

They were apt to consider that the function of the oesophagus consisted in a simple opening of the tube to let the food into the stomach, a period of rest following, but that was not the case. The oesophagus in conjunction with the pyloric end of the stomach was constantly in action to keep up the proper tension and direct the food onwards.

The President assured Dr. Paterson and Mr. Howarth that the members of the Section of Laryngology had genuinely and thoroughly appreciated all their work and were very grateful to them.

PLASTIC OPERATIONS FOR NASAL DEFORMITY.

Dr. DOUGLAS GUTHRIE showed a series of photographs illustrating the results of plastic operations in fourteen cases of nasal deformity. In three cases the disfigurement was the result of syphilis, in two cases lupus was the cause, and the remaining nine cases were of traumatic origin. The photographs demonstrated the superiority of costal cartilage transplantation over the injection of paraffin, in the treatment of saddle or sunken nose. The majority of the cases had stood the test of time, the cartilage remaining unaltered in its new position.

Memoranda:

MEDICAL, SURGICAL, OBSTETRICAL.

SOLUTION OF TRINITRIN IN ACUTE NEPHRITIS.

I DESIRE to call attention to the great value of liquor trinitrini in the treatment of acute tubular nephritis, accompanied with dropsy. It is said that there is nothing new under the sun, but I struck upon this remedy by pondering over the question: What prevents a speedy cure of our cases of acute nephritis? I have watched my cases for the last twenty-five years in Glasgow; and, in my experience, to remove the last trace of albumin from the urine of these patients is by no means easy. I think I can safely say that it is quite a common experience to treat the patients with iron tonics and diuretics for six to twelve months before we accomplish our purpose.

The last four cases cleared up so quickly—from a few weeks to a few months—that I venture to state how this was achieved. Three of the patients were up in years, but one was about 30. The urine contained a good deal of albumin. Two of the cases had orthopnoea, due to oedema of the bases of the lungs. One—an old hemiplegic—passed a good deal of blood. His pulse tension was so high that I predicted that he might have a fit, and he had a seizure that night. All the patients made a speedy recovery. Iron tonics were given as soon as the albumin left the urine. The diet was light, limited to fluids, either milk or soups. Purgatives were not employed. The following mixture was given:

R. Pot. acetat. ... 3v
Liq. trinitrini ... mxxxij
Tr. card. co. ... 3iv
Aq. ... 3vij

Half an ounce of this mixture, in water, was given every three hours until the symptoms abated, then thrice daily.

Glasgow. JOHN T. MACLACHLAN, M.D.

RUPTURE OF QUADRICEPS TREATED BY SUTURE.

The following somewhat rare accident, and the treatment adopted, may be of interest. On June 6th Mrs. E., aged 62 years, slipped on going down some steps, and after making a violent effort to recover her balance fell down.

In bed at home, shortly afterwards, she stated that she could not lift her right leg, in which she suffered considerable pain. There was some swelling at and above the right knee-joint, and there appeared to be a gap in her quadriceps extensor muscle about an inch above the patella. She was unable to put this muscle in action. An x-ray screen showed no fracture of the patella. I decided to explore the tear in the quadriceps extensor, and under ether a large flap of skin was raised above the patella, and a complete division of the muscle was discovered, but, curiously, no blood clot or bleeding was found at the point of division. Mattress sutures of thirty-day catgut were used, and the wound healed by first intention. She has now complete use of her leg, can lift her heel off the bed with the knee extended, and the gap felt above the knee after the accident has entirely disappeared.

The only similar case I have ever seen during thirty years of practice was that of an old gentleman over 70 years of age;

in his case no operation was performed, a back splint and strapping being applied; the muscle never united, and a gap remained permanently.

Kettering. LESLIE W. DRYLAND, L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.

ABNORMAL ANTERIOR FONTANELLE.

On making a vaginal examination in a case of labour lately I felt anteriorly what I took to be the posterior fontanelle. There was a depression and three sutures and nothing more. There was no caput succedaneum. Later, as I put on forceps, I was surprised to find the posterior fontanelle lying posteriorly. That this was so was proved by the long rotation of the head as I delivered very easily. After birth I discovered the reason of my mistake. The anterior fontanelle was represented by a dimple where the four sutures met. It was not as usually found and described: for example, in Shears's *Obstetrics* the anterior fontanelle is said to be distinguished in that it is large and soft, and in Berry Hart's *Guide to Midwifery* the anterior fontanelle "is known by its shape and size." There were of course four sutures, but the possibility of such a fontanelle was not known to me, so I had not searched for the fourth suture. There was no head moulding.

CHARLES J. HILL AITKEN, M.D.

Kilnhurst, near Rotherham.

THE TREATMENT OF PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS BY TUBERCULIN.

OPINIONS as to the value of tuberculin in lung tuberculosis are so conflicting that the following figures may be of interest. They refer to the present condition of patients treated during the years 1910 to 1915. Only patients who had tubercle bacilli in the sputum are included; no "doubtful" cases are considered. They came under my care while holding the post of medical officer to the Oxfordshire Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis, and were domiciled not only in the city of Oxford, but also in the surrounding country districts. Owing to the distances from the central dispensary at which the patients lived only a certain number could attend for treatment by tuberculin. Thus, with the exception of a few cases in which the patient's own doctor undertook the administration of tuberculin, it was possible, by virtue of geographical considerations, to have the advantage of a control series. The following table shows the results of treatment of 429 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis; of these, 346 were treated without tuberculin, and 83 with tuberculin.

	Treated without Tuberculin.		Treated with Tuberculin.	
	No.	Per Cent.	No.	Per Cent.
Dead ...	311	89.9	33	45.8
Alive ...	18	5.2	41	49.4
Lost sight of ...	17	4.9	4	4.8
Totals ...	346	100.0	83	100.0

From the table it will be seen that of the 83 patients treated with tuberculin there are 41 (49.4 per cent.) now alive, as against 5.2 per cent. of the 346 patients who received "general medical treatment." Included among the 38 cases who were treated with tuberculin and who are now dead are 3 patients who died from causes other than tuberculosis—one from *post-partum* haemorrhage, and two during the influenza epidemic, having enjoyed up to their death a very reasonable amount of health. One of the 311 cases was killed in the war.

The enormous mortality among the "open" cases of tuberculosis of the lungs in the dispensary class of patient, after a period of years, will be observed, notwithstanding the advantages these patients had of living in the country. The method of tuberculin administration employed was on the lines of that recommended by Camac Wilkinson—namely, gradually increasing doses, twice weekly, of bovine tuberculin (P.T.O. and P.T.), commencing with 0.0005 c.cm. of P.T.O., and continuing up to 1 c.cm. of P.T., with, in some cases, a few injections, at the end, of Koch's old tuberculin (T.A.) until 1 c.cm. was given. The course of treatment consisted of about forty injections, lasting roughly six months, at a cost of less than a week's stay in an institution.

Oxford.

WILLIAM STOBIE, M.D.

Lieut.-Colonel Algernon Francis Stevens, Bengal Medical Service, died of cholera at Gaya on August 20th, aged 51. He was born at Arrah in Behar, on August 30th, 1869, the son of the District magistrate, Mr. C. C. Stevens, afterwards Sir Charles Stevens, K.C.S.I., Lieutenant Governor of Bengal. He was educated at Bart's, and took the M.R.C.S. and L.R.C.P. Lond. in 1893, after which he entered the I.M.S. as surgeon-lieutenant on January 29th, 1895, attaining the rank of lieutenant-colonel after twenty years' service. His first five years were spent on military duty. In 1900 he entered civil employ under the government of Bengal and Bihar, and served as civil surgeon of many stations—Arrah, Gaya, Hughli, Ranchi, and others. In October, 1915, he reverted to military duty, at which he remained for the rest of the war, and up till December, 1920, when he returned to civil work. He served in medical charge of the hospital ship *Erinpura* from June, 1916, to December, 1918. His elder brother, Lieut.-Colonel C. R. Stevens, also of the Bengal Medical Service, after also serving in the late war, died on November 18th, 1919.

Lieutenant-Colonel Donald Elcum, Madras Medical Service (retired), died in a nursing home in London on August 11th, aged 69. He was born on May 28th, 1853, the son of Dr. Charles Frederick Elcum, of Cheltenham, educated at Cheltenham College and at Guy's, and after taking the L.S.A. in 1875 and the M.R.C.S. in 1876, entered the I.M.S. as surgeon on March 31st, 1877. He retired as surgeon-major on March 10th, 1895, but was promoted to lieutenant-colonel from October 18th, 1902, for services in England in connexion with the South African war. He served in the Afghan war of 1878-80, medal; in the Burma war in 1886-87, mentioned in dispatches, G.G.O. No. 434 of 1887, medal; and in the war of 1914-19, mentioned in dispatches in *London Gazette* of January 22nd, 1919, and June 5th, 1919. For some years past he had held the appointments of examiner of surgical instruments and extra member of the Invaliding Board of the India Office.

Major Patrick Sampson, D.S.O., R.A.M.C., died at Cricklade on August 30th, aged 41. He was born on January 4th, 1881, the son of M. Sampson, Esq., of Knocklong, Limerick, and educated at Queen's College, Cork, taking the double qualification of the Irish Colleges in 1903, and subsequently their D.P.H. in 1913. Entering the R.A.M.C. as lieutenant on January 30th, 1906, he became captain after three and half years, and major after twelve years' service. He served in the war of 1914-18, was thrice mentioned in dispatches, in the *London Gazette* of December 1st, 1914, February 17th, 1915, and January 1st, 1916, was wounded, and received the D.S.O. on December 1st, 1914.

Captain Charles Leslie Grove Powell, M.C., R.A.M.C., died of heartstroke at Multan on July 18th, aged 30. He was born on February 17th, 1892, and educated at St. Thomas's. He took the M.R.C.S. and L.R.C.P. Lond. in 1915, and immediately entered the R.A.M.C. as a temporary lieutenant on May 7th, 1915, becoming captain after a year's service, and received a permanent commission, ranking as captain from November 7th, 1918. He served in the recent war, was mentioned in dispatches in the *London Gazette* of June 15th, 1916, and received the Military Cross on November 17th, 1917.

Medical News.

DR. F. J. WALDO has received many congratulations on the completion of twenty-one years' service as coroner of the City of London and Southwark. Dr. Waldo, who is a barrister as well as a medical man, was the first medical officer to the Inner and Middle Temples. At its last meeting the Court of Common Council, in order to mark its appreciation of his services, voted Dr. Waldo an annual increase in his remuneration of £150.

AT the opening of the winter session of the Middlesex Hospital on Tuesday, October 3rd, at 3 p.m., the introductory address will be given by Professor Sidney Russ, D.Sc. (Joel Professor of Physics), after which the prizes will be distributed by H.R.H. Princess Alice, Countess of Athlone. The annual dinner will be held at the Trocadero at 7.30 p.m. on the same day. Mr. Sampson Handley, M.S., will preside. Those wishing to be present at the dinner should communicate with the Secretary-Superintendent of the hospital.

THE annual dinner of the past and present students of Westminster Hospital will be held at the Wharnclyffe Rooms, Hotel Great Central, on Monday, October 2nd. Mr. Arthur Evans, M.S., F.R.C.S., will take the chair at 7.30 p.m. The secretary is Dr. Adolphe Abrahams, 17, Harley Street, W.

A POST-GRADUATE course in medicine, surgery, and pathology will be held at the Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford, from October 2nd to October 7th. The course will comprise morning sessions from 10.30 a.m. to 1.30 p.m., and afternoon sessions at 2.30 p.m. and 4.30 p.m. Tea will be provided in the library each afternoon at 4 p.m. A dinner will be held in Queen's College Hall at 7.30 p.m. on October 7th. A limited number of those attending the course may be accommodated in rooms at Queen's College, for which early application should be made to the Bursar, Queen's College. The fee for the course is 1 guinea for practitioners in the hospital area and 2 guineas for new members from elsewhere. Further information may be obtained from the secretaries of the post-graduate course, Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford.

THE annual dinner of the past and present students of St. Mary's Hospital Medical School will be held at the Connaught Rooms, Great Queen Street, W.C., on Monday, October 2nd, at 7 for 7.30 p.m. The chair will be taken by Sir Leonard Rogers, C.I.E., F.R.S. The secretary is Dr. A. Hope Gosse, 15, Queen Anne Street, W.1.

THE programme of the North-East London Clinical Society for the session 1923-23 has been issued. The opening meeting is arranged for Thursday, October 5th, at 4.15 p.m., when a lantern lecture will be given by Sir Archibald Reid on "The x-ray examination of the pyloric end of the stomach and its vicinity." The annual dinner will be held on October 12th, at 8 for 8.15 p.m., at the Prince of Wales Hospital, Tottenham. Subsequent clinical meetings will be held at the beginning of each month from November to June inclusive.

DR. HARVEY CUSHING has been awarded the Charles Mickle Fellowship of the faculty of medicine of Toronto University. He has stipulated, however, that the money, which amounts to 1,000 dollars, shall be used to send a graduate of Toronto University to Harvard to work with him. The Charles Mickle Fellowship, endowed by the late Dr. W. J. Mickle, is awarded annually to the member of the medical profession anywhere who is considered to have done most during the preceding ten years to advance sound knowledge of a practical kind in medicine. The first award was made last year to Professor Pavlov of Petrograd.

THE following courses of lectures and demonstrations will be given during the coming autumn term at the Royal Sanitary Institute: a course for sanitary officers, commencing on September 27th; a course for meat and food inspectors, commencing on October 6th; and a course for women health visitors and child welfare workers, commencing on September 29th. Dr. Louis C. Parkes will give an introductory lecture to the students in the several courses on September 25th at 5.30 p.m. Further information can be obtained from the Secretary of the Institute at 90, Buckingham Palace Road, S.W.1.

THE Post Office has issued a circular stating that it is endeavouring to make up leeway, and is, in particular, actively engaged in developing telephonic facilities in rural districts. It is estimated that out of 3,110 existing exchanges 1,930 serve purely rural districts. In addition the service has been extended in the form of a public call office to 2,250 villages where no exchange exists. Attention is being given to the extension of automatic telephony. Automatic exchanges are already working in sixteen places. The largest automatic exchanges are at Leeds, with 9,600 lines, and Portsmouth, with 5,000 lines. Works are now in hand for converting to the automatic principle the exchange systems at Sheffield, Dundee and Broughty Ferry, Gloucester, Gosport and Brockhurst, Kirkcaldy and Dysart, Shrewsbury, Southampton, Swansea, Torquay, and York, while over thirty other schemes are being developed. The sum of £2,230,000 is being spent this year on the development of the trunk wire system.

THE "European Student Relief" of the "World's Student Christian Federation" has appointed a committee to co-operate with the "Universities' Library for Central Europe," co-ordinating the work of securing by gifts, exchange, and purchase, British books, journals, etc., for students, professors, and libraries in the universities of Central Europe. Donations of books, periodicals, and money will be gratefully received by Mr. B. M. Headicar, Universities' Library and Student Relief for Europe, London School of Economics, Houghton Street, London, W.C.2.

H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE has printed a Consolidated List of Parliamentary and Stationery Office Publications issued from January 1st to May 31st, 1922. In it the net price and the price with postage are both given. Publications issued by the Stationery Office can be obtained through any bookseller, but a bookseller is not always disposed to obtain a copy of one of the shorter papers published at the price of a few pence; it may often be convenient to obtain such a paper by writing to the Stationery Office. Its addresses are Imperial House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2, and 28, Abingdon Street, London, S.W.1; 37, Peter Street, Manchester; 1, St. Andrew's Crescent, Cardiff; and 23, Forth Street, Edinburgh.

THE 50th anniversary of the Society of Serbian Medical Practitioners will be celebrated at the University of Belgrade on September 21st. On the morning of that day there will be a solemn commemoration of medical men who died in the discharge of their duty during the war, followed by an address by the vice-president and an historical statement of the development of the society by the secretary. Afterwards addresses will be delivered by delegates. In the afternoon visits will be paid to various public health institutions in Belgrade, and in the evening a banquet will be held.

PROFESSOR WEIL, who gave his name to the Weil-Felix reaction, has recently died from typhus, which he contracted during his experiments on the disease.

LECTURES ON "Health of the Mind and Body—How to Obtain and Preserve it," are being delivered by members of the Medical Council of the People's League of Health at Wormwood Scrubs, Wandsworth, Pentonville, and Holloway Prisons, London. The work has the sanction of the Home Office, and will be extended during the coming autumn and winter to all prisons throughout the country.

THE new Darling Building in the Medical School of Adelaide University, South Australia, was opened recently by Sir George Murray. It is to be devoted to the departments of the fundamental sciences in the faculty of medicine, as there has been inadequate accommodation for the teaching of anatomy, physiology, and pathology. The family of the late Mr. John Darling contributed £15,000 towards the erection of the building. In declaring it open Sir George Murray gave an account of the development of the medical school from the establishment of a lectureship in physiology down to the present extension of the school. The library of the Darling Building will accommodate the library of the South Australian Branch of the British Medical Association, as well as the medical library of the university.

THE courses in the Harvard School of Tropical Medicine, Boston, U.S.A., will begin on September 25th and continue until June 1st, 1923. The courses are open to graduates from recognized medical schools. Properly qualified students (not necessarily graduates of medicine) are admitted to single courses or to any number of courses which they may select from the various subjects offered. The school aims at giving an adequate preparation to those who intend to practise medicine where tropical or exotic diseases may be prevalent or occasionally encountered, to pursue original investigations in relation to exotic disease, and to organize prophylactic measures against infectious diseases. Candidates who are graduates of medical schools of recognized standing, and who have completed the full course in tropical medicine, have passed the required examinations, and have also complied with all other requirements, will be given a diploma in tropical medicine. Applications for admission to the school should be made to the director.

THE first annual balance-sheet of the Barking Hospitals' Welfare Fund shows the excellent results that may be attained by a well-organized system of collecting a penny a week from house to house in aid of the voluntary hospitals. Barking has some 31,600 inhabitants, mainly of the working classes, and its Welfare Fund amounts to over £1,283; of this, £400 has been allocated to the London Hospital, £275 to Poplar Hospital, £100 to St. Bartholomew's, and the balance to eleven other hospitals in varying proportions.

THE Government of Czecho-Slovakia has decided that patients proceeding to Pistany shall, on production of a doctor's certificate, pay half the usual fee for a passport visa.

THE Star and Garter Home for Disabled Sailors and Soldiers, which was established by the British Red Cross Society, and has hitherto been managed by a committee of that society, has recently been constituted an independent charity under a scheme prepared by the Charity Commissioners on the application of the society. It will be administered by a body of governors comprising the former members of the Star and Garter Committee, with the Hon. Sir Arthur Stanley as chairman and Sir William H. Bennett as vice-chairman. The appointment of additional governors is vested in the British Red Cross Society. Field-Marshal Lord Grenfell, Lord Leverhulme, the Mayors of Richmond (Surrey) and Folkestone, and the Chairman of the Sandgate Urban District Council have consented to become vice-presidents.

IT is announced that Engineer Vice-Admiral Sir George Goodwin, K.C.B., late Engineer-in-Chief of the Fleet, and Dr. James Colquhoun Irvine, C.B.E., F.R.S., Principal of St. Andrews University (formerly Professor of Chemistry, Glasgow), have been appointed members of the Advisory Council to the Committee of the Privy Council for Scientific and Industrial Research.

THE *Sphinx* has published a special tourist number, entitled *Egypt*, in anticipation of the Cairo season of 1922-23. Among the articles it contains is one recommending the country as the world's winter playground. Dr. Gerald Garry contributes another on Egypt as a health resort, and this, as well as other articles on various aspects of life in Egypt and the Sudan, are copiously illustrated. Copies can be obtained on application to the Secretary of the Egypt Promotion Association, Post Box 930, Cairo, or to tourist agencies in this country.

THE Board of Trade has received a notice of complaint that "acid acetic 80 per cent. grade or higher" has been improperly excluded from the lists of articles chargeable with duty under Part I of the Safeguarding of Industries Act. Any person directly interested should communicate with the Assistant Secretary, Board of Trade (Industries and Manufactures Department), Great George Street, London, S.W.1.

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.

ORIGINAL ARTICLES and LETTERS forwarded for publication are understood to be offered to the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL alone unless the contrary be stated.

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.

"ALPHA" asks if it would be beneficial and safe for a child of 4 years to sleep in an open-air shelter, about 1,000 feet above sea level, in a Derbyshire district. The atmosphere is at times very foggy and cold during autumn and winter. The child is suffering from tuberculous glands, which have been twice operated upon, and has benefited by open-air treatment in the daytime during the summer.

DR. J. R. BARRISKILL (Sydney) writes, in reply to "Baffled" (April 15th, p. 629), to suggest that if the patient gives up smoking and takes a small dose of a saline laxative in half a tumbler of cold water the foul breath will cease to trouble him.

TREATMENT OF GALACTORRHOEA.

"X." asks for advice as to the treatment of galactorrhoea in a woman aged 24, with one child born twelve months ago. Belladonna, purgation, and dry diet, as well as binding the breasts tightly, have been tried with no marked effect. The quantity of milk varies from 2 to 4 pints a day, sometimes more. Treatment reduces the quantity to half only.

INQUESTS IN WORKHOUSES IN IRELAND.

"R. G. M." asks if a medical officer in charge of a hospital who is notified by the coroner to give medical evidence as to the cause of death at an inquest (in the case of a man killed in an accident and brought dead to the hospital) is entitled to a fee.

* * We are informed that the medical officer of a workhouse hospital in Ireland is not entitled to a fee for inquests held on bodies placed in any part of the workhouse buildings—even when the dead body is brought in from outside for convenience in holding the inquest.

WARTS OF THE SCALP.

DR. JOHN A. FRANCIS (London) writes to suggest that "X. Y. Z." (August 5th, p. 240) might try the following mixture:

R. Magnes. carb. lev. ...	...	...	...	...	3iij
Pulv. tragac. co. ...	...	...	...	...	3ss
Aq. chlor. ...	...	...	...	...	ad 3viij

3j three times a day.

He says that in one case of a man with an uncountable number of warts on the scalp, and in a case of a young woman with the same condition on the face, the warts all disappeared in a few days. The treatment does not seem to have any effect on the ordinary warts on the hand.

INCOME TAX.

"R. W. S." is a partner in a practice in connexion with which a house is occupied of which five rooms are used for the practice and only two bedrooms, the kitchen, and part of one of the five "professional" rooms are used for private purposes. He asks whether he can claim two-thirds of the rent, rates, etc.

* * Yes; two-thirds would seem to be a reasonable proportion in the circumstances. The authorities usually refuse any additional claim based on the ground that the house is more expensive than would normally be required, and there is no clear justification for including any special charge on that account. "R. W. S." might, however, put forward the argument that the cost of the professional portion is not less than three-quarters of the total amount paid. In such a claim as this everything turns on the actual circumstances of each case.