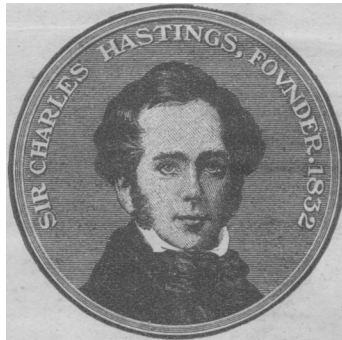


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Memoranda:

MEDICAL, SURGICAL, OBSTETRICAL.

NOCTURNAL INCONTINENCE IN CHILDREN.

THE treatment of nocturnal incontinence in children is eminently unsatisfactory. The distress of mind caused to parent and also to child as soon as it is old enough to realize its disability calls for the publication of any method of relief which has proved successful in several cases.

The time-honoured method of getting the child to empty its bladder on going to bed and of awakening it in an hour or two to pass water, of withholding all drinks after 5 or 6 p.m., and of fixing reeds to the child's back to prevent it lying supine, have in my hands proved unsuccessful. I have administered tincture of belladonna up to 30 minims three times a day on the advice of textbooks I have consulted; I have removed tonsils and adenoids and given thyroid; I have tried strychnine and arsenic. With these methods I have had no success whatever.

I have elicited the fact that children who wet the bed at night have also very irritable bladders by day. At home they are constantly running to the lavatory; at school they are constantly asking permission to leave the room. The obvious prophylaxis, then, is to bring the bladder under control. I have therefore insisted on parents training their children to empty their bladders at fixed hours. The child is not permitted, at first, to pass water for two hours, then for three hours, then for four, and so on. When the child can hold its water for four or five hours, the nocturnal incontinence disappears. The bladder becomes trained, just as the rectum can be trained to function properly.

Exeter.

J. PEREIRA GRAY.

PULMONARY GANGRENE FOLLOWING LINGUAL CARCINOMA.

IN view of the investigations which are being carried on under the auspices of the British Medical Association into the condition of cancer of the tongue, the following case, complicated by gangrene of the lungs, is not without interest.

A man, aged 44, came under my care on November 22nd, 1929, with a gummatous ulcer of the tongue of four weeks' duration; it was alleged to have been caused by the irritation of the right lower canine tooth. He was given antisyphilitic treatment. In April, 1930, it was recognized that epitheliomatous degeneration had set in, and the lesion was regarded as inoperable. The patient was by then confined to bed.

The ulcer was about the size of an almond, with heaped-up irregular edges, and situated at the right edge of the tongue about its middle. Around the ulcer the tissues were indurated. Over the surface of the tongue there were marked evidences of leucoplakia. The right submaxillary lymphatic glands were enlarged, as also were the posterior cervical glands, those on the right side being more prominent than those on the left. The tongue could not be protruded beyond the line of the teeth, which were very carious. The speech was thick and slurring. Sedatives were necessary to alleviate the pain of the ulcer. The Wassermann reaction was positive.

At 4.30 a.m. on May 15th the patient was seized with a severe coughing bout, which was accompanied by the expectoration of bright red blood. Feeling stifled, the patient began to pick bits of lung out of his mouth. The attack lasted about forty-five minutes. The chamber pot, which was shown me when I arrived, was bespattered with bright red blood, and, in addition to pieces of foul, greenish-black lung tissue, there was a single piece of lung tissue about 6 inches long and about 4 inches in its greatest breadth. It was also greenish-black in colour, parts of it being streaked with thick yellowish mucus, other parts with blood. The patient, when questioned, alleged he had picked this piece of lung tissue out of his mouth with both hands. Inadvertently the contents of the dish were burned. These findings were confirmed by Dr. M. L. M. Thomson of Heworth, co. Durham.

When I examined the patient I found he was lying in bed quite passive. His pulse was 106, and the temperature 98° F. Rales and rhonchi were scattered over the front of the chest. At 11 a.m. the patient had another profuse haemoptysis, again accompanied by the coughing up of small pieces of lung tissue. A foul odour permeated the whole room. Thereafter the patient's condition became quite passive, except for the presence of cough; the sputum, in a small receptacle, separated into three distinct

layers, there being greenish-black shreds at the bottom, above them a brownish purulent layer, and on the top a layer of mucus. The patient died on May 25th, there being no further developments prior to his death.

The chief interest in the case lies in the relatively large piece of sloughing lung tissue which came away ten days before the patient's death.

EDWARD COLLIER, M.B., Ch.B.Glas.

Felling-on-Tyne, Durham.

ECLAMPSIA WITH UNUSUAL SYMPTOMS.

THE following case illustrates the importance of determining the systolic blood pressure immediately the slightest trace of albumin appears in the urine, and the difficulty of recognizing the potential eclamptic subject.

The patient, a 2-para, aged 27, first attended the ante-natal department of the Leeds Maternity Hospital on March 21st. Nothing abnormal was noted at this or at subsequent examinations until May 30th, the thirty-second week of gestation, when the urine contained a slight trace of albumin. The patient's systolic blood pressure at this time was 142, and in the circumstances she was given advice about rest, diet, and danger signals, and told to report again in a week's time. On June 6th the amount of albumin in the urine was increased and the patient had some oedema of the ankles and a systolic blood pressure of 170. With great difficulty we persuaded her to come into hospital at once—namely, 11.30 a.m. The only facts worth recording in her previous history are that she had diphtheria at the age of 9, anaemia at 25, and had had a stillborn child with spinal bifida at full term in June, 1929.

When the patient was admitted the regimen prescribed was bed, purgation, and a diet consisting only of water. Later the same day she complained of epigastric pain and headache, and at 4.30 p.m. she suddenly had two eclamptic fits separated by an interval of fifteen minutes. Morphine 1/4 grain, atropine 1/100 grain, and veratrone 1/4 c.cm. were administered intramuscularly, and lavage of the colon was carried out. At 11.30 p.m. she had two more fits in rapid succession, and during the second fit was delivered of a stillborn female child with hare-lip and a depressed nose. The placenta was small, bluish, and friable, and infarcted in many places; the cotyledons were flattened and the membranes were intact.

The next day the patient was jaundiced. Small petechial haemorrhages were present over the abdomen and flanks, but she suffered no visual disturbances, and no enlargement or diminution of the liver was detected. Her condition gradually improved: she took fluids, passed urine, had diminished oedema, and the blood pressure came down lower each day. On the fourth day of the puerperium the jaundice was slight, the petechiae had faded, the systolic blood pressure was 148, and the patient's general condition was so much better that she was allowed a little tea and toast. The next day, however, she felt not so well, her bowels acted several times, and at midnight she had three successive eclamptic fits without regaining consciousness between. Morphine, atropine, and veratrone were given; no colonic lavage. Up to date the bowels had been acting three to seven times daily.

The following day the jaundice was more marked, the areas of petechial haemorrhage showed large blotches, and at 5.30 p.m. the patient, who had been rather restless and dazed, vomited bile-stained fluid. She passed very little urine, and the amount remained scanty. The area of liver dullness was still normal. A day later—namely, the seventh day of the puerperium—the abdomen was distended, and gradually, in spite of treatment, became more so. The systolic blood pressure was now 125. The patient gradually passed into coma, and on the eleventh day of the puerperium she died. The systolic blood pressure had fallen to 98, the coma had deepened, and the abdominal distension had persisted. Unfortunately, permission to hold a post-mortem examination was not granted. Beyond the details already mentioned the treatment consisted of the administration of diuretic drugs, turpentine enemata, and eserine, dry cupping, linseed poulticing to the loins, and the injection of intravenous saline with 5 per cent. glucose.

The point of special interest in this case is the occurrence of eclamptic fits on the fifth day of the puerperium in spite of: (a) the absence of marked oedema; (b) the fact that the urine was at no time solid with albumin (though the absence of diuresis is to be noted); (c) the steady fall in the blood pressure; and (d) the ease with which the bowels were made to act. Unfortunately we have no answer to the question: What would have happened if hospital treatment had been adopted on May 30th?

I am indebted to Mr. A. M. Claye for permission to publish this case.

HENRY R. SPARROW, M.B., B.Ch.,
Late Resident Medical Officer, Leeds
Maternity Hospital.

Universities and Colleges.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.

ANNUAL MEETING OF FELLOWS AND MEMBERS.

THE annual general meeting of the Fellows and Members of the Royal College of Surgeons was held on November 20th, the chair being taken by the President, LORD MOYNIHAN OF LEEDS. About seventy Fellows and Members attended.

THE PRESIDENT laid the annual report of the Council before the meeting, and drew attention to some of the matters reported therein. He said that the primary Fellowship examination had been again held in Canada, and next year would be held in Australia also. The first examination for the diploma in gynaecology and obstetrics had been held; there had been five candidates, of whom one had passed. Dr. E. E. Ware and Professor F. Wood Jones had been elected Fellows under Section V of the Charter. The honorary gold medal of the College had been awarded to Professor G. Elliot Smith in appreciation of his services to the Museum. The final Fellowship examination had been passed by 88 candidates, as compared with 72 last year. The Lister Memorial Lecture had been delivered by Dr. Harvey Cushing of Boston, who had at the same time unveiled a silver tablet to the memory of Sir Anthony Bowlby, erected by the medical officers of the American Expeditionary Force who had served under him in France. A sum of £4,000 had been spent on research laboratories. Thanks to the munificence of Lord Beaverbrook, Lord Melchett, and Sir Louis Baron, the College could now offer three scholarships of £500 a year each. The College, however, still required £100,000 to build and equip a surgical research institute to work in conjunction with the new laboratories, for there was at present no place in the British Empire where surgical research could be conducted.

Dr. RICHARD GILLBARD asked what sums had been received for the Membership and Fellowship examinations during the past year.

Dr. DAVID ROXBURGH thought that the result of holding examinations in Canada and Australia must be to degrade the examination. The standard of an examination was determined not by the examiners but by the candidates. It was unreasonable to hope that the standard of teaching in Australia and Canada would approach that in London. He thought the expense of sending examiners over there would be better directed to enabling candidates to come over to London for the examination.

THE PRESIDENT replied that the expenses of the Membership examination had been £18,085, leaving a balance of £5,692; the Fellowship expenses had been £6,736, leaving a balance of £2,325. The question of holding examinations in the Dominions had been very fully discussed by the Council, and they had decided that it would be to the advantage of the College and of surgery in general to hold examinations in Canada, provided that the right kind of examiner could be sent out and the right kind of machinery provided for the examination.

Representation of Members on the Council.

Dr. E. E. WARE moved the usual resolution in the following form:

That this forty-second annual meeting of Fellows and Members of the Royal College of Surgeons again affirms the desirability of admitting Members, who constitute nine-tenths of the College roll, to direct representation on the Council of the College.

That the result of the recent poll of Members resident in the United Kingdom and the Irish Free State (taken by the Society of Members in response to reply of the Council, December 12th, 1929), which is as follows:

Cards sent out	12,766
Cards returned undelivered	166
Cards not valid	58
In favour of representation	6,832
Against representation	156
Majority in favour	6,676
By personal canvass in favour	106

provides indisputable evidence that this change in the constitution of the College is desired by a very considerable number of the Members of the College.

He remarked on the antiquity of the form of resolution, and ascribed this to the fact that it expressed a just claim which appealed to all who could think logically. Only recently had it been passed with a feeling of good will and amity, but there was no reason for rancour; it was simply a matter of difference of opinion. The President had said last year that

there was no evidence that this measure was desired by more than a few members. Since then several favourable references had been made to the proposal by the Council, the Hunterian Orator, and the journals. The funds collected had not been sufficient to take a poll of all the Members; only practising doctors with permanent addresses had been circularized. Of the seven thousand who had sent valid replies, only 156 were against the necessary change in the Charter. It was proposed that a certain number of Members only, elected by Members alone, should be added to the Council. These figures offered indisputable evidence that the change was desired by a large number of Members.

The resolution was seconded by Mr. WINDHAM L. GILLBARD, who said he was astonished to find that this proposal had been before the Council for so long, although no convincing reasons had been adduced for its rejection. On this matter 55 per cent. of those addressed had voted—a remarkably high figure for a postal vote among doctors. This showed that the Members were more interested in the management of the College than the Fellows. Fellows abroad showed great interest in the College, and it was reasonable to suppose that Members abroad would also show this interest. It was not good for the College that its Members should regard it as an examination machine with a museum somewhere in the neighbourhood of Lincoln's Inn Fields.

Dr. F. W. COLLINGWOOD said that the rank and file of the medical profession did a great national work. These general practitioners should have a status of which they were not ashamed. Dr. HAYDON also supported the motion.

Mr. MCADAM ECCLES asked whether the voting card was accompanied by a letter, what wording had been used, and whether it had been stamped. (A copy of the card and circular was handed in.)

Dr. WILSON PARRY said that from the legal point of view the Members had no case, but the law had its limitations. He appealed to a tribunal respected and revered by every medical man—the system of ethics embodied in the Hippocratic oath—and the basis of this system was ethical justice. Mr. HOWARD STRATFORD suggested that it would be pleasant if the visitors to London from all over the world on the occasion of the Centenary Meeting of the British Medical Association in 1932 could learn that Members had been given a part in the management of the College. Dr. RICHARD GILLBARD said that the atmosphere was very different from that of former meetings. Members were hopeful, and he trusted that this meeting would not come to an end resembling that of the last chapter of Rasselas—"a conclusion wherein nothing is concluded." Dr. KITE said that there was no personal feeling; this was a matter of principle.

THE PRESIDENT said that the resolution had never been submitted by such temperate, eloquent, and fair-minded speeches as on this occasion. The Council regarded this as a matter for most anxious consideration, and it had never been decided with ill will or disregard. In view of the figures submitted by Dr. Ware, the Council had decided to hold a special meeting in committee before the next full meeting to discuss this matter *de novo*. (Applause.)

The motion was carried by 43 votes to 1.

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD.

At a congregation held on November 22nd the following medical degrees were conferred:

D.M.—T. C. Hunt, O. R. Tisdall.

B.M.—J. N. O'Reilly.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.

Lectures in the History of Medicine.

Two lectures, illustrated by lantern slides, will be delivered at University College Hospital Medical School, University Street, W.C., by Dr. Charles Singer, on Mondays, December 1st and 8th, at 4.15 p.m. The subject of the first is the "Fourth centenary of the invention of the word 'syphilis,'" and of the second "The eighteenth centenary of the birth of Galen." The lectures are open to all medical students of the University of London.

SOCIETY OF APOTHECARIES OF LONDON.

THE following candidates have passed in the subjects indicated:

SURGERY.—E. Jacomb, L. A. Riddell, W. K. Schnarr.

MEDICINE.—R. P. Davies, L. A. Riddell, W. K. Schnarr.

FORENSIC MEDICINE, HYGIENE, AND INSANITY.—G. W. Hinchliff, H. G. Hind, W. A. Naidu, W. W. Parry, L. A. Riddell, L. Sachs, S. H. Thaler.

MIDWIFERY.—S. J. Bellgard, G. I. Benjamin, C. L. Ferguson, W. G. Kingston, E. H. W. Lyle, M. S. Mules, H. C. Pain.

The diploma of the Society has been granted to Messrs. R. P. Davies and E. H. W. Lyle.

in future bodies of friendless paupers were to be available for dissection at medical schools, but arrangements were made by the authorities that when the dissected body was buried the remains of the body would be properly interred. Any inmate of an institution might express a desire that his body should be interred without anatomical examination, and Section 7 of the Anatomy Act, 1832, provided that such a wish would be respected.

Tuberculosis on Tyneside.—In reply to Mr. Ede, on November 20th, Mr. GREENWOOD stated he was in communication with the authorities of South Shields concerning the prevalence of tuberculosis in that borough. He had made suggestions for increasing the hospital provision available for treatment of tuberculosis on Tyneside. If local authorities desired a conference with a view to a centralized and comprehensive scheme, he would be glad to do anything to facilitate it.

Death Certification in absentia.—Mr. GREENWOOD said, in answer to a question on November 20th, that his attention had not previously been drawn to a statement by the Southwark coroner to the effect that there were thousands of doctors who would certify death without seeing the body of the deceased. As the subject was fully discussed during the passage of the Births and Deaths Registration Act of 1926, he did not see sufficient reason to introduce legislation making it imperative for doctors to see the deceased persons before death certificates were issued.

Advertisements in Medical Periodicals.—Replying to Mr. Freeman on November 20th, Mr. GREENWOOD said he was unaware of any ground for proposing to extend, by amending the Medical Act of 1886, the control which he understood was already exercised over advertisements of drugs by the proprietors of medical journals.

Suicides.—Mr. SHORT told Mr. Kinley, on November 20th, that the number of suicides in England and Wales in the years 1920 to 1929 were respectively: 3,373, 3,715, 3,844, 3,919, 3,679, 4,054, 4,408, 4,863, 4,846, and 4,907.

Absinthe.—Mr. SHORT said, in reply to Major Owen on November 20th, that he was not prepared to introduce legislation forbidding the manufacture, sale, and use of absinthe in this country.

Poisoning by Lead Paint.—Replying to Mr. White on November 20th, Mr. SHORT said that, since the new regulations under the Lead Paint Act came into force on October 1st, 1927, there had been 87 cases reported, including 20 deaths, in 1928; 75 cases, including 10 deaths, during 1929; and during the nine months ended in September, 43 cases, including 9 deaths. The regulations were constantly under review, having regard to the facts in cases brought to notice.

Experiments on Animals.—Replying to Mr. Freeman on November 19th, Mr. SHORT said the cost of keeping a record of the number of animals involved on the basis of the 403,141 experiments for purposes of vivisection performed last year would depend on the amount of detail required to be collected and tabulated and the degree of completeness to be attained in the collection. Additional clerical assistance would be needed in any case, and the inspectors would have to give a certain amount of the time which at present was available for "inspection."

Mental Treatment.—Replying to Mr. Kinley on November 20th, Mr. GREENWOOD said that the method of treatment of patients in public mental hospitals was not laid down by the Board of Control, but was within the discretion of the medical officer of an institution.

Asylum Officers' Superannuation.—On November 20th, replying to Mr. Ramsbotham, Mr. GREENWOOD said the decision to set up an actuarial investigation into the Asylum Officers' Superannuation Act of 1909 was taken in September, 1929, and the intervening period had been occupied by the collection of necessary data from the institutions concerned. The returns received were before the Government actuary, who would carry out the investigation as quickly as possible. This would occupy a considerable period, and it was not practicable to fix a date for its completion.

Medical News.

DR. T. WATTS EDEN has been appointed chairman of the directors of the *Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology of the British Empire*, in succession to the late Sir Francis Champneys.

THE annual dinner of the Medico-Legal Society will be held, under the presidency of Lord Riddell, at the Holborn Restaurant on Friday, December 12th, at 7.15 p.m. The honorary secretary is Mr. Ernest Goddard, 3, South Square, Gray's Inn, W.C.1.

THE Irish Medical Schools' and Graduates' Association will hold its annual London dinner in the Georgian suite, Piccadilly Hotel, W., on Thursday, December 4th, at 7.45 p.m. The president, Dr. W. Player Kennedy, will take the chair, and the guest of the association will be Lieut.-Colonel Sir Frank O'Connor. Tickets (price 15s., exclusive of wines) can be had from Mr. James Carver, F.R.C.S., St. George-in-the-East Hospital. The dinner will be preceded by a general meeting of the association at 7.15 p.m.

THE winter dinner of the Australian and New Zealand Medical Association in England will be held at the Trocadero Restaurant on Friday, December 12th, at 8 p.m. Mr. T. P. Dunhill will preside, and the High Commissioner for Australia and New Zealand, whether members of the Association or not, are invited to be present. The honorary secretaries are Mr. E. T. C. Milligan and Mr. Philip J. Jory, 26, Queen Anne Street, W.1.

THE annual dinner of the Yorkshire Association of Graduates of the University of Glasgow will be held in the Great Northern Hotel, Leeds, on Friday, December 5th, at 7.30 p.m. The guest of the evening will be Dr. Sam J. Cameron of Glasgow. Any graduates of the University resident in Yorkshire who desire to attend should apply to the honorary secretary, Dr. Wm. McAdam, 40, Park Square, Leeds.

THE National Institute of Industrial Psychology will hold a meeting on Thursday, December 11th, at 6 p.m., at the London School of Economics, Houghton Street, Aldwych, W.C., when addresses will be given by Dr. W. J. Pinard on tests of character, and by Mr. C. B. Fox on industrial psychology applied to the blind. The chair will be taken by Sir Richard Paget, Bt.

PARTICULARS of the lectures and demonstrations arranged for next week by the Fellowship of Medicine will be found in our Diary of Post-graduate Courses published in the *Supplement* at page 244. Copies of syllabuses and tickets of admission can be obtained from the Fellowship, 1, Wimpole Street, W.1. The list of special courses arranged for 1931 is now available.

THE text of Lord Moynihan's Listerian Oration, delivered at Winnipeg on August 29th, under the auspices of the Lister Memorial Club of the Canadian Medical Association, has now been reprinted, together with Dr. John Stewart's introductory speech, from the *Canadian Medical Association Journal*. The pamphlet has as frontispiece a portrait group, taken at Winnipeg, of Lord Lister's three house-surgeons—Dr. John Stewart of Halifax, Nova Scotia, Sir St. Clair Thomson, and Mr. L. Vernon Cargill. The proposal to found this oration was first put forward by Dr. Stewart at the meeting of the Canadian Medical Association held at Winnipeg eight years ago. The first of the series was delivered at the Ottawa meeting in 1914 by Dr. Stewart himself, and the second in 1927 by Sir Charles Sherrington at Toronto.

SIR WILFRED GRENFELL, K.C.M.G., M.D., delivered an address on Labrador on November 21st before the Royal Scottish Geographical Society, and received the society's Livingstone medal.

THE honorary degree of M.D. has been conferred on Professor G. H. F. Nuttall, F.R.S., of Cambridge, by the University of Liège.

DR. HUGH S. STANNUS has been elected Master of the Worshipful Company of Founders.

PROFESSOR PORTMANN of Bordeaux has been elected president of the next International Congress of Laryngology, which will be held at Bordeaux in July, 1931.

THE third edition of the well-known handbook entitled *Stations Thermales de France* has been published by the French Thermal Climatic Federation, and may be obtained from the Federation of the Health Resorts of France, Tavistock House North, Tavistock Square, W.C.1. A fully illustrated, practical, and interesting account of the various French health resorts and spas is provided in this useful booklet. The spas are arranged in alphabetical order, and indications are given as regards the maladies treated at each.

THE National Institute of Industrial Psychology celebrates its tenth birthday next year, and in every direction its activities have been growing apace. Consequently Dr. C. S. Myers, who has been director since its inception, has asked to be released from the duties of directorship, and has been appointed principal in order that he may devote the whole of his time to the institute's research and educational activities. Dr. G. H. Miles has been appointed director.

THE October issue of the *Journal of the Canadian Medical Association* contains a report from its Osler Memorial Committee. The Simcoe County Medical Association is erecting a memorial window in Trinity Church, Bond Head, Sir William Osler's birthplace. A triennial Osler Oration is to be delivered, Osler clubs established, and Osler scholarships founded throughout Canada; two scholarships have already been endowed in Osler's old school, Montreal. It is suggested that medical societies should hold an "Osler Day" every February, this month being chosen to commemorate Osler's first contribution to scientific literature, "Xmas and the microscope," in *Hardwicke's Science Gossip* for 1869.