

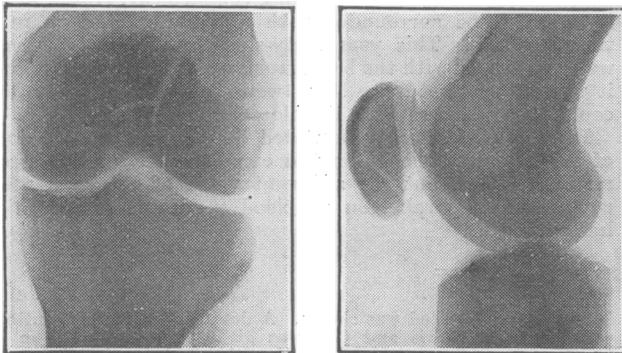
Memoranda :

MEDICAL, SURGICAL, OBSTETRICAL.

FRACTURE OF PATELLA WITH ATYPICAL SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS.

On May 21st of this year A. W., when dirt track racing, crashed into a fence. His knee struck the fence and the gear lever of his machine. At this stage all the combatants fell, and the race had to be re-run from the beginning; it was won by A. W.

He did not notice any pain during the race, but nearly fainted on its termination. On the following day he got about with the aid of crutches, and re-started racing in ten days, which, however, gave him some pain. On July 10th he was sent to me by a colleague for an x-ray examination because of pain on pressure exerted from above downwards on the antero-internal aspect of the knee. When seen by me I was able to elicit the above sign in



the region of the internal semilunar cartilage. Direct backward pressure, however, did not cause pain. He could extend and flex the knee to the full extent without causing any pain. There was a moderate amount of fluid present in the joint. Pressure exerted on the patella from all directions did not cause pain. The skiagrams show a Y-shaped fracture of the patella.

The case is of interest because of the very small amount of pain and disability caused by the fracture, and because of the impossibility of diagnosing the condition other than by an x-ray examination.

Coventry.

A. H. LAIRD, M.B., D.R.M.E.

TREATMENT OF ECLAMPSIA BY SPINAL ANAESTHESIA.

I THINK it worth while recording the following details of a case of eclampsia which was successfully treated by spinal anaesthesia on the lines suggested by Dr. R. H. Paramore at the meeting of the Section of Obstetrics and Gynaecology of the Royal Society of Medicine on April 20th, 1928, and published in the *Proceedings* of that Society (1928, vol. xxi, p. 70).

A young primipara, in the seventh month of her pregnancy, was suddenly seized with convulsions on April 29th after a day of "spring cleaning." I found her at 8 p.m. in the throes of severe eclampsia, without any intermission of the fits and quite unconscious; I injected 1/4 grain morphine without effect. In response to an urgent message Dr. Paramore came, sending word in advance for me to administer chloroform; I did so, but until deep anaesthesia was reached the fits continued. On his arrival Dr. Paramore prepared the patient and administered tropacocaine by lumbar puncture. The effect was immediate, the fits at once subsiding, nor, when the effect of the chloroform had passed off, was there any recurrence. I saw the patient in violent convulsions at 8 o'clock; by 10 o'clock she was quiet and could be left to the nurse, one slight fit occurring just after we left. The patient went to full term without any further relapse, and was delivered naturally, on June 20th, of a male child 7½ lb. in weight, which lived eight days.

The immediate after-effects of the eclamptic seizure were muscular pains all over the back, headache, and noises in the head; these had all passed off by the end of the week. The more remote effect was a momentary feeling of losing herself, or as

the patient puts it, "I don't know where I am." This was first apparent during the puerperium, and she complained of it again on July 8th; otherwise she is quite well.

This case may be contrasted with another of equal severity which occurred just fourteen years previously, my first case of eclampsia after coming to Rugby. (Two cases which occurred between I sent to hospital; one patient died, but the other, a mild case, recovered after a prolonged illness.) In the first case and the most recent one the patients were of the same physical type; both were strong and rather stout young women late in their first pregnancy, and both were quite well until, after some extra bodily strain, they were seized with convulsions.

On April 21st, 1915, a woman far on in her first pregnancy walked to the railway station, which is about two miles from her home, and was seized with her first convulsion; she was removed to hospital and later to the infirmary, where she regained consciousness. She returned to her home, but the fits immediately recurred and continued until she aborted three days later, being delivered of a dead child. The treatment in this case was hot air, pilocarpine, and, later, on the advice of the late Dr. Clement Dukes, injections of morphine at repeated intervals. At no time could it be said that the treatment was either effective or satisfactory, the fits continuing until delivery. After delivery it was found that the patient was mentally affected, and, since she gradually became violent, she was removed to the asylum on April 29th. She remained there for three and a half weeks, when she recovered and was discharged. She has since remained quite well.

I think the contrast between these two cases is too marked to be ignored; whatever the theories as to the cause of eclampsia may be, Dr. Paramore's method of treatment by spinal anaesthesia is so immediately effective that it should be made a note of.

G. H. WAUGH, L.R.C.P. and S.Ed.,

Rugby.

L.R.F.P.S.Glas.

IONIZED SILVER IN THE TREATMENT OF BURNS.

DR. KURT HULDSCHINSKY, in a paper read at the meeting of the Berlin Society for Internal Medicine and Paediatrics on July 9th, 1928,¹ described a treatment of eczema in children by what he called the "Uvag" or ultra-violet argenticum method. I have lately been using this method for burns with such good result that it seems worth description.

Silver nitrate in a 1 to 5 per cent. solution is sprayed or painted on the area affected by the burn. An exposure of one to five minutes is then given with a mercury vapour or tungsten arc lamp at a distance of six to twenty inches, the varying limits being given to allow for the factors of the age of the patient, the size of the burn, efficiency of the lamp, etc. In the absence of an artificial source of ultra-violet rays an exposure to real sunlight, if it can be obtained, for half an hour produces much the same result.

The silver nitrate is ionized by the light and the silver ion combines with the cell proteins—an effect which is practically instantaneous with artificial ultra-violet light; the whole area becomes black and dry, and a shiny coagulum is formed, fixing proteins resulting from cell destruction, which, if absorbed, give rise to the toxæmia often associated with burns, and at the same time the penetration of the rays to the deeper layers is prevented, thus counteracting any possibility of over-irradiation. Rapid healing is produced in second degree burns and the pain is very much decreased. No dressings are used and the bedclothes are not allowed to touch the treated area. Another application may be given in twenty-four to thirty-six hours if required.

In theory² the process is similar to the tannic acid treatment,³ but it has the additional advantage of the peculiarly sedative action of ultra-violet rays on peripheral nerve endings as well as its bactericidal effect. Unfortunately the number of cases that I have had the opportunity of treating by this method so far has been few, but it would be interesting to hear what results are obtained from a wider application of this method, which seems a most satisfactory one.

West Runton, Norfolk.

L. SHILLITO, M.B., B.Ch.

¹ Huldshinsky: *Brit. Journ. Act. and Physiotherapy*, February, 1929.

² Shillito: *Ibid.*, September, 1929.

³ Barling: *Birmingham Med. Rev.*, March, 1928, p. 58.

Sir ROBERT BOLAM writes:

The British Medical Association loses, by the passing of Sir Jenner Verrall, an influence in its inner councils of a rare quality not easily, if ever quite, to be replaced. He had an intimate knowledge of Association affairs during long years of service in some of the most anxious and unprecedented times that a professional organization has passed through. His was the hand that guided the Representative Body through the difficult years when the echoes of the strife over health insurance still lingered and the turmoil of the great war involved the profession of medicine. Perhaps of all his work the marshalling of medical manpower by the Central Medical War Committee will stand as the finest achievement. In the chair of that committee there was need of all the qualities which in Jenner Verrall were so fully found. He has left a profound impress, too, on the organization of the profession he loved to serve. And there will remain with those who were privileged to work with him the exhilaration of his blithe and ever-youthful spirit, the sheer joy of his fluent speech and apt quotation, the intellectual pleasure of his balanced arguments, and, beyond all, the memory of his fearless courage.

Dr. C. E. S. FLEMMING (Bradford-on-Avon) writes:

Verrall dead! It seems impossible when we think of the quick mind, the cheery welcome, the bright eye that we knew so short a while ago at Manchester—yet at the Representative Meeting, after the Chairman had delivered an eulogy on the work of our retiring representative on the General Medical Council, Verrall, shaken with emotion, three times got up to reply, three times sat down, unable to say a word. Those who witnessed that poignant scene must have felt that he at any rate had at that moment seen coming up the valley the great shadow that was all too soon to hide from his sight for ever the world that he loved and served so well; the days that were a joy to him and all that knew him. At the same time they must, too, have realized what his work for the profession meant to him and what he was to the profession. For several years he lived in Bath, where medical men quickly came to recognize him as a man above most. With his fluent speech, ready wit, and fearlessness in debate, and his wise counsel, he soon became the trusted friend and guide of the profession in the neighbourhood—all men loved him. He lived in Bath during the days of the insurance fights, and it is easy to realize how valuable his help was then, for he was a man of high ideals and had withal a logical and practical mind. To all who had the privilege of knowing him intimately the first impression on hearing of his death must have been—there is gone a very dear friend, a wonderful companion who loved life and all that was good in it; gone a great heart and a fine courage. But there is left a happy memory, a lasting inspiration. Could he speak, his last words would be "Carry on."

The MEDICAL SECRETARY sends the following tribute:

I write this under a deep sense of personal loss, for Sir Jenner Verrall was not only the doyen of our Council, a brilliant man, and a most active member of our Association, but a close personal friend and a never-failing source of inspiration and joy to me. It is thirty years since I first met him at an Annual Meeting of the Association, but I only got to know him when he and I were members of the Constitution Committee in 1900, which not only greatly changed the constitution of our Association, but directed its activities into new channels. He sat on that committee as one who was already a member of Council, professing, as he always did, conservative leanings of a pronounced type. But then, as always, up to the very last, he was open to new ideas and, once convinced, proved of great help in getting them adopted by the general body of the Association. From the first I was an admirer of the wit and brilliance which were so characteristic of the man, but gradually I got an insight into the emotional side of his character and a knowledge of his sterling qualities, and was proud to become a friend as well as a colleague. He affected to be a confirmed pessimist. Very frequently he came into my room and announced, when

asked how he was, "I am very depressed. It's a *poor* world." But he could not keep it up for long, and there is no man who has brought inside the walls of the B.M.A. headquarters more of the sense of the joy of life and the "worthwhileness," as he called it, of good work. And in this I speak for all my staff who came in contact with him.

I remember him with deep thankfulness as a leader and comrade in many a dark and anxious time, particularly in connexion with the early days of national health insurance and with the work of the Central Medical War Committee. He had not the masterfulness or the prompt decision of a J. A. Macdonald, but what a combination they made, and how each admired the gifts of the other! Elsewhere will be found some indication of the offices Verrall held in the Association and in other professional bodies, so I need not dwell on that side, except to point out what a tribute it is to the British Medical Association that a man of his calibre, easy in circumstances, and who could undoubtedly have made a mark in either local or national politics, chose to devote his energies to our Association. For there is no doubt about it, the B.M.A. was the apple of his eye, and there was nothing we could ask him to do that he would not do with all his might.

Verrall was always ready in debate—indeed, his weakness (and he knew it) was too great a fluency. I saw somewhere a description which I thought applied with peculiar fitness to Verrall, "His thought worked best along a kind of paper-chase track of vivid words laid for the pursuing intellect by the fore-running tongue," and I remember how he laughed when I tried it on him. But at his best he was a real orator, by which I mean that, given the occasion, he could impart into his speech deep feeling and indeed passion. The finest example I ever heard was at Ottawa in 1924, when he and I were on our mission to the Canadian Medical Association which resulted in the affiliation of that body to the B.M.A. The occasion was the dinner of the Canadian Medical Association, at which were present many prominent Canadian laymen, including that eminent orator and statesman Sir Robert Borden. In replying to the toast of "The British Medical Association," Verrall rose to great heights, bringing out his faith in our profession, in our Association, and, above all, in the destinies of the British Empire, in a way which deeply moved his audience. Verrall made many friends for himself and our Association in Canada, and I know his loss will be deeply felt by them.

Greatly as I feel his death, I am even more conscious of the value of his life and personality to our Association, and I am sure that is the way he would like to be thought of just now. He was, I think, the one who suggested the two beautiful phrases which adorn our Memorial Gates: "Faithful hath been your warfare" and "Memory and praise." Though these words were chosen as a tribute to our fallen members, they can very appropriately be applied to one who gave abundantly of great gifts to the service of his fellows in the medical profession. How moved he was by the resolution which the Representative Body passed at Manchester, and how glad we must all be that we did not wait until he was gone, but told him, in his presence, how proud and how fond we were of him. He was a great B.M.A. personality; an upright man in whose presence you simply could not say a mean or a base thing; a fine specimen physically and mentally of the British gentleman; and there is not one of us who had the privilege of working with him who is not a better man for his friendship.

[The photograph reproduced is by Herbert Lambert, Bath.]

The following well-known foreign medical men have recently died: Professor ARDIN-DELTEIL, dean of the Faculty of Medicine of Algiers; Professor O. KUTVIRT, director of the Czech oto-rhino-laryngological clinic of the Karl University at Prague, and founder and president of the Czech Oto-laryngological Society; Professor RENÉ FORTIER, who had held the chair of hygiene and paediatrics at the Quebec Faculty of Medicine since 1894, aged 63; Dr. C. PAPASTRATIGAKIS, an eminent neurologist of Athens; and Dr. AMÉDÉE PUGNAT, professor of otolaryngology at Geneva, aged 55.

Aberdeen Company of the Royal Army Medical Corps (Volunteers). On mobilization at the outbreak of the war he was placed in charge of the local hospital; in 1916 he was appointed to the command of the 43rd General Hospital at Salonika, where he remained till he was demobilized in 1918 with the rank of lieutenant-colonel. He had been mentioned in dispatches, and in 1918 received the Territorial Decoration. Dr. Mitchell worked in partnership with a brother; another brother, Sir William Mitchell, was Vice-Chancellor of the University of Adelaide, and was knighted by the King in 1926 for services to the Commonwealth of Australia. Dr. Peter Mitchell is survived by a widow and a family, including three daughters, who are all graduates in medicine of Aberdeen University, and a son.

Dr. GEORGE GEDDES of Heywood, Lancs, died on October 1st, after an illness of only about half an hour's duration, at the age of 61. Dr. Geddes graduated M.B., C.M. Aberd. in 1892, and proceeded M.D. in 1903. He settled in general practice in Heywood about thirty years ago, and held several public appointments, including those of medical officer for Heywood district of the Bury Poor Law Union and medical officer to the post office. He took great interest in the public life of the district; in 1923 he entered the Heywood town council and was vice-chairman of the education committee. In 1926 he was made a justice of the peace, and he took a very active part in the local branch of the League of Nations Union. In religion he was a member of the United Methodist Church and was the circuit steward for the Heywood circuit. He was a loyal member of the British Medical Association, and had served in the Rochdale Division as chairman from 1913 to 1918, vice-chairman in 1912, and as a member of the executive committee. He was keenly interested in the question of puerperal sepsis, and was the author of a monograph on the subject. In 1924 he was awarded the Nicholls Prize by the Royal Society of Medicine for his work on puerperal septicaemia. His funeral on October 3rd, at Heywood, was attended by a large gathering of his medical and municipal colleagues and patients.

The Services.

DEATHS IN THE SERVICES.

Surgeon Captain Richard Miller, R.N. (ret.), died after an operation in the Cottage Hospital at Fleet, Hants, on September 12th, aged 67. He was educated at Trinity College, Dublin, where he graduated as M.B. and B.Ch. in 1833. After filling the posts of assistant medical officer and deputy superintendent of Bethlem Royal Hospital, and of temporary medical superintendent of the East Riding Asylum, Yorks, he entered the navy as surgeon in 1837, attained the rank of fleet surgeon on February 28th, 1903, and retired on August 26th, 1917, with an honorary step as surgeon captain. After retirement he went into practice at Stock, Essex, where he was medical officer and public vaccinator of the 7th Division of the Chelmsford Union and certifying factory surgeon, retiring from practice last year. He received the bronze medal of the Royal Humane Society on February 28th, 1889, when serving as surgeon on H.M.S. *Iron Duke* at Gibraltar, for jumping overboard, fully dressed, to the assistance of Corporal Hilt, R.M.L.I., and getting him safely on board again, while an easterly gale was blowing and a heavy sea running. In December, 1911, he was appointed to the charge of the Naval Mental Hospital at Great Yarmouth, and served there for five years, till July, 1916, when he was appointed senior medical officer of the battle-cruiser H.M.S. *Princess Royal*, receiving the medals granted for service in the recent great war.

Lieut.-Colonel Jerome William Morgan, R.A.M.C. (ret.), died at Seend, Wilts, on August 26th, aged 85. He was born on June 27th, 1844, and was educated in Dublin, where he took the L.R.C.S.I. in 1865 and the L.K.Q.C.P. in the following year. Entering the army as assistant surgeon on April 1st, 1867, he served in the 6th Foot, now the Royal Warwickshire Regiment, became surgeon major after twelve years' service, and retired, with an honorary step as brigade surgeon, on August 31st, 1887. He served with the 6th Foot in the Hazara campaign on the north-west frontier of India in 1868, receiving the medal with a clasp; and in the Sudan campaign in 1884, receiving the Egyptian medal and the Khedive's bronze star. He also received the thanks of the Indian Government for his services during a cholera epidemic at Peshawar in 1872.

Lieut.-Colonel James John Conway Donnati, R.A.M.C. (ret.), died at Eastbourne on September 20th, aged 71. He was born at Lisbon on June 18th, 1858, educated at King's College Hospital, and took the M.R.C.S. and L.R.C.P. Ed. in 1882. Entering the army as surgeon on February 2nd, 1884, he became lieutenant-colonel after twenty years' service, and retired on May 7th, 1913, rejoining for service in the recent war of 1914-18. He served in the Nile campaign in the Sudan in 1884-85, receiving the Egyptian medal with a clasp, and the Khedive's bronze star; also in the Sudan in 1889, when he was present at the action at Toski, and received another clasp.

Major Willis Clarence Connell, R.A.M.C., died in the British Military Hospital at Delhi on August 12th. He was educated at Toronto University, where he graduated as M.B. in 1916, subsequently becoming M.C.P.S. Ontario in 1919. He joined the R.A.M.C. as a temporary lieutenant on July 21st, 1916, became temporary captain, and, after a year's service, got a permanent commission as captain on January 24th, 1920, becoming major last year. He served in the war of 1914-18. He recently held the appointments of staff surgeon, Mhow, and of midwifery and gynaecology specialist of the Central Provinces District, India.

Major, William Henry Forsyth, D.S.O., R.A.M.C., died at Bexley, Kent, on September 17th, aged 47. He was the third son of the late Charles Forsyth, J.P., of Northside, Berwick-on-Tweed, and was educated at Edinburgh University, where he graduated as M.B. and Ch.B. in 1904, subsequently taking the D.T.M. and H. in 1910. Entering the R.A.M.C. as lieutenant on July 30th, 1906, he became major after twelve years' service. He served throughout the war of 1914-18, was twice mentioned in dispatches—in the *London Gazette* of May 20th, 1917, and December 30th, 1918—and received the D.S.O.

Universities and Colleges.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.

At the meeting of Convocation on October 8th Earl Beauchamp was elected to the vacancy in the Chancellorship caused by the death of the Earl of Rosebery.

At the September matriculation examination there were 78 successful candidates in the first division and 437 in the second division; in addition, 27 obtained the supplementary certificate for Latin.

LONDON HOSPITAL MEDICAL COLLEGE.

The following entrance scholarships have been awarded:—Scholarships in Science, £100 and £50: H. Caplin and R. Solly, equal; scholarships divided. Scholarship in Science open to students of Epsom College: J. N. Morrison. Scholarships open to students of the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge: (1) Price Scholarship in Anatomy and Physiology, £100: R. A. Jones and J. M. Vaizey, equal; scholarship divided. (2) "Freedom" Scholarship in Pathology, £100: J. P. Brock.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE.

A public lecture on medicine in the days of Shakespeare will be given by Dr. Herbert R. Spencer at University College on November 25th at 2 p.m.

UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM.

Faculty of Medicine.

The following prizes were presented to the successful candidates by Sir E. Farquhar Buzzard, Bt., K.C.V.O., M.D., F.R.C.P., on October 1st:

Peter Thompson Prize (for Anatomy) and Foyle Prize (awarded in 1928-29 for Physiology). P. J. Stoy; Arthur Foxwell Gold Medal (for Clinical Medicine—Final M.B., Ch.B. Examination) and Ingleyby Prize for Midwifery and Diseases of Women (value £10 Final M.B., Ch.B. Examination), W. C. Smallwood; Sampson Gangee Gold Medal for Surgery (Final M.B., Ch.B. Examination), C. St. Johnston; Russell Memorial Prize, E. G. Abdel-Malek. Prizes awarded by the University Clinical Board: Senior Medical Prize, Senior Surgical Prize, and Midwifery Prize (Gold Medals), W. C. Smallwood; Junior Surgical Prize (Silver Medal), G. R. Bashford.

UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL.

The following candidates have been approved at the examination indicated:

D.P.H.—J. L. Clegg, R. L. Corlett, R. W. Eldridge, A. B. Follows, B. S. Jarvis, J. C. McVittie, R. J. Ormsby, D. E. P. Pritchard, D. Regan, F. C. Speechly.

ROYAL COLLEGES OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS, IRELAND.

The following candidates have been approved at the examination indicated:

D.P.H.—E. J. Daly, A. B. Monks, T. V. C. Nolan, J. H. Owen-Flood.

Medical News.

FOUR lectures on "How England learned to control disease" will be given by Sir George Newman, K.C.B., at Gresham College, Basinghall Street, E.C.2, on October 15th, 16th, 17th, and 18th at 6 p.m. Admission to the lectures is free.

THE Long Fox Memorial Lecture will be delivered in the Physiological Lecture Theatre of the University of Bristol by Mr. A. Rendle Short, M.D., F.R.C.S., on Tuesday, October 22nd, at 8.30 p.m.; the subject will be ten years' progress in surgical treatment.

SIR LEONARD ROGERS will deliver the inaugural address to the Abernethian Society of St. Bartholomew's Hospital on the evening of Thursday, October 24th. His subject is "Climate and disease: forecasting epidemics in connexion with small-pox, cholera, and plague."

THE annual dinner of past and present students of University College Hospital will be held at the Hotel Cecil on Friday, October 25th, at 7 p.m. Tickets may be obtained on application to the honorary secretaries at the Medical School.

THE Royal Microscopical Society will hold its annual pond life and general microscopical exhibition in the lecture hall and library at 20, Hanover Square, W., on Wednesday, October 16th, at 7.30 p.m.

THE annual Corporate Communion of the Guild of St. Luke will be celebrated at Grosvenor Chapel, South Audley Street, W.1, on St. Luke's Day, Friday, October 18th, at 8.15 a.m. The annual general chapter will be held the same afternoon, at 5 o'clock, at King's College, Strand. The annual service will be held in Westminster Abbey on Sunday, October 20th, at 6.30 p.m., when the Bishop of Bradford will preach; members are invited to wear academic dress and to robe in the Jerusalem Chamber, after notifying in advance the secretary of the Guild, King's College, Strand.

THE general meeting of the Guild of St. Luke, St. Cosmos, and St. Damian will be held in the Westminster Cathedral Hall, Archbishop's House, on Sunday, October 20th, immediately after High Mass in the Cathedral, which will be celebrated at 10.30 a.m. Annual reports will be received, and the officers and council will be elected.

THE opening lecture of the series on common complaints, arranged by the Fellowship of Medicine, will be delivered at the Medical Society of London, 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, W.1, on Monday, October 14th, at 5 p.m., by Dr. F. G. Chandler, whose subject will be the treatment of pulmonary tuberculosis. On the same afternoon, from 2 to 4, Dr. W. Griffith will give a clinical demonstration at St. John's Hospital for Skin Diseases (Leicester Square); on October 17th Mr. McAndrew will give a demonstration at the Samaritan Hospital for Women at 2.30 p.m. Both demonstrations, as well as the lecture, are free to medical practitioners. The series of sixteen lectures arranged for M.R.C.P. candidates will begin on October 15th, and will continue until December 6th. The lectures are given on Tuesdays and Fridays at 8.30 p.m. at the Medical Society of London. From October 14th to 26th a morning course will be held at the Hospital for Sick Children, and a course in gynaecology at the Chelsea Hospital. There will be an intensive course at the Central London Throat, Nose and Ear Hospital from October 14th to November 2nd, comprising operative and pathological classes. An intensive course in medicine, surgery, and the specialties will continue at the Metropolitan Hospital from October 21st to November 2nd. Copies of all syllabuses, information regarding the general course of work at the associated hospitals, and specimen copies of the *Post-Graduate Medical Journal* may be obtained from the secretary of the Fellowship, 1, Wimpole Street, W.1.

THE fourth of a series of dances in aid of the Royal Medical Benevolent Fund Guild will be held in the Great Hall of the British Medical Association, Tavistock Square, W.C.1, on October 31st, from 8.30 to 12.30. Tickets, price 11s. double and 6s. single, may be obtained from Miss English, 82, Brook Street, W.1; Mrs. G. A. Ewart, 25a, Norfolk Crescent, Hyde Park, W.2, and Mr. H. Ferguson, St. George's Hospital, S.W. Application for bridge tables should be addressed to Mrs. Harold Barwell, 39, Queen Anne Street, W.1.

THE international congress of cancer research will be held at Barcelona from October 28th to 30th. The international congress of microbiology, which was to have taken place this month, has been postponed until next July.

UNDER the auspices of the National Council for Mental Hygiene, in association with the joint committee of the National Council for Mental Hygiene and the Tavistock Square Clinic, a conference on mental health will be held at the Central Hall, Westminster, from October 30th to November 2nd. The subjects for general discussion will be:

sex education, the personal equation in industry, child and parent, and delinquency; in addition, magistrates and probation officers will hold a group discussion on the working of the juvenile courts, public health nurses and social workers on the relation of their work to the mental health of the community, and parents and teachers on the problem child at home and in school. The cost of an inclusive ticket (to cover the whole conference) is 7s. 6d., for a single session 2s., and for a single group discussion 1s. Further particulars may be obtained from the secretary, National Council for Mental Hygiene, 78, Chandos House, Palmer Street, S.W.1.

THE KING has granted permission to Sir Charles H. Bedford, D.C.L., LL.D., M.D., D.Sc., Lieut.-Colonel I.M.S. (retired), to accept and wear the Insignia of Knight Grand Cross of the Order of Civil Merit of Spain, bestowed upon him by H.M. the King of Spain for specially distinguished services.

THE offertory at the Liverpool annual medical service in the Cathedral on October 13th, at 3 p.m., will be in aid of the Royal Medical Benevolent Fund. The preacher will be the Bishop of Derby, and the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress will be present. Medical practitioners and their friends are cordially invited to attend. Tickets may be obtained from Dr. R. Kennon, 28, Rodney Street, Liverpool.

ON October 6th the staff of the Public Health Office of the Blackpool Corporation presented Dr. E. W. Rees-Jones, medical officer of health for Blackpool, with a gold hunter watch suitably inscribed, in recognition of the services he had rendered during his twenty-one years of office. On the same day Dr. Rees-Jones was the recipient of a presentation from the nursing staff at the sanatorium, Talbot Road.

THE London School of Dermatology commenced its winter session last week with a lecture on "The rise and progress of dermatology," delivered by Dr. James H. Stowers at St. John's Hospital for Diseases of the Skin, Leicester Square. Lectures will be given every Tuesday and Thursday throughout the winter months.

AT a meeting of the Society of Public Analysts on October 2nd H. E. Cox, M.Sc., Ph.D., read a paper on chemical tests in relation to fur dermatitis. He stated that paraphenylenediamine, the intermediate most frequently used in the process of dyeing furs, was also the most toxic, and expressed the view that the so-called Bandrowski's base was not a fast final product; it was, he said, easily reduced, re-forming p-phenylenediamine, and so might be an indirect cause of irritation. In the *British Medical Journal* of June 8th (p. 1048), attention was drawn to the risk of severe dermatitis attending the use of paraphenylenediamine as a hair dye.

THE forty-fourth annual meeting of the Caledonian Medical Society was held at the residence of the medical superintendent (Dr. David Blair), County Mental Hospital, Prestwich, Manchester, on October 4th, under the presidency of Dr. D. Sage Sutherland. The president took as the subject of his address the journey of Johnson and Boswell through Scotland *en route* to the Hebrides in 1773, referring especially to that part of it which lay through the county of Inverness. A number of books of interest in connexion with the subject were on view. A vote of thanks was proposed by Dr. W. E. Henderson (Windermere). The annual dinner took place the same evening at the Queen's Hotel, Manchester, with Dr. Sutherland in the chair. The speakers included Judge Leigh, Mr. A. H. Burgess (President of the British Medical Association), Mr. Harry Platt, Dr. Cameron Blair, and Dr. Corsar Starrock. On the next morning visits were paid to places of interest in the city, such as the Ryland Library and Chetham's Hospital, and in the afternoon members enjoyed a drive through Knutsford and the Gaskell country to Alderley Edge, where they were hospitably entertained by Professor and Mrs. A. Donald.

DR. G. STUART, Colonial Medical Services, has been awarded the North Persian Forces Memorial Medal for 1928 for his paper on "The serological diagnosis of the enterica by the method of qualitative receptor analysis," written in conjunction with Dr. K. S. Krikorian, and published in the *Journal of Hygiene*, November 26th, 1928, p. 105. This medal is awarded annually for the best paper on tropical medicine or hygiene published in any journal during the preceding twelve months by a medical officer, of under twelve years' service, of the Royal Navy, Royal Army Medical Corps, Royal Air Force, Indian Medical Service, or of the Colonial Medical Service.

COUNT WLADISLAUS SEMSEY, one of the richest magnates in Hungary, has presented 300 milligrams of radium to the Hungarian Minister of Public Health for the treatment of cancer.

DR. LOUIS DAVRAIGNE, head of the maternity department of the Hôpital Lariboisière, Paris, has been nominated the successor of Dr. Jules Comby in the presidency of the Pierre Budin Foundation of Puericulture.