324 anti-tuberculosis associations and committees.

but his wife's death affected him deeply. The funeral, which took place on September 19th at Lymm Parish Church, Cheshire, was attended by a large number of friends and by representatives of institutions with which Dr. Adams was connected.

THE LATE MR. KEOGH MURPHY.—Dr. John J. Blagden (Chester) has sent us the following appreciation of Mr. Keogh Murphy, supplementing the obituary notice which appeared in the *BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL* of September 23rd:

He was an ardent Freemason, was a Past Master of the Carthusian Lodge, and attained the coveted dignity of office in the Grand Lodge of England. A long list of academic honours gives but a poor idea of the man himself. "Pat Murphy" was certainly one of the cheeriest and most deservedly popular men of his time at Cambridge and in any other society of people into whose companionship he came. Gifted with far more genuine eloquence than is regarded as being an attribute of his race, with manners of unusual charm, with obvious sympathy with others, and with a delightfully ready wit and a sense of droll humour that is rarely equalled, he was an exceptional and delightful personality. Add to these qualities his undoubted skill in his professional work. He was ambidextrous to the extent that he held his scalpel when operating in his right or left hand with equal facility. As a staff surgeon in the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve he served in the Hospital Ship *Soudan* in the North Sea from August, 1914; then in Gallipoli, and finally in the Royal Naval Hospital at Stenhouse, where he died in harness. He leaves a widow and an only son—a cadet at the Royal Military College, Wellington, Madras.

Universities and Colleges.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF LONDON.
A COMITIA was held on September 21st, Dr. Frederick Taylor, the President, being in the chair.

Committee of Reference (War).

Arising out of a resolution passed by the Committee of Reference at its meeting on September 14th, the following resolution was proposed by the Second Censor (Dr. W. Pasteur), seconded by the Third Censor (Dr. Sidney Martin), and carried:

The College authorizes its representatives in the Committee of Reference to consider in that committee and, if necessary, in conjunction with other parties, urgent medical questions arising out of the war, such as the treatment of disabled soldiers, and, when necessary, to advise the Government thereupon, the President undertaking to report from time to time to the College.

The President then dissolved the Comitia.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.
AN Extraordinary Council was held on September 22nd, when Sir Watson Cheyne, President, was in the chair.

Resolution of the Committee of Reference.

A memorandum from the Chairman of the Committee of Reference was considered, and the following resolution was adopted:

That the College authorize its representatives on the Committee of Reference to consider in that committee, and, if necessary, in conjunction with other bodies, urgent medical questions arising out of the war, such as the treatment of disabled soldiers; and, when necessary, to advise the Government thereupon, the Committee undertaking to report from time to time to the College.

KING'S COLLEGE HOSPITAL MEDICAL SCHOOL.

ROLL OF HONOUR.

THE Dean would be glad to receive as soon as possible the names of past and present members of the medical school who are serving in H.M. Forces, together with details of rank and regiment and of any honours which have been awarded, in order that the roll of honour may be brought up to date.

The Services.

INDIAN MEDICAL SERVICE.

THE Secretary of State for India has decided that any officer appointed by nomination to the Indian Medical Service during the present suspension of appointments by competitive examination shall be allowed to count:

1. *As service for pension.*—Any service rendered by him during the present war as a medical or combatant officer or in a position usually filled by an officer.

2. *As service for promotion.*—Any service rendered after July 16th, 1915, which counts for pension under 1.

The reason for confining the service specially counting for promotion to service rendered after July 16th, 1915, is that this condition is necessary in order to prevent officers appointed by nomination during the suspension of

appointments by competitive examination from obtaining seniority over those previously appointed by competitive examination.

It will be remembered that nominations are made by the Secretary of State for India on the advice of a selection committee; applicants must be over 21 and under 32 years of age. Full particulars can be obtained from the Secretary, Military Department, India Office, S.W.

EXCHANGES.

LIEUTENANT R.A.M.C., at present in field ambulance attached to regular division in France, would like to exchange with officer in base hospital, casualty clearing station, or hospital train. Address No. 3900, *BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL*, 429, Strand, W.C.

M.O. (Territorial), attached artillery unit eighteen months in the line, is desirous of effecting an exchange with R.A.M.C. officer on home service. Hospital work in London preferred. Address No. 3800, *BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL* Office, 429, Strand, W.C.

Regimental M.O. to an infantry service battalion in Egypt desires to exchange with M.O. in France or England. Address care of 53, Stramongate, Kendal.

M.O., second line unit, home services, wishes to exchange regimental M.O. abroad or unit under orders for abroad. Address No. 3898, *BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL* Office, 429, Strand, W.C.

Medical News.

SUMMER time is to be abandoned at 2 a.m. Greenwich time on Sunday, October 1st; that is to say, clocks which were altered to summer time must be stopped, or put back one hour or put on eleven hours, before the working hours of Monday begin.

THE session of the faculty of medicine in the University of Leeds will be opened on Monday next. The Honourable Rupert Beckett will deliver an address at 4 p.m. in the School of Medicine.

THE late Mr. Morton A. Smale left estate valued at £14,800. He bequeathed £1,000 to the Royal Dental Hospital, Leicester Square, for the payment of any debt or for providing poor patients with artificial teeth.

THE first meeting of the section of obstetrics and gynaecology of the Royal Society of Medicine will be held on Thursday next at 8 p.m. At the meeting of the section on November 2nd a discussion on the need for improvement in the care of pregnant women will be opened by Dr. S. G. Moore, M.O.H. Huddersfield, and continued by, among others, Drs. Amand Routh and Comyns Berkeley, and Lady Barrett.

A SPECIAL exhibition, illustrating the folklore of London, will be opened at the Wellcome Historical Medical Museum (54A, Wigmore Street, Cavendish Square, W.) on Monday next. The collection has been formed by Mr. Edward Lovett of Croydon, and consists of medical charms, amulets, and other objects used to avert disease, to ward off evil and to bring good fortune. The exhibition will be open daily from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., except on Saturdays, when it will close at 1 p.m.

THE Lord Mayor of London announces that the council of the Lord Kitchener National Memorial Fund has resolved to found a number of scholarships to enable young Britons destined for a commercial career to study, travel, and gain business experience in the countries of the allied nations. The intention is that those elected to hold scholarships should begin their studies immediately, and should receive instruction in Russian, French, Italian, and other languages, in economics, and in offices or factories, and that immediately after the close of the war they should be sent for a year to travel in one or other of the allied countries in order to obtain a close familiarity with its language and an intimate knowledge of its commercial methods, needs, and opportunities.

THE committee for the British Prisoners of War Book Scheme has now been constituted, with Mr. A. T. Davies, of the Board of Education, as chairman, and Rear-Admiral J. F. Parry, C.B., hydrographer to the navy, as treasurer. The principal examiner to the Board of Trade (marine department) reported that nineteen candidates presented themselves at a recent examination at the camp at Groningen for the second mate and other certificates, and all passed in a highly creditable manner. This fact bears testimony to the value of the opportunities for self-improvement afforded at the camp. Further classes are now being formed, and evidence is coming in from camps as far distant as Asia Minor of considerable development in the organization of educational work among the men interned there. The committee appeals to the public to continue to help by offering suitable books, new or second-hand. Full particulars of the class of books needed can be obtained on application to Mr. A. T. Davies at the Board of Education, Whitehall, S.W.