

## Memoranda:

### MEDICAL, SURGICAL, OBSTETRICAL.

#### PRURITUS ANI.

The subject of pruritus ani was recently discussed before the subsection of Proctology of the Royal Society of Medicine, and various methods of treatment were then suggested. Dr. Finzi alone, among the speakers, is reported to have said that "high frequency applied with a vacuum electrode often gave considerable relief, and this was a treatment that could be continued indefinitely, if applied with care."

After many years of experience in the use of high frequency currents in various conditions, I have no hesitancy in agreeing with Dr. Finzi's statement. Personally, I obtain the best results from a solid metal electrode introduced within the rectum. The treatment does not need to be "continued indefinitely"; on the contrary, a beneficial and permanent result is, as a rule, speedily obtained. I would suggest, therefore, that before drastic measures are adopted, a trial should be given to the application of high-frequency currents. By this method not only may the pruritus be relieved, but haemorrhoids or fissure, if present, may be cured at the same time.

A further advantage of the high-frequency treatment is that it can be conducted without interfering with the patient's ordinary affairs, and its application can cause neither pain nor discomfort.

Glasgow.

W. F. SOMERVILLE, M.D.

#### RUPTURED ECTOPIC GESTATION AND UNINTERRUPTED UTERINE PREGNANCY.

On November 10th, 1919, I was asked to see a married woman, aged 29, a multipara, in consultation with Dr. W. Branch. She had that day been seized with acute abdominal pain, and had a very rapid pulse and faintness. She had missed two menstrual periods. After removal to hospital her general condition improved, and the acute symptoms passed off, but there remained a well-defined swelling in the left iliac region which was tender to the touch, and she had an occasional slight rise of temperature.

On December 4th I operated, and found the peritoneal cavity full of fresh blood which came from a tear in the left Fallopian tube; there had evidently just occurred a second rupture of the tube, perhaps on removing her from the ward to the operating theatre. The left Fallopian tube was ligated and excised, and the left ovary was removed, as it was cystic. The excised tube contained a foetus of about six weeks to two months. The uterus at the time seemed large, as it usually does in these cases.

The patient made an excellent recovery from the operation; unmistakable signs of pregnancy soon manifested themselves, and she was delivered of a healthy boy on June 10th, 1920. This variety of twin pregnancy is, I believe, of comparative rarity.

Antigua, B.W.I.

CECIL M. ROLSTON, F.R.C.S.E.

## Rebuelus.

### THE HISTORY AND METHOD OF SCIENCE.

THE second volume of *Studies in the History and Method of Science*,<sup>1</sup> edited by Dr. CHARLES SINGER—an important and imposing work—is a tribute to the enthusiasm and efficiency of the able editor. Most appropriately, it is dedicated to the memory of Sir William Osler, who saw the first instalment of these *Studies* through the press, and had the success of this project so much at heart. The fifteen articles in the present volume cover a wide field; the possibility that in the first volume undue prominence was given to mediaeval studies has been borne in mind, and more space has been devoted to the evolution of the mathematical and exact sciences. In the preface the recent evidence of the world's interest in the history and philosophy of science is briefly sketched, and a plea is advanced for a central institute and library in this country

<sup>1</sup> *Studies in the History and Method of Science*. Edited by Charles Singer. Vol. ii. Oxford: At the Clarendon Press. 1921. (Pp. xxii+559; 55 plates; 80 illustrations in the text. 48s. net.)

to promote systematic investigation into the historical documents of science.

In a scholarly and beautifully illustrated article of a hundred pages Dr. Singer points out that science, which is said to be the conscious collection of data and the conscious formulation of theories, cannot be traced with certainty earlier than the speculations of the Ionian philosophers of the sixth century B.C., the Hippocratic writings being the first available in a substantial form. Comparison of the course of Greek and modern science shows that from the downfall of Greek science in about the third century A.D. there was a somnolent interval until 1543, when Copernicus's *De Revolutionibus Orbium Coelestium* and the *De Fabrica Corporis Humani* of Vesalius appeared, and that, though anatomists had been active for some centuries, as shown by dissection of animals at Salerno in the eleventh century, effective advance in zoology hardly began before the second half of the sixteenth century. Greek science originated among a group of philosophers, and there was little to check direct observation or the experimental method of active extension of knowledge; modern science at its beginnings was much hampered by the priesthood and tradition, but the extension of knowledge began before the revival of the Greek language. The Greek intellect often accepted data without the laborious verification modern science regards as essential. The contrast between the ancient and the modern methods of setting out biological conclusions is illustrated by a striking account of the investigation of the interesting generative processes of the Cephalopods. In spite of errors work on modern lines has shown a steady advance towards a true conception of the phenomena, because each observer recorded his actual results in a form available to criticism, whereas Aristotle noted his final conclusions only, without any indications of the observations on which they were based. At the same time justice is done to Aristotle's genius in the classification of animals and in foreshadowing the doctrine of evolution by his theories of the development of the individual. The Greeks studied living things in order to understand themselves, but paid more attention to animals than to plants, which Theophrastus, the father of botany, in the sense that his writings are the earliest extant, frankly admitted were studied mainly for their medicinal uses. The father of plant illustration was Crateuas in the first century B.C., and some fragments of his drawings are reproduced from the famous Julia Anicia MS. Professor Arthur Platt, after a struggle with the difficulties and contradictions of the obscure text, contributes a new interpretation of Aristotle's description of the heart. In an article based on much research—the Asclepiadae and the Priests of Asclepius—Dr. E. T. Withington, after a careful analysis of the data, brings forward some additional reasons for the rejection of the view that Hippocratic medicine originated in the health temples. Mr. J. M. Child's technical essay on Archimedes's "Principle of the Balance and some criticisms upon it" has been written in response to Ernst Mach's criticism of the work of Archimedes.

Professor H. Hopstock writes authoritatively on "Leonardo da Vinci as an Anatomist." He shows that Leonardo at first relied on the existing works of Galen, Avicenna, Mondino and Benedetti, and attempted to adopt their teaching, but finding them inaccurate began cautiously and tentatively to depend on his own observations; eventually he emancipated himself entirely from tradition and became the greatest naturalist of the fifteenth century. He corroborated his physiological investigations by physical and mathematical tests, studied embryology in animals and in man, dissected more human subjects and gave far more accurate descriptions than any of his predecessors, and came near to, but did not succeed in, anticipating Harvey in the correct conception of the circulation. Mr. J. J. Fahie's essay on the scientific work of Galileo is a review of the national edition of Galileo's works in twenty large octavo volumes edited by Professor Favaro, who has devoted forty-four years to this study. Although Galileo was not much interested in medical studies, and was soon attracted away from them by the lure of mathematics and physics, one of his first discoveries, the synchronism of the oscillations of the pendulum, was made by timing the excursions by his pulse; this was the earliest instance of accurate measurement of any bodily function, as well as the basis of the modern clocks; it was long used by physicians under the

unwillingly to cause them pain. He was deep down a sentimentalist, like my old friend Professor Samson Gemmell, though like him he would have cut off his hand rather than have shown it. He hated cant and dogma, but believed in the true essentials. He always dreaded a long illness, so he has died as he wished, and his memory will remain enshrined in the hearts of many patients and friends.

WILLIAM A. CASKIE, M.A., M.D., J.P.,  
Glasgow.

By the death of William A. Caskie, M.A., M.D., J.P., which took place on June 2nd, the profession in Glasgow has lost one who was well known and greatly respected. After studying at Glasgow University, he graduated M.A. in 1871, M.B. and C.M. in 1876, and proceeded M.D. in 1883. Dr. Caskie, when he returned to settle in Glasgow, was already a man of ripe experience, which he had acquired during many years of practice in the coast town of Largs; and when he took part in the discussions at medical meetings he at once commanded the respectful attention of his hearers. He made no pretensions to brilliancy, but he was of that good type, the observant and reflective general practitioner, and his contributions to debate were characterized by the restraint in statement that shows the well-balanced mind. It was mainly, however, as secretary to the North-Western Division of the Glasgow and West of Scotland Branch of the British Medical Association that he made for himself a place in the grateful remembrance of the local profession. A colleague writes: "Dr. Caskie held office through the long, laborious days when the National Insurance Bill was under discussion and those no less arduous times of recruiting for the medical service of the army. Never did he complain of the heavy burden laid on him, and never did he give cause for complaint through work undone. When men's tempers were apt to be frayed in the conflict of opinion his patience and equanimity never failed. In recognition of the debt which the local profession owed him he was made the recipient of a material testimonial, but the debt remains undischarged, although not unacknowledged in the memory of those who know the real extent of it."

THE LATE DR. HERBERT CUFF.—An old colleague writes that probably the most striking piece of work accomplished by Dr. Herbert Cuff was the organization of the Alexandra Palace at a day's notice in September, 1914, as a huge camp for Belgian refugees; it had over 3,000 beds, and from October, 1914, to February, 1915, over 35,000 refugees of all ages and conditions passed through, including 1,900 refugees in one night from the wreck of the *Amiral Ganteaume* off Calais. Dr. Cuff's handling of this difficult work won great admiration, and for his services he was created an officer of the Order of the British Empire and an officer of the Order of the Crown of Belgium. At the funeral at Little Bookham on August 18th a large gathering of representatives of the Ministry of Health, the Metropolitan Asylums Board, Guy's Hospital, and other authorities and institutions assembled to pay a last tribute to one whose lovable personality will leave an abiding memory with all those with whom he came into contact.

## The Services.

### ARMY MEDICAL SERVICE.

A COMMUNICATION received from the War Office states that the sword for colonels, Army Medical Service, and officers of the Royal Army Medical Corps, will in future be of the pattern authorized for infantry. Officers in possession of the existing pattern sword may retain it in wear. The gorget patches worn by the Army Medical Service are now of dull cherry cloth.

### HONOURS.

AMONG the recipients of rewards announced on August 10th for distinguished services in the field in Mesopotamia is Temporary Captain Ivor Ridge-Jones, R.A.M.C., attached 122nd Inf.L.A., who receives the Military Cross.

For conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty at Jubin on October 26th, 1920. During a five-hours' fight he displayed great coolness and daring in bringing back the wounded from the front line under heavy rifle and machine-gun fire. Throughout he set an excellent example, and it was due to his pluck and resource that all the wounded were retrieved.

The Shah of Persia has conferred the Order of the Lion and Sun of the second class upon Major (acting Lieut.-Colonel) A. Irvine Fortescue, D.S.O., R.A.M.C., for services rendered in dealing with a severe epidemic of typhus which occurred in a camp for Bolshevik prisoners of war at Shahr-i-No, near Teheran.

The following are among the decorations conferred by the Allied Powers for distinguished services rendered during the war 1914-1919:

President of the United States.—*Distinguished Service Medal*: Surgeon Lieutenant Commander F. C. Alton, O.B.E., and Surgeon Lieutenant A. G. Bee.  
King of the Belgians.—*Ordre de Leopold*—*Chevalier*: Temporary (honorary) Major Edward H. Hicks, R.A.M.C.  
President of the French Republic.—*Croix de Guerre*: Colonel S. F. Clark, A.M.S., R. of O.  
President of the Portuguese Republic.—*Red Cross Medal, 3rd Class Cruz Vermelha de Merito*: Major J. Utting, R.A.M.C.(T.F.).

## Universities and Colleges.

### UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.

#### UNIVERSITY COLLEGE.

THE following appointments have been made in the Faculty of Medical Sciences at University College, London:

*Senior Demonstrators in Anatomy*: Mr. R. A. Dart and Mr. J. Shellshear.

*Senior Lecturer in Histology*: Dr. C. Da Fano.

*Senior Assistant in Zoology*: Dr. Elizabeth Fraser.

*Assistant in Physiology*: Mr. E. B. Verney.

## Medical News.

SIR A. W. MAYO-ROBSON, K.B.E., C.B., has had conferred on him the distinction of Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur for services rendered in France with the Croix Rouge Français during the war.

A POST-GRADUATE course will be given at the Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford, from October 3rd to October 8th. The subjects for consideration will be introduced by various members of the staff, who will also give demonstrations daily. A limited number of those attending the course will be accommodated in rooms in Queen's College. Full particulars can be obtained from Mr. Hugh Whitelocke, M.B., B.Ch., 6, Banbury Road, Oxford.

At the quarterly committee meeting of the Auxiliary Royal Army Medical Corps Funds, held on July 22nd, eleven grants were made to cases in the Benevolent Branch for the orphans of officers amounting to £474 15s. 4d., and five grants in the Relief Branch for widows and children of the rank and file amounting to £109. These funds are for the relief of widows and orphans of commissioned officers, non-commissioned officers, and men of the rank and file of the Royal Army Medical Corps, Special Reserve, Territorial Force, and New Armies, and also for the relief of the children of those who have been so severely damaged in the late war that they need help for the education of children. Requests for relief should be addressed to the honorary secretary at the offices of the Funds at 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, W.1.

THE Wellcome Historical Medical Museum will be closed for cleaning and decorating from September 1st to September 30th inclusive.

A THREE months' course of lectures and demonstrations in hospital administration for the diploma in public health will be given by the medical superintendent (Dr. E. W. Goodall) at the North-Western Hospital, Lawn Road, Hampstead, on Tuesdays and Thursday, at 5 p.m., commencing on October 4th. The fee for the course is £3 3s. Further information can be obtained from the Clerk to the Metropolitan Asylums Board, E.C.4.

THE courses of lectures and demonstrations for sanitary officers, meat and food inspectors, and women health visitors and child welfare workers, at the Royal Sanitary Institute, will be opened on September 19th, when Professor H. R. Kenwood, C.M.G., M.B., will give an introductory lecture. Full particulars can be obtained from the Secretary, 90, Buckingham Palace Road, S.W.1.

THE Franco-Polish Medical Congress will be held next month. A two-day session at Posen is to be followed by a five-day session at Warsaw.

AN article giving particulars with regard to the Dangerous Drugs Regulations, which come into force on September 1st, is printed in the SUPPLEMENT for this week. The *Chemist and Druggist* has published a card (1s.) for the use of pharmacists; in addition to particulars of such parts of the regulations as are of most importance to them, it gives a table showing the percentage in the various drugs to which the Act applies in various official and unofficial preparations.

THE Departmental Committee appointed by the Minister of Health to investigate the causes and prevention of blindness, of which the Right Hon. G. H. Roberts is chairman, has issued an interim report on the injuries to the sight of performers alleged to be due to the powerful lights used for the production of films in cinematograph studios. The committee traces the trouble to the use of open arc lights without diffusing screens, but finds that the deleterious effects have not been permanent. Unscreened arcs are not only unnecessary, but give less satisfactory photographic results, and the Incorporated Association of Cinematograph Manufacturers has given an undertaking that its members will not permit the use of open arc lights without filters in their studios. The committee points out that the industry is in a state of development, and that research is needed as to the best types of lamp.

A MEDICAL congress on balneotherapy, presided over by Dr. Roger Bolay, is to be held on October 8th and 9th at Yverdon-les-Bains, that pleasant little Swiss spa which is situated at the lower end of the Lake of Neuchâtel.

ON the occasion of his retirement from the superintendship of Bellefield Sanatorium, Dr. James W. Allan has been presented by the staff of the Public Health Department of the Glasgow Corporation with a silver rose bowl in recognition of his work in the department.

MESSRS. W. HEFFER AND SONS, LTD., Cambridge, have in the press a volume entitled *The Autonomic Nervous System*, Part I, by Dr. J. N. Langley, F.R.S., Professor of Physiology in the University of Cambridge. It is the first part of a study of the sympathetic and allied nervous systems grouped together as the autonomic system. It gives an historical account of the various terms which have been used in describing the system, the place of origin and of peripheral distribution of its parts, and the common character of its nerve fibres. It treats of the action of drugs in relation to the sympathetic and parasympathetic subdivisions of the autonomic system, taking adrenaline and pilocarpine as types of the drugs which have a preferential action on these subdivisions, and discusses the various theories to which the preferential action has given rise. The tissues innervated are then dealt with; this section includes a discussion of the innervation by autonomic nerves of pigment cells, capillaries and striated muscle.

It is reported that Professor Tcherbak, director of the physio-therapeutic institute at Sebastopol, has been shot by the Bolsheviks for having had the wounded soldiers of the voluntary army nursed in the institute.

## Letters, Notes, and Answers.

As, owing to printing difficulties, the JOURNAL must be sent to press earlier than hitherto, it is essential that communications intended for the current issue should be received by the first post on Tuesday, and lengthy documents on Monday.

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, *Attitology, Westrand, London*; telephone, 2630, Gerrard.

2. FINANCIAL SECRETARY AND BUSINESS MANAGER (Advertisements, etc.), *Articulate, Westrand, London*; telephone, 2630, Gerrard.

3. MEDICAL SECRETARY, *Medisecra, Westrand, London*; telephone, 2630, Gerrard. The address of the Irish Office of the British Medical Association is 16, South Frederick Street, Dublin (telegrams: *Bacillus, Dublin*; telephone, 4737, Dublin), and of the Scottish Office, 6, Rutland Square, Edinburgh (telegrams: *Associate, Edinburgh*; telephone, 4361, Central).

### QUERIES AND ANSWERS.

#### INCOME TAX.

"W. J. C." asks: (1) Is the inspector of taxes right in refusing to allow for "depreciation" of motor car? and (2) a Maxwell four-seater costing £250, sold for £200, and two-seater Calcott costing £550, purchased in replacement, what is the appropriate allowance?

\*\* (1) Yes; this probably accidental and undoubtedly unfair discrimination between a "trade" and a "profession" was represented to the Royal Commission, and its abolition was recommended in their report. (2) Apparently the Maxwell was purchased second-hand, in which case "W. J. C." has undoubtedly improved his professional equipment, and the improvement represents capital and not current expenditure.

The amount deductible must be limited to £x-£200, £x being the cost, as at the date the Calcott was purchased of a second-hand four-seater Maxwell in a condition similar to that in which the old Maxwell was purchased.

"M. M. K." inquires whether he can deduct for tax purposes (1) £350 expended in connexion with a proposed purchase of a practice, the proposal having fallen through; and (2) sums paid, not under legal obligation, annually towards the support of a relative who advanced money for his education.

\*\* No. "M. M. K." is in practice, and can deduct from his professional receipts only expenses incurred in carrying on the practice. (2) If our correspondent is in fact paying interest, he is rightly assessed at 6s. in the £ on the amount thereof, because on that assumption he is entitled to deduct tax at that rate from the interest, leaving the relative to reclaim the whole or such portion as is returnable. But the facts as stated rather suggest that there is no real payment of interest, in which case the tax cannot be deducted, and the rate of 6s. may or may not be right, according to the amount of our correspondent's income.

"A. V. D." has sold his practice with a twelvemonths' introduction, but does not wish the fact to be known. The "partner" has been asked by the local inspector of taxes whether he has bought the practice and, if so, how much he has paid for it. Can this information be required?

\*\* We think that the local official is reasonably entitled to know in what capacity the declaration of profits is made, but should demur to the request for a statement of the purchase price. On the legal aspect, the inspector is not entitled to the information, but he has the right of objecting to the amount returned for assessment, and on an appeal against an assessment made the commissioners for the district may call for such information as they think fit. Whether they would demand to know the purchase price may be doubted.

### LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.

#### ASTHMA AND ALLIED DISORDERS.

"M.D. 1920" writes with reference to the report of the address by Sir H. Rolleston and discussion by others on asthma and allied disorders.

It would be interesting to learn how long Sir H. Rolleston spent in gathering his facts; it would be more interesting to learn on how many patients a day he would be able to carry out his hundred and one skin reactions with proteins; it would be most interesting to discover how he proposes to juggle with the proteins which, in treatment, he suggests his patients should avoid. It is another triumph for Sir James Mackenzie's recent efforts to put symptomatology on a firm basis that the old recorders of symptoms said in simple words simply what to-day is shrouded in technical terms and a mass of figures. The doctors of the last century did no skin reactions, and yet were successful in treating—say urticaria—by advising the avoidance of strawberries or some article of food that disagreed. They likewise considered such points as occupation and environment in the treatment of asthma. When one considers the admitted psychological causes of these conditions one wonders why there is all this "pudder of the elements" over "sensitization" (a most unhappy term). This letter is meant in no way to detract from the eminence of the speakers, which I admire and respect; it is only the feeble cry of one young in medicine whose infant knowledge is daily being strangled by this rank growth of research.

#### VACANCIES.

NOTIFICATIONS of offices vacant in universities, medical colleges, and of vacant resident and other appointments at hospitals, will be found at pages 26, 27, 30, 31, 32, and 33 of our advertisement columns, and advertisements as to partnerships, assistantships, and locum tenencies at pages 28, 29, and 30.

### SCALE OF CHARGES FOR ADVERTISEMENTS IN THE BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL.

	£	s.	d.
Six lines and under ...	0	9	0
Each additional line ...	0	1	6
Whole single column (three columns to page) ...	7	10	0
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Half page ...	10	0	0
Whole page ...	20	0	0

An average line contains six words.

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

Advertisements should be delivered, addressed to the Manager, 429, Strand, London, not later than the first post on Tuesday morning preceding publication, and, if not paid for at the time, should be accompanied by a reference.

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