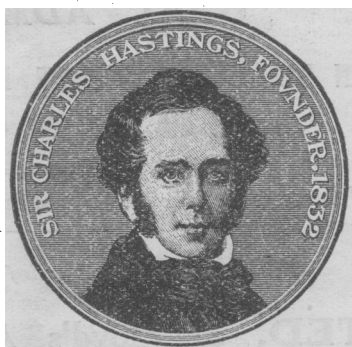


The

British Medical Journal

THE JOURNAL OF THE BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.



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[REGISTERED AS A NEWSPAPER

Memoranda:

MEDICAL, SURGICAL, OBSTETRICAL.

TWO CASES OF INTESTINAL OBSTRUCTION.

THE following two cases of intestinal obstruction are of interest owing to the similarity in the pathological condition and the very dissimilar effect produced by the same cause. The cases are also remarkable in view of the ages of the patients and the success which followed operative intervention.

CASE I.

An unmarried woman, aged 81, was seen by me on the morning of October 27th, 1928. The history given was that for three days she had been vomiting, with severe griping pains on the left side of the abdomen. The patient was collapsed, the pulse rate being 160. The vomits had become faecal. Abdominal examination revealed an acute strangulated femoral hernia, and a marked swelling on the left side of the abdomen showing dullness up to the level of the umbilicus. I persuaded the relatives to allow me to transfer the patient to a nursing home for operation. Under light oxygen and ether anaesthesia I relieved the strangulation, and replaced the bowel without much difficulty, the patient making an uneventful recovery. Three weeks later I performed a laparotomy, removing a large ovarian cyst; at the same time I repaired the femoral opening. The post-operative period was normal. The hernia was undoubtedly due to the pressure of the cyst. The patient is quite well now, and able to perform her household duties; she has just returned from her seaside holiday.

CASE II.

The second patient was a married woman, aged 78, whom I was called to see on August 7th, 1929. She gave a history of not having had her bowels opened for four days, although enemas had been tried. She was vomiting, and had intense pain and a sensation of fullness all over the abdomen. The temperature was 100.2° F., the pulse 115. The abdomen

was tympanitic and distended, chiefly centrally; over the right iliac region there was dullness. The patient informed me that for twenty years she had had a sense of fullness on the right side. I operated next morning, and found that she had a right ovarian cyst held down in the pelvis by peritoneal bands. A loop of ileum had slipped in between two of these bands and become strangulated. The bowel was found to be quite viable when its strangulation had been reduced. I performed ovariectomy; the cyst was one of the largest I have ever removed. The patient made an uninterrupted recovery, and has just returned from a holiday.

In the treatment of both cases I have been much indebted to the skilled assistance of my colleague Dr. G. M. Anderson.

R. G. CLEMENTS, M.D., D.P.H.,
F.R.C.S. Ed.

Manchester.

PERFORATION OF DUODENAL ULCER WHEN FLYING.

THE case recorded below is peculiar for the following reasons: (a) the symptoms of perforation came on suddenly when the patient was at rest; (b) this is perhaps the first recorded case of any similar abdominal emergency when flying.

At Reykjavik on June 30th, a corporal in the Royal Air Force, aged 30, developed acute abdominal pain when at an altitude of about 2,000 feet in H.M. Flying Boat *Iris*. The machine was immediately brought to the water and medical assistance sought from H.M.S. *Rodney*, to which ship the patient was transferred without delay. He gave a history of dyspepsia extending over several years, and his clinical condition was typical of perforation of an abdominal viscus. The immediate operation performed was suture of a perforation of the duodenum, and it presented no peculiarity worthy of note. Convalescence was uneventful.

H.M.S. *Rodney*.

F. TWIGG,
Surgeon Commander R.N.

Reports of Societies.

TREATMENT OF CHRONIC INFECTIONS

At a meeting of the Section of Therapeutics of the Royal Society of Medicine, on October 14th, Dr. PHILIP HAMILL took the chair and delivered his presidential address on the treatment of chronic infections. He said that it was now realized that low-grade infections, with or without exacerbations, were responsible for much ill-health. It was difficult to diagnose the nature of these infections, since many organisms might be recovered from a lesion, and it was not easy to say which, if any, were to blame and which were secondary infecting agents. The aim of treatment was to render the site unsuitable for the growth of organisms, to remove toxins, to attempt to apply preparations toxic to the organism but not to the body, and to raise the resistance of the patient.

As far as protozoal infections were concerned, a high degree of therapeutic success had been obtained by the use of arsenic, antimony, bismuth, and benzidine derivatives. He would be interested to know how much the malaria treatment of general paralysis of the insane depended on the rise of temperature produced. Recently good results had been reported from a rise of temperature induced by diathermy; if these were substantiated this form of treatment was likely to prove highly valuable. An analogous use of diathermy was found in the treatment of gonococcal cervicitis, where it was possible to cause a local rise of temperature above the thermal death point of the organism without injury to the tissues of the patient. In the bacterial infections chemotherapy was of less value; here the organisms were on the surface, or in cavities communicating with the surface. Powerful antiseptics were apt to damage the tissues, and in any case it was difficult to secure the prolonged and intimate contact between the drug and the organism which was essential for success. In addition, many antiseptics were inactivated by serum or discharges; flavine was an exception, but for some

reason its use had decreased of late years. The chief objection seemed to be the staining of the tissues, which made it unpopular with patients, but cosmetic disadvantages should not be allowed to outweigh therapeutic advantages. In some situations the question of time could be solved by the application of ointments and plasters, and in other sites tampons could be used.

Dr. Hamill explained that he would pass over infections of the eye and mouth because they had received so much attention in the past; in the nose and ear the difficulties of treatment were partly mechanical. It was not easy to obtain free drainage, and although the mastoid antrum could be obliterated this was not always possible with other cavities. Some surgeons advocated packing the nasal sinuses with silver protein preparations for an hour or more, but though good results were claimed by some, others condemned the method as useless; probably the truth lay somewhere between these two extremes of opinion. Ionization with zinc was used fairly extensively in children's clinics, but the technique was difficult to apply in the nose; although this method was becoming more extensively used there was no indication that it was being adopted as rapidly as would be the case if it were an infallible remedy. It would be interesting to know whether the action was thought to be on the organism, or whether the results depended on a stimulation of the epithelium. Ultra-violet light treatment had also been recommended for the nose, and radium had been used as an epithelial stimulant. Chloramine was used by a few, and he would like to know whether there were objections to its use. In the lung much had been done to cure chronic infection by the use of surgical measures; collapse of the lung by pneumothorax or by phrenicotomy had been of great value in bronchiectasis. Essential oils, notably creosote, had a marked effect in diminishing sputum, though it was difficult to understand the mechanism by which it acted, considering how small the amount of oil must be which was secreted by the bronchial mucosa. Infection of the biliary tract could be much improved by repeated doses of magnesium sulphate to induce drainage; discomfort was rapidly relieved by

Universities and Colleges.

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD.

At a congregation held on October 16th the following medical degrees were conferred:

D.M.—Janet M. Vaughan.
B.M.—Amy C. E. Clarke, Victoria M. Robinson.

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE.

At the congregation held on October 17th the following medical degrees were conferred:

M.D.—E. G. Holmes.
M.CHIR.—C. I. Tuckett.
M.B., B.CHIR.—A. J. Johnson, G. A. Eason, G. O. Parber.
M.B.—*W. J. H. M. Beattie, A. M. Roberts, A. H. Birks, I. J. Franklen-Evans.
B.CHIR.—*A. H. Gurney, A. F. Alsop.

* By proxy.

UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW.

A GRADUATION ceremony was held in the Bute Hall on October 18th when Dr. R. S. Rait, Principal and Vice-Chancellor, presided, and conferred degrees upon the successful candidates. The degrees of M.B. and Ch.B. were conferred upon the 69 candidates whose names were printed in our issue of October 11th (p. 623).

The Brunton Memorial Prize for the most distinguished graduate in medicine for 1930 has been awarded to J. Ferguson Heggie. The West of Scotland R.A.M.C. Memorial Prize, awarded to the candidate with the highest aggregate marks in medicine, surgery, and midwifery in the final examination for the degrees of M.B. and Ch.B. held during 1930, has been gained by William S. Mack.

In his address to the new graduates Principal Rait referred to the fact that they had graduated on St. Luke's Day, and spoke particularly to the medical graduates of the ideals, duties, and responsibilities of their profession.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.

Museum Demonstrations.

THE autumn course of museum demonstrations at the Royal College of Surgeons of England will commence on Monday, November 3rd, when Mr. D. H. Patey will demonstrate specimens illustrating the pathological conditions of the salivary glands. Sir Arthur Keith will give three demonstrations: on November 7th he will describe specimens of surgical interest recently added to the museum; on November 14th he will give an account of Colonel McCarrison's experiments in the production of urinary calculi, with an exhibition of his specimens; and on November 21st he will demonstrate specimens illustrating the enlargement of the prostate, with an account of present-day knowledge concerning the etiology of the condition. On November 10th and 17th Mr. Cecil P. G. Wakeley will demonstrate specimens illustrating the pathological conditions of the scalp and cranium and of the spine and spinal cord. The demonstrations, which are open to advanced students and medical practitioners, will be given in the theatre of the College, Lincoln's Inn Fields, W.C., at 5 p.m.

Annual Meeting of Fellows and Members.

A meeting of Fellows and Members will be held at the College in Lincoln's Inn Fields on Thursday, November 20th, at 3 p.m., when a report from the Council will be presented. Fellows and Members can obtain copies of the report on application to the secretary, and can, if they so desire, have their names placed on the list of those to whom the report is sent annually. Motions to be brought forward at the meeting must be signed by the mover, or by the mover and other Fellows and Members, and must be received by the secretary not later than November 10th. A copy of the agenda will be issued on or after November 14th to any Fellow or Member who applies.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF EDINBURGH.

At the meeting of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh on October 14th Dr. James Haig Ferguson was re-elected president for the ensuing year, Mr. Alexander Miles, LL.D., vice-president, and Mr. John William Struthers, F.R.C.S.Ed., secretary and treasurer.

The following 48 successful candidates (out of 106 entered), having passed the requisite examinations, were admitted Fellows:

I. Aird, F. A. Blackwood, R. H. Boyd, A. M. Calder, G. A. Cook, M. M. Dalal, W. F. de Villiers, J. B. Dobson, J. C. Drummond, J. P. Fairley, I. B. Gardiner, M. A. Gerrard, St. G. B. D. Gray, Brenda G. Hallett, A. M. Hendry, R. M. Hill, L. L. Hurwich, J. McQ. Johnston, A. S. Johnstone, R. A. Kalle, D. G. L. Lackie, R. M. Marshall, D. S. Middleton, J. R. Miller, H. G. Mitchell, H. N. Mortensen, G. Moulson, A. H. Mowat, R. P. Munshi, N. A. McCormick, D. M. Mackay, C. W. Olsen, L. R. Oliver, F. Y. Pearson, M. B. Perrin, A. Ronald, G. I. Scott, A. L. Sutherland, D. B. Sutton, J. Swan, C. F. Swinton, B. R. Tandan, R. L. Turner, G. Vaishnavi, A. Walbank, H. C. Warner, B. W. Windeyer.

CONJOINT BOARD IN SCOTLAND.

THE following candidates have been approved at the examination indicated, for which 78 candidates entered:

FINAL EXAMINATION.—Jean G. Clark, W. G. Harding, Frances K. Harding, D. McNair, R. W. van Cuijlenburg, V. Sivalingam, D. D. Steele.

Perkins, K. L. Lech, W. G. Pennington, W. P. Shand, M. K. Thiruvilangam, Y. M. E. R. Abeyesundere, M. S. Golding, W. E. S. Winn, G. Brown, J. B. D. Oliver, A. J. Abeyesundere, L. Baumann, K. C. S. Menon, J. L. K. Lawson, N. Y. Labib, H. L. Ong, M. N. Rozdon, R. T. A. Morrow, A. I. Foster, A. G. Daly.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF IRELAND.

THE annual meeting of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland was held on St. Luke's Day, October 18th. Drs. Edward Keelan, John Tait, and Frederick MacSorley were elected Fellows.

Professor T. Gillman Moorhead was elected president and Dr. William J. Dargan vice-president. The following were elected censors of the College: Medicine, Dr. Geoffrey Harvey and Dr. Robert Marshall; medical jurisprudence and hygiene, Dr. William J. Dargan; midwifery, Dr. Gibbon FitzGibbon.

The following officers were re-elected: Representative on the General Medical Council, Sir John Moore; treasurer, Dr. H. Bewley; registrar, Dr. T. P. C. Kirkpatrick; librarian, Mr. R. Phelps.

The representatives on the committee of management under the conjoint examination scheme were re-elected, as follows: Dr. Walter Smith, Sir John Moore, and Dr. T. P. C. Kirkpatrick.

Dr. G. E. Nesbitt presented to the College a portrait of the late Dr. H. C. Earl.

The Services.

HEALTH OF THE ROYAL AIR FORCE.

THE state of affairs described in the recently issued report on the health of the Royal Air Force for the year 1929¹ is on the whole very satisfactory. The figures relating to sickness, deaths, and invalidings from the Service are, it is true, slightly higher than those recorded in 1928, but they are still well below the averages of the two earlier periods 1921-24 and 1925-28. A heavier incidence of influenza and tonsillitis at home, and of malaria abroad, was responsible for the greater part of the increased sickness rate; on the other hand, it is satisfactory to note that the amount of venereal disease was appreciably less than in the previous year, the present rate—15 per 1,000—being the lowest so far recorded. The increased sickness rate notwithstanding, the average duration of sickness per head has undergone decided diminution, and the "constantly sick" figure—24.3 per 1,000—compares not too unfavourably with the figure—23.2—recorded in 1928. Study of a table in which the total sickness of the Force is classified into a large number of etiological groups shows that in the year under review 83.3 per cent. of the total sickness was associated with disease and 16.7 per cent. with injury. A comparison of these figures with those recorded for 1928 (81.6 and 18.4), and with the averages over the two previous periods (83.5 and 16.5, and 86.2 and 13.8 respectively), reveals a slight tendency on the part of injury to increase progressively in its proportion of the total non-effectiveness. The increase in the rate of invaliding from commands abroad to the United Kingdom—18.4 per 1,000 as against 17 per 1,000 in 1928—was largely due to cases of the enteric group sent back from Iraq; in order of frequency the diseases for which cases were transferred to the home establishment were conditions resulting from injury, the enteric group of infections, psychoneuroses, diseases of the urinary system, and pneumonia. Compared with 1928 there were decreases in the figures representing final invaliding from the Service on account of psychoneuroses, defective vision, and fractures; but increases in the numbers invalided for tuberculosis, valvular disease of the heart, chronic suppurative otitis media, and mental diseases. The final invaliding rate rose to 7.6 in 1929 from 6.2 in 1928, but still compares favourably with averages over the preceding periods. There were 72 deaths from injury compared with 97 in 1928, and in that year there were 40 deaths from disease compared with only 33 in the year under review. An investigation into the effects of fast flying and intensive aerobatics, which was completed during the year, showed that no special methods beyond those of the ordinary routine examination were required in the selection of personnel for high-speed flying, and that the rotation test employed at the Central Medical Establishment to ascertain suitability for aerobatics was as precise in its indications as the whirling arm specially designed for this purpose. It was found, also, that, though medical examinations during the period of training for high-speed flying were unnecessary, it was desirable that the training should be under medical supervision. According to the report, "black-out"—the chief

¹ Report on the Health of the Royal Air Force for the Year 1929. London: H.M. Stationery Office. 1930. 1s. 3d. net.

effect of steep banking at high speed—seems to be due to withdrawal of blood from the eye itself, and thus, beyond affecting vision, not to incapacitate the individual to a degree that would render management of the aircraft impossible. It is suggested that the dimming, or blacking-out, should be regarded by pilots as a warning not to increase these effects by turning further.

SIXTH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF MILITARY MEDICINE AND PHARMACY.

WE have just learned that the sixth International Congress of Military Medicine and Pharmacy will take place at The Hague, from June 1st to the 6th, 1931.

The subjects, in chronological order, are as follows: (1) Recruiting, establishment, and training of military surgeons and pharmacists (contributors: Holland and Jugo-Slavia). (2) The psychoneuroses of war; immediate and remote effects of war on the nervous system of soldiers and civilians (contributors: France and United States of America). (3) The treatment of haemorrhage on the battlefield; the most urgent remedies essential, and some conditions of their application (contributors: Holland and Italy). (4) The preparation and preservation of medicines in tablet form used in the medical services of the Navy and Army (contributors: Holland and Rumania). (5) The after-effects of war injuries of the teeth and the lower jaw and their treatment (contributors: Holland and Poland).

Numerous entertainments and receptions are being organized. The Hospitality Committee will arrange accommodation for those attending the congress either at The Hague or at Scheveningen, a watering place about three kilometres from The Hague, situated in beautiful surroundings. The committee of the congress is organizing at the same time a historical exhibition of the sanitary services of the sea, land, and air forces. This exhibition will include illustrations, documents, instruments, equipment, uniforms of the officers of the sanitary service, etc. All Governments have been requested to collaborate by sending exhibits to this artistic and historic display, which should be of the greatest interest. The committee in charge of the exhibition is composed of Le Médecin Principal de première classe Denekamp, Dr. de Lint, Associate Professor of the History of Medicine in the University of Leyden, le Médecin Major deuxième classe Doornickx, and Dr. Molema (Netherlands Red Cross). All inquiries should be addressed as follows: Direction du Service de Santé, Ministère de la Guerre, La Haye, Holland.

The Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve Officers' Decoration has been awarded to Surgeon Commander W. C. Macartney.

DEATHS IN THE SERVICES.

Colonel Andrew Lang Browne, late R.A.M.C., died in a nursing home on October 6th, aged 81. He was born on October 24th, 1848, the second son of the late Dr. Browne of Dundalk, graduated as M.D. in the Royal University of Ireland in 1871, and entered the Army as assistant surgeon on March 30th, 1872. He attained the rank of brigade surgeon lieutenant-colonel on July 6th, 1896, and retired on July 19th, 1899. He was promoted to colonel on the retired list from October 18th, 1902, for his services when re-employed at Warley Barracks during the South African war of 1899-1902. He also rejoined for service in England during the war of 1914-18.

Colonel Joseph Thomas Daly, Bengal Medical Service (ret.), died on June 28th, aged 68. He was born at Donnybrook, Dublin, on January 3rd, 1862, the son of James Daly, surveyor, and was educated at the Catholic University, Dublin, graduating as M.D., with honours, and M.Ch. in 1884 in the Royal University of Ireland. Entering the I.M.S. as surgeon on April 1st, 1886, he reached the rank of colonel on April 1st, 1915, and retired on April 1st, 1920. His whole service was spent in military employ. He served in the Waziristan campaign of 1894-95, on the North-West Frontier of India (medal with clasp); in China in 1900 (medal); on the North-West Frontier in the Mohmand expedition of 1908, taking part in operations in the Zakka Khel and Mohmand country (medal with clasp); and in the war of 1914-18, in Gallipoli.

Lieut.-Colonel Robert Cardwell Gunning, R.A.M.C. (ret.), died at Croydon on October 7th, aged 76. He was born at Enniskillen on October 26th, 1853, and was educated at the Ledwich School, Dublin, taking the L.R.C.S.I. and L.K.Q.C.P. in 1876. Entering the Army as surgeon on February 4th, 1877, he became lieutenant-colonel after twenty years' service, and retired on May 25th, 1904. He served in the South African war, in 1901-2, as P.M.O. of No. 22 General Hospital, and took part in operations in the Transvaal and Cape Colony, receiving the Queen's medal with four clasps. He was re-employed during the war of 1914-18, from September 24th, 1914

Medical News.

AT the opening meeting of the Section of Medicine of the Royal Society of Medicine on Tuesday, October 28th, at 5 p.m., there will be a discussion on research in clinical medicine, to be introduced by Dr. J. A. Ryle, Professor H. Francis Moore, and Dr. Helen M. Mackay. The openers will deal briefly with the natural scope and limits of clinical research and the measures, if any, which should be taken for its direction and encouragement.

THE Minister of Health will deliver the opening address at a joint conference on the problems of physical and psychological defects which will be held by the Invalid Children's Aid Association and the Central Council for the Care of Cripples on November 13th and 14th at the Drapers' Hall, Throgmorton Street, E.C. Among the subjects to be discussed are the prevention and treatment of crippling diseases and of rheumatic heart disease, the industrial outlook of the physically disabled, and the problem of the backward and difficult child. Visits are contemplated to various institutions on November 12th and 15th. For those attending the conference arrangements have been made with the railway companies in Great Britain to issue return tickets at the price of the ordinary single fare and a third (minimum fare 1s.). The conference fee is 5s. Tickets and railway vouchers may be obtained on application to either of the honorary secretaries at Carnegie House, 117, Piccadilly, W.1.

MR. V. E. NEGUS will deliver the Semon Lecture in the Barnes Hall, 1, Wimpole Street, W., on Thursday, November 6th, at 5 p.m. The chair will be taken by Mr. Frank Rose, president of the laryngological section of the Royal Society of Medicine. The subject of the lecture is "Some observations on Semon's law" (derived from evidences of comparative anatomy and physiology).

THE annual dinner of the Society of Medical Officers of Health will take place at the Piccadilly Hotel on November 13th, at 7.15 p.m. On November 14th Professor David Burns will discuss some points of contact between preventive medicine and physiology. A discussion on undulant fever will be opened at the meeting on December 19th by Mr. D. S. Rabagliati and Sir Weldon Dalrymple-Champneys. At the general meeting on January 16th, 1931, Dr. Millais Culpin will speak on neuroses and the public health. On February 20th Dr. J. A. Charles and Dr. S. H. Warren will open a discussion on bacillary dysentery in Great Britain. On April 17th Dr. Ethel Cassie and Dr. G. C. M. McGonigle will discuss the pre-school child. The meetings will take place at 1, Upper Montague Street, W.C.1, at 5 p.m.

THE new session of the Chelsea Clinical Society will open with the annual dinner at the Hotel Rembrandt, Thurloe Place, S.W., on Tuesday, October 28th, at 8 p.m. On November 18th Dr. Anthony Feiling will open a discussion on the treatment of headache, and on December 16th a discussion on the treatment of fibrositis will be opened by Dr. R. L. Jones Llewellyn. At the meeting on January 20th, 1931, there will be a discussion on the treatment of eczema, to be opened by Dr. H. MacCormac. A discussion on the treatment of glandular deficiencies will be opened by Dr. W. Langdon Brown on February 17th, and on March 17th the president of the society, Dr. F. J. McCann, will open a discussion on the treatment of menstrual irregularities. Sir Farquhar Buzzard will open a discussion on the treatment of nervous exhaustion on April 21st, and on May 10th a discussion on treatment before and after operation will be opened by Mr. Lawrence Abel.

FOUNDERS' Day at the National Hospital for Nervous Diseases, Queen Square, Bloomsbury, will be commemorated on November 5th by a short thanksgiving service at 3 p.m., when the Rev. B. G. Bouchier, Rector of St. Anne's, Soho, will give an address. During the afternoon visitors may inspect the hospital, this being the seventieth anniversary of its opening.

A SERIES of popular demonstrations, illustrating science in everyday life, is to be given at the Portland Hall, Regent Street Polytechnic, in aid of King Edward's Hospital Fund for London. The first will take place on Wednesday, October 29th, at 5.30, when Dr. Walter Clark, director of research laboratories, Kodak Ltd., will trace the development of photography, by description and demonstration, from the daguerreotype down to modern processes, including x-ray photography, colour photography, and cinematography. Later demonstrations will deal with the story of sound-production (the gramophone etc.), sound-photography (the talking film), illumination, and dyeing. For full particulars and prices of tickets application should be made to the secretary, King Edward's Hospital Fund for London, 7, Walbrook, E.C.4.

THE Fellowship of Medicine announces that special lectures for the M.R.C.P. course during this week will be delivered at the Medical Society lecture room, 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, W.1, at 8.30 p.m., on Tuesday, October 28th, by Dr. Donald Hunter (prevention of disease in industry; pathogenesis and treatment of lead poisoning), and at the same time on Friday, October 31st, by Dr. Maurice Cassidy (coronary occlusion). Tickets, price 10s. 6d. each lecture, are obtainable at lecture room. On Monday, October 27th, at 4 p.m., a free lecture will be delivered at the same place by Sir James Purves-Stewart on the diagnosis and treatment of disseminated sclerosis. A free demonstration of the injection treatment of varicose veins will be given by Mr. R. C. Ledlie at the Miller General Hospital on Thursday, October 30th, at 11 a.m. A comprehensive morning course will be held at the Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children from October 27th to November 8th. At the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital there will be an all-day course from October 27th to November 8th, and an afternoon course at the Royal Westminster Ophthalmic Hospital from October 27th to November 15th. The subjects of the November special courses are: ante-natal treatment and diagnosis; venereal diseases; medicine, surgery, and gynaecology; diseases of the chest; and proctology. Detailed copies of syllabuses and the list of 1931 special courses may be obtained from the secretary of the Fellowship, 1, Wimpole Street, W.1.

THE new courses of afternoon lectures at the Royal Institution of Great Britain, 21, Albemarle Street, W.1, will commence on Tuesday, November 4th, at 5 p.m., when Dr. C. D. Ellis, F.R.S., will deliver the first of two lectures on new aspects of radio-activity; the second lecture will be given on November 11th. On Thursdays, November 6th and 13th, at 5 p.m., Mr. J. B. S. Haldane, Fullerian Professor of Physiology, will lecture on the physiology of water. Dr. L. C. Martin, assistant professor, Technical Optics Department, Imperial College of Science, will lecture on colour vision on November 20th and 27th at 5 p.m.

THE Chadwick Trustees have issued a report of the work of three scholars whose appointments were recorded in the *Journal* of August 10th, 1929 (p. 283). Dr. Bach lectured on his results on October 23rd, and Mr. Elsby will report his findings with regard to the silica dust problem in a Chadwick public lecture to be given in London in the early part of next year. These Chadwick scholarships are tenable for one year, and are of the value of £400 each. Further information about them may be obtained from the secretary of the trustees, Mrs. Aubrey Richardson, 204, Abbey House, Westminster, S.W.1.

THE Bridge of Allan Spa, Stirlingshire, will be formally reopened on Thursday, October 30th, at noon, by Sir Humphry Rolleston, Bt., G.C.V.O.

Two nursery schools have been opened by the London County Council in East London, each having accommodation for 150 boys and girls between the ages of 2 and 5. The children will be trained to form good habits, to keep themselves clean, to be tidy, and to do things for themselves. Attractive occupations, games, exercises, and rest under healthy conditions are being provided for them. The schools are open from 8.30 a.m. to about 4 p.m.; the children remain there between those hours, lunch, dinner, and tea being provided for them at a charge of 6d. a day. Children living within about three-quarters of a mile, whose attendance at a nursery school is desirable for their healthy physical and mental development, are eligible to attend. They may be nominated for admission by the medical officer of health for the borough, head teachers of infants' schools near by, and the Council's district organizer of care committees, divisional officer, and divisional medical officer.

THE first British Empire Red Cross Conference was held in London last May; references to it appeared in our issues of May 24th (p. 968) and May 31st (p. 1015). The official report of the conference has now been published; it contains a large amount of information about the varied activities of the British Red Cross Society at home and overseas. Mention is made of the medical attention given to the pioneer settlers in Canada, India, Australia, and elsewhere; conducting of the first-aid service for the roads and for large meetings; provision of medical supplies and hospital libraries; the administration of medical institutions; establishment of the research and treatment clinic for rheumatism; organization of a blood transfusion service; and the promoting of general health education. In Canada fifty-four outpost hospitals are kept in operation by the society, while seven sanatoriums and convalescent homes have been established in Australia for the treatment of tuberculous patients and their families. More than 200 child welfare centres have been opened in India, and in the great Assam flood last year 50,000 persons were inoculated against cholera. This report may be obtained from the offices of the society, 14, Grosvenor Crescent, S.W.1.

AN international medical tour will be conducted from December 26th to January 8th, visiting Marseilles, Toulon, Hyères, Saint-Raphael, Cannes, Nice, Bordighera, Monaco, and other places of interest. Full information as to the cost of this tour and the various festivities in connexion with it may be obtained from the secretary at the Federation of the Health Resorts of France, Tavistock House (North), Tavistock Square, W.C.1.

MESSRS. H. K. LEWIS AND CO., LTD., announce for early publication: *The Treatment of Asthma*, by Dr. A. H. Douthwaite; *Stepping Stones to Surgery* (anatomy applied to surgery), by Mr. L. Bathe Rawling; and *Diseases of the Tongue*, by Mr. W. G. Spencer and Mr. Stanford Cade, being the third edition of Butlin and Spencer's work bearing the same title.

THE eighth volume of the *Guide to Current Official Statistics of the United Kingdom* provides a systematic survey of the statistics appearing in all official publications issued in 1929 by Government Departments in Great Britain and Northern Ireland. In the case of each publication an account is given of the nature of the statistics therein contained, their mode of analysis, and the time and place to which they relate. It is thus possible to discover which of the many Government publications issued each year furnishes statistics required for any particular purpose in relation to such topics as, for example, the state of the public health, unemployment, and research. The volume is printed and published by H.M. Stationery Office at the price of 1s. net.

AN article describing a method of continuous colon irrigation by Dr. T. C. Graves and Mr. D. E. Turner, which appeared in the April issue of the *Journal of Mental Science*, has now been reprinted in pamphlet form. The "Rubery Hill table," designed by the authors for facilitating such irrigation, is a modification of the Trenton table, which Dr. H. A. Cotton installed some time ago at the New Jersey State Hospital. An account is given of the way in which treatment is administered, and the value of such continuous irrigation is discussed.

AN association of members of the Chartered Society of Massage and Medical Gymnastics in private practice has published a directory giving the names, addresses, and qualifications of its members, and the work they are prepared to undertake. They have adopted regulations which pledge them to work only under the direction of a registered medical practitioner. The names in the directory are arranged according to the counties in which the members live. The price is 1s.; copies may be obtained from the secretary of the Private Practitioners' Association, Hygeia, Falmouth, Cornwall.

WE referred at length in the *Journal* of September 27th (p. 536) to the presentation by Miss Susan Lawrence, M.P., of an account of the health activities of the League of Nations. Readers may be interested to know that her speech has now been printed, and may be obtained from Messrs. G. Allen and Unwin, Ltd., price 6d.

DR. EMILE DE GRÓSZ, professor of ophthalmology at the University of Budapest, is visiting the United States, and will deliver lectures in Philadelphia, Chicago, Minneapolis, and Rochester. The American College of Surgeons, during its coming meeting in Philadelphia, will confer upon him its honorary fellowship.

THE German Society for Combating Quackery will hold its annual meeting at the Kaiser Friedrich Haus in Berlin on October 27th.

At its meeting on October 7th the Académie de Médecine, on the proposal of Professor Vincent, resolved that a note of condolence should be sent to the Royal College of Physicians on the occasion of the disaster to Rioli.

THE Alvarenga prize for 1930 has been awarded to Dr. Henry A. Harris, London, for an essay entitled "Cod-liver oil and the vitamins in relation to bone growth and rickets." The College of Physicians of Philadelphia announces that the next award of this prize, amounting to about 300 dollars, will be made on July 14th, 1931. Essays should be type-written and unsigned, but plainly marked with a motto, and accompanied by a sealed envelope having on its outside the motto of the paper, and within the name and address of the author; they must be sent to the secretary of the College, 19, South 22nd Street, Philadelphia, on or before May 21st, 1931. The successful essay will remain in the possession of the College, but with its consent may be published by the author. Rejected essays will be returned upon application within three months of the award.

PROFESSOR MAX PLANCK has succeeded Professor Harnack as president of the Kaiser Wilhelm Society for the Advancement of Sciences, Berlin.

A PAEDIATRIC society has recently been founded at Bahia, under the presidency of Dr. Martagao Gesteira.