

Edinburgh University, where he graduated M.D. in 1860. There was no Ettles Scholarship in his day to mark out the "best man of the year," but Dr. Ballantyne had offered to him the residentship at Morningside, and that was in the opinion of many the equivalent of the later distinction. He served a strenuous seven years with Dr. Anderson of Selkirk, then one of the best known practitioners in the south of Scotland. In his Presidential Address to the Edinburgh Obstetrical Society in 1896, Dr. Ballantyne threw an illuminating sidelight upon obstetric practice in the country districts then, telling how, when summoned to a case of labour at a great distance from head quarters, he jumped into the saddle provided with a 6 oz. bottle of chloroform, some ergot, a pair of Simpson's forceps, and a catheter, and felt ready for any of the usual varieties of labour. So great a benefit had chloroform brought to the country doctor in the early Sixties of the past century.

From Selkirk Ballantyne went to Vienna, where he spent more than a year in post-graduate work, and formed one of a little coterie of Britishers there, with each of whom he maintained in after-years a continuous friendship. One of them was Sir Thomas Lauder Brunton, whose recent death was felt with keen regret by Dr. Ballantyne. Ultimately Ballantyne settled in his own town of Dalkeith, taking over the practice of Dr. Bryce, who was then moving into Edinburgh. There for more than forty years he carried on a practice which was by no means confined to Dalkeith, but extended itself several miles around, and did not even halt at the toll gates of Edinburgh. It was not only the medical needs (in the old sense) of Dalkeith to which Alexander Ballantyne attended, for he was fired by the newer notions of prevention, and as medical officer of health he did much to drive epidemics from their hunting grounds in many of the narrow wynds that branch off the High Street of Dalkeith. He had a keen appreciation of music, and, with his wife, had much to do with the foundation of the Dalkeith Philharmonic Society, and was also a director of the Dalkeith Scientific Association; he was surgeon-lieutenant-colonel to the 6th Battalion of the Royal Scots, which, as an old Volunteer regiment, had its station in the town, and he held numerous other appointments, including that of visiting doctor at the Dalkeith Combination Poorhouse; and he was made a Justice of the Peace for Midlothian in 1898. On two occasions his fellow-townsmen and patients made him a presentation, the first being on his and Mrs. Ballantyne's silver wedding in 1893 and the second in 1911, when he retired from practice.

Medical Edinburgh, also, was not unappreciative of the good work which Dr. Ballantyne was carrying on some six miles to the south of it, and the presidentship of the Obstetrical Society and that of the Harveian were two of the honours which served to emphasize the professional esteem in which he was held. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh in 1877, and at his death he was far up in seniority on the list. He was also an ex-president of the Edinburgh Branch of the British Medical Association. After his retirement in 1911, Dr. Ballantyne resided at Orfordholme, in Gullane, where he was able until a few weeks ago to enjoy to the full his favourite recreation of golfing. During the past fortnight he suffered from attacks of angina pectoris, and the cardiac affection, which he had had for some years without much inconvenience, proved fatal on October 3rd.

Dr. Ballantyne was not often to be tempted to put pen to paper, his modesty preventing him many times; but his two presidential addresses to the Edinburgh Obstetrical Society and his article on a case of tetanus treated by chloral, published in the *Lancet* early in 1870, are well worth perusal.

Dr. Ballantyne is survived by his widow and by two sons, one of whom, Dr. Harold Ballantyne, is his successor in the practice at Dalkeith. His third son, Commander Ernest Ballantyne, went down with his ship, H.M.S. *Viknor*, in the early months of the war. Dr. J. W. Ballantyne of Edinburgh is the son of Dr. Ballantyne's elder brother. The funeral from Gullane to the New Cemetery at Dalkeith took place on Friday, October 6th, and, although the weather was inclement in the extreme, it was attended by many friends both from Edinburgh and Dalkeith, as well as by the Provost, magistrates, and councillors of Dalkeith.

The Services.

EXCHANGES.

MAJOR R.A.M.C.(T.F.), sixteen months in France, at present serving with a casualty clearing station, desires to exchange with an officer of similar rank at home. Address No. 4100, BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL Office, 429, Strand, W.C.

Captain R.A.M.C.(T.) attached to Staff of General Hospital, B.E.F., France, offering ample scope for surgical work, desires exchange with Territorial Officer at home, preferably stationed in or near London, or Eastern Command. Please state full particulars as to unit, station, and duties in confidence to No. 4000, BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL Office, 429, Strand.

M.O. (Territorial), attached infantry battalion now serving in Ireland, wishes to exchange for foreign service. Address No. 4099, BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL Office, 429, Strand, W.C.

Universities and Colleges.

REVIEW OF EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

THE following are the terms of reference to the subcommittee of the Reconstruction Committee, which is to review various aspects of the education problem:

"To consider the system of education as a whole; to review and formulate from that point of view proposals for developing it, particularly in directions indicated as desirable or necessary by experience gained during the war, and with special reference to:

"(a) Proposals prepared before the war for the development of the national system of education;

"(b) The memoranda already submitted by the Education Departments for the consideration of the Reconstruction Committee;

"(c) Any proposals submitted hereafter from the Departments, or from special Committees, or from other responsible organizations;

and to recommend from time to time such action, whether by way of legislation or otherwise, as may be practicable."

The chairman is the Lord President of the Council (the Marquess of Crewe).

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD.

SCIENCE AND EDUCATION.

In convocation at Oxford on October 7th the Dean of Christ Church in beginning his fourth and final year of office as Vice-Chancellor said that 10,500 members of the university were serving with the navy and army and nearly 500 were in Government employment in other ways. There had been awarded to members of the university 9 Victoria Crosses, 120 D.S.O.'s, 267 Military Crosses, 4 Distinguished Conduct Medals, 2 Distinguished Service Crosses, 48 foreign orders, and 700 had been mentioned in dispatches; 1,230 were reported killed and 103 missing.

He then went on to consider the statute concerning the Honour School of Chemistry, which he described as an attempt on the part of the university to meet one of the educational needs the war had brought to notice. The past neglect of the claims of natural science in education must, he said, in some way be remedied. It was not necessary merely to produce more advanced students of natural science, but to ensure that all students should be brought in some degree to understand the scientific point of view. This would not be easy, for it would mean a great psychological change in the nation, which would have to give up its profound distrust of expert knowledge. At the same time he hoped that there would be no attempt to import German methods and German rigidity of type into British education without serious consideration and deliberate criticism. It had also to be remembered that the majority of the men educated at Oxford would be engaged in the work of the empire—that is to say, administration. For such men the knowledge most necessary of all was the knowledge of men.

UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW.

THE following degrees were conferred on October 9th:

M.B., Ch.B.—J. Stirling, J. MacA. Mackintosh, *Helen Y. Murdoch, J. E. Bannen, J. Beveridge, A. G. Brand, H. D. Brown, W. M. Cameron, A. La B. Clark, D. Clyde, Ann K. Cormack, J. Crerar, R. Cunningham, W. Donald, G. M. Hetherington, A. R. Hill, T. J. Honeyman, J. N. Jamieson, S. Johnstone, Margaret J. T. Leitch, H. E. McCall, D. B. Robertson, J. Steel, H. W. Torrance, R. N. Walker, A. E. Wilson.

* With commendation.

Mr. E. M.M. Dunlop, now on active service, who graduated on July 19th, 1916, gained the Brunton Memorial Prize of £10, awarded to the most distinguished graduate in medicine of the year.

THE Lord Mayor has convened a conference of municipal and hospital authorities, and representatives of religious, educational, and social organizations, at the Mansion House, on October 24th, to consider the steps which should be taken in London to provide facilities for the treatment of venereal diseases in accordance with the recommendations of the Royal Commission.

Medical News.

At the meeting of the Royal Microscopical Society at 20, Hanover Square, on Wednesday next, at 8 p.m., Mr. H. Pixell Goodrich, D.Sc., and Mr. H. Moseley will read a paper on certain parasites of the mouth in cases of pyorrhoea.

We greatly regret to have to announce the unexpected and almost sudden death of Dr. J. R. Hamilton of Hawick, chairman of the Scottish Committee of the British Medical Association, and until recently a member of the Central Council. We hope to publish a biographical notice in an early issue.

SIR VICTOR HORSLEY by his will left property of the value of £35,595, the net personalty being £30,214. He gave his professional furniture, books, and instruments to such of his children as may enter the medical profession, and, if none, then to the Pathological Department of University College. He directed that a *post-mortem* examination of his body should be made by the pathologist of the National Hospital for the Paralysed and Epileptic, Queen Square, and that his brain and skull should be given and preserved by the Neurological Society of London, and gave the remainder of his body to the museum of University College for the preparation of such specimens as the curator might think fit. The pathologist who made the *post-mortem* examination was to be paid 10 guineas.

A SERIES of demonstrations open to medical students and practitioners and to first-aid and ambulance students, will be given at the Royal College of Surgeons of England, Lincoln's Inn Fields, during October. At 5 p.m. on Mondays, October 16th and 23rd, Mr. Shattock will give demonstrations on wounds and their repair, and on Monday, October 30th, at the same hour, on injuries of arteries. Mr. Colyer will demonstrate fractures of the jaw on Wednesdays, October 18th and 25th, at 5.30 p.m., and dental students are specially invited to attend his demonstrations. A first series of a course of lectures on the anatomy of the human body for first-aid and ambulance students will be given by Professor Arthur Keith, F.R.S., conservator of the museum, at 5 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays during November, beginning on Wednesday, November 1st. The preparations and specimens used for purposes of illustration will be on exhibition from 3 to 5 p.m. on the day of each lecture, and from 10 to 5 p.m. on the following day.

The members of the National Commission on the Birth-rate, whose report was published last June, had an interview on October 6th at the Deanery of St. Paul's with representatives of the English Plaster Makers' Association on the question of the restriction of the sale of certain forms of lead plaster. It may be remembered that after the collection of a good deal of evidence on the use of diachylon plaster for the production of abortion, the British Medical Association, on March 27th, 1906, addressed a letter to the Lord President of the Privy Council urging that one of the most effective measures for preventing the spread of this evil would be to schedule diachylon as a poison under the Pharmacy Act. The Association submitted the evidence on which it had based this opinion and at the same time issued a letter to the press asking it to publish the fact that the use of diachylon internally resulted in paralysis, blindness, insanity, and death. The Association has now addressed a letter to the Marquess of Crewe expressing the pleasure with which it had noticed the interest shown in this matter by the National Council for Public Morals and other bodies as well as the National Commission on the Birth-rate. In view of the importance of the subject the Association urges that its suggestion to schedule diachylon as a poison should be taken into consideration by the Privy Council at an early date, with a view to the substance being included in the schedule of the Pharmacy Act.

OCTOBER 12TH was the anniversary of the execution of Nurse Edith Cavell by the Germans in Brussels. A scheme to perpetuate her memory by establishing a home of rest for nurses—a plan which she had herself hoped to carry out—has been matured with the approval of her family, and a freehold house, standing in about three and a half acres of ground in a suitable locality, which will deal with the needs of about a hundred nurses yearly, has been offered to her sister as a gift. A committee has been formed to raise a fund sufficient for its permanent endowment. The chairmen of the committee are Sir Richard Temple and Prince Alexander of Teck, and among the members are Sir Havelock Charles, Sir Dyce Duckworth, Sir Douglas Powell, Sir Henry Morris, Sir Frederick Treves, Sir Seymour Sharkey, Sir Cooper Perry, and Sir William Bennett. Contributions, which may be sent to

the honorary treasurer, Mr. Charles Campbell McLeod, 10, Lime Street, London, E.C., are invited. A hospital to Nurse Cavell's memory was opened in Paris on October 12th; it contains 100 beds, placed at the disposal of the army. The chief surgeon is Professor Hartmann, and Madame Curie is in charge of the radiographic department. Associated with the hospital is an institution for the training of hospital nurses. On the same day a memorial to Nurse Cavell was unveiled by the Mayor of Shoreditch and the Right Hon. Christopher Addison, M.P., in the nurses' dining-room at Shoreditch Infirmary, where she was at one time assistant matron.

Letters, Notes, and Answers.

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

QUERIES.

INCOME TAX.

1598 is interested in the dissolution and reconstitution of a partnership, and inquires how the tax charged should be divided between the past and present members of the firm.

* * Inasmuch as the persons concerned may be entitled to different allowances and may be liable to tax at different rates, it is unsafe to divide the duty for the year proportionately. The only satisfactory method is to divide the "gross" assessment in that manner, and for the partners to pay their shares on those proportions as reduced by their appropriate allowances. Taking the assessment to be £1,000 and the date of change in the constitution of the partnership to be August 5th, 1916, this division would work out as follows:

A.— $\frac{1}{2}$ of £1,000	£625
B.— $\frac{1}{2}$ of $\frac{1}{2}$ of £1,000	£125
C.— $\frac{1}{2}$ of $\frac{1}{2}$ of £1,000	£250

The surveyor of taxes will probably insist that the assessment itself cannot be divided, but he may be able to assist in the calculation of the respective amounts into which the duty so charged should be divided, a point which is worth bearing in mind, as one partner is not in a position to know whether the allowances have been correctly made for the other persons affected.

NAEVI OF THE FACE.

L. G. N. asks for advice as to the treatment of capillary naevi on an infant's face.

* * The treatment depends upon the size, the shape, and the part attacked. If the naevi are very small, electrolysis or the galvano-cautery are proper methods. If they cover a large area, radium is the best treatment. Ionization is useless.

LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.

IMPORTATION OF SALICYLATES.

THE President of the Board of Trade has given the following statistics for 1913, the only year for which they were available, of the actual declarations of importers showing the amount of salicylates imported in that year:

	Total Imports.	Imports from Germany.
Salicylic acid	£10,703	£10,375
Sodium salicylate	£16,147	£15,264
Acetyl salicylate	£3,518	£3,376
Aspirin	£20,096	£19,974

Quantities could only be given in the case of sodium salicylate, of which 2,385 cwt. were declared, including 2,305 cwt. from Germany. Salicylates are not separately recorded in the import statistics; they are entered under the head of "chemicals and drugs unenumerated."

SCALE OF CHARGES FOR ADVERTISEMENTS IN THE BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL.

	£	s.	d.
Seven lines and under ... ..	...	0	5
Each additional line ... ..	...	0	8
A whole column ... ..	...	3	10
A page ... ..	...	10	0

An average line contains six words.

All remittances by Post Office Orders must be made payable to the British Medical Association at the General Post Office, London. No responsibility will be accepted for any such remittance not so safeguarded.

Advertisements should be delivered, addressed to the Manager, 423, Strand, London, not later than the first post on Wednesday morning preceding publication, and, if not paid for at the time, should be accompanied by a reference.

NOTE.—It is against the rules of the Post Office to receive *poste restante* letters addressed either in initials or numbers.