

Memoranda :

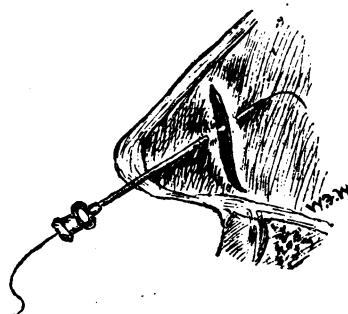
MEDICAL, SURGICAL, OBSTETRICAL.

SUBMUCOUS RESECTION OF THE NASAL SEPTUM : A SIMPLE FLAP SUTURE.

I WISH here to describe a simple method of suturing the original incision through the muco-perichondrium after completing the submucous resection of the nasal septum. A variety of special needles are in use for the purpose; some of them are difficult to use, especially the small intestinal needles favoured by some operators, if the incision, for one or another reason, happens to have been made a little further back than usual. They also soon lose their original sharpness and become dull owing to general wear and tear, and unless replaced or repaired are apt to tear the flap through or rag it and make too large a hole, causing the suture to cut out. Faulty apposition of the edges of the incision is another difficulty.

Many surgeons have dropped out of the habit of suturing the incision and console themselves with the belief that it is not necessary, and that the opening in the muco-perichondrium provides useful drainage. Such procedure does not hold good in any other operation that I know of, performed under aseptic conditions and where healing by first intention is desired. We know also that, from one cause or another, the edges of the incision may afterwards separate more or less and healing will be delayed, and crusting will assuredly take place, and may result in a

permanent "dry" area at that part of the septum. This condition may be followed some weeks or even months later by a perforation of the septum. I am inclined to think, therefore, that this incision would be sutured in every case if an efficient needle lay ready to the hand of the surgeon. It does, in the shape of the ordinary hypodermic needle. This needle is generally carried in the



Illustrating the method of suture of the incision through the muco-perichondrium by the hypodermic needle.

surgeon's bag, is always available in hospital and nursing home, and as a rule is in perfect order and does not suffer from any of the disabilities of needles specially designed for the job.

The method of using it is as follows: a strand of sterilized horsehair, which is most commonly used for this suture, is passed through the needle from the point and is then drawn through the needle until the other end of the horsehair just disappears from sight. The "butt" end of the needle is held between the first finger and thumb, while to avoid inadvertently withdrawing the horsehair altogether in passing the needle through the edges of the incision, a loop of slack is made, behind which the horsehair is held between the second and third fingers. The needle is manipulated by the right hand in the case of suturing the right side of the septum, and vice versa. After passing the needle through both edges of the incision, the horsehair is fed through it and the end grasped by any convenient forceps and held while the needle is withdrawn from the strand, the suture being then completed in the usual way. The ease and accuracy with which this method of suture can be accomplished without any risk of damage to flaps will, I am sure, be appreciated, which is my reason for handing it on to others. One precaution should be taken, and that is to see that the strand of horsehair runs quite freely through the needle from end to end, as there is a considerable variation in the thickness of the strands in the ordinary "hank."

W. FRANK WILSON, M.B., B.S.,
Honorary Assistant, Throat, Nose, and
Ear Department, Royal Victoria
Infirmary, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

OPIUM POISONING, PONTINE LESIONS, AND ENCEPHALITIS LETHARGICA.

I HAVE just seen in recent issues of the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL two instructive cases illustrating the difficulties of diagnosis of pontine lesions, and I think it will be of interest to record a somewhat similar difficulty which I experienced as a house-physician.

About 6.30 a.m. I was called to see a man, brought by the police, who had found him lying on the pavement in a state of partial coma and collapse. I found him to be about 50, very dirty, obviously destitute, and in a cold and collapsed condition. His temperature was subnormal and he was semi-comatose, but at fairly regular intervals his whole body was shaken by clonic convulsions, which increased in violence for about fifteen seconds and then gradually passed off in about half a minute. There was no paralysis of muscles or limbs, and sensation to deep painful stimuli was intact, the patient being sufficiently conscious to resent the test; reflexes were a little exaggerated; there was no incontinence. The cranial nerves could not be adequately tested at that time, but the pupils were seen to be pin-point and fixed. The patient's body was covered with that pigmentation of the skin which is caused by scratching and associated with phthiriasis.

Being perhaps overfull of youthful ardour, at the sight of those pupils I decided on immediate action, washed out the stomach, and then had him put to bed and warmed up with hot bottles. His condition remained the same the whole of that day, and the diagnosis presumably still lay between opium poisoning and a pontine lesion. Next day, however, the convulsions had diminished in frequency and intensity; the temperature was raised a little; the pupils were bigger and he had some ptosis, more marked on the left side, and a divergent squint on that side. His lethargic condition continued for about a week, but it was noticeable that he could be aroused sufficiently to take food. During that time the temperature remained a little elevated but never went very high. In the course of the second week his mind cleared, the third nerve paralysis began to pass off, and he made apparently a complete recovery. He left the hospital and never returned, so whether any mental symptoms followed I do not know. I should add that on the day of his admission a lumbar puncture was made; the fluid was found to be under pressure, but was otherwise normal, with the exception of the presence in increased quantity of some sugar-reducing substance.

The case was particularly interesting at the time, as on the second day it was recognized as one of a hitherto unclassified disease, which was just beginning to appear in epidemic form. The disease was at first thought to be possibly botulism, and was later named mesencephalitis, and finally encephalitis lethargica.

HUMPHREY W. TOMS, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.
Bangkok, Siam.

LABOUR OBSTRUCTED BY EXTENSION OF THE FOREARMS.

THE two cases here reported presented the unusual feature that the child was delivered with the forearms extended, the limbs being placed laterally. There was thus an obstruction, as the spine had not its usual facility of lateral movement in descent. Considerable difficulty in the delivery of the shoulders arose also from the fact that an arm could not be brought out to reduce the bulk. Both patients were primiparae and the presentation a first vertex.

The first patient had been long in labour and was becoming fatigued. It was decided to apply forceps in spite of the fact that the cervix was not fully dilated. Dilatation was completed digitally and forceps applied. No difficulty was met in extracting the head. On the shoulders reaching the vaginal ostium the hands were not observed in their normal position across the chest, and some delay occurred in extraction. With the second patient the expulsion of the head was by the natural forces. The same difficulty in extracting the shoulders arose.

Extension of the lower limbs has been described as occurring *in utero* and has been observed in frozen sections. The condition, if diagnosed before labour sets in, should be capable of correction. The second patient was examined a day or so before labour and no abnormality was detected. In this case the position of the arms seems to have developed before labour set in. In the first I had attributed the abnormal position to the forced extraction, as I had not then met another similar case. In neither patient was there pelvic contraction. There is naturally an increased tendency to perineal tears in this condition.

I. H. LLOYD-WILLIAMS, M.B., B.S.
Burgess Hill.

The Services.

DEATHS IN THE SERVICES.

Major-General Richard Henry Quill, C.B., Army Medical Service (retired), died at Cheltenham on October 18th, aged 76. He was born at Tralee, in June, 1848, the elder son of the late Jerome Quill, J.P., of Kilmorley, co. Kerry, and was educated at Trinity College, Dublin, where he graduated as M.B. and M.Ch. in 1871, and as M.D. in 1877. Entering the army as assistant surgeon in March, 1872, he reached the rank of colonel in March, 1902, and of surgeon-general in April, 1905, retiring in June, 1908. He served in the Afghan war of 1878-80, when he was with the Hurram Field Force, and took part in the Zaimukht expedition, and received the medal. He was employed during the recent war, and received the C.B. in 1917. As an administrative officer he served successively in the Thames district, at Chatham, in Ceylon, in the South-East district from 1902-5, and as P.M.O. of the Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley, from 1905 till his retirement in 1908. While in Ceylon he won the amateur golf championship of the island, and while holding the command at Netley he received the Prussian Order of the Red Eagle, 2nd class, in 1907. He leaves a widow and one son.

Lieut.-Colonel Gerald Stewart Mansfield, R.A.M.C. (ret.), died in Queen Alexandra's Military Hospital, Millbank, on September 27th, aged 57. He was born at Blandford, Dorset, on October 28th, 1867, the son of the late Rev. Joseph Mansfield, and was educated at Edinburgh, where he graduated as M.B. and C.M. in 1890. After filling the posts of house-surgeon of the Beigrave Hospital for Children and of senior house-surgeon of the London Temperance Hospital, he entered the army as surgeon-lieutenant on July 27th, 1892, becoming major after twelve years' service, and retiring on July 27th, 1912. After retirement he was employed at St. Peter's, Jersey. He served in the South African war in 1900-1, when he took part in the operations in the Orange Free State and in the Transvaal, including the actions at Houtnek, Thoba Mountain, and Wittebergen, and received the Queen's medal with four clasps. During the recent war he served as A.D.M.S. in the Home Forces, with the rank of lieutenant-colonel.

Universities and Colleges.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.

AT a meeting of the Senate held on October 22nd a University Chair of Anatomy, tenable at the Middlesex Hospital Medical School, was instituted as the result of a munificent gift of £20,000 by Mr. S. A. Courtauld; the title of the chair will be "The S. A. Courtauld Chair of Anatomy," and Dr. Thomas Yeates, C.M., D.P.H., at present University Professor of Anatomy at the school, was appointed as the first occupant.

A course of four lectures on enzymes will be given by Professor John Mellanby, M.D., at St. Thomas's Hospital Medical School, Albert Embankment, S.E.1, on Thursdays, November 6th, 13th, 20th, and 27th, at 4.30 p.m.; admission free without ticket.

UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS.

THE Council of the University of Leeds has appointed Dr. F. S. Fowweather to the Lectureship in Chemical Pathology recently instituted. Dr. Fowweather holds the M.Sc., M.B., and Ch.B. degrees of the University of Liverpool and the D.P.H. He has been in general practice in Ellesmere Port and has had chemical experience in industry.

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF IRELAND.

THE following prizes and scholarships have been awarded: Travelling Studentship in Anatomy.—Joseph Paul. The Dr. Henry Hutchinson Stewart Medical Scholarships.—(a) Anatomy, (b) physiology: H. R. Cloin. The Dr. and Mrs. W. A. Browne Gold Medal and Prize.—Gold Medal: not awarded. Prize: John Bolton.

Mr. Michael G. O'Malley, M.B., B.Ch., F.R.C.S.Eng., has been appointed Professor of Surgery at University College, Cork.

The special final medical examination will be held in January, 1925, in Dublin, Cork, and Galway, provided that not less than 100 enter and pay the prescribed special entry fee on or before November 13th, 1924.

The Dr. Henry Hutchinson Stewart scholarships in arts, in medicine, and in mental and nervous diseases will be offered for competition in 1925.

SOCIETY OF APOTHECARIES OF LONDON.

THE following candidates have passed in the subjects indicated:

SURGERY.—J. O. W. Bland, E. F. Hottinger, W. R. S. Jaecques, J. P. McGuire, A. J. Moody, C. M. Moody, W. E. Pennington, C. J. Rozario.

MEDICINE.—H. L. Bernstein, J. O. W. Bland, L. K. Htoe, R. D. Jones, K. Samaan, R. Schofield.

FORENSIC MEDICINE.—A. Kaplan.

MIDWIFERY.—T. G. L. Davies, B. M. Francis, L. K. Htoe, P. B. P. Mellowes, C. M. Moody, A. B. Osbourne, B. A. Perrott, C. J. Rozario, K. Samaan.

The Diploma of the Society has been granted to Messrs. H. L. Bernstein, J. O. W. Bland, L. K. Htoe, W. R. S. Jaecques, R. D. Jones, W. E. Pennington, and R. Schofield.

Medical News.

THE subject of the notification of puerperal sepsis will be discussed at a joint meeting of the Sections of Obstetrics and Gynaecology and of Epidemiology and State Medicine of the Royal Society of Medicine, together with the Society of Medical Officers of Health, to be held at 1, Wimpole Street, W.1, on Thursday next, November 6th, at 8 p.m. The meeting will be open to non-members engaged in practice who are interested in the subject.

A LECTURE on cancer of the rectum will be delivered at No. 1 Wimpole Street, at 5.30 p.m. on November 3rd, by Mr. W. Ernest Miles. A course in venereal disease will be held at the London Lock Hospital (Dean Street) from November 3rd to 29th. A month's course in dermatology at the St. John's Hospital for Diseases of the Skin begins also on November 3rd. Demonstrations will be given in the various departments. From November 10th to 22nd St. Mark's Hospital will hold a course in proctology. A course in gynaecology has been arranged by the Chelsea Hospital for Women from November 21st to December 6th. At the Royal Waterloo Hospital for Children and Women a four weeks' course in medicine, surgery, and gynaecology will begin on November 24th. Syllabuses of the courses may be obtained from the Secretary of the Fellowship of Medicine at Wimpole Street, W.1.

As already announced, the annual dinner of Fellows and members of sections of the Royal Society of Medicine will be held on Wednesday, November 26th, at 8 p.m., at the Hotel Victoria, Northumberland Avenue. We are asked to state that private guests, including ladies, may be invited, and that tables are to be arranged so as to accommodate parties of friends and guests.

THE Röntgen Society will hold its meetings during the coming session on the first Tuesday in each month, at the British Institute of Radiology, 32, Welbeck Street. Dr. A. E. Barclay will deliver his presidential address at the first meeting (on November 4th, at 8.15 p.m.) on the subject of "The growth of radiology: has the Röntgen Society kept pace with it?"

THE Tuberculosis Society commenced its meetings for the session 1924-25 on Friday, October 17th, with a discussion on cutaneous tuberculosis, introduced by Dr. W. J. O'Donovan. The next meeting, on November 21st, will deal with tuberculosis of the eye, the lecturer being Mr. Charles Goulden. Other subjects to be discussed subsequently include tuberculous peritonitis, tuberculosis and the central nervous system, pneumothorax, and pulmonary conditions simulating tuberculosis. The provincial meeting of the society will be held in April at Cambridge. The ordinary meetings of the society will be held in future at the house of the Society of Medical Officers of Health, 1, Upper Montague Street, Russell Square.

THE King has granted Lieutenant-Colonel Benjamin Biggar, R.A.M.C., permission to wear the Insignia of the Third Class of the Order of the Nile conferred upon him by the King of Egypt in recognition of services rendered.

THE annual dinner of the Chelsea Clinical Society was held at the Café Royal on October 21st. The president, Dr. Gordon Lane, was supported by the presidents of the Royal Society of Medicine, the Medical Society of London, and the Hunterian Society, and the officer commanding the Military Hospital, Millbank. The toast of "Success and progress to the society" was proposed by Sir StClair Thomson, who maintained that every medical practitioner ought to join his local medical society, and cited Sir Clifford Allbutt's dictum that "practice not sweetened by service becomes a trade." The president, in responding, mentioned the gratifying fact that the membership of the society was now larger than ever before. The society had been originally founded for the benefit of general practitioners, who were the mainstay of medicine; in the coming session their requirements were receiving special attention, in that the meetings would deal with the prevalent diseases of the four periods of life. The November meeting would be devoted to childhood; the December one to adolescence, with especial reference to endocrine disturbances; the February meeting to the climacteric period; and the March meeting to diseases of old age. The January and April meetings would be clinical in nature, and in May the discussion would take the form of a summary of the work of the session, with especial reference to facultative diagnosis. The toast of "The Guests" was proposed by Dr. J. Campbell McClure, and Mr. H. W. Carson replied. The toast of "The President" was proposed by Dr. G. Crewdson Thomas, the late president; and Dr. Gordon Lane, in his reply, paid a warm tribute to the good work of Dr. P. S. Price and the other officers of the society.

THE KING has appointed Mr. Francis D. Donovan, L.D.S. R.C.S.Eng., to be Surgeon-Dentist to His Majesty's household.

ON November 13th Mr. Walter Spencer will give a lecture to the Guthrie Society of Westminster Hospital on Pliny's natural history and some anticipations of modern knowledge.

THE annual old students' dinner of St. Thomas's Hospital was held at the Princes' Restaurant on October 24th, with Dr. Seymour Taylor in the chair. Among those at the high table were the Hon. Sir Arthur Stanley, treasurer of the hospital; Sir Cuthbert Lockyer, dean of the medical school and senior surgeon; Sir Charles Sherrington, President of the Royal Society, and formerly lecturer on physiology in the medical school; Sir John Bland-Sutton, President of the Royal College of Surgeons; Surgeon Vice-Admiral J. Chambers, Medical Director-General R.N.; Lieut.-General Sir William Leishman, D.G. Army Medical Department; Sir Havelock Charles, late President of the Medical Board, India Office; Sir George Makins and Sir Charles Ballance, consulting surgeons, and Sir Hector Mackenzie, Sir Seymour Sharkey, and Dr. H. G. Turney, consulting physicians to the hospital. In proposing "St. Thomas's Hospital and medical school," the chairman said he was the senior St. Thomas's man present that evening (for he entered the hospital in 1869), and gave some interesting reminiscences of Simon, Croft, Bristowe, and other teachers of his student days. Sir Arthur Stanley, in his reply, told something of recent events at the hospital, and spoke in particular of the plans for the residential college and club, which, he said, were now within sight of realization. Sir Cuthbert Wallace, who also replied, gave an outline of the year's gains and losses. He mentioned, in particular, the deaths of Professor Shattock, Sir Archibald Reid, and Dr. Henry Gervis. He stated that the number of students on the register last year was 509, of whom 417 had entered for the full curriculum; 61 new full-time students had entered, of whom a good many were the sons of old St. Thomas's men. Both in work and play, and in the distinctions gained, the medical school was holding its own. In conclusion, the dean proposed the health of the chairman, whom he described as an honest and enthusiastic friend of the hospital. After Dr. Taylor's acknowledgement, Sir George Makins proposed the health of the visitors. St. Thomas's men, he said, were nothing if not hospitable, and all their guests were their friends. Sir John Bland-Sutton, in reply, expressed his pleasure at being admitted to this family gathering, and recalled many agreeable associations with St. Thomas's teachers.

NEW wards and an operating theatre have now been equipped at the Heritage Craft Schools at Chailey, in order that the necessary orthopaedic work amongst the cripple boys and girls in the institution may be carried out on the spot, and thus secure the continuity of treatment and education which has proved of such value in these cases.

THE KING has granted Mr. Arthur F. MacCallan, O.B.E., M.D., F.R.C.S., formerly Director of Ophthalmic Hospitals, Egyptian Department of Public Health, authority 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.

MR. C. W. DEAN, F.R.C.S.E., surgeon to the Royal Lancaster Infirmary, has been appointed honorary consulting surgeon to the County Mental Hospital, Lancaster.

THE Warren Triennial Prize is awarded for the best dissertation considered worthy of a premium, on some subject in physiology, surgery, or pathological anatomy, the arbitrators being the committee of the Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston. Theses submitted for competition in 1925 must be on some special subject in physiology, surgery, or pathology. They must be in English, French, or German, typewritten, and suitably bound, so as to be easily handled. Work published previously will not be considered. The name of the writer must be enclosed in a sealed envelope, on which is written a motto corresponding with one on the accompanying dissertation. The amount of the prize is \$500. Dissertations will be received until April 15th, 1925. A high value will be placed on original work.

THE Congress of Natural Science and Medicine held at Innsbruck on September 24th, numbered 6,000 members. The next Congress will be held at Dusseldorf in 1926.

UNDER the name of "Journées médicales marocaines" a congress will be held at Casablanca and Rabat from December 26th to 29th, when the following papers will be read: Report on cancer in Morocco, by MM. De Rester, Pénard, and Spéder; the fight against cancer, by Professor Bergonié; the surgery of cancer, by Professor J. L. Faure; report on amoebiasis in Morocco, by MM. Béros, Jobard, and Venderen; lecture on amoebiasis, by Professor Garin of Lyons; vaccine therapy and morbid anatomy of blastomycosis, by Major Vellu.

PROFESSOR LUCATELLO of Padua, has been nominated successor of Professor Maragliano in the chair of internal medicine at Genoa.

THE Berlin Dermatological Society have elected Drs. Ehrmann of Vienna, Hoffmann of Bonn, Rasch of Copenhagen, Kreibisch of Prague, and Almkvist of Stockholm, as honorary members.

THE late Mr. George Heaton, consulting surgeon to the Birmingham General Hospital, has left estate proved at £57,959 gross, with net personality £56,337. He bequeathed, among other legacies, £1,000 to the Birmingham General Hospital in trust for investment and to pay the income annually, one-half to the person whom the medical committee of the hospital shall decide to be the best resident medical officer of the hospital for the year, one-fourth to the sister or staff nurse whom the matron shall decide to be the best of the year, and one-fourth to the sister or staff nurse selected by vote of the whole of the sisters, nurses, and probationers of the hospital; £500 each to the Birmingham University, St. Dunstan's Hostel for Blinded Sailors and Soldiers, the Medical Institute, Birmingham, the Medical Benevolent Society, Birmingham, and the Birmingham and Midland Free Hospital for Sick Children. He directed that Mr. Frank Barnes and Mr. H. H. Sampson should have option of the purchase of any of his surgical instruments, drugs, appliances, and books, and that any not so selected should be divided equally between the Corbett Hospital, Stourbridge, and the Sutton Coldfield Cottage Hospital.

HOLLAND, which has a population of about seven millions, has 3,700 medical practitioners, 950 dentists, and 231 hospitals with about 30,000 beds. There are thirty-four communes with over 2,000 inhabitants in which no doctor is resident.

DR. ÉMILE ROUX and Dr. Louis Marten of the Institut Pasteur, Professor Roger, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, Inspector-General H. Vincent, and Professors Achard, Carnot, Legueu, and Widal of Paris have been elected honorary foreign members of the Academy of Medicine of Rome.

AN Indian Science Congress will be held at Benares in January, 1925. The president-elect of the medical research section is Lieut.-Colonel F. P. Mackie, M.D., F.R.C.P., I.M.S., professor of pathology in the University of Calcutta.

DR. DOUGLAS W. A. BULL has been appointed a magistrate for Stony Stratford, Bucks.

THE senators recently nominated by the Italian Government included the ophthalmic surgeon, Dr. G. Cirincione of Rome, the surgeon, Professor D. Giordano of Venice, and Professor Luigi Simonetta of Perugia.

THE first Hispano-American Congress of Oto-rhino-laryngology will be held at Saragossa next April. Further information can be obtained from the general secretary, Dr. Bertráu, Fernando VI, N.10, Madrid.

THE twenty-ninth Congress of French-speaking Alienists and Neurologists will be held in Paris from May 25th to 28th, 1925, under the presidency of Dr. Arglade of Bordeaux, when the following subjects will be discussed: Late recovery from mental disease, by Dr. J. Robert, director of the Auch Asylum; familial infantile encephalopathies, by Dr. O. Crouzon, president of the Société de Neurologie; medical jurisprudence and states of mental enfeeblement, by Dr. Briand, principal physician of the Seine asylums.

THE trial of Dr. W. R. Hadwen on a charge of alleged manslaughter was opened at Gloucester Assizes on October 27th before Mr. Justice Lush. Dr. Hadwen, who stood committed on the coroner's indictment (on a majority verdict of the jury) and also by the city magistrates, pleaded "Not guilty" to the charge of unlawfully killing Nellie Burnham, aged 10, on August 10th last. Mr. C. F. Vacheil, K.C., and Mr. St. J. Micklethwait appeared on behalf of the Director of Public Prosecutions, and Sir E. Marshal-Hall, K.C., and Mr. A. F. Clements for the defence. At the conclusion of the case for the prosecution, on October 28th, Dr. Hadwen went into the witness box. The jury, on October 29th, after a retirement of twenty minutes, found a verdict of *Not guilty*, and Dr. Hadwen was accordingly discharged. A report of the proceedings will appear in a later issue.

IN the general election results issued on Wednesday night the following medical candidates were successful: Dr. L. Haden Guest retains his seat for Southwark North, Sir Richard Luce has gained one of the two Derby seats, Dr. A. Salter has regained his former seat in Bermondsey, and Dr. T. Watts has regained his former seat in Manchester. Professor Thomas Sinclair has been returned unopposed for Queen's University, Belfast. Dr. C. Addison, Dr. Stella Churchill, Dr. R. Dunstan, Dr. O. Gleeson, Mr. Somerville Hastings, Dr. J. J. Lynch, Dr. R. O. Moon, and Dr. Joseph Robinson were unsuccessful.