

Memoranda : MEDICAL, SURGICAL, OBSTETRICAL.

THE TREATMENT OF SPRUE.

THE clinical resemblance between coeliac disease and sprue has been noted by several observers. Dr. Spence, who was at the time working on the former disease at the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, was good enough to see a case of sprue with me, and suggested that the comparatively fat-free diet used in cases of coeliac disease might be tried. The results of this treatment have proved satisfactory.

DIET.

5 a.m.—Cup of weak tea, 1 round of dry toast.
8 a.m.—1 oz. casein, 1 pint machine-skimmed milk, and 1/2 pint of tea (without sugar), 4 rounds of dry toast, and 1 oz. cheese.
11 a.m.—1/2 pint machine-skimmed milk, 1/2 oz. casein.
11.30 a.m.—Juice of one orange.
12 noon.—1 pint liver soup, 2 oz. minced chicken, 2 rounds dry toast, 4 oz. junket, 4 oz. calves' foot jelly. (*Note*.—The junket is made with skimmed milk. Liver soup is made by simmering 1 lb. of fresh liver with two pints of water for two hours, and then grating the liver into the liquid.)
4 p.m.—1 oz. casein, 1 pint skimmed milk (machine), 1/2 pint of weak tea (without sugar), 1 oz. cheese, 2 cream crackers.
8 p.m.—1 pint machine-skimmed milk, 1 oz. casein, 4 oz. junket, 4 oz. calves' foot jelly.
10 p.m.—Juice of one orange.

The notes of the cases are as follows:

Case 1.—A. B., when admitted on December 4th, 1922, was seriously ill with sprue. Diarrhoea had begun in October, 1919. This had continued with intervals of slight improvement till June, 1922, when he had to give up work and remain at home on account of weakness and diarrhoea. He was extremely emaciated, weighing only 7 st. 3 lb. He was anaemic, the tongue was red, raw, and there were numerous superficial ulcers on it, and on the buccal mucous membrane. The abdomen was distended and tympanic, and the liver dullness was considerably diminished. The stools, of which he was passing three or four daily, mainly in the early morning, were bulky, frothy, foul, and pale in colour, and contained 43.7 per cent. of fat. Attacks of tetany were frequent, and prevented him from sleeping. On the diet he improved rapidly; the tetany disappeared within two weeks, and in three weeks the motions had become solid, light brown in colour, and one or two in twenty-four hours. In the first week he gained 2½ lb., in the second week 2½ lb., and then an average of about 6 lb. a week till on April 23rd, 1922, he weighed 12 st. 2 lb. His general condition is now excellent.

Case 2.—C. D., admitted on February 1st, 1923, had suffered from morning diarrhoea since August, 1920. His condition was similar to that of A. B., except that there was no tetany. The tongue was red, raw, and with several painful ulcers. The stools were typical of sprue. His weight was 8 st. 12 lb. When put on the diet he improved rapidly, and at the end of eight weeks weighed 12 st. 7 lb.

Case 3.—E. F., invalided out of the navy with sprue on December 31st, 1919, had had all sorts of treatment in various hospitals. When admitted he had ulcers on the tongue and buccal mucous membrane, tympanitic abdomen, diminished liver dullness, and large, pale, foul, frothy stools. On the diet he rapidly improved, put on 14 lb. in weight, and now writes that he is looking and feeling exceedingly well.

I am indebted to the Director-General of Medical Services, Ministry of Pensions, for permission to publish this note, and to Drs. J. G. Willmore and A. G. Wilkinson for the care they took in supervising the treatment.

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Hospital, Orpington.

HYPERSENSITIVENESS TO QUININE.

THE following case seems worth recording on account of the extreme severity of the symptoms occasioned by so small a dose as three-eighths of a grain of quinine, and of the divergence of those symptoms from those usually described as resulting from cinchonism.

Mrs. C., a spare woman of neurotic type, aged 50 years, married, two children, came under my care in June last, for the first time, suffering from a mild attack of influenza. Her past history presented no feature of clinical importance with the exception, as I subsequently learned, of her intolerance of quinine. This was discovered sixteen years ago, but the symptoms then were slight and the account now obtainable too vague to be of any value. Twelve years ago she was given a tonic containing iron and quinine citrate, and after taking a few doses she became very ill, with vomiting, diarrhoea, and erythema of the lower extremities, which was

followed by desquamation. Three years ago she was given a mixture containing ammonia and 20 minim doses of compound tincture of cinchona. A few doses again produced gastro-intestinal disturbances, and intense erythema of the lower extremities extending as high up as the iliac crests. In from twenty-four to forty-eight hours the skin in this region presented a mottled purple appearance such as that of extensive ecchymosis, and later underwent dry desquamation. There was also a slighter and more patchy affection of the arms.

Unaware of these details, during her convalescence in June I prescribed for the patient iron and quinine citrate in 5-grain doses. She thought she recognized the mixture as similar in appearance to that which caused the trouble before, and therefore took only half a dose, which represents three-eighths of a grain of quinine. This was followed almost immediately by faintness and giddiness. She took brandy and went to bed. Within an hour she began to complain of a burning sensation in the upper abdomen accompanied by vomiting and diarrhoea which lasted for twenty-four hours. There was severe irritation of the lower extremities, the itching of which she described as intolerable. Within a few hours the legs became deep red up as high as the iliac crests, at which level the erythema definitely ceased. The hands and forearms were affected somewhat later and in a lesser degree. After twenty-four hours the erythema gave place to vesiculation; the entire surface of the thighs and buttocks presented, in fact, the appearance of a burn of the second degree. The legs, feet, and affected parts of the upper extremities did not vesiculate, but after a few days underwent desquamation. The temperature varied between 99° and 101° F. For treatment, calcium lactate was given by mouth and the skin lesion was treated as if it were a burn. The condition cleared up in about fourteen days.

It is noteworthy that with each attack the susceptibility to the drug has increased and lasted in spite of one interval of nine years; also that there has been on each occasion the same definite demarcation between the affected and the healthy skin areas.

FRANCES E. BELL, M.B., B.Ch.

Rye, Sussex.

A "PRIVY" BIRTH.

THE following notes of a "privy" birth seem to be of value, especially from a medico-legal point of view.

About 3.15 a.m. on May 13th last I was called up to visit a woman who lived about two miles out in the country. I arrived at 3.45, and was met at the door by a neighbour of the woman, who was in a state of great trepidation. She stated that "something had happened" in the closet, but that she was too frightened to go and see what had happened. Finding that the woman was then in bed and apparently fairly well I went at once to the closet, about fifty yards away. This turned out to be a small open privy of a most primitive type, with two side walls, a back wall, a galvanized sheet of iron for roof, but with no door. On looking into the privy I saw the face of a child about half a yard below the level of the seat, the rest of the body being embedded in the contents of the pit. The child made a feeble inspiratory effort. I lifted the body out with cord and placenta attached, and carried it into the house. When nearing the house I noticed another slight inspiratory effort. The child was mature, pulseless as far as I could ascertain, stone cold, and with the appearance of a cadaver. The birth had taken place a full two hours before my visit. The ground around was covered with a hoar frost at the time. After a hurried removal of some of the filth the child was wrapped in warm flannel and artificial respiration started. I had two women assistants; one I instructed to massage the feet, the other to apply friction to the vertex. After about fifteen minutes of this four or five regular spontaneous respiratory movements were made, followed by an interval before they were again resumed. This continued for a considerable time, and it was not until an hour had passed that they became definitely continuous. The child was then put into a warm bath; the body was still cold when taken out of this, but breathing was regular and the child did well, and is well at the present date.

When doing artificial respiration I made gentle pressure and release movements over the epigastrium, which I had found effectual in other cases of resuscitation of the newborn. It was noticeable that, if the woman who was applying friction to the vertex stopped doing so during the time that regular respiration was being established, an arrest of the respiratory movements at once occurred. This seemed to give a valuable reflex stimulus.

The following points seem notable: (1) the child was in the privy for two hours; (2) the privy was an open one and the outside temperature below freezing point; (3) the cord and placenta were attached; (4) the child was dying when I arrived, was pulseless and stone cold; (5) resuscitation occupied one hour.

Llansantffraid, Montgomery.

W. H. LEWIS, M.B., B.Sc.

We regret to record the sudden death of Dr. WILLIAM WHITE, of Hadfield, Glossop. Dr. White was born at Laxton, Notts, and educated at the University of Aberdeen, where he studied anatomy under John Struthers and surgery under William Pirrie. He graduated M.B., C.M., "with honourable distinction," in 1876, and M.D. in 1878. After having held the post of house-surgeon at Ashton-under-Lyne Infirmary, he began practice, first at Woolley Bridge, and afterwards at Hadfield, in the borough of Glossop. He was a member of the British Medical Association and a justice of the peace for Glossop and for the county of Derbyshire. He was mayor of Glossop for a year, and deputy mayor for several years during the war. A colleague writes: "The chief feature of Dr. White's character was his devotion to work, evidenced by his popularity and influence among his patients. He leaves a widow, two sons, and a daughter, but his loss is felt by many outside his own family. There is no doubt that he never fully recovered from the shock of losing a son who, as an officer in the Machine Gun Corps, was killed in battle during the war. Dr. White's death removes one of the most prominent personalities in Glossop and the surrounding district."

The death took place on September 1st, after a long illness, of Dr. G. S. HART, Measham, near Burton-on-Trent. He was born in county Londonderry, Northern Ireland, and was educated at Queen's College, Belfast, graduating M.B., B.Ch., R.U.I. in 1891, and M.D. in 1900. He settled in Measham nearly thirty years ago, and for practically the whole of that time carried on a large practice unaided. By his sterling honesty and remarkable devotion to the welfare of the people, he gained the affection and respect of those with whom he had professional dealings, whether patients or medical men. He approached nearly the ideal type of country doctor depicted in fiction by some of the masters of the craft. A skilful practitioner who never spared himself, a wise adviser to those who laid their troubles before him, he was endowed with a quietly humorous turn of mind which charmed his intimate friends. That his unselfish life's work received due appreciation was shown by the large number of those who paid their tribute to it on the day of his funeral. Dr. Hart leaves a widow, two sons, and a daughter, with whom much sympathy is felt.

Medical News.

THE King has granted to Dr. James Ferguson Lees, C.B.E., Director-General of the Egyptian Public Health Administration, authority to wear the Insignia of Grand Officer of the Order of the Nile, conferred upon him by the King of Egypt in recognition of valuable services rendered.

DURING the forthcoming session of the Royal Society of Medicine certain subjects will be discussed by the whole Society, on dates to be announced later. The first of these general discussions will be on the possible substitutes for cocaine; the second on the grading of the population from the point of view of bodily fitness; the third on chronic abdominal pain in nervous women. There will also be joint discussions by the Sections concerned on the following subjects: The treatment of severe gastric and duodenal haemorrhage; birth injuries; the uses and limits of vaccine therapy; vertigo; the surgical treatment of pulmonary tuberculosis; post-operative and puerperal mental disorders. The Society's annual dinner, to be attended by H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, will be held at the Hotel Victoria on Tuesday, December 11th.

At the National Milk Conference on pasteurization to be held at the Guildhall, London, on November 21st, the chair will be taken in the morning by Viscount Astor, when the methods in use and the physical and the chemical changes produced will be discussed. At the afternoon session Lord Dawson of Penn will be in the chair, and a discussion on bacteriological changes will be opened by Professor Beattie of Liverpool and continued by Captain S. R. Douglas, F.R.S., I.M.S. (ret.) (Medical Research Council), Dr. Thomas Orr, and Mr. Stenhouse Williams of the National Institute for Research in Dairying, Reading. This will be followed by a discussion on biochemical changes, introduced by Professor F. G. Hopkins, F.R.S. The last discussion, on financial and commercial aspects, will be followed by a general discussion. Members of the conference will pay a subscription of 1 guinea, which

will include a copy of the report of the conference. Further particulars can be obtained from Miss H. M. Willans, 3, Bedford Square, London, W.C.1.

THE opening ceremony of the winter session at King's College Hospital Medical School will be held at 2.30 p.m. on Wednesday, October 3rd, at Denmark Hill. The introductory address will be given by Mr. H. J. Waring, Vice-Chancellor of the University of London, and Vice-President of the Royal College of Surgeons of England. The annual dinner of past and present students will be held at 7 for 7.30 on the same day at the Connaught Rooms, Great Queen Street, W.C.2, with Professor Arthur Whitfield in the chair.

THE People's League of Health, with the sanction of the Home Office, has arranged for health lectures to be delivered at Oxford, Wormwood Scrubs, and Holloway Prisons during this autumn by Professor Louise McIlroy, Dr. Christine Murrell, Dr. Octavia Lewin, Sir Bruce Bruce-Porter, Sir James Cantlie, Sir John Collie, Professor C. S. Myers, Dr. Marcus Paterson, and Dr. W. J. O'Donovan.

A PARTY of British medical students has recently completed a Continental tour under the auspices of the National Union of Students of Great Britain, a body affiliated to the International Confederation of Students. The party comprised members of the Universities of Oxford, London, Manchester, Liverpool, Leeds, Edinburgh, and Glasgow; and the medical centres visited included Paris, Brussels, Vienna, Prague, Berlin, Munich, Leyden, and Zürich.

A COURSE of six lectures on the social aspect of mental defect will be given by Dr. W. A. Potts at the Tavistock Clinic for Functional Nerve Cases, 51, Tavistock Square, W.C.1, on Mondays, at 5.30 p.m., beginning on October 1st. The fee for the course is 1 guinea.

THE fifth French Congress of Tuberculosis was held recently at Strasbourg. The following papers among others were read: The association of syphilis and tuberculosis, by Professor Sergent; tuberculosis and associated infections, by Dr. Cordier of Lyons; secondary infections in tuberculosis, by Professor Teissier of Paris; anatomical and bacteriological investigation, by Drs. Piery, Mérieux, and Glishmann of Lyons; the tubercle bacillus and associated micro-organisms, by Professor Letulle and Dr. Halbron; tuberculosis and malaria, by Dr. G. Lemaire of Algiers; insurance and tuberculosis, by Dr. Weil of Strasbourg; and housing and tuberculosis, by Dr. Moutet of Paris. The next congress will be held at Lyons in 1926 under the presidency of Dr. Mouisset, president of the departmental committee of the Rhône for combating tuberculosis.

THE twenty-seventh Cookery and Food Exhibition will be held at the Royal Horticultural Hall this year from October 22nd to 26th.

DR. MATTHIAS NICOLL, jun., has been appointed to succeed the late Dr. Hermann Biggs as New York State Commissioner of Health.

A POST-GRADUATE course in pulmonary tuberculosis, including lectures, clinical instruction, and laboratory work, organized by Professor Léon Bernard, will be held in Paris from October 1st to 28th, at the Faculty of Medicine, Hôpital Laënnec, and Dispensaire Léon Bourgeois. The fee is 150 francs.

MESSRS. WILLIAM HEINEMANN announce for early publication a revised edition of the late Dr. R. Murray Leslie's work on *Pneumonia*, by Dr. J. Browning Alexander.

THE Norwegian Government has ordered that the number of registrations of medical students at the University of Christiania shall in future be limited to sixty in each year.

A RECENT Italian law has authorized directors of university clinics and hospital chiefs to override opposition to a necropsy if it is considered scientifically necessary.

Two cases of rabies occurred in Holland during July, both in the province of Gelderland.

IN the first six months of 1923 there were 9 cases of small-pox in Germany, as compared with 199 in the same period of 1922.

THE medical profession of Frankfurt has dedicated a drinking-fountain to the memory of the Frankfurt physician, Dr. Heinrich Hofmann, the author of *Struwwelpeter*, familiar to many generations of English children.

THE first number, dated October, 1923, of the *British Journal of Experimental Biology* has been issued. The publishers are Messrs. Oliver and Boyd, Tweeddale Court, Edinburgh, and the annual subscription is 40s. post free.

A LECTURE on the treatment of diabetes mellitus by insulin will be given by Dr. Otto Leyton in the anatomical theatre of the London Hospital Medical College on October 15th, at 4.15 p.m. The lecture is intended for senior students of the hospital and post-graduates, to whom a cordial invitation is given.

THE next congress of French-speaking pediatricists will be held at Brussels under the presidency of Professor V. Pechère from October 4th to 7th, when the following subjects will be discussed: Prolonged pneumonia in children, introduced by Dr. Charles Gardère of Lyons; diagnosis and treatment of intussusception, introduced by Dr. Raphael Massart of Paris; medico-pedagogic treatment of abnormal children, introduced by Dr. Decroly of Brussels. Further information can be obtained from the general secretary, Dr. Albert Delcourt, 78, Rue de Trèves, Brussels.

THE twentieth congress of the Italian Society of Laryngology, Otolaryngology, and Rhinology will be held at Bologna from October 8th to 10th, when a discussion will be held on otitic pyaemia, introduced by Professors Federici and Torrini. Further information can be obtained from the secretary of the executive committee, Dr. A. Fabbri, Via Santa 2, Bologna.

A SPECIAL two weeks' course in cardiology will be held at the National Hospital for Diseases of the Heart, Westminster, Strand, W.1, from October 15th to 27th. The fee for the course is £7.

THE National Association of Railway Travellers (79, Queen Street, Mansion House, E.C.4) has issued a circular asking for financial support with which to contest the case of season-ticket holders and other travellers by rail before the Railway Rates Tribunal.

THE Eyesight Conservation Council of America has announced that it is about to undertake a national survey of eye conditions; a previous investigation by this organization showed that in the United States 25,000,000 persons employed for gain had eye defects.

A COMMITTEE has been formed to erect a statue in memory of Charles Gabriel Pravaz, the orthopaedist and inventor of the syringe which bears his name, at his birthplace, Pont de Beauvoisin, Isère. His work as an orthopaedist was recently reviewed in this JOURNAL (August 18th, p. 288).

PROFESSOR MAX WOLFF, formerly director of the Berlin University Clinic for Diseases of the Lungs, has recently died.

THE festival of the medical saints Cosmas and Damian was recently celebrated at Luzarches, a commune in Seine-et-Oise, where relics of these saints are preserved.

THE next international congress of thalassotherapy will be held at Arcachon in 1925, when the marine treatment of rickets will be discussed.

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, Aitiology Westrand, London; telephone, 2630, Gerrard.

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

3. MEDICAL SECRETARY, Mediscera 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.

"R. C." asks for information regarding Moutier's solar syndrome.

"S. M. P." asks where in London he could gain experience in the "twilight sleep" method of treatment.

INCOME TAX.

"F. E." supplied the inspector of taxes last year through a firm of chartered accountants with certified accounts of his practice. This year he has filled in his income tax return himself and

finds that the inspector is pressing the accountants to supply a copy of his accounts for 1923.

* * When "F. E." made his return for 1923-24 he presumably made it on the basis of the average of the result of the certified accounts for 1921 and 1922 and the profit shown by a statement prepared by himself of his receipts and expenses for 1923. We suggest that our correspondent should send the inspector a copy of this "1923" statement, first certifying it to be a full and correct statement of his earnings to the best of his knowledge and belief, and point out that as the previously supplied accounts did not show him to be undercharged to tax, the inspector may be reasonably satisfied with his own statement of account for 1923.

"J. G." keeps a motor car for professional purposes but used it for a fortnight's motor holiday and occasional outings with friends; the inspector of taxes purposes to disallow 10 per cent. of the total motor expenses.

* * Our correspondent is entitled to deduct only those expenses which he incurred for professional purposes and cannot properly include in his expenses for income tax purposes the costs incurred by his private use of the car. Whether those costs are fairly represented by 10 per cent. of the total expenditure must depend on the facts of the case.

"A. B." arrived in the United Kingdom on April 4th on twelve months' leave; will he become liable to tax if he stays here less than six months, goes abroad for a period, and then returns?

* * Yes, if he spends more than six months in this country in the same financial year—ending April 5th. It has also to be remembered that any person coming to this country with the intention of establishing a residence here is liable even though he is here for a shorter period than six months. Staying temporarily in a borrowed or hired flat would not constitute establishing a residence; that would depend on whether the circumstances as a whole showed that the person concerned had severed his connexion with the foreign place and had formed plans for remaining in the United Kingdom on a permanent or semi-permanent footing.

LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.

DR. A. D. WOOLF (13, The Avenue, Highams Park, E.4) writes: I am anxious to obtain an "etherometer" as manufactured by the late Etherometer Co. of America. I have tried the usual channels in this country but without success, and would be glad to know whether any of your readers has one which he would care to dispose of.

SYMPATHETIC MAGIC?

"M. O." writes: I heard recently of a patient who, being refused information by her doctor as to methods of procuring abortion, inquired "whether it was true that stuffing a pad of cotton-wool into the mother's umbilicus would kill the child by suffocation"! It would be interesting to learn whether this superstition is common. It appears to indicate a belief in "sympathetic magic," but it is difficult to understand how anyone sufficiently acquainted with elementary physiology to realize that the umbilicus has any connexion with foetal respiration could also believe that a proceeding of this sort could affect the child in any way.

VACANCIES.

NOTIFICATIONS of offices vacant in universities, medical colleges, and of vacant resident and other appointments at hospitals, will be found at pages 30, 34, 35, 36, and 37 of our advertisement columns, and advertisements as to partnerships, assistantships, and locumtenencies at pages 32 and 33.

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.

	£	s.	d.
Six lines and under	0 9 0
Each additional line	0 1 6
Whole single column (three columns to page)	7 10 0
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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 *postes restantes* letters addressed either in initials or numbers.