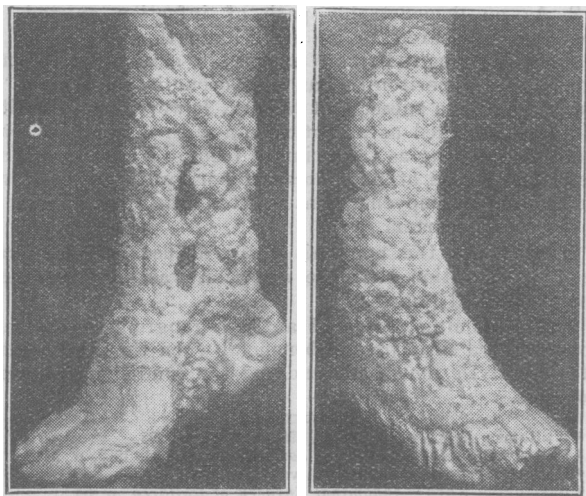


Memoranda: MEDICAL, SURGICAL, OBSTETRICAL.

HYPERTROPHIC TUMOUR OF THE SKIN OF THE LEG ARISING IN A CHRONIC VARICOSE ULCER.

The following case seems to be of sufficient surgical interest to warrant publication.

The patient, a plethoric woman aged 62, the mother of twelve children, had suffered from varicose veins in both legs practically all her adult life. Twenty-five years ago, during her ninth pregnancy, a vein burst on the inner side of the right leg; this



was followed by a large weeping varicose ulcer over the site of the ruptured vein, which since that time had never healed completely. It was treated by hot lint and various ointment applications.

Twelve years ago an ulcer broke out on the left leg, and the ulcer on the right leg became very painful and irritating. She attended the out-patient department of a hospital in London and had Lassar's paste applied weekly. The ulcer on the left leg healed completely, but that on the right leg was only alleviated. Since then she had been treated by her own doctor by hot lint applications.

Nine months ago the ulcer became very painful, irritating, and offensive; at the same time warty growths began to appear round its edges; these extended fairly rapidly in all directions, and bled easily on the slightest injury. The patient has been unable to put the foot to the ground for the last nine months.

On admission to hospital there was a very extensive hard, nodulated growth extending round the whole circumference of the right leg, in the calf, and on to the dorsum of the foot. On the inner surface of the leg were two ulcers extending down to the bone—the site of the original ulcer. The growth was hard, nodular, and friable, bleeding when disturbed. No glands were palpable either in the popliteal space or in the groins. There was a scar of a healed ulcer on the inner side of the left leg and numerous varicose veins. A radiogram showed periostitis of the right tibia and fibula over the site of the tumour. The leg was amputated and healed normally.

The pathological report of a section of the tumour described it as being a papillomatous growth with much round-celled infiltration, but no definite signs of malignancy.

W. DONALD BEDFORD, M.B., Ch.B.,
Resident Surgical Officer, Hertford County
Hospital.

SLOUGHING OF UTERUS AFTER COMPLETE INVERSION.

The following case of complete inversion of the uterus may be worth recording in view of its very unusual features.

A married woman, aged 32, under the care of a certified midwife, was delivered of her third child after an uneventful labour of six hours on July 10th. She described her puerperium as normal, but admitted that the "lochia" discharge had continued for eighteen days, and that she had become very constipated. She got up on the tenth day feeling quite fit.

On the eighteenth day after her confinement she suddenly discovered that she could not pass water, and on attempting to open her bowels she felt a large mass pass per vaginam.

When she arrived in hospital she appeared pale and somewhat shocked, but she felt no pain. Her pulse was 100, and her temperature 99.6°. She had felt the mass pass through the vagina about two hours before. Previous to that, on the same day, she had attended church and carried out her ordinary duties.

On examination, the uterus, the size of a four months' pregnancy, was seen to be completely inverted and lying outside the vagina. The exposed surface was smooth, shining, greyish in colour, and showed signs of sloughing, accompanied by a strong faecal odour. The openings of the Fallopian tubes were quite obvious. The bladder was distended.

Under a general anaesthetic the uterus was thoroughly cleansed with biniodide solution and saline, and the bladder catheterized. An attempt was then made to reduce the inversion; on this being found to be impossible the uterus, in its inverted state, was pushed back into the vagina, and the vagina packed with gauze wrung out of biniodide solution. The condition of the patient and the gangrenous state of the uterus did not allow of anything else being done then.

Subsequent treatment consisted of vaginal douches of biniodide solution three times daily. A profuse purulent vaginal discharge was present from the first. The temperature continued at 100° for ten days, and then gradually came down to normal. On the eighth day after admission a large gangrenous mass came away from the vagina, which practically corresponded to the whole of the uterus, except for the cervix. From that day the discharge gradually diminished. There was no haemorrhage whatsoever at any time in the course of the illness. On August 30th, five weeks after admittance to hospital, she was discharged quite well.

On examination per vaginam the remains of the cervix, slightly patent, could be felt *in situ* and the pelvic floor in good condition.

This case presents the following very unusual features:

1. The uterus must have become inverted shortly after labour, yet, presenting no signs other than constipation and the continuous red "lochia" discharge, the inversion was not discovered until eighteen days after delivery.

2. Shock was entirely absent until the uterus protruded through the vagina.

3. The case showed little or no signs of actual septic absorption.

4. Sloughing of the uterus, with uneventful recovery.

I am indebted to Dr. Richmond for permission to report this case.

ALEX. WOOD, M.B., Ch.B.,
House-Surgeon, Rochdale Infirmary.

Reports of Societies.

MINOR INJURIES OF THE ELBOW-JOINT.

At a meeting of the Section of Orthopaedics of the Royal Society of Medicine, on December 3rd, a discussion was held on minor injuries of the elbow-joint. Mr. D. MACRAE AITKEN presided.

Mr. W. H. OGILVIE gave a detailed description of the structure and mechanism of the joint; anatomists defined it as a hinge, and omitted those dissertations on function which lent life to similar studies of the knee or hip. The mechanism of the elbow-joint was identical with that which allowed the eye to move in its bony socket, and by a series of synovial fringes Nature had overcome the problem of the sharp edge. The elbow was primarily designed for use in positions between 110 and 170 degrees of extension, and between half and three-quarter pronation; the pronation position was that in which the forearm was held in all common positions of the arm, and provided the only logical explanation of the carrying angle of the elbow. The position of full extension and full supination in which the carrying angle became obvious was a wholly artificial one; the purpose of the carrying angle was to allow the radius to lie in the long axis of the humerus. The position of rest for the elbow was one of slight flexion and rather more than half pronation. The majority of injuries seen in the elbow were due to indirect violence, but, in addition, the elbow region was exposed to direct violence by falls or by blows on the arm raised in self-defence. After illustrating a number of injuries, Mr. Ogilvie spoke in particular of tennis-elbow, the clinical features of which were well recognized. This condition was found in followers of those trades and sports in which the arm was jerked rapidly into full extension while the hand grasped some large instrument. The onset was rarely sudden; the condition became progressively worse with the use of the arm, and an additional symptom was momentary inhibition on lifting small objects such as a teacup. In most cases there was no swelling or other alteration in the contour of the joint, and the x-ray picture was negative. A common clinical type was due to tearing of muscle fibres at their origin from the bone, with, in some cases, separation of the periosteum; but sometimes tennis-elbow could

that they would have any material effect on the present practice as regards pensions awards in the Army and Air Force, which followed closely the recommendations of the committee. In the Navy certain new rules were adopted in advance of the report of the committee, and under these rules a large proportion of men now invalided for pulmonary tuberculosis were allowed pensions under the attributable scale.

Cosham Hospital Inquiry.—On December 9th Mr. F. O. ROBERTS told Mr. Shillaker that he had received the report of the committee of inquiry into the Cosham Hospital and its administration. He had caused the report to be printed, and it would be available for members on December 10th.

Duties of the Board of Control regarding Pauper Mental Patients.—In a long statement to Major Glyn, on December 5th, regarding pauper lunatics Mr. GREENWOOD said that the powers and duties of the Board of Control in the case of mental patients on out-relief were limited to obtaining a return from the Poor Law authorities, and in the case of lunatics in Poor Law institutions to paying periodic visits. As regarded patients detained in county and borough mental hospitals the Board of Control examined the documents upon which these patients were received and detained and considered periodic medical reports. The Board also visited these institutions, and had general supervision over arrangements for care of the patients.

Detection of Gas in Mines.—Replying to Mr. Tom Williams, on December 4th, Mr. BEN TURNER said there had been eleven explosions in mines this year; in these twenty-eight persons lost their lives. So far as he was aware the only gas detector in use at the mines concerned was the flame safety lamp. It was unlikely that the use of a different gas detector would have prevented these explosions, six of which originated at open lights. Gas detectors other than flame safety lamps were in an early stage of development, and experience was not yet sufficient to judge their reliability and practical value as compared with the flame safety lamp.

District Medical Officers and the Local Government Act, 1929.—On December 5th Mr. DOUGLAS HACKING asked if Mr. Greenwood would take steps to prevent members of town councils who were also district medical officers under boards of guardians being included on Health Committees of boroughs for 1930, and whether such persons would be prevented from taking part in the setting up of Public Assistance Committees when they were actually paid servants of the Ministry of Health. Mr. GREENWOOD said that as the law stood district medical officers under the Poor Law who were transferred to county councils and county boroughs under the Local Government Act, 1929, would be automatically disqualified from membership of the council to which they were transferred.

Contagious Abortion in Cattle.—Dr. FREMANTLE addressed a question to Dr. Addison, on December 5th, concerning contagious abortion in cattle. Dr. ADDISON replied that in herds where the percentage of infection was not high the Ministry of Agriculture recommended that the disease should be controlled by hygienic methods and the agglutination test for the detection of infected animals. In herds where infection was heavy the Ministry advised the immunization of all non-pregnant animals with the live vaccine, which had been issued from the Ministry's laboratory since 1912, and was in demand. The disease did not lend itself to legislative control. Dr. FREMANTLE asked whether these methods had increased or reduced the incidence of the disease. Dr. ADDISON asked for further notice of this.

Notes in Brief.

Mr. Greenwood hopes the report of the Committee on Refuse Collection and Disposal will shortly be published.

The Minister of Transport has asked the London Traffic Advisory Committee to consider the advisability of making a regulation prohibiting the sounding of motor horns in residential areas of London between midnight and 5 a.m.

In 1926 the number of persons killed in Scotland by accidents caused by mechanically propelled vehicles other than tramcars and trackless trolley vehicles was 505; in 1927 it was 544; and in 1928, 576.

The Government proposes to introduce a bill amending the Children Act, 1908, and will bear in mind the proposal to extend the age of young offenders to 21.

Mr. Greenwood proposes to take no action concerning pharmacists in the Poor Law service in view of the changes which would take place when the Local Government Act, 1929, came into operation.

Universities and Colleges.

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD.

THE George Herbert Hunt Travelling Scholarship is awarded without examination every second year to a graduate in medicine of the University (of either sex) who has not exceeded five years from the date of passing the final examination for the B.M. degree. The scholarship is of the value of £100, or such smaller sum as two years of the income of the fund provides. Candidates are required to submit with their applications a statement of their academic record, together with testimonials (five copies) and an

undertaking that, if elected, they will travel abroad for a period of not less than three months for the purpose of clinical study or research in medicine. In making the award a preference is given to such candidates as express the intention of engaging in the practice of their profession, either as surgeons or general practitioners. The scholar is required to complete his period of travel within twelve months from his election, and within a reasonable period thereafter to submit to the Dean of the School of Medicine a detailed report of his tenure of the scholarship. The next election will be made in April, 1930. Candidates must send their applications to the Dean of the School of Medicine, University Museum, Oxford, on or before February 11th, 1930.

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE.

At a congregation held on December 6th the following medical degrees were conferred:

M.D.—W. T. Harnett, K. E. Harris, J. D. M. Stewart, R. A. Hickling.
B.CHIR.—W. E. Mashiter, C. G. Townsend.

* Admitted by proxy.

UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL.

THE following candidates have been approved at the examinations indicated:

M.D.—W. A. Gornall.

FINAL M.B., CH.B. (Part I, including Forensic Medicine and Toxicology).—J. S. Adamson, T. A. Barnabas, J. E. Brown, H. L. Cleave (with distinction in Forensic Medicine and Toxicology), J. L. S. Coulter (with distinction in Materia Medica, Pharmacy, Pharmacology, and Therapeutics), C. J. N. Davis, F. W. A. Fosbery, L. R. Jordan (with distinction in Pathology), J. A. Kersley, R. H. Moore, Elizabeth S. G. Owen, C. N. Royal, W. A. F. Taylor; (in Part I only) L. P. Ashton. (Part II): J. J. J. Giraldo (with second-class honours), J. E. Newton, N. C. Tanner. (In Group I, completing examination): N. L. Price. (In Group II, completing examination): N. D. Gerrish, Mabel F. Potter. (In Group II only): R. M. Norman.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF EDINBURGH.

THE annual meeting of the Royal College of Physicians was held on December 5th. Sir Norman Walker was elected President, Dr. Robert A. Fleming was nominated Vice-President, and the following were elected members of Council for the ensuing year: Dr. G. Lovell Gulland, C.M.G., Dr. John Orr, Dr. William Fordyce, Dr. Edwin Bramwell, and Dr. Fergus Hewat.

At the extraordinary meeting which followed Dr. John Orr and Dr. W. Fordyce were elected representatives of the College on the Board of Management of the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh.

ROYAL FACULTY OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS OF GLASGOW.

THE following have been admitted Fellows of Faculty: A. M. Clark, M.C., J. Ferguson, W. D. H. Stevenson, Rosie Swamikan.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF IRELAND.

THE following have been admitted Licentiates in Medicine and Midwifery: M. J. Duffy, A. E. Flannery, T. J. Harkin, G. J. Harrison, J. Lennon, P. B. McCarthy, T. McCarthy, T. J. A. M'Hugh, P. M'Inerney, W. H. Peirce, F. O'C. Walsh, J. R. H. Weir.

The President (Dr. W. A. Winter) has been unanimously nominated to represent the College as a member of the executive council of the Queen's Institute of District Nursing in Ireland for a period of three years.

SOCIETY OF APOTHECARIES OF LONDON.

THE following candidates have been approved at the examination indicated:

MASTER OF MIDWIFERY.—Lily A. Baker, N. R. Mucadam, W. G. Richards, G. C. Soutter.

The Services.

No. 14 STATIONARY HOSPITAL.

THE tenth annual dinner of the No. 14 Stationary Hospital was held at the Trocadero Restaurant, London, on December 6th. In the absence of Colonel C. R. Evans, D.S.O., the chair was taken by Lieut.-Colonel J. R. Harper, C.B.E., who proposed the toast of "The Hospital," and commented on the pleasure caused by these annual reunions. Colonel J. S. Warrack replied. Dr. H. L. Tidy, the organizer of the dinner, contributed information about members of the hospital staff who had been prevented from being present, and thus started the usual flow of reminiscences which Colonel Michael Foster, O.B.E., and others continued. In view of the high percentage of the surviving members of the staff who had attended the dinner during the last ten years, it was agreed that the future prospects of these reunions were bright.

Medical News.

SIR E. FARQUHAR BUZZARD will deliver the Purvis Oration before the West Kent Medico-Chirurgical Society in the Nurses' Lecture Room, Miller General Hospital, Greenwich, to-day (Friday), at 8.45 p.m.; the subject is "The dumping-ground of neurasthenia."

THE seventh and last lecture of the People's League of Health new series on racial and individual welfare will be delivered to-day (Friday, December 13th) at the House of the Medical Society of London, Chandos Street, W., at 6 p.m., by Dr. R. O. Moon; his subject is "The British contribution to medicine."

A MEETING of the Royal Microscopical Society will be held at 20, Hanover Square, W.1, on Wednesday, December 13th, when Mr. F. V. Welch, F.R.M.S., will read a paper on a microscope lamp, and the president, Mr. J. E. Barnard, F.R.S., will contribute a note on dark-ground illumination.

A THREE months' course of lectures and demonstrations on clinical practice and in hospital administration will be given at the North-Eastern Hospital of the Metropolitan Asylums Board, St. Ann's Road, Tottenham, N.15, by the medical superintendent, Dr. F. H. Thomson, on Mondays and Wednesdays at 4.45 p.m., and alternative Saturdays at 11 a.m., beginning on Monday, January 6th, 1930. The fee for the course, which complies with the requirements of the revised regulations, is £4 4s. A course under the old regulations may be taken for £3 3s. Applications, enclosing cheques made payable to the Metropolitan Asylums Board, should be addressed to the Clerk of the Board, Victoria Embankment, E.C.4.

IN connexion with the Yorkshire Council of the British Empire Cancer Campaign and the Clinical Medical Studies Committee of the Faculty of Medicine, a lecture on intrathoracic and pulmonary new growths was given on December 3rd at the University of Sheffield by Dr. Maurice Davidson, physician and dean of the Medical School, Brompton Hospital, London. The lecturer referred to the undoubted increase of malignant disease affecting this region during recent years. He quoted statistics showing that such increase had been observed in various parts of Europe with surprising uniformity. The lecture dealt primarily with the clinical aspects of the subject, and was illustrated by a large number of specimens and radiograms. There was a large attendance of practitioners, and the lecture was greatly appreciated.

AT the eighth annual meeting of the Scottish Women's Hospital Association, held at the Royal Free Hospital on December 3rd, H.R.H. the Duchess of York as president received purses amounting to £6,285 for a scheme to commemorate heroic Scotswomen. The association, which worked in most of the fields of operation during the war, has raised the money to build and equip a new ward in the maternity wing of the Royal Free Hospital and a maternity centre at Islington named after the Duchess of York. Each bed will be named after a unit or after a member who gave her life in service; one will bear the inscription "In proud memory of Dr. Elsie Maud Inglis, founder of the Scottish Women's Hospitals in the Great War, who gave her life in devoted service in Serbia in 1917." The Duchess of York presented to Lord Riddell, president of the hospital, three name plates, one each for the Edith Palliser bed and the Serbian Units bed respectively, and the third to be affixed to an operating table given by the Royaumont Association, which was the first of these hospital units to take the field. On the motion of Lady Barrett, seconded by Miss Frances Ivens, it was agreed that, having completed the memorial, the association should in future be known as the Royal Free Hospital Scottish Women's Hospitals Memorial Association, and should endeavour to provide annual maintenance for the eight memorial beds.

AT a meeting of the president and trustees of the North Staffordshire Royal Infirmary, on December 3rd, it was announced that the late Miss Dora Twyford, of Whitmore Hall, near Newcastle, Staffs, had left £50,000 from her residuary estate to the infirmary. When Miss Twyford died, some five years ago, she bequeathed £12,000 to the infirmary for a new wing in memory of her father and mother.

THE report presented to the annual meeting of the Royal Surgical Aid Society, held at the Mansion House on December 3rd, showed that the total income had been £56,679. The expenditure amounted to £55,678, of which £46,917 had been spent on surgical appliances. During the year assistance had been given to 29,262 cases and 40,254 surgical appliances supplied, making the grand total since the formation of the society in 1862 of 908,431 and 1,353,831 respectively. Special grants had been made in cases where patients were unable to procure the requisite number of letters; in that way 7,644

letters had been bestowed during the year. The report referred to the very serious loss the society had sustained by the recent death of Mr. T. H. Openshaw, who had been associated with it for thirty years.

THE annual report of Livingstone College for the year 1928-29 contains an account of the annual meeting in June, to which reference was made in our column on June 29th (p. 1183). Emphasis is laid on the value to missionary societies of the useful training in health preservation and the treatment of minor disorders which is provided for those proceeding overseas to take up missionary work in remote districts; letters from China, India, and Africa are reproduced, illustrating how this instruction has proved beneficial in emergencies. During the year under review twenty-three missionary organizations and seven nationalities were represented by fifty-nine students, who took either the full or shorter courses. Receipts exceeded expenditure during the year, and the deficit was reduced by £117. It was, however, necessary to postpone certain needed repairs and improvements, and more liberal subscriptions and donations are urgently desired.

By issuing *Clean Air*, a new quarterly journal, the National Smoke Abatement Society adds "still one more magazine to the thousands which are poured out from the presses every day, week, month, or quarter," but the first devoted to the cause for which the society exists. In the opening number are printed messages of congratulation from persons eminent in politics and science, and articles on domestic heating and the use and development of gas and electricity in industry. The annual subscription, payable to the Editor, *Clean Air*, 23, King Street, Manchester, is 2s. 6d.; single copies may be obtained at the price of 1s.

A SOCIETY of parasitology has been founded at Leningrad, under the presidency of Professor E. N. Pavlovsky of the Military Academy of Medicine.

A PARACELSUS SOCIETY has recently been founded at Munich, with Professor Karl Sudhoff as president of honour.

PROFESSOR OTTO GANS of Heidelberg has been made a corresponding member of the Società Italiana di Dermatologia e Sifilografia; Dr. August Siegrist, professor of ophthalmology at Berlin, an honorary member of the Société Française d'Ophtalmologie; Professor Weygandt of Hamburg, an honorary member of the Section of Psychiatry of the Royal Society of Medicine; and Dr. Memmesheimer, director of the university skin clinic at Tübingen, an honorary member of the London Dermatological Society.

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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QUERIES AND ANSWERS.

THE PLOMBIÈRES DOUCHE IN CHRONIC CONSTIPATION.

"J. D." asks: Would any of your readers be kind enough to let me know his experience in the use of the Plombières douche for chronic constipation? Is it injurious? Is it efficient in re-educating the intestine and developing the daily rhythmic peristaltic movement of the intestine?