

Memoranda:

MEDICAL, SURGICAL, OBSTETRICAL.

ANTISTREPTOCOCCUS SERUM IN INFLUENZA.

DURING the month of October, 1918, 26 cases of pneumonia were admitted to my wards at the Bristol Royal Infirmary. Of these, 13 died and 13 recovered.

During the same period of time 53 + 15 cases of influenza, without any pulmonary lesion, were also admitted. Of the first 53 cases 40 recovered after a simple fever, 3 died, without any pulmonary lesion, and 10 developed pneumonia, of whom 6 died and 4 recovered; 23 of these were treated by a vaccine (in doses of from 5 to 30 million) prepared from a *Micrococcus epidemicus* isolated by my colleague Professor Walker Hall, but with no diminution either of the average length of fever or of the liability to pneumonia.

To the last 15 cases antistreptococcal serum was given by hypodermic injection. All recovered, and no pneumonia occurred in any. In many cases a fall of temperature to normal, or but little above, occurred after one dose, in some after two daily doses, whilst in one case three doses were necessary.

The numbers are too few for definite conclusions, but, taken in association with the statement in your editorial article on the etiology of influenza that the organisms "chiefly responsible for the gravity of the secondary pulmonary complications are pneumococci and streptococci," they suggest the advisability of giving antistreptococcal serum in 10 c.cm. doses to all cases of influenza where a high temperature persists into the second day, and of repeating it if necessary in the hope of preventing the occurrence of pneumonia.

I should add that I have not had any good results from the serum in four cases where pneumonia had already developed.

Clifton.

F. H. EDGEWORTH.

HAEMORRHAGE IN INFLUENZA.

In the pandemic which is at present raging the great frequency of haemorrhage from mucous surfaces has been observed by me. Epistaxis is very common in children and adolescents.

Haematemesis is frequent in those cases in which vomiting occurs. Haemoptysis is present in the pneumonic stage, but I have found it in four individuals in whom there was no pneumonia, and all of whom were up and out in a week.

More interesting still is the fact that young girls menstruate before their time, and girls who have never menstruated commence that function during an attack. Women miscarry in many cases, and I have notes of one woman who had a premature infant.

Lastly, I may mention the instance of a married lady who was operated on for uterine carcinoma two years ago. There has been no haemorrhage since until this week, when, in the course of an attack of influenza, violent and alarming bleeding occurred.

JOHN A. McCONNOCHIE, M.B., Ch.B.Glasg.

Glasgow.

DEFLUVIUM CAPILLORUM AFTER INFLUENZA.

DR. ROBERT GIBSON (BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, October 26th) puts the time of occurrence of defluvium as two to three months after the influenza. A patient of mine suffering with influenza at the present time gives a very definite history of a severe previous attack of the same complaint nine years ago, when he was 44 years old, in which his hair began to come out in large quantities whilst he was still in bed about ten days after he had been taken ill; the loss of hair continued during convalescence, and in spite of treatment at the time and subsequently, the hair has never grown again, and he is nearly bald at the present moment.

Cinderford, Glos.

JOHN N. BEADLES, M.B., B.S.Lond.

THE ADMINISTRATION OF ANAESTHETICS TO SOLDIERS.

Two communications have lately appeared in the JOURNAL under the above heading, each recommending some form of apparatus. I wish to express my conviction, founded

on experience since the beginning of the war, that (except when nitrous oxide is required, or when for nose and throat cases a Junker must be used) no apparatus whatever is necessary or desirable beyond a Schimmelbusch mask with two layers of domette. Three drop-bottles, preferably Hewitt's tap pattern, should be at hand, filled respectively with C.E. mixture, ether, and chloroform; and a tube of ethyl chloride may be added. The administration begins with C.E. given slowly at first, and, if rapid loss of consciousness is desired, a little ethyl chloride may be sprayed on the wet mask. Generally the C.E. is continued throughout, changing to ether if stimulation is needed, and to chloroform in opposite circumstances. Chloroform is generally best towards the end of a long operation.

Eastbourne.

H. S. GABBETT, M.D.

ROSACEA SUCCESSFULLY TREATED BY MIXED STAPHYLOCOCCUS VACCINE.

ROSACEA, according to Dr. Norman Walker, consists clinically of an inflammation of the skin—a dermatitis which culminates at certain points in the development of small pustules, although these are not invariably present, as in some cases the dermatitis does not go beyond the papular stage. It affects especially the forehead, nose, cheeks, and chin. The hyperaemia keeps the skin in a constant state of hypernutrition, leading to the development of increased fibrous tissues, evident in the milder cases as simple thickening and in the more severe as those hypertrophic pendulous masses which go by the name of rhinophyma or potato nose.

M. F., a man of temperate habits, came under my care in January, 1918, with what clinically answered this description of rosacea in a somewhat mild form, but nevertheless very intractable, as it had lasted over nine years. The nose, chin, and cheeks were affected. I examined the scalp carefully, but failed to detect any sign of seborrhoea or other irritation which might have brought on this condition. I prescribed an ointment and advised careful attention of the scalp, but the patient begged me to adopt a different line of treatment, as he had been given such remedies elsewhere for years without effect. I thought it worth while to try vaccine treatment, and gave an initial dose of 250 million mixed staphylococcus vaccine. This immediately brought on a reaction, with marked accentuation of the local lesion. The vaccine was pushed, and doses of 500 million organisms were given at weekly intervals for the next five weeks, and during this period the patient made marked progress. Six doses of 1,000 million organisms followed by two of 2,000 million were then administered; at the end (April) the last trace of the lesion had disappeared, and the patient has not at the time of writing (October) had any sign of recurrence. Without presuming to explain the action of the vaccine, I feel justified in attributing the favourable results to its administration.

Leicester.

P. W. LAM, M.D.Edin.

Reviews.

THE TREATMENT OF HYSTERIA.

It is probable that no branch of medicine will be affected more greatly for good by the war than that concerned with the non-organic nervous disorders. A great work is being done in the elucidation of the nature of these conditions here and there throughout the country, and by no one more successfully than by Major A. F. HURST and his co-workers, formerly at Netley and now at the Seale Hayne Military Hospital in Devonshire. Certain aspects of the diagnosis and treatment of non-organic nervous disorders are dealt with fully in a new periodical, *Seale Hayne Neurological Studies*,¹ the first number of which has lately been received. It contains a series of short, practical, and essentially readable papers on various manifestations of hysteria, on the rapid cure of hysterical symptoms and on varieties of war contractures.

The articles embody the results of a large series of investigations rather than the notes of individual cases,

¹ *Seale Hayne Neurological Studies*. Edited by Major A. F. Hurst, R.A.M.C., assisted by Captains J. J. M. Symms and Reynell and Lieutenant S. H. Wilkinson. Vol. I. No. 1. Published every two months by the Oxford University Press. (Pp. 52. Price 3s. 6d. net. Annual subscription 1 guinea.)

hard worker, unsparing of himself; it is, indeed, to be feared that since the war he worked too hard for a not very robust constitution. He was gifted with a lively sense of humour, so that when in the vein his conversation was most entertaining. The esteem in which he was held was testified to by the large gathering which followed his mortal remains to their last resting place in Ilford cemetery.

Dr. C. O. HAWTHORNE (London) writes: To those of us who knew him well the late Dr. Biernacki has left many affectionate memories. To know him well, however, was not easy. His sensitive temperament and quality of reserve shut him off from chance acquaintance and even from not a few of his immediate colleagues. To be quiet and non-assertive was indeed an essential habit of the man. Yet behind this habit was a very gentle mind and a great capacity for sympathy and tenderness and interest. In his own field of work he was practical and thorough even to severity. But in wider affairs he was a dreamer of dreams, and it was the artistic and the ethical that really engaged him. Not in a wide circle, perhaps, but certainly in a very affectionate one, his name has a grateful and abiding place.

Dr. R. H. ALLEN, of Forest Gate, writes: I first met the late Dr. Biernacki at Glasgow University. We were students together when he came to Plaistow Hospital as superintendent some twenty-three years ago. A friendship was made which time has cemented. It was given to very few to know the man. A man of strong character and large intellect, combined with a charming manner, very sensitive to avoid hurting the feelings of others. Children loved him. His powers of conversation were unique. To spend a holiday in his company was an education. To the very few who knew him his memory will always remain.

Dr. JAMES WILSON, Haldane House, Bridge of Allan, late of Ashville, Dumbarton, died on October 28th, at Bridge of Allan, in his 66th year. After studying at the University of Glasgow he obtained the L.F.P.S. and L.M. diplomas in 1882, and settled in practice at Dumbarton. He was medical officer to Dumbarton Combination Poor-house for nearly thirty years, and in this capacity did much useful work. He was also the means of introducing into all the yards and foundries in Dumbarton Red Cross or ambulance centres, where accidents could be attended and first aid administered. He was the first doctor in Dumbarton to join the British Medical Association, in which body he took a prominent part, being for some time president of the Argyllshire and Dumbartonshire Branch. He was, further, on the staff of the Cottage Hospital, and held the positions of certifying factory surgeon and medical referee of the Ministry of Pensions. His shrewd, kindly, and masterful personality, coupled with his long professional service, commanded the respect of all with whom he came in contact. One of his two sons is in practice in the South of England and one on active service.

Dr. WILLIAM STARKEY, of Rathmines, Dublin, died on October 14th in his 83rd year. He was the oldest member of the profession in the district and was greatly beloved by the poor, whose friend and helper he had been for the greater part of his long and active life. He was the son of the Rev. Wm. Starkey and was born at Bandon, co. Cork, in 1836. He had a distinguished career in Queen's College, Cork, and graduated B.A. in 1857. Later he took the L.A.H. Dubl., and in 1869 the degrees of M.D. and M.Ch., Q.U.I. A man of wide culture, deeply read in the classics and English literature, he contributed to the *Dublin University Magazine* in its palmy days, and was the friend and companion of such famous Irishmen as Robert Dwyer Joyce and George Sigerson. He published in 1875 a small volume of poems and translations, and frequently contributed verse to many journals. He is survived by a daughter and two sons, the elder of whom is the medical superintendent of the Plymouth Asylum, while the younger is widely known as Seumas O'Sullivan, the Irish poet and essayist.

WE deeply regret to record the death from heart failure, when apparently convalescing from influenza, of Lieut.-Colonel E. F. Harrison, C.M.G., acting Controller of Chemical Warfare at the Ministry of Munitions. Before

he joined the army, soon after the outbreak of war, Colonel Harrison practised as an analytical chemist in London, and was responsible for most of the analyses of proprietary articles in the volumes *Secret Remedies* and *More Secret Remedies*, published by the British Medical Association.

Universities and Colleges.

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD.

At a congregation held on October 31st the following medical degrees were conferred *in absentia*:

D.M.—Edward H. White, Thomas S. Wright.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF LONDON.

An ordinary comitia of the Royal College of Physicians of London was held on October 31st, the President, Dr. Norman Moore, being in the chair.

The following gentlemen, having passed the required examinations, were admitted as Members of the College: John Cuthbert Matthews, M.D.Camb., L.R.C.P., Stuart Alexander Moore, M.D.Edin., Hugh James Orr-Ewing, L.R.C.P.

Licences to practise physic were granted to ninety-three candidates.

A communication, dated July 25th, was received from the Royal College of Surgeons stating that the Council of that College had decided to omit the names of universities in Germany and Austria-Hungary from the list of hospitals and schools of medicine and surgery published in the *College Calendar* as the places from which certificates of the professional education of candidates for the Membership and Fellowship will be received by the College for the year commencing August 1st, 1918. The communication further suggested that the desirability of also omitting those universities from the published list of the Conjoint Examining Board should be brought under the consideration of the Committee of Management. It was resolved to refer the matter accordingly.

On the motion of the Senior Censor, it was agreed to restore the licence of the College withdrawn from Mr. William Dutton Akers in January, 1912.

Dr. F. W. Andrewes, Sir Humphry D. Rolleston, Dr. Raymond Crawford, Sir John Broadbent, and Dr. H. French were appointed on a committee to draw up a pronouncement on the subject of influenza.

The resignation by Sir Frederick Taylor, Bt., of the office of Representative of the College upon the Senate of the University of London was received with great regret.

Dr. Norman Moore and Dr. Henry Head were appointed representatives upon the Conjoint Board of Scientific Societies.

After some formal business the President dissolved the comitia.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.

THE *Calendar* of the Royal College of Surgeons of England* for the current year contains all the usual information—historical, official, and academic—revised up to August 1st, 1918, together with lists of Fellows and Members, and of licentiates in dental surgery, and diplomates in public health and tropical medicine. The roll of honour of the College now numbers 281 Fellows, Members, and Licentiates who have been killed in action, or lost their lives from wounds or disease contracted on active service. The report of the proceedings of Council refers to the effect upon hospitals and medical schools of the steps taken by the Ministry of Pensions in conjunction with the War Office to eliminate cases of military injuries, on a very wide definition of "orthopaedics," from treatment in certain civilian hospitals. The Council decided to send a letter to the Director-General, A.M.S., explaining its views, and recommending that a change of name from military orthopaedic hospitals to special military surgical centres be adopted, and that in making appointments to such centres greater consideration should be given to the need for the representation of medical staffs attached to the local civil hospitals, especially teaching hospitals. A short account is given of the work of the Committee of Reference during the year 1917-18. Under the new Military Service Act the committee is investigating the cases of all members of the staffs of hospitals between the ages of 43 and 56; and throughout the year the committee has been constantly engaged in considering the cases of doctors on the staffs of hospitals with a view to determining which of them can be spared for service with the forces. The financial report shows that the gross income of the College, exclusive of that from trust funds, amounted to £20,758, being £304 less than in the previous year. The examination and diploma fees for Membership remain at a satisfactory figure, and the Fellowship fees show no material change, but there was a further decrease of £491 in the fees for the licence in dental surgery. The total expenditure under the revenue accounts was £18,386, being £605 higher than in the previous year. A considerable drop in the revenue for the ensuing year is anticipated. Three hundred and forty-five diplomas of Membership were issued during the year, including thirty-five to women, and five diplomas of Fellowship. The licence in dental surgery was granted to forty-five men and two women. The Conservator of the museum reports the opening of the War Office collection by

* London: Taylor and Francis. 1918. (Demy 8vo, pp. 513. 1s.)

Sir Alfred Keogh a year ago; since then many additions and replacements have been made in all sections, and special mention is made of the large Canadian section prepared by members of the C.A.M.C. It is hoped that Australian and New Zealand sections will be added. The Council of the College, through its museum staff, may justly claim to be rendering in this way a service to military surgery and medicine. Mr. Alban Doran is proceeding with the laborious task of preparing a new descriptive catalogue of the instruments contained in the College collection, while Mr. Victor Plarr, the librarian, is drawing near to the end of his work on the biographies of Fellows. The subject of the next triennial John Hunter medal will be the development of the hip-joint and the knee-joint of man. The subject of the Jacksonian prize for 1919 will be the investigation and treatment of injuries of the thorax received in the war.

GUY'S HOSPITAL MEDICAL SCHOOL.

A RESEARCH fellowship has been founded at Guy's Hospital in memory of the late Ronald William Poulton Palmer, B.A., Lieutenant Royal Berkshire Regiment, killed in action on May 5th, 1915, and of his sister, the late Mrs. Emily Hilda Ainley Walker. The object of the fellowship will be the investigation of the origin, progress, treatment, and cure of obscure diseases in man. Its annual value will be £150. It may be held simultaneously with a teaching post at the Medical School, on condition that the fellow devotes at least half his time to research. The fellowship has been founded by the family and near relations of Mrs. Ainley Walker and Lieutenant R. W. Poulton Palmer, in the hope that others may follow their example. It has been made intentionally of wide scope, because, in the view of the founders, it is unprofitable to endow research in any one disease since advances are made along different lines at different times, largely depending on the elaboration of methods of investigation.

Medical News.

THE next session of the General Medical Council will commence at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, November 26th.

THE Philadelphia Board of Health has placed influenza in the list of notifiable diseases.

THE Babies of the Empire Society, General Buildings, Aldwych, W.C.2, has issued a number of leaflets consisting of extracts from books written by the medical director of the society, Dr. F. Truby King, C.M.G., whose work in reducing the infant death-rate in New Zealand is well known.

To commemorate the late Sir George Birdwood, whose early life was spent in the Indian Medical Service, it is proposed to establish a lecture bearing his name, to be delivered annually in connexion with the Indian Section of the Royal Society of Arts, with which he was closely associated for forty years.

THE Hospitals Bill, which deals with the hospitals throughout Tasmania that have Government support but no Government control, will have the effect of bringing all hospitals under Government control and supervision to a greater or lesser degree.

THE laboratory of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh is now preparing the mixed vaccine of *B. influenzae*, pneumococcus, and streptococcus, recommended at the recent conference at the War Office (BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, October 26th, p. 470). The cultures are derived from specimens taken from new cases typical of the present epidemic. The mixed vaccine is supplied by Messrs. Duncan, Flockhart, and Co., 104, Holyrood Road, Edinburgh.

A BRANCH of the League of Mercy, called the Wanderers' Branch, has been constituted, with Colonel R. J. Blackham, C.M.G., C.I.E., D.S.O., now D.D.M.S. of an army corps in France, as president, and Lieut.-Colonel E. F. Falkner, D.S.O., as honorary secretary. Communications may be addressed to the president or secretary, at the Army and Navy Club, Pall Mall, S.W.1.

THE Garden Cities and Town Planning Association has arranged to hold in London, on November 29th to December 2nd, the first of a series of schools for lecturers. Visits will be arranged to Letchworth Garden City and the Hampstead Garden Suburb. Further information can be obtained from the secretary at 3, Gray's Inn Place, London, W.C.1.

AT the autumn general meeting of the Irish Medical Schools' and Graduates' Association in London on October 31st, when Dr. Kenneth Frazer, president, was in the chair, a resolution was passed recording the great regret of the members at the loss of their three times elected president, the late Dr. H. Macnaughton-Jones, F.R.C.S.I. It was resolved to send a copy of the resolution to Mrs.

Macnaughton-Jones with an expression of sympathy with the family in their bereavement. The members and their friends (including a large proportion of ladies) subsequently dined together to the number of eighty-four. During the evening the Arnott Memorial Gold Medal was presented to Captain Harold Sugars, D.S.O., M.C., R.A.M.C., whose act of bravery in the presence of the enemy was recorded in the *Gazette*.

AT the second meeting of the Central Midwives Board for Ireland on October 31st, the chairman, Dr. E. Coey Bigger, referred in feeling terms to the loss the Board had sustained by the death of one of its members, Alderman J. McCarron, who was drowned in the torpedoing of the ss. *Leinster*. A vote of condolence was passed, and the secretary was instructed to send a copy to Mrs. McCarron. The meeting then considered the rules to be framed under the Act; rules were drawn up regulating the proceedings of the Board, the course of training of midwives, the admission to the roll of women in practice at the passing of the Act, etc.

Letters, Notes, and Answers.

CORRESPONDENTS who wish notice to be taken of their communications should authenticate them with their names—of course not necessarily for publication.

AUTHORS desiring reprints of their articles published in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL are requested to communicate with the Office, 429, Strand, W.C.2, on receipt of proof.

IN order to avoid delay, it is particularly requested that ALL letters on the editorial business of the JOURNAL be addressed to the Editor at the Office of the JOURNAL.

The postal address of the BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION and BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL is 429, Strand, London, W.C.2. The telegraphic addresses are:

1. EDITOR of the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, *Astology*, *Westrand*, London; telephone, 2631, Gerrard.
 2. FINANCIAL SECRETARY AND BUSINESS MANAGER (Advertisements, etc.), *Articulate*, *Westrand*, London; telephone, 2630, Gerrard.
 3. MEDICAL SECRETARY, *Medisecra*, *Westrand*, London; telephone, 2634, Gerrard. The address of the Irish Office of the British Medical Association is 16, South Frederick Street, Dublin.
- The address of the Central Medical War Committee for England and Wales is 429, Strand, London, W.C.2; that of the Reference Committee of the Royal Colleges in London is the Examination Hall, 3, Queen Square, Bloomsbury, W.C.1; and that of the Scottish Medical Service Emergency Committee is Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh.

QUERIES AND ANSWERS.

INCOME TAX.

M. inquires as to the correct rates of tax applying to an income consisting of (1) earnings £1,409, (2) taxed interest £322, (3) untaxed interest £45, total £1,776.

* * As the total income from all sources is between £1,500 and £2,000—the earnings, £1,409, is taxable at 4s. 6d.; the untaxed interest, £45, is taxable at 5s. 3d.; and a rebate of 9d. is due on the £322, as that will automatically be taxed at 9d. in the £ instead of at the appropriate rate of 5s. 3d.

LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.

THE fifth series of "Facts for Patriots" deals with eggs, animal fats, cocoa, and chocolate. It may be obtained, post free 5d., from the National Food Reform Association, Dames Inn House, 265, Strand, W.C.2. The subjects of previous issues include meat substitutes, the economical use of meat and fish, milk, vegetables, fruit, salads, war bread, and margarine. The complete series of five may be had post free for 1s. 10d.

THE PRESENT TYPE OF PNEUMONIA.

DR. H. B. HILL (Eston, Yorks) writes: Everyone, I daresay, has noticed the correspondence as to the relation of the present cases of pneumonia to influenza. There are at present two distinct varieties of pneumonia. One occurs during an attack of influenza, and follows the usual course in such cases. The other presents the following clinical conditions: A sudden and violent onset of an acute illness in a patient as a rule previously quite well. Expectoration of bright red frothy sputum occurs within a few hours. Epistaxis is frequent; there is a tendency to looseness of the bowels. Albuminuria of moderate severity is often present; delirium is frequent, and is present well up to the end of the pyrexia or even beyond it. The temperature falls by lysis rather than crisis. Heart not usually dilated. Signs of pneumonia are found in the lungs. The pleura seems to be more heavily attacked than is usual in pneumonia, and this is apt to modify the physical signs of the lung condition. The bacteriological report of the last two cases is as follows: "Streptococci, a Gram-positive coccus, and diphtheroid bacilli present. No tubercle bacilli, no pneumococci, no influenza bacilli present."