

Memoranda :

MEDICAL, SURGICAL, OBSTETRICAL.

SPONTANEOUS RUPTURE OF THE HEART.

DR. E. R. GILMORE's case (August 30th, 1924, p. 373) is in several respects similar to three I have seen within the past two years. All died suddenly and unexpectedly; in one case only was there even a suspicion of previous disease of the heart.

CASE I.

A retired merchant, aged 71, in the effort to get out of bed one morning complained of faintness and dizziness. His wife then noticed his pallor, but before she could get near him he had fallen on to the floor, cutting his right forehead; the wound bled only slightly. I saw him within a few minutes; he was dead. His wife stated that he had made no previous complaint of illness or pain.

Post-mortem Examination.—A stout, big, pale-skinned man with puffy appearance of face. The precordium was full of blood; this was carefully swabbed out and the heart found to be enlarged and fatty. A rough tear in the left ventricle extended downwards for about $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches (about half an inch in the aorta itself); and at its middle penetrated through into the ventricle. There was atheroma of the aorta, with roughness of its intimal surface; there was some thickening of the mitral and aortic cusps near their mural attachments.

CASE II.

A woman, aged 63, became sick and faint while finishing breakfast, and quickly collapsed. When seen, almost immediately, she was propped up, was practically pulseless, with sighing breathing and dilated pupils; she died within a few minutes.

Post-mortem Examination.—A spare woman who appeared older than her years. The pericardial sac was full of blood and was carefully swabbed out. The heart was somewhat enlarged and exceedingly fatty. There was a tear in the left ventricle which extended from the wall of the aorta downwards for about $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches, and in its lower half penetrated into the ventricle. The upper half of the wound was only partially through the wall of the aorta, and in it were older clots and some attempt at organization, the appearance being suggestive of a wound which had been weeping and at the same time attempting to heal for some days. The aortic wall was thickened but there was no palpable sign of disease in the valves.

CASE III.

D. C., a stout, plethoric woman, aged 70, fell forwards at the tea table and rolled on to the floor; she was found to be dead. About half an hour before she had hurried back from a walk on account of sudden abdominal pain and diarrhoea. She had complained occasionally of breathlessness on exertion for some months previously, but not of pain.

Post-mortem Examination.—The pericardial sac was full of blood. This was swabbed out and the heart was found to be enlarged and extremely fatty. There was a rough irregular tear in the wall of the left ventricle measuring about $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches; it extended from close to the aorta downwards and penetrated the cavity of the ventricle about the middle of the tear. This tear involved on its inner aspect aorta and ventricle. The aortic and mitral cusps were thickened and the inner wall of the aorta was thickened and rough—evidently in a condition of fairly advanced atheroma.

All three cases showed advanced fatty disease of the heart with sclerotic changes in the aorta, more or less, and had died from the same cause. In each the wound was in the same area and ran roughly parallel with the interventricular septum, at an area where the wall was weakest or where it was subject to greatest strain.

To my mind the questions which present themselves in considering the above cases are these:

1. In rupture of the left ventricle does the tear usually occur from above downwards? In my second case it certainly did.
2. Was the exciting cause of the rupture purely mechanical and caused by a sudden temporary rise in blood pressure acting on a diseased ventricle wall?
3. Occurring near the left septal division of the auriculo-ventricular bundle, was it possible that a sudden abrupt commencing of ventricular fibrillation caused a wave sufficiently violent to start a tear?

I feel that the record of these three cases is incomplete; each examination was made in the hurry of things, and further detail could not easily be got.

Rupture of the heart appears to be a commoner mode of death in fatty disease than is generally believed.

Bournemouth.

S. WATSON SMITH, M.B., Ch.B. Edin.

ECHINOCOCCUS OF THE HEART.

I was interested to read the memorandum (August 16th, p. 277) of a case of echinococcus of the heart. Some years ago in India a gunner, who had recently come up to the hills for short leave, feeling slightly out of sorts after dinner, went for a pony ride to shake it off. He was seen about an hour later leading the pony and feeling very sick; ten minutes later he was dead.

At the *post-mortem* examination the heart felt very tense, and on opening the left ventricle its cavity was found to be occupied by a cyst the size of a golf ball; there appeared to be no room for any blood.

A microscopical examination could not be made, but the macroscopic appearance of the cyst resembled echinococcus. There were smaller cysts in the brain and kidneys, but none in the liver.

The most remarkable feature of the case was the fact that the soldier had been playing football a few weeks earlier without distress. Probably the extra strain demanded by taking exercise in the hill station, which was 7,000 ft. above sea-level, caused failure in the heart, which had functioned normally in the plains.

C. M. FINNY, F.R.C.S.,
Major R.A.M.C.

NEUTRALIZATION OF INSULIN BEFORE INJECTION.

INSULIN injected subcutaneously nearly always gives rise to more or less pain of a stinging or smarting character, in addition to the slight pain necessarily caused by any subcutaneous injection of fluid. In some patients this stinging pain is so great that they dread the daily repetition of it.

As well as pain some patients have within a few minutes of the injection an erythematous patch, with heat and tenderness, spreading to two or three inches in diameter, lasting for one, two, or three days, and leaving an indurated nodule for quite a long time.

Insulin as at present prepared is very unstable except in a distinctly acid solution. Dr. O'Brien and Dr. Trevan, of the Wellcome Physiological Research Laboratory, suggested that this acidity might be the cause of the stinging pain and erythema. Dr. Trevan made a series of experiments with insulin the acidity of which had been neutralized at the time of injection by the addition of a sufficient amount of sodium bicarbonate, and found that insulin with its acidity neutralized in this way gave identical physiological reactions as similar doses of unneutralized insulin, used at the same time and under the same conditions.

He then very kindly supplied me with a 6 per cent. solution of sodium bicarbonate with 3 per cent. tricresol, sterilized by filtration through a Berkefeld filter, about 0.25 c.cm. of which is more than sufficient to neutralize 1 c.cm. of the preparation of insulin made by Burroughs Wellcome and Co. I have used the preparation thus neutralized daily for three weeks, and find that the smarting and stinging previously complained of have quite ceased, and also that the local erythema is no longer produced in a patient who previously suffered very severely from it. The physiological effect on the cases so treated has not been checked, but there is no reason to think that the potency of insulin used in this way is at all diminished.

It is important not to let the alkaline solution get into the stock insulin bottle; if the contents of that become alkaline the insulin will disappear on standing. The insulin should be drawn into the syringe first, then the alkaline solution with a bubble of air, the whole shaken until mixed, when the solution becomes slightly turbid, and the air expelled.

Beckenham.

GEORGE R. STILWELL, M.B.Lond.

TWO CASES OF MUSHROOM POISONING.

On account of the rarity of literature on poisoning due to eating *Amanita phalloides* fungi, the two following cases, which came under my observation recently, may be of interest.

Two officers ate what they considered to be mushrooms at 12.15 p.m. At 12.45 they began to feel ill at ease; they

complained of acute abdominal pain in the epigastric region, of pains in the bladder and penis, and a desire to micturate; they sweated profusely.

At 1.15 they were seen by me; their symptoms, in addition to those mentioned, were: vision extremely blurred, unable to distinguish any features of people around them; profuse cold clammy sweat, extremities quite cold; no pulse to be felt at the wrist; heart beats fast, weak, and very irregular; breathing fast and shallow. Both patients had a severe rigor and profuse salivation. The mentality remained clear.

The treatment consisted of a copious mustard and water emetic. In the vomit there were large quantities of the supposed mushrooms, which have since been identified as *Amanita phalloides* fungi. Atropine sulphate 1/100 grain was given hypodermically, and this controlled the perspiration and salivation to a certain extent. Digitalin 1/100 grain and strychnine sulphate 1/60 grain were then given hypodermically, followed by two ounces of brandy by the mouth.

The patients were put to bed in blankets and packed round by hot-water bottles. After an hour the vision became clear and the patients gradually improved till after five hours they had quite recovered. For about two days they felt slight abdominal pains, but these gradually passed away. The temperature remained subnormal throughout the attack.

Halton Camp, Bucks.

F. J. MURPHY.

Reviews.

THE DIAGNOSIS OF NERVOUS DISORDERS.

In the endeavour to keep pace with the continuous advances in neurology, Sir JAMES PURVES-STEWART has made many changes in his well known book on the *Diagnosis of Nervous Diseases*, the sixth edition¹ of which has recently been published. Every chapter has been revised; that on the psycho-neuroses has been completely rewritten, and a short chapter on delirium has been inserted. Though the book deals comprehensively with its subject, it is not intended to be a textbook. It is rather, as its author says, an appendix, approaching the subject from a clinical point of view, and intended to be used in conjunction with other standard works. The book is written from an essentially practical standpoint, and by supplying details of the methods of clinical examination, together with indications of the significance to be attached to the various nervous symptoms, it is well suited to the needs, not only of the teacher and specialist, but also of the general practitioner, to whom it will be invaluable as a book of reference.

The major portion of the new chapter on the psycho-neuroses is occupied with a clinical description of the protean manifestations of hysteria. Though the author discusses the psycho-neuroses from a psychological standpoint, he defines a neurosis in neurological terms as "a molecular abnormality of the nervous system (whether cerebro-spinal or vegetative, or both together) characterized by abnormal reactions to ordinary stimuli." It is a difficult matter to formulate an entirely satisfactory definition of what we now include under the term "neurosis." The author's definition is based upon the view that the boundary between organic diseases and the so-called functional neuroses (a term here used as synonymous with the psycho-neuroses) is wholly imaginary, and that disordered function is impossible without some underlying physical basis. Few neurologists would be disposed to deny the existence of some organic difference between the subject of a neurosis and a normal person, but the definition as a whole might be criticized on account of its essentially physiological colouring. The neuroses are disorders of personality, and in practice the neurotic has to be approached, described, and treated, not as a nervous system reacting abnormally to simple stimuli, but as a person reacting abnormally to complex situations. In a neurosis the functions of the

organism are disordered at the highest, most recently evolved, and therefore most sensitive, levels of evolution, and, as Janet urged many years ago, this fundamental clinical fact should be made evident in a definition of the cases which we include under this category.

The author gives a few useful diagnostic points of differentiation between the neuroses and psychoses. There is still, however, much need for further investigation into this very difficult problem. In the early stages of mental disorder it is often hard to distinguish a neurosis from a psychosis, and the whole question is complicated by the fact that an illness showing all the characteristic symptoms of (say) an obsessional neurosis, may change its character and develop pronounced and incurable delusions. The fact that a new edition of this work had become necessary abundantly indicates that it meets the needs of the student of clinical neurology, and we have no doubt that the author's hope that the sixth edition may prove more useful than any of its predecessors will be fully realized.

BISMUTH IN SYPHILIS.

THE use of bismuth as an alternative treatment of syphilis has been carefully recorded from time to time, so that readers have been able to form their own opinion of its value. As usually happens, its first advocates were probably rather too enthusiastic, and it is convenient to have a compact essay² by two French clinicians—BRIN and LEGRAND—clearly setting out the present position, giving an account of the action of bismuth on syphilitic lesions, of incidents in the course of treatment, stating indications for its use, and describing the various preparations employed.

Bismuth is usually given by intramuscular injection, but it can also be administered intravenously or subcutaneously. The metal can afterwards be found in the blood and cerebro-spinal fluid, and in almost all the organs and tissues of the body; it is believed, however, that the meninges are impermeable to it. Elimination is effected by the kidneys and intestines, in the salivary and mammary glands, and in bile and sweat. If the salt administered be insoluble, bismuth appears in the urine in eighteen hours, and may be recovered twenty to thirty days after a course of injections. After the soluble salts elimination commences in two hours and reaches its maximum in twelve to fifteen hours. A full account is given of the various preparations, and their content of bismuth is stated. It would appear that the activity of a preparation depends not only on the amount of metal contained in it, but also on the chemical constitution, ease of disintegration, and facility of absorption. The preparations used are arranged in three main groups: insoluble preparations in an oily medium, including the tartro-bismuthates, oxides, and iodo-bismuthates; colloidal preparations (neotrépol, spirillan, and bisclorol); and soluble preparations, such as luatol, tarbisol, and galismuth. The insoluble preparations are the most generally useful; a "course" usually consists of fifteen to twenty injections, and an interval of not less than three weeks is allowed between courses; the dose of each preparation is stated and the method of administration clearly explained; it should be followed in detail. When toxic results ensue they may be local, "immediate general," or "late general." The last named are the most important; they include stomatitis (of varying severity) and renal complications.

Therapeutic results are considered in relation to the various stages of the disease and the Wassermann reaction. The indications for the administration of bismuth are classified as absolute and relative: the former include cases resistant to arsenic and mercury, of arsenic intolerance, and of chronic visceral syphilis. Contraindications are few. They include cases where the mouth is in such a bad state that severe stomatitis would almost inevitably follow, cachexia, and albuminuria not due to syphilis. Bismuth may be associated with arsenic, mercury, and iodine, but preferably with the first named. The authors summarize their conclusions as follows:

1. Bismuth comes between arsenobenzol and mercury in activity.
2. Its administration is simple and practicable.
3. It is without danger; no death due to bismuth has been reported.

¹ *The Diagnosis of Nervous Diseases*. By Sir James Purves-Stewart, K.C.M.G., C.B., M.D. Edin., F.R.C.P. London: Edward Arnold and Co. Sixth edition, revised. 1924. (Med. 8vo, pp. viii + 648; 285 figures, 1 plate. 30s. net.)

² *Le Bismuth dans le traitement de la Syphilis*. Par Louis Brin, et Pierre Legrain. Paris: Octave Doin. 1924. (Imp. 16mo, pp. 96. Fr. 6.)

geniality, and self-sacrifice endeared him to a large community, and his son, who follows in his father's footsteps, has been left a difficult task.

The tragic death of Dr. EUSTACE HENRY LIPSCOMB, at the age of 64, in a boating accident at Tregastel, Brittany, on August 25th, has caused deep sorrow in St. Albans, with the public life of which Dr. Lipscomb had been prominently associated for many years. He was one of a party of five in a boat which capsized, and lost his life in an endeavour to save others. He was the son of Dr. J. T. N. Lipscomb of St. Albans, and was educated at the Grammar School there, at Norwich Grammar School, and at Cambridge and Guy's Hospital; he obtained the diplomas of M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. in 1886, graduating M.B., B.Ch. in 1889. Until 1921 he was honorary medical officer of the St. Albans and Mid-Hertfordshire Hospital, and subsequently was consulting medical officer. In 1893 he succeeded his father as medical officer to St. Albans prison, which was taken over in 1915 by the military authorities as a detention barracks; he retained his connexion with it until it was vacated in 1919. His other medical appointments included those of certifying factory surgeon, physician to the Duchess of Marlborough's Charity, and clinical assistant to the East London Hospital for Children and Dispensary for Women. He had held the office of president of the South Midland Branch of the British Medical Association. For many years he had been a member of the city council, and in 1909 he was elected mayor of St. Albans, an office which had been previously held by both his father and grandfather. He was a prominent Freemason, a P.G. Deacon of the Province of Hertfordshire, and a P.P. Sojourner of the Province of Herts in Royal Arch Masonry. In 1912 he married Miss M. C. Millman, who at that time was matron of the St. Albans and Mid-Hertfordshire Hospital, and who, with one son, aged 10, survives him.

We regret to record the death of the widow of the distinguished physician, Dr. J. S. Bristow, F.R.S., of St. Thomas's Hospital. Mrs. Bristow's kindness of heart, great charm of manner, and considerable fund of humour had gained for her a large circle of friends, who will ever treasure her memory. She possessed also artistic taste, and as an amateur pursued to the last her painting in water-colours, which ranked high in merit. Dr. Bristow, who died in 1895, was one of the most eminent and learned physicians of his day, and his best known work, *The Theory and Practice of Medicine*, was one of the leading textbooks in this country and abroad.

Universities and Colleges.

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE.

COMMISSIONERS' SCHEME.

THE University Commissioners appointed in accordance with the recommendations of the Royal Commission regarding the organization of teaching in the University of Cambridge have, after considering the representations made to them, sent a memorandum to the Vice-Chancellor embodying a scheme. The document is divided into two parts, the first dealing with the temporary steps which will be taken to introduce the faculty system, and the second setting out the permanent organization proposed. We will deal with the latter first.

PERMANENT SCHEME.

Faculties.

Under the scheme, which it is proposed to bring into force on October 1st, 1926, there would be faculties, faculty boards, and a general board of studies. All fees for lectures announced by the general board of studies would be paid to the University.

There would be eighteen faculties, arranged in two groups—Arts and Science. In the Arts group there would be eleven faculties and in the Science group seven. In the latter, however, the faculty of Biological Studies would be divided into two departments, the one containing four sections and the other six. The departments in the second section of the faculty of Biological Studies would be biochemistry, experimental psychology, human anatomy, parasitology, pathology, and physiology. The faculties would be composed of professors, readers, university lecturers, fellows of colleges giving lectures or

demonstrations, and a certain proportion of other persons appointed by the Board of the faculty.

Medicine would be one of the faculties in the Science group. It would consist of teachers who come within one of the classes above mentioned, and give instruction in medicine, surgery, pharmacology, anatomy, biochemistry, physiology, or pathology, or give courses in physics, chemistry, or biology for medical students.

The Faculty Boards would consist of the professors, a certain number of members of the faculty elected by it for a period of four years, a certain number of persons nominated by the council of the senate for a period of two years, a certain number nominated by the Board, and in certain cases representatives of cognate studies.

The Faculty Board of Medicine would consist of the Regius Professor of physic, the Downing professor of medicine, the professors of anatomy, biochemistry, pathology, and physiology, four members of the faculty elected by it, and two persons nominated by the council.

General Board of Studies.

The suggestion of the commissioners is that the general board of studies should consist of the vice-chancellor, of four members each of the groups of arts and science faculties respectively, four members of the council of the senate, and two persons not members of the council of the senate elected by the University for four years. It is proposed to transfer the present duties of the General Board in regard to the awarding of the higher degrees to the Board of Research Studies.

University Lectureships.

The commissioners suggest certain regulations for university lectureships (including demonstratorships). Lecturers would be appointed by a standing committee separately constituted for the faculty or department. This committee would consist of the vice-chancellor, the head of the department, three members of the board of the faculty, and two persons nominated by the General Board.

Tenure.—Appointments would as a rule be made in the first place for three years, but on reappointment tenure would be for so long as the lecturer continued satisfactorily to perform the duties of his office until the retiring age. The Faculty Board is to ensure that professors, readers, and lecturers continue to perform the duties of their office satisfactorily.

Work and Salaries.—The passage from the report under this head is as follows :

The Commissioners think it will be impossible to ensure absolute equality between the conditions of work and remuneration in the various faculties. Their present opinion is that there should be a basic amount of teaching work obligatory upon a University Lecturer—namely, not fewer than thirty-two or more than forty-eight hours of lecturing during the year. That the initial basic salary given in respect of such amount of work be not less than £160. That the General Board should have authority to vary in specific cases the requirements as to the basic amount of teaching work. That each Faculty should have a scale of increments in the basic salary to be approved by the General Board, and that other payments in addition to the basic salary should be made in consideration of work done in addition to the basic amount of work. That Boards of Faculties should have power to make a maximum additional payment of £250 a year to a University Lecturer who is not a Fellow of a College. That the payments to be made to University Lecturers in addition to the basic salary should be determined by the Faculty Board concerned and made from Faculty or Departmental Funds. These funds will consist of (1) fees for lectures, including lectures given by professors and readers, (2) contributions from the chest.

Retiring Age.—The commissioners recommend that the retiring age for all members of the university teaching and administrative staffs shall be 65, but contemplate that the General Board would have power to continue a professor in office for a period not exceeding five years—that is, until he attains the age of 70.

Position of Women in Relation to Teaching.

The commissioners contemplate that the statutes will be so framed as to render women eligible for professorships, readerships, university lectureships, and examinerships, subject to the reservations made by the Royal Commission. Fellows of women's colleges will be eligible to become members of faculties.

TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS.

The University will have to decide at the outset which of the existing lecturers of varying seniority in each faculty it is prepared to take on the permanent university establishment, and will have to make a separate bargain with each such lecturer. It is proposed, therefore, that the University should, before July 1st, 1926, make appointments to university lectureships in each faculty, to take effect on October 1st, 1926. The council of the senate would nominate an appointing committee for each faculty, which would make its recommendations at the

end of Lent term, 1926, as to the initial number of university lectureships in each faculty, the persons to be appointed, and the terms of appointment.

THE NEW INSTITUTE OF PATHOLOGY.

We announced on January 26th (p. 163) the acceptance by the Senate of the University of Cambridge of the offer of the Board of Trustees of the Rockefeller Foundation to endow the School of Pathology in the University. The trustees offered £100,000 for the building of a pathological institute and its general maintenance, and to contribute £33,000 towards its endowment, the University undertaking to find an equal amount for the completion of the endowment. In response to an appeal by the University authorities, Mr. Ernest Gates, of Old Buckenham, Norfolk, has now promised to give this sum in memory of his wife. Mr. Gates is managing director of Salts (Saltaire), Ltd., and a director of other Bradford wool manufacturing firms.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.

Parliamentary Election.

THERE is a vacancy in the parliamentary representation of the University; there are three candidates—Sir John Rose Bradford, nominated by the Unionist Association, Professor A. F. Pollard by the Liberal Association, and Dr. E. Graham Little by the Graduates' Association as a non-political candidate. The date of the election has not yet been fixed. The total number of graduates does not seem to be stated in the *Calendar*, but at a rough estimate it is between 13,000 and 14,000. At the general election in 1922 the total poll was 7,440, and the late Sir Sydney Russell-Wells was returned with a majority of 1,663. At the general election in 1923 the total poll was 8,050, the figures being: Sir Sydney Russell-Wells (Conservative) 4,037, Professor A. F. Pollard (Liberal) 2,593, Mr. H. G. Wells (Labour-Socialist) 1,420.

Every graduate who complies with the conditions prescribed in the Representation of the People Act, 1918, is entitled to be registered as a parliamentary elector on making a claim and paying a fee of £1, which also covers life membership of convocation. No further fee is required from graduates who are already life members of convocation.

A Departmental Committee.

The President of the Board of Education, on August 29th, announced that the reference to the Departmental Committee on the University of London which he has decided to appoint is as follows:

"To consider the Final Report of the Royal Commission on University Education in London dated March 27th, 1913, and, having regard to present circumstances and after consultation with the persons and bodies concerned, to indicate what are the principal changes now most needed in the existing constitution of the University of London, and on what basis a statutory commission should be set up to frame new statutes for the University."

The constitution of the Committee was not complete.

Medical News.

THE Melbourne Permanent Committee for Post-Graduate Work offers a prize of 150 guineas for the best essay on the causes and prevention of maternal morbidity and mortality. The essay should include discussion of the following problems: the teaching of obstetrics to students, graduates, and nurses; hospital conditions, control, and staffing; the conduct of private obstetric practice; and ante-natal supervision. Throughout the essay attention should be chiefly given to the prevention of maternal morbidity. This competition is open to members of the British Medical Association registered in the Commonwealth of Australia. The essays should be typewritten, and must be delivered to the honorary secretaries of the Post-Graduate Committee at 12, Collins Street, Melbourne, on or before May 1st, 1925. The prize essay will become the property of the committee, and provided that the committee so approves, it will bear the expense of publication. Each essay must have a motto or device placed upon it, and be accompanied by a sealed envelope with the name and address of the author inside, but having on the outside the same motto or device.

PROFESSOR PAVLOV'S seventy-fifth birthday is to be celebrated at Leningrad on September 27th by the publication of a "Festschrift" in the form of a special number of the *Archiv biologisch Nauch* (Archives of Biological Sciences), which is the official organ of the Institute of Experimental Medicine.

THE Lord Mayor of Liverpool on September 4th unveiled at Leasowe Hospital for Crippled Children a tablet to the memory of Mr. G. P. Newbolt, F.R.C.S., first chairman of the hospital. It will be remembered that a committee has been formed to establish a memorial to Mr. Newbolt at the Royal Southern Hospital, Liverpool, to which he was surgeon down to the time of his death. Donations may be sent to the treasurer of the Newbolt Fund, Mr. Lyon H. Maxwell, at the hospital.

AT the invitation of the Hong-Kong and China Branch of the British Medical Association a joint conference with the China Medical Missionary Association will be held at Hong Kong on January 21st, 1925, and following days. Further particulars will be published shortly.

THE annual dinner of past and present students of St Mary's Hospital Medical School will take place at the Connaught Rooms, Great Queen Street, W.C., on Monday October 6th, when Dr. E. M. Callender, C.B.E., will take the chair at 7.30 p.m. The honorary secretary is Dr. Hope Gosse

THE prizes to students at Charing Cross Hospital Medical School will be distributed on Wednesday, October 1st, at 3.30 p.m., by Sir Humphry Rolleston, Bt., President of the Royal College of Physicians of London. The annual dinner of past and present students will be held on the evening of the same day at Gatti's Restaurant, when the chair will be taken at 7.30 by Mr. Charles Gibbs, senior surgeon to the hospital. The charge will be 12s. 6d., which can be paid at the door or sent in advance to the Dean, Dr. W. J. Fenton.

A NEW course of post-graduate study will commence at the National Hospital for the Paralysed and Epileptic, Queen Square, Bloomsbury, W.C.1, on October 1st and continue till November 23th. The course will consist of out-patient clinics, clinical lectures and demonstrations, and lectures on the pathology of the nervous system. A course of lectures on the anatomy and physiology of the nervous system and on clinical demonstrations on methods of examination will also be given if a sufficient number of applications is received. Further particulars can be obtained from the dean of the medical school at the hospital.

THE Westminster Hospital is giving a two weeks' intensive course from Monday, September 22nd, to Friday, October 3rd daily, from 10.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m., including clinical demonstrations, lectures, pathology, orthopaedics, and operations. The first lecture will be given by Mr. Walter Spencer at 10.30 a.m. on Monday, September 22nd, on oral sepsis. On Saturday, September 27th, at Camberwell House (Peckham Road), Dr. F. Norman will deal with mental diseases. The fee for the course is £3 3s., or £2 2s. for either week. A three weeks' course in ophthalmology is in progress at the Royal Westminster Ophthalmic Hospital from September 8th to 27th, comprising clinical instruction each afternoon from 2 o'clock special demonstrations three times a week on methods of examination, a fundus class, and clinical demonstrations on common affections of the eye. From September 15th to 27th a course in infants' diseases has been arranged at the Infants' Hospital, consisting of clinical demonstrations, "round table" consultations, and lectures, from 2 to 5 p.m.; the fee for the course will be £3 3s. Dr. Porter Phillips and Dr. Thomas Beaton are giving a series of lecture demonstrations in psychological medicine at the Bethlem Royal Hospital from September 30th to October 25th, on Tuesdays and Saturdays at 11 a.m., and will deal with the diagnosis and symptomatology of mental diseases, the psychoneuroses, and the medico-legal aspect of insanity. October courses will be held at the Paddington Green Children's Hospital in conjunction with the Victoria Hospital and Children's Clinic, Central London Throat, Nose, and Ear Hospital, Royal Free Hospital, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, and St. Peter's Hospital. Copies of the syllabus of each of the above courses can be obtained from the Secretary of the Fellowship of Medicine at No. 1, Wimpole Street, W.1.

THE following post-graduate courses have been arranged for the near future in Paris: a gynaecological course will be held at the Broca Hospital from September 22nd to October 4th, and will be mainly clinical and practical; a course in heart diseases, to include the study of cardiac syndromes of nervous origin, hypertension, and cardiac therapeutics generally, will be given at the Ambroise Paré Hospital from September 29th to October 11th; a practical course on the diseases of early infancy will be held at the Troussseau Hospital from October 6th to 18th.

A PRACTICAL course on dermatology and venereal diseases is to be held by the Faculty of Medicine at Strasbourg from September 22nd to November 8th. Lectures and demonstrations will be given at the Civil Hospital and the various special clinics concerned, and those attending the course will receive individual instruction in therapeutic methods, including radiotherapy and surgical procedures. After each lecture a summary of two or three pages will be furnished to each member of the class. The fee for the course is 200 francs, and application should be made to Professor Pautrier at the Faculty of Medicine. Help will be given with regard to finding lodgings in Strasbourg during the course.

WE have received a copy of the list of old students of St. Thomas's Hospital corrected to last June. The previous edition was issued in 1922. The book is full of information of interest to old students of the hospital. On the title-page are the telephone numbers of the various departments of the

hospital. There is a complete list of the days and times of attendance of the medical and surgical staffs. The names of old students are arranged in two lists—the one alphabetical and the other according to locality. In the alphabetical list there are given the date of entry, the qualifications and distinctions, and the address of each individual, together with a summary of his scholarships, posts held while at the hospital, and present appointments. The local list is followed by lists of medical officers of the naval, military, and Indian services, of past and present officers of the hospital and medical school, and of scholars and medallists. There is also a record of old students who have died since the last publication of the book. The editor, Mr. Robert Hopkins, is to be congratulated on having produced the best old students' list that we have seen.

THE next half-yearly election for the admission of fatherless children to the Royal Infant Orphanage, Wanstead, E.11, will be held in November. Children under 7 years of age are eligible, and applications for information and nomination papers should be addressed to the Secretary at the Orphanage at once.

THE freedom of the city of Warsaw, where she was born and received her early education, has been conferred on Madame Curie.

THE King has granted Dr. Charles Todd, O.B.E., technical expert to the Egyptian Department of Public Health, permission to wear the insignia of the Second Class of the Order of the Nile conferred upon him by the King of Egypt in recognition of valuable services rendered.

THE international congress on industrial hygiene, held at Geneva in July, attracted some thirty doctors and others interested from Europe, America, and Japan. Professor Leonard Hill's paper on ventilation and the value of the kata-thermometer was read by Dr. Wyatt, owing to the indisposition of the author. Other questions considered were fatigue tests, the application of methods of illumination in workshops, and miners' nystagmus.

THE annual general meeting and conference of the Institute of Industrial Welfare Workers will be held at The Hayes, Swanwick, Derbyshire, from September 26th to 29th. The subject of the conference will be "The doctor and the psychologist in industry." On September 27th Dr. C. S. Myers, Director of the Institute of Industrial Psychology, will speak on the subject of "What psychology can do for industry," and will be followed by Dr. W. F. Dearden, honorary secretary of the Association of Certifying Factory Surgeons, who will deal with the subject of "What medical science can do for industry." In the evening of the same day "The psychological and physiological aspects of accident prevention" will be discussed by Dr. Millais Culpin and Dr. H. M. Vernon, Investigator for the Industrial Fatigue Research Board. Further information may be obtained from the conference secretary, Miss N. J. Kessler, West Lynn, Altringham, Cheshire.

THE annual general meeting of the Medical Sickness, Annuity, and Life Assurance Society, Ltd., will be held at the offices of the company, Lincoln House, 300, High Holborn, W.C.1, on Monday, October 6th, at 4 p.m.

ST. LUKE'S INTERNATIONAL HOSPITAL in Tokyo has received 150,000 yen (over £13,000) from the Japanese Home Department to provide additional equipment. This money comes from the fund raised by the Japanese Red Cross Society after the earthquake in September last year, and is given in view of the work carried on by the hospital among the necessitous, and also in consideration of the fact that the hospital buildings were destroyed at that time.

THE annual exhibition of the Royal Photographic Society of Great Britain will be opened at 35, Russell Square, W.C.1, to-day (Saturday, September 13th) at 3 p.m., by the president, Mr. J. Dudley Johnston. The memorial to Henry Fox Talbot will be unveiled by Dr. G. H. Rodman. The exhibition will remain open until Saturday, October 25th.

IN *Vital Statistics of Non-Native Officials*, published by the Crown Agents for the Colonies at 4, Millbank, S.W.1, price 6d., an account is given of the statistical returns for 1923. The invaliding rate shows a slight improvement on that of the previous year, though an increase in the death rate occurred.

THE *Journal of Nervous and Mental Diseases* of New York proposes to celebrate its fiftieth anniversary this year by the publication of an index to its fifty volumes.

THE fourth congress of the French Association of Pediatrics will be held in Paris from September 29th to October 1st inclusive, under the presidency of Professor Marfan. The subjects to be discussed include the etiology and pathology of rickets, the prophylaxis and treatment of congenital syphilis, and the treatment of purulent pleurisy in infancy.

WE regret to learn of the death, on September 9th, of Dr. R. J. Farman, secretary of the London Panel Committee.

In compliance with the resolution adopted by the House of Commons before the adjournment, the Minister of Health has appointed a committee under the chairmanship of Sir Ernest W. Moir, M.Inst.C.E., to inquire and report as to new materials or methods of construction of houses for the working classes, and to make recommendations as to the organization required for securing the adoption and use of approved new materials or methods by local authorities and other bodies or persons providing such houses. The members of the committee include architects and engineers, persons interested in local administration, and representatives of master builders and operatives, as well as of the Ministry of Health and Office of Works.

DR. J. S. HALDANE, F.R.S., of Oxford, is the new president of the Institute of Mining Engineers, and will be in the chair at the annual meeting which is to begin at Wembley Exhibition on October 2nd. He is director of the mining research laboratory in the University of Birmingham, and his researches on the safeguarding of health in mines are well known.

DR. ETHEL BENTHAM has been nominated by the Minister of Health to be a member of the Metropolitan Asylums Board.

WE regret to record the death, on September 6th, at the age of 88, of Sir Frederick Needham, who had been associated with lunacy administration all his life, and was appointed a member of the Board of Control in 1892. We intend to give some account of his career in our next issue.

THE Council of the Royal Sanitary Institute has accepted the invitation of the city of Edinburgh to hold a congress and exhibition there next year (July 20th to 25th).

MR. JOSEPH BRIGGS has given £1,000 to the Bradford Royal Infirmary to name a bed in memory of his wife and other deceased members of his family.

THE late Mr. Frederick Fountain bequeathed to the Miller General Hospital for South-East London a house known as Cedar Bank, to be used as a convalescent home, and £12,000 as an endowment for its upkeep. Sir James and Lady Carmichael have given £10,000 towards the cost, estimated at £60,000, of erecting the William Shepherd Memorial Wing at the Bolingbroke Hospital, Wandsworth Common. Under the will of the late Mr. Walter John Tillett, shipowner of Penarth, the Cardiff Royal Infirmary receives £10,000, the income from which is to be devoted, first, to the maintenance of the Elizabeth Tillett bed in memory of his wife, and, subject thereto, for the general purposes and upkeep of the infirmary.

Letters, Notes, and Answers.

THE telephone number of the BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION and BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL is Gerrard 2630 (Internal Exchange). The telegraphic addresses are:

EDITOR of the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, *Aetiology Westrand, London*.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY AND BUSINESS MANAGER (Advertisements, etc.), *Articulate Westrand, London*.

MEDICAL SECRETARY, *Medicra Westrand, London*.

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.

"AURIS" asks for advice in the selection of a battery for zinc ionization in ear cases. He has not found dry cells satisfactory, and has plenty of room at his command.

MUSHROOM POISONING.

DR. W. B. WINCKWORTH (Taunton) writes: This morning a patient of mine gathered a large basket of mushrooms, which his family divided with the next-door neighbour. In one case the stalks were removed before cooking and no ill effects followed the meal; in the other household the stalks were cut through and part of them were eaten: these people (three) suffered from acute vomiting and diarrhoea, but all the symptoms passed off in a few hours. What is the explanation? Does the stalk of the mushroom contain a poison which is not present in the mushroom itself? I have looked up *Mrs. Beeton*, and her instructions with regard to the preparation of mushrooms is "to peel the top and cut off a portion of the stalk." A possible explanation might be found in the cooking.

THREADWORMS.

DR. WILLIAM CORBET (Worthing) writes in response to "J. E. W.'s" request (August 30th, p. 391) for suggestions in the treatment of a stubborn case of threadworms: Has he by chance tried the effect of garlic, which has given me excellent results? I should suggest the nightly injection into the empty bowel through a