

lesion is want of recognition of posture and passive movements. This disturbance, when present, can usually be demonstrated by a simple test: Ask the patient to stretch out his arms in front with his fingers extended and to keep them in the same horizontal plane. If his eyes are then covered, those fingers in which recognition of posture is defective will be seen to droop while the others remain straight.

Hypotonia and inco-ordination are associated with loss of postural recognition, so that the fingers can be hyper-extended more than the corresponding digits of the other hand, and their movements are clumsy. Lack of precision of movement can be detected at once when the patient attempts rapidly to oppose the tip of his thumb to each finger in succession. As soon as the first affected finger is reached the patient hesitates, performs the movement deliberately, and often misses the tip of his finger with his thumb.

The power of appreciating differences in weight and of recognizing the shape and relative size of common objects may be gravely disturbed. When the patient is tested for the appreciation of relative size and form, the loss of sensation not infrequently is so gross that he is quite unable to recognize the nature of common objects. A defect of this nature is always associated with inability to distinguish between two obviously dissimilar weights when they are placed successively on the fully supported fingers.

Thus the sensory activity of the cortex is not concerned with the crude recognition of touch, pain, heat, and cold, but it is necessary for the recognition of the intensity of stimuli, of spacial relations, and the appreciation of similarity and difference in external objects. Each of these functions may be disturbed independently of the others as the result of lesions of the cortex, and in the hand the sensory loss may be limited to one or more fingers.

DEGENERATION AND REGENERATION OF PERIPHERAL NERVES.

BY

J. G. GREENFIELD, M.B., M.R.C.P.

DR. GREENFIELD gave a demonstration on the degeneration and regeneration of peripheral nerves, based on the examination of portions of wounded nerves removed during operations for end-to-end suture.

The chief object of the demonstration was to emphasize the importance of the rôle played by the cells of the neurolemma sheath. These were seen to grow out from both the proximal and distal cut ends of a nerve, and to form in either case a plexiform neuroma or end bulb. That on the distal cut end contained no nerve fibres unless a junction was made with the nerve bulb of the proximal end. The axis-cylinders in the process of regeneration split up into very numerous branches, which run in all directions, often as leashes of several fibrils, within the outgrowths of neurolemma. If a junction is established between the upper and lower end bulbs, either directly or by means of outgrowths which spread along the connective tissue planes, the axis-cylinder processes may run into the outgrowths from the peripheral cut end of the nerve, and be conducted by them to the neurolemma channels of the peripheral part of the nerve, within which they always run singly. By these sheaths they are conducted to their terminations, whether sensory or motor. The intimate association displayed between the young axis-cylinder processes and the nuclei of the neurolemma sheath is strongly suggestive of a nutritive influence derived from the neurolemma, and it seems probable that without its help the axis-cylinder processes have not the power of continued growth.

INSCRIPTIONS OF SPEECH.

BY

EDWARD W. SCRIPTURE, M.D.

DR. SCRIPTURE demonstrated an apparatus for making inscriptions of speech. Typical results were exhibited that showed how general paralysis, multiple sclerosis, and epilepsy could be diagnosed from a speech inscription at a time when no defect could be detected by the ear. The object of the work is to do for certain nervous diseases what the urinary tests do for nephritis and diabetes.

Memoranda:

MEDICAL, SURGICAL, OBSTETRICAL.

BROMOFORM POISONING.

In the *Practitioner* of 1893 I advocated the use of bromoform in the treatment of whooping-cough, and I am still of opinion that it controls the paroxysms of the disease more effectually than any other drug. Moreover, it is free from danger if one point in its administration is observed. Bromoform is thrown down from any solution or suspension if the least quantity of water is present. The water contained even in mucilage or tinctures precipitates the drug. In all cases of poisoning that have come to my notice the mishap has been invariably caused by the last dose in the bottle.

Mr. W. B. Watson's experience, published in the *JOURNAL* of November 6th, p. 702, is another instance of toxic symptoms from concentration of the bromoform at the bottom of the bottle.

The symptoms described by him and the child's recovery also agree with observations previously recorded.¹ For some years trouble was successfully prevented by the simple expedient of directing that the last dose in the bottle was to be always thrown away. But I now advise bromoform to be prescribed in a form arrived at by Mr. J. T. Corder, pharmacist, after trying and testing many others: Bromoform m.j., paraffin liq. 3j, this being the ordinary dose for a child between 1 and 3 years of age. Even in dispensing this it is necessary to have the bottle thoroughly dried.

Norwich.

F. W. BURTON-FANNING, M.D., F.R.C.P.

Reports of Societies.

LATENT SYPHILIS IN PREGNANCY.

At a meeting of the Section of Obstetrics and Gynaecology of the Royal Society of Medicine, held on November 4th, a paper on the inter-relationship between pregnancy and syphilis was read by Dr. R. A. HENDRY. During four and a quarter years, he said, 94 pregnancies had been under observation in which there were no active clinical signs or symptoms of syphilis apart from the effect on the pregnancy. As this definition of latent syphilis excluded the primary and secondary stages, the first difficulty was diagnosis. Diagnosis rested on (1) the clinical evidence—that is, the unreliable history of infection and the obstetrical history, and on (2) the laboratory evidence resulting from the examination of stillbirths, abortions and placentae, and from the Wassermann reaction. The unreliability of the clinical evidence was shown by a table representing graphically 18 obstetrical histories, some syphilitic, others not syphilitic; and by an analysis of the first 57 cases diagnosed as latent syphilis, which revealed 48 abortions with 75 stillbirths—123 ante-natal and intra-natal deaths—with 96 live births, of which 33 subsequently died, 9 of the 33 during the neo-natal period. In the fetus the presence of *Spirochaeta pallida*, chondro-epiphysitis, changes in other organs—notably the liver, spleen, and lungs—were generally considered reliable evidence of syphilis; their absence, in his experience, was equally reliable. In early abortions this conclusive evidence of syphilis was rarely obtained. In placentae there was not yet unanimity regarding what constituted reliable evidence. The drawback was on the score of quantity rather than quality. The Wassermann reaction had been examined in 348 cases: 173 were positive, 175 negative. To the end of 1918, 65 were positive and 88 negative; from January, 1919, to July, 1920, 63 were positive, 87 were negative and 45 "slightly positive," these being of doubtful significance and usually disregarded by syphilologists until a further test could be made; the obstetrician could only delay treatment at the expense of the infant. Seven cases in which negative Wassermann reactions were associated with positive fetuses had been found, chiefly through investigations in the Department of Obstetrics of the University of Liverpool; three were examined

¹ BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, May 26th, 1900; June 2nd, 1900; and May 18th, 1901.

absolutely unfettered, and the performance of his duties entirely divorced from red tape interferences, unnecessary regulations and restrictions, and a multiplicity of documents.—I am, etc.,

Bournemouth, Nov. 13th.

WALTER ASTEN.

BLIND MASSEURS.

SIR,—I have read with interest the letter written by Colonel Mansell Moullin with reference to the blind masseurs. I had considerable experience of the work of these men when in command of the Third London General Hospital during the war, and very cordially support all that has been written by Colonel Mansell Moullin.

The whole question of massage is a very serious one for the medical profession, as we are held responsible for the results of the treatment we recommend, and, when there are so many trained and certificated masseurs and masseuses in the country as there are to-day, it is our duty towards our patients to make sure that, when we prescribe massage, it is carried out by trained workers who have obtained the certificates of recognized training societies, such as the Incorporated Society of Trained Masseuses (since reconstructed as the Chartered Society of Massage and Medical Gymnastics), and not by those who have had no training, or who are merely acquiring practice without having undergone a thorough training.

May I accentuate the fact that all members of the Association of Certificated Blind Masseurs, referred to by Colonel Mansell Moullin, have been thoroughly trained and hold recognized qualifications?

Finally, too much stress cannot be laid upon the fact that the members of the association only undertake the treatment of patients with the consent and advice of a registered medical practitioner.—I am, etc.,

London, W., Nov. 15th.

BRUCE BRUCE-PORTER.

Obituary.

THE LATE DR. WILLIAM BRUCE.—Dr. R. Fortescue Fox writes: I should like to record an impression of my old colleague, Dr. William Bruce. He was an outstanding figure in the medical profession of the north-east of Scotland, and in some ways, I think, typical of the wide countryside in which he practised for so many years. He had a hardy physique, disdainful of fatigue, by road and rail, at all hours and seasons. His mental energy and power of work were not less remarkable, and he had the great gift of tenacious memory. Such men not only seize opportunities, but make them, and they generally achieve what they set out to do. For twenty years I was associated with him as a physician at Strathpeffer Spa, and had reason to appreciate his courtesy to a junior colleague, his amazing energy, his readiness and fertility of resource in practice, and not least the keenly critical edge of his mind, which indisposed him to move readily upon new and untried lines. I like to remember his sturdy figure coming up in the early mornings to mingle with the throng at the Wells; the constantly renewed battle on the cause of sciatica—his joint theory against my nerve sheath; the intervals snatched on the Skye line for Hazlitt; and in the quiet evening in his beautiful garden at "The Castle," how we walked beside the tulips.

Universities and Colleges.

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD.

At a congregation, held on November 13th, the degree of M.D. was conferred upon G. E. Beaumont and J. L. Birley.

The following awards of Theodore Williams scholarships have been made:

Physiology: W. R. Bain, B.A., New College.
Human Anatomy: A. A. F. Peel, University College.
Pathology: G. T. Kerr Cross, St. John's College.

UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW.

The following degrees were conferred on November 13th:

M.D.—*Archibald Leitch, *A. D. M'Lachlan, †J. P. M'Vey, †M. Manson, †John Anderson, †H. L. Coulthard, †A. Glen, M.C., †J. Steedman, N. Gebbie, John Gibson, G. W. Scott.

* With Honours.

† With high commendation.

‡ With commendation.

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH.

The following awards of scholarships, bursaries, etc., have been made:

Crichton Research Scholarship in Anatomy: J. A. L. Loadon, M.B., and C. W. Stump, M.B., divide. *Vans Dunlop Scholarship in Botany and Zoology*: Thomas B. Harvey. *Vans Dunlop Scholarship in Anatomy*: John Gray. *Vans Dunlop Scholarship in Physiology*: Robert K. Dewar. *Vans Dunlop Scholarship in Pathological Bacteriology*: Muriel J. Thomson. *Grierson Bursary in First Professional Subjects*: James P. Davie, M.A. *Grierson Bursary in Pathology*: George W. Ireland. *Grierson Bursary in Materia Medica*: Bruce M. Dick. *Archibald or M'Guffie Bursary*: Edward A. Wilson and David H. D. Young, divide. *Neil Arnott Prize in Experimental Physics*: James P. Davie, M.A.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.

An ordinary council was held on November 11th, when Sir Anthony Bowlby, President, was in the chair.

Diplomas of Membership.—Diplomas of membership were granted to 88 candidates found qualified at the recent examinations.

Court of Examiners.—A vacancy on the Court, occasioned by the retirement of Mr. H. J. Waring (who is not seeking re-election), will be filled up at the next meeting of the Council in December.

Centenary Celebrations of the French Academy of Medicine.—Sir D'Arcy Power and Mr. Charles Ryall were appointed delegates to represent the College at the centenary celebrations of the French Academy of Medicine, to be held in Paris during the second fortnight in December.

The following candidates have been approved at the recent special and ordinary primary examination for the Fellowship:

B. V. Abhyankar, J. G. Ackland, K. B. Bellwood, A. C. B. Biggs, D. M. Blair, W. H. Bleden, Alice Bloomfield, R. Brooke, G. H. Caiger, N. L. Capener, D. S. Cassidy, R. B. Chandrasekhara, G. R. E. Coquihoun, D. C. Corry, R. Coyle, J. M. Craig, H. E. Cumming, J. L. Davies, O. De Muth, A. R. Dingley, Doris L. Durie, G. S. Escoffery, G. J. St. C. Fisher, N. B. B. Fleming, Maud F. Forrester-Brown, H. V. Forster, R. M. Fry, R. A. H. Fulton, G. J. Gillam, Evelyn E. Gourlay, J. H. Gurley, Margaret C. N. Hadley, S. N. Hayes, A. H. Heslop, Nancy M. Hield, Dorothy M. Howgate, W. Ibbotson, R. Keene, Dorothy N. L. Leverkus, D. Levi, L. A. Lewis, L. C. E. Lindon, F. Louis, W. J. Lytle, H. J. McCurrah, J. L. McDonald, G. D. F. McFadden, R. G. Michelmores, L. J. Moir, V. E. Negus, D. C. Norris, E. S. Page, B. H. Pidcock, L. M. Rice, G. D. Robertson, A. W. L. Row, E. L. K. Sargent, W. R. Spurrell, F. A. R. Stammers, Doris M. Stone, G. F. Stones, F. B. Sudbury, D. M. Sutherland, T. M. Thomas, B. M. Tracey, A. B. K. Watkins, B. W. Williams, L. H. W. Williams, E. Wolff, E. S. Woods, H. W. Wooley.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF IRELAND.

Dr. JOSEPH THEODORE WIGHAM and Dr. John Speares have been admitted Fellows and Dr. A. F. Bernard Shaw a Member and Licentiate.

CONJOINT BOARD IN ENGLAND.

The diplomas of L.R.C.P. and M.R.C.S. have been conferred upon the ninety candidates whose names were printed in the report of the proceedings at the comitia of the Royal College of Physicians published in our issue of November 6th, p. 724.

The Services.

HONOURS.

C.B.E.

THE honour of Commander of the Order of the British Empire has been conferred upon the following for services in or for the Commonwealth of Australia and in connexion with the war: Dr. Thomas Ernest Green, Dr. William Nathaniel Robertson (for services in connexion with repatriation, Queensland), and Dr. James Park Thomson.

Medical News.

THE next session of the General Medical Council will commence at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, November 23rd, when the President, Sir Donald MacAlister, K.C.B., M.D., will take the chair and give an address.

THE Secretary of the War Office draws attention to the fact that the use of the Red Cross emblem and of the words "Red Cross" for the purposes of trade or business, or for any other purpose, without the authority of the Army Council, is an offence under Section I of the Geneva Convention Act, 1911, by which this country adhered to the Geneva Convention, 1906.

ON Armistice Day, 1919, the medical men in West Suffolk who did not hold commissions during the war invited all their colleagues who had served in His Majesty's forces to dinner at the Angel Hotel, Bury St. Edmunds, as a welcome home. This year, on Armistice Day, the guests of 1919 invited their hosts to dine. Both dinners were a great

success. More than 60 per cent. of the medical men in the area were present, several of them driving from ten to twenty miles each way to attend. It was decided this year to make the dinner an annual event on Armistice Day, and a small committee was appointed for this purpose.

MAJOR J. R. WILLIAMS, T.D., M.B., of Penmaenmawr, has been nominated for election as High Sheriff of Carnarvonshire.

THE second annual dinner of the 4th Northern General Hospital staff was held at Lincoln on Armistice Day. Lieut.-Colonel F. S. Lambert presided, and twenty-one members were present. It was decided to hold the dinner on or about the same date every year, and to invite all other medical men living in Lincoln and the neighbourhood who had served in the R.A.M.C. during the war to be present as honorary members.

THE annual dinner of the Medico-Legal Society will take place at the Holborn Restaurant on Friday, December 10th. Tickets, price 14s. 6d. (exclusive of wine), can be obtained from the Honorary Secretary of the Society, 3, South Square, Gray's Inn, W.C.1.

THE inaugural dinner of the twenty-fourth session of the Chelsea Clinical Society, the first to be held since the war, took place on October 29th at the Café Royal, when sixty members and guests were present. Owing to a sudden bereavement, the president, Dr. A. G. Buchanan, was unable to be present, and Dr. D. M. Barcroft, vice-president, took the chair. The guests of the society were the Vice-Chancellor of the University of London and the Presidents of the Medical Society of London and the Harveian Society.

DR. J. MACDONALD BROWN has been appointed chairman of the Hampstead bench of magistrates.

DR. RALPH NORMAN has received a presentation from the Southend Lawn Tennis Club upon his resignation of the treasurership held by him for over ten years.

THE Chadwick Trustees have arranged another series of public lectures. On November 25th, at 5.15, Dr. J. B. Farmer, Professor of Botany at the Imperial College of Science, will give a lecture at the house of the Medical Society of London on "Some biological aspects of disease." On December 3rd, at 7.30, Sir Malcolm Morris will lecture at Manchester, with the Lord Mayor in the chair, on "Chadwick and his message for to-day." On the same day and hour Sir Robert Hill, Medical Director-General R.N., will speak at the house of the Literary and Philosophical Society, Newcastle-on-Tyne, on "Naval and maritime hygiene in relation to shipbuilding." He will deal in particular with the problems of ventilation, accommodation, water supply, and the prevention of disease.

AN announcement from the Ministry of Health will be found in our advertising columns to the effect that a woman practitioner will be appointed medical officer of the Ministry for duties especially in connexion with maternity and child welfare.

CONTRIBUTIONS are invited towards the building fund of Queen Mary's Home for St. Bartholomew's Hospital nurses. Half the amount needed for the new home has already been subscribed. The honorary secretary is Mr. W. McAdam Eccles, who will gratefully receive and acknowledge contributions forwarded to him at the hospital.

A SPECIAL post-graduate course is to be held at the Prince of Wales's General Hospital, Tottenham, N.15, from December 6th to 18th inclusive. Each morning there will be practical demonstrations on the more important clinical methods and on laboratory methods as applicable in medical practice. In the afternoons demonstrations will be given on groups of selected cases at 2 p.m., and the hour from 3 to 4 p.m. will be devoted to the general work of the hospital. At 4.30 p.m. clinical lectures will be delivered by Sir Thomas Horder, Lieut.-Colonel Kirkpatrick, Dr. John Eyre, Dr. W. H. B. Stoddart, Dr. Philip Manson-Bahr, and others, and on two afternoons clinical consultations will be held on obscure medical and surgical cases. On Saturdays demonstrations will be given on the early diagnosis of the infectious fevers at the North-Eastern Fever Hospital, St. Ann's Road, N., on dementia praecox at the London County Council Mental Hospital, New Southgate, N., and on the electro-cardiographic examination of cases of heart disease at the Royal Hospital for Diseases of the Chest, City Road, E.C. Luncheon will be obtainable in the neighbourhood of the hospital, and tea will be provided each day at 4 p.m. The lectures at 4.30 p.m. will be free to qualified medical practitioners. Further information and syllabus may be obtained from the Dean at the hospital.

The forty-second autumn general meeting of the Irish Medical Schools' and Graduates' Association was held last week at Pagani's Restaurant, Dr. W. J. Corbett, Chairman of the Council, presiding over a large attendance of members. It was reported that the development of the Association continued to be most satisfactory. The autumn banquet took place the same evening, Dr. Michael J. Bulger, the President, being in the chair; there were over a hundred members and their guests. Lord Hemphill, in giving the toast "Prosperity to the Association," said that, as an Irishman, he felt proud to be entertained by a society in which the Celtic spirit of good fellowship was so strong that for the whole forty years and more of its existence there had not been even a whisper of a quarrel, albeit they had on the roll representatives of every religious creed and every political party. They might also be proud of the fact that their Association was the first medical society to the membership of which women were admitted in this country. The toast of "Our Guests," proposed by Dr. Gubbins Fitzgerald, was responded to by Lord Shaw. The enjoyment of the evening was increased by the singing of Miss Sophie Rowlands and Mrs. Tailleux-Andrews.

THE Registrar-General's last quarterly return gives the number of births and deaths registered in England and Wales during July, August, and September. The deaths numbered 93,690, being 25,593 fewer than in the preceding quarter, but 4,578 more than in the third quarter of last year. The total deaths during the three months correspond to an annual rate of 10.1 per 1,000 total population in England and Wales in 1919. Influenza was stated to be either a primary or a contributory cause of death in 705 (or 0.8 per cent.) of the total registered deaths. One death only from small-pox is recorded. Infant mortality, measured by the proportion of deaths under one year of age to registered births was equal to 65 per 1,000, being 36 per 1,000 below the average in the ten preceding third quarters and the lowest recorded rate for any quarter of the year. The cold and wet summer was reflected in a very low death rate from diarrhoea and enteritis in London and most of the great towns. In London the mean earth temperature was lower than that in any summer quarter during the past fifty years, and the mortality from diarrhoea and enteritis was considerably lower both at all ages and in children under one year.

THE Research Defence Society has lately published four pamphlets of general interest: (1) Vaccination, by Dr. Mary Scharlieb; (2) The Prevention of Tetanus during the Great War by the Use of Antitetanic Serum, by Sir David Bruce; (3) The Work of the Medical Research Committee, by Sir Walter Fletcher; (4) The Value of Experiments on Animals—Notes of Personal Experience, by Sir Leonard Rogers. The price of the set is 2s. Application should be made to the Secretary, Research Defence Society, 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, London, W.1.

THE Express Dairy Company, London, inform us that they are now producing Grade A (certified) milk, under licence of the Ministry of Health. The conditions which must be fulfilled are stringent; in particular, the herd must be tubercle-free, the milk must be bottled on the producer's premises, must be free from *B. coli*, and must not contain more than 30,000 bacteria per cubic centimetre. Full particulars will be found in an article published in our columns on March 6th, 1920, p. 336.

THE medical officer of health for Huddersfield (Dr. S. G. Moore) reports that the adoption of the principle of giving help to infants and mothers in the home has been attended by results equal to the best obtained elsewhere, and superior to those obtained (often by more elaborate methods) in most localities. Since this principle has been adopted, the annual infant mortality has been reduced by about 30 per cent. Dr. Moore recommends that none but medical women should be employed in home visiting. He believes that one visit a week to each child during the first month, two a month during the next two months, and one a month during the ensuing nine months, will suffice, supplemented by the work of the local public health union. The measures recommended in the report have been approved in principle by the Huddersfield sanitary authority, and are to be applied to one-third of the borough.

THE next annual meeting of the Société d'Orthopédie will be held at Strasbourg on October 7th, 1921, when the following subjects will be discussed: Remote results of bloodless reduction of congenital dislocation of the hip, introduced by Dr. Froelich of Nancy; arthrodesis of the foot, introduced by Dr. Ombrédanne of Paris; operative treatment of ankylosis of the knee, introduced by Dr. Tavernier of Lyons.