

for Mr. Merriman to revise his surprising statement at the beginning of his note that "the prognosis here is by no means good; complete return of function but rarely occurs, the tendon usually uniting in an overlengthened condition"—I am, etc.,

Liverpool, Oct. 20th.

B. L. MCFARLAND.

Prescribing of Glucose

SIR,—It is encouraging to read the letter of Dr. T. W. Preston upon the prescribing of glucose (October 17th, p. 787). Whereas this substance is of value for the speedy restoration of the liver glycogen, particularly in cases of sick stomachs, it does appear to be prescribed as a panacea for the ailments of adolescents. Every term brings children with doctors' or parents' letters demanding that glucose should be given for postural scoliosis, flat feet, night terrors, enuresis, and general naughtiness. The adolescent will take as much sugar as can be given, but one was always taught that sugars predisposed to dental caries, and supposes that glucose barley-sugar has received special dispensation from Harley Street.—I am, etc.,

Sherborne, Oct. 19th.

J. WHITTINGDALE.

Health Time-table for a Great-grandson

SIR,—I was born a long time ago. Soon after that I was vaccinated against the small-pox. I was a weakly child, subject to bronchitis, and grew up a weakly, weedy youth, but no further attempts were made by inoculations of any sort to alter my make-up. My son was a sturdy chap; he had nothing done to him beyond the vaccination. I have a grandson; he is getting a big boy; he was vaccinated, and had some surgical help too—not much. But I rather fear for my great-grandson—if any. We progress. Much is done in the way of prevention nowadays, and sometimes we improve on Nature's make-up.

Looking forward to the generation of my great-grandson I project a health time-table for him. Soon after birth I think he should be circumcised. Moses was right about that. In modern life we do not need the protection of a prepuce. At 4 months he should be vaccinated. At school age, say about 7, I suppose he ought to undergo a Schick inoculation. Puberty, say about 13 or 14, will be a ticklish time for the young fellow. They ought to be sure that the tunica vaginalis is sealed up, and while they are about it the inguinal rings at least should be sewn up. Fierce athletic life is imminent, and why run the risk of hernia?

Adolescence is a time of some risk. I have often seen tuberculosis manifest itself about this period. It would be well to make some tests of the response to tuberculin injections. About 20 he might be going to a university. The old-established ones are in the South Midlands, seated by the side of rather sluggish rivers in flat country. Common sense will approve inoculations against typhoid and paratyphoid. After concluding his time of residence, and before any professional training begins, it will be well to remove the appendix vermiformis. There is ample evidence that people can do well without that survival, and why run risks? Why wait for trouble to show itself, probably at a most inconvenient time? Early and later manhood, we may hope, will be a period of well-protected health. The decade between 40 and 50 must be carefully watched. Perhaps baldness will show itself; the routine of business or professional life may disclose a certain dullness, a loss of enthusiasm, a failure to respond to emotional appeal. This may be countered by some thyroid reinforcement. Between 50 and 60 the wonderful results obtained by Voronoff must be considered. It may be incumbent on him, in the interests of his family, to undergo a special course of biological treatment. At about

65 the bugbear of enlarged prostate looms up. There are various drugs which are recommended for subdermal injection; and I understand that good results have followed ligature of the vas deferens.

Poor young chap—if he happens. If he emerges, it will be into a world full of risks and responsibilities and preventions, and psychical investigations, and political slogans, and other worries that the care-free youth of previous generations never experienced.—I am, etc.,

Bournemouth, Oct. 18th.

GEORGE MAHOMED.

The Factories Bill Campaign

SIR,—Lord De La Warr, speaking for the Government in the debate on the Education Bill on June 30th of this year, said: "We are pledged to introduce a Factory Bill next year." The measure is long overdue, since the last consolidating and amending Act was passed in 1901. Successive Governments have introduced comprehensive Bills, but these have failed to reach the Statute Book.

The Government's promise has led to the launching of the Factories Bill Campaign with the object of securing that the Bill shall be adequate to meet the needs of to-day. If the standards of health, welfare, and safety in factories and workshops are to be raised, legislative provisions are essential. Hours for women and young people should be drastically limited. Overtime for women should be allowed only when indispensable, and for young persons it should be abolished. Even at present it is unreasonable for industry to require the services of juveniles for more than forty hours a week. The Archbishop of York has sent the following message to the Campaign: "The pace of modern industry makes a new need for the protection of industrial workers from excessive strain and risk. If we are to be worthy of our fathers we must secure this now, especially for young people."

The idea behind the Campaign is to give a means of expression to the smaller organizations and to individuals whose opinion might otherwise pass unheard. May we claim the hospitality of your columns to invite correspondence from all associations and individuals to whom this great problem is of vital interest? The honorary secretary is Miss Rosamond Tweedy, 32, Primrose Hill Road, London, N.W.8.—We are, etc.,

MARGARET BONDFIELD.
WYNNDHAM DEEDES.
J. SCOTT LIDGETT.
LISTOWEL.
SQUIRE SPRIGGE.

R. H. TAWNEY.
GERTRUDE TUCKWELL.
ANNE WARE.
HELEN WADDELL.

October 26th.

Universities and Colleges

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

At a meeting of the Senate held on October 21st, for the first time in the new buildings in Bloomsbury, with the Vice-Chancellor, Mr. H. L. Eason, in the chair, Dr. Charles Reid was appointed to the University Readership in Physiology, tenable at London Hospital Medical College, from January 1st, 1937. The Rogers Prize was awarded to Robert Parkin Kemp, M.D.

UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW

A ceremony of graduation was held on October 24th, when the following degrees were conferred:

M.D.—R. S. Dewar, J. Mackay.
M.B., Ch.B.—A. J. S. McFadzean, *C. W. Maclay, *L. J. Radin, *G. J. Aitken, *J. D. Aitchison, *K. S. Alstad, *W. F. Anderson, *Elizabeth A. Marshall, *T. Fletcher, *J. Harkness, *W. K. Stewart, *A. Slessor, *A. McPhater, *J. McInroy, *G. Boyd, *Elizabeth M. Thomson, *J. D. Fraser, *G. L. Brown, *J. W. Ferguson, †Agnes M. Highet, †J. K. T. Cherry, †I. M. Scott, †W. H. Findlay, †N. Botwin, †H. Doyle, †Bedelia C. Gallen, †A. M. Giles, †I. M. Macgregor, †Janet F. Cormick, †J. J. Jacobson, †R. D. McD. Morrison, †G. Goodkin, †Agnes M. Stewart, †I. Ginsberg, †I. B. McMillan, †A. S. Scott, †T. C. Frame, †D. T. Aitken, †I. McK. Burns, †J. Joseph, †A. T. Aylmer, †A. Walker, †J. Clark, †J. K. Hunter, †J. T. Boyd, †D. Dickie, †J. H. McWilliam, †A. Burns, †W. G. Macfie, †J. Crawford, †M. M.

Garrey, †F. R. Badenoch, †J. L. Farmer, †J. E. Jarrett, †G. M. Arnott, †J. G. Denholm, J. M. Aitken, J. T. Aitken, J. Angus, J. W. Ashforth, B. G. Bowles, J. Clark, G. H. Collins, W. Davidson, F. W. Dickson, C. G. M. Donaldson, J. C. Easson, J. B. Faison, W. Fowler, T. M. Gibson, W. G. C. Gillies, Mairidh A. M. N. Graham, W. G. Graham, M. Grais, F. P. Haldane, Elizabeth S. Hamilton, J. Hamilton, P. Kelly, F. C. Kennie, R. P. Lawrie, J. H. Lawson, T. McEwan, A. M. Macfie, J. McGhie, T. McHugh, Jean E. MacLachlan, H. C. McLaren, H. I. C. Maclean, R. C. Macleod, G. B. Mair, T. M. Mansbridge, D. Martyn, R. M. Munro, W. H. L. Patrick, Jessie McA. Pope, J. T. W. Reid, D. Rosenberg, G. T. Ross, K. Sandbank, Margaret D. L. Service, M. Silver, T. F. Stewart, W. C. Swanson, Jessie M. R. Tytler, D. F. Wood.

* With honours. † With commendation.

Alexander J. S. McFadzean gained the Brunton Memorial Prize awarded to the most distinguished graduate in medicine for the year 1936, and the West of Scotland R.A.M.C. Memorial Prize, awarded to the candidate with the highest aggregate marks in surgery, medicine, and midwifery in the final M.B., Ch.B. examinations held during 1936.

The Macewen Medal in Surgery was awarded to Archibald McPhater as the candidate who obtained the highest aggregate marks in surgery in the final M.B., Ch.B. examinations held during 1936.

UNIVERSITY OF WALES

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

DIPLOMA IN PUBLIC HEALTH.—*Part II*: Violet L. de A. Hickson, D. J. N. McNab, J. B. S. Morgan, W. E. Thomas, J. T. Watkins.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF LONDON

After the delivery on October 19th of the Harveian Oration by Sir Walter Langdon-Brown (see *Journal*, October 24th, p. 793), the President, Lord Dawson of Penn, presented the Weber-Parkes Prize to Sir StClair Thomson, M.D., F.R.C.P., F.R.C.S., 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., F.R.C.P., secretary of the Medical Research Council, and emeritus professor of pharmacology, University of Sheffield.

The Weber-Parkes prize of 150 guineas and a silver medal is awarded every third year for the best work already done, whether in this country or abroad, upon some subject connected with the aetiology, pathology, or treatment of tuberculosis. Sir StClair Thomson, who was a house-surgeon to Lord Lister, is emeritus professor of laryngology and consulting physician for diseases of the throat, King's College Hospital, and laryngologist to King Edward VII Sanatorium. The Moxon gold medal is awarded every third year to the person who is deemed to have most distinguished himself by observation and research in clinical medicine; it is not restricted to British subjects. This is the second medal awarded by the Royal College of Physicians to Dr. Edward Mellanby, the first being the Bisset-Hawkins medal in 1929 for work in advancing sanitary science and promoting public health.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND

The annual meeting of Fellows and Members will be held at the College in Lincoln's Inn Fields on Thursday, November 19th, at 4 p.m., when a report from the Council will be laid before the meeting. Fellows and Members can obtain copies of the report on application to the secretary, and have their names placed on the list of those to whom it is sent annually. Motions to be brought forward at the meeting must be signed by the mover, or by the mover and other Fellows and Members, and must reach the secretary not later than November 9th.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF EDINBURGH

At a meeting of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh held on October 20th, with Mr. Henry Wade, President, in the chair, the following successful candidates were admitted Fellows:

A. S. Beer, K. F. Caird, C. W. Clark, A. J. de Villiers, K. Girgis, W. I. Gordon, I. H. Hewetson, R. A. Hill, R. St. J. Honner, R. Howarth, C. H. Howat, S. Klein, D. Malloch, S. D. Meares, N. H. Munday, D. G. Myatt, D. A. MacLennan, C. R. MacLaughlin, V. T. Powell, M. Rassini, C. V. Salisbury, G. D. Saxton, F. A. B. Sheppard, R. H. Smith, R. Stuppel, G. L. Talwar, G. W. Watson.

At the annual meeting of the College held on October 21st the following officers were elected for the ensuing year: *President*, Mr. Henry Wade; *Vice-President*, Dr. A. H. H. Sinclair; *Secretary and Treasurer*, Mr. J. W. Struthers; *Representative on the General Medical Council*, Mr. Alex. Miles; *Convener of Museum Committee*, Dr. A. Logan Turner; *Librarian*, Dr. H. M. Traquair.

THE EAR, THE NOSE, AND THE THROAT

SIR STCLAIR THOMSON'S RETROSPECT

An enlarged theatre for the ear, nose, and throat department was opened at King's College Hospital on October 27th. Before Lord Hambleden, chairman of the hospital, handed it over to the department a brief address, mainly historical in character, was given by Sir StClair Thomson. As a teaching centre in oto-rhino-laryngology, he said, "King's" had a proud position, but his recollection went back to the time when the provision for these conditions in the hospital was very primitive.

The Dark Ages

In the history of medicine the study of the ear had preceded the study of the throat and the nose, possibly because the ear was the easiest region to inspect, and the chief symptom of ear disease, deafness, the most obtrusive. But even down to our own time the advance of otology was so slow that it gave rise to the gibe that diseases of the ear could be divided into two groups: "those which could be cured by squirting up it, and those which could not." Laryngology went back to the beginning of history, but its rapid and remarkable advance dated only from the invention of the laryngoscope in the middle of the last century. The nose was the Cinderella of the three sisters; although its exterior was the most prominent feature of the face, its interior was neglected as there were no means of exploring its recesses, and its most important function, that of warming and filtering the air, was not understood. When he entered the medical school as a student both nose and throat were neglected, though for the ear there was a whole-time surgeon. The cases which had any blockage or trouble in the nose or throat were collected once a week by one of the assistant physicians or surgeons and examined in a little room not much larger than an omnibus. When he gained his degree he had never seen the vocal cords or the drum of the ear in a living person. At that time the most prominent parts of enlarged tonsils were snipped off with the guillotine, and polypi of the nose were pulled out by a blindly inserted forceps. Adenoids were discovered about 1868 or 1870, although Hippocrates very nearly detected them, remarking that when people walked about with their mouths open and with running ears and a hard palate like the inside of a saddle they frequently had some growth at the back of the nose. In his own early days one child in every five went about with cotton-wool in his ears and with an open mouth due to adenoids. When it became necessary to operate for adenoids in the out-patient department the struggling child was held by the porter, while the surgeon, whose only instrument was his finger-nail, inserted his finger up behind the palate and scratched out as much of the adenoids as the yelling child would permit. The next stage of progress was the invention of an artificial finger-nail, which Sir StClair passed round among his audience.

From 1896 to 1936

Passing over twenty years, he came to 1896, in which year the number of throat patients at "King's" was 334 and of ear patients 531. The number of tonsils and adenoids cases in that year was sixty-eight. There were no wards for these cases. When he was appointed to the hospital in 1901 he was lent two beds in the male and two in the female surgical ward. There was no special theatre; a room was adapted for the purpose. This was a long remove from 1935, in which year the total number of patients who attended the ear and throat department was 3,012, and the attendances were three times as numerous as in the eye department and fourteen times as numerous as in the department for the diseases of women. Last year no fewer than fifty-nine cases of acute mastoid had to be refused admission because of lack of room—a tragedy when it was remembered what a serious condition this was. At present there were twelve beds for men, twelve for women, and four for children, together with six further beds for tonsils and adenoids cases.

We regret to announce the death of Dr. CHARLES KEMP, who had been in practice in the Morriston district of Swansea for the past thirty-six years. He was born at Keith, Banffshire, in 1868, and studied at King's and Marischal Colleges, Aberdeen, graduating M.A. of the University of Aberdeen in 1889, and M.B. and C.M. in 1893. He also paid a post-graduate visit to Vienna to study diseases of the eye, ear, and nose, and after gaining experience in different places settled at Swansea in partnership with Dr. Rice Morgan, whom he succeeded in 1917. Dr. Kemp was certifying factory surgeon for the Morriston area and medical officer to the Swansea Public Assistance Committee. He took an active interest in the local Caledonian Society, to which he had lately been appointed honorary physician, and was very popular and well loved in the district. He joined the British Medical Association in 1896. His death, on October 10th, is mourned by a wide circle of patients and friends.

The death took place in London, on October 19th, of Dr. W. A. CHAPPLE, who had been Member of Parliament for Stirlingshire and Dumfriesshire, and stood again as Parliamentary candidate, but without success, in November, 1924. William Allan Chapple, the only son of a New Zealand landowner, was born at Alexandra, Otago, on July 14th, 1864. From Alexandra School he went to Dunedin University, graduating M.B., Ch.B. in 1890, and proceeding afterwards to the M.D. He obtained the M.R.C.S. Eng. and the D.P.H. of the Irish Royal Colleges in 1897. For the next ten years Dr. Chapple practised medicine in Wellington, and served as honorary physician to the Wellington Hospital. He was elected a member of the Victoria University College Council, and for some time represented Tuapeka in the New Zealand Parliament. Then, after travelling in many lands, he settled in this country and devoted himself to sociology and general politics. He was elected in the Liberal interest M.P. for Stirlingshire in 1910 until the dissolution at the end of 1918, and was M.P. for Dumfriesshire 1922-4. Dr. Chapple's published writings included papers on physical education in State schools, the extension of technology in education, and the evils of alcohol; and a small book on the fertility of the unfit, which appeared in 1904.

Medical News

The Malcolm Morris Memorial Lecture under the Chadwick Trust will be delivered by Mr. Robert R. Hyde at the Royal Society of Arts, John Street, Adelphi, W.C., on Thursday, November 5th, at 8.15 p.m. His subject is "Industry's Contribution to Public Health: Firms' Voluntary Medical Services."

The fifty-third annual dinner of the past and present students of the Leeds School of Medicine will be held at the Hotel Metropole, Leeds, on Thursday, November 19th, at 7 for 7.30 p.m., when Mr. P. J. Moir will preside. Tickets (10s. 6d. each, exclusive of wine) may be obtained from the honorary secretaries, Messrs. D. E. Mitchell and T. B. Purdy. Any preference with regard to the allocation of seats should be stated.

The annual dinner of the West Riding Association of Graduates of the University of Edinburgh will be held at the Great Northern Hotel, Leeds, on Wednesday, November 4th, at 7.30 p.m., when the guest of the evening will be Mr. W. J. Stuart. Any Edinburgh graduate resident in the West Riding of Yorkshire who may not have received an invitation will be welcome at the dinner.

The annual dinner of the Association of Certifying Factory Surgeons will be held at the Langham Hotel, Portland Place, W., on Wednesday, November 4th, at 7.45 p.m.

A meeting of the Section of Otology of the Royal Society of Medicine will be held on Friday, November 6th, at 10.30 a.m., when Dr. Douglas Guthrie will deliver his presidential address on "The Renaissance of Otology," and Dr. Rh. Blegvad of Copenhagen will read a paper

on "Modern Views on Vertigo." At 4.40 p.m. the same day there will be a meeting of the Section of Laryngology, at which Dr. A. Hautant of Paris will read a paper on "Formes Anormales de la Tuberculose Laryngée Simulant le Cancer du Larynx," followed by a discussion on "The Problem of Early Laryngeal Tuberculosis," to be opened by Dr. Blegvad, Dr. L. S. T. Burrell, Sir StClair Thomson, Mr. F. C. Ormerod, and Mr. J. D. McLaggan. On Tuesday, November 10th, at 5 p.m., there will be a joint meeting of the Sections of Therapeutics and Pharmacology and Urology for a discussion on "Urinary Antiseptics (including Sodium and Ammonium Mandelate)," to be opened by Dr. M. L. Rosenheim, Dr. W. W. Payne, Dr. A. G. Signy, Mr. E. W. Riches, Mr. A. W. Cubitt, and Mr. Clifford Morson. Members of the Section of Obstetrics and Gynaecology are specially invited to attend the meeting.

The Institute of Medical Psychology announces that dates for the series of lectures on child training to be held at the Institute's clinic in Malet Place, Bloomsbury, W.C., have been rearranged as follows: Dr. Susan Isaacs, November 3rd; Dr. Maria Montessori, November 10th and 17th; Miss Lillian de Lissa, November 24th and December 1st; and Dr. Charlotte Bühler, December 8th and 15th.

The Mayor of Bermondsey will officially open the Public Health Centre, Grange Road, S.E., on Saturday, November 7th, at 3 p.m. A report of the laying of the foundation stone ceremony appeared in our issue of September 28th, 1935 (p. 596).

A conference, arranged by the Post-Certificate School, on "Post-Certificate Training for Midwives," will be held at the Royal Society of Arts, John Street, Adelphi, W.C., on Tuesday, November 3rd, at 5 p.m., when the chair will be taken by Sir Comyns Berkeley, chairman of the Central Midwives Board. The opening address will be given by the Minister of Health, Sir Kingsley Wood, and other speakers will be Professor James Young, on principles underlying post-certificate work; Miss Pye, president of the Midwives Institute, on the midwife in hospital practice and domiciliary practice; and Dr. H. P. Newsholme, on a scheme for a residential post-certificate course.

The recently constituted Committee for the Study and Investigation of Rheumatism at the Red Cross Clinic, Peto Place, Marylebone Road, N.W.1, holds quarterly meetings on the Tuesdays of the week succeeding the quarter days, at 5.30 p.m. At such meetings papers are read by various members who have been engaged on special research, and discussions follow. To such meetings any medical men who may be interested in rheumatism and its manifestations are cordially invited. Owing to a recent international congress clashing with the normal October date, the next meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 3rd, at 5.30 p.m., when Dr. W. S. C. Copeman will read a "Review of Gold Therapy in Rheumatic Disorders."

The Institute for the Scientific Treatment of Delinquency has arranged a course of sixteen weekly seminars for probation officers and social workers, to be held at the West End Hospital for Nervous Diseases, Welbeck Street, W. Four seminars on organic disease and delinquency, by Dr. T. Rowland Hill, began on October 22nd; there will be four on mental defect and delinquency, by Dr. C. J. C. Earle, and eight on psychiatry and psychotherapy of delinquency by Dr. Denis Carroll. Dates will be arranged as far as possible to suit the convenience of the class. Applications to take the course, and for details of fees, etc., should be addressed to the general secretary of the institute, 56, Grosvenor Street, W.1.

The out-patient clinic for mental disorders at the Warneford Hospital, Leamington Spa, will in future be held weekly on every Monday at 2.30 p.m. instead of monthly.

Mr. Digby Cotes-Preedy, K.C., who qualified in medicine in 1903 and was called to the Bar in the following year, has been appointed by the Lord Chancellor to be a county court judge of Circuit No. 36 (Oxford).

On October 23rd the Duke of Kent opened the Scarborough new general hospital, which has been built on the western outskirts of the town at a cost of £130,000, of which all but £15,000 has been raised since the scheme was initiated ten years ago. The new building contains 140 beds, and has been planned to allow for extensions which would double the accommodation.

The issue of *Hospitalstidende*, the organ of the Danish Medical Society, for September 15th contains a sympathetic obituary notice of Lord Moynihan by Professor S. A. Gammeltoft, director of the gynaecological clinic at Copenhagen University.

Dr. R. Fortescue Fox has been elected an honorary member of the Austrian Society of Balneology and Physiotherapy.

Guy's Hospital is to increase the number of its maternity beds from twenty-one to forty-nine. This change, which will be carried out within the next month, has been made possible by the rearrangement of beds in the medical block of the hospital.

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.

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QUERIES AND ANSWERS

Rigid Neck in Parkinsonism

Dr. A. H. DUNKERLEY (Westerham, Kent) writes: I should be grateful for any suggestion as to treatment in the following case of Parkinsonism following encephalitis. The patient is an old lady of 70 years, who has responded well to atropine therapy, but is troubled exceedingly with the muscular rigidity in her neck muscles, so that her head is continually bent forward at an angle where she cannot see or read anything. The atropine has been pressed as far as possible, but I wonder if anybody has devised a piece of simple apparatus for holding the head back. The head can easily be pushed back, but will only stop in an upright position for thirty seconds.

Income Tax

Replacement of Car

"F. H." bought a car for £172 in March, 1935, and for the financial year 1936-7 has been allowed £27 depreciation. The car has just been sold for £115 and a new one purchased for £178. Does the present assessment need adjusting?

** No, because the tax for this year is based on the income and expenses of last year. But when the declaration of income is made next year depreciation should be claimed on the new car and "obsolescence" allowance in respect of the old car. The amount to be claimed will be (£172 - £115 =) £57 less the amount of the depreciation—that is, the full amount, not merely the proportion allowed for income tax.

LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.

Laboratory and Bedside

"Medical Science and Practical Medicine" was the subject of an address delivered to the University of Durham Medical Society by Professor G. H. Monrad-Krohn of Oslo. He explained that his object was not only to discuss the wonderful progress and development of modern medicine, but also to show possible pathological symptoms and signs of degeneration in medical science and practice of to-day. At first sight the terms "medical science" and "practical medicine" appeared synonymous, but too often they were antagonistic. The lecturer deplored the abyss that yawned between the laboratory and clinical science, and the lack of co-operation between laboratory workers and clinicians. In medical science he deprecated the influence of fashion, whereby mere postulates, sponsored by a fashionable creed, were too often mistaken for proven facts; also the scientific vanity which induced some ambitious workers to describe new reflexes or modifications of known diseases, solely to provide pegs in medical literature on which to hang their own names. Despite the enormous progress of medical science, the domain of aetiology was still largely a *terra incognita*, when even the cause of the common cold was not yet definitely known. With regard to practical medicine it was one of the functions of the practitioner to give to his patients what he received from medical science, and to return to science what he learned from his patients. The experience of old practitioners was often far ahead of medical science, and country doctors in Norway were prescribing cod-liver oil long before vitamins were discovered. Practical medicine was a mixture of science and art guided by knowledge, by tact, and by intuition. *Non medicamen sed medicus curat.*

Population Policy

Dr. B. DUNLOP (Putney, S.W.) writes: Sir Henry Brackenbury's address on "Maternity in its Sociological Aspects" (October 24th, p. 828) is a masterly and valuable one. I submit, however, (1) that, as Dr. Louis I. Dublin, the eminent American statistician, has indicated, an average of three children per fertile couple may be enough to maintain numbers; (2) that to oppose birth control clinics for the poor is to deny them the right to voluntary parenthood, which, as Professor Carr-Saunders contends, must now be the basis of a satisfactory population policy; and (3) that, on the average, the couples in the richer half of a nation produce children at least slightly more gifted and good-looking by heredity than the other couples do.

A Pharmaceutical Discrepancy

Mr. FRANK TAYLOR, M.P.S., writes with reference to the letter from Dr. Stuart Goldhurst under this heading (October 24th, p. 850): I have long thought that something should be done in the matter of tab. acid. acetylsal. co., as two are official: tab. acid. acetylsal. co. N.F. (*National Formulary*), which contains acid. acetylsal., phenacetin, and Dover's powder, and tab. acid. acetylsal. co. B.P.C., which contains acid. acetylsal., phenacetin, and caffeine. It is unfortunate that two tablets having the same name should have different formulae, and the sooner one of these has a different name the better for everyone concerned.

Spa Technique at Aix

A report entitled "Les Techniques Thermales d'Aix-les-Bains et leurs Applications Cliniques," by Drs. Bertier, Blanc, and Folliet (Imprimeries Réunies de Chambéry), was prepared on behalf of the Medical Society of Aix-les-Bains for the *Réunion Scientifique* last year. The best part of it is the author's description of the technique at this famous Savoy spa, as now expanded and developed in the new State establishment. Following the practice in other countries, a school of thermal technique for bath attendants has been set up, with a qualifying examination, under the direction of the professor of hydrology at the University of Lyons.

Vacancies

Notifications of offices vacant in universities, medical colleges, and of vacant resident and other appointments at hospitals, will be found at pages 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 54, 55, and 56, of our advertisement columns, and advertisements as to partnerships, assistantships, and locumtenencies at pages 52 and 53.

A short summary of vacant posts notified in the advertisement columns appears in the *Supplement* at page 243.