

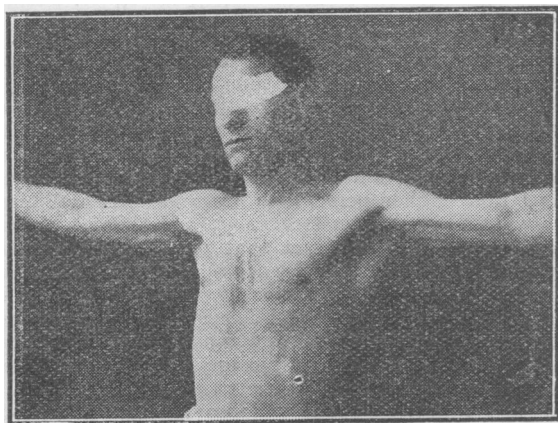
## Memoranda:

### MEDICAL, SURGICAL, OBSTETRICAL.

#### SUBCUTANEOUS RUPTURE OF THE PECTORALIS MAJOR MUSCLE.

THE following case appears to be sufficiently unusual to warrant putting on record.

A well-developed muscular youth, aged 19, was admitted to the Queen Alexandra Military Hospital, London, on May 9th. He gave a history that on the previous evening, while engaged in the second round of a boxing contest, he felt a sharp pain in the front of the right side of his chest. He was able to finish the round and boxed the next and final round without much discomfort. On retiring to the dressing-room he noticed a swelling in the anterior wall of the right axilla. From the time it was first noticed the swelling did not increase in size, except when the pectoralis major was contracted. On examination an area of ecchymosis was seen, extending along the lower part of the pectoralis major from the arm to the chest wall. Towards the outer edge of the anterior axillary fold a soft mass was palpable. On contracting the muscle some discomfort was complained of and the mass became harder and more prominent. At the same time a well-marked notch was visible below and internal to the swelling, as shown in the photograph. This notch was tender on palpation. The patient was quite unable to give any account of what he was doing with his right arm at the moment he first



felt the pain. He was, however, quite definite that he had not at any time been struck on the chest by his opponent. A diagnosis of partial rupture of the pectoralis major was made. Two days later the lower edge of the pectoralis major was exposed by turning down a skin flap. At first sight the muscle, in the relaxed condition, appeared to be uninjured owing to the fact that the fascia over it was intact. On passing a finger under the axillary fold, however, a rent could be felt in the muscle, which extended upwards and inwards from its lower border for a distance of about two inches. The fascia on the deep surface of the muscle was also torn. The ruptured muscle, which appeared to be quite healthy, was sutured with chromicized catgut, and the arm was bandaged to the side. The patient made an uninterrupted recovery and no apparent weakness of the arm resulted.

The chief interest of the case lies in its rarity. To produce such a lesion the muscle must have been violently contracted while on the stretch. In surgical literature I have only been able to find reference to five cases. Mandl<sup>1</sup> records a case, which occurred in a gymnast who, while swinging on rings, was attempting to rotate his body in its long axis through 360°, felt a sharp pain in the chest, and was unable to complete the exercise. The patient was seen one and a half years after the accident and a condition similar to that described above was found. The muscle had not been sutured and some weakness of the arm persisted. Mandl mentions having been able to find records of three similar cases in current literature, all of which occurred in well-developed muscular subjects during the performance of gymnastic exercises. Eiselsberg<sup>1</sup> mentions having seen one case in the Billroth Clinic, in which the patient was admitted with a suppurating haematoma following a partial rupture of the pectoralis major.

D. McKELVEY, M.C., M.D., F.R.C.S.Eng.,  
Major R.A.M.C.,

Surgical Specialist, Queen Alexandra Military Hospital.

#### TRAUMATIC SEPARATION OF AN INTESTINAL LOOP.

THE complete separation of a loop of small intestine in the absence of a penetrating abdominal injury must be a very rare occurrence. The following details of such a case seem, therefore, to be worthy of record.

A Hindu man, aged 60, was admitted to the surgical wards of the Madras General Hospital with a history of having been knocked down by a motor bus. He was almost moribund, the pulse rate being 80 and the respirations 22. There were some superficial injuries to the scalp and the lower jaw.

Two hours after admission the abdomen became distended and very tender. There was an inguinal hernia, which was completely reduced with gurgling, but the process was painful. He vomited food about five times during the night, and passed a motion and flatus. He grew rapidly worse, and, in spite of stimulants, died the next afternoon.

At the necropsy a number of superficial abrasions were found over both extremities, and there was fracture of the right ulna. On the right side of the scrotum was seen a large swelling the size of a child's head, which was soft, boggy, and oedematous. The skin over it was discoloured, bluish, and peeling off. On incision it was found to be a hernia, and in the hernial sac was a piece of small intestine about 3 inches long lying loose with the mesentery cut close to it. The edges of this piece were sharp and regular, and the mucous membrane pale, without any evidence of inflammation. Just above this loose bit of intestine, and in the hernial sac, was another loop of small intestine. Between the sac and the skin was an abscess containing about 2 oz. of purulent fluid. The peritoneum was red and inflamed; the omentum was also inflamed and covered with flakes of lymph. There were about twenty ounces of turbid, purulent, blood-stained fluid in the peritoneum. On carefully examining the intestines the detached portion was seen to have been situated about seven feet below the duodeno-jejunal flexure; it was pale and without any inflammatory reaction. The margins of the free ends of the small intestines showed redness and inflammation to a distance of about three-quarters of an inch.

It is of interest to note that the detached bit of intestine, having completely lost its blood supply, did not show evidence of inflammation, contrasting thus with the inflamed edges of the attached portions. It is extraordinary, also, how a complete detachment of a piece of intestine can take place without a penetrating abdominal injury; this is of some medico-legal importance. What probably happened was that the man had an inguinal hernia and was hit over it by a sharp portion of the car, probably the mud-guard; a loop of intestine was caught between the car and the horizontal ramus of the pubis, and was detached.

Our thanks are due to Lieut.-Colonel E. W. C. Bradfield, I.M.S., superintendent, General Hospital, for permitting the publication of this case, and to Dr. S. K. Pillai, the radiologist, for kindly taking the photograph of the specimen.

P. N. BASU, M.B., M.R.C.P.,  
Professor of Pathology, Medical  
College, Madras.

A. VASUDEVAN, M.B.

## British Medical Association.

### CLINICAL AND SCIENTIFIC PROCEEDINGS.

#### GLASGOW AND WEST OF SCOTLAND BRANCH.

##### *The Nature and Treatment of Asthma.*

At a meeting of the Glasgow and West of Scotland Branch of the British Medical Association on September 4th, with Dr. R. McNEIL BUCHANAN in the chair, Dr. BURTON HASSETTINE (Chicago) opened a discussion on asthma.

Dr. Haseltine, in the course of his interesting paper, said that the problem of asthma was particularly acute at the moment because of the prevailing pessimism which, especially in America, had followed the general disappointment with the results of the so-called allergy treatment. The conception of asthma which he was about to present differed considerably from those commonly held, but from the clinical point of view it had been shown to be considerably more successful. The conception was based upon the work of Drs. Brodie and Dixon of London, published in 1903, and the book on bronchial asthma by Dr. James Adam of Glasgow, which appeared in 1913. The first of these was a classic of scientific research, while the second was a clinical contribution of the utmost importance. Dr. Haseltine believed that if as much attention had been paid to these two contributions as had been given

<sup>1</sup> *Wien. med. Woch.*, 1925, lxxv, 2129.

for Consumptives, Clare, Suffolk, she became an inspector of midwives, subsequently proceeding to Hong-Kong, where she was employed in the Government service as assistant medical officer in charge of native hospitals. She was also honorary medical officer to the Victoria Nursing Division there, and during the war received the M.B.E. for her services in connexion with this organization.

## The Services.

### DEATHS IN THE SERVICES.

Major Abdus Sattar Khan, Indian Medical Service, died at Gaya on July 20th, aged 46. He was born in May, 1882, the son of the late Hosein Khan, extra assistant commissioner in the Central Provinces, was educated at the Calcutta Medical College, where he graduated as L.M.S. in 1904, and at Guy's Hospital, and took the M.R.C.S. and L.R.C.P. Lond. in 1907. Entering the I.M.S. on August 1st, 1908, he became major after twelve years' service, but was placed on the temporary non-effective list, on account of ill health, from March 8th, 1922, to July 15th, 1924. He served in Mesopotamia during the recent war. After his return to full pay he was appointed to the command of the military hospital at Delhi. He leaves a widow, who received the Order of the Kaisar-i-Hind in this year's birthday honours for welfare work among women and children at Delhi.

Major Ronald Ernest Todd, R.A.M.C.(ret.), died suddenly in London, on August 5th, of heart failure following pneumonia, aged 45. He was born on August 18th, 1882, educated at St. Thomas's, and took the M.R.C.S. and L.R.C.P. in 1907. Entering the R.A.M.C. as lieutenant on July 29th, 1907, he became major after twelve years' service, and retired last year, on July 29th, as soon as he had completed twenty years' service. He was seconded for service in Egypt on November 1st, 1911, and remained in that country up to August, 1916. He served throughout the war of 1914-18, and was twice mentioned in dispatches—in the *London Gazette* of June 21st, 1916, and of December 21st, 1917.

Major William Graeme Deuroche McCall, M.C., R.A.M.C., died in Fortwilliam, Calcutta, on August 9th, aged 38. He was born on June 3rd, 1890, the elder son of Mr. and Mrs. McCall of Houth, county Dublin, and educated in Dublin in the School of the Royal College of Surgeons, Ireland, taking the Irish double qualification in 1915. Immediately after qualifying he entered the R.A.M.C. as a temporary lieutenant on August 29th, 1915, becoming temporary captain after a year's service. He took a permanent commission as captain on February 2nd, 1919, and became major on August 2nd, 1927. He served through the war of 1914-18 from 1915 to the end, and gained the Military Cross on July 26th, 1918, with a bar on October 25th, 1918.

## Universities and Colleges.

### UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.

DR. E. B. VERNEY, Professor of Pharmacology in the University, will give a course of six lectures on urinary secretion, at University College, Gower Street, W.C.1, on Mondays, October 15th, 22nd, and 29th, and November 5th, 12th, and 19th. Admission to the lectures is free, without ticket.

The Semon Lecture on laryngo-rhinology and general medicine will be given by Professor Markusz Hajek, Professor of Oto-Rhino-Laryngology in the University of Vienna, in the Barnes Hall of the Royal Society of Medicine, on Thursday, November 1st, at 5 p.m.

Provided that there be a candidate of sufficient merit a Paul Reitlinger prize of £30 will be awarded, on December 3rd, for the best essay embodying the result of some medical research work carried out by the applicant. Candidates must be matriculated students who, on June 1st preceding the award, were studying in one of the schools of the University in the Faculty of Medicine, or graduates of the University who on the same date were of not more than five years' standing from the date of taking their first degree, and who are or were students in such school.

### VICTORIA UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER.

The following candidates have been approved at the examination indicated:

D.P.H.—*Part I:* M. Naughton, Josephine Walmsley. *Part II:* Georgie I. Brodie, T. S. Haslin, H. Harrison, M. Naughton, Jean M. Orkney, J. S. Smith, Margaret Sproul.

DIPLOMA IN PSYCHOLOGICAL MEDICINE.—*Part I:* H. A. Palmer.

## Medical News.

THE seventh annual dinner of the London Branch of the University of Bristol Association of Alumni will be held on November 2nd, at 7.45 p.m., at the English Speaking Union Club, Dartmouth House, Berkeley Square, W., with Mr. Stanley H. Badock, pro-chancellor of the University of Bristol, in the chair. Tickets may be obtained from Dr. Elizabeth Casson, Holloway Sanatorium, Virginia Water.

THE medical committee of the Royal Dental Hospital School of Dental Surgery will be "At home" to all past and present students from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, October 20th; an invitation to be present is extended to all medical practitioners. In the morning the various departments of the hospital and school may be inspected, and demonstrations will be given by members of the staff and lecturers; in the afternoon orthodontic and other cases of special interest will be shown.

THE next meeting of the Biochemical Society will be held in the Biochemical Laboratory, Cambridge, to-day (Saturday, October 6th), at 2.30 p.m. Sir F. G. Hopkins will contribute a paper on the centenary of Friedrich Wöhler's synthesis of urea; various other communications will also be read.

THE Schorstein Memorial Lecture will be delivered in the Bearstead Clinical Theatre of the London Hospital Medical College by Dr. Cecil Wall, on Friday, November 2nd, at 4.15 p.m.; the subject will be expectoration. Members of the profession are invited to attend.

A SPECIAL meeting of the Institution of Heating and Ventilating Engineers will be held on October 9th, at 12, Russell Square, W.C.1, at 6.45 p.m., when Dr. H. M. Vernon will give an address on methods of heating and ventilating schools and their influence on health.

A MEETING of the Medical Officers of Schools Association will be held at 11, Chandos Street, W.1, on October 19th, at 5 p.m., when Surgeon Commander Sheldon F. Dudley, R.N., will read a paper on microbic dissemination in schools.

A MEETING of the Royal Microscopical Society will be held in the lecture hall at 20, Hanover Square, London, W.1, on Wednesday, October 17th, at 7.30 p.m.; papers will be read by Mr. J. E. Barnard, F.R.S., and Mr. F. V. Welch on "An electrically heated warm stage with compressor for use with high power objectives"; and by Professor E. Ghosh on "Two new ciliates from sewer water." The biological section will meet on Wednesday, November 7th, in the library.

A MEETING of the Optical Society will be held at the Imperial College of Science and Technology, on October 11th, at 7.30 p.m., when papers will be read on lenses and equipment for ultra-violet photography, old English objectives, and the development of spectacles in London from the end of the seventeenth century. Further information may be obtained from the assistant secretary of the Optical Society, 1, Lowther Gardens, Exhibition Road, S.W.7.

MEETINGS of the Child Study Society will be held at the Royal Sanitary Institute, 90, Buckingham Palace Road, S.W.1, on October 11th and 25th, and on November 8th, at 6 p.m. At the first of these Dr. Letitia Fairfield will lecture on child study in America, and on October 5th Dr. C. J. Thomas will speak on child study and the health of the child. The subject of the third meeting will be music and the child mind.

A CONFERENCE on housing and health will be held in the Town Hall, Windsor, on Friday, October 19th, at 8 p.m. when Dr. J. J. Paterson, M.O.H., Maidenhead, will preside. The speakers will be Dr. William Butler, L.C.C., on "The New House," and Miss Joan Sunderland, house property manager of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, on "The Old House."

POST-GRADUATE instruction in clinical pathology, bacteriology, and biochemistry can be obtained at the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital by medical women during October and November; particulars will be sent on application to the secretary of the hospital.

THE Fellowship of Medicine has arranged several clinical demonstrations for the coming session. On Tuesday, October 9th, at 2.30 p.m., Mr. H. W. Carson will demonstrate by operations at the Prince of Wales's Hospital, Tottenham, and on the same day, at 4 p.m., Dr. Gerald M. Slot will speak on rheumatism at the Royal Waterloo Hospital. On Wednesday, October 10th, at 4 p.m., Dr. S. H. Daukes will give a demonstration at the Wellcome Museum of Medical Science, his subject being the value of a synoptical museum of medicine for post-graduate study. These demonstrations are free to medical practitioners. From October 8th to 20th the Chelsea Hospital for Women will hold a course in gynaecology during the afternoons and one or two mornings. From October 8th there will be a three weeks' intensive course at

the Central London Throat, Nose and Ear Hospital, including clinical, practical operative, and pathological sections. The clinical course may be taken separately or in conjunction with one or both of the other parts. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, from October 9th to November 1st, there will be a series of lecture-demonstrations at the London School of Tropical Medicine by Dr. Carmichael Low and Dr. Philip Manson-Bahr. From October 15th to 27th there will be a special morning course at the Hospital for Sick Children. Professor Louise McIlroy will give four lecture-demonstrations on ante-natal treatment at the Royal Free Hospital, beginning on October 26th. At the Hampstead General Hospital there will be a course for general practitioners from October 29th to November 10th. Copies of all syllabuses, information relating to other post-graduate study in London under the Fellowship of Medicine scheme, and specimen copies of the *Post-Graduate Medical Journal*, may be obtained from the Secretary, 1, Wimpole Street, W.1.

ISLINGTON Health and Baby Week commenced on Monday last, and throughout the week special lectures on appropriate subjects were delivered at various centres throughout the borough. Leaflets giving details of the local health organization and containing simple health hints were distributed.

H.R.H. PRINCE ARTHUR OF CONNAUGHT, at the annual Middlesex Hospital dinner, held at the Savoy Hotel on October 2nd, announced that a friend of the hospital had come forward with a gift of £125,000, to be used for the purpose of providing accommodation for paying patients. It had been decided that such patients should pay a flat rate to cover maintenance, operation costs, and all other services of the hospital, and that no profit should accrue from them to the hospital itself. It was announced later that this benefactor is Lord Woolavington.

A NEW wing at Crewe Cottage Hospital was opened on September 29th by Princess Mary Viscountess Lascelles. Towards the total cost of £20,000 a sum of £13,000 has already been subscribed, including a contribution of £2,500 from the London Midland and Scottish Railway Company.

Dr. R. P. GARROW has been appointed Medical Officer of Health for Hornsey in succession to Professor W. W. Jameson, who has been appointed to the chair of public health in the University of London, tenable at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. Dr. Garrow has been M.O.H. for Chesterfield since 1921, and was formerly assistant M.O.H. at Ealing.

THE annual Neech prize for the best paper read before a branch or group of the Society of Medical Officers of Health has been awarded for the session 1926-27 to Dr. J. A. H. Brincker, a senior medical officer of the London County Council, whose paper on "The case for diphtheria immunization" was read before the metropolitan branch of the society.

THE second Peruvian Congress of Medicine will be held at Arequipa in the second week of November, under the presidency of Dr. Edmundo Escamé, when the following subjects among others will be discussed: small-pox in Peru, typhus in Peru, leishmaniasis and blastomycosis in Peru, the medical fauna and flora of Peru, the medical geography of Peru, the problem of cancer in Peru, the racial problem in Peru, prophylaxis of venereal diseases in Peru, alcoholism and other toxic psychoses, pharmaceutical legislation, and anaesthesia in odontology.

THE thirty-fourth Italian Congress of Internal Medicine will be held at Rome from October 12th to 15th, when the following subjects will be discussed: tumours of the spinal cord (in conjunction with the Italian Society of Surgery), introduced by Professors F. Schupfer, L. Dominici, and M. Gortan; undulant fever and Bang's bacillus, introduced by Professor U. Gabbi; diuresis and diuretics, introduced by Professors L. Ferranini and M. Ghiron; and functional cardiac disorders in relation to military service, introduced by Major G. D. D'Ambrosio.

UNDER the name of Journées Médicales de Bordeaux a congress will be held at Bordeaux from November 4th to the 7th simultaneously with the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the foundation of the faculty of medicine.

IN connexion with the celebration in December of the centenary of the University of Cairo a tour is being arranged through Venice, Brindisi, and Alexandria on the outward journey; and Rhodes, Athens, and Corfu on the return. The programme and other information may be obtained from the editor of the *Wiener medizinische Wochenschrift*, Porzellangasse, 22 Vienna IX.

THE League of Nations Health Organization has issued in pamphlet form a report of a meeting of its Conference of Health Experts on Infant Welfare, which was held in London early in July. Dame Janet Campbell took the chair, and representatives of the United States, France, Holland, Germany, Norway, and Austria were present. The conference considered the results of an inquiry into infant mortality,

based on a study of all infant deaths in selected districts during a period of twelve months; three principal causes accounted for the largest proportion in all countries—dead-births and premature births, respiratory diseases, and gastrointestinal affections. It was considered that the first of these might be due to the absence of adequate pre-natal and obstetrical service, or to lack of supervision during pregnancy and undue obstetrical interference, but it was deemed inadvisable to express further opinions until the material collected had been analysed and summarized in the final report. The conference decided that separate reports should be prepared for each country on a uniform plan, and that the members should prepare detailed suggestions for further inquiry into problems of infantile mortality which have emerged from the studies already made. A proposal for an inquiry to determine the etiology of rickets and to reach conclusions regarding the prophylaxis of this disease was prepared for submission to the Health Committee of the League.

DR. LEVADITI of the Institut Pasteur, Paris, has been elected a member of the Académie de Médecine.

DR. FREDERICK VON MÜLLER, professor of medicine at Munich, and Dr. Karl von Noorden, professor of medicine at Frankfurt, have recently celebrated their seventieth birthdays.

BY permission of King Faisal the designation of the Iraq College of Medicine has been changed to the Royal College of Medicine, Baghdad. The dean of the College is Dr. H. C. Sinderson.

THE following appointments have recently been made in foreign faculties of medicine: Dr. Kirch of Würzburg, professor of pathology at Erlangen in succession to Professor Hirsch; Dr. Dietrich of Cologne, professor of pathology at Tübingen in succession to Professor Schmincke; Dr. A. Jeney of Szegedin, professor of pathology, and Dr. J. V. Daranyi, professor of hygiene, at Szegedin; Professor Rudin of Basle, director of the genealogical department of the Psychiatric Research Institute at Munich; Dr. Margat, professor of dermatology and syphilis at Montpellier; Dr. Moog, professor of chemistry and toxicology at Toulouse; Dr. Hermann Dold of Berlin, professor of hygiene at Kiel; and Dr. Georg Joachimoglu of Berlin, professor of pharmacology at Athens.

DURING the first four months of this year there were 93 deaths from small-pox in Japan.

THE high death rate among infants and young children is a striking feature of the report for 1927 of the Department of Health of the Government of Palestine. Deaths in the age groups 1 month to 5 years account for 57.76 per cent. of the total mortality, while only 18.20 per cent. occur in the age groups 5 to 50 years. There was a considerable expansion in facilities for the treatment of infants during the year, and attendance at infant welfare centres has improved as the mothers have gained confidence in them. Six new centres have been opened, making a total of thirty-one in operation at the end of the year. Infantile mortality varied considerably with the religious divisions of the population, being 115.3 per 1,000 among Jews, 187.2 among Christians, and 216.7 among Moslems. The figures reflect the work of the six infant welfare centres established by the Jewish population, this class of work being limited to the towns and Jewish rural settlements, while the Arab village population of nearly 500,000 remains untouched. Efforts are being made to provide suitable centres. A committee of the Supreme Moslem Council supports a number of beds for Moslem women in the Princess Mary wards of the Government Hospital in Jerusalem, and defrays the cost of training Moslem pupil midwives.

THE forty-fourth annual report of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children shows that in the year ended March 31st the society was called upon to investigate 39,774 cases, involving the welfare of 98,158 children. A large number of crippled and deformed children have been dealt with; in orthopaedic cases alone 316 children have been successfully operated upon, and in all 1,762 children have been relieved of physical disabilities and deformities. The ambulances maintained by the London Medical Branch have been employed in conveying children to and from the out-patient departments of the various hospitals. In persuading parents to secure regular medical treatment for their children useful work has been done by the society's women inspectors, who have also devoted themselves, after special training for the purpose, to seeing that instructions given at the hospitals are carried out.

DR. ADALBERT CZERNY, professor of children's diseases at Berlin, has been nominated an honorary member of the American Pediatric Association; Dr. Max Rubner, professor of physiology at Berlin, an honorary member of the Interstate Post-Graduate Medical Association; and Dr. Theodor Axenfeld, professor of ophthalmology at Freiburg, an honorary member of the Hungarian Ophthalmological Society.