

quantities used varied from 8 grams (3 drachms) of chloroform to 50 grams (1½ oz.) of ether. Only in two cases were these amounts exceeded. These anaesthetics were always given by the open method, so that in a hot country where evaporation is rapid patients did not actually inhale these amounts in full. Novocain was generally injected into the recti muscles, 6 oz. of a 1/2 per cent. solution being rapidly administered with a Babcock's self-filling syringe.

Of the 33 cases the results of the anaesthesia and the after-state of the patients were excellent in 29. In 4 cases some post-operative excitement occurred, which was very marked in one alcoholic patient in whom 6 oz. of ether had to be used. In the 3 other cases the agitation was slight and very soon over. With the most recent preparation patients usually awake five or six hours after operation to fall asleep quietly again, and excitement is absent. In my experience, the more cachectic the patient the better the result with this anaesthesia. Though not replacing routine methods, it is at present my method of choice in the type of case I have described. I believe it to be of incontestable value, especially for the isolated surgeon far from the large centre who cannot have the aid of expert anaesthetists.

Memoranda:

MEDICAL, SURGICAL, OBSTETRICAL.

POTASSIUM CHLORATE AND CONGENITAL GOITRE.

CONGENITAL goitre was first recorded in 1796; since then several hundred cases have been reported, the vast majority from goitrous districts on the Continent and America. H. H. Skinner in 1924, in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, reported 12 cases—all, however, from goitrous mothers; he mentions 96 cases from sixty goitrous parents reported by Denne and Richard, and 130 cases collected from the literature by Thévenot in 1909.

In England, however, very few cases have been reported; in fact, I have been able to find records of only 6; of these, 4 occurred in Derbyshire and Cumberland, where goitre is not uncommon. The remaining 2 were reported by Sir J. Y. Simpson and A. R. Simpson, in 1855 and 1866 respectively. The mothers of these two cases had been taking potassium chlorate throughout their pregnancies on account of previous abortions or stillbirths. The parents were healthy and apparently did not reside in a recognized goitrous area.

Other cases must have occurred, but of those cases I have found recorded the mother in 33 per cent. had been taking potassium chlorate; if the cases from Derbyshire and Cumberland are excluded the percentage is 100. These numbers are too small, and even with the two cases I now record may merely be examples of coincidence.

Mrs. S., pregnant for the sixth time, stated that there was a family tendency to miscarriage, stillbirth, and neo-natal death. Her mother's first three children were either stillborn (two) or died in early infancy (one); these were followed by three boys and three girls. The girls all married.

K., the eldest, had first a stillborn boy, and secondly a boy who lived three days. She then took potassium chlorate and had four healthy children.

M., another sister, had a miscarriage at six months and an abortion at three months. She then took potassium chlorate throughout her next pregnancy until the thirty-eighth week, when labour was induced, a female child with a goitre, but otherwise healthy, being born; a subsequent pregnancy, during which she again took potassium chlorate, resulted in a healthy non-goitrous boy.

Mrs. S., the remaining sister, suffered from albuminuria in her first two pregnancies; in the first a macerated foetus was born at term; in the second the foetus (dropsical) was born at the eighth month. In the third pregnancy there was no albuminuria, but the child was stillborn at term. In her fourth and fifth pregnancies she took potassium chlorate. Premature labour was induced at the thirty-eighth week, and living healthy children were born. Throughout her sixth pregnancy she took potassium chlorate (gr. x thrice a day). She did not weigh it, but helped herself with a spoon to what she thought was enough. There was no albuminuria. Labour, in spite of deficient flexion, was easy. The child, a girl, was normal except for a large bronchocele, filling up the whole neck; the swelling was soft and at first ill defined. For the first twenty-four hours the baby's colour was not good;

beyond this there was no difficulty in deglutition or in respiration. By the third day the swelling was smaller; the lobes of the thyroid gland extending on either side up under the ears were well defined. The enlargement steadily diminished in size and by the eighth week all obvious enlargement had disappeared.

The goitre in M.'s child was also transient.

There was no previous history of any goitre in the family. No Wassermann test was performed, but neither the mother nor her children showed any stigmata of syphilis.

Potassium chlorate reacts with iodine to form the iodate, and I suggest, as a possible explanation, that the prolonged administration of the salt may result in some of the maternal iodine becoming "fixed" and not available for utilization by the foetus, and that the enlargement of the foetal thyroid is an endeavour on its part to obtain and utilize the necessary iodine for its internal secretion. Such an explanation seems capable of being tested, and the results, if confirmatory, would throw some very interesting light on the causation of goitre in general.

Southsea.

R. K. WHITE, M.R.C.S.

HERPES AND VARICELLA.

In view of the relationship supposed to exist between herpes zoster and varicella, it may be of interest to report three cases, supporting this view, which I have seen during the past three years.

Case 1.—On September 19th, 1923, a married woman, aged 26, developed intercostal herpes. On October 4th (that is, fifteen days later) her child, aged 5 months, was seen with a typical attack of varicella.

Case 2.—On March 17th, 1926, a man, aged 79, developed supra-orbital herpes, which ran a rather severe course, and which left considerable scarring. On April 1st (that is, fifteen days later) his grandson, aged 2, who was living in the same house, developed varicella. The next day his granddaughter, aged 7, also showed signs of a mild, though typical, attack of chicken-pox.

Case 3.—On March 24th, 1926, a child, aged 13, was seen with intercostal herpes, and on April 11th (that is, eighteen days later) her sister, aged 11 months, fell ill with chicken-pox, exhibiting a profuse rash, with the typical distribution of the latter disease.

Apart from the herpes, no other source of infection could be traced in any of these cases. Conclusions cannot be drawn from a few cases, but it certainly seems a very remarkable coincidence when, in one practice, in a short time, three cases of this nature are seen.

Ibstock, Leicesters.

W. J. MELDRUM, M.B.

CEREBRAL SYPHILIS: CONVULSIONS: DEATH.

THE following case seems of sufficient interest to warrant recording.

W. J. V., a farm hand aged 45 years, was seen by me at 6 a.m. suffering from "fits." The history given by his wife was that he had been quite well until a week previously, and had since been "queer"; he had complained of headache, had "looked ghastly" at times, and threatened to throw himself out of the window. He had continued at work, however, until that morning, when on getting up he "had a fit." He had had no previous illnesses except malaria. He had served twelve years in the marines, and had seven healthy children. His wife gave no history of miscarriage or stillbirth.

He was found to be a muscular man, extensively tattooed. Every two or three minutes he had a convulsion, at first tonic, then clonic. There was no opisthotonos or rigidity of the neck or jaw; between the convulsions he was stuporose and could not recognize persons or obey orders. There was no paralysis or weakness of the face or limbs; the knee-jerks were brisk and equal and both plantar reflexes were normal. The cranial nerves appeared normal; the pupils were equal, moderately dilated, and reacted well to light; the fundi were normal. The heart, lungs, and abdomen were clear and the bladder was empty. There was no penile scar.

An injection of 1/4 grain of morphine and 1/200 grain of hyoscine had no apparent effect on the convulsions. He could not be moved to hospital owing to the inaccessibility of his cottage. At 10 a.m. his condition was unchanged, but he appeared so cyanosed that I removed 20 oz. of blood by venesection and gave him 1 grain of calomel. At 6 p.m. he was obviously moribund; the fits had continued all day and he was then pale, clammy, and with a slow deep respiration and thready pulse. He died at 9 p.m.

A post-mortem examination was refused. The Wassermann reaction of the blood was found by the Hampshire county health authorities to be strongly positive.

The rapidity of the fatal issue and the entire absence of any localizing signs would seem to be the chief points of interest.

Lymington, Hants.

N. M. GOODMAN, M.B.

the prostate. He says it never leads to subsequent contraction, but "never" is a very wide term.

I certainly should not have operated had dilatation been effectual. In these cases it is sometimes impossible to find an opening at all, and frequently difficult to get a fine bougie through. I can imagine using a Kollmann's dilator once, but cannot see the patient returning for a repetition of the process.

I tried to emphasize the importance of early catheterization. Routine packing of the prostatic cavity for forty-eight hours after the operation would involve quite unnecessary discomfort, pain, and danger for the patient, and could not have any good effect on the condition to which I refer in my article.—I am, etc.,

London, W.1, Aug. 7th.

W. K. IRWIN.

MIDDLE-EAR DEAFNESS.

SIR,—We are indebted to Mr. Barnett for pointing out (July 31st, p. 227) the mistakes in the synopsis of our paper on the effects of radium treatment in chronic non-suppurative middle-ear disease, with resulting deafness, as published in the *BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL* of June 26th (p. 1087).

Both these errors were made only in this summary, and neither was made in the communication itself as read before the Surgical Section of the Royal Academy of Medicine in Ireland on May 21st, 1926.

In reading the paper we quoted Sir William Milligan's opening remarks, and also gave the views of later speakers at the meeting of the Section of Otology of the British Medical Association conference at Bath last year. We did not state that treatment was universally admitted to be most unsatisfactory. We also gave due credit to the fact that oto-sclerosis was specifically excluded from the discussion on this occasion.—We are, etc.,

W. C. STEVENSON.
T. G. WILSON.

Dublin, Aug. 4th.

Obituary.

AFTER some months of illness Dr. HERBERT EDMONDSON, of Burnley, died at his residence on July 13th, at the age of 50. He was educated at Repton, Cambridge, and the London Hospital, graduating M.B., B.Ch. in 1901. He became widely known in East Lancashire as an ophthalmic surgeon, and had been in practice in Burnley for about twenty-five years. Dr. Edmondson was honorary ophthalmic and aural surgeon at the Burnley Victoria Hospital for over twenty years, and also held the appointments of ophthalmic surgeon to the Burnley Miners' Relief Society, and honorary ophthalmic surgeon to the Accrington Blind Society. He was an active and enthusiastic member of the British Medical Association, and for several years was on the executive committee of the Burnley Division, of which he was chairman in 1922-23. He leaves a widow and one son.

Dr. EDGAR WILLIAM SEYMOUR (formerly Hoffmeister), who died at Cowes, Isle of Wight, on July 25th, aged 58, was the son of the late Dr. William Hoffmeister, M.V.O., whom he succeeded as Surgeon Apothecary to Queen Victoria and the Royal Family in the Isle of Wight. Dr. Seymour received his medical education at Cambridge and St. Bartholomew's Hospital; he graduated M.B., B.Ch. in 1893, and obtained the diplomas M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. in the same year. He was surgeon-in-ordinary to Princess Beatrice, surgeon to the Royal Yacht Squadron, and was at one time consulting physician and medical officer to the Osborne House Officers' Convalescent Home. He was made a Member of the Victorian Order in 1912. He took an active interest in cricket and had been a member of the Cambridge and Hampshire elevens. He was for some time honorary secretary of the Cowes Golf Club. Dr. Seymour retired from general practice some years ago, and leaves a widow, but no children.

The Services.

MEMORIAL TO SIR HARRY THOMPSON.

A STAINED glass window, erected in the chapel of the Queen Alexandra Military Hospital, Millbank, in memory of the late Major-General Sir Harry Thompson, A.M.S., who died in 1925, was unveiled, on August 4th, by Lieut.-General Sir Matthew Fell, Director-General of the Army Medical Service. In the course of the ceremony, Sir Matthew Fell referred to an incident at Lucknow, in 1890, when Sir Harry Thompson, regardless of his own personal safety and comfort, nursed a camp full of men suffering from cholera. The window, which is next to one shortly to be unveiled to the founder of the hospital, Queen Alexandra, contains two subjects: "The Healing of Bartimaeus" and "The Raising of the Widow's Son at Nain"; it bears the inscription "In loving memory of Major-General Sir Harry N. Thompson, K.C.M.G., C.B., D.S.O."

Universities and Colleges.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.

At the meeting of the Senate held on July 21st the following were recognized as teachers of the University in the subjects indicated:

St. Thomas's Hospital Medical School.—Dr. A. St. G. J. McC. Huggett (physiology).

Guy's Hospital Medical School.—Dr. R. D. Gillespie (psychological medicine).

Bedford College.—Mrs. Nora Edkins (physiology).

The resignation of Dr. Major Greenwood from the University Readership in Medical Statistics at University College was accepted as from July 31st. It was resolved to institute a Readership in Medical Statistics at University College.

A grant of £20 has been made to Dr. K. N. G. Bailey from the Thomas Smythe Hughes Fund towards the cost of an investigation of certain strains of the *Bacillus coli* having haemolytic properties, to determine whether this property is peculiar to these strains or not, and whether this haemolytic action by the bacillus is of pathogenic importance in certain conditions of the intestinal and urinary tracts.

The Senate adopted the following resolution:

That the Co-ordination and Developments Committee be authorized to take immediate steps to secure for the University the longest possible continuance of the temporary occupation of the Malet Street site, on the understanding that the Senate will be prepared to continue negotiations for the acquisition of so much of the Bloomsbury site as is practicable, having regard to the urgent importance of increased accommodation for the University at South Kensington.

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF IRELAND.

THE *Calendar* for 1926 of the National University of Ireland has recently been issued. It contains an account of the establishment and constitution of the University, together with a description of its general organization. Details are given of the regulations of the University and its constituent colleges, together with lists of the successful candidates at the examinations in 1925. Full information about the travelling studentships in connexion with the University and the various examinations is included.

CONJOINT BOARD IN SCOTLAND.

THE following candidates have been approved at the examination indicated:

FINAL EXAMINATION.—(Medicine): O. D. Beetham, B. S. Ellis, A. E. F. L. Forbes, W. L. G. Jewitt, H. S. Kent, P. R. C. Peterson, K. M. R. Swami. (Surgery): Elizabeth Bell, N. M. Eadie, B. S. Ellis, A. E. F. L. Forbes, J. Hendry, S. A. B. Hosang, H. B. Martin, J. V. O'K. Murphy, A. S. Pool, D. B. J. de Silva, Rosie Swamikan. (Midwifery): A. S. Arora, S. E. W. Boland, N. M. Eadie, S. P. B. Gunawardena, O. Ap V. J. nes, G. M. Macintyre, J. A. Mains, H. B. Martin, P. R. C. Peterson, D. B. J. de Silva, Rosie Swamikan. (Medical Jurisprudence and Public Health): J. R. J. Cameron, A. G. Couster, J. J. Craig, W. Cruickshank, L. M. Davies, E. A. Downes, F. H. Emery, M. Klar, Alice Law, P. M. K. Logan, A. C. Lovett-Campbell, J. W. A. M. McGinness, N. Macleod, G. W. Milledge, V. Nath, W. T. A. Pearce, G. D. Roche, J. J. S. F. e Souza, E. E. M. Steen, E. M. Stone.

The following, having passed the final examination, have been admitted L.R.C.P.Ed., L.R.C.S.Ed., and L.R.F.P.S.Glasg.:

Gwendolue R. Andrews, W. B. Anderson, M. M. Bronstein, Ann J. Brown, G. V. Boyle, S. N. Catterjee, L. Checchi, C. S. Chew, Mary D. Clark, J. Cook, A. H. Edgar, H. J. Fernando, M. T. Fernando, E. Fischbacher, C. A. S. Hamilton, P. Henry, S. A. Hunt, J. B. Hutchison, S. John, J. E. Kennedy, J. A. Lavery, H. Lwow, M. M. Macintyre, Jemima M. McKendrick, J. Margolys, A. Maxton, P. Mehta, E. A. Menon, K. P. Menon, J. Mindess, Emma C. M. Muschamp, J. R. R. Nicholas, T. M. Orniston, G. R. P. Parasuram, R. K. Ram, W. Read, W. Robinson, P. D. Samarasinghe, V. D. Seewaratnam, R. V. N. Selvadurai, F. T. Shadforth, D. S. de Simon, J. A. Siriwardene, J. B. Stromier, J. T. M. Symington, C. E. Tob, E. P. Tulloh, D. R. Wark, C. H. Wickremesinghe, N. Wijeyesekera.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF LONDON.

THE College will close for the long vacation on August 14th, and reopen on Monday, September 20th.

¹ The National University of Ireland: *Calendar for the Year 1926*. Dublin: Alex. Thom and Co., Ltd. 1926. (4½ × 7½.)

Medical News.

AT a meeting at the Post-Graduate Hostel, Imperial Hotel, Russell Square, W.C.1, on August 5th, Dr. Manson-Bahr opened a discussion on tropical diseases in London. He maintained that the clinical side of tropical medicine could be studied best outside the tropics. In the course of his remarks he referred to a drug introduced for the treatment of amoebic dysentery which had been successfully employed in ulcerative colitis. Blackwater fever—which, he said, always affected mild or latent cases of malaria—was, he thought, probably anaphylactic in nature. He praised Bayer 205, which had gone a long way in the successful treatment of sleeping sickness, and made a plea for increased help of the biochemist in the fight against tropical diseases. Lieut.-Colonel Mackie, I.M.S., who was in the chair, observed that tropical disease might be latent for many months, and agreed that the clinical side of tropical diseases was best studied in this country, where hospital and laboratory facilities were excellent.

THE Fellowship of Medicine announces that a special all-day course will be held at the Queen's Hospital for Children from August 16th to 28th. An all-day revision course in medicine, surgery, and the specialties at the Queen Mary's Hospital, Stratford, will continue from August 23rd to September 4th. Continuous weekly courses in obstetrics are given at the City of London Maternity Hospital, and the Fellowship can also provide practical courses in anaesthetics. From September 6th for four weeks special lecture demonstrations, on the more important diseases of the eye, will be arranged at the Central London Ophthalmic Hospital. From September 6th also eight bi-weekly lecture demonstrations in psychological medicine will be given at the Bethlem Royal Hospital. From September 13th to 25th the Infants Hospital will hold a course for medical officers of welfare centres and others. Between September 20th and October 1st the Westminster Hospital will provide an intensive course in medicine, surgery, and the specialties; the National Orthopaedic Hospital will hold an all-day course from September 20th to October 2nd, and on successive Wednesdays, beginning September 22nd, Dr. Heald will give four lecture demonstrations on electrotherapy. Copies of all syllabuses, the general course programme, and the Fellowship journal may be obtained from the Secretary, 1, Wimpole Street, W.1.

A THREE months' course of lectures and demonstrations in hospital administration complying with the regulations of the General Medical Council will be given by the Medical Superintendent on Monday, October 4th, at the North-Eastern Hospital of the Metropolitan Asylums Board, St. Ann's Road, Tottenham, N.15. Further particulars can be obtained from the Clerk to the Metropolitan Asylums Board, Victoria Embankment, E.C.4.

THE Lord Mayor of Liverpool (Mr. F. C. Bowring) has accepted the invitation to be chairman of the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine in succession to the late Sir Francis Danson.

THE Rockefeller Institute has presented the Norwegian Government with a million gold crowns for a State serum and vaccine institute.

PROFESSOR CAESAR ROUX, the well known surgeon of Lausanne, and Professor G. Winter, who held the chair of obstetrics at Königsberg, have been made emeritus professors in their respective universities.

AT the recent congress held in Brussels entitled "Journées médicales de Bruxelles" papers on the following, among other subjects, were read: the antisyphilitic campaign in Belgium, by Professor A. Bayet; vaccine therapy of acute microbial affections, by Dr. Bertrand; the surgery of cerebral tumours, by Dr. de Martel; the surgery of pain, by Professor Sicard; the onset of human tuberculosis, by Professor Léon Bernard; treatment by ultra-violet rays, by Dr. Dekeyser; and radium treatment of cancer, by Dr. L. Mayer. A special excursion was made to Louvain, where the degree of doctor *honoris causa* was conferred on Marshal Lyautey by the university.

THE History of Medicine Institute at Leipzig, founded by Professor Karl Sudhoff, and now under the direction of Professor Henry E. Sigerist, in addition to a well stocked library, contains a collection of over 10,000 photographs, as well as models and instruments for teaching purposes.

THE German Röntgen Society will hold its annual meeting at Düsseldorf from September 22nd to 24th, when the following subjects will be discussed: X-ray treatment of inflammation, introduced by Heidenheim of Worms, Porges of Vienna, and Wagner of Prague; the Compton effect, introduced by Friedrich of Berlin; irradiation of the ovary and offspring, introduced by Martinus of Bonn and Nürnberg of Hamburg.

THE following international post-graduate medical courses will be held in Berlin in October. From October 4th to 16th there will be a course in general medicine, with special reference to the latest progress in therapeutics, and from the 18th to the 30th a course in neurology; a fortnight's course will commence on October 18th in specialties, and a month's course on October 4th. Further information may be obtained from the secretary of the International Post-Graduate Medical Courses, Kaiserin Friedrich-Haus, Luisenplatz 2-4, Berlin, N.W.6.

THE congress known as the Journées médicales de Montpellier, organized by Professors Ducamp, Delmas, and Faucon, will be held at Montpellier from November 4th to 7th, when the centenary of the medical clinic and the discovery of bromine by the Montpellier chemist Balard will be celebrated.

THE German society for the study of diseases of digestion and metabolism will hold a congress in Berlin under the presidency of Professor von Bergmann of Frankfurt from October 13th to 16th.

THE third International Congress of Individual Psychology will be held at Düsseldorf from September 26th to 29th. Further information can be obtained from Dr. Maximilian Reis, Friedenstrasse 20.1, Dortmund.

DR. H. ALDERSHOFF, director of the State Serological Institute at Utrecht, has prepared a serum from sheep immunized against vaccinia for use in cases of post-vaccinal encephalitis. The serum, which should be administered as early as possible after appearance of the symptoms, will be sent free of charge to practitioners attending a case of post-vaccinal encephalitis.

THE July issue of *Boletín Técnico de la Dirección general de Sanidad*, a bi-monthly journal recently started by the Spanish Ministry of Health, contains articles by Dr. Andrés Lopez Prior on a focus of pellagra in Caldas de Reyes, by Dr. F. Beato on the etiology of scarlet fever, and by Dr. F. F. Garcia on an official method for the examination of oysters; and statistical tables of births and deaths in the various provinces of Spain during the months of January, February, and March, as well as abstracts from current literature and medical news.

PROFESSOR ROGER has been re-elected dean of the Paris Faculty of Medicine.

Letters, Notes, and Answers.

All communications in regard to editorial business should be addressed to **THE EDITOR, British Medical Journal, British Medical Association House, Tavistock Square, W.C.1.**

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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, Drumsheugh Gardens, Edinburgh (telegrams: *Associate, Edinburgh*; telephone: 4361 Central).

QUERIES AND ANSWERS.

LEAKAGE AFTER OPERATION ON THE BLADDER.

DR. ALFRED MERRIN (Kingstown, co. Dublin) asks for help in the following case: A gentleman, aged 80, eighteen months ago was submitted to an operation for prostatectomy, but the prostate could not be removed and he was left with a suprapubic apparatus. A Jacques oesophageal tube, size 18, was threaded through a rubber brick-shaped pad with one end in the bladder and the other in a rubber bag fixed at the thigh. The pad was held in position by a broad abdominal belt. This worked well for a few months and then the fistula began to get smaller; stretching it with sinus forceps and using a smaller tube