

## Memoranda :

### MEDICAL, SURGICAL, OBSTETRICAL.

#### AMYL NITRITE POISONING.

A FEW weeks ago a retired medical man asked me to see him on account of anginoid pain in the chest coming on at night. The blood pressure was 145 mm., the heart sounds rather moderate, and the abdomen distended with flatulence. About ten that night he had an attack of pain, for which a medical friend gave him a small hypodermic injection of morphine, and left him quite comfortable. The pain returned about 1.30 a.m. Half an hour later his housekeeper telephoned for me. When seen he was in a state of extreme collapse, hardly able to speak, very pale, with a weak pulse of 120. Nine amyl nitrite capsules were lying on his bed, having been inhaled in less than an hour. His blood pressure was only 76 mm. Camphor by hypodermic injection, brandy, and hot bottles more or less revived him. Next day he had a very irritating spasmodic cough with rusty sputum. The respirations were 40, the temperature 96.4°, pulse 108, blood pressure 80 mm. His chest from the third space downwards was full of fine soft crepitations; there was no tubular breathing anywhere. His tongue was dry and brown, as also was his soft palate, which looked as if it had been burnt, and a slough about one inch by three-quarters of an inch came off it on the fifth day. For nine days the sputum was deeply blood stained and frothy; respirations remained at 40, and any movement caused increased dyspnoea. There was also watery diarrhoea. The temperature was constantly subnormal. The blood pressure varied between 80 and 90 mm., even though taking digitalis and nux vomica. After the seventh day the chest began slowly to clear from above downwards, but respirations still remained at 38 to 40 till the twelfth day; after that the breathing became easier, and by the eighteenth day the respiratory rate was 26, and he was able to sit up for an hour. There was no anginoid pain all through, and the blood pressure was still only 90 mm. on the twenty-first day.

The case rather resembled chlorine gas poisoning; apparently the nitrous acid in the amyl nitrite acted as a severe irritant to the lungs. Whether any of the dyspnoea was due to the formation of methaemoglobin in the blood was not investigated. There were no convulsions as described in amyl nitrite poisoning of animals.

WALTER BROADBENT, M.D., F.R.C.P.,  
Physician, Royal Sussex County Hospital.

#### CHOLELITHIASIS WITH SITUS INVERSUS.

THE following case may prove of interest:

Mrs. J., aged 43, was admitted on August 21st to the Manchester Royal Infirmary complaining of pain in the left hypochondrium and under the left breast; the pain was also described as going round to the back and into the left shoulder. The patient was markedly jaundiced, the urine contained bile, and the stools were clay-coloured. The description and distribution of the pain were typically those of an attack of gall-stone colic except for the fact that it was on the left instead of on the right side, and the patient gave a history of having had eight similar attacks during the previous three months, each having been followed by jaundice. On examination, an indefinite tender mass was palpable at the tip of the ninth left costal cartilage. Murphy's sign was absent, and there was no hyperaesthesia. Palpation and percussion of the chest showed the heart to be on the right side, and an x-ray examination confirmed the presence of dextrocardia. In view of this, and the distribution of the pain and tenderness, a condition of complete transposition of viscera was suspected. The patient said that she was, and always had been, right-handed.

On August 27th Mr. A. H. Burgess explored the abdomen through a left upper rectus incision: all the viscera were completely transposed. The gall bladder and common bile duct, which was much dilated, contained several large stones, and cholecystectomy and choledochotomy were

performed. The patient made a rapid and uneventful recovery.

It is an interesting point that the patient's eldest son, aged 12 years, is a typical example of Fröhlich's type of infantilism, being about five feet in height, exceedingly fat, mentally slow, and with undeveloped genitalia. In all other respects the family history is quite normal, the two other children being perfectly healthy.

Manchester.

E. S. FRISCHMANN, M.B., Ch.B.

#### PRELIMINARY NOTE ON THE HISTOLOGY OF A MYELOMA.

A TUMOUR from the radius of a child was examined, and the following observations made. We hope to publish details at an early date.

1. The appearance and structure of the numerous giant cells present suggest that they are osteoclasts.

2. In our opinion the giant cells give rise to the spindle cells of the tumour.

3. The fibroblasts appear to be derived at a later stage from the spindle cells.

4. In several of the giant cells we found a stainable body, quite unlike the giant cell nuclei in appearance, which may very probably be responsible for the abnormal activity of the giant cells. There is some evidence in favour of the view that the stainable body is a definite parasite—probably a protozoan—which is not confined to the giant cells.

T. H. BURLFND.

D. J. HARRIES.

Cardiff.

## Reports of Societies.

### COMPARATIVE MEDICINE.

THE first meeting of the new Section of Comparative Medicine of the Royal Society of Medicine was held under happy auspices. A large audience gathered in the Society's rooms on October 24th to celebrate a day which the President, Sir CLIFFORD ALLBUTT, described as a festival rewarding long and patient effort. The acclamation with which his eloquent address was received indicated that those who were present recognized what an important share he has taken in the enlightenment of opinion which has led to the inauguration of this Section.

Inveterate and impregnable barriers of convention, devised by mediaeval perversities, have, he declared, split up medicine into fractions, divorcing medicine from surgery and separating diseases of animals and plants from those of mankind. The folly of many of these divisions is apparent, but their eradication is a difficult operation. One such barrier has been broken down by the co-operation of medical and veterinary scientists, thereby acknowledging the unity of medicine as a biological study.

Medicine has much to gain from the comparative method of study, a method which has proved indispensable to the progress of anatomy, anthropology, and embryology. Pathologists have already made some use of the comparative method of study, and by their researches into the properties of cells and nature of infections have gathered in some knowledge. The comparative method is necessary in medicine in order "to shed cross lights reciprocally from the pathology of one kind of living thing upon another." It will also have a utilitarian purpose, to study the diseases common to man and animals and the manner in which these diseases may be carried by animals to man, to investigate the peculiar natural immunity of certain animals to certain diseases, and the defensive processes of animals and plants.

But, as Sir Clifford Allbutt pointed out in a letter to the *Times* in 1906, the attention of those who would study comparative medicine should be concentrated on the pursuit of larger and more disinterested researches, on "a pathological biology which hereafter shall give us not only a control of several diseases, but an insight into large and fertile principles, foresights and controls over wide fields of nosology, interpretations of the various comings and goings of the manifold kinds of disease in all living things—

"Hygiene" in the *Times* edition of the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, 1902; the chapters on "Air" and "Military Hygiene" in Murphy and Stevenson's *Treatise on Hygiene and Public Health*, 1893; and that on "Hygiene of the Tropics" in Davidson's *Diseases of Warm Climates*, 1893.

He married Fanny, daughter of Surgeon-General J. McIlree, A.M.S., and had one daughter.

**THE LATE SIR WILLIAM EDWARDS.**—"A Brother Officer" writes: Sir William Edwards was eminently human, and therefore a very lovable character. Active in body and simple in his habits, he had absolutely no "frills," but was always the same—kindly, humorous, and withal shrewd. He was never spoilt by good fortune or unduly depressed for long by adversity. As the head of his service or as a private friend he was still—himself. He was an ideal chief. He thoroughly identified himself with the work, aspirations, and interests of his subordinates, and thus created confidence which drew them along with him. Nothing pleased him so much as ensuring that they got their meed and more of credit, when success was at least as much due to his loyal backing, which he modestly kept in the background. I personally owe more than I can say to his support at a critical juncture, and there are doubtless many others similarly indebted to him, though it is known only to themselves. Within a year of his appointment to be Director-General the difficult question of the revision of pay in the I.M.S. came up for settlement. It is only just to his memory to say that he met with a degree of factious opposition, personal discouragement, and even worse, which would have baffled a less single-minded or less honest man. When he was created K.C.I.E. in 1922 the honour was already overdue, but it did not come from India. It is even more difficult to write of him in his private capacity. He was a great reader and had a fund of miscellaneous information which he never obtruded, though it would out at times in the most unexpected way. He was a very entertaining companion, and would on occasion give shrewd criticisms on men and affairs. Though his opinions on others were at times trenchant, they were always just and never unkind. He was both a delightful guest and an admirable host. Modest in his estimation of himself, generous in his appreciation of others, wise in counsel, and unswerving in loyalty to his subordinates, we mourn the loss of a dear friend and—as we say in India—a *real Sahib*.

**THE LATE PROFESSOR W. ASHLEY CUMMINS.**—The funeral of the late Professor W. E. Ashley Cummins of University College, Cork, took place on October 20th, at Little Island churchyard, and was attended by a large and representative assembly, which included nearly all the members of the medical profession in Cork, the leading members of other professions, and many of the students of University College, Cork. At St. Finbarr's Cathedral at the morning service on October 21st, the preacher paid an eloquent tribute to the character of Professor Cummins. The following tribute from the medical profession in Cork appeared in the *Cork Examiner* on October 22nd:

"The Cork medical profession records with deep regret the great deprivation it has suffered by the death of Dr. W. Ashley Cummins, who continually occupied an honoured place in the estimation of each and every member. He had filled with integrity the many important positions to which he had been elected during a period of many years. His trained intelligence was always at the service of the members of his profession, who looked for his advice and co-operation in the several intricate problems connected with the daily life of the practitioner. The Cork medical profession, individually and collectively, sorrow over the loss of a much respected colleague. They feel it will be an impossibility to fill his place now vacant in their councils and deliberations. They beg to tender to Mrs. Cummins and the members of his family their earnest sympathy with them in their very sad bereavement."

By the death of Dr. HARRY GORDON in his 57th year the Natal Division of the British Medical Association has lost a loyal and valued member. Dr. Gordon was the youngest son of the late Rev. J. Gordon, Rector of Norbury, Cheshire, and was a brother of the late Dr. E. Gordon, who was the first medical graduate of the Victoria University. He was educated at the Manchester Grammar School and Owens College and Manchester Royal Infirmary. He took the

diplomas of M.R.C.S. and L.R.C.P. in 1891, and practised for some time in London. On the outbreak of the Boer war he took an appointment as civil surgeon, and went all through the campaign. At the conclusion of the war he joined the Union Castle Line as a surgeon; he remained in that service about ten years, and was well known and highly popular with travellers to and from the colony. On leaving the sea he was for a time resident surgeon at the Addington Hospital, Durban, leaving there to become surgeon to Kynoch's Works and Hospital at Umbogintwini; later he became also medical officer to the Indian Immigration Board. After settling in Umbogintwini he built up a large private practice extending for many miles round. He was one of the best types of general practitioner, and was a very capable surgeon. Two or three years ago his health broke down after an attack of influenza, and in May last came home to England in the hope that the voyage and change would restore him. He stayed some time with an old fellow student and life-long friend—Dr. Thomas Watts, M.P.—at Southport. Unfortunately his health did not improve, and on the return voyage he became so ill that he had to be taken ashore at Cape Town and sent into a nursing home, where he died on October 1st. He leaves a widow and one young son aged 10.

## Universities and Colleges.

### UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE.

At a congregation held on October 26th the degree of Doctor of Medicine was conferred on F. T. Burkitt and F. R. G. Heaf.

### UNIVERSITY OF ST. ANDREWS.

At a meeting of the University Court of St. Andrews held on October 27th it was reported that Dr. Adam Patrick had accepted the appointment to the chair of medicine and had also been appointed one of the physicians of the Royal Infirmary, Dundee. The Court also approved of the nomination by Professor Patrick of Dr. J. M. Morgan (Dundee) as assistant in the department of medicine.

### ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF LONDON.

An ordinary Comitia of the Royal College of Physicians of London was held on Thursday, October 25th, at 5 p.m., the President, Sir Humphry Rolleston, occupying the chair.

The Censors Board reported that Mr. George Denison Stilwell had been appointed Jenks Scholar.

The following candidates were admitted members:

Charles Keith Johnstone Hamilton, L.R.C.P., M.C., M.B.Oxf., Donald Hunter, M.D.Lond., L.R.C.P., Duncan Gerard Leys, M.B.Oxf., William Thomas Nelson, M.B.Sydney, Daniel Nicholson, M.D. Manitoba, Ernest Oscar Adolphus Singer, M.B.Edin., Kenneth Harry Tallerman, M.C., M.B.Camb., L.R.C.P.

Licences to practise physic were granted to the following 168 candidates who had conformed to the by-laws and regulations and passed the required examinations:

W. L. Ackerman, J. C. Ainsworth-Davis, R. H. Amm, R. S. Anderson, F. G. A. Armon, I. Atkin, W. Balendra, P. E. Bardsley, \*Rose Baranov, J. S. Benzecry, E. M. Berghelm, \*Dora M. Berry, E. J. Blackaby, \*Margery G. Blackie, L. G. Bair, W. L. Blavemore, D. B. Blunn, A. J. Boase, \*Hilda A. Bond, E. G. Bradbeer, R. T. Brain, A. Broido, C. O. S. B. Brooke, \*G. G. Brown, J. W. Brown, \*Mary Buck, B. H. Burns, \*Lily C. Butler, \*Kathleen F. Butterfield, F. B. Byrom, C. M. Carruthers, H. K. Christie, D. H. Cockell, M. Cohen, B. A. Col's, A. B. Cooper, R. Cove-Smith, I. S. Crisell, G. J. V. Crosby, D. T. Davies, I. G. Davies, T. D. Deighton, \*Margaret B. M. Dewhurst, D. Diamond, V. W. Dix, A. F. Doyle, \*Doris L. Durie, \*Hilda R. Dutton, N. L. B. V. Eckhoff, L. C. J. Edwards, P. Eilman, G. S. W. Evans, W. M. Evans, J. L. Farquharson, S. Farquharson, R. B. Fawkes, H. G. Goldwater, T. S. Goodwin, F. M. Gore, L. J. Green, J. V. Griffiths, P. D. Griffiths, C. J. P. Grosvenor, C. C. Halliwell, A. Harbourn, H. E. Harris, \*Doris I. Harston, G. T. Henderson, K. W. Heitage, G. Hochschild, \*Frances A. Hogben, E. Holmes, J. W. Hopo-Simpson, \*Madge W. Hubble, D. F. Hutchingson, I. I. Hyder, C. Izatt, C. Ive, E. C. James, A. H. Johns, C. E. Keast, \*Karin L. E. Kellgren, G. B. Kirkland, C. de W. Kitcat, R. A. E. Klaber, E. H. Koerner, P. E. M. Lanier, \*Miriam A. Lawson, J. J. Lewinstein, R. H. Little, A. A. Lucas, A. R. Macdonald, G. B. McMichael, \*Margaret D. Mason, G. B. Matthews, G. A. Metcalfe, H. D. N. Miller, G. O. Mitchell, P. McG. Moffatt, C. I. N. Morgan, O. G. Morris, N. Moulson, \*Jeannette F. L. Murray, F. W. G. Nash, F. N. Newell-Roberts, M. F. Nicholls, J. R. Nicholson-Lailey, \*Muriel L. M. Northcote, P. H. O'Donovan, J. R. Oliver, \*Mary E. Orm-by, \*Jean Orr-Ewing, \*Amy M. Parkinson, J. Parrish, T. W. Preston, C. A. Probert, R. J. V. Pulvertaft, P. G. D. Quinet, K. Rai, W. A. Rankin, J. O. M. Rees, R. D. Reid, W. L. Roberts, H. A. Robertson, \*Nina L. D. Robertson, \*Sybil H. G. Robinson, T. Robson, D. J. Rose, \*Marjorie Rushbrooke, Z. Salama, F. H. Scatton, J. M. Scott, H. M. Shelley, A. E. Sherwell, \*Mary M. Sillito, \*Lucy C. Simpson, A. J. D. Smith, N. R. Smith, L. V. Snowman, A. C. Sommerville, M. Stieber, R. M. L. Still, P. O. T. Strange, E. B. S. Sweeney, \*Annie Sydenham, F. C. M. Taylor, H. Taylor, R. C. Taylor, L. M. Teuten, B. M. Toop, A. Turner, H. F. Turney, \*Helen R. Turover, F. C. O. Valentine, S. Vatcher, D. Vaughan, \*Kathleen C. Vost, R. G. West, R. Whillis, R. W. White, A. G. E. Wilcock, \*Doris Williams, E. L. Williams, \*Elsie J. Williams, \*Esther Wingate, J. Wolstencroft, T. Wooldridge, H. Yates.

\* Under the Medical Act, 1876.

Mr. A. C. Clauson, K.C., was appointed Senior Standing Counsel in the room of Sir Thomas J. C. Tomlin, K.C., appointed Judge in the High Court of Justice.

Dr. J. A. Nixon, C.M.G., was appointed a Representative on the Court of the University of Bristol, vice Dr. Newton Pitt, resigned.

Dr. Arthur J. Hall was appointed a Representative at the University of Sheffield, vice Sir Humphry Rolleston, resigned.

On the motion of the Senior Censor it was resolved that the Licence of the College, which was withdrawn from Reginald Nitch Smith in 1918, and the Licence of the College, withdrawn from David Arnold Channing Pearce in January last, be now restored.

The President announced that he had appointed Sir Archibald Garrod to deliver the Harveian Oration in 1924.

On the motion of the Registrar alterations in the by-laws relating to the examinations for the licence as passed at last Comitia, were approved for the second time, and it was resolved that David Waters Sutherland, and John Cyril Holditch Leicester, being resident in India, should be admitted to the Fellowship in *absentia*.

Mr. Horace Barlow was appointed to the office of Bedell, vacant by the death of Mr. William Fleming.

The following report was received from the Committee of Management:

I. The Committee of Management recommend—

(1) That a note be inserted at the end of Clause II, Chapter II, of the Regulations for the Diplomas of L.R.C.P. and M.R.C.S. to the effect that "the course in general biology required by Clause VII, 2, may be taken concurrently with the study for the pre-medical examination, in cases where such study is taken at a recognized medical school and hospital."

(2) That the Higher Certificate Examination of the Central Welsh Board be added to the list of examinations in which the subjects of chemistry and physics may be accepted under the conditions of Clause 2, Section II, of the regulations for the preliminary examination and for the pre-medical examination.

(3) That the matriculation examination of the University of Queensland be added to the list of examinations recognized for the preliminary examination in general education.

The recommendations were adopted, and Dr. J. A. Ormerod was reappointed a member of the Committee of Management.

#### SOCIETY OF APOTHECARIES OF LONDON.

The following candidates have passed in the subjects indicated:

**SURGERY.**—R. S. Chambers, G. Israelstam, T. J. Liengme, D. Parsons.  
**MEDICINE.**—E. N. C. Annis, R. Caplan, R. S. Chambers, D. Dimitrije-vitch, S. Halperin, G. A. Lord, T. J. Liengme, M. A. E. Somers, A. J. Vickery.

**FORENSIC MEDICINE.**—E. N. C. Annis, R. S. Chambers, D. Dimitrije-vitch, C. J. Fox, S. Halperin, W. M. Jones, Y. N. Lal, T. J. Liengme, G. A. Lord, W. R. H. Pooler.

**MIDWIFERY.**—H. J. Adams, H. P. Burns, H. T. Chiswell, A. J. M. Davies, S. Halperin, T. J. Liengme.

The Diploma of the Society was granted to Messrs. E. N. C. Annis, R. S. Chambers, T. J. Liengme, G. A. Lord, W. R. H. Pooler.

## Medical News.

At a meeting of the staff of the Wellcome Bureau of Scientific Research on October 29th Dr. Wenyon, in making a presentation to the retiring Director-in-Chief, Dr. Andrew Balfour, and his deputy, Colonel G. E. F. Stammers, who is also retiring, spoke of the admiration and esteem he and his colleagues felt for them. Each in turn thanked Dr. Wenyon and the other members of the staff, and expressed their hopes for the future prosperity of the Bureau. Dr. Balfour, we understand, before taking up his duties as Director of the School of Hygiene, will carry out a mission he had already undertaken to Bermuda.

The new East Sussex Hospital erected in Cambridge Road, overlooking White Rock Gardens, Hastings, was formally opened by H.R.H. Princess Alice, Countess of Athlone, on October 23rd. Major W. H. Mallen, J.P., chairman of the hospital, said that the cost of the new building, amounting to £120,000, had been subscribed. The institution, which served Hastings, Bexhill, and the surrounding districts of East Sussex, had been erected on a site presented to the hospital by a committee in memory of the late King Edward VII. Her Royal Highness, having declared the hospital opened, congratulated everyone associated with the collection of the money, and said it was an achievement of which they might well feel proud; she subsequently made a tour of the hospital.

The publication in 1798 of Jenner's *Inquiry into the Causes and Effects of the Variolae Vaccinae* was one of the most notable events in the history of medicine. It is only rarely nowadays that a copy of the first edition, dedicated to Dr. Parry of Bath, or of the second edition, dedicated to the King, is obtainable by the book-lover, and many medical libraries, public and private, must be without either. In these circumstances, and appropriately in this centenary year, a firm of publishers in Milan is issuing a facsimile of the thin old quarto. The volume is to contain four hand-coloured plates,

and to be bound in boards as the original was. The net price is 55 lire, equivalent to about 11s., and the publishers are Messrs. R. Lier and Co., 7, Via Brera, Milano 1, Italia.

In addition to the courses announced last week, the Fellowship of Medicine has arranged for a series of lectures to be given at the Children's Clinic, Western General Dispensary, from November 12th to December 6th at 5 p.m. Further particulars can be obtained from the Secretary of the Fellowship, 1, Wimpole Street, W.1.

SIR OLIVER LODGE will deliver his presidential address to the Röntgen Society on Tuesday next at a meeting to be held in the Institution of Electrical Engineers, Savoy Place, W.C.2, at 8.15 p.m. The subject is *x* rays and the atom.

THE nineteenth annual dinner of the Birmingham and Midland Edinburgh Graduates' Club was held on October 25th at the Queen's Hotel, Birmingham; the President (Dr. J. R. Ratcliffe) was in the chair. Over fifty members were present, and spent a very enjoyable evening. Professor Arthur Robinson was the guest of the evening, and replied to the toast of the University in a delightful speech, in which, after giving reminiscences of his own student life, he described the Edinburgh school as it is to-day, and indicated its probable development in the future.

THE annual dinner of the past and present students of the Durham University College of Medicine will be held in the King's Hall, Armstrong College, on Tuesday, November 27th, at 7.30 p.m. Tickets, price 10s. 6d., may be obtained from the Honorary Secretary, Re-Union Dinner Committee, College of Medicine, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

THE next meeting of the Dental Board of the United Kingdom will begin on Tuesday, November 13th, at 2 p.m., when the chairman will deliver an address and the Board will consider disciplinary and other business.

DR. J. R. KAYE, county medical officer of health for the West Riding of Yorkshire, was entertained at dinner on October 12th, when he was presented with a pair of silver Georgian candelabra as an appreciation of the valuable and long services rendered by him to the Association of County Medical Officers of Health of England and Wales.

THE People's League of Health (12, Stratford Place, W.1) is arranging a series of four lectures on "Sunlight and Health," by Sir Henry Gauvain, M.D., M.Ch., and Dr. Saleeby, to be given at the Royal Society of Arts, John Street, Adelphi, commencing on Monday, November 5th, and following Mondays, at 6 p.m.

THE Minister of Health has appointed Mr. P. A. Ellis Richards, F.I.C., President of the Society of Public Analysts, to be a member of the Committee on Preservatives and Colouring Matters in Food, in the place of Mr. Otto Hehner, F.I.C., who has resigned from the committee in consequence of having to return to South Africa.

A WORK entitled *Psycho-analysis Analysed*, by Dr. P. McBride, with an introduction by Sir Bryan Donkin, M.D., will shortly be published (Heinemann Medical Books). In it Dr. McBride gives his reasons why psycho-analysis does not deserve a position in scientific medicine.

THE Canadian Medical Association has arranged for a Lister oration to be given once every three years. The first oration will be given at the annual meeting of the Association at Ottawa in 1924 by Dr. John Stewart of Halifax, who is a former house-surgeon of Lister's.

DR. CHARLES K. MILLS of Philadelphia has been elected president of the American Neurological Association for the ensuing year in succession to Dr. Harvey Cushing.

THE College of Physicians of Philadelphia announces that the next award of the Alvarenga Prize, amounting to about 300 dollars, will be made in 1924. Essays may be upon any subject in medicine, but cannot have been published; they must be received by the secretary of the college, 19, South 22nd Street, Philadelphia, U.S.A., on or before May 1st, 1924. Each essay must be typewritten and unsigned, but marked with a motto and accompanied by a sealed envelope having on its outside the motto and within the name and address of the author. The prize for 1923 has been awarded to Dr. Edward P. Heller.

THE October number of *Tubercle* is devoted to the surgery of the lungs and pleurae. Mr. H. Morriston Davies contributes an article on the progress of surgery of the lungs and cavity, and Dr. L. W. Shelly writes on anaesthesia in thoracic surgery. The number contains a bibliography of articles on chest surgery published during and since 1920, and a list of recent books on chest surgery; these references occupy between five and six pages. The statistical section of this number deals with thoracic suppuration and new growths, and includes mortality statistics for England and Wales. *Tubercle* is published by Messrs. John Bale, Sons, and Danielsson, Ltd., Great Titchfield Street, London, W.1, and the price is 2s. 6d. each number, or 25s. per annum.

THE annual dinner of the Chelsea Clinical Society was held at the Café Royal on October 30th, with the President, Dr. G. Crewdson Thomas, in the chair. The toast of "Prosperity to the Society" was proposed by Dr. J. A. Torrens, Dean of St. George's Hospital Medical School, who praised the valuable work undertaken by such societies, which concentrate on the practical problems of private practice. The President in his reply expressed the gratitude of the society to St. George's Hospital for providing a meeting place. The society was now twenty-seven years old, and had come to the "dangerous age" when original members were passing away. In order to maintain the interest of its members the present session would be devoted to discussions on common diseases as seen in general practice, and he appealed to general practitioners to contribute their experiences. The toast of "The Visitors" was proposed by Sir Sydney Russell-Wells, M.P., who spoke of the services performed in promoting good fellowship within the medical world of London by the Chelsea Clinical, the Hunterian, the Harveian, and the West London Medico-Chirurgical Societies, each of which was represented that evening by its president. The work of these societies did much in modern times to reproduce that spirit of fellowship within the learned world which was a feature of the mediaeval universities of Europe. The toast was responded to by Sir Bruce Bruce-Porter (President of the Hunterian Society) and Sir William Willcox (President of the West London Medico-Chirurgical Society), and the proceedings closed with the health of the Chairman, proposed by Dr. Gordon Lane.

THE fourth congress of the Surgical Society of Central Germany will be held at Brunswick on November 11th, when the following subjects will be discussed: (1) Surgical treatment of epilepsy, introduced by Professor Felix Franke; (2) surgical treatment of hydrocephalus, introduced by Professor Wrede.

THE first meeting of the Petrograd Pathological Society since the war was recently held, and was attended by Professors Lubarsch and Aschoff at the special invitation of the Russian Soviet Government.

THE Montreal Maternity Hospital has been merged with the Royal Victoria Hospital, Montreal, and it is proposed to erect in the grounds of the latter institution a maternity pavilion, thus increasing the teaching facilities of McGill University.

AT a joint conference between the National Council for Combating Venereal Diseases and the Society for the Prevention of Venereal Disease, held at 1, Wimpole Street, on October 30th, the following resolutions were adopted: (1) "That the ultimate fusion of the two societies is desirable." (2) "Subject to the approval of their respective executives this Conference resolves itself into a deputation to the Ministry of Health to urge that 'the law should be altered so as to permit properly qualified chemists to sell *ad hoc* disinfectants, provided such disinfectants are sold in a form approved and with instructions for use approved by some competent authority.'" (3) "That this Conference recommends that the respective executives of the two societies should each appoint not more than five members to form a liaison committee between the two societies and to explore the possibility of fusion."

## Letters, Notes, and Answers.

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.

"D. G."—We believe that no new edition of Allbutt's *System* will see the light in the next year or two.

#### INFANTILE JAUNDICE.

DR. H. E. BAMBER writes: Is there any association between the time after birth at which the cord of the newborn infant is tied and the tendency to jaundice of the infant? The opinion of a very experienced general practitioner under whom I once worked and who first called my attention to it was that jaundice in the newborn infant was more liable to occur if the cord was tied very soon after birth.

### INCOME TAX.

#### Book Debts.

"J. S. H." asks: Can the inspector of taxes demand a return of the total of outstanding book debts at the end of the financial year, and can he claim tax on a proportion of these debts?

.\* Strictly, the gross amount of the income of the practice is the total value of the debts which the year's work represents—that is, as near as can possibly be ascertained, the actual cash receipts during the year *plus* any increase or less any decrease in the value of the debts outstanding at the end of the year as compared with that at the beginning. The difficulty of estimating correctly or even approximately the value of a medical man's book debts need is no emphasis, and the practice of regarding the theoretical gross income of any year as coinciding with the actual cash receipts in that year is of long standing and general application. It is, of course, based on the obvious truth that where the volume of debts remains fairly constant the two methods of reckoning must produce very nearly the same result in the long run. But where the circumstances of the practice are peculiar so that the inclusion of payment for debts incurred in past years does not approximately balance the exclusion of unpaid debts of the present year, the Revenue authorities are within their rights, both in law and equity, in discarding the cash basis system, and so is the practitioner if he wishes to do so. Unless, however, there are such circumstances in "J. S. H.'s" case—such as the recent taking over of the whole or part of a practice—he would do well to explain the position and oppose a departure from the normal method in his own case.

#### Motor Car Transactions.

"M. D. S." bought a car in 1918 for £273 and sold it in 1922 for £180, buying a car of similar make and power for £390. What allowance can he claim?

.\* The allowance should be £390—£180=£210. The inspector objects on the ground that the more modern car is bound to be an improved model, and that therefore there is a capital improvement. We do not agree with the conclusion he draws. The official witness before the Royal Commission on the Income Tax agreed that where the cost of a machine rose the replacement cost should be determined by the new level of cost. Admitting, for the sake of argument, that the newer model is better in some respects than the old, it nevertheless remains the fact that a precisely similar car would cost as much as—in fact, in all probability, more than—the actual car which was purchased.

### LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.

#### FOREIGN BODY IN THE INTESTINE.

DR. J. F. D. WILLOUGHBY (Southwell, Notts) writes: On October 22nd I was called in to see a child 2 years old who was said to have swallowed a metal pin with a large knob at one end used to fasten the apron to the side of her perambulator. Immediately after she had swallowed it the child was sick, but in thirty-six hours the foreign body had passed through the gullet, stomach, small and large intestines, without the slightest pain or inconvenience. When the pin was passed per anum it had a thick coating of faeces, the result of the soft bulky food she was ordered to take. The large size of the pin and complete absence of symptoms during its passage appeared to me to be of sufficient interest to record. The pin is 1½ inches long and the head at its broadest part 1/2 inch wide.

#### CURAÇOA.

VARIOUS versions of Luttrell's punning verses on the illness of the Prince Regent, afterwards George IV, have been given. The following, which was printed by Sir Algernon West in his book of reminiscences, *One City and Many Men*, is probably as correct as any:

Sad news! The Prince is taken ill—  
All will depend on Halford's skill.  
"Tell, Sir Ben," says the physician:  
"How comes he in this low condition?"  
When Bloomfield ventured to announce  
A small excess of cherry bounce,  
The Regent, hearing what was said;  
Raised from the couch his aching head  
And cried in accents weak and low,  
Curaçoa—curaçoa—cure us O Doctor, cure us O.

Sir Ben was the Prince's personal attendant, afterwards Lord Bloomfield.

#### VACANCIES.

NOTIFICATIONS of offices vacant in universities, medical colleges, and of vacant resident and other appointments at hospitals, will be found at pages 41, 43, 44, and 45 of our advertisement columns, and advertisements as to partnerships, assistantships, and locumtenencies at pages 42 and 43.

A short summary of vacant posts notified in the advertisement columns appears in the *Supplement* at page 215.