

It is scarcely necessary to observe that every liver abscess, though solitary, is not due to the entamoeba, as the two following anomalous cases show:

P. P., aged 29, served in Ireland four and a half years, France five months, Mesopotamia three years, being demobilized in August, 1919. He contracted malaria, and in September, 1918, received a blow on the chest from a spade handle. A swelling developed painlessly, and was opened in December, 1918; a discharging sinus remained, which was again operated upon in February, 1919. When seen on January 30th, 1920, there was still a discharging sinus around the right seventh rib in the mid-clavicular line. There was no pyrexia, no enlargement of liver or spleen, no enlarged glands, and no signs in the lungs. The Wassermann reaction was negative. X-ray examination showed no enlargement of the liver. Operation revealed a hydatid cyst of the upper surface of the diaphragm, removed with much difficulty, the sinus taking several weeks to heal.

H. W., aged 24, a machinist (female), had suffered from pain in the right side for the past three months, but had only been off work for the past three weeks. When first seen on March 15th, 1921, she looked flushed and very ill, with great dyspnoea and a rapid pulse. The heart's apex beat was in the third space in the nipple line on the left side. Dullness at the right base extended up to the third rib in front, and on the left side to the sixth rib in the lateral line. The right chest was tapped, and thirty-four ounces of clear but spontaneously coagulable fluid was drawn off. The hectic temperature continued, and the dyspnoea was but little relieved. The apex beat returned to the fifth space in the nipple line, but the right-sided dullness persisted, although the left had disappeared. A needle was introduced into the right chest on two subsequent occasions, but only blood was obtained. The liver edge reached below the umbilicus throughout.

The chest was explored, as it seemed likely that the trouble lay beneath the diaphragm, and a huge suppurating hydatid cyst of liver was found which during the operation burst into the lung, producing some haemoptysis. The blood showed a marked leucocytosis but no eosinophilia. Later it was found that complement fixation, using the clear fluid obtained from daughter cysts, gave with the patient's serum a complete fixation in 1 in 20 dilution and delayed lysis in 1 in 40 dilution. With two controls no fixation was obtained. This patient had never lived outside northern England. Her death, which occurred on the fifth day after operation, was hardly surprising in view of the great extent of hepatic damage.

To my surgical colleagues, Mr. W. R. Douglas, Mr. John Morley, and Mr. Geoffrey Jefferson, for their ever ready help and advice in these difficult and anxious cases, I would offer my grateful thanks.

## Memoranda:

### MEDICAL, SURGICAL, OBSTETRICAL.

#### SUDDEN DEATH FROM ASPHYXIA FOLLOWING REGURGITATION OF SEMI-DIGESTED FOOD.

As the following case possesses some medico-legal interest it has been thought advisable to bring it to general notice.

A man, aged 52, was brought in dead to King Edward VII Hospital, Cardiff, on the evening of November 7th, having shortly before died suddenly in a hotel bar. The *post-mortem* examination was made on the morning of November 9th. The body was that of a well-preserved, well-developed man, and, beyond a slight abrasion on the right forehead, there was nothing abnormal in the external appearances of the body. *Post-mortem* staining and rigor mortis were present, but there were no traces of lividity.

On opening the body it was noticed that the veins of the neck were greatly distended with very dark fluid blood; this escaped on severance of the veins, leaving the large veins and right side of the heart without a trace of blood. The escaped blood clotted quickly outside the body. The fluidity of the blood within the body is attributed to the suddenness of the death, the subsequent cooling of the body, and the absence of factors facilitating deposition of blood platelets. Apart from dilatation of the chambers, and a slight increase of epicardial fat, the heart was in very good condition.

The lungs were engorged with dark blood, which brightened on exposure to the air. There was no oedema and but very slight emphysema. Impacted in both bronchi, in the right to a greater extent than in the left, was some creamy pulsatous material, which extended into the bronchioles of both lungs. There was no inflammatory reaction. Traces of the same material were found in the trachea, larynx, and oesophagus, none of which showed any evidence of inflammation. On examination, the material appeared to be composed of semi-digested food; the total quantity present did not exceed two tablespoonfuls.

The stomach was almost empty. The mucous membrane of the oesophageal antrum showed capillary engorgement and rugae were present. The pyloric antrum, on the other hand, showed digested rugae and the presence of a few cubic

centimetres of semifluid digested material tinged with altered haemoglobin and emitting an odour of stale alcohol. The other organs of the body, including the brain, were free from any pathological condition, apart from some venous engorgement.

There was therefore presumptive evidence of the ingestion of some irritant on an almost empty stomach containing the remains of a semi-digested light meal, followed by vomiting and regurgitation into the larynx and trachea, and so into the bronchi and bronchioles, producing speedy suffocation. The irritant action of the ingested material was evidenced by the condition of the mucous membrane of the oesophageal antrum and its preservative nature by the persistence of the rugae at this site. The odour of the stomach contents suggested the alcoholic nature of the irritant. These findings were borne out by the details related at the inquest. His last meal, taken at 5.30 p.m., consisted of tea and bread-and-butter. He arrived at the public-house at 8.20 p.m. and sat drinking until 9.30 p.m., when he was noticed to gasp for breath, his head fell back, and his pipe dropped out of his mouth; death appeared to be practically instantaneous. It is conjectured that on account of the presence of some women friends he attempted to suppress the vomiting which took place.

Cardiff.

E. EMRYS-ROBERTS, M.D.

#### A CASE OF PELIOSIS RHEUMATICA.

In view of the recent discussion on the phenomena of acute rheumatism, the following case may be of interest.

A man, aged 26, was taken ill on November 14th with joint pains. He remained at work until November 16th, when he contracted a sore throat and took to his bed. He was admitted to the Ham Green Hospital, Bristol, on November 17th as a suspected case of diphtheria. On admission his throat was very congested, with a small ulcerated patch on the left tonsil; the tongue was furred. He complained of pain and stiffness of the joints, and fluid was detected in the right knee-joint. The heart sounds were normal, the temperature 100°, and the pulse 98. He was given a small dose of diphtheria antitoxin and large doses of sodium bicarbonate and sodium salicylate. He got no relief even after the salicylates had been pushed further. On November 20th raised areas of large haemorrhagic patches appeared on the left hip, both knees, and on the forehead. There were purpuric patches also on the palate. There was no eruption on the back. Further patches of ulceration appeared at the base of the uvula and on the lower lip. The joint pains were still present; aspirin was substituted for sodium salicylate, but with no better result. On November 21st the temperature rose to 103°, and remained there for forty-eight hours; it dropped to normal on November 24th, and remained down. The joint pains and patches of ulceration cleared up rapidly, and he was discharged on November 29th. During the height of the fever there was a thick cloud of albumin in the urine. The throat swabs were negative to diphtheria and Vincent infection.

The combination of joint pains, sore throat, and purpuric eruption was first described by Schönlein under the name of peliosis rheumatica, but it appears to differ from acute rheumatism in the following respects:

The joint pains are not nearly so severe as those of acute rheumatism, and the patient can move about with a fair degree of comfort.

The profuse sweating so characteristic of acute rheumatism is absent. Endocarditis does not occur.

Salicylates appear to have no effect whatsoever on the joint pains or the temperature.

H. V. JACKSON, M.R.C.S.

Bristol City Isolation Hospital.

At a recent meeting of the Fédération Internationale at the Hague it was decided to hold an international dental congress at Madrid, to which Germans and Austrians would be invited.

A LARGE number of professorial chairs are vacant in Prussian universities, including those of radiology, history of medicine, embryology, and laryngology at Berlin; medicine, medical jurisprudence, and pharmacology at Königsberg; pathological anatomy, medical jurisprudence, and dentistry at Bonn, and pharmacology at Kiel.

THE Ministry of Food in Germany has formed a committee to promote scientific investigations on food. The committee consists of Professors Abderhalden and Rubner for the physiology of nutrition; Baur and G. Haberlandt for vegetable physiology; A. Haiduschka, A. Juckernack, and T. Paul for the chemistry of food; R. O. Neumann for bacteriology and alimentary hygiene; F. Müller for chemical questions, and R. Kuczynski for statistics.

## Universities and Colleges.

## UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD.

At a congregation held on December 17th the following medical degrees were conferred:

D.M.—W. E. Waller.  
B.M.—M. E. Shaw, D. B. Pauw, C. C. H. Chavasse.

## UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE.

The following candidates have passed both parts of the examination for the Diploma in Psychological Medicine and are entitled to receive the diploma:

M. A. Archdale, S. Kelly, G. A. Lilly, R. A. Noble, W. D. Wilkins.

## UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.

A MEETING of the Senate was held on December 14th, the Vice-Chancellor (Sir Sydney Russell Wells, M.D.) being in the chair.

Mr. R. H. Aders Plimmer, D.Sc.Lond., was appointed as from January 1st, 1922, to the University Chair of Chemistry, tenable at St. Thomas's Hospital Medical School. From 1902 to 1904 he was Grocers' Company's Research Student at the Lister Institute of Preventive Medicine, and in the latter year was appointed Assistant for Physiological Chemistry at University College, at which he was later appointed to teach chemistry to medical students. In 1912 the Senate conferred on him the title of Reader in Physiological Chemistry. Since 1919 he has been head of the Biochemical Department of the Rowett Research Institute of Animal Nutrition at the University of Aberdeen and North of Scotland College of Agriculture, and Research Lecturer in Applied Biochemistry in the University of Aberdeen.

Regulations for the new degree of Bachelor of Dental Surgery were approved for internal students.

Sir Sydney Russell Wells, M.D., was reappointed the representative of the University on the General Medical Council for 1922-23; and Professor A. D. Waller, M.D., F.R.S., was appointed to represent the University at the unveiling of a memorial to Pasteur, in commemoration of the one hundredth anniversary of his birth, to take place at Strasbourg in May, 1923.

## LONDON SCHOOL OF TROPICAL MEDICINE.

The following were successful at the examination at the end of the sixty-seventh session:

\*E. P. Hicks (winner of "Duncan" Medal), \*E. S. Godlieb, \*G. D. English, \*E. A. C. Langton, Miss A. Reubens, C. F. Chenoy, A. G. Boggs, C. U. Lee, J. R. McVail, B. Shaha, F. G. Spear, J. A. Young, H. C. Wilkinson, H. O. Hofmeyer, G. N. Cossery, J. Dimock, J. Pedris, J. D. Gazder, H. S. Hutchinson, A. H. Mitchell, G. D. K. Waldron, Miss Reba Hunsberger, Major J. A. A. Kernahan, I.M.S., P. M. Nanavali, M. Remy, A. Bindari, M. H. Eid, J. F. Misquitta, Captain D. F. Taylor, I.M.S., W. Spiteri, M. Shalaby, H. Buchanan, K. C. Kirti.  
\* With distinction.

## UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL.

The following candidates have been approved at the examination indicated:

M.B. Ch.B. (WITH HONOURS).—Class I: \*J. L. Armour, \*C. A. Wells. Class II: \*C. H. R. Carmichael, \*E. N. Chamberlain.  
M.B. Ch.B.—Part III: O. A. Akjaly, J. R. Bhatia, H. R. Chibber, A. C. Crawford, Helen M. Duvall, I. S. Fox, B. A. Galway, F. G. Latham, J. F. C. McColl, Kathleen M. Platt, Gladys Rutherford, F. C. H. Sergeant, N. S. Taylor, W. T. de V. Thomson. Part II: W. H. A. Dodd, G. T. Krajewski, C. B. Lewis, G. F. G. Pridaux, G. Sanders, E. R. Smith, Enid F. Stowell, A. Weisberg, D. A. Woodeson. Part I: A. R. D. Adams, J. Berkson, R. W. Brookfield, T. L. Bulmer, I. Casdan, W. J. B. Chidlow, R. G. Cooke, R. L. Corlett, I. H. Davies, Hilda M. Davis, F. Earlam, F. S. Fowweather, Susan G. Luck, H. Graf, J. R. Griffiths, A. J. Hawe, C. W. Healey, S. Hesselberg, Elizabeth Hunt, J. E. Johnson, F. H. Jones, A. Kefalas, T. J. Kirkpatrick, D. A. Levin, Eileen M. Lloyd, Marion R. Lunt, D. Macfarlane, Mary M. McMillan, P. Madan, P. Malpas, C. H. Owen, Eleanor M. P. Pearson, J. D. O'M. Poole, E. L. Roberts, J. Roberts, Dorothea W. Rogers, J. A. Scott, J. F. D. Shrewsbury, E. R. Smith, J. R. A. Tallack, Dorothy A. Taylor, Elizabeth M. Theron, V. T. Thierens, H. A. Thomas, R. W. Thomas, A. Tumarkin, E. J. Whymark, H. P. Widdup, A. G. Wilkinson, E. B. Wilkinson, J. Williams.  
D.L.M.—G. P. F. Allen (recommended for the Alan H. Milne Memorial Medal), C. R. Cortfield, A. Hamid, B. W. Longhurst, G. A. Macvea, H. R. Madan, W. P. Mulligan, S. S. Shri Kent.  
\* Distinguished in Surgery. † Distinguished in Obstetrics.  
‡ Distinguished in Medicine. § Distinguished in Pathology.

## UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH.

At the graduation ceremonial held in McEwan Hall, on December 16th, Sir Alfred Ewing said that in a comparison with fourteen British universities, Edinburgh taught the largest number of students, and gave its teaching at the least cost per head. Taking the fourteen large universities of England altogether—Oxford and Cambridge were necessarily left out, because their finances were too obscure to be understood—there were about 26,000 students, at a total cost of £65 per head. That meant that the universities had actually to find £65 annually for each student that they taught. Out of that cost, the student contributed on the average £25 in fees, and the remainder had to be found somewhere. They in Edinburgh were so fortunate as to receive now £70,000 a year from the State, equivalent to £16 per head. Their endowments amounted to £8 a head, and their fees to £22 a head. The cost to the University was £47: and if they took the three largest Scottish

universities together, the cost per student was £49, of which the student found only £21. For every £9 that the University found, the student found only £4. When they emerged from the war the universities were in a parlous condition.

The following medical degrees and diploma were conferred:

M.D.—G. Ap Thomas, J. J. R. Binnie, Alice Bloomfield (with First Class Honours), \*C. C. Brown, S. B. B. Campbell (with First Class Honours), \*Major V. T. Carruthers, R.A.M.C., \*Major A. G. Couille, I.M.S., \*F. A. E. Crew, \*Major H. R. B. Gibson, I.M.S., \*R. L. Girdwood, G. H. Gunn, G. Lange, D. Lennox, J. S. Lloyd, \*B. Morrison, H. Patley, Ella F. Pringle, R. H. Pulipaka, A. O. Ross, J. H. M. Sandison, H. J. Slane, A. K. Tow-rr.  
M.B., Ch.B.—R. Abramsky, J. C. Adam, C. S. Appleyard, E. Arosemena, C. G. Auld, C. T. B. Benson, L. R. Bergson, Susan A. Binnie, J. M. Blair, E. P. Bliss, J. M. Bonar, G. Brewster, Agnes G. Brough, D. L. Brown, C. Brownlee, W. S. Burr, \*K. F. Caird, A. Campbell, D. Campbell, G. G. Campbell, C. G. Catto, C. Henri-François de Chalus, E. Clark, D. R. Clarke, Malilda L. Craig, D. R. Cramb, J. C. Cruickshank, A. H. Deighton, J. A. Douglas, A. MacG. Duff, Jeannie P. Dunn, Katrina Dunn, Evelyn B. G. Ewen, G. B. Flint, Charlotte E. Forsyth, J. A. Fraser, Eileen R. Freeman, F. L. A. Gacé, Marjorie Geen, I. O. S. Gibbs, N. Giblin, Doris M. Gibson, Helen E. Gibson, A. R. Gilchrist, I. S. Hall, T. Harrison, Isabella M. Hay, W. B. E. Hughes, E. J. Hunter, R. H. R. Innes, B. Isaacson, Inez M. Y. M. Jenkins, C. I. I. Jones, †J. O. Kelly, Marjorie C. Kerr, A. King, J. Lovius, P. J. McDiarmid, Jane W. Macdonald, W. S. Macdonald, G. S. Mackay, G. W. J. Mackay, J. C. MacKay, H. D. McKinna, H. McNair, J. W. Mason, †D. S. Middleton, I. G. Middleton, Ann L. Morrison, Q. M. Musa, S. S. Nicholson, G. Ogilvie, M. M. Ostrowick, J. W. T. Patterson, H. R. Potter, †A. M. W. Rae, L. Ratnayake, †W. B. Reid, C. A. Robson, A. Sanders, E. L. Sanders, G. G. Sanders, Margaret M. Sands, M. N. Sanyal, †G. S. Scott, C. M. Seward, J. McD. S. Slater, A. T. Sloan, T. R. C. Spence, †G. D. Steven, F. M. Stewart, A. Stuart, A. Sutherland, A. K. Tampi, Marion C. Taylor, L. Teitelman, D. W. C. Tough, G. A. Velluot, K. Vullakki, G. B. Walker, J. Walker, P. K. Walker, Sarah B. H. Walker, †K. B. Williamson, †A. J. Wilson, J. T. Wilson, J. H. Wright.  
D.P.H.—W. P. S. Johnson.

\*\* Highly commended for Thesis. \* Commended for Thesis.

† Passed with first class honours.

‡ Passed with second class honours.

## ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF EDINBURGH.

At the meeting of the College held on December 16th, Sir David Wallace, C.M.G., President, in the chair, Dr. George Mackay and Mr. C. W. Cathcart, C.B.E., were re-elected representatives on the board of management of the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, for the ensuing year.

The following candidates, having passed the requisite examinations, were admitted Fellows:

E. R. Chambers, C. B. Clarke, J. H. Dove, E. D. Smith, V. B. Gokhale, J. W. Hall, N. Hodgson, E. W. Ingle, M. S. Irani, V. M. Kwikini, R. Mailer, R. B. P. Monson, K. S. Nigam, A. L. Sheppard, P. A. Smuts, D. Steven, R. L. Stewart, T. J. R. Warren.

## The Services.

## DEATHS IN THE SERVICES.

Captain Clement Hoyle Heppenstall, Indian Medical Service, was reported as killed in action on December 11th, on the North-West frontier of India, in an attack made by tribesmen on a convoy proceeding from Datta Khel to Muhammad Khel, in the Tochi Valley. He was educated at Leeds, and took the Scottish triple qualification in 1908; he graduated M.B., B.S. London in 1914, and took the London diploma in tropical medicine, with distinction, in 1920. After filling the posts of resident medical officer at Leeds Public Dispensary and of medical officer to a silver lead mining company, he took a temporary commission in the I.M.S. on December 2nd, 1915, as lieutenant, was confirmed from March 13th, 1916, and promoted to captain on December 2nd, 1916. He had served in the recent war for three years.

Surgeon-Major-General Peter Stephenson Turnbull, K.H.S., Bombay Medical Service (retired), died in Edinburgh on October 7th, aged 85. He was educated at Glasgow, where he graduated M.D. in 1859, and entered the I.M.S. as assistant surgeon on October 1st, 1860, becoming brigade surgeon on April 1st, 1887, deputy surgeon-general on February 26th, 1888, and surgeon-major-general on February 26th, 1893; he retired on March 2nd, 1895. He served in the Abyssinian war of 1857-68, when he was present at the action of Arji, and at the storm and capture of Magdala, receiving the medal. In 1883-85 he acted as Inspector-General of Prisons, Bombay; from 1885 to 1888 he was secretary to the P.M.O. Bombay; and in the administrative grades he held the posts successively of P.M.O. in Sind and of surgeon-general with the Government of Bombay. He received a good service pension on Feb. 26th, 1893, and was made an honorary surgeon to the King on September 20th, 1902. He leaves a widow, three sons, and four daughters.

Major Albert Thomas James McCreery, R.A.M.C., died of appendicitis at Bombay on September 10th. He was born on October 26th, 1882, and educated at Trinity College, Dublin, where he graduated B.A., M.B., B.Ch., and B.A.O. in 1907. Entering the R.A.M.C. as lieutenant on August 1st, 1908, he was promoted to a brevet majority on January 1st, 1919, and to major on August 1st, 1920. He served in the recent war in Mesopotamia, where he took part in the defence of Kut under General Townshend, was twice mentioned in dispatches, on April 5th and July 13th, 1916, and received the Military Cross on June 3rd, 1916, as well as a brevet three years later.

## Medical News.

THE British Red Cross Society makes an appeal on behalf of the Russian Famine Relief Fund, which is already shipping stores to the value of £250,000 given to it by the British Government. A great deal more is needed if a continuance of the famine, with its attendant epidemics, is to be prevented. Dr. Reginald Farrar, until recently a medical officer of the Ministry of Health, is already in Moscow on behalf of the Society and of the Epidemic Section of the League of Nations to advise upon the distribution of the large amount of medical supplies contained in the British Government's gift. Sir Benjamin Robertson, K.C.S.I., who has had much experience of famine in India, is going to Russia, at the request of the British Red Cross Society, to examine existing methods of distribution in Russia of voluntary charitable relief from the British Empire and to make suggestions. The address of the treasurer of the Russian Famine Relief Fund is Fishmongers' Hall, London, E.C.4.

WE are informed that a Council for the Promotion of Oro-Nasal Hygiene has been formed, with Dr. Octavia Lewin as chairman and Dr. John Kynaston as honorary secretary. The first members are Dr. Henderson and Dr. Baskett. The objects of the Council are to extend the knowledge of the functions of the upper air passages, to obtain acceptance of the principle that oro-nasal hygiene should be adopted as the ordinary routine, and that operations should be performed only in exceptional cases. Communications may be addressed to the honorary secretary, 26, Welbeck Street, London, W.1.

PART of the great work done for the blind by Sir Arthur Pearson, whose death has aroused so much sympathy, was to provide training in massage for blinded soldiers and civilians. The Association of Certificated Blind Masseurs, 224, Great Portland Street, London, W.1, of which Sir Arthur Pearson was president, appeals to the medical profession to encourage the employment of blind persons skilled in massage. Its members are forbidden to undertake the treatment of patients without the consent and advice of a registered medical practitioner.

A PRACTICAL course on orthopaedics will be held by Dr. Calot at his clinic in Paris, 69, Quai d'Orsay, from January 23rd to 29th, 1922. The Spanish and English languages will be employed in the demonstrations as well as French; the fee is 150 francs, and the number of places is limited. Further information may be obtained from Dr. Collet, 69, Quai d'Orsay, Paris.

THE annual report of the Royal Surgical Aid Society, presented to the fifty-ninth annual meeting, held at the Mansion House, on December 13th, showed that 19,490 patients had been assisted and 28,656 surgical appliances supplied to necessitous persons. The Lord Mayor, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, urged that every effort should be made to augment the society's income and to extend its usefulness.

THE first Italian National Congress of women medical practitioners was held at Salsomaggiore from October 14th to 16th, and a national Association has now been organized.

A COMMITTEE, with M. Georges Clemenceau as president, has been formed to erect within the precincts of the St. Anne's Asylum, Paris, a monument to the memory of Dr. V. Magnan, who was for long its chief medical officer. It is hoped to unveil the monument next May and at the same time to celebrate the centenary of the discovery of general paralysis by Bayle. Subscriptions may be sent to M. Masson, 120, Boulevard Saint-Germain, Paris VI.

AT a recent meeting of the Metropolitan Branch of the Society of Medical Officers of Health mention was made by Dr. F. W. Alexander, M.O.H. Poplar, of the solution and sprayer used with great success in Poplar for destroying bugs. As several inquiries were made afterwards about this solution Dr. Alexander states that the fluid used is solution "D," made by Messrs. Sumner, of Hanover Street, Liverpool; it consists of certain synthetic derivatives of coal-tar in combination with volatile and mineral oils. It is sold in five-gallon tins, price 6s. a gallon.

THE twenty-fifth anniversary of the Finsen Light Institute was celebrated at Copenhagen on October 23rd.

AMONG the courses of lectures to be given at the Royal Institution before Easter is one by Sir Arthur Keith on "Racial problems in Asia and Australasia," being the first part of a course on "Anthropological problems of the British Empire."

DR. A. S. GUBB, of Mustapha Supérieur, Algiers, has received from the President of the French Republic the medal of the "Reconnaissance Française" in recognition of his services to the French Red Cross, in connexion especially with the auxiliary military hospitals at Aix-les-Bains (Savoie) and Algiers. Dr. Gubb's many friends in London, where he was engaged in general practice for many years, and acted also as editor of the *Medical Press and Circular*, will desire to congratulate him on the recognition he has now received from his adopted country.

THE number of nurse infants in the custody of foster mothers registered by the London County Council was 2,952 in 1920, and of this number 1,045 were under 1 year of age. The number of deaths in the year was 26 (20 of them among infants under 1 year), and so far as can be ascertained, 27 others who had been under the care of foster mothers died in hospitals or infirmaries. About 90 per cent. of the nurse infants are illegitimate, and this mortality bears very favourable comparison with the mortality among illegitimate children generally.

IN its annual report the State Children's Association points out that the amount of juvenile delinquency has now fallen to pre-war level. It repeats its protest against the practice of sending to prison boys and girls between 14 and 16, and juvenile adults between 16 and 21; the imposition of these sentences, often for a month or less, can, it is argued, have no effect on the offenders save to destroy self-respect. The number of children supported or assisted under the Poor Law has increased, as was to be expected in existing economic conditions. The scattered home system for Poor Law children who cannot be boarded out is winning approval, though the shortage of houses and the heavy cost of building has checked its application. The report makes reference to the Home Office Committee on Probation appointed at the end of 1920. The State Children's Association submitted its views to it, but the report has not yet been published.

## 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.*

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*, *Aitiology*, *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.

DR. H. FERGIE WOODS (London) writes, in reply to Dr. Montgomery (November 26th, p. 924), that homoeopaths often use condurango in cases of cancer accompanied by painful cracks in the corner of the mouth.

### HABITUAL HEADACHE.

"A. E." writes: Will "N. O." try a glass of water at bedtime, just after brushing the teeth with collosol argentinum dentifrice, and honey as a finish to breakfast if the lady likes it?

DR. R. MACDONALD LADELL (Birmingham) writes: It would appear possible that the patient in question suffers from a conversion hysteria. This would not be inconsistent with the fact that her general attitude towards life is a bright one. Analysis of her dreams should reveal whether or not this is the case, and would provide a basis for cure.

### FLEAS.

DR. S. MALLANNAH (Hyderabad, Deccan) writes, in answer to "A.B.S.'s" query (October 29th, 1921, page 726) as to preventing access of fleas to the skin, to suggest the use of powdered tobacco leaves on floors or floor mats, which he thinks much better than camphor.