

the exceeding abundance of haemorrhages in the omentum and on the surface of the peritoneum, which were splashed all over with bright red maculae; these were abundant also in the mesentery, especially close to its attachment to the gut. There were a few petechial haemorrhages in the pericardium, especially round the origin of the great vessels, and a few in both the visceral and parietal pleurae. The liver weighed only 29 oz.; it was dark red in colour, mottled with splotches of a yellowish tint, which were slightly raised above the surrounding tissue. Microscopical examination showed that these were patches of degenerating liver cells, and that the darker tissue was composed of connective tissue fibres, debris, and inflammatory cells. The bile ducts were patent and the gall bladder natural. The kidneys were soft and dark in colour, with a slightly yellow tinge; under the microscope they showed an abundance of fatty degeneration.

There were no cerebral or meningeal haemorrhages.

The history and the course of the illness are those of an acute toxæmic jaundice, non-obstructive in character, for her motions contained plenty of bile pigments. In view of the fact that T.N.T. frequently causes anaemia, it is of interest to record that she did not appear to be anaemic, and that her red blood corpuscles numbered 5,000,000 per c.mm. and the haemoglobin was 90 per cent. It is also of interest, in view of the profuse omental and mesenteric haemorrhages, to record that her red blood corpuscles showed an abnormal resistance to solutions of sodium chloride, unlike the abnormal fragility in many cases of haemolytic jaundice. In fact, in this respect her corpuscles behaved just as do those of patients who are the subjects of ordinary obstructive jaundice. Clinically, the most striking feature of the case was the suddenness of the onset of the fatal symptoms; less than two days before her death she seemed to be in good condition, without any serious symptoms pointing to a grave prognosis. Yet it is obvious from the condition of her liver at the time of the post-mortem examination that the toxæmia had already robbed her of any chance of survival.

REFERENCE.
1 *Lancet*, February 19th, 1916.

Memoranda:

MEDICAL, SURGICAL, OBSTETRICAL.

HEXAMINE IN ACUTE ANTERIOR POLIO-MYELITIS.

In the *JOURNAL* of September 30th Dr. Douglas Guthrie records two cases of meningitis in which hexamine was given. He comes to the conclusion that the administration of the drug by the mouth is useless. The following sporadic case of poliomyelitis is interesting with regard to this point.

A. B., aged 11, went to bed quite well on the night of July 8th, 1914. Next morning he complained of much difficulty in walking and slight pain in the legs. I saw him about midday; he was then acutely ill, with a temperature of 104°. There was marked weakness of both legs but no affection of the joints. Hexamine, in 10-grain doses every four hours, was prescribed. On July 10th the temperature was lower but the paralysis was more marked, the patient being quite unable to move the left and only very slightly the right leg. When seen on July 11th there was a distinct improvement in the paralysis and the temperature was normal, but in the evening, after 150 grains in all of hexamine had been given, haematuria with considerable strangury occurred. The hexamine was stopped and an alkaline mixture given. By July 14th the paralysis had completely cleared but the renal symptoms continued, finally disappearing in about another week.

Here, I think, there is an example of hexamine being of value, particularly if it be remembered that complete recovery in sporadic cases is extremely rare.

N. FOX EDWARDS, M.B., Ch.B. Vict.

Broseley, Shropshire.

A SIMPLE ASEPTIC WAY OF PERFORMING VACCINATION.

It is common to see patients suffering from a so-called "bad arm" after vaccination. The various degrees of inflammation, from a mildly septic arm to those serious

cases, fortunately rare, of septic poisoning, are so well known that a description is unnecessary.

The following is a simple method that I have employed with good results on recruits:

1. The patient's arm is first thoroughly rubbed by an orderly with methylated spirit to disinfect the skin.

2. A tube of calf lymph is taken and one end broken off; the broken end is held for a moment in the flame to sterilize it, as it may touch the patient's skin during the operation. A lighted match is then applied to the other end of the tube of lymph, which always contains an air bubble. The heat of this causes the air to expand, and, if held over the patient's arm, it blows the lymph on to the arm.

3. A needle is taken with a point that has been slightly blunted, and held for a moment in the spirit flame to sterilize it. The lymph is spread from the drop on the patient's arm with the sterile needle to as many points as it is desired to vaccinate, usually four. The skin is then scratched by the needle sufficiently to draw a little of the patient's lymph but not sufficiently to draw blood.

4. A pad of sterile white gauze is immediately and firmly strapped on in the following way:—A towel wrung out in 1 in 40 carbolic is spread out on a table, and on it is a roll of sterile gauze ten yards long. A piece of gauze is cut off and folded twice or three times, and applied to the patient's arm in such a way that the inside of the gauze comes next his skin, and no part which has been touched by the operator's fingers lies near the vaccination wounds. Then a strip of 1 in. self-adhesive plaster is wound round and round the arm over the dressing to keep it secure.

5. The patient is told on no account to let the dressing get loose, and to have it dressed immediately should it show signs of slipping. He is ordered light work not necessitating using his arm, and he is directed to come up in five days. The second and any subsequent dressings are of boric lint.

The results were as follows: Of the first eighty-five patients eighty-one took; no really bad arms were observed; four slightly inflamed arms became normal after one or two boric fomentations. It appeared that the gauze had been used rather too sparingly, and the strapping had in some cases only been put on in strips instead of being wound round the arm, and in some cases the dressings had got loose.

In the next batch there were forty-five men. In these rather more gauze was used as a dressing, and the strapping was carefully wound round and round the arm over the gauze; out of these, forty-four took. Not a single case needed a boracic fomentation.

This method sounds rather laborious, but with a little method it is not so. The 180 men took 231 minutes to vaccinate, or well under two minutes each. Each roll of gauze ten yards long sufficed for from twenty-five to thirty men, so that the expense was not great.

The conclusions drawn are that every bad arm following vaccination is really a septic arm, that these simple aseptic precautions are effective, and that they do not prevent the arm taking properly.

Bournemouth.

ECHLIN S. MOLYNEUX,
Lieut. R.A.M.C.

Reports of Societies.

SANITATION OF CAMPS.

At a meeting of the Section of Epidemiology and State Medicine of the Royal Society of Medicine on October 27th, Lieutenant-Colonel Sir SHIRLEY F. MURPHY, R.A.M.C., in the chair, Captain C. G. Moor, City of London Sanitary Company, R.A.M.C.T., read a paper on army sanitation at a base camp. After describing the organization of a sanitary section, Captain Moor dwelt upon certain aspects of sanitary work at a base. In the case of water supplies he advocated double sterilization, the source of supply being treated, in co-operation with the civil authorities, and the water bottles of the men being also systematically dealt with. In the disposal of manure he had found that the most satisfactory plan was to construct a narrow gauge tram line to the yard, a convenient gauge being 18 in., and the weight of rails 12 lb. to 18 lb. Sleepers should be placed not more than 2 ft. apart, and properly packed. By this method manure could easily be removed to a distance of a mile or a mile and a half from the camp. When, as often happened, it was necessary to burn the manure, this was best carried out by means of a cross trench incinerator. A good method of keeping down flies from collections of manure accumulated under conditions rendering either burning or close packing impracticable

has written a small handbook on poultry keeping called *Winter Eggs*; there is a preface by the Principal of the Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester, which says the book is a thoroughly practical guide. Now, this book contains a great deal about balanced diets, and how to work them out; it would not be right that children should be less wisely fed than chickens.

It will be agreed that it is the province of the house-keeper to see that the meals are suitably composed, skilfully cooked, and invitingly served.

The cost of dietary is not calculated, partly because a great deal of the food would come from the garden, which every school should have; even at Dotlieboys Hall there was a garden. The solution of the ventilation problem lies not in cubic feet or electric fans but in open-air life. If goats are not kept, cow's milk will have to be bought; in that case to kill any tubercle bacilli present it should be heated to 140° F. and kept at that temperature for twenty minutes; this will not injure the milk, nor, unfortunately, spore-bearing microbes.—I am, etc.,

London, W.

J. S.

THE CLERGY AS HEALTH MISSIONARIES.

SIR,—I feel that I must take some exception to your statement that the clergy, as a body, do not display much interest in health problems.

In the city of Durham, where there is much slum property, the Dean and Chapter paid a good sum for an inspection of the slum property of the town by an expert. The report he drew up was presented to the corporation, who ignored it for many years.

The late Canon Body worked hard amongst all classes in the city and county of Durham when small-pox was rife. He also threw himself into every movement for the improvement of the conditions of the working classes, and was president of a Citizens' League, which provided a lady health visitor, years before the Durham Corporation would undertake such work. The Archdeacon of Durham has always interested himself in social matters, especially in the need of better houses for the working classes. It is only a few years ago that a very long and comprehensive report on the housing question was brought before the Durham Diocesan Conference, when Canon Moore Ede (now Dean of Worcester) was an energetic member of that body.

The late Bishop Tucker of Uganda, when a curate in Durham city, knew much of its slums. Coming back to Durham as a canon, he threw himself into every movement for doing some good to the slum property, and was president for a few years of the Citizens' League. Canon Cruikshank succeeded Bishop Tucker as president of the league, and he had done much good in securing better dwellings for the working classes in the city of Winchester before coming to Durham. I think that Canon Carnegie can know nothing of the work done in the county of Durham, or he would not have condemned the clergy in the manner stated.—I am, etc.,

Ruislip, Oct. 29th.

EDWARD JEPSON, M.D.

SOLDIERS AND VENEREAL DISEASES.

SIR,—During the past two years the Liverpool Medical Institution has distributed over 160,000 copies of pamphlets especially written in plain non-technical language for soldiers, warning them of the dangers and disabilities incurred by contracting these avoidable diseases. The army authorities in Egypt have reprinted the tract for their own use. We desire to enlist your support by the insertion of this letter, and invite inquiries for specimen copies from commanding officers, medical officers, chaplains, social workers, and others interested in our soldiers, addressed to the Librarian, The Medical Institution, Liverpool.—I am, etc.,

CHARLES J. MACALISTER,

November 1st.

President.

THE young farmer who shot Dr. Glyn Jones of Llansawel has been found guilty of murder but insane.

DR. THOMAS BUXTON, of Fazeley, Tamworth, left estate valued at £24,173. Subject to several life interests, the whole property is left in trust for the building, endowing, and furnishing of a block of buildings to be known as "Buxton's Homes of Rest."

Universities and Colleges.

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE.

THE number of medical students who have entered Cambridge this year is 25, showing a further falling off from the 41 who entered in 1915, the 64 in 1914, and the 116 in 1913.

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH.

GENERAL COUNCIL.

SIR J. ALFRED EWING, the Vice-Chancellor, presided at the statutory half-yearly meeting of the General Council of the University on October 27th. Mr. J. B. Clark conveyed to the Vice-Chancellor the Council's hearty congratulations on his appointment as Principal, and Sir J. Alfred Ewing, in his reply, took occasion to refer to the University Court, the Senatus, and the General Council as the Three Estates of the University realm, the Council, or Third Estate, being in a sense the most democratic and certainly the most comprehensive.

Among the matters of general interest in the report of the Business Committee was an allusion to the death of the Lord Rector (Lord Kitchener) and to that of the Rev. Canon Hoernlé, M.B., for more than eighteen years a member of the Business Committee; to the Roll of Honour, from which it appeared that over 5,000 men were now serving King and country and 250 had given their lives *pro patria*; to the number of matriculated students (1,811 for 1915-16), which showed the reduction due to the war; to the admission of women to the medical classes, it being stated that, up to October 16th, 176 women had matriculated; to the action which had been taken regarding the Preliminary Examination Ordinance; and to the Ordinance for the degree of Bachelor of Education, the University of Edinburgh being the second British university to institute such a degree. There were two other matters of special medical interest. One was the institution of the Lauder Brunton Prize in Pharmacology and Therapeutics open to senior students of medicine and to graduates of medicine of not more than five years' standing. The other was the presentation of the report of the Business Committee anent the foundation of a chair of tuberculosis in the University, and the draft Ordinance framed by the University Court in connexion therewith. The Council approved the action of the Business Committee and accepted the report.

It was stated in reply to inquiries that the question of the age limit for principal and professors was still being considered by the Senatus and would be by the Business Committee. Committees were also appointed to consider the question of providing a chapel for the University, and to report on the development of the University after the war in respect of finance, research, new degrees, training in social service, relation to the allies (exchange of students and professors), etc.

On the recommendation of the Senatus, it was resolved that the suspension of class prizes other than those specially endowed should be continued during 1916-17.

UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW.

GENERAL COUNCIL.

AT its half-yearly meeting the General Council approved the report of the Joint Committee on the ordinance relative to the foundation of a Chair of Ophthalmology, endowed by a sum of £25,000 bequeathed by Dr. Gavin Paterson Tennent for this purpose. The Vice-Chancellor, Sir Donald MacAlister, said that the benefaction, which to the Western Infirmary and the university amounted with accumulations to nearly £40,000, was designed by the trustees of the university for post-graduate teaching, not for under-graduate teaching, it being recognized that to make an ophthalmic surgeon special study was required after the ordinary medical degree had been taken. If the scheme came to fruition Glasgow would have the opportunity of creating a special school of ophthalmology for practitioners who proposed to become specialists. To accomplish this it would be necessary to have a head, a man of high distinction, and a laboratory, and also to utilize all facilities for clinical study, not only in the Western Infirmary but in all the infirmaries in Glasgow. It would be necessary also to have teachers of subsidiary subjects, and the fund would be able to provide salaries for them, since the amount it would yield would be double that proposed for the professor's salary. In reply to Dr. Leask, he said that a diploma in ophthalmology might well be established later.

At the same meeting a report from the Business Committee was received, expressing general approval of the ordinance for a degree of Bachelor of Education, but suggesting certain modifications.

The same committee reported that the number of graduates and members of the university serving in the military forces of the Crown was 2,806, of whom 1,359 were graduates; 2,243 were commissioned officers, and the honours gained included 13 D.S.O.'s, of which 12 were awarded to members of medical units, and 38 Military Crosses. The losses had unfortunately been heavy—247 killed, 294 wounded, 12 missing, and 4 prisoners of war. Of the women graduates, no fewer than 684 were registered as willing to undertake war work; all save 30 had been employed, and the demand continued.

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF IRELAND.

The following degrees were conferred on October 16th:

M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O.—*T. J. X. Canton, †R. A. Keane, †M. Cooney,
M. J. Burns, V. C. Ellis, B. Lagan, J. MacDermott, P. Magner,
P. D. Murphy, J. J. O'Brien, J. A. O'Tierney, T. J. Richardson,
A. P. Spelman, Teresa J. Walsh.
M.Ch.—H. L. Barniville.

* Passed with first class honours.
† Passed with second class honours.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF LONDON.
A COMITIA was held on October 26th, when Dr. Frederick Taylor, the President, was in the chair.

Admission of Members.

The following candidates, having passed the required examination, were admitted Members of the College; Edgar Douglas Adrian, M.B.Camb., James Froude Flashman, M.D. Sydney, and Charles Putnam Symonds, L.R.C.P.

Licences.

Licences to practise physic were granted to eighty-nine candidates who had passed the necessary examinations.

Resignation and Election of Censor.

A letter was received from Dr. Pasteur resigning the office of Censor, as he was about to proceed to France on military service. Dr. Sidney Phillips was elected Censor.

Veneral Diseases.

The following resolutions were passed:

- That in the opinion of this College administrative measures for the diagnosis and treatment of venereal diseases will only attain their maximum effectiveness in protecting the public health when the treatment of such diseases by unqualified persons is prevented by law.
- That it is desirable that the recommendations (No. III) of the Patent Medicines Committee of the House of Commons, endorsed by the Royal Commission on Venereal Diseases, should at once be carried into effect.
- That a copy of the above resolutions be sent to the Prime Minister, to the Home Secretary, and to the President of the Local Government Board.

Anniversary of the College.

The President drew the attention of the College to the fact that the 400th anniversary of the foundation of the College will occur in 1918.

Reports.

A report dated October 3rd was received from the Committee of Management, which announced (1) that the Grammar School, Ilkley, had been added to the list of institutions recognized by the Examining Board in England for instruction in chemistry and physics; (2) that the University of Allahabad had been added to the list of universities recognized by the Examining Board in England, and that graduates in medicine of the university be admissible to the Final Examination of the Board under the conditions of Paragraph IV, Section III, of the Regulations.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.

A CORRECTION.

In the paragraph announcing the award of Entrance Scholarships to the London Hospital Medical College (JOURNAL, October 28th, p. 607), an unfortunate error occurred. The "Price" Science Scholarship awarded to Mr. R. A. Madgwick was of the value of £100, not £50 as printed.

Public Health

AND

POOR LAW MEDICAL SERVICES.

POOR LAW MEDICAL OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION OF ENGLAND AND WALES.

A COUNCIL meeting of this association was held at the offices, 9, Copthall Avenue, E.C., on October 20th, when Dr. Napper was in the chair.

The Honorary Secretary reported that a provincial member who held a commission in a Territorial regiment had complained that the War Office proposed to deduct from his military pay the salary he was receiving as workhouse medical officer because his infirmary had been taken over by the military authorities, although he was still attending to certain "scattered homes," attendance on which formed part of the duties for which the said salary was paid. The Honorary Secretary had brought the matter before the Central Medical War Committee, and was happy to report that the War Office had decided to permit this member the full benefit of his Poor Law salary.

From communications received with regard to the dispute between the local profession and the Burnley Guardians it appeared that Dr. Campbell, who had been working for the guardians, was about to be called up for military service. The local profession had expressed its willingness to arrange that Dr. Campbell's duties should be carried out provided the guardians reinstated the old district medical officers and public vaccinators, and had undertaken that one half of all the emoluments were to be paid to Dr. Campbell according to the Burnley war scheme, the arrangement to continue for the

duration of the war. It was thought probable that the guardians would accept the arrangement.

In reply to his inquiry a medical superintendent of a large provincial infirmary had been informed that the Poor Law orders did not provide for a holiday, but that sick leave could be claimed if necessary. He had also been informed that he could not claim extra remuneration for soldiers admitted to the infirmary in the place of sick paupers, but that he had the right of appeal to the Local Government Board as to the propriety of their admission.

A case was considered in which a Poor Law medical officer who had been called up for war service had been refused superannuation or even the return of his contributions. The Honorary Secretary had pointed out that the length of time for which he had held office did not entitle to superannuation, but that the guardians had power to return his contributions. While approving this advice the council expressed the opinion that it was a hardship that resignations in such circumstances should be regarded as voluntary, since a Poor Law medical officer was practically compelled to resign in order to serve his country.

The Services.

EXCHANGES.

CAPTAIN R.A.M.C., over eighteen months' foreign service, now in charge of corps troop, desires exchange with M.O. on home station. London or home county hospital preferred. Address No. 4199, BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL Office, 429, Strand, W.C.

M.O., Cyclist, Field Ambulance in Kent, desires exchange (base hospital England or France, or R.M.O. France).—Address No. 4350, BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL Office, 429, Strand, W.C.

Obituary.

DR. H. V. HICKMAN died on October 16th, aged 54, at his residence in Wanstead, Essex, where he had practised for twenty-five years. He was educated at the City of London School and at Guy's Hospital, and took the diplomas of M.R.C.S. and L.R.C.P. in 1890, and the degree of M.B. Lond. in 1891. At Guy's he held the appointments of house-physician and obstetric resident and was subsequently ophthalmic assistant for two years. He represented his hospital at many cup ties in the three-quarter line and held the second for the mile at the inter-hospital sports. He was a member of the British Medical Association and had held the office of chairman of the Walthamstow Division. At the time of his death he was anaesthetist to the Walthamstow Hospital and medical officer to the 5th Battalion Essex (Volunteer) Regiment, in the work of which he took the warmest interest. A man of fearless honesty and intense kindness of heart his death is a very keen sorrow to his colleagues and patients.

WE regret to announce the death of Dr. JOHN THOMAS KNOWLES-JONES which occurred at Bournemouth on October 25th. He was for many years in active practice in Brixton and was much respected by all who came in contact with him. He received his medical education at Guy's Hospital, where he was an obstetric assistant. He took the diplomas of M.R.C.S. and L.S.A. in 1868 and that of M.R.C.P. Irel. in 1899; he graduated M.D. Durh. in 1893. Before settling in Brixton he for some years helped his father in his native town of Llanfyllin, Montgomeryshire. He was senior surgeon to the Brixton Dispensary. He retired from private practice some years ago and spent much time in foreign travel. He continued, however, to take an active interest in his profession and was well versed in the topics of the day. He had recently gone to reside at Bournemouth. He was a staunch Unionist in politics, a keen sportsman, a genial companion, and had a happy power of making friends. As a Welshman he was true to the Principality, as evidenced by his activities in many ways, especially in the Cymmrodorion Society and as one of the governors of the Ashford Schools. He was twice married and leaves a widow. His only son, Dr. Orford Jones, died some years ago in New Zealand.

THE death is announced of Dr. JAMES DUNBAR-BRUNTON, well known in the sporting world for his work *Big Game Hunting in Central Africa* and his *Sportsman's Guide to N.E. Rhodesia*. He was the son of the late Mr. John

Stenhouse Brunton, of Ladhope and Hiltonshill, Roxburghshire, and a nephew of the late Sir Lauder Brunton, Bt. He was educated at the University of Edinburgh, where he took the degrees of M.B., C.M. in 1889 and of M.D. in 1910. After practising in England for a few years Dr. Dunbar-Brunton was sent by the Government to N.E. Rhodesia, where he was appointed district surgeon. It was in Africa that he investigated sleeping sickness and became famed as a big game hunter. In 1912 he set up in practice in Heliopolis, near Cairo, and a few months ago went to France to undertake duties at a base hospital. Unfortunately he was stricken with illness and died in the Lariboisière Hospital, Paris, on September 24th, leaving a widow and one son.

Dr. EMILE LAGRANGE, who died at Leeds on October 4th at the age of 92, had for the last two years of his life been an honoured guest of the St. Chad's Belgian Refugees' Committee. He came of an old Flemish family, and was born at Ypres in 1824. After taking his doctor's degree at Louvain he practised his profession in his native city till the German invasion compelled him to leave. He was on the staff of the Ypres hospital for fifty years, and for his public services during an outbreak of cholera he received the Croix Civique; later the knighthood of the Order of Leopold was conferred upon him. During his long life he has been able to watch the whole course of the development of modern Belgium, and as his faculties remained unimpaired till the end his conversation was most interesting. Dr. Lagrange was an enthusiastic botanist, and he cheered the days of his exile by studying the wild flowers in the neighbourhood of Leeds which were brought to him by his English friends.

Dr. LOUIS VERREY of Lausanne, one of the leading ophthalmologists of Switzerland, who died some time ago, was born at Melun in 1854, and received his preliminary education at Lausanne. He studied medicine first at Erlangen and afterwards at Leipzig, where he took his doctor's degree in 1877. He obtained the federal diploma at Basel in 1879, and studied in London for eighteen months, being admitted a member of the Royal College of Surgeons. On his return to Switzerland he practised for two years at Lausanne, where he was assistant in the Asylum for the Blind. Deciding to devote himself to ophthalmology, he worked under Frederic Homer at Zürich, and then returned to Lausanne, where he got an appointment on the staff of the hospital for diseases of the eye. He qualified as *privat-docent* in 1892, established a clinic, and gained a large private practice, not confined to Lausanne, but extending to Vevey, Yverdon, Fribourg, Vallorbe, Pontarlier, Dôle, and Valence. Such hours as he could snatch from his professional labours he devoted to social and philanthropic work and to music. He was the author of numerous writings on subjects within his special province of practice.

DEPUTY SURGEON-GENERAL CHARLES ROBERTSON, M.D., Madras Medical Service (retired), died at Bridge of Allan, Stirling County, on September 13th, aged 83. He was born on April 16th, 1833, entered the I.M.S. as assistant surgeon on August 4th, 1856, became surgeon on August 4th, 1868, surgeon-major on July 1st, 1873, and brigade surgeon on August 5th, 1884, retiring with a step of honorary rank on December 31st, 1885. He served in the Persian war of 1857, and also in the Indian Mutiny, when he took part in the advance on Allahabad and Cawnpore, the actions of Fatehpur, Pandu Nadi, Cawnpore, Unao, Basiratganj, Manglawar, and the relief of Lucknow, the second defence of Lucknow, the defeat of the Gwalior rebels at Cawnpore, the capture of Lucknow, and the campaign in Oudh.

Dr. FRIEDRICH W. K. VON ILBERG, laryngologist to the Kaiser, died in Berlin on July 9th.

Professor ADOLF WEIL died on July 25th, aged 68. His most famous contribution to medicine were his studies on infectious jaundice, now commonly referred to as Weil's disease.

Medical News.

A STATUE to Robert Koch was recently unveiled in Berlin. It shows him in his working dress.

THE Prime Minister has stated that the number of British civilians killed, drowned, and wounded by the enemy is—Killed or died of wounds or shock, 589; drowned, 3,410; injured, 1,693.

MR. GILBERT BARLING of Birmingham and Dr. W. Pasteur of London are proceeding to the British Expeditionary Force in France in the course of reliefs of consultants.

DR. WILLIAM ALLAN JAMIESON, a former president of the Edinburgh College of Physicians, left personal estate in the United Kingdom valued at £25,077.

A DISCUSSION on maternity and child welfare will take place at a meeting of the Royal Sanitary Institute at the County Council Chamber, Durham, on Saturday, November 11th, at 11 a.m. It will be opened by Dr. Harold Kerr, M.O.H. Newcastle.

IT is stated in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* of October 7th that operations for sterilization have been performed on thirty inmates of the State Home for Feeble-minded, Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin, by Dr. Alfred W. Wilmarth, head of that institution, under the direction of the State Board of Control.

A COMMISSION for the treatment and study of infantile paralysis has been formed at Harvard University. The chairman is Dr. Robert Williamson Lovett, Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery, the other members being Dr. M. J. Rosenau, Professor of Preventive Medicine and Hygiene, and Dr. F. W. Peabody, Assistant Professor of Medicine.

THE council of Epsom College Royal Medical Foundation invite applications for a "Christie" pension of £45 a year, and for two "France" pensions of £30 each a year. Candidates must be members of the medical profession who are not less than 60 years of age, and whose income does not exceed £60 a year. Further particulars and forms of application can be obtained from the Secretary, at the office of the College, 37, Soho Square, W.

THE dearth of medical men in Poland has become so great that their ratio to the rest of the population is as 1 to 40,000. More than half the medical men previously practising in Poland have been called up for military service, and to remedy the resulting deficiency the German authorities have offered various inducements, such as free quarters and bonuses, to medical men willing to settle in the districts where their services are most needed.

IN Germany the stringent army regulations against all forms of quackery have drawn piteous protests from unqualified practitioners of every class. Saxony, the happy hunting ground of the nature healer and the "people's physician," has been flooded with protests against the restrictions on the activities of this motley crowd. In a journal devoted to one of these unqualified specialities it is admitted that even among the "unqualified medical experts" there may be swindlers, but that by the wholesale suppression of unqualified practitioners, the general public is bound to suffer, particularly during the war, which is responsible for the present shortage of qualified practitioners.

THE council of the Incorporated Society of Trained Masseuses (157, Great Portland Street, London, W.) states that it has no connexion with the new Institute of Massage and Remedial Gymnastics recently formed in Manchester. The council expresses its regret that a new examining body in massage should have been established, and that the endeavour of three medical members of the society's advisory board to arrange a conference in Manchester with the committee of the Manchester Institute failed. The Incorporated Society of Trained Masseuses was founded in 1894, and states that it has the active assistance of medical men and women in conducting its examination. The examination in medical electricity instituted by the society since the outbreak of war is entirely conducted by members of the medical profession, who also take part in the other examinations in massage, remedial exercises, and for teachers' certificates. The written part of all examinations is held at local centres, and for years a practical examination has been held in Dublin, and more recently, in response to demands, in Liverpool and Manchester.

WE are informed by the Lord Mayor's Armenian Refugees Fund that Mr. George F. Gracey of Belfast, who has worked in Armenia under the American Mission for many years, was able to organize the retreat of 25,000 unarmed civilians during August from the zone of danger by Lake Van, to a region of safety 150 miles distant, at

Igdiah. During the spring Mr. Gracey had been entrusted by the Russian authorities with the resettlement of the vilayet of Van. The city of that name, which had 80,000 inhabitants, had lost 95 per cent. of its dwellings, and it was while he was engaged in relief work that the Turkish advance to Mush took place. The only available line of retreat was through the Pass of Berki-kala; as this was not guarded by the Russians, Mr. Gracey armed 250 volunteers with rifles, and the pass was seized. The Russians at Van then drew a cordon across the route, and 1,000 refugees were allowed to pass every two hours. The march continued for five days, the average distance covered by the 25,000 refugees, with their 6,000 cattle, being thirty miles a day. The rations were flour and sugar. The final stages of the march lay through waterless plains, but Dr. Macallum and Mr. Backhouse, acting for the Lord Mayor's Fund, arranged for the refugees to be met with soup, bread, water and fodder. The refugees are being resettled in Alexandropol, Erivan, and other districts, now occupied by the Russians.

THE scheme for perpetuating the memory of Nurse Edith Cavell by the establishment of homes of rest for nurses has made progress since we last referred to it. A large council has been formed, and an appeal—the text of which will be found in our advertisement columns—signed by Lady Haig, Lady Jellicoe, Miss Florence Scott Cavell (sister of Miss Edith Cavell), Viscount French, Lord Beresford, the Hon. Arthur Stanley, M.P., and Sir William R. Robertson, has been made for donations. The object of the institution is stated to be the establishment of a home or homes of temporary rest for practising trained women, nurses, and probationers who are, or have been, employed in civil or military hospitals, or in connexion with war, or in any other capacity, and have become temporarily in need of mental or physical rest. A freehold house has been offered at Coombe Head, near Haslemere, which would deal with the needs of about a hundred nurses. It stands in about three and a half acres of good garden and lawn land, about 700 ft. above sea level. It is estimated that the annual maintenance cost will be £1,000, and for the purpose of supplying a permanent income of that amount, and a sum sufficient to convert the building into a home of rest a sum of £30,000 will be required. The chairman of the council is Sir Richard Temple, Bt., C.B., and the treasurer is Mr. C. C. McLeod. Contributions may be sent to the honorary secretary of the Edith Cavell Homes of Rest for Nurses, 25, Victoria Street, Westminster, S.W. We believe there is room for such an institution as Miss Edith Cavell hoped to establish. The life of a nurse is very exacting, and the circumstances of very many of them are such as make it difficult to take much-needed holidays.

Letters, Notes, and Answers.

Authors desiring reprints of their articles published in the **BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL** are requested to communicate with the Office, 429, Strand, W.C., on receipt of proof.

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, 2632, Gerrard. (3) **MEDICAL SECRETARY**, *Mediseera, 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.

W. A. raises a novel and interesting point. Last year he "closed" his practice, "getting a neighbour to look after his interests," and applied for a commission but was rejected. He then took a post as assistant, on the advice of the Central Medical War Committee, and the Revenue authorities claim that he is assessable (1) for two months on his old return and (2) for ten months on his salary as assistant. W. A. claims to deduct his continuing expenses in connexion with his home where his practice was formerly situated, on the ground that they are not expenses in connexion with his present earnings.

W. A.'s position as assistant breaks the continuity of his average, and he is assessable on his actual receipts and is not entitled to deduct therefrom his private expenses elsewhere. The position with regard to the "closed" practice is more difficult. Some of our correspondent's remarks suggest

that he may, in a sense, still be carrying on that practice, through the medium of his neighbour, who has apparently made no profit for W. A. but is looking after his interests. In that event, if W. A. makes an average loss for the three years 1914, 1915, 1916 on that practice, he can set it off against his liability as an assistant. On the other hand, if the ground of claim—that is, that he is still in fact if not in name carrying on a practice—be well founded, he might be liable on an average profit (it all depends on the figures) for twelve months instead of two. On the whole, W. A. may be advised to accept the contention advanced by the Revenue.

LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.

MR. T. A. R. AIYAR, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S. Edin., L.F.P. and S. Glasg. (Sitiawan, Lower Perak, F.M.S.), writes to state that he has obtained good results in acute pulmonary tuberculosis from the administration by the mouth of two grains of sodium cacodylate thrice a day. Toxic symptoms were not observed in any case.

AGENTS' CHARGES.

LOCUM writes protesting against the demand, which he says is now being made by agents from locumtenents, of 5 per cent. upon the salary received, paid monthly. The agent's fee, he states, used to be a guinea or half a guinea, or at most 2½ per cent. Locum suggests that those who seek posts or who require locumtenents should advertise their wants in the medical journals.

A WARNING.

A CORRESPONDENT who has had an unfortunate experience suggests that it would be well to warn medical practitioners engaging locumtenents to insist upon recent references.

CIGARETTE SMOKING AND IRRITABLE HEART.

DR. PHILIP G. BORROWMAN (Edinburgh) writes that his limited experience leads him to believe that the great majority of young men who suffer from irritable heart have for some months been in the habit of smoking a large number of cigarettes, and that on stopping the habit, or even reducing the number of cigarettes, the symptoms disappear. He suggests that the point is worth investigation by medical officers of military hospitals for heart cases.

TREATMENT OF LARYNGEAL TUBERCULOSIS.

MEDICUS writes: In your issue of September 30th I see that Dr. E. Prest expresses the opinion that my case is "a good example of one of the ways in which tuberculin may do harm." I am no expert, and in my original letter I simply gave my own experience. Perhaps a few additional notes as to after-history and present condition may be of interest. I kept rigid silence for nine months, of which four were spent in Madeira—January to June. No treatment of any kind except open air. At the end of the nine months pain and dysphagia having gone, and objective signs being favourable, I was allowed to use my voice in a whisper. The voice remained a whisper for two years. I then, on the advice of my specialist, saw an expert in voice production. A year previously I had been told that I ought to get back some kind of voice, and that my aphonia was then due in a measure to nervousness and disuse, that if I had a fire in the house and had to shout for assistance I would find my voice. I was a doubting Thomas, but I saw the voice expert. Whether it was due to his technique, or hypnotic powers, or both, I know not, but in half a dozen lessons he did give me a voice of sorts, which has remained with me since. Only those who have been deprived of voice can know what it means to regain it so as to be able to hold communion once more with the kindly race of men.

GASTRO-ENTERITIS DUE TO BACILLUS AERTRYCKE VEL

SUIPESTIFER: A CORRECTION.

DR. J. W. MARTIN (Dumfries) calls attention to an error which occurred in his note under this heading in the **JOURNAL** of October 28th (p. 608). The case there reported was treated six weeks before—that is, during this autumn—not six months, as printed.

SCALE OF CHARGES FOR ADVERTISEMENTS IN THE BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL.

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