

is twenty milliamperes for twenty minutes. If a zinc electrode is used it is not necessary to reverse the current. My father considered that zinc was useful in acute cervicitis, endocervicitis, and endometritis, but that copper was more efficient in chronic cases. I have found this by experience also.

Ionization is contraindicated in tubal infections and in most cases of ovarian inflammation. Therefore the medical electrotherapist should work in co-operation with the surgical gynaecologist.—I am, etc.,

London, W.1, Dec. 10th. ELIZABETH SLOAN CHESSEY, M.D.

The Duodenum and the Kirby Grip

SIR,—In connexion with the recent correspondence on the above subject, the two following cases may be of interest.

A little girl, aged 2½, swallowed a Kirby grip two inches in length. X-ray examination showed it to be held up in the duodenum, and there it stayed for three weeks. At the end of this period it had moved, for the first time, to the left of the midline, rather as if it had backed out into the stomach to get into a better position for its attempt on the duodenum. At the end of four weeks it was passed normally, at a time when the nurse was so tired of combing the faeces that she nearly missed it. After reading of the difficulty encountered by Mr. Rendle Short at operation I am glad that I left it, and my reason for so doing was that the child never complained at any time of the slightest pain or discomfort.

The second case was that of a little girl, aged about 6, who had had persistent pyuria for several months. This was found to be due to a Kirby grip in the bladder, though who introduced it she would not say. When removed it was found to be embedded in a calculus the size of an olive.

—I am, etc.,

Guildford, Dec. 8th.

LIONEL LANKESTER, M.B.

Influenza and the War

SIR,—Although fully alive to the horrors of war, I consider the statement by Dr. Warden (December 1st, p. 1019) that the influenza epidemic of 1918 was a result of the world war should not pass unchallenged.

It is stated in standard textbooks that an influenza epidemic occurs about every thirty years. The previous epidemic of 1891 was twenty-seven years remote, and a probably non-immune generation had grown up. I have inquired of hundreds as to their freedom from attack or otherwise in the 1891 and 1918 epidemics, and have not found a case that was a victim in both. An epidemic was due, and it appears to me that the statement that it was caused by the war is purely conjectural.

It is to be hoped that in the next epidemic (about 1948) we shall learn its relation to minor epidemics of "so-called" influenza, or whether there is a reservoir in other genera. Apropos of the latter possibility, in 1917 there was an epidemic among the horses and mules of the field ambulance in which I was serving similar to the virulent influenza in humans of the following year. An affected animal held its head in a dejected attitude and would not feed. There was a slight injection of the conjunctiva and a little mucus in the nostrils. The animal soon got down, never again rose voluntarily, and very soon could not be made to rise. Infected animals became dyspnoeic and died within one or two days. The veterinary surgeon would give no name to the disease. Post-mortem examination showed a slight bronchopneumonia along the anterior border of the lungs after natural death, but if shot before they started to "blow" the post-mortem findings were negative. Others, no doubt, had similar experience, and could probably tell of the extent to which this epidemic prevailed generally.—I am, etc.,

December 2nd.

"INTERESTED."

"Applied Human Biology"

SIR,—I, too, consider the Norman Lockyer Lecture of Professor J. B. S. Haldane "provocative," but little more so than the last paragraph of your article about it (*Journal*, December 8th, p. 1054). To applaud his statement that, unless the present fertility rate greatly alters, the diminution of population will rapidly become catastrophic is to flout those who contend that the diminution will bring a progressive increase of the average income, which will certainly raise the birth rate to a replacement level within a few decades (unless people have really lost the desire to have at least one child of each sex). To applaud his view as to the uselessness of sterilizing defectives is to flout the Brock Committee. To applaud his statement that there is no evidence that the children of the poorer classes are innately inferior to those of the richer classes is to flout the opinion often voiced, even in your own columns, that the higher birth rate in the poorest districts is dysgenic.—I am, etc.,

London, S.W.15, Dec. 8th.

B. DUNLOP, M.B., Ch.B.

Universities and Colleges

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

At a congregation held on December 15th the following medical degrees were conferred:

D.M.—H. S. Brodribb, P. R. Greeves, R. McDonald, T. G. Lowden.

B.M.—H. N. Howells.

The following candidates have passed in the examinations indicated:

MATERIA MEDICA AND PHARMACOLOGY.—L. E. C. Davies, W. F. Dunham, D. B. Fraser, W. W. Gilford, W. E. Henley, D. A. Ireland, D. Jefferiss, J. F. Loutit, J. Mason, G. L. Peskett, H. Rees, C. W. Seward, G. Theophilus, E. G. Tuckwell, C. W. Whitty, E. M. Fisher, C. K. Westropp.

PATHOLOGY.—D. L. Davies, H. N. Davis, A. W. Dawson-Grove, W. W. Gilford, J. R. Hollick, M. H. Hughes, D. Kendall, J. F. Loutit, N. J. de V. Mather, R. W. Parnell, A. H. M. Richards, R. Roaf, K. C. Royes, N. K. Stott, J. Walter.

FORENSIC MEDICINE AND PUBLIC HEALTH.—G. Ashton, R. Bevan, H. Burton, R. N. B. Cridland, K. B. Dawson, D. H. Hertz, C. A. Hinds Howell, B. Hollins, E. C. O. Jewesbury, N. Leitch, D. F. G. Moir, J. R. Nassim, J. C. Paterson, J. C. Penton, K. C. Royes, N. K. Stott, W. R. Trotter, J. W. A. Turner, G. M. Afoumado, N. E. R. Archer, E. M. Fisher.

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

The Vice-Chancellor has appointed Sir Daniel Hall, K.C.B., F.R.S., chief scientific adviser, Ministry of Agriculture, to be Rede Lecturer for the year 1935. The lecture will be delivered on Monday, March 4th, at 5 p.m.; the place and subject will be announced later.

The Council of the Senate has sanctioned a Grace for the conferment of the degree of Master of Arts upon Harry Norman Green of St. John's College, M.D., M.Sc. Sheffield, University Demonstrator.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

The following candidates have been approved at the examination indicated:

THIRD M.B., B.S.—*†||E. Galinsky,*†||A. G. Hounslow,*||Nora L. Keevil,*†||J. F. McArdle,*||S. J. L. Taylor, S. H. Alavi, I. G. Anderson, Alberta I. Andrews, Elsie Armer, Margaret D. Baber, V. H. Barnett, D. M. Blomfield, H. B. Boucher, C. F. R. Briggs, J. A. Brocklebank, E. N. Brockway, W. M. Capper, B. S. Carter, W. H. Cartwright, Jean M. Cass, S. G. Clayton, Gladys E. Clyne, L. W. Davies, G. W. Duncan, K. C. Eden, E. D. Falconer, W. T. J. Fowler, Joan I. Franklin-Adams, D. J. Gilbert, F. R. Glover, B. S. Grant, L. Greenfield, J. Greenhalgh, T. F. R. Griffin, J. C. Harvey, F. S. M. Higgs, A. Hollingsworth, E. I. Jones, F. A. Jones, G. F. Jones, Alice M. Kaye, J. H. Kellgren, F. R. Kilpatrick, J. R. Kingdon, C. E. Langley, Margaret M. C. Loudon, B. McArdle, G. G. Macdonald, A. L. McFarlane, W. M. Macleod, C. F. Mayo-Smith, C. B. Miller, Barbara G. Morton, J. A. W. Musson, R. H. Purnell, A. M. Rackow, D. C. Reavell, A. T. Roden, B. F. B. Russell, K. G. Seager, Catherine L. Simmons, M. C. L. Smith, La-Iad Sobiya, K. Soddy, E. J. Somerset, W. H. C. Spooner, K. F. Stephens, G. L. Timms, T. G. Tregaskis, R. J. Vakili, M. E. Wigfield, E. Ll. Williams, Betty M. Zeal. Group I: Mary

Barber, R. M. Clarke, G. B. Davis, H. A. Eason, J. F. A. Forster, P. G. F. Harvey, I. H. Jenkins, A. E. Jones, A. C. Kanaar, A. Lasnick, J. B. H. McArthur, T. Miles, A. Moore, Elizabeth C. Morris, H. S. Pasmore, A. W. Probert, J. G. Sheldon, J. P. Thyne. *Group II*: Marjorie Bolton, P. R. Boucher, R. B. W. A. Cole, V. H. J. Davies, H. J. Fenn, Barbara J. Fisk, E. A. Hardy, O. S. Heyns, D. M. Jones, J. G. Jones, J. A. Lewis, M. J. Lindsey, J. R. M. Martin, R. B. Morton, H. N. Perkins, J. H. Playney, Irene H. Rogers, R. Sollenberger, W. J. Stokes, F. G. St.C. Strange, W. H. Summerskill.

* Honours. † Distinguished in medicine. ‡ Distinguished in pathology. § Distinguished in forensic medicine and hygiene. || Distinguished in obstetrics and gynaecology.

UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL

The following candidate has been approved at the examination indicated:

FINAL M.B., CH.B.—*Part II*: R. A. Mathews (with second-class honours).

UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD

At a meeting of the University Council, held on December 14th, the following appointments were made: Mr. J. C. Anderson, F.R.C.S., Lecturer in Applied Anatomy and Demonstrator in Anatomy; Mr. A. W. Fawcett, F.R.C.S., Lecturer in Surgical Pathology; Dr. E. F. Skinner, F.R.C.P., Lecturer in Psychology in the Faculty of Medicine.

VICTORIA UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER

Mr. Philip Godlee has presented to Lister House (the University medical hostel) a silver flagon, formerly the property of the late Lord Lister. This flagon was given to Lord Lister by his colleagues on the occasion of his appointment as Regius Professor of Surgery at Glasgow in 1860.

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

A graduation ceremonial was held in the Upper Library Hall on December 14th, when the following degrees and diplomas were conferred:

M.D.—Captain K. V. R. Choudari, I.M.S. (*in absentia*), R. T. Cooke, J. L. Cowan, *J. S. Faulds, †J. R. Innes, R. Y. Keers, R. M. Macfarlane, †A. C. M'Master, †A. S. Paterson, †Susanne J. Paterson, H. B. Porteous, D. C. Sutton, B. N. V. Wase-Bailey, †B. Williams.

D.Sc. (*Faculty of Medicine*).—E. B. Hendry, Dorothea M. Mowat. M.B., CH.B.—G. L. Birnie, J. H. Bowie, B. H. Charles, A. O. Coker, S. H. Gibbs, G. R. Gunn, W. S. Harvey, R. M. Hayes, K. I. W. Kleinberg, G. C. E. Laing, T. Leontsinis, J. M'N. Lockie, H. H. Lockwood, I. Macpherson, H. R. Mores, G. B. Petrie, Johanna M. Pienaar, R. E. Prichard, M. A. Rifat, L. V. Roberts, G. G. Robertson, Una R. Roy, H. L. R. Sargent, F. Schwartz, G. A. Scott, I. M. Scott, G. A. M. Smith, H. Watson, H. Kai-gee Wong.

DIPLOMA IN RADIOLOGY.—A. R. Cowan.

* Highly commended for thesis.

† Commended for thesis.

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF IRELAND

At a meeting of the Senate on December 6th, with the Chancellor, Mr. Eamon de Valera, in the chair, Dr. Denis J. Coffey was elected a Pro-Vice-Chancellor of the University for the period January 1st, 1935, to December 31st, 1936.

A report from the President of University College, Dublin, as representative of the University on the General Medical Council, was approved.

Professor Thomas Walsh was appointed representative of the University at the Royal Institute of Public Health Congress at Harrogate in June, 1935.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND

A Council meeting was held on December 13th, when the President, Sir Holburt Waring, was in the chair.

Mr. R. St. Leger Brockman was elected a member of the Court of Examiners in the vacancy caused by the retirement of Mr. Ernest W. Hey Groves.

Dr. A. J. E. Cave, Senior Demonstrator in Anatomy of University College, was appointed Assistant Conservator of the Museum.

The secretary reported that at the Primary Fellowship Examination, held in Melbourne recently, forty-five candidates were examined, of whom twenty-two were approved.

A Diploma of Membership was granted to Mr. Garthowen Williams.

Diplomas of Fellowship were granted to the following forty-three candidates:

A. D. W. Jones, G. E. G. Peirce, A. N. Jones, B. Chaudhuri, J. A. Pocock, J. C. Nicholson, R. H. Franklin, Muriel H. E. Long, J. S. Batchelor, J. W. S. H. Lindahl, J. Schofield, P. C. Sanyal, A. J. B. Goldsmith, H. H. Langston, G. T. Du Toit, F. J. S. Gower, A. F. Goode, F. Radcliffe, S. C. Suggit, W. G. Gill, H. M. Williams, S. C. Misra, J. A. S. Marr, G. K. Mulki, G. Qvist, J. Hardman, S. Rameshwar, J. K. Elliott, A. W. Badenoch, J. J. Brownlee, W. H. Graham, W. R. Henderson, R. J. Katrak, Hilda M. Linford, W. S. McGrath, J. A. McLauchlan, G. H. Macnab, W. H. B. Magauran, J. A. Martinez, R. Nagendran, H. K. Pacey, E. A. Rowlands, H. I. Turnbull.

Licences in Dental Surgery were granted to forty-eight candidates.

Recognition of Hospitals

The Council agreed to recognize the following first list of hospitals with the posts specified for the six months' post of resident house-surgeon, or other responsible post in charge of general surgical patients in the wards of a general hospital required of candidates before admission to the Final Examination for the Fellowship:

Dreadnought Hospital, Greenwich, S.E.—(two house-surgeons); Hampstead General and North-West London Hospital—(two house-surgeons); Prince of Wales's Hospital, Tottenham, N.—(two senior house-surgeons); Royal Northern Hospital, Holloway, N.—(one resident medical officer and three house-surgeons); Royal United Hospital, Bath—(first and second house-surgeons); Blackburn and East Lancashire Royal Infirmary—(one resident surgical officer and two house-surgeons); Royal Victoria and West Hants Hospital, Bournemouth—(three house-surgeons); Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital—(two house-surgeons); Gloucestershire Royal Infirmary and Eye Institution—(one resident surgical officer and two house-surgeons); Huddersfield Royal Infirmary—(one resident surgical officer and three house-surgeons); Hull Royal Infirmary (one resident surgical officer and three house-surgeons); Leicester Royal Infirmary—(four house-surgeons); Norfolk and Norwich Hospital—(three house-surgeons); Nottingham General Hospital—(four house-surgeons); South Devon and East Cornwall Hospital, Plymouth—(one resident surgical officer and two house-surgeons); Royal Portsmouth Hospital—(one resident surgical officer and two house-surgeons); Bolton Royal Infirmary—(one resident surgical officer and one assistant resident surgical officer); Preston and County of Lancaster Queen Victoria Royal Infirmary—(three house-surgeons); Royal Berkshire Hospital, Reading—(two house-surgeons); Salford Royal Hospital—(one resident surgical officer and three house-surgeons); Worcester Royal Infirmary—(two house-surgeons).

Primary F.R.C.S. Examination in India

The first Primary Fellowship examination to be held in India will take place in Madras on Thursday, December 27th. About eighty candidates have entered their names. The examiners appointed by the College are Professor William Wright of the London Hospital Medical School (anatomy) and Professor John Mellanby of St. Thomas's Hospital Medical School (physiology). Mr. Horace H. Rew, the director of examinations of the College, is travelling with them to supervise the arrangements. The party, returning by air, should be back in England on January 14th, 1935.

The Services

DEATHS IN THE SERVICES

Surgeon Commander Stewart Russell Johnston, R.N., died in London on December 13th. He was educated at University College Hospital, and took the M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.Lond. in 1916, joining the Navy immediately afterwards. He became surgeon lieutenant commander on October 24th, 1922, and surgeon commander on October 24th, 1928. He served during the war of 1914-18, and had gained the Sir Gilbert Blane medal.

Lieut.-Colonel Denham Francis Franklin, R.A.M.C. (ret.), died at Bournemouth on December 1st, aged 76. He was born on February 8th, 1858, and took the L.R.C.P. and S. at Edinburgh in 1879, also subsequently the F.R.C.S.Ed. in 1888, and the D.P.H. in the same year. Entering the Army as surgeon on July 21st, 1880, he became lieutenant-colonel after twenty years' service, and retired on April 12th, 1903. He served in the South African War in 1899-1900, and took part in operations in the Transvaal and Orange River Colony, including the actions at Paardeberg, Poplar Grove, Pretoria, Johannesburg, and Rhenoster Kop, and received the Queen's medal with three clasps. He also rejoined on February 7th, 1915, for service in the war of 1914-18.

Medical News

The Food Education Society has arranged a symposium on "Problems of School and University Diet" at University College, Gower Street, W.C., on Tuesday, January 1st, at 11 a.m., when the speakers will include Dr. G. E. Friend.

The British Red Cross Society will hold a course of seven lectures and demonstrations on tropical hygiene, on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, commencing on January 4th, at 9, Chesham Street, Belgrave Square, S.W.1, at 5.30 p.m. The course will cover such questions as food, clothing, and medical and sanitary precautions necessary for health in hot countries. The examination for the society's certificate in tropical hygiene will be held on January 21st. Fees for the course are 5s. for members of the Red Cross Society and 7s. 6d. for non-members.

The twenty-fifth annual exhibition of scientific instruments and apparatus arranged by the Physical Society will be held at the Imperial College of Science and Technology, South Kensington, on January 1st, 2nd, and 3rd, 1935.

The Colyer prize was founded in June, 1926, to commemorate the twenty-five years' service of Sir Frank Colyer as honorary curator of the Odontological Museum. The accumulated income of this fund may be used every third year for the purpose of awarding a prize for the best original work in dental science completed during the previous five years by a dental surgeon educated at any duly recognized dental school in Great Britain or Northern Ireland who has not been qualified to practise more than five years at the date of the award. Applications from candidates for the second award (to be made in July, 1935) should be submitted to the Royal Society of Medicine, 1, Wimpole Street, W.1, not later than March 31st, 1935, together with a general account of their researches, both completed and in progress. A document declaratory of the award will be presented with the prize. If no work of sufficient merit be submitted the prize will not be awarded.

The fifteenth medical salon for the exhibition of works of art by doctors, dentists, pharmacists, and veterinarians will be held at the Galerie des Beaux Arts, 140, Faubourg Saint-Honoré, Paris, from January 17th to February 3rd, 1935. A section of photographic art will be a new feature of the exhibition. Further information can be obtained from the organizing secretary, P. B. Malet, 46, Rue Lecourbe, Paris XV.

The 150th year of the Vienna General Hospitals will be celebrated next year. On May 18th the Chancellor will unveil a memorial to the first director of these institutions—Johann Peter Frank—and Professor Wagner-Jauregg will deliver the official address. From May 13th to 25th will be held a series of medical celebrations, festivities, and meetings of societies. In the mornings there will be the sessions of the fifty-fifth international post-graduate course of the Vienna Medical Faculty, and in the afternoons speeches will be given by the leading members of the profession in that city and elsewhere. In the afternoons also there will be visits to places of medical interest in the city and its environs. A medico-historical exhibition will be on view in the Natural History Museum, where there will be displayed illustrations of the growth in medical technique and the development of the great pharmaceutical industry, giving some conception of the range of the discoveries that have been made. The evenings will be given over to banquets, receptions, and performances in the State theatres. Detailed information can now be obtained free from the offices of the Vienna Medical Faculty, Alserstrasse 4, Vienna IX.

The tenth International Congress of the History of Medicine will be held at Madrid from September 23rd to 29th, 1935, under the presidency of Professor Gregor Marañón.

Laws relating to sterilization resembling in their essential points the German law on the prevention of morbid offspring have recently been passed in Norway and Sweden, and will come into force on January 1st, 1935.

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.

Authors desiring REPRINTS of their articles published in the *British Medical Journal* must communicate with the Financial Secretary and Business Manager, British Medical Association House, Tavistock Square, W.C.1, on receipt of proofs. Authors overseas should indicate on MSS. if reprints are required, as proofs are not sent abroad.

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.

The **TELEPHONE NUMBER** of the British Medical Association and the *British Medical Journal* is EUSTON 2111 (internal exchange, four lines).

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

Post-Herpetic Pain

Dr. H. LEWIS-PHILIPPS (Whitland) writes: A male patient, 70 years old, had a very severe attack of shingles some five weeks ago. He developed a severe rash over the left chest, the left axilla, and over the upper and mid-thoracic region of the back. The rash has greatly improved, and all that now remains is a brownish staining of the skin. Pain is very severe, and comes on in spasms, lasting for a few minutes at a time. The following drugs have been tried: (1) an aspirin, phenacetin, and caffeine citrate mixture; (2) alonal; (3) phanodorm; (4) nepenthe and paraldehyde (at night for sleep); and (5) omnopon grain 1/3 has had to be given once. Nepenthe seems to constipate him severely; paraldehyde suits him best, and he gets rest at night, but has to be given two drachm doses. He is a left-sided hemiplegic of some five years' standing, and some two years ago suffered from a fairly severe pyelitis, which has since cleared up. I should be grateful for any suggestions as to treatment and relief of the pain.

Aural Diphtheria

Dr. W. A. MAYNE (Taunton) writes: I was called to see a child because she had a cold. The nasal discharge being unilateral I took a swab. The mother had a slight sore throat, and so I took another swab. Both swabs were returned positive to diphtheria. I then found that another child had a long-standing discharge from one ear. I took a swab, and this, too, was returned positive to diphtheria. The father remains perfectly healthy. I have not before come across a case of aural diphtheria; and I wonder whether one should swab more frequently cases of aural discharge which do not clear up with ordinary treatment.

White and Brown Sugar

A CORRESPONDENT (London, S.W.) writes: Lest it should be thought that there is no satisfactory answer to the very pertinent questions about sugar asked by "A. F. S." in the *Journal* of November 17th (p. 928), may I be permitted to try my hand at a brief exposition of the situation? The substances intended for man's consumption—the proteins, carbohydrates, fats, vitamins, salts, and catalysts—are in Nature associated with each other and with other substances in such a way as to render them readily acceptable to the human economy. If, in his presumptuous ignorance, man tampers with these substances by cooking them, concentrating them, and refining them, he may retain the main proximate principle, but he deprives it of the associates which render it tolerable to the human digestive organs. If, for example, he concentrates a bison into a beaker he may get the major portion of the protein, but he will get very little else, save perchance a stomach-ache. That is an extreme case. That of sugar is almost as extreme, though not quite. Pure sugar ($C_{12}H_{22}O_{11}$) is a very irritating substance, as may be seen from the eczema which is so apt to trouble the hands and arms of grocers who handle it. In its natural state, as in the cane or in fruit, sugar is associated with various substances which dilute and mitigate