

concur) that vaccines in recurrent boils do not live up to their reputation. Brocq was equally dogmatic in testifying to the virtues of fresh yeast for the malady, for he referred to it as a specific of the same value as mercury for syphilis and quinine for malaria. The yeast he employed may be different to the variety used by brewers in this country; certainly an extensive trial of the latter convinced me that it is useless for the purpose.

It is impossible to discuss the innumerable remedies which have been sponsored, but I feel that my remarks would be incomplete if I did not refer to colloidal manganese hydroxide, the remedy introduced by Mr. J. E. R. McDonagh. I have given it an extensive trial over many years, and I am convinced of its utility. As regards the local treatment, most writers refer to the possibility of averting a boil in its early follicular stage. Puncture with the galvano-cautery, injection of pure carbolic acid, and painting with iodine, each has its advocates, but although some favourable results may be obtained success is by no means the rule.

The treatment of the fully developed boil is also a debatable subject. Whilst some advocate either excision or incision, others, more conservative in their ideas, allow Nature to take its own course. In either case it is the prophylactic measures taken to prevent reinfection of the skin which are of greater importance.

## REFERENCES

- <sup>1</sup> Goldsmith: *Arch. für Derm. und Syph.*, 1925, cxlix, 575.
- <sup>2</sup> Ferguson Smith: *Brit. Journ. Derm. and Syph.*, 1928, xl, 483.
- <sup>3</sup> Hidaka: *Med. Klinih*, 1911, xlv, 1698.
- <sup>4</sup> Rost: *Brit. Journ. Derm. and Syph.*, 1932, ii, 57.
- <sup>5</sup> Norton and Novg: *Amer. Journ. Pub. Health*, 1931, xxi, 117.
- <sup>6</sup> Sabouraud: *Entretien*, 1922, p. 254.

## Memoranda

### MEDICAL, SURGICAL, OBSTETRICAL

#### SUDDEN DEATH FROM CYCLIC VOMITING

On June 5th I was called to see a girl, aged 7½ years, who had died shortly before my arrival.

She had been a nervous child, suffering from frequent attacks of "biliousness." There were four other children, all well. There was no hereditary taint, nor had the child taken food of a kind different from that of the other children in the family.

Thirty-six hours before death there had been an onset of lassitude and vomiting, accompanied by abdominal pains and constipation. (No doctor was called, as the mother was accustomed to these attacks, which usually passed over, with relief of constipation by castor oil.) At frequent intervals fluid nourishment was taken and immediately rejected. Death took place quite suddenly.

Post mortem nothing abnormal was found in any organ, but there was a persistent thymus, weight 1½ ounces, and hyperplasia of lymphatic tissues, particularly of the tonsils. Urine, taken from the bladder after death, showed the presence of much acetone, both by Rothera's and by Gerhardt's tests. The post-mortem appearance of the stomach and intestines was quite normal. They were free from any inflammation, and no irritating particles of food were present. The possibility of worms and acute pancreatitis was excluded, as was any abnormal condition of the brain.

In view of the absence of all other possible causes, after the most careful post-mortem search, one must conclude that this was a case of death from cyclic vomiting, which is here recorded owing to the rarity with which children die suddenly in these circumstances. The moral of such

a case as this suggests the advisability of giving glucose in any similar case of vomiting in children accompanied by acetonaemia, and where the diagnosis remains obscure.

Southsea.

R. HAMER HODGES, M.B., B.S.Lond.

#### A CASE OF ABORTUS FEVER IN HERTFORDSHIRE

*Abortus* fever has now been recorded from a number of counties in Great Britain. Recently, two cases have been reported from Hertfordshire, and I wish to present my experience of another one. Although this fever has many features in common with undulant fever originating in the Near East, the main points of distinction appear to be the shorter duration of the fever in *abortus* infection and the comparative mildness of the symptoms. The total length of the fever in this case was about three months. The debility which results from *abortus* fever is of longer duration and is a factor which has to be taken into consideration in after-care.

#### CASE RECORD

The patient, a civil servant aged 36, first consulted me on February 25th, 1932, when he complained of headache—pain behind eyeballs—cough, and night sweats. His temperature was 102° F. At this period I was attending a number of patients suffering from influenza, and at the time I considered that this was the correct diagnosis in his case. He did not make a good recovery, but returned to duty on March 7th. I then lost sight of him until May 10th, when he again consulted me. I found that he had a temperature of 102° F., and sent him to bed. On going very carefully into his history, I discovered that since returning to his work he had never really been a fit man. There were periods of apparent improvement, followed by a relapse, when the main symptoms were cough, headache, shivering fits, extreme fatigue after the day's work, irritability, and heavy night sweats. The latter was a very marked feature—so much so as to cause rusting of the spring mattress of the bed. It became clear from the history that one was dealing with a condition which had been in progress since February.

On examination, nothing was found in the heart or lungs, but the tip of the spleen was palpable. Otherwise there was nothing of note in the abdomen. The tongue was clean at the tip and sides, but the posterior half was covered with a slight fur. The bowels were regular and the urine was normal. A sample of blood was sent for the Widal reaction and this gave a partial agglutination to *B. typhosus* and *paratyphosus* A and B in a dilution of 1 in 10. All higher dilutions were negative. A further specimen of blood was submitted to Dr. P. Manson-Bahr, and this was found to agglutinate an emulsion of *Br. abortus* in dilutions up to 1 in 160. The diagnosis thus became clear.

There was no history of contact with infected animals, but the patient is a consumer of raw milk. A mixed milk sample from the herd of cows at the farm supplying his household was submitted for examination. The report stated that the agglutination reaction for *Br. abortus* was negative both macroscopically and microscopically in dilutions of from 1 in 6.5 to 1 in 125. The cows, ten in number, were examined on June 3rd. One had an indurated hind-quarter of the udder: milk from this showed nothing abnormal except a few pus cells. The remaining cows were all healthy. The owner states that two or three were given to slipping their calves about two years ago, most probably the result of contagious abortion. These cows have since been difficult to get in calf, possibly owing to some lesion of that disease remaining in the uterus.

There is every reason to suppose that the fever started on February 22nd, 1932—that is, three days prior to the patient's first consultation with me. The temperature finally settled on May 21st, 1932, and it still remains normal. No treatment was given in this case other than rest in bed on a light nourishing diet.

I wish to thank Dr. Manson-Bahr for kindly allowing the serum tests to be carried out in his laboratory.

T. R. GODDARD, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

he had a fine presence, with a closely trimmed beard. He generally lectured in a frock-coat, with a large black tie made of a wide piece of silken material, which he tied himself. His voice was vibrant and carrying, and his delivery became ornate and rhetorical when he was speaking on a subject in which he took a special interest. From his earliest years at Manchester he gave many popular lectures under the Coombe Bequest, and they were well attended. He continued giving them until his seventy-ninth year.

In 1884 he published the first edition of his translation of Landois' *Lehrbuch der Physiologie des Menschen*, which had passed through four editions in German in as many years. The book was eminently practical, and—in two large volumes of 1,200 pages in all—was a vast storehouse of physiological knowledge. It was quite a different type of book from its rival in students' life of its time—Foster's *Physiology*. Every page of it had several major and minor paragraphs, using five founts of type, which caught the eye and allowed of easy annotation. "Foster," on the other hand, rarely had more than one fount of type on a page, except occasionally a line of italics and a black letter number beginning some long paragraphs, and was more of a philosophical consideration of physiological problems. Some students could not get on with "Foster," but could with the more practical work. In the translation, Landois' work was closely adhered to, but the histology section was enlarged materially, all additional information added by the translator being placed in square brackets. The practical work met a need, and a second edition was issued in 1886, six months after the second volume of the first edition appeared.

When he was at Manchester Stirling was primarily a teacher, not an original worker. He did nothing original then, and, in fact, very little research was encouraged in his laboratories; and those demonstrators who were specially interested in this branch of physiology did not remain long with him. His prize thesis was on summation of electrical stimuli applied to the skin. He published comparatively few papers on original work. One subject that interested him in earlier years was the difference between red and white muscle in rabbits and fishes—the latter done for the Scottish Fishery Board.

He was a great collector of facts, portraits, books, and information generally about the history of medicine, and he had a unique opportunity of displaying his achievements in this line in full at the 1902 meeting of the British Medical Association in Manchester, when he was president of the Section of Physiology and Anatomy. (He had previously been hon. secretary, and on two occasions vice-president, of the Section of Physiology.) Mr. Walter Whitehead, who presided over the meeting, asked him to prepare a special memento, and this he did with delight in *Some Apostles of Physiology*. In it Stirling gave a brief account of the lives of some of those "apostles" who had contributed most to the advancement of physiology, or, as it was called of old, the institutes of medicine. This work is described by Fielding Garrison as "a beautiful folio, filled with fine pictures of the great masters, and, like Foster's *Lectures on the History of Physiology*, inspired with enthusiasm." Only a limited number of copies were printed, and these were presented to the favoured ones by Whitehead, the name of each recipient being inscribed on the title-page. Stirling's old teacher, Ludwig, was always his "Meister." He had the greatest admiration for him, and visited him yearly until his death in 1895. A long review and a handsome tribute to Ludwig's work was paid by his pupil in the *Manchester Medical Chronicle* that year.

Stirling's *Outlines of Practical Physiology* appeared first in 1888 and a fourth edition in 1902. *Outlines of Practical*

*Histology* (1890) was a manual for students attending the class in this subject, which, during his tenure of the professorship at Manchester, was taught in his department. On his resignation histology was at once transferred to the direction of the professor of anatomy, to whom it more rightly belonged. A fourth edition appeared in 1893 and an American edition in 1902. *Outlines of Physiological Chemistry* was published in 1881, when he was at Aberdeen. For some years he was the Manchester correspondent of the *British Medical Journal*.

#### EDWARD ALBAN EVANS, M.R.C.S.

Surgeon to the Ear, Nose, and Throat Department, Swansea Hospital

We regret to announce the death of Mr. E. Alban Evans, who was accidentally drowned while bathing at Oxwich Bay, near Swansea, on September 17th. A son of the late Dr. E. B. Evans, who practised at St. Thomas, Swansea, for many years, he was born in 1875, and received his medical education at Guy's Hospital. He qualified as M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. in 1899, and after holding resident appointments joined the Royal Navy. Some years later he left the Service to take up general practice with his father in Swansea. He always had a leaning towards ear, nose, and throat work, and soon devoted himself entirely to this specialty. In 1913 he was appointed honorary surgeon to this department at the Swansea Hospital, the position which he held at the time of his death. It was due to his initiative, energy, and skill that this department was reorganized and maintained at a very high level of efficiency. In 1915 he joined the Army as temporary Captain, R.A.M.C., and saw service in Gallipoli. In addition to his Swansea Hospital appointment, he was surgeon for diseases of ear and throat at Carmarthen County Infirmary, consulting oto-laryngologist to Clydach and Llandovery Hospitals, and honorary laryngologist to the Welsh National Memorial Association.

Mr. Alban Evans was a keen supporter of the British Medical Association, and in addition to having held the chairmanship of the Swansea Division, he was a vice-president of the Laryngological Section at the 1928 Annual Meeting at Cardiff. He contributed many papers to the medical journals, and almost every year paid a visit to the leading British and Continental clinics to learn at first hand the latest methods of diagnosis and treatment. The members of the profession in South-West Wales were always glad to avail themselves of his services as a consultant. He took infinite pains with every case, whether hospital or private; his opinion was always a sound one, and his operative skill of a very high order. In a deserving case he was ever willing to modify his fees or waive them altogether. Outside his work his chief interests were in archaeology, old books, old pictures, and old furniture—his house was a veritable museum. Of a very reserved disposition, it was only his intimate friends who realized what a wealth of wit, humour, good fellowship, and kindness of heart lay concealed behind a grave and serious manner.

The following well-known foreign medical men have recently died: Dr. ALBERT KRECKE, an eminent Munich surgeon, aged 68; Dr. FELIX LEJARS, professor of clinical surgery in the Paris Faculty of Medicine, surgeon to the Hôpital Saint Antoine, member of the Académie de Médecine, and Commander of the Legion of Honour; Professor GRAHAM LUSK, the eminent New York physiologist; Dr. ALFRED BRANDWEINER, extraordinary professor of dermatology and syphilology at the University of Vienna, aged 57; and Dr. OLAF TANDBERG, a leading Norwegian surgeon, formerly president of the Norwegian Medical Union, and twice president of the Norwegian Surgical Union.

## Universities and Colleges

### UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

The following candidates have been approved at the examinations indicated:

M.D.—G. F. Bramley (with distinction), R. C. Hanson.  
FINAL M.B., CH.B.—*Part I*: G. Cohda, A. Cohen, P. Crann, T. A. Divine, R. W. Rutter, T. Simpson, A. Smith, J. F. Warin, Lydia A. Wilson. *Part II*: B. W. A. Fleming, J. J. Fry, J. S. Gourlay, E. James, J. Littlewood, R. Raines, M. Rosental, S. Strasburg, J. Taylor. *Part III*: M. Rosental (second-class honours), B. W. A. Fleming, J. J. Fry, J. S. Gourlay, F. R. W. Hemsley, E. A. James, E. James, F. C. Leach, J. Littlewood, R. Raines, S. Strasburg, J. Taylor.

FINAL M.B., CH.B. (OLD REGULATIONS).—M. A. Rashid.

The William Hey medal and the West Riding Panel Practitioners' prize have been awarded to E. Gledhill.

### UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL

The Long Fox Memorial Lecture on "The problem of deafness" will be delivered by Mr. A. J. M. Wright in the Physiological Theatre of the University, on Tuesday, October 25th, at 5.30 p.m.; the Vice-Chancellor will preside.

### ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND

The following demonstrations of specimens in the Museum will be given in the theatre of the College, Lincoln's Inn Fields, W.C.:—Mr. Cecil Wakeley: October 17th, Innocent tumours of the alimentary tract; October 24th, Malignant tumours of the alimentary tract. Sir Arthur Keith: October 21st, Bone lesions produced in (a) syphilis, (b) yaws; October 28th, Antiquity of certain diseases, particularly of syphilis; November 4th, Various forms of teratoma which arise in the notochordal tract. Mr. R. Davies-Colley: October 31st, Intestinal cysts and diverticula; November 7th, Tumours of the jaws. The demonstrations, which will be given at 5 p.m., are open to advanced students and medical practitioners.

## Medical News

The Schorstein Memorial Lecture, on "Dermatomes in man," will be delivered by Dr. Otfried Foerster, professor of neurology in the University of Breslau, on Thursday, October 13th, at 4.30 p.m., in the Anatomical Theatre of the London Hospital Medical College. Members of the medical profession are cordially invited.

The annual dinner of the Chelsea Clinical Society will be held at Claridge's Hotel on Tuesday, October 18th. The guests will include Sir Henry Curtis-Bennett, K.C., Mr. George Belcher, and Mr. L. Hore-Belisha, M.P.

The first meeting of the new session of the West London Medico-Chirurgical Society will be held at the West London Hospital to-day (Friday) at 8.30 p.m., when the president, Dr. Julius Burnford, will deliver an address entitled "A therapeutic survey—fifty million bottles of medicine were issued to insured persons during the year 1931." The inaugural lecture of the West London Post-Graduate College will be given on Thursday, October 13th, at 3.30 p.m., by Sir William Hale-White, on bacilluria.

The opening meeting of the Illuminating Engineering Society will be held at the Lighting Service Bureau, 15, Savoy Street, Strand, W.C., at 6.30 p.m., on Tuesday, October 11th, when Lieut.-Commander H. T. Harrison will deliver his presidential address, and a report on progress in illuminating engineering, prepared by the Technical Committee, will be presented.

A sessional meeting of the Royal Sanitary Institute will be held in the Council House, Coventry, on Friday, October 21st, at 5.30 p.m. Discussions on the position of the medical officer of health in relation to industrial hygiene will be opened by Dr. A. Massey, on current sanitary engineering schemes in Coventry by Mr. E. H. Ford, and on the place of national health insurance administration in the public health scheme by Mr. J. C. Lee Gordon.

An announcement in our advertising pages this week states that the Cancer Hospital (Free), Fulham Road, having decided to increase its medical and surgical staff, applications are invited for the following offices: honorary neurologist, honorary dermatologist, honorary gynaecologist, and honorary ophthalmic surgeon.

The annual general meeting of the Guild of St. Luke, St. Cosmas, and St. Damian will be held in the Cathedral Hall, Archbishop's House, by permission of the Cardinal, on Sunday, October 23rd, immediately after the High Mass at Westminster Cathedral, which will be celebrated at 10.30 a.m. Front seats will be reserved on the Epistle side.

A whole-day course in general medicine and surgery, arranged by the Fellowship of Medicine, will take place at the Miller General Hospital, Greenwich, from October 17th to 29th. A week-end course in clinical surgery will be given at the Royal Albert Dock Hospital on October 15th and 16th. A week-end course in obstetrics will be given at the City of London Maternity Hospital on October 29th and 30th. A weekly course in uterine infections in obstetrics and gynaecology is given at the St. Mary Abbots Hospital; not more than four graduates may attend in any one week. A series of afternoon lectures on renal disease, free to members of the Fellowship, will be given at the Medical Society of London, 11, Chandos Street, W.1, on Tuesdays from October 18th to December 13th, at 4 p.m. sharp. A panel of teachers is available for clinical instruction every day, covering almost all branches of medicine and surgery. These clinics may be attended by arrangement with the Fellowship of Medicine, 1, Wimpole Street, W.1.

The annual post-graduate demonstrations arranged for old students of University College Hospital Medical School will take place on October 13th and 14th from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. each day. The Old Students' Club will hold its annual general meeting on October 14th at 4.15 p.m., when the president (Dr. E. A. Barton) will take the chair; the annual dinner will be held on the same day at 7.30 p.m. at the Hotel Victoria, Northumberland Avenue. The University College Hospital Women's Medical Association will hold its annual general meeting in the women's common room at the medical school on October 14th, at 4.15 p.m., under the chairmanship of the president (Miss D. J. Collier), and the annual dinner will take place at the Criterion Restaurant the same evening at 7.45.

In his address at the annual conference of the National Smoke Abatement Society at Newcastle-on-Tyne on September 23rd, Dr. H. A. Des Vœux mentioned the influence of smoke on bronchitis and heart disease. He touched upon methods of dealing with the smoke nuisance, and advocated the formation of regional statutory committees such as had already been established with success in the Sheffield-Rotherham district. He also dealt with the danger of carbon monoxide emitted from motor car exhausts, and suggested the advantages that would accrue from systematic examinations, by some medical officer of health, of the blood of those whose occupation confined them to garages. Instances were quoted by Dr. Des Vœux which suggested the existence of chronic carbon monoxide poisoning.

A handy eighty-four-page booklet epitomizing the alterations, deletions, and additions to the *British Pharmacopoeia*, 1932, has been published by James Woolley, Sons and Co., Ltd., Manchester. It comprises an attempt to give all the changes in strength from the corresponding preparations of the B.P. 1914, in a form that will allow of easy reference by pharmacists and medical practitioners. Crude drugs and chemical substances which remain unchanged are not included.

The City of Bath Information Bureau has issued a new accommodation list for the autumn season at Bath, which officially opened on October 1st. A good deal of trouble has been taken to obtain and present in a clear form the particulars likely to be helpful to prospective visitors. Every house has been officially inspected, and none allowed in the list unless it has come up to a reasonable standard in its own category.