

## Memoranda

### MEDICAL, SURGICAL, OBSTETRICAL

#### SPONTANEOUS CURE OF CAROTID ANEURYSM

The following case may be of interest.

The patient, a very thin tall woman of 73, has always had poor health. In February last she had a severe attack of pneumonia and was in bed for about two months. During the latter part of her illness she began to complain of pain and stiffness on the left side of her neck, and an oval pulsating swelling rapidly developed under the sterno-mastoid and was diagnosed as an aneurysm of the common carotid. In May this reached from near the angle of the jaw to about a finger's breadth above the clavicle. The main symptoms complained of were husky voice and cough on drinking, pain, particularly behind the ear, and drooping of the left eyelid.

The condition continued to progress and the swelling became irregular in outline, bulging mainly in front of the sterno-mastoid with inflamed areas of skin over the more prominent parts. In August the pulsation became definitely less and the upper part of the swelling became harder, pointing to thrombosis in one of the sacs. The hardening and diminution of pulsation continued, and she was allowed to go away for a change in mid-September. On her return on October 10th the condition was essentially the same. A week later I found the swelling about half the size and entirely without pulsation; no pulse could be felt in facial or temporal arteries.

Apart from several attacks of faintness and one of loss of consciousness lasting several minutes the patient has noticed no serious change since the occlusion of the vessel. On November 11th pulsation was first felt in the left facial artery. The swelling in the neck is now hardly noticeable, though still palpable, pain and cough are less, and the eye opens almost normally. A further interesting feature occurred in August, when about three inches of her right brachial artery became dilated and tortuous.

This patient's blood vessels are not unduly thickened for her age, and the blood pressure is not high. Owing to the risk of operation in these cases no treatment other than rest and avoidance of effort has been attempted.

Brislington, Bristol.

R. S. CAREY.

#### UNUSUAL RESULTS OF A MOTOR-CAR ACCIDENT

On March 19th, 1932, a husband and wife were passengers in the back of a saloon car which skidded on the wet road and hit a wall. As both passengers were badly shaken they were driven to my surgery, a distance of about fifteen miles, on their way home. On examination I found the following conditions present.

The husband, aged 62, was complaining of pain in the neck and chest, and also a troublesome cough. Temperature was 102°, and a patch of pneumonia was present at the left base. There was tenderness over the upper three cervical vertebrae, slightly more marked on the left side, rigidity of the posterior cervical muscles, and severe pain on the slightest movement of the head. A radiograph showed fracture of the left side of the arch of the axis vertebrae with slight forward displacement. The patient complained of sudden faintness on attempting to move the head. Owing to the condition of the lung it was thought advisable to fix the head with a moulded poroplastic collar resting on the shoulders; this was replaced by a leather collar at the end of three months. The patient has made an uneventful recovery.

The wife, aged 58, complained of severe pain in the left shoulder, passing down the left arm to the thumb. A radiograph showed a forward dislocation of the fifth cervical vertebra on the sixth, with slight rotation to the right. This patient was suspended by the chin and occiput as for a spinal caries, and a full Minerva plaster jacket was applied. During the suspension, and after the plaster had been applied, the patient remarked that the pain in the arm was greatly improved. No nerve changes have occurred throughout as

a result of pressure on the cord, and the patient is now wearing a leather collar.

As regards the cause of the injuries, there was no sign or complaint of any blow on the head such as might be caused by striking the head on the roof of the saloon, and one is left with the probability that the sudden stopping of the car caused the heads to jerk forward on the vertebral column and so cause these similar injuries.

Bolton.

A. INGHAM, M.B., Ch.B.

## British Medical Association

### CLINICAL AND SCIENTIFIC PROCEEDINGS

#### CITY DIVISION

#### ABORTION, THERAPEUTIC AND CRIMINAL

At a meeting of the City Division, held at the Metropolitan Hospital, Kingsland Road, on December 6th, Dr. L. A. PARRY of Hove delivered a British Medical Association lecture on criminal abortion.

Dr. Parry began by pointing out a slight difference between the legal and the medical interpretation of the word. By the medical profession abortion was generally regarded as the expulsion of the contents of the gravid uterus during the first six months of pregnancy; from a legal point of view abortion signified such expulsion at any time between conception and ordinary delivery. Natural abortion was very common, and in former days, when large families were the rule, it was unusual for a woman to pass through her child-bearing life without a miscarriage. On the average, one in every seven pregnancies terminated in abortion. Natural abortion generally occurred during the first four months of pregnancy, and was due to various causes, which might, with different women, be either slight or severe.

#### *Therapeutic Abortion*

Was there such a thing as legal therapeutic abortion? The Offences against the Person Act, 1861 (Sections 58 and 59), which dealt with abortion, contained the following words: "... shall unlawfully administer any poison or other noxious thing, or shall unlawfully use any instrument, ..." and Dr. Parry contended that the use of the word "unlawfully" connoted that there were conditions in which the act was lawful. That was not a view supported by all medical jurisprudence. Unfortunately, although there were many judicial *obiter dicta*, there had never been any case in which a legal decision was given as to whether there was such a thing as lawful therapeutic abortion. In 1929 the Infant Life (Preservation) Act was passed, primarily for the purpose of remedying a rather curious anomaly in English law—namely, that although it was a criminal offence to kill a newborn child or a child before birth, it was no offence to kill an infant during birth. The Act stated that no person was to be found guilty unless it were proved that the action which caused the death of the child was not done in good faith for the purpose only of preserving the life of the mother; further, for the purposes of the Act, evidence that the woman had at any material time been pregnant for a period of twenty-eight weeks or more was to be prima facie proof that she was at that time pregnant of a child capable of being born alive. This left the position rather more difficult, because, an Act of Parliament having defined under what circumstances therapeutic abortion was lawful, it might be taken that under no other circumstances could it be regarded as lawful. Whatever the law, however, the practitioner need not be afraid of performing a justifiable therapeutic abortion, but he should never depart from certain precautions: (1) he must be firmly convinced in his own mind that the action was necessary to save the life of the mother or to preserve her from very serious illness; (2) he must secure the necessary consents in writing; (3) a medical colleague must be consulted. The interpretation of what constituted serious danger to the life of the mother or child

Kerr, working in close co-operation with Dr. Ernest Muir, Sir Leonard Rogers's successor at the Leper Research Centre, Calcutta, did much to demonstrate the value of the discovery, and to prove that "no child need grow up a leper." When the Government provided a building in Hyderabad for a leprosy clinic Dr. Kerr handed over some of her responsibility at Dichpali to Dr. John Lowe, and took charge of the new work. This involved a night journey of 200 miles twice a week, and the giving each time of sixty or seventy injections to visiting patients, who frequently came long distances to be healed. Dr. Kerr was born at Fochabers-on-Spey in 1875; she graduated M.B., Ch.B. at Aberdeen in 1903, and went to India with her husband, the Rev. George M. Kerr, who is superintendent of the Wesleyan Mission Station at Nizamabad. She had charge for twelve years of the Mission Hospital there until the foundation of the Dichpali Home, where husband and wife have worked devotedly ever since. In 1923 she received the Kaisar-i-Hind gold medal in recognition of her services.

The following well-known foreign medical men have recently died: Dr. GEORGES HERVÉ, professor at the Ecole d'Anthropologie and founder of the International Institute of Anthropology; Dr. MIRALLIÉ, professor at the medical school of Nantes; Geheimrat Professor EUGEN HOLLÄNDER, the Berlin surgeon and author of books on medicine in classical painting, and caricature and satire in medicine, aged 65; and Dr. ADOLPH KOENIG, formerly editor of the *Pittsburg Medical Review* and the *Pennsylvania Medical Journal*, aged 76.

## Universities and Colleges

### UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

At a congregation held on December 19th the following medical degrees were conferred:

M.B., B.Chir.—A. K. Monro, B. F. Longbotham, A. R. Adderley, C. D. Evans.  
M.B.—J. M. Vaizey.

The next examination for the Diploma in Medical Radiology and Electrology (Part I) will be held on Wednesday, January 11th, and Friday, January 13th, 1933.

### UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL

Mr. E. W. Hey Groves has been appointed emeritus professor of surgery and Dr. D. C. Rayner emeritus professor of obstetrics. Dr. H. L. Shepherd and Dr. F. J. Hector have been appointed clinical lecturers in obstetrics, and Mr. G. M. FitzGibbon lecturer in surgery.

### UNIVERSITY OF DURHAM

At the convocation held on December 17th the following degrees were conferred:

M.D. (*for Practitioners of Fifteen Years' Standing*).—B. G. Malliya, F. L. Spalding.  
M.B., B.S.—C. B. Bhugra, P. M. Coats, J. A. Harper, R. S. Holcombe, S. M. Parker, J. Short.

### UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD

The following have been approved at the examinations indicated:

M.D.—K. J. G. Milne.  
FINAL M.B., Ch.B.—(*Part I*): R. M. Edelman, B. A. Hamid, Ursula S. Nutt, F. R. P. O'Hara-Proud, Evelyn W. C. D. Pettigrew, S. J. Rabinowitz, F. Rodgers. (*Part II*): J. J. C. Rainsbury, J. M. Ridyard.

### UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW

Principal R. S. Rait announced at the last meeting of the University of Glasgow Court that Dr. James Alexander Ure, who died on November 20th, had bequeathed his estate to the University and had appointed the University Court the executors of the will. The bequest, of the approximate value of £13,000, was earmarked for scholarships and prizes in medicine, and especially for research on cancer and tuberculosis. Dr. Ure, after his retirement from practice, lived at Parkstone, Dorset; he graduated M.B., C.M.Glas. in 1887.

## ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND

### Primary Fellowship Examination

The following 53 candidates were approved at the recent examination for the Primary Fellowship; 135 were rejected.

D. R. Ayyar, K. S. Ayyar, R. Barnes, H. H. F. Barnes, T. L. J. Barry, D. J. Bradley, W. A. C. K. N. Bruce, F. N. Chenhall, A. R. Clarke, H. L. G. Davies, T. Denness, M. Ellis, F. H. H. Finlaison, E. D. B. Freedman, F. P. Furkert, A. F. Goode, W. R. Henderson, H. M. Hill, W. W. Jolly, L. R. Jordan, A. R. Kelsall, D. Kendall, A. L. Kenyon, B. T. Keon-Cohen, G. E. Larks, W. A. Law, A. Logan, K. G. F. Mackenzie, H. F. McNickle, W. N. Mann, J. A. S. Marr, S. G. Mayer, P. B. Moroney, G. K. Mulki, R. Nagendran, S. G. Nardell, Doris E. O'Doherty, J. A. Pocock, F. Radcliffe, C. G. Rob, N. H. Robinson, H. W. Rodgers, P. C. Sanyal, B. Schulenburg, J. K. Stanger, A. Taylor, F. B. Thomas, H. R. Thompson, O. S. Tubbs, R. J. Twort, P. R. Wheatley, E. B. Whittingham, W. R. Winterton.

## ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF EDINBURGH

A meeting of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh was held on December 18th, when Mr. John Wheeler Dowden, president, was in the chair. James Couper Brash, M.C., M.D., professor of anatomy, Edinburgh University, was elected a Fellow of the College without examination.

The following candidates, having passed the requisite examinations, were admitted Fellows:

D. G. McKay, F. T. Ranson, G. E. Archer, N. Beaton, I. M. Burdon, C. H. Din, J. Donovan, J. Edelstein, M. Franks, G. F. Henderson, Lilian M. J. Henry, M. S. Khera, T. N. MacGregor, R. McWhirter, S. J. Martin, C. G. S. Milne, A. A. Moon, B. F. Niblock, A. H. Sangster, A. E. Stevens, C. B. Stewart, G. B. Thomas, R. G. Thomas, A. B. Wallace, J. L. Wilkie, D. H. Young.

## ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF IRELAND

The King's Professorship of Institutes of Medicine will become vacant on March 14th, 1933. The emoluments of the chair consist of the sum of £100 (late Irish currency), paid annually by the College, of fees paid by each person attending the professor's clinical lectures at Sir Patrick Dun's Hospital, and certain other fees regulated by the President and Fellows of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland. Further particulars can be obtained from the Registrar, Dr. T. Percy C. Kirkpatrick. Applications must be sent in by February 3rd, 1933.

Dr. R. J. Rowlette has been re-elected King's Professor of Materia Medica and Pharmacy for a further period of seven years, from March 19th, 1933.

## CONJOINT BOARD IN IRELAND

The following candidates have passed the recent Final Conjoint Examination, and have been admitted Licentiate of the Royal Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons, Ireland.

P. H. Cahill, R. W. Carty, I. D. Clein, H. Crealey, P. J. Daly, A. C. Dyer, J. F. F. Garry, J. Hanlon, M. J. Lahiff, Mary F. Mulligan, W. L. McCullagh, J. Radnor, J. G. Robinson.

## The Services

### MILITARY OPERATIONS IN BURMA

Colonel (now Major-General) John Weir West, C.M.G., K.H.S., late R.A.M.C., has been appointed a Commander of the Military Division in the Order of the British Empire for services rendered in connexion with the military operations in Burma during the period December, 1930, to March, 1932.

For distinguished services rendered in the field Lieut.-Colonel G. G. Tabuteau, D.S.O., V.H.S., R.A.M.C., has been appointed Brevet Colonel, and Major W. H. O'Riordan, M.C., R.A.M.C., Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel.

The names of the above officers are mentioned in a dispatch by General Sir Philip Chetwode, Commander-in-Chief in India, together with those of Captain R. A. Haythornethwaite and Captain Bhagat Ram Tandon of the Indian Medical Department.

### COMMISSIONS IN THE R.A.M.C.

The War Office announces that twenty-five permanent commissions in the Royal Army Medical Corps are being offered to qualified medical practitioners, under 28 years of age, registered under the Medical Acts. There will be no entrance examination, but candidates will be required to present themselves in London for interview and physical

**Maternal Mortality in Lancashire.**—Replying to Mr. G. Macdonald, on December 19th, Sir HILTON YOUNG said that the average annual maternal mortality rates per 1,000 live births for the period 1923-29 (inclusive) in certain Lancashire towns were as follows: Bolton, 5.23; Bury, 6.81; Oldham, 6.79; Preston, 5.86; Burnley, 4.90; Wigan, 6.44. Those figures were based on live births only, since stillbirth registration was not in force during the whole period.

**Puerperal Deaths in London.**—Replying to Dr. O'Donovan on December 22nd, Sir HILTON YOUNG stated that the numbers of maternal deaths per 1,000 live births in the past four years attributed to puerperal sepsis and other puerperal causes in the borough of Stepney and the Administrative County of London were as follows:

	1928	1929	1930	1931
Stepney ... ..	2.22	3.09	2.37	1.77
County of London ...	3.59	3.61	3.33	3.81

**Massage: Special Treatment Establishments in Essex.**—The Examiners of Private Bills at the House of Commons on December 19th had before them the Essex County Council Bill. Proof was tendered that the Bill complied with the Standing Orders, and it was ordered to stand over to wait for introduction and first reading in the House of Lords, after Christmas. The Bill contains a clause prohibiting the pollution of streams and enactments relating to establishments for massage and special treatment. There is a saving clause for establishments carried on by medical practitioners. The provisions of the Bill will not apply to such establishments if a certificate signed by two other medical practitioners has been lodged with the council. There is also a clause exempting hospitals, infirmaries, and institutions maintained by local authorities or bodies constituted by Parliament or incorporated by Royal Charter, any hospital being a constituent of the British Hospitals Association or recognized as a voluntary hospital by any voluntary hospital committee, and any registered nursing home or any nursing home exempted from registration by a local authority or the Minister.

**Paying Patients in Samaritan Free Hospital.**—The Examiners of Private Bills had before them at the House of Commons, on December 19th, the Samaritan Free Hospital for Women Bill, the object of which is to enable the hospital to provide and equip additional accommodation and to make certain charges therefor. Proof of compliance with the Standing Orders was tendered and the Bill was ordered to stand over for introduction and first reading in the House of Lords when Parliament reassembles in February. The preamble of the Bill sets out that the hospital was founded for the reception of poor women afflicted with diseases incidental to their sex, and that at present there are no restrictions on the admission of either in-patients or out-patients for treatment. No letters of recommendation are necessary, and accommodation and treatment are given primarily free of charge, although in most cases patients are expected to contribute something towards the hospital funds. Owing to the difficulty of providing for the increased cost of maintenance of patients it is desirable to add to the income of the hospital without impairing its efficiency. Power is sought in the Bill for authority to make charges to meet the cost of the reception and treatment of paying patients.

**Heavy Vehicular Traffic: A New Bill.**—In the House of Commons, on December 20th, Sir C. OMAN asked leave to bring in a Bill "to abate the damage and danger caused by motor vehicles too large, too heavy, and driven at excessive speed." He said that, while most private motor owners were considerate and harmless, a minority were public enemies. In many towns in England the inhabitants had lost the power of using their own roads. Oxford was an example. In a town of narrow streets all heavy, large vehicles should be prohibited. They were driven much too fast, and their noise and vibration deprived the British citizen of the right to use his house as a sleeping place. Leave was granted and the Bill was brought in.

**Vivisection: A Petition to Parliament.**—In the House of Commons, on December 21st, Mr. LANSBURY presented a petition, signed by 5,684 persons, stating that they believed vivisection to be morally unjustifiable, useless, dangerous, and demoralizing to the community; and praying the House to pass a Bill withdrawing the sanction of the law from the practice.

**Sterilization of Mental Defectives.**—Sir HILTON YOUNG told Commander James, on December 22nd, that it must rest with the departmental committee inquiring into the sterilization of mental defectives whether, in carrying out their terms of reference, they would deal with evidence given by lunacy officers relating to lunatics only, and not to mental defectives. Officers of mental authorities had been invited to give evidence. The committee had already taken evidence from officers of mental deficiency authorities, and would hear others before the conclusion of their inquiry.

**Malnutrition in Newcastle.**—Mr. SHAKESPEARE told Mr. Groves, on December 21st, that the Minister of Health had now received the report of the Newcastle-on-Tyne Dispensary relating to the year 1931, which stated that the committee was gravely concerned about the increase in poverty, sickness, and malnutrition among the poorest classes of the city. He had brought this to the notice of the city council, and had invited its observations upon it.

**Working Overtime.**—Mr. R. S. HUDSON, on December 20th, told Mr. Mander that information of the Ministry of Labour as to overtime working related only to a few industries. It did not show how far the overtime worked could be described as regular. No complaints with regard to widespread working of overtime in factories had been brought to his notice.

## Medical News

The Fellowship of Medicine and Post-Graduate Medical Association has arranged a series of lectures at the house of the Medical Society of London, Chandos Street, W., dealing with some practical problems in medicine and surgery. The lectures will take place on Tuesdays at 4 p.m., from January 17th to March 21st, and will be free to members of the Fellowship. On January 13th there will be a demonstration of cases of general interest at the Lambeth Hospital, Brook Street, by Dr. G. F. Stebbing, assisted by the staff of the hospital. On January 20th, at the Medical Society of London, there will be a demonstration by Dr. Peter Kerley of x-ray films of the chest, heart, and intestinal tract, from 4.30 to 6 p.m.; it is especially suitable for M.R.C.P. candidates. A whole-day course in cardiology will be held at the National Hospital for Diseases of the Heart, Westmoreland Street, from January 16th to 27th. All demonstrations and lectures arranged by the Fellowship are open only to members and associates.

The nineteenth British Industries Fair will open at Olympia and the White City in London and at Castle Bromwich, Birmingham, on February 20th next.

The sixth meeting of the German Society for Research on the Circulation will take place from March 5th to 7th, 1933, in Würzburg, under the presidency of Professor Magnus-Alsleben. The subject for discussion will be "The circulation and the nervous system." The theoretical lecture will be given by Professor H. E. Hering of Cologne, and the clinical lecture by Professor F. Kauffmann of Berlin. Notice of papers and demonstrations, which must relate to the subject for discussion, should be given not later than January 15th to Professor Magnus-Alsleben, Medizinische Poliklinik, Würzburg. Those wishing to take part in the meeting must communicate with Dr. Magnus-Alsleben before February 1st, 1933.

The International Hospital Association organized this year a first series of international post-graduate courses on hospital technique at the Frankfurt Municipal Hospital, attracting a large attendance of superintendents, physicians, matrons, architects, and engineers, coming from seventeen different countries. From June 28th to July 3rd, 1933, the third International Hospital Congress will meet at Knocke sur Mer, on the Belgian coast. The study committees of the International Hospital Association will submit their reports to the congress. The discussions will enable the congress to draw the outlines of practical conclusions having an international value. A five-day study trip to the Netherlands will follow the congress.

A new edition of the directory of members of the Chartered Society of Massage and Medical Gymnastics in Private Practice is now available. Full information is given as to the qualifications of members, the treatments they are equipped to give, and whether they are willing to undertake national health insurance cases. All members are pledged to work only under the direction of registered medical practitioners, who may obtain copies of the directory, gratis and post free, from the honorary secretary, P.P.A., "Hygeia," Falmouth, Cornwall.

Messrs. H. K. Lewis and Co. Ltd., inform us that commencing with January, 1933, *The Clinical Journal* will be issued monthly instead of weekly as hitherto. The first monthly number will be published on Wednesday, January 4th, but subsequent issues will appear on the first of each month. The policy and character of the journal will remain the same.

The Society for the Provision of Birth Control Clinics has just issued its report for the year 1931-2. There are sixteen affiliated centres throughout the country, and during its ten years of work advice on birth control methods has been given to over 38,000 people. The annual report includes a section by the medical officers of the Walworth centre, in which they state that there is abundant evidence that the methods advised at the centres are reasonably successful, and cause neither physical injury nor sterility. Further information may be had from the secretary of the society, 153A, East Street, Walworth, S.E.17; donations may be sent to the treasurer, the Hon. Mrs. Graham Murray, at the same address.

The American Association for the Study of Goiter again offers 300 dollars as a first award, and two honourable mentions, for the best three essays based upon original research work on any phase of goitre presented at its annual meeting in Memphis, Tennessee, in May, 1933. It is hoped this will stimulate valuable research work, especially in regard to the basic cause of goitre. Competing manuscripts must be in English, and submitted to the corresponding secretary, Dr. J. R. Yung, 670, Cherry Street, Terre Haute, Ind., U.S.A., not later than April 1st. Manuscripts arriving after that date will be held for the next year, or returned at the author's request. The first award at the 1932 meeting was given to Dr. Donald McEachern, Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, "A consideration of the mechanism of hyperthyroidism based upon its effect upon cardiac and skeletal muscle." Honourable mentions were awarded to Dr. A. B. Gutman, Presbyterian Hospital, New York City, "The effect of administration of iodine on the total iodine, inorganic iodine, and thyroxine content of the pathological thyroid gland," and Lieut.-Colonel H. Stott, I.M.S., dean of the Faculty of Medicine, Lucknow University, "The distribution and cause of endemic goitre in the United Provinces."

The King has given directions for the appointment of Dr. Victor W. T. McGusty (Secretary for Indian Affairs) to be a member of the Executive Committee of the Colony of Fiji.

The King has conferred the Order of Mercy upon Dr. E. M. Callendar, C.B.E., a vice-president of the League of Mercy.

On the occasion of the celebration of the tercentenary of the foundation of Dorpat University, fifty doctors, *honoris causa*, were created. These included Sir A. Smith-Woodward of the Royal Society, Professor Simpson of Edinburgh, Professor A. Birch-Hirschfeld, Rector of Königsberg University, Professor G. Liljestrand of Stockholm, and Professor L. Martin of Paris.

Dr. Richard Ackerley has been elected vice-chairman of the Food Education Society in the place of the late Sir Harry Baldwin.

The Société d'Ophthalmologie, which numbers more than 400 French and nearly 900 foreign members, has recently celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of its foundation.

Dr. Karoline Breitlinger, the first woman to obtain a medical qualification in Germany, has recently died at the age of 81.

## Letters, Notes, and Answers

All communications in regard to editorial business should be addressed to **The Editor, British Medical Journal, B.M.A. House, Tavistock Square, W.C.1.**

ORIGINAL ARTICLES and LETTERS forwarded for publication are understood to be offered to the *British Medical Journal* alone unless the contrary be stated. Correspondents who wish notice to be taken of their communications should authenticate them with their names, not necessarily for publication.

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All communications with reference to ADVERTISEMENTS, as well as orders for copies of the *Journal*, should be addressed to the Financial Secretary and Business Manager.

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The TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESSES are:

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The address of the Irish Office of the British Medical Association is 18, Kildare Street, Dublin (telegrams: *Bacillus, Dublin*; telephone: 62550 Dublin), and of the Scottish Office, 7, Drumsheugh Gardens, Edinburgh (telegrams: *Associate, Edinburgh*; telephone: 24361 Edinburgh).

### QUERIES AND ANSWERS

#### Truss for Inguinal Hernia

"J. M." (Sheffield) writes: I shall feel greatly obliged if any of your readers will inform me (through the *Journal*) where I could procure a truss with a light rubber pad (after the pattern of the Offord truss) for a right inguinal hernia in the male, as I have not been able to procure one locally.

#### Injection for Hydrocele

Dr. ROBERT G. SCOTT (Hobart, Tasmania) writes, with reference to the inquiry by "H. C." (July 30th, p. 228): Like Mr. Sydney Rumboll (August 6th, p. 279) I also was a student under Mr. Joseph Bell at Edinburgh in the early eighties of last century. Since then I have treated all hydroceles of the cord after Mr. Bell's method as described by Mr. Rumboll, with the one difference that I have always used tinct. iodi. and lin. iodi. in equal parts. Mr. Bell always followed the injection by what he called "the Edinburgh flourish." I can recall only good results, and have never had to give a second injection.

#### Treatment of Osteitis Deformans

Dr. E. C. MUDIE (Skelmorlie) writes in answer to Dr. Rolfe's query (December 3rd, p. 1041): A woman, aged 55 years, came to me in February last crippled with this disease. Both knees were rigid, and for nearly two years she had not put on her own shoes and stockings. The fingers were swollen and the joints much enlarged, and also practically rigid, while the wrist-joints were nearly double the circumference of the normal wrist. This patient was at first given a daily dose of ultra-violet rays, third degree erythema, on the knees, hands, and wrists, which were well massaged during the treatment. On the body general tonic irradiation with ultra-violet light was administered thrice weekly. After only one week of this treatment I managed to flex the knees, and could put her on to bending exercises, and the irradiations were reduced to twice weekly. By May the patient was able to do her own housework, and the treatments, which had been reduced to once weekly, ceased in June. This patient is now able to go about, climb hills, and lead a normal existence. I may mention that the treatment was augmented by the use of iodine therapy, and, of course, judicious dietary, in which vegetables, fruit, coarse brown bread, and Scotch oatmeal played a large part.

#### Income Tax

##### Change in Nature of Appointments

"J. W." was employed in the year 1930-1 as a house-physician, then as a locumtenent, and later as a physiologist—total earnings £245. In 1931-2 and 1932-3 he was employed throughout each year as a research assistant, salary £394. Should not the liability for 1931-2 be based on the earnings of 1930-1, the "previous year"?

\*\* No. The change in the nature of the work or employment as between 1930-1 and 1931-2 prevents the "previous year" basis from applying to the second year.