

not mention "diseases." I simply said that thousands of normal people may have a smell of alcohol in the breath, a quick pulse, a furred tongue, and bad handwriting, and that if this is brought forward—when all other tests are negative—as evidence of drunkenness, then no motorist is safe. Dr. Moore describes this line of argument as "absurd." I shall be perfectly happy to leave it to the judgement of others in which direction the absurdity lies.

"It was not necessary to employ such costly means of defence." Has Dr. Moore never heard of cases in which innocent men are well-nigh ruined by legal costs before their innocence is proved? He indicates that the thousand casualties on the roads last week (there were five thousand as a matter of fact) are an argument for total abstinence by all. Why, if the proportion of accidents caused by drunken drivers is 4 per 1,000? Why not abolish gas ovens because a tiny minority use them for lethal purposes? He finally says: "It is better to eschew alcohol entirely if one has reason to suppose that one will be called upon to drive a car in the immediate future." Well now, as nearly all the 55,000 doctors on the *Register* do not know from one five minutes to another whether or not they "will be called upon to drive a car in the immediate future," they should all, according to Dr. Moore, become total abstainers at once.—I am, etc.,

July 30th.

X. Y. Z.

"Under the Influence"—of Carbon Monoxide

SIR,—A case of monoxide gas escaping from the exhaust of a saloon car affecting the driver and being confused with alcoholic poisoning may be of interest to police surgeons and others.

A young man had noticed a defect in the exhaust of his car, as it was making a noise when he drove to a friend's house. He and his host had supper, with only one bottle of beer between them. He left the house shortly before midnight, and had a chat after starting his engine. When he had driven about three miles he felt sleepy, and was stopped by a police car. He was taken to the police station and charged with being drunk. In court the police said that the car was zigzagging and the driver was hopelessly drunk. The police surgeon certified him as being "under the influence of alcohol," but said he did not go through his tests very badly. At 2.10 a.m. he was seen by another police surgeon, who gave evidence that he was then quite sober. The car was taken to a garage the next morning, and a mechanic gave evidence that there was a leak in the exhaust and fumes were getting under the floor boards directly under the driver's seat. The police admitted a noisy exhaust, and a medical specialist gave evidence that the effects of carbon monoxide gas and alcohol would be very similar at first, but the effects of carbon monoxide would wear off quickly while the effects of alcohol would be more lasting.

In this case the evidence was "hopelessly drunk" at midnight; then half an hour later "Tests not done so very badly"; and at 2.10 a.m., according to another police surgeon, "Quite sober." This was definite evidence that the effects had passed off quickly. The magistrates were some time considering their verdict, which was "Proven." The defendant was fined £5, including costs, but his licence was not suspended. The lenient sentence showed that the justices were in doubt.

My reason for writing this letter is to impress upon police surgeons the importance of an escape of fumes from an exhaust, especially in a closed car. Driving with a defective exhaust should be punished more severely—not for the noise it makes but for the danger it is to the driver.—I am, etc.,

F. A. L. BURGESS, M.B.E., M.R.C.S.

Birmingham, July 27th.

Tired Motor Drivers

SIR,—During the Annual Meeting at Oxford recently the subject of motoring fatigue came into prominence. At this holiday season, when so many motorists are attempting longer runs than those to which they are normally accustomed, there is a special danger of their faculties being dulled by fatigue.

Let us earnestly warn the motorist against this danger, and urge him whenever he is feeling the least bit tired to pull up and rest for a few minutes. Admittedly some restorative is desirable, but there is no reason why it should be of an alcoholic character, for there are other beverages which are perfectly harmless and yet which possess restorative qualities. That the danger is a very real one is recognized by the Highway Code (paragraph 4), which says: "... be sure that your alertness or sense of caution is not affected by alcohol or fatigue."—I am, etc.,

London, W.C.1, July 28th.

COURTENAY C. WEEKS.

Universities and Colleges

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

At a congregation held on July 31st the following medical degrees were conferred:

M.D.—B. C. Nicholson, L. P. J. Evans.

M.B., B.Chir.—F. R. R. Martin, H. S. Davis, C. N. Gosse, D. J. Watterson, N. P. Brown.

M.B.—R. M. Jones, J. B. Tracey, H. S. Buckland, C. U. Gregson, J. F. Paterson, W. T. Cooke, T. M. Daniel.

B.Chir.—*B. S. C. Gaster, *F. C. Maddox, *A. L. Jackson, *A. D. Hodges, J. A. Falk, C. M. Heath, D. R. Seaton, R. C. Droop, J. C. Newbold, J. W. Parks, J. Diver, J. W. Landells, T. J. Morton, J. F. L. Walley, A. M. Weston, A. C. Fraser, C. J. F. Coombs, H. P. R. Smith, R. G. Bickford, J. E. A. David, R. Solley, M. H. Harding, R. H. A. Swain, J. R. C. Williams, J. Mackellar.

* By proxy.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

The following candidates have been approved at the examination indicated:

M.D.—*Branch I (Medicine)*: Beryl D. Corner, R. D. Green, Dorothy J. Healey, M. H. K. Kane, Betty M. Kemp, R. I. Lewis, S. F. Marwood, H. E. S. Pearson, L. O. Roberts, J. Sakula, W. N. P. Wakeley, *Branch II (Pathology)*: I. Doniach, *Branch III (Psychological Medicine)*: J. R. Murray, *Branch IV (Midwifery and Diseases of Women)*: H. Ainscow, Betty F. Goldsmith, C. C. Harvey, E. W. Martindell, *Branch V (Hygiene)*: Janet M. Done, Elsa V. McLaggan, T. Standing.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND

An ordinary meeting of the Council of the Royal College of Surgeons of England was held on July 30th, with the President, Sir Cuthbert Wallace, in the chair.

Mr. T. Stewart Heslop, F.R.C.S., of Manchester University was appointed a Leverhulme Scholar for one year, for a research on the autonomic nerve supply of the stomach in relation to peptic ulceration.

Diplomas

A diploma of Fellowship was granted to E. J. Grieve of Melbourne University and St. Bartholomew's Hospital.

Diplomas of Membership were granted to the following candidates, who have passed the final examination in pathology, medicine, surgery, and midwifery of the Examining Board in England:

R. B. Abdel-Messih, C. A. P. Achyutan Pillai, G. P. Arden, F. J. S. Baker, Beryl E. Barsby, L. Bass, W.-F. E. Baumann, F. G. A. Beckett, S. J. Bellgard, B. B. Bhatia, B. J. Bickford, F. A. Bleaden, K. E. Bond, G. C. Brentnall, J. C. Brundret, J. T. H. Butt, Phyllis M. Button, P. C. Calvert, R. S. Castle, R. Chignell, W. A. Cobb, J. A. Cochrane, J. W. C. Cochrane, D. H. Coe, P. N. Coleman, Florence I. Collier, F. C. Collingwood, K. E. Cooper, Gwendolen K. G. Coote, W. W. Coppinger, Barbara G. Courtney, A. J. F. Crossley, H. O. Crwys-Williams, Enid Cyriax, L. F. Dale, Hilla Damry, D. A. Davies, J. Devlin, P. R. Dias, E. N. Dowell, C. H. Drake, C. M. Dransfield, J. J. Dubash, H. L. Ellis, J. Evans, Margaret A. B. Fleming, W. A. J. Fox, D. B. Fraser, K. D. Fraser, E. Geal, A. C. Gee.

A. T. George, A. J. Gill, R. Gómez, A. Gourevitch, I. C. A. D. P. Graham, C. H. Gray, C. W. E. B. Greaves, S. G. Griffin, K. Hamiduddin, J. Hanekom, M. H. Harding, J. W. K. Harper, F. E. S. Hatfield, W. H. Hayes, C. F. L. Hill, S. Hills, F. G. Hollands, L. J. Honeywill, J. S. Horn, R. A. Hughes, J. Hynes, W. L. Isaac, S. Jackson, G. C. W. James, S. F. Jayawardene, Ursula J. Jeffery, Gladys I. Jeffree, S. A. Jenkins, T. P. N. Jenkins, E. H. Jones, M. A. Jones, L. N. Kaplan, A. I. Kinnear, J. D. Kinnear, B. W. Lacey, Marjorie F. Landau, D. J. Lapping, J. I. H. Laurie, A. D. Ledward, J. Lefcovich, V. N. Leyshon, Mary M. Llewellyn, V. D. Logue, Dorothy K. Lopez, H. R. Loughran, J. Lurie, R. I. Macbeth, J. Mackellar, F. R. Malan, J. A. Manifold, M. A. Margo, M. Markowe, A. H. Masina, Mary D. Mellersh, J. F. Meynell, W. A. M. Miller, N. H. M. R. Monro, S. P. Morrison, T. J. Morton, T. P. Myles, A. G. Nambiar, E. Nashid, J. C. Newbold, C. S. Nicol, A. Nimalasuria, D. Norton, M. J. O'Donnell, M. G. O'Flynn, W. E. Owens, S. H. Pearce, Peggy C. Permain, Nancy Perry, R. Pettycrow, W. M. Philip, H. M. Pickard, G. Platt, N. Ponnampalam, Mary Rabinowitz, Shila G. Ransom, B. N. B. Rao, J. A. Ritchie, D. W. Rossiter, B. M. D. Rosten, A. Sah, E. Samuel, D. A. Sanford, I. C. Sarwal, J. S. H. Scott, W. P. Shemilt, G. L. Simmons, R. Sinha, A. Skolar, J. M. Smiles, F. W. Smith, E. H. J. Smyth, J. B. Spearman, W. H. Stephenson, R. S. Stevens, G. T. Stockings, W. Stoddart, R. N. Tattersall, W. J. J. Taylor, D. T. Thomas, G. F. J. Thomas, C. S. Van Heerden, R. N. E. Watt, J. C. Watts, Una M. Westell, Ailsa M. L. Whitehouse, B. D. Whitworth, D. J. Wilkes, G. Williams, R. Williamson, W. H. Wolstenholme, S. R. Wood, Eluned Woodford-Williams, P. M. Wright, H. R. Wynne, D. E. Yarrow, M. Yasin, A. L. Young, M. D. Young, Ruth E. Young, Z. E. Zuckerman.

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

DIPLOMA IN TROPICAL MEDICINE AND HYGIENE.—G. T. Balean, C. H. Bannerman, A. V. Bernard, W. T. C. Berry, A. M. El-Nakah, M. Faimuddin, H. P. Fernandes, W. Horovitz, J. F. Jarvis, Eileen M. King, C. A. McCormiskey, J. L. McLetchie, M. L. Nairac, W. R. Philipps, J. W. Pickles, S. Sen, P. C. B. Shirreffs, H. E. Shortt, B. L. Somway, T.-S. Sze, I. S. Varma, H. D. Weatherhead.

DIPLOMA IN OPHTHALMIC MEDICINE AND SURGERY.—H. Berney, R. J. Buxton, C. J. Cantillon, C. Cockburn, E. Edwards, P. B. English, E. D. G. Galton, H. Goldschmidt, H. E. Hargreaves, A. Kamel, A. Ll. Lance, J. S. MacLean, J. A. Magnus, B. R. Medlycott, E. D. E. E. O'Brien, G. B. Orbell, W. Russell, H. H. Skeoch, J. K. S. Smith, E. J. Somerset, L. P. Spero, J. P. J. Taunk, J. H. Young, J. E. Zeitlin.

DIPLOMA IN MEDICAL RADIOLOGY.—A. K. M. Khan, K. P. Mody, J. R. Nuttall, W. Tennent, J. A. Vote, D. A. Wilson.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF LONDON

At a meeting of the Royal College of Physicians of London held on July 30th, with the President, Lord Dawson of Penn, in the chair, the following were elected officers for the ensuing year: *Censors*, Lord Horder, Sir Maurice Cassidy, C. E. Lakin, Albert Ramsbottom; *Treasurer*, Sidney P. Phillips; *Registrar*, Sir Raymond Crawford; *Harveian Librarian*, Arnold Chaplin; *Assistant Registrar*, C. E. Newman.

Awards and Appointments

The Weber-Parkes Medal and Prize was awarded to Sir StClair Thomson for his valuable work on tuberculosis of the larynx, carried out over a long period of years, and the Moxon Gold Medal to Dr. Edward Mellanby, F.R.S., for his distinguished work on the problems of nutrition.

The Harveian Oration will be delivered by Sir Walter Langdon-Brown on October 19th, at 4 p.m.

The President announced that he had appointed Dr. Arthur Hurst as Harveian Orator for 1937, and Dr. E. A. Cockayne as Bradshaw Lecturer, 1937.

Dr. J. W. McNee was re-elected a representative of the College on the Executive Committee of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund.

Membership

The following candidates, having satisfied the Censors' Board, were elected to the Membership of the College:

H. W. Allen, D.M., E. C. Allibone, M.B.Leeds, J. C. Batt, M.D.Bristol, J. F. Bradbury, M.B.New Zealand, Margaret B. Cleland, M.B.Adelaide, W. T. Cooke, B.Chir., P. T. Cooper, M.B. Camb., Beryl D. Corner, M.B.Lond., A. A. Cunningham, M.D. Dubl., J. V. Dacie, M.B.Lond., H. S. Davis, L.R.C.P., G. Davison, M.D.Durham, A. D'Souza, M.B.Lond., C. J. Gavey, M.B.Lond., L. E. Glynn, M.B.Lond., W. H. P. Hill, M.D.McGill, J. P. Horan, M.D.Melbourne, M. H. K. Kane, M.B.Lond., G. C. Moss, M.B.Melbourne, E. H. T. Nash, L.R.C.P., N. R. Pooler, M.B.Lond., N. L. Price, M.D.Bristol, B. K. R. R. K. Rao, M.B.Mysore, A. A. Rogow, M.D.Toronto, J. Sakula, M.B.Lond., M. A. Soliman, M.D.Cairo, D. J. Thomas, M.D.Melbourne, R. W. D. Turner, M.B.Camb., Air Commodore H. E. Whittingham, C.B.E., M.B.Glasg., R.A.F.

Licences and Diplomas

Licences to practise were conferred upon 175 candidates (including 22 women), whose names are published in the report of the meeting of the Royal College of Surgeons of England in this issue, as are the names of the recipients of the Diplomas in Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (22), Ophthalmic Medicine and Surgery (24), and Medical Radiology (6). Diplomas in Public Health (13), Psychological Medicine (17), and Laryngology and Otology (5) were granted to the successful candidates whose names were published in the report of the meeting of the Royal College of Surgeons of England in the *British Medical Journal* of July 18th (p. 154).

The following diplomas were also conferred, jointly with the Royal College of Surgeons of England:

DIPLOMA IN ANAESTHETICS.—M. N. Desai, H. C. Disher, H. Johnson, M. Selim, J. Smith, H. N. Webber, H. B. Wilson, R. A. Beaver, D. Blatchley, H. Canwarden, J. A. Carman, B. Coden, Phyllis F. L. Daplyn, C. J. M. Dawkins, M. M. Deane, Margaret L. A. Galbraith, H. Grant-Whyte, V. A. Goldman, G. G. Havers, M. W. P. Hudson, I. C. James, I. D. Jones, R. N. Jones, Agnes W. O'D. Kennedy, F. B. Mallinson, Ruth E. Mansfield, P. J. Nagle, P. M. Overton, C. B. Picken, R. A. C. Rice, A. D. Woolf, Tamsin M. Wynter.

CONJOINT BOARD IN SCOTLAND

The following candidates have been approved at the Final Professional Examination for the Scottish Triple Qualification:

B. G. Kelly, W. C. Botha, A. Sachs, I. A. Badawi, A. Loeser, S. Grubin, L. Stern, J. Charnus, E. Wittkower, Kate Misch, B. Kirschner, J. Weinstein, N. H. Solomon, H. W. Kosterlitz, Babette Herz, B. S. Oxman, G. B. Drummond, L. H. Mirsky, A. Keay, G. M. Warrack, L. M. Shirlaw, D. McLean, C. R. Hamand, T. M. Dolan, W. A. Christie, H. Hirschson, J. W. Magill, J. Lanny, H. G. Grieve, W. L. McNamara, J. H. Kuhn.

Medical Notes in Parliament

[FROM OUR PARLIAMENTARY CORRESPONDENT]

On July 31st, before Parliament adjourned for the Summer Recess, the Royal Assent was given to the Midwives Act, Education Act, Education (Scotland) Act, Public Health Act, Public Health (London) Act, Housing Act, Shops (Sunday Trade and Restriction) Act, Firearms (Amendment) Act, Private Legislature Procedure (Scotland) Act, North Herts Joint Hospital District Act, and to other measures.

Both Houses stand adjourned till October 29th, but provision is made for calling them earlier if the public interest requires this. The debate in the House of Commons on July 31st on the motion for the adjournment was devoted to foreign affairs. Some discussion about mental hospitals had been proposed, but time did not allow it.

Changes in the Ministry are announced to take effect on September 1st. They include: Minister of Pensions, Mr. Herwald Ramsbotham; Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education, Mr. Geoffrey Shakespeare; Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Health, Mr. R. S. Hudson.

Registration of Hairdressers

The Hairdressers (Registration) Bill, introduced by Mr. Compton in the House of Commons and read a first time on July 29th, includes, in Clause 2, a definition that

The expression "hairdressing" means the performance of any treatment of the hair and scalp, face, hands or arms of any person for the cleanliness, comfort, or better appearance thereof; and includes the diagnosis and treatment of any disease of the hair and scalp, face, hands or arms, providing the treatment is not of a nature requiring medical attention and does not include the performance of any operation for which an anaesthetic is required.

Clause 1 runs:

A person registered under this Act shall be entitled to practise hairdressing in any part of Great Britain; and from and after the first day of January one thousand nine hundred and thirty-eight a person shall not be entitled to recover any charge or fee in any court for the performance of any act of hairdressing or for any hairdressing attendance or advice unless he is a registered person or is a legally qualified medical practitioner.

The Bill cannot make further progress in the present session.

The following well-known foreign medical men have recently died: Dr. TELEMACHO BUSINI, professor of anatomy in Buenos Aires University; Dr. JOSEPH GUÉRARD, professor of clinical medicine in the Quebec Faculty of Medicine; Professor ENRICO MORSELLI, an eminent psychiatrist of Genoa; Dr. CUELLAR DURAN, professor of clinical urology; Dr. EMILLERMO GOMEZ, professor of operative medicine at Bogota; and Professor SERGE PETROVITCH FEDOROV, a leading surgeon of Leningrad and an authority on the surgery of the bile ducts and gastro-enterology.

The Services

HONORARY SURGEONS TO THE VICEROY

Lieut.-Colonels A. MacD. Dick, C.B.E., and G. G. Jolly, C.I.E., I.M.S., have been appointed Honorary Surgeons to the Viceroy and Governor-General of India.

DEATHS IN THE SERVICES

Surgeon Commander William Nicholls Horsfall, R.N. (ret.), died in London on July 19th. He was educated at Melbourne University, where he graduated M.B., B.S. in 1902. After serving as honorary assistant physician to the North Shore Hospital, Sydney, and as honorary medical officer of Newcastle Hospital, he entered the Navy, but resigned on April 10th, 1913. He rejoined for the war, and became surgeon commander on November 11th, 1918. He had recently been living in Bermuda.

Lieut.-Colonel William Adolphus Justice, Indian Medical Service (ret.), died in London on July 27th, aged 66. He was born on May 26th, 1870, and was educated at Aberdeen, where he graduated M.B., C.M. in 1893, subsequently taking the D.P.H. at Cambridge in 1897. He went to India as a special plague officer, and served in that capacity from January 26th, 1898, to January 28th, 1902, when he was given a commission as lieutenant in the I.M.S. He became major on July 29th, 1913, and retired on February 12th, 1920. Most of his service in India was spent in civil employ in the Madras Presidency, where he held the posts successively of resident medical officer of the Madras General Hospital, lecturer on hygiene and bacteriology in the Madras Medical College, and sanitary commissioner to the Government of Madras. Plague appeared in India in 1896, and during the next five or six years a large number of doctors were sent out to India as special plague medical officers, on temporary engagements. In 1902 the Indian Government offered to give commissions in the I.M.S. to all plague officers then serving. Most of them were too old to make it worth while to accept commissions which involved entering at the bottom of the Service, even though they were allowed to count their plague service for pension, and only six officers, of whom Justice was one, joined the I.M.S. These were the only officers who entered the I.M.S. otherwise than by competitive examination between the abolition of the East India Company in 1858 and December, 1914.

Medical News

The second International Medical Week in Switzerland will be held at Lucerne from August 31st to September 5th. The detailed programme can be obtained from the offices of the *Journal Suisse de Médecine*, Klosterberg 27, Basle.

The first Congress of the Austrian Radiological Society will be held at Vienna from September 4th to 8th, and will be followed by the sixth Congress of the International Association of Urology, which will continue until September 12th. Various excursions and entertainments are being arranged in connexion with these two congresses, and specially reduced charges are available for visitors on Austrian Federal railways. The office address for both congresses is Karlsplatz 5, Vienna.

The second Congress of German Neurologists and Psychiatrists will be held at Frankfurt from August 22nd to the 25th. Further information can be obtained from Nervenlinik, Heinrich-Hoffmann Strasse, 10, Frankfurt a.M.

A German institution for post-graduate study, the Berlin "Akademie für ärztliche Fortbildung," is organizing a series of courses for the autumn. They will be open to doctors from abroad, for whom a reduction of 60 per cent. on the railway fares can be obtained. The course on diseases of the throat, nose, and ears, to be held between September 28th and October 10th, will cost RM. 150. The second course, on children's diseases, will last from October 19th to 24th, and cost RM. 50. The third course, on malignant disease, will last from October 19th to 26th and cost RM. 60. The fourth course, on disturbances of nutrition, vitamins, and hormones, will last from October 26th to 31st and cost RM. 50. The fifth course, on tuberculosis, will last from November 2nd to 7th and cost RM. 50. The sixth course, on intrathoracic surgery, with special reference to pulmonary tuberculosis, will be held at a time to be fixed later. The seventh course, on homoeopathy, will last from October 12th to November 6th. The eighth course, on various aspects of clinical and laboratory medicine, will be held in October and November, and cost from RM. 50 to 80. The first seven courses will be held in German, but some of the lectures in the eighth course will be delivered in a foreign language. For further information apply to Berliner Akademie für ärztliche Fortbildung, Berlin, N.W.7, Robert-Koch-Platz 7 (Kaiserin Friedrich-Haus).

The late Sir Henry Wellcome in his will has appointed Mr. Geo. E. Pearson governing director for life of the Wellcome Foundation Ltd. Mr. Pearson has been deputy governing director of the Foundation since its formation in 1924.

The German Society for the Study of Accidents will hold its annual meeting at Hamburg, under the presidency of Professor Zur Verth, on September 17th and 18th, when the two principal subjects for discussion will be (1) inheritance and constitution in relation to insurance; (2) damage to the menisci.

At a ceremony held on June 28th at Rheims, a centre for aero-medical studies was inaugurated under the auspices of many public and private authorities. Dr. Crochet, the leader of this centre, is engaged on a study of the effects of various altitudes on various diseases. His "aerodrome sanitaire" was started about two years ago.

At a recent meeting of the International Society of the History of Medicine it was decided that the eleventh congress should be held in September, 1938, at Athens, Stamboul, Sofia, and Zagreb.

At the suggestion of the President of the Rumanian Medical Society a union of Balkan doctors has been formed for the promotion of friendly relations between practitioners in the different Balkan States.

On July 29th representatives of the Socialist Medical Association appeared before the Voluntary Hospitals Commission and submitted certain recommendations. It is gratifying to find that the views of this body on the question of the payment of consulting staffs of voluntary hospitals are in accordance with the policy of the British Medical Association, one of the recommendations being that "it is essential for the improved efficiency of treatment and in the interests of the medical profession that the consulting staffs of voluntary hospitals should be paid an annual salary on a part-time basis." A second important submission is that an effort should be made to regulate the number of attendances per session at out-patient departments, and to permit general practitioners to make appointments for patients referred by them.

Delegates to the First Empire Dental Meeting, held by the British Dental Association, were received by Sir Cuthbert and Lady Wallace at the Royal College of Surgeons of England on July 28th. Groups of Hunterian specimens and specimens from the odontological collection were on view, and an exhibition of books and drawings from the library. Dancing and a demonstration of cinema films added to the attractions of an enjoyable evening.

Sir Ernest Graham-Little, M.P., has been elected a member, *honoris causa*, of the French Dermatological Society.

The second part of the July issue of the *American Journal of Syphilis, Gonorrhoea and Venereal Diseases* is devoted to a report of the New York City Commission appointed to investigate the prevention and control of syphilis and gonorrhoea in Scandinavian countries and in Great Britain.

Those interested in the subject may like to know that a journal—*Speech*—is being published quarterly as the journal of the British Society of Speech Therapists.

Science Progress for July, 1936, contains an article by Professor E. D. Adrian on "Research on the Central Nervous System," and one by Dr. Joseph Needham on "Biochemistry and Causal Morphology in Amphibian Regeneration."

The Epidemiological Report of the Health Section of the League of Nations for April to June is devoted to the international lists of causes of death and the extent of their adoption in various countries.

Professor Ernst Finger, the well-known dermatologist and syphilologist of Vienna, celebrated his 80th birthday on July 8th.

Dr. W. K. Blackie has been appointed President of the Rhodesian Branch of the British Red Cross Society.

The number of cases of diphtheria in Holland among a total population of 8,000,000 has fallen from 7,450 in 1930 with 439 deaths to 2,990 with 143 deaths in 1934, and the percentage fatality from 5.9 in 1930 to 4.8 in 1934.

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.

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

The TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESSES are
EDITOR OF THE BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, Aitiology
Westcent, London.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY AND BUSINESS MANAGER
(Advertisements, etc.), Articulate Westcent, London.

MEDICAL SECRETARY, Medisecra Westcent, London.

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).

QUERIES AND ANSWERS

Income Tax

Retirement from Partnership

"F. R." says A. and B. have been in partnership on a half-share basis. The partnership accounts have been made up on a cash basis to September 30th each year. A. is disposing of his half-share as from October 1st, 1936, but retaining his half-share in the firm's book debts. "What is A.'s share of the firm's income tax up to the time of his retirement?"

** A. will have to account for tax on one-half of the amount, which would have represented his share of the firm's gross assessment for the financial year ending April

5th, 1937. The gross amount of the firm's assessment for that year is, of course, calculated on the firm's profits for the year to September 30th, 1935, and A.'s liability will be on one-quarter of that amount less personal allowances. He will not be liable to account for tax on his share of the book debts as they are received.

Car Transactions

"X. Y. Z." replaced a car in 1932-3 and claimed cost of replacement, and as it affected the assessment for 1933-4, did not claim depreciation allowance on the new car (which cost £225) for that year. He replaced that car in 1935-6 and for the financial year 1936-7 will be allowed "obsolescence £57, and wear and tear on the present car £57." Is this correct?

** Yes. The rule that "replacement" and depreciation allowances must not operate to affect the same year does not apply to "obsolescence" and depreciation. There is, however, one point for attention. On the figures quoted it would seem that the depreciation applicable to 1933-4—that is, £50—which was not received, has been deducted in arriving at the obsolescence allowance. This is not correct, and that allowance should be increased by £50.

LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.

Treatment of Angina Pectoris

Dr. W. A. CHAPPLE (London, W.2) writes: I have suffered from angina for a number of years and have been able to alleviate the pain promptly with 1/100 grain of trinitrin. Recently, however, I have been able to obtain the same result much more promptly by taking a maximum inspiration; at the end of the expiration following this the pain is gone. The pulse rate has been 110 before the inspiration, with frequent extrasystoles, and at the end of the expiration it has been 74, and the extrasystoles have gone; the relief has been complete, and the pain has not recurred, perhaps for a day or more, when the same treatment gives a like result. The inhalation of oxygen might be equally beneficial in severer cases, and, if so, simple small containers could be made available in the homes of sufferers. This treatment is physiologically rational.

Infection and Invigoration

Dr. D. A. ALEXANDER (Bristol) writes: Many of us have fugitive impressions that positive good results from disease. We recover; we are as we were before; we are better. We grew apace after measles; relations grew stout after enteric; friends became robust after tuberculosis. The state of pregnancy, with its miseries and mishaps, has another side that brings to many women a vigour they had not known before; the fertilizing particle, potent for harm, is also powerful for good. It would be of interest to collate and analyse any cases lying in one's clinical memory in relation to this theme. Disease takes away and it gives—seasickness illustrates the former; one has experienced such mental clarity after a voyage that it were worth while encountering rough seas to have that clarity again. The tranquillity, the joy of convalescence, from tonsillitis, for example, or influenza may have a physical counterpart in the humoral reaction to an invader. The high hope of the phthisical suggests that there is in the tubercle bacilli something akin to champagne; a something which emerges as such after its human implantation. Are there grounds for encouraging the sick that their illnesses are destined to increase their strength and prolong their days? Analogies are at hand; in the body politic the threat of invasion calls out a volunteer force, to the permanent strength of the nation; races are made by fusion; meta's, the most precious, are hardened by alloy. While we set ourselves against the infecting agents as unmitigated evils to be kept outside it is possible that exception is now and then to be made; a reconciliation may have been effected; man and microbe may be symbiotic.

Vacancies

Notifications of offices vacant in universities, medical colleges, and of vacant resident and other appointments at hospitals, will be found at pages 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 42, and 43 of our advertisement columns, and advertisements as to partnerships, assistantships, and locumtenencies at pages 40 and 41.

A short summary of vacant posts notified in the advertisement columns appears in the *Supplement* at page 116.