

suddenly to hospital for operation. It is where such emergency operations have to be performed, always in a dirty pus-saturated field, that fatal complications such as septic meningitis are likely to arise.

The simplest method of applying suction to the aural cavity is to attach to the nozzle of a medium-sized glass syringe or a larger metal syringe a short length of rubber tubing which must be inserted into the ear, the piston being drawn out to allow all purulent material to be sucked away. The action is the reverse of syringing, and the addition of the rubber tubing precautionary. Until the ear is dry this method must be repeated with the aid of a good reflected light, which is always desirable. The use of a motor suction pump, with special fine pointed glass tubes bent in several directions, under a good light is a more elaborate and effective method. These tubes may be inserted, under a good light, into the many recesses of the tympanic cavity, up into the attic, down into the depressed floor of the tympanic recess, and back into the aditus.*

For acute otitis media following paracentesis tympani, all the pus from the middle ear may be sucked out by inserting a finely pointed tube into the incision of the membrana tympani. This treatment, added to the application of bell-shaped dry cups over the mastoid, I continue at intervals for forty-eight hours, a mastoid operation being thereby avoided, provided the treatment is used without delay during the inflammatory and congestive stages.

For chronic aural suppuration suction is employed in the ear, over the mastoid, and over the site of the exit of the mastoid vein passing out directly from the lateral sinus; it should be repeated once or twice or even thrice a day for at least one month. This method, when carefully carried out, has, with very few exceptions, the effect of avoiding operative treatment. The system of suction is the means of clearing the ear of discharge so effectively, that it prepares and secures a clear field for operation, should this be necessary, and prevents the most dangerous complication—septic meningitis.

Memoranda :

MEDICAL, SURGICAL, OBSTETRICAL.

A CASE OF BLASTOMYCOSIS.

THE following case, which was reported to the Norwich Medico-Chirurgical Society, seems of sufficient interest to warrant publication.

Mr. R. first consulted me on May 12th last with regard to an eruption on his face. A casual glance gave the impression that he was suffering from impetigo contagiosa, but on closer inspection and after listening to the history I was forced to alter my opinion. He was in Germany for a considerable period and returned home at the end of November last. Shortly afterwards he had what he described as a boil on the left-hand corner of his mouth; the boil never came to a head, nor was there a slough. As far as I could gather, the usual methods of impetigo treatment had been tried, and failed. Being suspicious that this might be a case of fungus infection, before attempting any treatment I sent him to the County Pathological Laboratory for a report, which was negative in so far as the fungus was concerned. Starch poultices were applied, and after the hard scabs had been removed the resemblance of the condition to the illustration facing page 294 in the latest edition of Norman Walker's *Dermatology* became so strikingly obvious that, being convinced that this was a case of blastomycosis, I again sent him to the laboratory for a report. The second report, together with Norman Walker's description of the condition, I think, clinches the diagnosis.

Dr. W. B. Christopherson's report is as follows: Examinations have been made by the caustic potash method, Gram, and other stains. The films were complicated by the presence of starch granules, but structures strongly resembling blastomycetes are present. By the caustic potash method a few double-contoured bodies are seen (apparently not starch granules), as found in Wernicke's cases. These he named *Oidium coccidioides*. There appears to be strong evidence either of blastomycosis or of a closely allied granulomatous condition.

Norman Walker points out that in his first edition he referred to this condition as a rare form of tuberculosis, of which he had seen two or three cases.

* Messrs. Allen and Hanburys of Wigmore Street have made these special suction tubes in assorted sizes for me.

During the last few years several cases have been observed, particularly in America, and pathological examination has led to the discovery of a yeast fungus in considerably over half the cases. The affected part was covered with a number of contiguous papillomatous elevations, which were more prominent at the margins and from between which pus exuded. The change from the diseased to the normal skin was very abrupt, the condition having a well defined margin.

I did not notice, probably for want of careful observation, the presence of the halo mentioned by Walker, nor was I quite satisfied that the margin had a bluish-red sloping border. I may mention that Mr. R. is a lover of horses, and I think it probable that this is how the infection arose.

I prescribed fairly large doses of potassium iodide internally. Leaving the small patch on the forehead as a control, I applied local treatment to the corner of the mouth, the left nostril, and to the patch at the junction of the cheek and left wing of the nose. The local treatment consisted of starch poultices to remove the scabs, followed by a thorough swabbing with "Fecto," a concentrated form of Dakin's solution made by Parke, Davis. It was found that although the scabs in the centre of the lesion could be removed by this method, those on the margin were more tenacious and had to be scraped off with a sharp spoon.

To date the scabs have ceased to re-form, the purulent discharge has come to an end, and the centre of each patch is beginning to assume the appearance of healthy skin, whereas the small patch on the forehead has not been modified.

In conclusion I would point out that the prognosis is not good. In some instances death has occurred. No actual case of cure is reported, and so far modification of the condition has been the only result of treatment, according to Norman Walker.

Coltishall, Norfolk.

F. SUGDEN, M.B., Ch.B.

INFLUENZA COMPLICATED WITH ACIDOSIS AND RASH IN A CHILD.

I WAS asked to see a girl, aged 6, who complained of headache. She had always been healthy, except for a definite history of acidosis with coma and vomiting three years previously.

The temperature was 103° F., the pulse 130, and the respirations 20. The conjunctivae were injected, the tongue of strawberry type, the throat somewhat sore, and the cervical glands of both sides enlarged but not tender. The heart was normal. The breath sounds were bronchial and a few scattered râles were present. The reflexes were normal, but the patient was listless and irritable. There was no vomiting or diarrhoea. The urine was intensely acid but free from albumin.

The clinical features of the case were those of uncomplicated influenza.

The treatment was on simple lines. Solid food was withheld, and water was freely given, together with a mixture containing potassium citrate and ipecacuanha wine. Ten grains of aspirin were given over a period of two days.

On the third day a rash appeared. Bright red papules and macules encircled the neck, extended behind the ears, and covered the flexor surfaces of the arms, the inside of the thighs, and the buttocks. The rash presented some of the characteristics of the rash of measles and of scarlet fever, but was not typical of either. It was very irritable, and in places became raw and painful. The temperature and pulse rate remained high, but the general condition was good.

In view of the history the question arose whether the case was one of acidosis or an aberrant type of scarlet fever or measles. Dr. Foord Caiger, of the London South-Western Fever Hospital, kindly saw the patient with me five days after the onset of illness. He was of opinion that the rash was not that of any of the exanthemata, but was due to acidosis. Cold sponging, large quantities of water, and full doses of sodium bicarbonate (15 grains every four hours) were ordered, and in forty-eight hours the pulse and temperature were normal, and the rash had faded.

There seems no doubt that the patient had really suffered from influenza. Her young brother had simultaneously a

straightforward attack. The interesting points about the case are the rash and the history of acidosis. The child had been taking sodium bicarbonate 7 grains three times a day for some months, and the sudden withdrawal of this in favour of the antifebrile mixture, coupled with the administration of aspirin, may have precipitated the second attack. The child is now, some weeks later, in perfect health.

London, W.

HILARY LEDGERWOOD.

Reports of Societies.

THE OXFORD OPHTHALMOLOGICAL CONGRESS.

THE fourteenth annual meeting of the Oxford Ophthalmological Congress was held at Oxford on July 4th, 5th, 6th, and 7th. Members met at dinner on the evening of Wednesday, July 4th, in the Hall of Keble College. The proceedings took place in the Department of Human Anatomy of the University, which had been once more placed at the disposal of the Congress by Professor Arthur Thomson, the University professor of human anatomy. The majority of the members attending the Congress were again housed in Keble College, by the courtesy of its authorities—an advantage which is deeply appreciated and adds not a little to the success of the meeting each year. The attendance, especially from Britain Overseas and from the Continent, was greater than that of last year or any previous year, making the Congress of an even more international character than usual and a record in numbers.

At 10 o'clock on the morning of July 5th a short opening address was given by the Master, Mr. Sydney Stephenson, who received a hearty welcome.

A discussion on the relationship of dental sepsis to diseases of the eye was opened by Mr. W. R. Ackland of Bristol from the dental point of view, and by Mr. W. Lang from the ophthalmic aspect; it was well sustained by Dr. T. Harrison Butler (Leamington), Professor J. Van der Hoeve (Leyden), Dr. S. Lewis Ziegler (Philadelphia), Mr. P. H. Adams (Oxford), Dr. Sandford Gifford (Omaha), Mr. N. C. Ridley (Leicester), Miss M. Gilchrist (Glasgow), Mr. A. W. Ormond (London), and Dr. Richard Kerry (Montreal).

At the close of the discussion the annual general meeting was held, when the Secretary reported that twenty-two members had been elected, making a total membership of 350, and further that the report of the Honorary Treasurer, Sir Anderson Critchett, K.C.V.O., showed that the financial position was sufficiently good to enable the Congress to make a second donation of ten guineas to the illustration fund of the Ophthalmological Society of the United Kingdom.

In the afternoon papers were read by Lieut.-Colonel H. Herbert (Hove), Dr. C. F. Bentzen (Copenhagen), and Dr. H. Gjessing (Drammen), bearing upon the subject of glaucoma. Afterwards Mr. N. C. Ridley (Leicester) read a report of a case of orbital neoplasm. Colonel Herbert's paper was discussed by Professor Arthur Thomson.

On the morning of July 6th the chief contribution was the Doyne Memorial Lecture, delivered by Mr. H. Moss Traquair (Edinburgh), who chose as his subject the differential character of scotomata and their interpretation. The lecturer's work on the subject has achieved world-wide repute, and his admirably delivered address was warmly received. At its conclusion Mr. Traquair was presented with the Doyne Memorial Medal for 1923.

Two papers were taken before the lecture—the first by Dr. Sandford Gifford of Omaha, U.S.A., on intracisternal injections in the treatment of luetic optic atrophy, and the second by Dr. Lundsgaard (Copenhagen) on the Finsen treatment of conjunctival diseases. The latter was of especial interest in that the author, working in the birth-place of the Finsen light treatment, is an authority on the subject. After the lecture Professor Van der Hoeve (Leyden) read a paper on the rare condition known as tuberosc sclerosis and its relationship to Recklinghausen's disease. A rather long morning session was concluded with a paper by Dr. T. Harrison Butler on the organization of ophthalmic clinics and hospitals.

In the afternoon Mr. Rayner Batten showed some beautiful drawings of conditions at the macula, pointed out the value of drawings of the fundus in clinical ophthalmology, and made some remarks upon the training of those who desire to undertake such work. Mr. John Batten followed, and as an artist gave an extremely interesting contribution on memory drawing by his own method of training. Professor Van der Hoeve (Leyden) described some original work on accommodation, and a report by Dr. T. Harrison Butler of his experience of muscle recession and muscle tucking concluded a strenuous day's work.

On Saturday, July 7th, the morning was devoted almost wholly to a discussion, introduced by Mr. R. J. Coulter of Newport, Mon., on the diagnosis of coal-miners' nystagmus and its relationship to the Workmen's Compensation Act. An excellent exchange of views took place, to which the following contributed: Dr. J. S. Haldane, F.R.S., Mr. G. H. Pooley (Sheffield), Dr. T. Lister Llewellyn—members of the Miners' Nystagmus Committee of the Medical Research Council—Dr. Elworthy (Ebbw Vale), Dr. T. Harrison Butler (Leamington Spa), Professor Van der Hoeve (Leyden), Mr. Percival Hay (Sheffield), Mr. R. H. Dickson (Newcastle, Staffs), Mr. Cridland (Wolverhampton), Dr. Stewart Barrie (Glasgow), Mr. A. T. Paterson (Durham), Mr. J. Jameson Evans (Birmingham), and Mr. Herbert Caiger (Sheffield).

A paper by Dr. T. Stewart Barrie on colour vision in amblyopic eyes associated with strabismus convergens followed, and was discussed by Dr. T. Harrison Butler. This concluded the proceedings of the Congress.

The official dinner was held in the Hall of Keble College on Thursday night, and among those present as guests were Mr. W. R. Ackland, Sir Archibald Garrod, K.C.M.G., and Professor Arthur Thomson. On Thursday afternoon a garden party was given at St. John's College, Lieut.-Colonel C. G. Douglas, C.M.G., Fellow of the College, acting as host. On Friday afternoon, after tea in Keble Gardens, a visit was made to the Pitt Rivers Museum, when the curator, Mr. Henry Balfour, kindly pointed out and described many of the objects of interest.

The Congress may well be said to have again this year realized the aim of its founder, the late Robert W. Doyne, by combining good work with the opportunity of members becoming more closely acquainted with one another.

THE "FAILED FORCEPS" CASE.

At a meeting of the Edinburgh Obstetrical Society held on June 13th, with the President, Dr. LAMOND LACKIE, in the chair, Dr. D. SHANNON read a paper on the "failed forceps" case and its treatment.

Dr. Shannon said that by a failed forceps case was meant a case in which forceps had been applied and efforts made at extraction, without the desired result. Reviewing a series of cases treated by himself and his assistants, he found that out of 2,720 full-term deliveries, 70 cases, or 2.6 per cent., came under this category. A more detailed analysis showed the cause of the dystocia to be as follows:

- Contracted pelvis, in varying degree, in 52 per cent.
- Occipito-posterior positions of the vertex in 26 per cent.
- Post-mature cases.
- Brow presentations.
- Face presentations.
- Retraction ring.
- In some of the cases no cause could be found.

The mortality, morbidity, and the great amount of invalidism following the treatment of these cases was, in Dr. Shannon's opinion, a reflection upon the art of obstetrics: 7 per cent. of the mothers died, and 50 per cent. developed temperatures in the puerperium; 60 per cent. of the children were stillborn. Two of his cases developed vesico-vaginal fistulae; two cases had rupture of the symphysis pubis; and in two rupture of the uterus took place. One became insane as a result of septic infection, and in nearly every case tears of the soft parts were present in varying degree.

TRYPARSAMIDE.

SIR,—One can appreciate with Sir Frederick Mott¹ the importance of incontestably establishing the diagnosis of syphilis of the brain or spinal cord parenchyma, by finding the *Sp. pallidum* in the cerebro-spinal fluid, before cure following any particular treatment of this condition be claimed. It is a stipulation not very easy to fulfil, and most of us will be glad enough now to give tryparsamide a trial in cases where the diagnosis rests on clinical signs and changes in the cerebro-spinal fluid short of revealing the parasite.

We owe to Sir Frederick Mott the demonstration of the close similarity of histology in invasion of the brain parenchyma by the spirochete of syphilis and the trypanosome of African sleeping sickness; and he has dwelt on the analogy existing between these infections. Therefore (as an aid to optimism) I venture to remind him of the paper² read by Dr. Clement Chesterman in January last, giving his experience of the effect of tryparsamide on cases of sleeping sickness in the Belgian Congo. I particularly direct attention to a certain six cases in his series of forty. None of the six had had any previous treatment; all of them showed well marked signs of involvement of the central nervous system, and in all trypanosomes were found in the cerebro-spinal fluid before beginning treatment. By Sir Frederick Mott's own criterion³ these were cases of trypanosomiasis of the brain or spinal cord parenchyma.

Two were improved by treatment, but developed rather serious visual troubles; another was in apparent good health three months after treatment; the remaining three had normal cerebro-spinal fluid after cessation of treatment and were well and back at work eight, nine, and eleven months, respectively, later.—I am, etc.,

London, W., July 10th.

H. M. HANSCHALL.

Universities and Colleges.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.

A MEETING of the Senate was held on June 20th.

The Academic Council reported that in view of urgency the Vice-Chancellor had appointed the following examiners:

For the *M.D. examination*, Branch III, July, 1923: Sir Frederick Mott and Dr. E. Farquhar Buzzard. For the *M.Sc. examination*, Branch III, July, 1923: Mr. H. L. Eason, Mr. J. H. Fisher, Mr. C. H. Fagge, Sir John Parsons, and Mr. C. B. Goulden.

It was resolved to institute a B.Sc. degree in pharmacy for external students.

Professor Frederick Wood Jones has been appointed to the University Chair of Anatomy tenable at St. Bartholomew's Hospital Medical School.

Dr. R. J. S. McDowall has been appointed to the University Chair of Physiology tenable at King's College.

The annual report of the Brown Animal Sanatory Institution showed that 5,205 animals had been brought to the institution during 1922. Five lectures on the nature of ultramicroscopic viruses had been delivered at the Royal College of Surgeons by the Superintendent in 1922 in conformity with the terms of the will of late Mr. Brown. The superintendent, Mr. F. W. Twort, who has been reappointed for one year from June 1st, 1923, has continued his work in the laboratories on the ultramicroscopic viruses and on the filter-passing bacterial lysins. A certain number of experiments have also been carried out on the lepra bacilli of man and rats.

The University Studentship in Physiology for 1923-24 has been awarded to Mr. H. M. O. Lester, who has passed the second examination for medical degrees as an internal student at St. Thomas's Hospital Medical School; he is doing research work on the development and function of the prostate gland.

The University Medal at the M.B., B.S. Examination for internal and external students, May, 1923, has been awarded to D. H. Patey of the Middlesex Hospital.

Applications for the William Julius Mickle Fellowship, of the value of at least £200, must be sent to the Principal Officer of the University by October 1st. It is awarded annually by the Senate to the man or woman, who, being resident in London and a graduate of the University, has, in the opinion of the Senate, done most to advance medical art or science within the preceding five years, and has therein shown conspicuous merit.

UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL.

THE regulations for the degree and diploma in Dental Surgery and for the conjoined degrees of Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery have been amended in order to conform with the revised regulations of the General Medical Council.

¹ BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, July 7th.

² Transactions Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, vol. xvi, No. 7, January, 1923.

³ Ibid.

UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL.

THE following candidates have been approved at the examinations indicated:

M.D.—A. V. Campbell, S. M. A. Faruki.

FINAL M.B., CH.B.—*D. Macfarlane, †F. Earlam, †T. J. Kirkpatrick, †J. Roberts, †A. Tumarkin. Part III.—B. Abelman, A. R. D. Adams, J. Berkson, R. W. Brookfield, T. L. Bulmer, Hilda Cantrell, W. J. B. Chidlow, R. G. Cooke, V. C. Cornwall, I. H. Davies, Hilda M. Davis, J. O. Edwards, D. P. Finn, N. D. Fraser, J. R. Griffiths, S. Hesselberg, Elizabeth Hunt, T. Knowles, W. J. Laird, D. A. Levin, C. B. Lewis, Eileen M. Lloyd, Mary M. McMillan, P. Malpas, J. H. Moorhouse, Beatrice M. Niven, T. V. O'Brien, C. H. Owen, J. D. O'M. Poole, Gertrude E. Pugmire, E. L. Roberts, Dorothea W. Rogers, J. F. D. Shrewsbury, E. R. Smith, Helen Standing, Dorothy A. Taylor, H. A. Thomas, E. J. Whymark, H. P. Widdup, A. G. Wilkinson, E. B. Wilkinson, J. Williams, Mary G. T. Williams. Part I.—Mary G. B. Allen, C. G. Foxcroft, T. Hale, A. D. Harper, **R. W. Jones, T. S. L. Jones, Rebecca Katz, W. A. McCurdy, J. McWilliams, J. R. Mitchell, F. C. O'Mara, R. D. Owens, P. J. Rogers, J. H. Thompson, Mabel J. Watterson. Part II.—†B. E. Acland, M. M. F. Arthur, C. B. Bamford, P. D. Barling, E. C. Benn, R. V. Berrington, †C. H. Bradley, R. S. Brock, Helen S. H. Brown, Alison M. Brummitt, J. W. Cohen, N. Cresswell, M. M. Datnow, Edwina M. Davies, Eileen N. Deane, W. T. Donovan, W. H. Ellum, W. Emdin, E. A. R. Evans, F. R. Faux, †H. W. Fell, H. R. Fisher, M. Fisher, C. G. Foxcroft, F. F. Fuller, G. A. Fulton, G. A. Garrett, J. Gaughan, H. Gobie, M. Godwin, J. Graham, T. A. Griffiths, Dorothy M. Hanson, T. Hare, A. D. Harper, F. C. S. Hinsbeeck, Fannie S. Holt, S. Howard, J. E. Howie, G. P. Huws, Bertha H. Irvine, F. P. Irvine, Elvy I. Johnstone, C. P. Jones, ††R. W. Jones, R. C. Jones, †R. Jones, D. Katz, G. F. Kinder, J. Leggate, W. E. Lishman, J. H. M. Little, G. Lowe, W. A. McCurdy, †G. Macdonald, Margaret S. Macdonald, E. Miles, D. H. Mills, E. P. Maloney, G. A. Moulder, †A. Newton, J. R. R. Nicholas, J. R. Oddy, J. J. O'Donovan, F. C. O'Mara, A. Oserovitz, E. R. S. Owen, R. D. Owens, A. Pool, R. J. Prydderch, Gwendolen H. ff. Roberts, J. T. C. Roberts, E. Rowlands, E. Scott, J. A. Scott, P. Srelitz, G. V. L. Taylor, A. C. Terry-Thompson, †J. H. Thompson, †J. J. du Toit, Marjorie A. Unsworth, †H. S. Welton, T. W. White, †Gwenie Williams.

* First Class Honours with Distinction in Obstetrics and Surgery.

† Second Class Honours with Distinction in Obstetrics.

‡ Second Class Honours with Distinction in Medicine.

§ Second Class Honours with Distinction in Surgery.

|| Distinction in Public Health.

†† Distinction in Forensic Medicine and Toxicology.

** Distinction in Pathology.

UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN.

THE following candidates have been approved at the examination indicated:

FINAL M.B., CH.B.—G. M. Anderson, Margaret J. Anderson, †A. G. Hadenoch, J. B. Hill, Janet F. M. Burnett, C. W. M. Cameron, Catherine J. Clark, J. Clarke, P. G. Currid, R. Davidson, D. Dean, *A. W. Downie, *R. D. Downie, Elizabeth A. Dunbar, Mary Esslemont, E. C. Gordon, M. K. Gunn, W. H. Harris, Eleanor M. Henderson, Charlotte S. Hendry, J. S. Hutchison, A. J. Ironside, E. J. Jolly, †I. W. Laing, *A. Lyall, B. W. Macdonald, F. Maclean, †Florence J. Malcolm, J. C. Milne, H. W. Mulligan, R. G. Munro, F. R. Mutch, J. H. Peters, Margaret J. Rennet, E. R. Sorley, J. S. Taylor, Lily M. Watt, F. L. Webster, Mabel Wilson, Maude Wilson.

* With much Distinction.

† With Distinction.

UNIVERSITY OF DUBLIN.

TRINITY COLLEGE.

THE following candidates have been approved at the examinations indicated:

FINAL M.B., PART I.—*Materia Medica and Therapeutics, Medical Jurisprudence and Hygiene, Pathology and Bacteriology*: *T. W. May, *P. N. H. Labuschagne, *W. C. Somerville-Large, I. Rosin, J. Dick, W. Gallagher, J. V. Morris, W. B. Roantree, E. T. S. Rudd, O. Chance, W. P. E. McIntyre, T. G. B. Crawford, W. A. Hopkins, J. R. Gregory, O. D. T. Browne.

PART II.—*Medicine*: *Marjorie F. Sibthorpe, *V. O. McCormick, P. J. Grobler, M. Cohen, B. W. D. Fayle, F. J. O'Meara, C. T. MacCarthy, W. T. Hogan, W. E. Hutchinson, M. Jaffe, J. E. Deal, F. T. Easby, R. A. D. Pope, W. L. Duncan, Isobel G. Smith, H. M. Martin, H. Ruben, H. Lewin, R. A. Dench, R. C. L. Griffiths, Martha Reid, A. V. Foster, C. H. Keller, S. Narunsky, Bertha H. Lawler, J. J. O'Grady, F. G. Brown, H. W. L. Dale, Isabel A. H. Speedy. *Surgery*: *R. T. Jackson, B. W. D. Fayle, F. J. O'Meara, J. E. Ellason, J. A. Gaynor, J. M. Mounsey, Marjorie F. Sibthorpe, R. A. D. Pope, H. S. Roseman, Maria E. Wagener, R. A. Dench, W. S. Dixon, P. F. H. Wagner, B. Morris, W. E. Hutchinson, W. E. C. Wynne, A. Darlington, A. Asherson, W. F. Whaley, Gladys Weatherill, F. T. Easby, D. H. F. Milmo, Dorothy C. H. L. Heyman, Alice M. A. Downing, R. S. McElroy, R. C. L. Griffiths, H. L. Hanna, R. L. Hill, J. R. Wills, S. D. Gabbe, J. C. Byrne, E. C. Downer, W. J. Janse van Rensburg, C. T. MacCarthy, S. Narunsky, P. C. du Plessis, C. Gordon, A. V. Foster, T. Freedman, Dorothy I. Henry, H. Kohlberg, I. Marin, L. Phillips, O. B. Hillis, J. Kruger, J. A. Levitt, J. M. O'Connor. *Midwifery*: *J. J. Laing, *M. A. Gerrard, *H. Isaacson, J. E. Deale, W. F. Whaley, R. Schaffer, R. F. J. Henry, W. L. W. Smith, N. G. McAuliffe, T. G. Wilson, G. Purdy, G. A. Sloan, W. R. Aykroyd, Evaline E. Mooney, Lucy M. Joly, J. J. O'Grady, I. J. Isaacson, M. Jaffe, C. Gordon, Kathleen D. Murison, N. M. Greeves, P. P. van der Merwe, J. A. du Toit, Isabella H. Speedy, J. M. Gordon, J. J. Fitzgerald, W. J. Janse van Rensburg, R. L. C. Fisher.

DIPLOMA IN PUBLIC HEALTH, PART I.—*Chemistry, Bacteriology, Physics and Meteorology*: E. C. Smith, Elizabeth Killian.

PART II.—*Sanitary Engineering, Practical Sanitary Report, Hygiene and Epidemiology, Vital Statistics, and Public Health Law*: E. C. Smith, Dorothy K. M. Henry, Elizabeth Killian, Catherine A. Goggin.

* Passed on high marks.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.

At a meeting of Fellows on July 5th five Fellows were elected into the Council in the vacancies occasioned by the retirement in rotation of Sir Charters J. Symonds and Sir Herbert F. Waterhouse, by the deaths of Sir William Thorburn and Sir Charles Ryall, and by the resignation of Mr. F. F. Burghard. In all 1,052 Fellows voted, 1,043 sending their ballot papers through the post and 9 voting in person, and the result of the poll was as follows:

	Votes.	Plumpers.
JAMES BERRY ...	612	6
GEORGE ERNEST GASK, C.M.G., D.S.O. ...	466	28
JOHN HERBERT FISHER ...	445	53
PERCY SARGENT, C.M.G., D.S.O. ...	445	3
WILLIAM SAMPSON HANDLEY ...	433	8
Sir H. F. Waterhouse ...	358	4
Herbert J. Paterson, C.B.E. ...	342	11
George Grey Turner ...	332	13
Victor Bonney ...	304	3
Thomas Percy Legg, C.M.G. ...	177	5
Donald Armour, C.M.G. ...	111	5

Mr. Handley becomes substitute member of Council for Mr. Burghard until July, 1929, and Mr. Sargent becomes substitute member of Council for Sir William Thorburn until July, 1930.

CONJOINT BOARD IN IRELAND.

The following candidates have passed the Final examinations:

Jane A. Brennan, F. S. Bourke, H. Bugler, P. J. Clarke, S. B. Carlisle, Dorothy M. Coulson, S. L. Christie, S. H. Ervin, F. B. Harrison, P. Kilcoyne, P. S. McCabe, P. J. C. MacDonnell, Iris P. Nolis, T. V. C. Nolan, Mary R. Nolan, D. M. F. O'Connor, J. F. O'Connor, Anne O'Connor, A. T. O'Grady, C. B. D. O'Henaghan, Helen P. Regan, Mary A. Ryan, J. D. Sayers, R. E. Sadlier, S. L. Simon.

Obituary.

PATRICK WHYTE RATTRAY, M.A., M.B. ABERD.,

F.R.C.S. Eng.,

Holloway.

THE death of Dr. Patrick Whyte Ratray on July 2nd, his 64th year, of angina pectoris, removes one who was regarded by his fellows as no ordinary man. A graduate of the highest distinction both in arts and medicine of the University of Aberdeen, he was for a time senior demonstrator of anatomy there.

Dr. A. Blackhall Morison writes: Those of his contemporaries who survive, will recall the high reputation he had as a teacher. Some years ago, the writer of this notice invited a well known Aberdonian to dinner, and remarked that he had also asked one of the most distinguished graduates Aberdeen ever sent out to meet him, who was living contentedly in general practice. He at once inquired, "Do you mean Pat Ratray?"

Ratray appears to have sought teaching appointments in anatomy and the assistant surgeoncy to a hospital in earlier life, and on all these occasions unsuccessfully, after which he quietly betook himself to general practice, which he cultivated with success. The writer, who was occasionally invited to confer with him, always regarded it as a compliment, and usually remarked on meeting him, "What insoluble conundrum have you set me this time?" For, the cases in which Ratray sought counsel, were always "hard nuts to crack." When he failed in his efforts to secure the public appointments referred to (and who can foretell the issue of such contests?) he seems to have shunned all publicity. He wrote nothing, which is to be regretted, for the studies of one with his calm judgement and comprehensive outlook would have been valuable. It is no abuse of language to state that, silent and unobtrusive as was the career he chose, one word alone adequately describes him—he was "great," and we shall not often look upon his equal.

He leaves a widow, a son (who did good work in the naval flying corps during the war), a daughter, and warm friends to mourn his loss.

DONALD MURRAY, M.B., C.M. GLASGOW,

Formerly M.P. for the Western Isles.

WE regret to announce the death of Dr. Donald Murray, which took place in a London nursing home on July 6th, in his 60th year. Dr. Murray was born at Stornoway, and received his medical education at Glasgow University,

where he graduated M.B., C.M. in 1890. He was keenly interested in politics even as a student in Glasgow, and was president of the University Liberal Club in 1889; he was president also of the Medico-Chirurgical Society in 1890. For some years he was in practice at Brora, Sutherlandshire, and later at his native town of Stornoway. In 1910 he took the D.P.H. of Aberdeen University, and was subsequently appointed medical officer of health for the island of Lewis and the burgh of Stornoway, and school medical officer for Lewis and the western portion of Ross and Cromarty. From 1905 to 1910 he was chairman of Stornoway school board, and he was a justice of the peace for Ross and Cromarty. He resigned his offices on being elected to Parliament as an Independent Liberal in 1918. He soon made himself at home in the House of Commons and his ready wit enlivened many otherwise dull hours. He took an active part in the work of his party, and as a member of the Parliamentary medical group. He was an old member of the British Medical Association, and was always ready to aid the Association in its parliamentary work. He was defeated at the general election in 1922 by a National Liberal; his defeat was rather a severe blow to him and he had hoped soon to return to Westminster for a Highland constituency. He had a passionate love for the Highlands and for his native island, and while a member of the House of Commons endeavoured to improve the lot of the crofters in his constituency.

His funeral took place on July 9th, at Stornoway, and a memorial service was held at Highgate Presbyterian Church, London, when Sir Donald Maclean gave a brief address, speaking of Dr. Murray's high ideals, courage, independence, and friendship. He was faithful in all things, tender as a woman. They went through hard times together, but he never failed in his loyalty to his ideals, his courage, his independence of opinion, and his sense of humour. He was no man's enemy, but he had a hatred of social injustice, no matter where, and to its remedies he devoted his life.

A. G. PARROTT, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,

Shanghai, China.

ON May 22nd, 1923, Dr. A. G. Parrott died suddenly from heart failure, at the age of 67, at his home in Shanghai, China. He was born in Suffolk and went out to China in 1878, and worked for six years in the China Inland Mission. In 1884 he returned to London with his wife and family and afterwards entered as a medical student at the London Hospital, and after six years' study he took the diplomas of M.R.C.S. and L.R.C.P. in 1892. He returned to China in 1893 to work with the Open Brethren as a medical missionary. He settled at Laohokou, a city in the north of Hupeh province, on the Han river, some thousand miles inland from Shanghai.

Life and medical work in a far-inland station in China in those days were by no means easy, and the stress and strain of it no doubt largely contributed to the illness and death of his first wife. As a consequence of the Boxer upheaval in 1900 Dr. Parrott had to leave Laohokou, and went to reside in Shanghai, engaging in private practice and throwing himself into all kinds of mission work.

He served as honorary medical officer to the Door of Hope Rescue Homes for Chinese girls, to the Foreign Women's Home, to the Blind School for Chinese boys, and to the Chinese Industrial School. He was visiting physician to the Shantung Road Hospital for Chinese.

Dr. Parrott was only indisposed for twelve days. Under rest and treatment he recovered sufficiently to sit up and enjoy reading, but his heart suddenly gave out and he died. He is survived by his widow and four out of his six children, to whom the deepest sympathy is extended.

Mr. Cecil J. Davenport, F.R.C.S., of Shanghai, to whom we are indebted for these particulars, adds: "He leaves behind him a fragrant memory, an inspiring example, and many sorrowing friends who feel that earth is poorer through the loss of his humble, helpful, hopeful presence."

Dr. JOHN C. BEDWELL of Chesterfield, who died on June 24th, aged 50, was educated at the University of Edinburgh and the Middlesex Hospital. He graduated B.Sc.Lond., and took the diplomas of the Scottish Conjoint Board in 1916. He held the appointments of assistant school medical officer to the Derbyshire Education Committee and certifying physician under the Mental Deficiency Act, and was a member of the Chesterfield Division of the British Medical Association. He was formerly an assistant school medical officer in Sheffield. Dr. Bedwell was held in high esteem in Chesterfield as a hard-working, conscientious medical officer. He was very popular with all members of the school staffs and with the members of his own profession with whom he came in contact.

Medico-Legal.

LIBEL ON A MEDICAL REFEREE.

DR. SELBY WETHERELL PLUMMER, of Old Elvet, Durham, a medical referee under the Workmen's Compensation Act, had been the subject of criticism contained in a pamphlet signed by five officials of the Houghton Miners' Lodge, printed by a Durham firm of printers, and circulated to the members of the Houghton Lodge and also to the secretaries of other lodges of the Durham Miners' Association. Dr. Plummer referred this pamphlet to the Medical Defence Union, which decided to sue the signatories and the printers for libel. The case *Plummer v. Gregory and Others* was heard by Mr. Justice Greer and a jury at Durham Summer Assizes, and the proceedings terminated in a verdict for Dr. Plummer, who was awarded £100 damages.

The pamphlet was headed "Protest against a medical referee," and commenced:

"We wish to draw your attention again to medical referee's decisions on compensation cases (especially to Dr. S. Plummer, of Durham) . . . For a considerable time we took compensation cases to the county court ourselves until we were compelled to send them to Durham, and not one case was sent by the judge to a medical referee. Why? Because we were able to produce medical evidence and the judge examined all witnesses of the accident, and was therefore able to give a fair decision. We ask you to examine the reports of Dr. Plummer and judge for yourselves."

The pamphlet went on to instance four cases reported upon by Dr. Plummer, in the last of which Dr. Plummer said:

"There is, however, a permanent disability and he is not able to make full use of his left hand, and his condition is such that he is fit for employment as a pony-putter but he could not do heavier work which involves the full use of his left hand."

The pamphlet proceeded:

"It is evident that he thinks that 'putting' means 'putting lamps out,' and surely we ought to defend men who unfortunately happen to have accidents in the mine and whose future happiness, if any, and destiny, depends upon an Act of Parliament which allows a medical referee who, lacking practical experience, gives such ridiculous reports as stated above."

The judge held that the occasion was privileged—the pamphlet having been addressed only to members of the Durham Miners' Association—and that the comment so far was fair. But there followed a vital sentence which the judge considered should be left to the jury to ascertain whether the defendants were actuated by malice, in which case, of course, the privilege would be lost.

"We now strongly object to any further cases going before Dr. Plummer, and cases at our colliery are held up through our decision, and we respectfully ask your members to help us to turn this man off the medical referee's list, because if it had been *vice versa* he would have been struck off the list years ago."

The printers apologized, but, as the judge said, in the eyes of the law people who take part in printing or circulating a libel are responsible equally with its authors, and a jury cannot distinguish between the different defendants as to damages.

Dr. Plummer went into the witness box and dealt with the allegations contained in the pamphlet *seriatim*. The allegation that he was lacking in practical experience was refuted by his statement that he had lived in a mining district all his life, and that he had many times been down mines to see work that had been offered to workmen.

The defence was itself an exoneration of Dr. Plummer. It revealed the fact that the Houghton Lodge were so dissatisfied with the method of working the Workmen's Compensation Act that they not only issued the pamphlet complained of but also debated a resolution urging the abolition of medical referees altogether. Thus, in setting forth their objections to medical

referees, the Houghton Lodge were betrayed into the use of strong language seriously affecting the reputation of an individual medical man. As Mr. Justice Greer aptly said, the jury must realize they were not dealing with the editor of a newspaper or a diplomatist, but with men who were accustomed to say in somewhat exaggerated but plain language, what they meant, and who did not always use the right word. Thus, in the last paragraph of the pamphlet, the defendants had got themselves into a state of mind where they were reckless and regardless of the effect of their words, and inserted a statement which they really did not need for the purpose of furthering the argument they were putting forward.

This case illustrates the difficult position in which a medical man may be put in his relations with any society of this kind. A society can circulate among its members any statement in which it may comment upon their doctor. The statement may do the doctor much harm, and yet the society responsible cannot be made liable if it has not abused their privilege—"privileged occasion," or "fair comment"—by being obviously actuated by malice. It was on the last paragraph that the defendants lost their case.

Medical News.

THE Fellowship of Medicine has arranged a course of lectures on medical and surgical diseases of children by the members of the staff at the Royal Waterloo Hospital from July 16th to August 3rd. Those taking part in the course will have an opportunity of attending the out-patient department, wards, and operations. A special course in dermatology will be given by the members of the staff at the Hospital for Diseases of the Skin, Blackfriars, from July 16th to 28th inclusive. Instruction will be given in the out-patient department every afternoon from 2.30 p.m., and a special demonstration on interesting selected cases will be held at 4 p.m. on Monday, July 16th, and Wednesday, July 25th. The course will also include a venereal clinic on Tuesday and Friday each week from 5.30 to 7 p.m. The fees for the courses are 3 guineas and 2 guineas respectively, and application for copies of the syllabus and tickets of admission should be made to the Secretary to the Fellowship of Medicine, 1, Wimpole Street, W.1.

THE British National Council for Mental Hygiene, which seeks to emulate the achievements of the American, Canadian, and French Councils in the promotion and preservation of the mental health of the community, is making an appeal for funds. The first essential is held to be the prevention and cure of those minor disorders which may develop into mental disability. It desires to co-operate with societies interested in industrial psychology, mental after-care, and mental deficiency and delinquency. It is anxious to facilitate the study of psychology and psychiatry on broad and temperate lines and to be put into a position to encourage scientific research. Donations should be sent to the honorary treasurer, Lord Southborough, at the offices of the National Council for Mental Hygiene, Room 55, Windsor House, Victoria Street, S.W.1.

THE Dental Board of the United Kingdom is arranging for persons registered under the Dentists' Act, 1921, short intensive courses of lectures and demonstrations at Cardiff, Peterborough, and Dublin, and will make similar arrangements in Glasgow and Belfast if courses are not given at the dental schools there. Three lecturers will be appointed for each course and will receive a fee of 3 guineas for each lecture, with travelling and hotel expenses. Applications by lecturers should be received by the Dental Board (44, Hallam Street, London, W.1) not later than September 1st. Entrants for a course will be charged a fee of 1 guinea, but this will be returned at the end of the course to those who attend 75 per cent. of the lectures.

THE honorary secretary of the British Society of Dental Surgeons (11, Chandos Street, W.1) asks us to state that a meeting of holders of the L.D.S. diploma will be held on Friday, July 20th, at Steinway Hall, Wigmore Street, at 7.45 p.m., to consider the action of Liverpool University in offering a modified curriculum for the L.D.S. diploma to dentists (1921) and the possibility of such action by other educational authorities.

FOUNDER'S DAY will be celebrated at Epsom College on Monday, July 30th, when Lord Muir Mackenzie will give away the prizes.

Ars Medici is the title of a journal for general practitioners, founded in Vienna in 1911. Since the beginning of this year an English translation has been published monthly. It appears to be designed mainly for the use of the profession in America, the subscription (2 dollars) being payable to the American Express Company, 65, Broadway, New York.

SIR STEWART STOCKMAN, chief veterinary officer to the Ministry of Agriculture, has been elected president of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons.

THE annual dinner of 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 1st, at 7 p.m.

MESSRS. KNOEDLER AND CO., of 15, Old Bond Street, W., are exhibiting a collection of some fifty pictures by nineteenth-century French painters. At the back of the catalogue is a letter addressed to Sir Coutts Lindsay at the Grosvenor Gallery by a group of French artists, apparently at the end of last century. Many of these painters are now dead, but pictures by most of them are included in the present exhibition. The writers of the letter describe themselves as struggling against convention and routine to bring back art to the scrupulously exact observation of nature, attempting to render the reality of form in movement as well as the fugitive phenomena of light. The collection is of great interest in showing the development of art during the nineteenth century, from the landscapes of Corot with figures from the classical age and such pictures as Géricault's trumpeter of the Imperial Guard, to the realistic figures of Edouard Manet and Degaz and the landscapes of Claude Monet and Sisley. A portrait of Mlle. Gonin by Ingres can be compared with that of Mlle. Lemonnier by Manet. The method of producing effects with thick dabs of paint is shown in Monticelli's *Les Reiters*, and we may admire the iridescent haze of Monet's *Palais Ducal at Venice*. The designers of the exhibition seem to have accomplished their purpose, and the collection is well worth a visit, and the observer will be able to judge how far the writers of the letter to Sir Coutts Lindsay have attained the objects with which they set out.

PATRICK JOSEPH HONAN, aged 26, who graduated M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O. Belfast in 1920, was convicted at the Surrey Assizes on July 9th on the charge of performing an illegal operation upon a woman. According to the report in the *Yorkshire Post* he admitted misconduct with the woman and that he had performed the operation which led to miscarriage. He was sentenced to eighteen months' hard labour. The judge said that but for his character and comparative youth, and the fact that he did not commit the offence for gain, but from personal reasons, he would have sentenced him to a long term.

Letters, Notes, and Answers.

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.

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, *Aitology*, 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.

"IRISH SURGEON" inquires whether the cost of attending purely professional meetings can be claimed as expenses.

* * We are of opinion that the reply is, in the negative, assuming, as we do, that the meetings in question are for the furtherance of general professional interests rather than in connexion with some particular professional work for which remuneration is being received.

"F. J. T." bought his partner's half-share in the practice in February, 1923. What is the correct basis of his liability for the financial year ending April 5th, 1924?

* * "F. J. T." is in the position of a successor in the practice to the old firm; as such he is liable to tax on the full profits of the practice on the three years' average, but can claim an adjustment of that assessment if he should find that the amount of his profits (not necessarily on the basis of cash receipts) for his first year as sole proprietor has been less than the sum assessed.

"W. A. M." inquires (a) as to allowance of subscriptions to British Medical Association and Medical Defence Association, (b) as to the basis of assessment of fees from the Ministry of Pensions (part time) and locumtenent work, and (c) whether he can make any claim for loss incurred in a practice he has purchased.

* * (a) The proportion expended on membership is allowable; we suggest as a minimum that £33s. might be taken in the former case as representing the cost of literature supplied to members. (b) Strictly each appointment is separately assessable under Sch. E on the basis of the current year's (or period's) receipts; we believe that in practice in such a case as "W. A. M.'s" the whole earnings are pooled as being income derived in the form of professional profits assessable under Sch. D on the three years' average, but there seems to be no statutory title to that form of assessment. (c) "W. A. M." is assessable on his predecessor's average, which he can have reduced to nil on showing that owing to some specific cause since or by reason of the succession his work has resulted in a financial loss; if he has other income for the same year the amount of the loss can be set against it, and repayment claimed if that income has borne tax, but if that be done the loss cannot be carried forward for future averages as a negative quantity.

LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.

WIGHT, WHITE, LIGHT.

THE study of place-names is bewildering, and if we may judge from the scorn with which one learned writer greets the suggestions of another learned writer, not much progress has yet been made in establishing principles. It is perhaps because the British Medical Association is going to hold its annual meeting in Portsmouth, where the Isle of Wight lies across the narrow water, that "An Ignorant Student" has sent us a copy of a pamphlet on *Origins in Place Names*, luxuriously printed at the Chiswick Press. It suggests a generalization which may prove useful. In many place-names in England there is an element which indicates whiteness, and an explanation has been found in chalk cliffs or limestone formations. The suggestion now made is that the reference is not to whiteness but to lightness, a clearing or open space upon which the sun struck, relieving the gloom of the forest; it would be on such areas that our primitive ancestors would build their villages and cultivate the soil, and early feel the need of a name. The Romans called the Isle of Wight "Vectis," and Canon Taylor, still a respectable authority, was confident that Wight was derived from the Roman name according to phonetic laws, which, we believe, are still admitted. Taylor calls it a corruption, but it is more probable that the Romans corrupted an earlier name. It seems to be accepted that white is derived at long range from the Sanskrit "cveṭa," so that it does not seem altogether unreasonable to suggest that the name of the isle before the Romans came was something like "Vit," with a long "i."

VACANCIES.

NOTIFICATIONS of offices vacant in universities, medical colleges, and of vacant resident and other appointments at hospitals, will be found at pages 33, 36, 37, and 38 of our advertisement columns, and advertisements as to partnerships, assistantships, and locumtenencies at pages 34 and 35.

A short summary of vacant posts notified in the advertisement columns appears in the *Supplement* at page 20.

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
Half single column	3 15 0
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, W.C.2, 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 *poste restante* letters addressed either in initials or numbers.