Memoranda:

MEDICAL, SURGICAL, OBSTETRICAL.

BILATERAL COLOBOMATA OF THE MACULA. A MAN, aged 30, complained that his vision had been defective for years; he stated that he was unable to read, and that if he fixed his eyes in the direction of an object he could not see it, but that he could, indistinctly, see things to one side of him, also that he could get about at night fairly well, and even during the day did not stumble over objects in spite of his defective vision. His family history was negative.

His vision with both right and left eyes was for hand movements only. Retinoscopy showed both eyes to be myopic, but no improvement was obtained with glasses. His visual fields showed large central scotomata in both eyes; the peripheral fields could not be reliably taken owing to the loss of central fixation, but he appeared to see large white objects in the periphery of both fields. The cornea, iris, lens, and vitreous were normal in both eyes. The fundus of both eyes showed a pearly white depressed area, at the centre of which would have been the macula. The defect was nearly circular, and measured about two discs in diameter. The edges were steep and sharply defined; the base was about 3 D. lower than the surrounding fundus; traversing the base were some large straight vessels, probably the long ciliary vessels passing forwards. Retinal vessels could be traced up to the margin of the defect and were then lost; the conclusion reached was that the retina was absent over the defect in the choroid. There was no pigment either round the margin of the defect or on the base. Except for the fact that both optic discs showed a temporal crescent, no other abnormality could be seen in the fundus.

The case is of interest on account of its rarity and its resemblance at first sight to central choroidal atrophy. Colobomata of the choroid frequently show pigmentation of their margins and sometimes of their bases, but the complete absence of pigment in this case is very much against a simple atrophy of the choroid, whilst the definitely punched out appearance of the defects and their marked symmetry point to colobomata of the choroid.

E. R. CHAMBERS, F.R.C.S.E., D.O.M.S., Ophthalmic Registrar, Bristol Royal Infirmary.

VESICULAR MOLE AND PLACENTA PRAEVIA. On June 10th I was called to attend Mrs. H., a primipara aged 22, for flooding. I found the uterus about one inch above the umbilicus and the os closed. She told me she had been losing on and off for the past two months and had had a severe haemorrhage the night before. Amenorrhoea had been present since the end of December. At the time of examination there was no loss. I told her to stay in bed, and subsequently made a provisional diagnosis of placenta praevia.

Nothing further occurred till June 22nd, when I found the os opened sufficiently to admit the tip of the finger. On June 24th the os was further opened, and I found the placenta presenting and detached all round as far as my finger could reach. My partner, Dr. Pittard, saw her with me, and we decided to terminate the pregnancy.

The same evening, however, we were urgently sent for as there was another flooding. I found the placenta presenting and the os about the size of a five shilling piece, and easily dilatable. I perforated anteriorly to evacuate the liquor amnii, but none came. Then she had two smart haemorrhages, after pains, the second amounting to nearly a pint.

I decided to administer an anaesthetic and bring down a leg, but was surprised to find that there was no child there. On withdrawing my hand a mass of vesicles followed, and the uterus was then easily emptied by pressure from outside. Finally I explored the uterus and removed a few small portions remaining. I gave her 1 c.cm. pituitrin extract and there was no further bleeding. The vesicular mole removed filled an ordinary bed chamber. On the second day the temperature was raised, but it fell on the third day, and she made an excellent recovery.

Vomiting was a marked feature, beginning six weeks before and increasing in severity as time went on up to delivery. The labia minora were oedematous, but I did not test the

urine before delivery.

The interest of the case lies in the fact that vesicular degeneration had taken place with a placenta praevia, which prevented vesicles from being evacuated.

Coventry.

W. H. LOWMAN, M.B., F.R.C.S.

Revielus.

DISEASES OF THE CEREBELLUM AND OF THE STEM OF THE BRAIN.

THE recent interesting lecture upon the neo-cerebellum by Professor Winkler and the important Croonian lectures by Dr. Gordon Holmes on the clinical symptoms of cerebellar disease and their interpretation being still fresh in the minds of neurologists and many other readers, the very lucid and comprehensive work upon diseases of the cerebellum and the stem of the brain by Professor CLAUDE and Dr. Lévy-VALENSI, which represents the latest views of the French school of neurologists, is especially welcome.

After devoting a few chapters to general considerations, the authors give a clear and comprehensive account of the macroscopic and microscopic anatomy of the cerebellum and adjacent structures, illustrated by admirable schenatic diagrams and pictures. We could have wished that an account of the comparative anatomy of the cerebellum had been included and reference made to the important work of Edinger, Bolk, and others on the cerebellum of animals in relation to their mode of life.

An admirable account is next given of the physiology of the cerebellum; it is based upon experimental researches, but full references to the literature are provided. On page 30 the authors ask whether it is necessary to admit that the cerebellum plays a special part in equilibration, co-ordination, dimension of movement, and muscular tonus, as pathological conditions causing clinical manifestations appear to suggest. Although clinical manifestations speak in favour of this view, the actual tendencies are towards unification of the cerebellar functions to a simple regulative action upon muscular tonus. The disturbances of equilibrium, for example, can be explained, according to the nature of the case, by the coincidence of labyrinthine lesions (tumour), by the rupture of cerebellolabyrinthine connexions, or more simply by disturbance of the tonic cerebellar functions upon the trunk and the lower limbs (vermis). This simplification of the functions of the cerebellum is especially defended in France by André Thomas.

The authors express the opinion that cerebral connexions exist for clonic discontinuous action of muscles, and cerebellar connexions for tonic and continuous actions. This

was indeed the teaching of Hughlings Jackson.

In the chapter on cerebellar semeiology the authors point out that one of the difficulties, and the greatest, in its study arises from the anatomical and physiological associations of the cerebellum with the labyrinth. The recent researches of physiologists and clinicians have established certain laws which enable a differential and topographical diagnosis to be made, and in connexion therewith the beautiful researches of Babinski, of André Thomas in France, and of Gordon Holmes and Grainger Stewart in this country, and of Barany and Rothman are fully described, together with the numerous practical tests introduced by them. The value of this chapter is great, owing to its lucid descriptions of the tests and the admirable photographs and figures that illustrate

Chapter IV deals with anomalies, such as absence and malformation, partial agenesis, and heterotopia. In Chapter V various forms of cerebellar atrophies are discussed. authors refer to an interesting case described by M. Claude and Mlle Loyez of crossed atrophy of the cerebellum occasioned by traumatic lesion of the internal capsule, showing probably that the atrophy resulted from the suppression of the motor stimulus. Mention is also made of an interesting case of olivo-ponto-cerebellar atrophy. This rare affection was described by Déjerine and André Thomas; subsequently a case was described by one of the authors, Professor Claude, of absolutely pure cerebellar syndrome. In connexion with this we may refer to the lecture by Professor Winkler (British Medical Journal, May 13th, 1922, p. 769) dealing with a case of a similar nature, which, he considered, supported the theory of a neo-cerebellum. The counterpart of the olivo-ponto-cerebellar atrophy, in which the middle cerebellar system is so markedly affected, has been described by Lejonne and L'Hermitte. This was a case of olivoby Lejonne and L'Hermitte. This was a case of olivorubro-cerebellar atrophy in which the superior cerebellar system was affected, the middle being intact.

¹ Maladies du Cervelet et de l'Isthme de l'Encéphale. Par Professeur Henri Claude et Dr. Lévy-Valensi: Nouveau Traité de Médecine et de Thérapeutique, XXXII. Paris: J. B. Baillière et Fils 1922. (Roy. 8vo, pp. 439; 104 figures. Paper covers, frs. 35; boards, frs. 42.5).)

recent International Congress of Oto-Laryngology; he was a member of the committee of organization, and spoke each day in English, French, and Italian, interpreting the speeches of other members of the Congress. He is survived by his widow and daughter, and a son who qualified lately as a medical man from St. Bartholomew's Hospital.

The death took place, on September 4th, of Dr. Joseph Carroll of Whelley, Wigan, in his 63rd year. He was educated at Glasgow University and Anderson College, and graduated M.B., C.M.Glasg. in 1882; he took the D.P.H. at Cambridge in 1891. He was for a time lecturer in hygiene and public health at Anderson College, and later went into practice at Ilkeston, Derbyshire, where he held the appointments of surgeon to the Ilkeston Cottage Hospital and medical officer of health. During the war he held a commission as Captain in the R.A.M.C.(T.), and served with 2/3 Welsh Field Ambulance in various theatres of operation. He was medical officer for the Wigan Union, and held the post of medical officer for the Wigan district under the Ministry of Pensions.

The Services.

Lieut.-Colonel Walter Croker Thomas Poole, R.A.M.C.(ret.), died at Caxton, Cambridge, on September 9th, after a long illness, aged 69. He was born on November 12th, 1853, and was educated at Trinity College, Dublin, where he graduated as A.B. and M.B. in 1878, also taking the L.R.C.S.I. in the same year, and subsequently the F.R.C.S.I. in 1890. Entering the army as surgeon on February 5th, 1881, he became lieutenant-colonel after twenty years' service, and retired on February 14th, 1903. He served in the South African war in 1900–02, and took part in the relief of Ladysmith, including the actions at Spion Kop, Vaal Krantz, and Pieter's Hill, and the operations in the Tugela Heights; in the operations in the Transvaal from March to June, 1900, including the action at Laing's Nek; and in the Transvaal from November, 1900, to May, 1902; receiving the Queen's medal with five clasps, and the King's medal with two clasps.

Medical Nelus.

THE winter session 1922-23 at Charing Cross Hospital Medical School will be opened by the annual prize distribution, which will take place in the Out-patients' Hall of the hospital on Tuesday, October 3rd, at 3.30 p.m. Viscount Burnham will distribute the prizes. The annual dinner of past and present students will be held at the Imperial Restaurant (Oddenino's), Regent Street (entrance in Glasshouse Street), on the evening of the same day, at 7 for 7.30 p.m., with Lord Burnham in the chair. Tickets, 12s. 6d. each, can be obtained from the honorary secretary to the dinner, Mr. Frank Noakes, Charing Cross Hospital, London, W.C.2.

An autumn special course, arranged by the North-East London Post graduate College, will be held from October 16th to October 28th inclusive, at the Prince of Wales's General Hospital, Tottenham, N.15. As on former occasions it will include, in the mornings from 10.30 a.m. to 12.45 p.m., practical demonstrations of clinical methods applicable in medical practice, the exhibition of illustrative cases, etc., and in the afternoons, from 2 to 5.30 p.m., demonstrations of groups of selected cases, cliniques in the various general and special departments of the hospital, and clinical lectures. On Saturdays demonstrations will be given in adjacent special hospitals. Luncheon will be obtainable in the neighbourhood of the hospital, and tea will be provided each afternoon. A syllabus of the course with any further information desired may be obtained from the Dean.

THE League of Nations Committee for the study of international questions concerning intellectual co-operation held a session at Geneva last month under the chairmanship of Professor Henri Bergson. It was decided that arrangements should be made to hold an international congress of the universities of all countries. The subcommittee charged with the arrangement of this congress was instructed to prepare a report on the following topics: The exchange of professors and of students; the equivalent values of university courses and degrees; the institution of international scholarships, of international vacation courses, and of a central office for information on university matters.

It is announced that Dr. Wilbur C. Smith will combine the appointments of "athletic director" and professor of anatomy at Tulane University, U.S.A.

FRIDAY, October 6th, has been set apart for an organized effort in London under the patronage of the Prince of Wales, on behalf of the Joint Council of the Order of St. John and the British Red Cross Society and the Combined Hospitals of London.

THE annual general meeting of the Medical Sickness Annuity and Life Assurance Society will be held at the offices of the society, 300, High Holborn, W.C., on Monday, October 2nd, at 4 p.m.

THE winter session of the Harveian Society will open with a clinical meeting, to be held at Paddington Green Children's Hospital, on Thursday, October 5th, at 4.30 p.m., when many interesting cases will be shown.

At the opening of the new session at the Westminster Hospital School of Medicine on Monday, October 2nd, at 3 p.m., Mr. G. T. Mullally, assistant surgeon to the hospital, will give the introductory address, "The art of medicine."

MEDICAL practitioners are sometimes asked where instruction in infant care may be obtained by lay workers. Elementary courses in this subject are given at Carnegie House, 117, Piccadilly, W.I, under the auspices of the National Association for the Prevention of Infant Mortality and for the Welfare of Infancy, and the National Society of Day Nurseries. The next courses of lectures for crèche nurses and probationers, on the one hand, and for infant welfare workers, teachers, mothers, etc., on the other, will begin early in October. Applications should be addressed to the Honorary Secretary, Miss Halford, at the above address.

THE University of London Press announces for early publication a study of the human mind, from the metaphysical and neurological aspects, entitled *Elements in Thought and Emotion*, by Mr. George G. Campion, who has had assistance from Mr. Santayana and Professor G. Elliot Smith.

A COURSE of twelve lectures on the management and feeding of infants and young children will be given to qualified practitioners by Dr. Eric Pritchard, at the St. Marylebone General Dispensary, on Thursdays and Mondays from October 5th to November 13th, at 6 p.m. Arrangements have been made for those taking part in the course to attend the infant consultations at the Infants' Hospital, Westminster, and to visit the Nursery Training School at Golders Green. The fee is two guineas; information and tickets may be obtained from the Secretary, 77, Welbeck Street, W.1.

THE Rhode Motor Company of Tyseley, Birmingham, is advertising a new Rhode "all weather" coupé at £325. The chassis is the standard 9.5 h.p., with the Rhode four-cylinder water cooled overhead valve engine.

DR. JOKICHI TAKAMINE, well known for his work on diastatic ferments and the active principles of the suprarenal glands, died recently in New York; he was born in Tokyo in 1854.

THE medical officer of health of Toronto recently stated in a health bulletin that there were more deaths in Toronto in 1921 from venereal diseases than from either cancer or tuberculosis. There are six venereal disease clinics in Toronto, and during 1921 33,322 cases were given treatment.

THE Mexican Medical Association recently celebrated the third anniversary of its foundation, when, in addition to other celebrations, a speech was delivered by Dr. Brieso Vasconcelos, editor of the Gaceta Médica de México.

A MEMORIAL to Dr. A. Charpy, professor of anatomy in the University of Toulouse, has been erected by the Faculty of Medicine of the University.

ACCORDING to a recent census there are at present 22,990 medical practitioners in France, of whom 5,415 are in Paris and 17,575 in the departments and colonies. There are thus four times as many doctors in proportion to the population in Paris as in the departments.

DEATHS from acute alcoholism in New York have increased this year 27 per cent. over last year and 89 per cent. over 1920, according to the records of Dr. Charles Norris, chief medical examiner. These figures include only those persons who died without medical attention, and Dr. Norris considers that many others attended by private medical practitioners have died from the same cause.

WE have received a copy of a pamphlet, Torquay Marina Spa, issued mainly to set forth the facilities for treatment provided by the Corporation Medical, Electrical, and Turkish Baths, which were reconstructed in 1914, and have been kept up to date. A great variety of baths can be obtained, and with regard to the selection of those suitable to any particular case, medical men practising in or near Torquay are prepared to advise. The pamphlet also contains a general account of Torquay and its climate. Copies can, we understand, be obtained from the General Manager of the Baths.

THE death is reported of Dr. J. K. A. Wertheim Salomonson, professor of neurology and radiology at the University of Amsterdam, on September 16th, at the age of 58.

THE first woman medical student in Turkey has recently been registered at the Constantinople faculty of medicine.

THE available life tables in the United States for the year 1920 show that there has been an increase of 2.75 years in the life span in the last twenty years (1901 to 1920). The expectation of life at birth in the United States is said now to be 54.3 years, while in 1910 it was 51.5, and in 1901 49.2. In the last two decades there has been added five years to the expectation of life, and the span of life has been lengthened by a fifth in one generation.

Netters. Aotes, and Answers.

As, owing to printing difficulties, the JOURNAL must be sent to press carlier 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 communica-tions should authenticate them with their names—of course not necessarily for publication.

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

THE postal address of the British Medical Association and British Medical Journal is 429, Strand, London, W.C.2. The telegraphic

ddresses 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, Rutland Square, Edinburgh (telegrams: Associate, Edinburgh; telephone, 4361, Central).

QUERIES AND ANSWERS.

SCHLATTER'S DISEASE.

"W. G." writes: I have under my care what I believe to be a case of Schlatter's disease—epiphysitis of the knee-joint. I have tried to find references to its pathology, etc., but so far without result. Can you give me any assistance?

** "Schlatter's disease" is the name given to avulsion of the

tubercle of the tibia. The following references will be found to supply all the most recent information on the subject: Beitr. z. klin. Chir., 1920, cxx, p. 319 (this is the best and gives fullest bibliography); J. Orth. Surgery, 1921, iii, p. 550; Norsk Mag. for Laegevidenskaben, 1921, xxxii, p. 320; Chirurg. degli Organi di Movim., 1921, v, p. 353; Annal. Surg., 1921, lxxiii, p. 77; Lancet, 1921, i, p. 482.

McIntyre's, Busk's, and Winchester's Splints.

"Ignotus" would like to know if some correspondent of the Journal could kindly inform him where any published reports of the splints devised by Professor Busk and Mr. Winchester can be found. They were mostly modifications of McIntyre's legsplint and Desault's and Liston's long splint. The works of McIntyre and Desault are to be found in medical libraries in London, but Busk when he practised surgery wrote very little, though after taking up anthropology he wrote much that is of permanent scientific value. Mr. G. W. H. B. Winchester died in 1901, leaving no well-known writings.

ASTHMA.

Dr. Thomas Martin (Peebles) writes: I have a patient, an adult, who has suffered from severe asthma for two years since the removal of nasal polypi, previous to which she had no attacks. All the usual remedies have been used unavailingly. Vaccine treatment in an institution was unsuccessful; she was also put through the usual skin tests, and a régime instituted accordingly. Adrenaline gives great relief during paroxysms, but they recur nightly. Any suggestions would be welcomed.

INCOME TAX.

Motor Car Transactions.

"J. W. M.," "J. M. L.," and "H. W. F."—The principle underlying the question of motor car renewals is this—that the expense of replacing a car with one of similar grade, power, accommodation, etc., is a legitimate expense, but to the extent to which the expenditure provides an improvement in car equipment the expense is not legitimate. A corollary, which was officially recognized by official evidence given before the Royal Commission on Income Tax, is that if the above condition is complied with the expense is allowable even though it involves a greater outlay than the original car.

"H. W. F." #4(0 - £110 = £220 assuming the cast to be similar.

"H. W. F.," £400 - £110 = £290, assuming the car to be similar. "J. M. L.," £195 - £75 = £420, on the same assumption. "J. W. M.." £560 - £180 = £380.

LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.

EPIDEMIC STOMATITIS.

DR. W. A. TRUMPER (Ivybridge) writes that the cases referred to by "Cloybank" (p. 537) reminds him of two children at a mill-house in the Kennet valley over twenty years ago who had similar signs and symptoms. "An inquiry as to the drains caused the parents to pour some carbolic acid down those channels. The following day their tea tasted of carbolic, and the diagnosis was a polluted well. Possibly 'Cloybank's' cases may have a similar cause."

THE GENERAL PRACTITIONER AND REFRACTIONS.

DR. CHARLES J. HILL AITKEN (Kilnhurst, nr. Rotherham) writes with reference to Dr. Larking's letter (p. 534): If a medical man is competent to do refractions let him have the necessary plant is competent to do retractions let him have the necessary plant for the work visible in his surgery and the natural curiosity of his patients will soon let it be "known" that he is prepared to examine for and prescribe spectacles. After a few successful cases a "suitable title" on his plate will be quite unnecessary.

THE CARE OF THE TEETH.

THE CARE OF THE TEETH.

DR. A. D. JILLA, L.M.S.Bombay (Manchester), in the course of a letter on this subject, writes: From personal experience and daily contact in practice I find that men and women are not inclined to devote even one-tenth of the time to their mouth and feet that they give to their face, hands, and hair. It is important to use the toothbrush the first thing in the morning, but perhaps the toothbrush itself may be the stumbling-block. It is not easy to design a toothbrush that would conveniently make its way between the teeth and the cheek up to the very last molar. Some toothbrushes are too hard. They make the gums bleed and are prejudicial to the safety of the enamel of the teeth if roughly used. Some are too soft, or get so by use. Moreover, the cost of the toothbrush is, in an average family of working and middle classes, an ever-recurring item. In countries the teeth of whose inhabitants are a source of envy to Western nations it is hardly the toothbrush that is responsible for the elegant condition of the teeth; it is mainly the general desire and instinct—scrupulous as well as religious—of oral hygiene. In India the Hindus of certain districts use slender twigs of the babul tree every morning with which to brush their teeth. They chew it first and make the ends brushlike. A fresh one is used India the Hindus of certain districts use slender twigs of the babul tree every morning with which to brush their teeth. They chew it first and make the ends brushlike. A fresh one is used every day by each individual of the family and thrown away afterwards. But the rest of the people use their index fingers with a little tooth-powder—ordinary ashes or fine charcoal-powder. Custom, as well as religious injunction, forbids every Indian to taste any food or drink in the morning without this necessary mouth toilet and the morning prayers subsequent to the toilet and ablution. In my opinion the teeth of Western people stand poor chances of real improvement and trim condition as long as they stick to the idea of the tooth brush. Nature has supplied us with a very pliant elastic tooth brush in the shape of the first or index finger. It can not only work its way to the farthermost molar tooth, but it also feels its way, using less force when any of the gums happen to be in an inflamed condition, or any of the teeth loose or painful. The finger can be used horizontally or vertically, as some dentists recommend for the toothbrush, and the nail is also handy to reach the clefts and interspaces between the teeth.

Education on oral hygiene to school children is indeed a good recommendation, but unless the parents co-operate, and the teachers inform them regularly immediately they notice anything wrong about the condition of the urchins' teeth, I am afraid no satisfactory result could be obtained. But perhaps the guilt should be laid at the door of the teachers and the parents themselves in the first instance. These should therefore be initially approached by suitable propaganda, and, above all, let them begin with the index finger themselves in the start.

VACANCIES.

NOTIFICATIONS of offices vacant in universities, medical colleges, and of vacant resident and other appointments at hospitals, will be found at pages 29. 32, 33, and 34 of our advertisement columns, and advertisements as to partnerships, assistantships, and locumtenencies at pages 30 and 31.

A short summary of vacant posts notified in the advertisement columns appears in the Supplement at page 124.

SCALE OF CHARGES FOR ADVERTISEMENTS IN THE BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL,

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