

who then require swabbing ; but any policy not involving the free use of the swab is scientific heresy indeed. On the assumption, then, that prevention is better than cure, my advice to family doctors is to continue to swab not only doubtful cases, but also all contacts, and give large doses of antitoxin only to those typical cases, familiarity with which it surely did not take long in general practice to acquire.—I am, etc.,

Greenford, Middlesex, Aug. 10th. ALISTAIR R. FRENCH.

SIR,—One question in the letter (*Journal*, August 4th, p. 230) under the above heading is most opportune. I would even go further and say that, if one is sufficiently impressed by the state of a doubtful case to take a swab, one should inject antitoxin at once. The time lost in waiting for the result of the swab examination, especially after culture, can be, and sometimes is, fatal.—I am, etc.,

Jersey, Aug. 7th. PRESTON R. WALLIS.

### Occupational Therapy

SIR,—I was much interested in Dr. A. S. Brock's comments on this subject (*Journal*, August 4th, p. 231). He states that it is not a new idea, it does not require a psychological specialist to study it, and that he referred to it in the *British Medical Journal* in 1910.

In a book which I hope will soon be published I mention it. When I became medical officer of Bradfield College in 1899, and started a country practice in the neighbourhood, I found that when a patient was on his "club" he was not allowed to do any work whatever, not even to draw water from the well in his own garden. I at once saw the necessity of getting rid of that trouble, and ordered my farm labourer convalescents to do two hours' work a day in their gardens. Also I saw at once the necessity of getting the boys some occupation when they were convalescing from measles and other complaints. That was one of the reasons why I started the Natural History Society there in 1899, and I am glad to know it is still going strong.—I am, etc.,

London, W.10, Aug. 4th. NORMAN H. JOY.

## Universities and Colleges

### UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

At a congregation held on August 4th the degree of B.M. was conferred on W. F. Fawcett.

### UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

At a congregation held on August 4th the following medical degrees were conferred:

M.D.—C. G. H. Campbell, J. K. Monro, W. G. Oakley, B. C. Tate, K. H. Uttley, J. M. Graham, A. W. Langford.  
M.B., B.CHIR.—J. D. Fergusson, W. H. Lewis, K. Robson, A. Kekwick, A. C. Rumsey.  
M.B.—P. T. Cooper, C. M. Carr.  
B.CHIR.—\*R. C. F. Catterall, \*A. H. Dunkerley, \*M. K. Martyn, \*C. J. Martin, W. A. Elliott, M. W. L. Owen, T. A. Ratchiffe, A. M. Barrett, J. R. Chambers, J. G. Connell, T. B. L. Bryan, J. F. Edwards, R. E. K. Levick, C. G. Pantin, R. J. Still, E. A. M. Halsted, L. A. Hawkins, J. P. S. Peck.

\* By proxy.

### UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

The following have been recognized as teachers of the subjects indicated in parentheses, and have been assigned to the Faculty of Medicine: Mr. J. H. Deggart (Ophthalmology) and Dr. G. W. Mitchell (Radiology), St. George's Hospital Medical School; Mr. M. L. Hine (Ophthalmology), Charing Cross Hospital Medical School. Probationary recognition as a teacher of bacteriology at the London (Royal Free Hospital) School of Medicine for Women, for a period of two years from July, 1934, has been granted to Mrs. Joan Taylor, M.B., B.S.

The Senate on July 18th resolved that University Readerships in Medicine, Surgery, Obstetrics and Gynaecology,

Pathological Chemistry, and Bacteriology, tenable at the British Post-Graduate Medical School, be instituted in accordance with the regulations on university titles (*Calendar*, 1933-4, pp. 235-46).

The following grants were made out of the Thomas Smythe Hughes Medical Research Fund and the Beaverbrook Fund for 1934-5 for researches to be carried out at the college or institution indicated in parentheses:

To Dr. R. C. Lightwood, the sum of £50 for apparatus, materials, and for histological and microphotographic expenses, for the continuation of haematological and pathological investigations concerning haemolytic anaemias in children, and the effects of erythrocyte stroma administration in dyshaematopoietic anaemias. (Research Department, Hospital for Sick Children.)

To Mr. T. W. Mimpriss, the sum of £34 for glass electrode apparatus, animals, etc., for an investigation into the relation of the growth of bacteria in the intestine to the hydrogen-ion concentration of the intestinal contents, in cases of obstruction in dogs. (St. Thomas's Hospital Medical School.)

The Ph.D. Degree in Anatomy has been conferred on A. A. Abbie (University College), and the Ph.D. Degree in Bacteriology on D. W. W. Henderson (Lister Institute of Preventive Medicine).

The regulations for exemption to students from other universities (*Red Book*, 1933-4, pp. 234-7) were deleted, and the following substituted therefor:

Exemption from courses of study for the First Examination for Medical Degrees and for the Second Examination for Medical Degrees, Parts I and II, in whole or in part, may be granted to students of other universities. All applications, which must be submitted on a form to be obtained from the Academic Registrar, will be considered on their merits.

Exemption from the First Examination for Medical Degrees and from the Second Examination for Medical Degrees, Part I, in whole or in part, may be granted to students who have passed all the examinations for a Science Degree of another university and to other applicants in exceptional circumstances only. All applications, which must be submitted on a form to be obtained from the Academic Registrar, will be considered on their merits.

The regulations relating to the award of a University Medal at the M.D. Examination (*Red Book*, 1933-4, p. 227; *Blue Book*, September, 1933, p. 273) and the M.S. Examination (*Red Book*, 1933-4, p. 232; *Blue Book*, September, 1933, p. 278), as amended in October, 1933 (*London University Gazette*, November 8th, 1933, p. 20), were further amended by the addition of the following words:

"or he may receive a replica of the Medal in bronze, and books to the value of the balance of the £20, selected by him and approved by the University."

It was resolved that the regulations relating to (a) the External Teacher's Diploma (*Blue Book*, September, 1933, p. 172), (b) the External Diploma in Public Health (*Blue Book*, September, 1933, p. 311), and (c) the External Diploma in Clinical Pathology (*Blue Book*, September, 1933, p. 323), be amended by the insertion after the word "Diploma" in the first sentence of each of these regulations of the words "of post-graduate standing."

Dr. F. D. Turner has been appointed governor of the Colchester Royal Grammar School.

Dr. L. W. Hackett, Assistant Director of the International Health Division of the Rockefeller Foundation, has been appointed Heath Clark Lecturer for 1934, the lecture to be given in December.

The Diploma in Public Administration has been conferred on Dr. W. E. Roper Saunders.

### LONDON INTER-COLLEGIATE SCHOLARSHIPS BOARD

The following awards of Medical Entrance Scholarships and Exhibitions have been made on the results of the Board's examinations:

#### King's College

*Warneford Scholarships*: R. G. Evans (Bootham School, York); J. L. Lawrence (Sir Walter St. John's School, Battersea). *Sambrooke Scholarship*: G. T. E. Jenkins (Harrow County School).

#### King's College Hospital Medical School

*Science Scholarship*: R. P. Crick (Latymer Upper School, Hammersmith).

#### London Hospital Medical College

*Price Scholarship*: D. A. Miln (Alleyn's School, Dulwich).

### ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF LONDON

On August 2nd licences to practise (additional to those granted on July 26th) were conferred on five candidates, whose names were printed at the end of the report of the meeting of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, in our issue of August 11th (p. 288).

for the high administrative positions he attained. He played a great pioneer part in New Zealand during its time of rapid but well-founded expansion, and leaves behind him a treasured memory.

#### SIR WILLIAM DONOVAN

Major-General R.A.M.C.(ret.)

We regret to record the death in London, on July 31st, of Major-General Sir William Donovan, K.C.B., late R.A.M.C., at the age of 83. Sir William was born at Killarney in 1850, the son of the late Staff Surgeon James Donovan, R.N., was educated at Fermoy College and Trinity College, Dublin, and took the L.R.C.P.I. and L.M., L.R.C.S.I. in 1871. He entered the Army as assistant surgeon in 1872, and became colonel in 1901 and surgeon general in 1904, retiring in 1909.

Sir William had a long record of war service. He obtained the medal during the Afghan War of 1879-80; he was in the Boer War in 1881, and took part in the Chitral Relief Force on the North-West Frontier in 1895, being mentioned in dispatches and obtaining the medal with clasp. In the South African War, 1899-1902, he acted as P.M.O. to the Cavalry Division, taking part in operations in the Transvaal, the Orange River Colony, and Cape Colony, including the relief of Kimberley and the actions of Paardeberg, Poplar Grove, Dreifontein, Karee Siding, Zand River, Johannesburg, Pretoria, Diamond Hill, Riet Viel, Belfast, and Colesberg. He was mentioned in dispatches in 1901 (Queen's medal with six clasps, King's medal with two clasps, and C.B.). Sir William was again P.M.O. in South Africa from 1905 to 1908, and in the Northern Command from 1908 to 1909.

In the Great War he served as D.D.M.S. of Embarkation at Southampton, during the tenure of which office he had to handle all the sick and wounded men who arrived at that port. It was his duty to allocate and dispatch them to the various hospitals having available beds, having to make up his ambulance trains from the reports received. During the battle of the Somme in 1916 he dispatched as many as 165 trains in seven days, which gives some idea of the pressure of work to which he was subjected. A contemporary describes him at this time as showing "an energy and a capacity beyond praise."

He received the K.C.B. in 1917, and also the rank of Commander of the Crown of Belgium. He was twice married, in 1909 to Anne, widow of the late Hopewell Morrell, who died in 1925, and later, in 1931, to Annie Becher, daughter of the late R. W. de la Cour, barrister-at-law. A requiem mass was celebrated at Holy Trinity Church, Brook Green, on August 3rd, and the burial took place at St. Mary's Cemetery, Kensal Green.

#### WILLIAM MACDONALD, M.D.

On August 3rd the town of Swansea and its neighbourhood suffered a great loss through the untimely death of Dr. William Macdonald, at the age of 55 years.

A native of Inverness, Dr. Macdonald graduated M.B., Ch.B. at Edinburgh University in 1909, and proceeded to his doctorate in 1913. His early appointments were as house-surgeon to the Queen's Hospital for Children, Hackney Road, and as resident medical officer to Queen Charlotte's Hospital. Early in 1914 he commenced practice in Swansea, and soon obtained a wide circle of patients, who also became his friends. Soon after the outbreak of war he joined the Forces, and served as a captain in the R.A.M.C. until the cessation of hostilities. On his return he was appointed to the medical staff of the Swansea General Hospital, and later he was made an honorary physician. His hospital patients were devoted

to him, and his energy and painstaking methods always won the admiration of his house-physicians. His death has interrupted a most efficient term of office as chairman of the hospital staff. Always a keen member of the British Medical Association, he made a most dignified and capable chairman of the Swansea Division three years ago. Socially he was deservedly popular, for, besides possessing a most engaging personality, he was a sound golfer and played an expert game of bridge. During the past twelve months his health had steadily failed, and those of us who realized that his condition was hopeless marvelled at his refusal to accept the inevitable, and at his remarkable attempts, even until a fortnight ago, to carry out both his hospital and his private work. He leaves a widow and two young children, for whom his colleagues and friends feel the sincerest sympathy.

Dr. CONSTANT GUSTAV LOGAN DAHNE, who died on July 28th, was born in 1866, the son of Captain F. W. Dahne and Mrs. Dahne of Clasmont, Morriston, Glamorganshire. His father was of Danish descent, and his mother came from an old Stirling family which had settled in Wales. Dr. Dahne was educated at Bishop Gower's Grammar School, matriculated at London University, and did his medical training at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, obtaining the L.S.A. in 1897. In his younger days he was a keen athlete, being a good boxer and Rugby football player, and a fine rider. Later in life he took up shooting and became no mean exponent of the art. He had practised at Pontardawe, near Swansea, for over thirty-three years, and was greatly respected there, both for his medical skill and his kind nature. He is survived by a widow and son.

Dr. SIDNEY BERNSTEIN, who died on June 30th, after a short illness, was born in Johannesburg in 1903. He was educated at King Edward VII School, Johannesburg, and afterwards entered University College, London, where he was awarded the Fellowes Gold Medal in 1925. He took his M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. in 1926, later holding the posts of house-surgeon, registrar, and first assistant to the ear, nose, and throat department at that hospital. He was also house-surgeon and assistant registrar to the Central London Throat, Nose and Ear Hospital, and house-surgeon and casualty officer at the Royal Northern. At the time of his death he was surgeon to the ear, nose, and throat department, Gloucestershire Royal Infirmary, surgeon to the Gloucester County Mental Hospital, Gloucestershire Joint Tuberculosis Hospital, Gloucestershire Fever Hospital, Lydney District Hospital, and Gloucester District Nurses' Society. Dr. Bernstein was a member of the British Medical Association, in which he took a keen interest, a Fellow of the Royal Society of Medicine, and a member of the otology and laryngology section, on which council he had just been elected. He came to Gloucester in October, 1929, on the death of Mr. Smurthwaite, and by hard work built up the present ear, nose, and throat department in the new buildings of the Infirmary, which buildings owe so much to his valuable advice and foresight. He was a very hard worker, and this probably had much to do with his early death. He was a loyal colleague, loved by his fellow practitioners, and listened to with interest. He endeared himself to doctors and patients alike by his personality, charm, and kindness. He leaves a widow, to whom we offer our deepest sympathy.

The following well-known foreign medical men have recently died: Dr. CLEMENT CLEVELAND of New York, past president of the American Gynaecological Association and of the New York Obstetrical Society, aged 90; Dr. ARNANDO ANGELUCCI, professor of ophthalmology at Naples; and Dr. LOTHINIÈRE HARWOOD, dean of the medical faculty of the French University of Montreal and professor of clinical gynaecology at the Hôpital Notre Dame.

## The Services

### DEATHS IN THE SERVICES

Colonel John Garvie, K.H.S., Bengal Medical Service (ret.), died at Bideford on July 24th, aged 71. He was born on May 3rd, 1863, the son of William Garvie, manufacturer, of Perth, and was educated at Edinburgh, where he graduated M.B., C.M. in 1885. Entering the I.M.S. as surgeon on March 21st, 1887, he became colonel on March 24th, 1917, and retired on March 25th, 1922. He was appointed honorary surgeon to the King on June 20th, 1920. He served in the Zhob campaign on the North-West Frontier of India in 1890.

Lieut.-Colonel George Speirs Alexander Ranking, C.M.G., Bengal Medical Service (ret.), died at Caversham on July 14th, aged 82. He was born at Hastings on January 9th, 1852, the son of Robert Ranking, Esq., surgeon, and was educated at Aldenham School, Herts, at Bart's, and at St. Catherine's College, Cambridge, where he was a scholar. He took the M.R.C.S. and L.S.A. in 1874, and graduated at Cambridge as B.A., with honours, in the Natural Science Tripos, in 1873, as M.B. in 1875, and as M.D. in 1879. Oxford also gave him the M.A. in 1905. He entered the I.M.S. as surgeon on March 31st, 1875, passing first out of Netley, where he won the Herbert prize; became surgeon lieutenant-colonel after twenty years' service, and retired, with an extra compensation pension, on May 31st, 1905. During his first years of service he served for some time in the Bengal Cavalry; in 1892 he acted as professor of chemistry in the Calcutta Medical College, and as chemical examiner to the Government of Bengal; and in 1898 he held the post for some time of surgeon superintendent of the Presidency European General Hospital, Calcutta. From early in his service he devoted himself to the study of Oriental languages, and from 1894 to 1905 held the post of examiner to the Government in Oriental languages, and assistant secretary to the Government of India. He was the author of many works on Oriental languages: *Hidayatu-l-Hukuma*, 1878; *Arabic and Persian Prosody*, 1885; *Talim i Zaban-i-Urdu*, 1889; *Glossary to Bagh-o-Bahar*, 1901; *English-Hindustani Dictionary*, 1905; edited and translated Tawarikh-i-Badaoni, 1898; and one small professional work, *On Preservation of Health in India*, 1903. After retirement he settled at Oxford, where he was lecturer in Persian from 1909 to 1920. On March 15th, 1909, he was appointed lieutenant-colonel in the R.A.M.C. (T.F.), and commandant of the Third Southern (Oxford) General Hospital, a post which was probably considered a sinecure at the time, but became one of hard work and of great importance during the war. He was mentioned in despatches in the *London Gazette* of July 27th, 1917, and received the C.M.G.; and later the Territorial Decoration in 1923. He retired from the Territorial Forces on September 19th, 1923. In 1875 he married Elizabeth Maunsell, daughter of John Duncan, Inspector-General, Royal Irish Constabulary. She died in 1927, leaving one son.

Lieut.-Colonel George Henry Baker, Bengal Medical Service (ret.), died at Bournemouth on May 22nd, aged 74. He was born on May 11th, 1860, the son of George Philip Baker of Portsea Island, Southampton, was educated at Charing Cross Hospital, where he was Golding scholar, and took the L.S.A. in 1884 and the M.R.C.S. in 1885. Entering the I.M.S. as surgeon on October 1st, 1885, he became lieutenant-colonel after twenty years' service, and retired on December 24th, 1913. Most of his service was spent in civil employ in the United Provinces. He served in the Burmese campaign of 1886-7, in the 6th Brigade, and received the frontier medal with a clasp; and in the Tirah campaign of 1897-8 (medal with clasp). After retirement he rejoined for service in the war of 1914-18.

Major Robert O'Kelly, R.A.M.C. (ret.), died at Crecon, County Limerick, on June 14th, aged 49. He was born on January 16th, 1885, and was educated in Dublin, where he took the L.R.C.P. and S.I. in 1907. Entering the R.A.M.C. as lieutenant on February 4th, 1908, he became major after twelve years' service, and retired, on account of ill-health, on March 30th, 1927. He served in the war of 1914-18.

Major John Hay Duguid, R.A.M.C. (ret.), died on May 27th, aged 57. He was born on July 13th, 1876, and was educated at Aberdeen, where he graduated M.B., Ch.B. in 1901. Entering the R.A.M.C. as lieutenant on January 31st, 1903, he became major on October 31st, 1914, and retired on February 10th, 1923. After retirement he was in practice at Walford. He served in the war of 1914-18.

## Medical News

The annual dinner of the Chartered Society of Massage and Medical Gymnastics will be held at the Café Royal, Regent Street, W., on Wednesday, September 26th, at 7.30 p.m.

The programme for the fifty-third post-graduate course of the Medical Faculty of Vienna has now been issued. This course will extend from September 24th to October 8th, and will deal more particularly with recent advances in general medicine and therapeutics. Copies of the programme can be obtained from the office of the Medical Faculty in the University, Ring des 12 November, Vienna 1.

The next lecture-demonstration arranged by the Fellowship of Medicine and Post-Graduate Medical Association (1, Wimpole Street, W.) will be given by Dr. Clark-Kennedy, at 11, Chandos Street, W., on August 21st, at 2.30 p.m.; the subject will be asthma. The following lecture will be on August 28th, on loss of voice. Forthcoming courses include infants' diseases at the Infants Hospital, September 3rd to 15th; chest diseases for M.R.C.P. candidates, at the Brompton Hospital, September 10th to October 5th; and medicine, surgery, and the specialties at the Westminster Hospital, September 17th to 29th. The Panel of Teachers provides daily instruction in various branches of medicine and surgery.

The Fellowship of Medicine announces that a course in infants' diseases, specially arranged for medical officers of welfare centres and others interested in nutritional disorders and dietetics, will be given at the Infants Hospital, Vincent Square, Westminster, S.W., from September 3rd to 14th. The fee for the full course is £3 3s., and the names of qualified practitioners wishing to attend the course (the number is limited to fifteen) should be sent to the Secretary, 1, Wimpole Street, W.1, by August 30th.

The first International Congress of Electro-radio-biology will take place from September 10th to 15th in the Doge's Palace at Venice under the presidency of the Marquis Guglielmo Marconi and Count Giuseppe Volpi di Misurata. The object of the congress is to hold joint discussions between physicists, chemists, biologists, and physicians, on biological actions of all radiations, in order to co-ordinate the respective investigations. The biologist will learn from the physicist the theoretical and experimental basis of physical researches on the vibratory and corpuscular phenomena. The physicist and the physico-chemist will learn from the biologist what are the influences that these phenomena have on cellular elements, on complex tissues, and on organic processes. The applications of radiations to medicine will not be examined and discussed. Further information may be obtained from the general secretary of the congress, Dr. Giocondo Protti, S. Gregorio 173, Venice, Italy.

The thirtieth congress of the Italian Society for Otorhino-laryngology will be held at Padua from September 6th to 8th, when the following subjects will be discussed: the surgery of the ethmoid, introduced by P. Carco, G. Lugli, and M. Silvagni; and the lymphatic tissue and its importance in the development of laryngeal tuberculosis, introduced by R. Motta, G. Salvadori, and V. Tanturri.

The fourth congress of the Latin Oto-rhino-laryngological Society will be held at Brussels from September 20th to 25th under the presidency of Dr. E. Buys.

The eighth congress of the French societies of otoneuro-ophthalmology, which was to have been held at Barcelona this year, has been postponed to next Easter, when it will probably be held at Nice.

The Industrial Welfare Society (14, Hobart Place, Westminster, S.W.1) has issued a pamphlet on the scope, administration, equipment, and staffing, etc., of works laundries.

Major-General D. J. Collins, C.B., C.M.G., D.Sc., M.D., has been appointed a deputy lieutenant for the County of London.

After providing for a bequest of £500, the will of Mr. Gerald B. Atkins, Brentmead Place, Hendon, who left £11,041 (net personalty £10,035), leaves the residue upon trust to pay the income between Guy's Hospital, St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Moorfields Eye Hospital, St. George's Hospital, and the Midmay Maternity Nursing Association. If either ceases to exist or ceases to be supported by voluntary contributions by reason of its being taken over or run by the State or the L.C.C., or any local or other authority or public body, such interest is to cease.

An institute of public health has recently been founded in Rome, consisting of laboratories for chemistry, bacteriology, biology, and sanitary engineering, a library, and a museum.

By a recent ministerial decree every cinema in Spain has been ordered to exhibit films of a public health character, supplied by the Subsecretary of Health and Welfare, for at least twelve minutes at each performance.

Geh. Med. Rat Professor Emil Abderhalden, director of the Physiological Institution of Halle University, has been elected a corresponding foreign member of the Vienna Academy of Sciences.

Dr. J. L. Faure, professor of clinical gynaecology, and Dr. Brindeau, professor of clinical obstetrics, in the Paris Faculty of Medicine, have been elected members of the Académie de Médecine.

Professor Emile Gallemaerts, a former president of the Belgian Académie de Médecine, has been nominated an officer of the Legion of Honour.

## 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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## QUERIES AND ANSWERS

### Regeneration of Nail Tissue

F. F." (Bromley) has a case in which, owing to an accident some two months ago, the skin on the dorsum of the thumb was caught and wrenched up just above the nail matrix. The entire nail was pulled up off its bed and dragged up to the pulp of the thumb, the flap involved remaining attached. At this stage "F. F." saw it, and replaced the flap. Subsequently the entire remains of the thumb nail appeared to have been absorbed and replaced by what seems to be fine scar tissue. The matrix is proliferating a new nail from the proximal end of the scar tissue, or nail groove, and the nail is being reproduced from the sides of the nail groove (more so from the inner side). There is, however, a comparatively large area of the scar tissue in the nail groove which does not, so far, show signs of proliferating nail. Is it likely that there is a stratum of nail epithelial cells below this scar tissue, and

that this can be induced to nail reactivity by fine, minute punctures of the scar tissue, stage by stage, and dressing with iodox?

### Nail-biting

"LIBERTAS," in reply to "M.B.Ed." (August 4th, p. 240), writes: Let the child of 11 years old be shown daily that her nearest and dearest care. Let her be shown that the cure is in her own hands, and that the habit is her slave and not her master. Let her have congenial company, and occupations. Let her be told gently and in confidence that other habits—for example, masturbation, lurk ready for the uncontrolled. If still necessary, when much older, let her know that nail-biting is among the possible symptoms of mental deficiency.

Dr. A. G. BUCHANAN (London), in reply to "M.B.Ed.," writes: I have cured a large number of cases of nail-biting by hypnotic suggestion.

Major H. WILLIAMSON (Dorchester) writes in reply to "M.B.Ed.": I recently had a similar case, which was cured when the child's mother gave her a manicure set and taught her to take a pride in her nails. The set included "liquid nail polish," which particularly pleased the child, and a pair of nail clippers which could be used with either hand.

### Insect Bites and Iodine

Dr. T. M. CUTHBERT (Gidea Park) writes: I can endorse Dr. Pringle's finding. All my cases of septic insect bites have been "first-aided" with iodine. One had commencing erysipelas when first seen four days after the bite—the patient died from septicaemia. I feel sure iodine ought not to be applied to insect bites, but it seems a universal treatment, probably originating in a newspaper article.

### Spermatorrhoea when Bathing

Dr. ALISTAIR R. FRENCH (Greenford) writes in reply to "M.D., D.P.H.'s" inquiry concerning the above condition: I suggest that he might obtain some help from the perusal of Dr. Max Huhner's book *Disorders of the Sexual Function*, published by the F. A. Davis Company of Philadelphia.

### Over-smoking

"A. K." (Gravesend) writes: In reply to your correspondent's inquiry on this subject, it may be of interest to record the following instance in which I was successful in effecting an improvement. Some time ago, having to meet an in-coming ship, I noticed on the bridge a bowl containing numerous cigarette ends. The captain, whose hands were very shaky, and who admitted to excessive cigarette smoking, agreed to my suggestion that he should substitute caramels for the smoking of cigarettes. The next time I saw him on his ship the bowl was full of caramel wrappings instead of cigarette ends. His hands were steady and his smoking had been reduced to a very moderate amount.

Dr. E. N. SAYWELL (London, N.W.1) writes: Has "F. C. R.'s" patient tried complete abstinence from tobacco for forty-eight hours? I know of several cases completely cured of the craving by this means. If the patient wishes to continue moderate smoking, Paton, in his *Hormone Therapy*, gives a remedy which he has found efficacious, but I have not tried it.

### G.P. Laboratory Equipment

"W. F." writes in reply to "Q. R. S.'s" inquiry (*Journal*, June 2nd, p. 1015): The following information may be of use to your correspondent. An egg incubator, which can be bought second hand, working with gas or oil, is perfectly efficient; regulators and lamp heaters can be obtained which keep a very good and regular temperature. For a sterilizer a "pentecon" may be used; size 5 is, however, too small. There is an efficient centrifuge, made in Germany, which is quite cheap; test tubes 1/2 in. by 5 in. are suitable, and smaller Wassermann tubes can also be used. Of dyes, the "tabloid" seem to be the most economical. Beef extracts are of value, otherwise it pays to purchase media. The dried media are useful, and, if one only uses small quantities, cheap. The "tabloid" brand is again to be recommended. Storage trouble can be diminished by cutting slides into three and mounting temporarily on another slide for examination. Sedimentation tubes, which can be made at home, are cheap to buy. A home-made colorimeter can be made from plasticine with a screen of paper having slots cut in it. Suitable measuring apparatus can be obtained from Baird and Tatlock. As regards renal function tests, it is better to buy the tube. Bromine can be obtained in ampoules of 1 c.cm., and four samples can be examined with