

The plain truth is that the Act was passed with one particular purpose in view. The Common Law contains a peculiar doctrine that the right of personal action dies with the person. The result was that when a negligent motorist injured someone and was himself killed in the accident the injured party had no redress. He could not sue the estate, and he could not even recover from the negligent one's insurance company. The Act sets right an intolerable injustice. It is a principle of law to give the same rights to both sides, and so the Act allows the personal representatives of an injured person who has died to sue in his place, but has very closely limited their right to damages—so much so that negligence actions by personal representatives are likely to be few and far between.

It is always possible to construct theories from legal doctrines and enactments, just as it is from philosophical premisses, but such inventions commonly have little if any relation to practical affairs. They are unfortunate when they tend to frighten unnecessarily a body of deserving persons who already have to face more than their share of real legal danger.—I am, etc.,

London, E.C., Oct. 23rd.

D. HARCOURT KITCHIN.

Publicity

SIR,—As one who has received a large amount of publicity in the lay press, may I say that so far as I know I have never been one penny the richer on account of it so far as my medical practice is concerned. I fully agree with Dr. Frank G. Layton that we are all guilty in one way or another of seeking publicity, and that, so long as a man does not profess to have some special treatment which he alone is capable of administering, it is all completely harmless.

Let us clear our minds of cant on this topic. Every article in the *B.M.J.* is an advertisement, intended to be read by the profession. These articles, and the personal recommendation of satisfied patients, are the only form of publicity that is likely to increase our incomes. Yet the *B.M.J.* is read by thousands of lay men and women throughout the country. It is one of the most popular journals in the free libraries, and anyone who has ever visited these public reading-rooms must have noticed old ladies poring over your columns for hours. If the *Journal* is only intended for the profession, why allow it to be circulated in free libraries? But for the old ladies many of us, by using the free libraries, might save our subscription to the Association; and if the old ladies are allowed to read the *B.M.J.*, what possible objection can there be to the newspapers selecting from your columns any matter that they consider to be of general interest to their readers?—I am, etc.,

London, W.8, Oct. 19th.

HALLIDAY SUTHERLAND.

** However much some medical men might wish us to do so, we cannot control the newspapers or the public libraries or the old ladies.—ED., *B.M.J.*

Whither General Practice?

SIR,—I would like to thank Dr. W. Savile Henderson for his letter in the *Journal* of October 20th (p. 742) and for ventilating what, I think, is a very general abuse. I may say that I have had an almost identical experience with the one he describes in Case 1, and, like him, received the same reply when I complained to the authorities. I have also had complaints from patients about welfare workers trying to force their way into the house to give advice on a variety of medical subjects without my knowledge or consent, and have been asked, indignantly, if I had sent them. This state of affairs

causes a loss of confidence between the family doctor and his patients.

I would like to suggest that the authorities should issue a strongly worded standing order to all welfare workers, that they must call on the doctor *before* they visit any of his patients, and discuss the case with him first. I have never had the courtesy of a visit from the welfare worker.—I am, etc.,

RUPERT PALMER, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Lydd, Kent, Oct. 21st.

SIR,—We must all sympathize with Dr. Savile Henderson in his discovery that not only lower-class but also middle-class patients are being inveigled away from the general practitioner to the public clinic, and in his plea for a remedy.

If Dr. Henderson read the report of the discussion at the Annual Representative Meeting at Dublin last year (*Supplement*, August 5th, 1933, p. 86) he will remember that it was stated there (by a member of Council) that infant welfare was educational work, and could not be done in general practice. So if Dr. Henderson accepts this view he will sit down and rejoice that the work which a mere general practitioner was unwisely attempting is being taken into the hands of people more competent to perform it.

If, on the other hand, as appears from his letter, Dr. Henderson does not adhere to this mediaeval theory, then he may accept my suggestion (*Supplement*, July 14th, 1934, p. 33) that the general practitioner is actually the person in the best position to undertake infant welfare, and let his patients know that he is able and willing to give them all that the public clinics can offer them as regards infant welfare. If he does, then I am sure that he need not fear the competition of the local authority.—I am, etc.,

London, S.W., Oct. 22nd.

F. GRAY.

Correction of "Medical Register"

SIR,—I am desired by the Returning Officer to say that voting papers for the purpose of the forthcoming election of a direct representative to the General Medical Council were issued on October 23rd to all registered medical practitioners having registered addresses in England and Wales; and that the authorities of the Council would be glad if every such practitioner who has not received a voting paper would communicate immediately with the Office of the Council (44, Hallam Street, London, W.1), whether or not he proposes to vote in the election, in order to ascertain that his address is correctly entered in the *Medical Register*.—I am, etc.,

MICHAEL HESELTINE,
Registrar, General Medical Council.

October 24th.

Universities and Colleges

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

At a congregation held on October 18th the following medical degree was conferred:

B.M.—G. H. Buck, J. P. Dewsbury, C. M. Vaillant, A. B. Stokes.

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

The Vice-Chancellor announces that Sir Percival Horton-Smith Hartley, M.D., sometime Fellow of St. John's College, has conveyed to him through the good offices of the Regius Professor of Physic his desire to make over to the University, for the further endowment of the Raymond Horton-Smith Prize, securities producing an income of £20 a year. The foundation of this prize, for the best M.D. thesis in each academic year, is recorded on page 339 of the *Historical Register*. Sir Percival is the eldest son of the original donor and a brother of Raymond John Horton-Smith, whom the

prize commemorates. His gift would restore the former value of the prize, and would increase its value beyond the former amount if payment of dividends upon the present investments of the fund should be resumed.

At a congregation held on October 19th the following medical degree was conferred:

B.CHIR.—*M. A. Rugg-Gunn, *T. V. Tattersall, *A. R. R. Mears, G. T. Hindley.

*By proxy.

UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER

Dr. R. W. Fairbrother has been appointed lecturer in bacteriology, and Dr. J. C. Kerrin succeeds him as assistant director of the routine section of the Department of Bacteriology and Preventive Medicine. Dr. D. T. Robinson has been appointed assistant lecturer in bacteriology, and Dr. I. A. Cathie and Dr. James Davson demonstrators in pathology.

UNIVERSITY OF WALES

The following candidates have satisfied the examiners in the examination indicated:

DIPLOMA IN PUBLIC HEALTH.—(Part II): K. J. Grant, T. M. A. Lewis, J. C. R. Morgan, Elizabeth S. G. Owen, Jean J. Smith.

UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW

A congregation was held on October 20th, when the following degrees were conferred:

M.D.—*W. S. L. McLeish, *C. Nicholson, Elizabeth J. Findlay, D. P. Leiper, J. Riddell.

M.B., Ch.B.—†R. C. Elitzik, †E. M. Rappaport, †J. D. O. Kerr, *M. Lazarowitz, *S. Smith, *H. Gillies, *J. H. Hutchison, *B. Joseph, *A. B. Semple, *C. L. Elder, *D. Gersten, *Gertrude I. R. Tannahill, *R. W. Carslaw, *R. McL. Millen, *C. Slutsky, *D. Ferguson, *J. D. Fulton, *D. Livingstone, *E. L. Nicolson, R. H. Adam, G. H. Aitken, Eleanor M. Alexander, W. J. Barclay, J. Black, R. Black, W. M. Borthwick, J. F. D. Boyd, D. B. Brown, J. Brown, G. G. Browning, J. N. M. Chalmers, Janet M. S. Clark, G. B. M. Clarke, N. P. R. Clyde, M. X. Colby, G. C. Cooper, J. E. Craik, J. F. Diamond, D. O. Dickie, D. Douglas, R. J. Eadie, Sarah G. Fee, I. Felsen, A. G. Fergusson, J. D. Finlayson, R. E. Fletcher, S. L. Frank, N. A. Freebairn, L. D. Gardner, Helen M. Gibb, G. C. Gordon, J. M. Graham, J. R. Hendry, Agnes B. Herbert, J. Hodge, J. Hughes, G. Hunter, A. Hutchison, J. S. Jackson, A. Leitch, M. Levinson, W. Love, A. D. Lynch, A. F. McDonald, J. Macdonald, J. A. MacDougall, J. S. L. McGibbon, Ethelwyn M. McKendrick, A. McKenzie, Roberta M. C. MacLean, J. Macrae, W. Mallinson, K. H. Martin, W. J. Moffat, R. Murdoch, J. J. Murray, J. Parker, Marion A. Pearson, R. Pettigrew, J. D. Ramsay, J. D. Rankin, J. L. Rankin, J. A. Rankin, J. G. Roberts, J. B. McN. Runciman, Olive Scott, M. S. Segall, Ada M. Sewell, Helen S. C. Smith, N. Sragowitz, Jean W. Strang, D. F. Suttie, W. O. G. Taylor, R. A. Tennent, A. Thomson, W. Thomson, J. J. Tillie, J. A. Weir, J. B. Wilson.

* With commendation. † With honours.

R. C. Elitzik gained the Brunton Memorial Prize, awarded to the most distinguished graduate in medicine for the year 1934, and E. M. Rappaport gained the West of Scotland R.A.M.C. Memorial Prize, awarded to the candidate with the highest aggregate marks in medicine, surgery, and midwifery in the final M.B. and Ch.B. examination held during 1934.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND

Museum Demonstrations

The autumn course of museum demonstrations in the theatre of the College commenced on Monday, October 22nd, when Mr. C. E. Shattock showed specimens illustrating bone tumours. To-day (Friday, October 26th) Dr. John Beattie discusses the functional anatomy of the pituitary gland, and on November 2nd and 9th respectively he will deal with dysfunction of the anterior lobe of the pituitary gland, and the posterior pituitary problem. On October 29th Mr. Cecil P. G. Wakeley will discuss tumours of the intestinal tract, and on November 5th Mr. E. K. Martin will show specimens illustrating surgical diseases of liver and bile ducts. All the demonstrations commence at 5 p.m.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF EDINBURGH

At a meeting of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, held on October 16th, with Dr. A. H. H. Sinclair, president, in the chair, the following successful candidates were admitted as Fellows:

F. Bartholomew, B. W. F. Bishop, E. Bourke, J. J. M. Brown, A. J. Cameron, H. F. Cameron, J. E. Ellison, J. Gerrie, R. N. Ghosh, E. J. D. Gillespie, H. R. Goldberg, S. W. Grimwade, G. C. Halliday, R. W. G. Kelly, A. B. Kerr, W. D. Macfarlane, C. W. McVicar, A. M. Marshall, G. G. Mowat, D. N. Wilson, E. C. Wynne-Edwards.

Obituary

PROFESSOR RAMÓN Y CAJAL

Santiago Ramón y Cajal died on October 18th at the age of 82. To most medical men in England his name has been familiar since their study of histology, but few have realized the greatness of his achievements. Of these perhaps the chief is the stimulus which he gave to scientific education in Spain, and the advances in educational methods which were based on his advice. How much of his thoughts were given to this subject may be gleaned from any of his more personal writings. The prefaces to his books show a complete devotion to science and a desire for recognition, not of himself, but of Spanish science. He was, in fact, the father of Spanish science, for no Spaniard before him had made any noteworthy contribution to scientific knowledge.

Cajal was entirely self-taught. His father, who was professor of anatomy at Zaragoza, first turned his attention to the structure of the human body, and his intense love of beauty and skill in drawing stimulated his interest in histology. He owed to Golgi's publications and to photographic methods the use of silver impregnation in histological work. But apart from Golgi he had no teachers. His first medical excursion to foreign lands was to demonstrate his preparations of the nervous system to the German Society of Anatomists. His life-work consisted in the application of his own methods to histology. How fruitful those methods can be in skilled hands has scarcely been recognized outside Spain, for few have taken the trouble to master all the variations in technique which are needed for different structures. In Cajal's hands and those of his pupils, however, they have resulted in a wealth of knowledge which only of very recent years, by the translation of his *Degeneration and Regeneration of the Nervous System* and his *Histology*, has found its way into the English language. His greatest work, *Textura del Sistema Nervioso del Hombre y Vertebrados*, which began to appear in Spanish in 1897, was translated into French in 1909. Unfortunately it has been out of print for many years, and is now difficult to obtain. Neuro-anatomists know it as the most complete and accurate account of the microscopical anatomy of the nervous system which has ever been written. But its most remarkable feature is that it is chiefly based on Cajal's own studies with silver impregnation techniques.

Since 1901 Ramón y Cajal edited the *Travaux du Laboratoire de Recherches Biologiques*, which was devoted to his own work and that of his pupils and associates. The prestige of this journal has always been high, and its publication in French of recent years has greatly widened its appeal. When he was elected a foreign corresponding member of the British Medical Association in April, 1934, he generously presented to the Association's Library a set of the *Travaux* for the years 1912 to 1933.

As a scientist Cajal ranks very high. Of his many contributions to knowledge few have had to submit to change. Perhaps his very isolation contributed to this result, as it made him observe things freshly with his own eyes and left him free from erroneous tradition. In fact, he insists in several places that his work is individual and Spanish, and deplors the fact that others, without troubling to read the Spanish literature, have re-discovered facts which he and his pupils had observed.

Cajal received abundant recognition during his life, a recognition which meant little to him, except the honour which it brought to Spain and the opportunities which it afforded for further work. He was professor of anatomy at Valencia at the age of 29 and for thirty years, up till 1922, professor of histology and morbid anatomy

at Madrid University. His early book, *New Ideas on the Structure of the Nervous System*, which appeared in 1894, was sold out in Spanish, German, and French editions by 1899. He gave the Croonian Lectures before the Royal Society of London in 1894, and received half of the Nobel Prize in 1906. On this occasion physicians of the Argentine raised a fund for the publication of a book by Cajal, and to this we owe his *Degeneration and Regeneration of the Nervous System*. In Spain also he was honoured by being made a life senator, and a magnificent laboratory in Madrid, El Instituto Cajal, has been erected as a permanent memorial of the man and his work.

We regret to announce the death, on October 10th, of Dr. Thomas Horton in his seventy-ninth year. Dr. Horton was trained as a pharmaceutical chemist, but at the late age of 35 he went to Durham University College of Medicine at Newcastle for his medical training. Two years later he entered University College Hospital, London. He qualified M.R.C.S.Eng., L.R.C.P.Lond. in 1894, and graduated M.B. (with honours) and B.S. at Durham University in the same year. He took his M.D. in 1896. He was Tulloch and Armstrong scholar at Durham University, and gold medallist in medicine and Erichsen prizeman at University College Hospital. He practised at Torquay for over twenty years with considerable success, and was honorary surgeon to the Torbay Hospital and honorary physician to the Western Hospital for Consumption. After his retirement he devoted himself to voluntary work for the Baptist Missionary Society, being successively chairman of the Medical Committee and chairman of the General Committee of that society. He was a keen member of the British Medical Association for some twenty years. His younger son was killed in the Great War. He is survived by one daughter and one son, who is in surgical practice at Weymouth.

Medical News

The centenary appeal on behalf of Charing Cross Hospital Medical School will be inaugurated on Thursday, November 1st, when Marshal of the Royal Air Force Sir John Salmond will distribute the prizes and give an address.

The Semon Lecture, 1934, on "Inflammation of the Maxillary Antrum and other Accessory Sinuses (Some Clinical Manifestations of its Pathology)," will be given by Mr. Herbert Tilley at the Royal Society of Medicine on Thursday, November 1st, at 5 p.m.

A series of lectures will be given at the Central London Throat, Nose, and Ear Hospital (Gray's Inn Road, W.C.), on Fridays, at 4 p.m., from November 2nd to March 29th (excluding December 28th).

Dr. George Barger, F.R.S., professor of chemistry in relation to medicine in the University of Edinburgh, will deliver a course of three lectures on "Chemical Questions Relating to Pharmacology," at the London (Royal Free Hospital) School of Medicine for Women, Hunter Street, W.C., on November 1st, 2nd, and 9th, at 5.30 p.m. Admission free, without ticket.

Dr. A. Goodman Levy will read a paper on "Criticisms of Some Aspects of Psycho-analysis from a Layman's Point of View" before the London Jewish Hospital Medical Society, at the hospital, Stepney Green, E., on Thursday, November 8th, at 3.45 p.m., with the president, Professor Charles Singer, in the chair.

A course of post-graduate demonstrations will be given at the Manchester Hospital for Consumption and Diseases of the Ear, Nose, Throat, and Chest, Hardman Street, Deansgate, Manchester, on Wednesdays, at 4.30 p.m., from October 31st to December 12th inclusive. All graduates and students of medicine are invited to attend.

The Fellowship of Medicine (1, Wimpole Street, W.) announces that further lecture-demonstrations will be given by Dr. Clark-Kennedy at 11, Chandos Street, W.,

at 2.30 p.m. on October 30th and November 6th. In the series of lectures on diet and dietetics, on Wednesdays at 8.30 p.m., at 11, Chandos Street, W., Dr. Leonard Findlay will speak on diet of infants on October 31st, and Dr. E. G. B. Calvert on diet of the diabetic on November 7th. Special demonstration of surgical cases by Mr. C. E. Shattock on November 10th, at 3 p.m., at the National Temperance Hospital, Hampstead Road, N.W. Special courses of instruction include neurology at the West End Hospital for Nervous Diseases, October 29th to November 3rd, all day; obstetrics at the City of London Maternity Hospital, all day, November 3rd and 4th; medicine, surgery, and gynaecology at the Royal Waterloo Hospital, November 5th to 24th, all day; chest diseases at the City of London Hospital, Victoria Park, November 5th to 10th, all day; urology at St. Peter's Hospital, November 5th to 17th, all day; venereal disease at the London Lock Hospital, November 12th to December 8th, afternoons; gynaecology at the Samaritan Hospital, November 17th and 18th, all day; proctology at St. Mark's Hospital, November 19th to 24th, all day; rheumatism at the British Red Cross Clinic for Rheumatism, Tuesday and Thursday evenings, at 8.30 p.m., November 20th to December 6th. A panel of teachers is available for individual tuition. Courses are open only to members and associates of the Fellowship.

Dame Louise McIlroy, who has been appointed assistant director and lecturer to the Clapham Maternity Hospital, Jeffreys Road, London, S.W., is now holding an ante-natal clinic there every Wednesday, at 10 a.m., and giving a weekly lecture.

The Lilly Research Laboratories at Indianapolis, U.S.A., were formally opened on October 11th. At the dedication ceremony addresses on "Research in Manufacturing Pharmacy" were given by Mr. J. K. Lilly, on "The Unpredictable Results of Research" by Dr. Irving Langmuir, on "The Early Story of Insulin" by Sir Frederick Banting, on "Chemical Ideas in Medicine and Biology" by Sir Henry Dale, and on "The Work of the Laboratories" by Mr. Eli Lilly.

It is announced that a committee, including Sir Charlton Briscoe and Mr. Cecil Wakeley, has been formed for the purpose of raising a fund to commemorate the late Miss M. E. Ray, R.R.C., of King's College Hospital. Miss Ray's association with "King's" began in 1889, when, on completion of her training, she was appointed sister of the Albert Ward. In 1896 she became assistant matron of the Leeds General Infirmary, and in 1899 matron of the County Lincoln Hospital. After being there for seven years she was appointed sister-matron of King's College Hospital, a post she held until 1918. For services during the war she was awarded the Royal Red Cross. In 1918 she retired from "King's," and took over the post of honorary secretary of Lady Minto's Indian Nursing Association. It has been suggested that the most fitting memorial to her would be the establishment of a fund to be devoted towards assisting "King's" nurses who are temporarily embarrassed, especially those requiring rest and convalescence after illness. Cheques should be sent to Miss M. A. Willcox, Sister-Matron, King's College Hospital, S.E.5.

The National Council of Women of Great Britain, at its annual meeting held in Edinburgh this month, unanimously adopted a resolution urging His Majesty's Government to require from local authorities strict compliance with their statutory duty to ascertain the number of mental defectives in their area, and to provide for them institutional accommodation and other appropriate means for their adequate care and protection.

On October 1st the British Legion took over, as a seaside annexe to the institution at Preston Hall, Douglas House, Bournemouth, which has hitherto been administered by the United Services Fund as a convalescent centre for tuberculous ex-service men. The institution is approved by the Ministry of Health, and will add seventy-five more beds to the number already available at Preston Hall.

Professor Pavlov, the world-famous physiologist and director of the biological station of Koltouchi, near Leningrad, has recently celebrated his 85th birthday.