

be selected." The methods referred to above are the least troublesome, and certainly the most acceptable to the patient.—I am, etc.,

London, W.1, July 13th.

W. ANNANDALE TROUP.

Rubber-soled Shoes for Children

SIR,—Viewed in the light of preventive medicine there can be few more pressing problems than that of maintaining at a high level the resistance of every child of school age. This being so it may be opportune to ask whether adequate attention is being paid to the subject of footwear. I refer in particular to the ever-increasing vogue for shoes (and sandals) having crêpe rubber soles. Although the latter may compare favourably with leather soles as regards cost price and durability it is quite apparent that the contact of rubber to the sole of the foot throughout the day leads in many cases to undue condensation, damp socks, and chilled feet. By reason of a somewhat unstable heat-regulating mechanism the growing child can ill afford to be deprived of reserve energy just when the menace of droplet (and other) infections is greatest. It would be instructive to hear the views of school medical officers and others on this subject.—I am, etc.

New Milton, Hants, July 9th.

W. V. HARKE.

"The Medical Directory"

SIR,—To maintain the accuracy of our annual volume we rely upon the return of our schedule, which has been posted to each member of the medical profession. Should the schedule have been lost or mislaid we will gladly forward a duplicate upon request. The full names of the doctor should be sent for identification.—We are, etc.,

J. AND A. CHURCHILL LTD.
Publishers of the *Medical Directory*.

104, Gloucester Place, Portman Square, W.1,
July 13th.

Universities and Colleges

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

The following awards have been made in the Faculty of Medical Sciences:

Bucknill Scholarship, Joyce L. Chamberlain; *Entrance Scholarship*, B. B. Milstein; *Entrance Exhibitions*, R. D. M. I. K. Harkness and E. M. Cheffins; *Bayliss-Starling Memorial Scholarship (Physiology)*, C. F. Code, M.D.; *Ferriere Scholarship* (tenable at University College Hospital Medical School), Ivy M. Tuck; *Anatomy and Histology* (Senior Course, gold medal), E. Petrie; *Physiology* (Senior Course, gold medal), Joan V. Laughlin.

LONDON HOSPITAL MEDICAL COLLEGE

The Price University Entrance Scholarship in Anatomy and Physiology of the value of £100, open to students of the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge, has been awarded to D. L. Caldwell of Jesus College, Cambridge.

COMBINED HOSPITALS UNIVERSITY ENTRANCE SCHOLARSHIP EXAMINATION

The following awards have been made:

St. Bartholomew's Hospital Medical College: M. M. Bull, Queen's College, Cambridge (Scholarship); P. W. Isaac, Christ's College, Cambridge (Exhibition).

Guy's Hospital Medical School: R. G. Thomas, Brasenose College, Oxford (Scholarship); N. A. Neville, Queen's College, Oxford (Exhibition).

St. Thomas's Hospital Medical School: J. A. Cosh, St. John's College, Cambridge, (Scholarship); J. F. Bourdillon, Balliol College, Oxford (Exhibition).

UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD

At a meeting of the University Council, held on July 10th, Dr. W. Skyrme Rees was appointed Demonstrator in Anatomy.

UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER

Dr. D. T. Robinson has resigned his post of assistant lecturer in bacteriology on appointment as senior lecturer in bacteriology in the University of Liverpool.

Dr. H. J. Wade has been appointed demonstrator in anatomy.

Dr. J. Webster Bride, Dr. W. W. Kay, and Dr. Ronald S. Paterson have been appointed to the Board of the Faculty of Medicine, and Dr. James Kershaw a representative of the Dental Education Committee on the Faculty of Medicine for 1936-7.

UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN

The following degrees were conferred at a graduation ceremony on July 8th:

M.D.—*Lieut.-Colonel H. E. Shortt, I.M.S. (*in absentia*), J. N. Murray, J. R. Mutch, W. Sutherland, M. L. Thomson.

M.B., Ch.B.—†A. H. Cruickshank, †Cicely M. Glennie, †J. B. Petrie, †R. P. Walker, J. W. L. Bain, D. Barclay, P. H. Beattie, A. Brown, A. Buchanan, A. Burness, G. L. Byth, W. M. Chapman, A. Christie, J. McD. Christie, Mary J. C. Christie, N. S. Clark, W. C. Cockburn, A. Craig, Eva M. Cran, A. B. Davie, G. G. Dickie, J. McW. Duncan, W. I. Emslie, G. A. C. Esson, W. J. S. Ewan, C. B. Findlay, Margaret Forbes, Elizabeth C. Fraser, H. S. Fraser, W. J. Godden, T. B. Gordon, C. E. Gorrod, J. Grant, Christina A. Gunn, D. A. Hamilton, A. B. Hay, Esther Hendry, H. Hutcheson, J. L. Johnston, C. E. Lumsden, Frances R. McIntosh, Winifred M. R. Mackenzie, W. G. P. Mair, Mary M. Martin, G. Morrice, J. Phillips, W. E. Pyper, N. A. Ross, J. F. B. Sanguineti, I. C. Simpson, R. A. Smart, J. M. Thomson, †R. J. Twort, Margaret S. Watson, M. H. Webster.

D.P.H.—Elsie Home (*née* Mackie), A. McG. Michie.

Ph.D.—H. W. Kosterlitz, M.D. Berlin.

* Awarded commendation for thesis. † Second-class honours.

‡ Passed Final Medical Professional Examination with distinction.

UNIVERSITY OF DUBLIN

TRINITY COLLEGE

At the later summer commencements, held on July 1st, the following degrees were conferred:

M.D.—Emily B. Booth, F. C. Jackson, C. J. MacQuillan, T. J. O'Sullivan.

M.Ch.—W. Pearson.

M.A.O.—R. F. W. K. Allen (*in absentia*).

M.B., B.C.H., B.A.O.—D. T. Bardon, B. P. P. Berney, J. M. Bryson, F. MacD. Byrn, R. F. Cantan, G. L. Daly, P. Delap, H. Elliman, H. W. W. Good, D. H. A. Irwin, G. B. Jackson, J. H. A. Jewell, F. Keane, E. T. McCartney, Eithne M. O'Connell, E. W. L. Thompson, M. Toohey.

L.MED., L.C.H., L.M.—W. D. Chesney, L. Fridjohn.

SCHOOL OF PHYSIC

FINAL MEDICAL EXAMINATION.—*Part I, Materia Medica and Therapeutics, Pathology and Bacteriology*: *J. G. Waugh, *B. Mayne, H. A. Dougan, W. C. Good, S. L. Wray, Elizabeth L. J. Ryan, R. T. Burkitt, D. B. Taylor, J. R. Murdock, W. Sandford, W. W. McGrath, J. E. Murphy, T. W. Buckley, D. M. R. Barry, R. A. Lutton, Rosaleen de C. McCormick, S. Rubin, H. J. R. Henderson, F. A. Hanna, T. P. Griffin, Bridget P. Mansfield, R. Wilson, R. W. Temple, D. E. Meares, Mary C. Conlin, J. Freedman, Emily E. E. Hill, W. J. E. Pietersen, H. M. Carson, B. W. Hughes, G. D. Stevenson, N. M'Sharry, C. W. L. Macnamara, M. E. C. Balmer, C. G. Reilly, F. R. T. Hollins, J. C. M'Neill, J. F. Rishworth, R. J. Balfé, L. N. Lynch. *Part II, M.B.*: M. R. W. Spacek, P. Delap, J. H. A. Jewell, M. Toohey, B. P. P. Berney, H. A. Daniels, Eileen D. Maunsell, J. R. Sides, C. W. Greene, E. T. McCartney, E. W. L. Thompson, G. B. Jackson, B. G. Kearon, G. L. Daly, F. MacD. Byrn, J. M. Bryson, F. Keane, S. E. M'Connell, D. T. Bardon, P. G. Patton, Margaret Perry, T. S. Agnew, R. F. Cantan, W. E. Counihan, C. Eppel, J. G. Cunningham, N. J. Smith, D. P. Beckett, A. E. B. de Courcy Wheeler, D. H. A. Irwin, H. W. W. Good, D. S. Toole, H. Elliman, E. R. N. Cooke, A. J. Reeves, Eithne M. O'Connell. *B.C.H.*: *G. C. Blackham, J. H. A. Jewell, G. B. Jackson, E. W. L. Thompson, F. MacD. Byrn, D. T. Bardon, P. Delap, J. M. Bryson, E. T. McCartney, R. F. Cantan, M. Toohey, B. P. P. Berney, H. W. W. Good, H. Elliman, F. Keane, S. H. Morrison, Eithne M. O'Connell, D. H. A. Irwin, W. D. Chesney, L. Fridjohn, G. L. Daly. *B.A.O.*: *E. R. N. Cooke, G. C. Blackham, J. R. Sides, N. J. Smith, A. E. B. de Courcy Wheeler, I. Shreider, W. J. G. Warwick, D. J. H. Douglas, A. J. Reeves, G. K. Donald, O. M. Harrison, S. H. Morrison, Rebecca M. R. Pike, C. J. S. Flood, D. B. George, A. E. Fannin.

DIPLOMA IN GYNAECOLOGY AND OBSTETRICS.—H. F. P. Grafton.

DIPLOMA IN PUBLIC HEALTH.—*Part I*: H. D. M'Gorry. *Part II*: *W. C. B. Harrison, *P. B. Robinson, H. O. Mackey, H. R. Rogers, R. I. G. Reid, H. D. M'Gorry.

DIPLOMA IN PSYCHOLOGICAL MEDICINE.—*Part I*: H. J. Eustace.

* Passed on high marks.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND

Election to the Council

On July 2nd (as recorded in this column last week) three Fellows were elected into the Council to fill the vacancies caused by the retirement in rotation of Mr. F. J. Steward,

Mr. R. G. Hogarth, C.B.E., and Mr. R. E. Kelly, C.B. The result of the poll was as follows.

	Votes	Plumpers
CHARLES MAX PAGE (St. Thomas's)	710	39
ROBERT ERNEST KELLY (Liverpool)	681	60
WILLIAM HENEAGE OGILVIE (Guy's)	580	31
Cecil Pembrey Grey Wakeley (King's College)	497	30
Duncan Campbell Lloyd Fitz-williams (St. Mary's)	311	14

In all 1,107 Fellows voted; in addition eleven votes were found to be invalid. Mr. Page, Mr. Kelly, and Mr. Ogilvie are all elected for the full period of eight years.

A quarterly meeting of the Council of the Royal College of Surgeons of England was held on July 9th, with the President, Sir Cuthbert Wallace, in the chair.

Sir Cuthbert Wallace was re-elected President for the ensuing year, and Sir Charles Gordon-Watson and Mr. Victor Bonney were elected Vice-Presidents.

The Council accepted with grateful thanks the offer made by St. Bartholomew's Hospital that a part of the College research work should take place at the hospital during the rebuilding of the Research Laboratories.

Lecturers

The following lecturers were appointed for the ensuing year:

Hunterian Professors.—Mr. E. C. Sprawson, one lecture on Odontomes; Dr. Russell J. Reynolds, one lecture on the Movements of the Oesophagus, Stomach, and Duodenum during the Passage of an Opaque Meal; Mr. C. P. G. Wakeley, one lecture on the Surgery of the Parapituitary Region; Mr. D. W. C. Northfield, one lecture on Some Observations on Headache; Dr. S. Zuckerman, two lectures on Morphological and Functional Homologies of the Male and Female Reproductive Systems, the Endocrine Analysis of the Reproductive Cycle of Primates, and the Influence of Neuro-vascular Processes on Menstruation; Mr. Philip Wiles, one lecture on Postural Deformities; Mrs. Philippa Parry Martin, one lecture on the Effect on the Eye of Radium used for Treatment of Malignant Disease in the Neighbourhood; Mr. J. H. Saint, one lecture on the Bipp Treatment of Acute Osteomyelitis; Mr. A. R. D. Pattison, one lecture on Cushing's Syndrome, with special reference to the Possibilities and Results of Surgical Treatment directed at the Pituitary Body; Mr. F. H. Bentley, one lecture on Experimental Nerve Anastomosis; Mr. A. S. Kerr, one lecture on the Higher Autonomic Control of the Hollow Viscera.

Arris and Gale Lecturers.—Dr. John Beattie, Two lectures; Mr. David Slome, one lecture on the Nervous Factor in Traumatic Shock.

Erasmus Wilson Lecturers.—Mr. R. Davies-Colley, one demonstration on Pathology; Mr. L. W. Proger, four demonstrations on Pathology; Mr. C. K. Simpson, one demonstration on the Pathology of the Adrenal Gland in Relation to Sudden Death.

Arnot Demonstrator.—Mr. A. J. E. Cave, six demonstrations on the contents of the Museum.

Mr. L. W. Proger was re-elected Pathological Curator of the Museum for the ensuing year. Sir Frank Colyer was reappointed Honorary Curator of the Odontological Collection for the ensuing year, on the nomination of the Royal Society of Medicine. Mr. C. J. S. Thompson was reappointed Honorary Curator of the Historical Collection for the ensuing year.

The Hallett Prize, given in connexion with the Primary Fellowship Examination, was awarded to Mr. K. W. Starr of Sydney, and the seventh Macloghlin Scholarship of £120 per annum was awarded to Mr. James A. Ward of Wigan and District College.

Diplomas

Diplomas of Membership were granted to F. C. Collingwood, S. G. Griffin, T. P. N. Jenkins, and A. H. Masina.

Diplomas were granted jointly with the Royal College of Physicians as follows:

DIPLOMA IN PUBLIC HEALTH.—P. N. Bardhan, W. F. Cooper, J. W. Crawford, A. M. Foxe, D. F. Irvine, R. A. Leader, J. C. J. McEntee, M. C. Polhill, C. F. Price, W. W. Sinclair, H. Smith, Dorothy Taylor, Marjorie S. Wilson.

DIPLOMA IN PSYCHOLOGICAL MEDICINE.—W. J. Barbour, T. E. Burrows, T. M. Cuthbert, F. A. Frank, J. D. M. Griffin, M. K. Johnston, A. Kennedy, R. Pakenham-Walsh, R. F. Roberts, C. H. Rogerson, L. W. Russell, M. H. Shah, A. B. Stokes, D. H. H. Thomas, W. H. Whiles, M. R. P. Williams, J. W. Wishart.

DIPLOMA IN LARYNGOLOGY AND OTOTOLOGY.—D. B. Craig, A. K. M. Khan, C. B. Nicholson, K. K. Rao, J. P. Sewell.

Obituary

SIR WILLIAM HAMER, M.D., F.R.C.P.

Late Medical Officer of Health, London County Council

William Heaton Hamer was born in Leeds in 1862, the eldest son of the late John Hamer, J.P. He was a scholar of Christ's College, Cambridge, and graduated twelfth wrangler in 1882. He adopted the profession of medicine, was Kirkes Scholar and Lawrence Scholar at St. Bartholomew's Hospital Medical School, qualified M.R.C.S. in 1886, graduated M.B. in the following year, and proceeded M.D. in 1890. He was also a B.Sc. of the University of London. Hamer became a member of the Royal College of Physicians of London in 1889, and was elected F.R.C.P. in 1895, was Milroy Lecturer in 1906, and awarded the Bissett Hawkins medal in 1920. He joined the British Medical Association in 1893, was honorary secretary of the Section of Public Medicine at the Manchester meeting in 1902, and chairman of the St. Pancras Division, 1928-9. He entered the medical service of the London County Council in 1892, and in 1912 succeeded the late Sir Shirley Murphy as Medical Officer of Health and School Medical Officer. He retired on December 31st, 1925. He received the honour of knighthood in January, 1923, and died on July 7th, 1936.

Hamer occupied for fourteen years one of the most important posts in the British public health service, and when he retired the *Journal* printed an appreciation of his official career (October 17th, 1925, p. 712). An expert appraisement of his services will no doubt appear in one of the specialist journals. I have not the technical knowledge to attempt it, nor, perhaps, is a general medical journal the appropriate locus. His scientific colleagues and friends—the terms are virtually synonymous—will be more interested in his unofficial activities. I made his acquaintance in 1907 or 1908, and that was the beginning of a life-long friendship. Hamer, like his great predecessor, had a genius for friendship and a peculiar skill in helping and encouraging younger men. He had then already published his Milroy Lectures, which remain, in a sense, his most original contribution to epidemiological science, because they illustrate two methods of research—one of which he did not afterwards greatly extend, while the other eventually became his chief intellectual interest. In these lectures he gave a mathematical demonstration of the fact that the main features of the periodicity of measles in London could be referred to the ebbing and flowing of the susceptible population. By training he was peculiarly well fitted for research on these lines. He had had the advantage of a thorough mathematical education—in later life his characteristic modesty embarrassed some of us who were working on "mathematical" lines, for we were conscious that he was really a better mathematician than any of us; and he was endowed with an acutely critical intelligence. But, although much of his work could only have been done by a man with a mathematical background, he did not actually publish much more mathematical research, and when in 1928 the late H. E. Soper extended and modified some of his conclusions respecting periodicity Hamer's modesty was almost disconcerting to Soper—himself the most diffident of mankind. The other



Ministry of Health had been consulted on the appointment of medical officers of health as vaccination officers no objection had been raised. There was no rule that vaccination officers must in all cases carry out their duties personally. The matter was governed by Article 17 (vii) of the Vaccination Order, 1930, under which, except in so far as provision was made by or with the approval of the council for assistance in his office, a vaccination officer had personally to discharge the duties of his office, and, where assistance was so provided, be personally responsible for the proper discharge of those duties.

Spahlinger Vaccine

On July 10th Mr. ELLIOT, in a written answer to Mr. H. C. Haslam, said the question of conducting tests in this country with the Spahlinger vaccine was still under consideration, and he could not make a statement on the matter.

Tuberculosis Mortality in South Wales

Sir KINGSLEY WOOD, replying to Mr. James Griffiths on July 13th, said that the death rates from pulmonary tuberculosis in the years 1931 to 1935 for the area comprising the administrative counties of Brecon, Carmarthen, Glamorgan, and Monmouth, with the associated county boroughs of Cardiff, Merthyr Tydfil, Swansea, and Newport, including the rates for the age groups 15 to 25 years and 25 to 35 years, showed some improvement during that period, though emigration from this area might render interpretation of the figures difficult. The Unemployment Assistance Board was aware of the observations contained in the report of the Chief Medical Officer of the Ministry of Health, which called attention to these mortality rates from tuberculosis.

Purchase of Quinine in India

On July 13th Sir REGINALD CRADDOCK asked the Under-Secretary for India if he was aware of the shortage of quinine purchased by the Provincial Governments of India from the Government of India supplies, on account of which the Government of India was obliged to sell its surplus stocks at less than cost price, while the amount of quinine available in the Provinces was inadequate to the requirements of the country for coping with malaria. Mr. BUTLER replied that he had no recent information and would ask for a report. Last year the Government of India gave 45,000 lb. of quinine to Provincial Governments for free distribution.

Maternal Mortality

On July 13th Sir KINGSLEY WOOD, replying to Mr. James Griffiths, issued the following tabular statement:

Maternal Mortality, 1935, per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births

	Deaths Classified to Puerperal Sepsis	Deaths Classified to Other Puerperal Causes	Total Puerperal Causes
Pembroke Administrative County	1.40	2.09	3.49
Cardigan	1.49	1.49	2.98
Carmarthen	1.48	5.19	6.67
Glamorgan	2.93	3.72	6.65
Cardiff C.B.	2.81	1.69	4.50
Merthyr Tydfil C.B.	1.85	4.63	6.48
Swansea C.B.	0.73	3.99	4.72
Monmouth Administrative County	2.32	4.11	6.43
Newport C.B.	1.78	2.97	4.75
Brecon Administrative County	1.22	4.87	6.09
England and Wales	1.61	2.32	3.93

Sir KINGSLEY WOOD informed Mr. Tom Smith that the rate of maternal mortality per 1,000 live births in England and Wales in 1935 was 4.1, and per 1,000 live and still births 3.93. The infantile mortality rate per 1,000 live births in the same year was 57.

Total of Insurance Practitioners and Remuneration

On July 14th Sir KINGSLEY WOOD informed Mr. Lyons that the number of medical practitioners under agreement with insurance committees in England and Wales in 1935 was 16,552, and the total sum paid to them from national health insurance funds in respect of the year was £7,345,838 up to June 30th; the amount payable was subject to an economy deduction of 5 per cent. of the capitation fees.

Fitness for Employment of Children in Scotland.—Colonel COLVILLE told Mr. George Hardie on July 8th that out of 126,443 young persons in Scotland between the ages of 14 and 16 who in the years 1930-4 were medically examined for fitness to enter employment 1,906 were rejected and 3,816 conditionally certified. Of the rejections 991 during the five years, and of the conditional certifications 1,353, were on account of pediculosis or other slight and remediable affections. The care of young persons so rejected would have the consideration of the Departments concerned.

Deaths from Silicosis.—Sir JOHN SIMON told Captain Plugge on July 9th that during the three years 1933-5 470 deaths were certified by the Medical Board under the Silicosis and Asbestosis (Medical Arrangements) Scheme to have been caused by silicosis or by silicosis accompanied by tuberculosis. In recent years much had been done by safeguarding workers in the industries concerned against inhalation of silica dust and otherwise to reduce both the incidence and the seriousness of the disease. There was close co-operation between the Home Office, the Mines Department, the Silicosis Medical Board, and the Medical Research Council in this matter.

Hospitals and Motor Accidents in Kent.—Sir JAMES BLINDELL told Captain Plugge on July 9th that the Minister of Health knew of allegations of the congestion in the hospitals in the Rochester, West Kent, and Canterbury districts owing to motoring accidents. He was asking for the observations of the Kent County Council. A new voluntary hospital was to be built at Canterbury. Captain PLUGGE also asked Mr. Hore-Belisha, on July 8th, how many persons had been treated in Kentish hospitals during June as a result of road accidents. Mr. HORE-BELISHA replied that statistics of the numbers of victims of road accidents who were treated in hospitals were not furnished to the Ministry of Transport.

Medical News

On July 14th the King paid surprise visits to the British Post-Graduate Medical School and Hospital in Ducane Road, Hammersmith, and to the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine in Keppel Street.

The Duchess of York will lay the foundation stone of a second Princess Elizabeth of York Hospital for Children on July 23rd. The old hospital will continue its work in Shadwell; the new hospital, which is being built at an estimated cost of £200,000, will be erected at Banstead, and will accommodate 185 beds for town children. A convalescent home and hostel for parents will be features of this new country hospital.

A meeting of the friends of Papworth Village Settlement, Cambridge, will be held at the Park Lane Hotel, Piccadilly, on Wednesday, July 22nd, at 3.15 p.m., with the Marquess of Willingdon in the chair. A film, "The Story of Papworth," directed by Anthony Asquith and featuring Madeleine Carroll, Mabel Constanduros, Gordon Harker, Nicholas Hatten, Owen Nares, and C. Aubrey Smith, will be shown. On the following afternoon the Earl of Athlone will open the new surgical hospital at Papworth at 2.30 p.m. and afterwards H.R.H. the Princess Alice, Countess of Athlone, will open the West Cambridgeshire Flower Show in the grounds of Papworth Hall. Admission to the show 1s. 3d.

The first International Congress of Sanatoria and Private Nursing Homes will be held in Budapest between September 16th and 21st. Inquiries and communications should be sent to the Secretary, Congress of Sanatoria, Budapest, Szt. Margitsziget-Szánatórium.

The tenth conference of the International Union against Tuberculosis will be held in Lisbon between September 7th and 10th under the presidency of Professor Lopo de Carvalho.

With the approval of the Ministry of Health, the Board of Control has appointed Professor J. Shaw Bolton, M.D., D.Sc., F.R.C.P., formerly medical superintendent of Wakefield Mental Hospital, to be a Temporary Commissioner for a short period.

King Edward's Hospital Fund for London has received a gift of £10,000 from an anonymous donor towards the general support of the London hospitals. This sum will be included in the grants made by the King's Fund to the hospitals at the next distribution. The donor, whose anonymity is strictly preserved, has now given in the course of the last thirteen years the large sum of £88,500, all of which from time to time has been distributed to the London hospitals.

At a meeting of the directors of the Society for Relief of Widows and Orphans of Medical Men held at 11, Chandos Street, W., on July 1st, with Mr. W. Kelson, senior vice-president of the society, in the chair, two new members were elected. It was reported that fifty-six widows and nine orphans were in receipt of grants, and a sum of £2,322 10s. was voted for the payment of the half-yearly grants. Although the society was founded in 1788 and incorporated by Royal Charter in 1864, there still appear to be a number of medical men who seem unaware of its existence. For the past two years a propaganda subcommittee has been most energetic in endeavouring to obtain new members, and a discussion took place as to further means of making the society better known and obtaining new members. Membership is open to any registered medical man who at the time of his election is resident within a twenty-mile radius of Charing Cross. Relief is granted only to the necessitous widows and orphans of deceased members. Should a member die leaving his widow or orphans not provided for, the society makes half-yearly grants for their assistance. The present scale of grants for widows is between £75 and £60 per annum, according to age, and orphans under 16 receive £50 per annum, and, in addition, a present is usually made each Christmas. A legacy of £500 has been received from the executors of the late H. J. Selby. The secretary will be pleased to supply further information regarding the society to any medical man who may desire to become a member. The offices of the society are at 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, W.1.

The National Radium Trust met on July 13th at the Privy Council Office, with the Right Hon. J. Ramsay MacDonald, Lord President of the Council, in the chair. Plans for making available further substantial quantities of radium were considered. A recent bequest was reported to the Trust, and certain purchases were authorized. The Trust welcomes gifts and bequests of all kinds in furtherance of its objects, including trusts subject to special conditions; it is expressly authorized to accept them under the Royal Charter granted by His late Majesty in 1929. The Trust's radium is allocated and supervised in use by the Radium Commission, an expert body set up under the Charter.

An epidemic, of which the symptoms were nausea, vomiting, and abdominal pain, broke out on July 3rd in the Carshalton area of Surrey. According to statements in the lay press over 1,200 people, of all ages, have been affected in Morden and Carshalton alone, but cases were spread widely over the whole of the Sutton, Wallington, Raynes Park, Merton, and Cheam areas, though none required hospitalization or gave rise to serious alarm. Attacks have lasted usually twenty-four hours, occasionally two days. Dr. E. J. MacIntyre, medical officer of health for Sutton, Cheam, and Banstead, stated on July 12th that water coming from a well in Cheam had been incriminated, and so immediate steps were taken to cut this source out of the water supply. Now, so far as can be judged, the epidemic is over. As soon as the cause was known residents in these districts were warned by

wireless not to drink water for the next forty-eight hours unless it had been boiled.

It is pointed out by Professor C. Lian and Dr. J. Cahana in *La Presse Médicale* for June 27th that the mortality per 100,000 inhabitants in France for diseases of the heart has risen from 127 in 1906 to 150 in 1930. They attribute this rise mainly to the increase in the average duration of human life.

The fourth International Congress of Paediatrics, which was to have been held this year in Rome, has been postponed until April, 1937.

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 over-seas 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.

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The address of the B.M.A. Scottish Office is 7, Drumsheugh Gardens, Edinburgh (telegrams: *Associate, Edinburgh*; telephone: 24361 Edinburgh), and of the Office of the Irish Free State Medical Union (I.M.A. and B.M.A.), 18, Kildare Street, Dublin (telegrams: *Bacillus, Dublin*; telephone: 62550 Dublin).

LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.

Benzedrine in Narcolepsy

Dr. P. G. DOOLEY (Ilford) writes: Could any reader give information regarding the use of benzedrine in a case of narcolepsy (overwhelming attacks of somnolence during the day)? Ephedrine is partly successful, but produces unpleasant after-effects. Benzedrine has been referred to recently in the lay press as a suitable drug for the treatment of narcoleptics.

Income Tax

Deductible Expenses

"A. S." inquires what deductions can be claimed whilst engaged in (a) general practice and (b) resident hospital work.

** So far as general work is concerned all expenditure actually incurred in connexion with the professional work can be claimed, provided that it is not of a "capital" nature. For instance, the cost of acquiring the original car or stock of drugs, etc., cannot be claimed, because that is capital outlay, but the expense of maintaining such equipment is allowable. Expenditure which is partly professional and partly private can be claimed so far as it is *pro rata* expended for professional purposes. The income from a resident hospital appointment falls under Schedule E, and the rules are somewhat stricter—for example, the expense must be "necessarily," as well as wholly and exclusively, incurred in the performance of the duties. If "A. S." is in doubt as to any specific form of expenditure perhaps he will communicate with us again.

QUERIES AND ANSWERS

Malaria Transmission

Sir MALCOLM WATSON writes: In your issue of July 11th a correspondent writes to make what he calls "necessary corrections" to words used by me in the Stephen Paget