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organisms; its vitamin and iron content was adequate; it was quickly and easily prepared, thereby reducing the possibility of error to a minimum; and it had been made to resemble human milk to an extent which could never be achieved in the average home. Dried milk, however, was apt to be expensive and was, therefore, often beyond the reach of the very homes where its use would be invaluable—namely, the homes of the harassed, overworked mothers, who had neither the time nor the facilities to make cow's milk safe and digestible for their babies. In conclusion, Dr. Wallace emphasized the fact that the perfect substitute for mother's milk did not exist, and that breast-feeding should still be the aim in all cases.

Local News

ENGLAND AND WALES

British Red Cross Society

The Duke of Gloucester presided at the statutory meeting of the council of the British Red Cross Society on June 10 at 14, Grosvenor Crescent, London, S.W. Before the formal business began the Duke presented the Florence Nightingale Medal to Mrs. Maynard Linden Carter, head of the Nursing Section of the League of Red Cross Societies. The Director-General announced that the four-yearly International Red Cross Conference would be held in London in June, 1938. The Society's annual report was received and approved. This report shows continued expansion both of personnel and activity. Considerable progress has been made in the special training and organization of its membership in order to co-operate with the Government in preparation for defence against aerial warfare, and the regulations have been extended to include the enrolment of air raid precautions reserves. The Clinic for Rheumatism in London is now working to its maximum capacity, and gave 154,378 treatments during 1936. The number of calls on the London Blood Transfusion Service amounted to 5,215, another record over any previous year. In order to facilitate experiments in the relief of certain forms of disease by means of oxygen tents the Society provided twelve tents and placed these at the disposal of twelve teaching hospitals in London. The tests carried out proved of great use, and the Society's action encouraged the use of this valuable method of treatment. The Princess Royal, Commandant-in-Chief, reported that over 800 women members attended the V.A.D. training camp this summer at Winchester, where courses of instruction had been provided. On Coronation Day 944 officers and members were on duty in London in co-operation with the St. John Ambulance Brigade, and dealt with 1,428 cases. The total number of certificates and proficiency badges awarded by the Society for first aid in chemical warfare now amounted to 29,079.

Reduction of Out-patient Waiting

A further step towards the reduction of waiting in out-patient departments has been taken by the Out-patient Arrangements Committee of King Edward's Hospital Fund for London by the issue of a memorandum on time-saving methods in connexion with arrival and registration of out-patients, with notes on other early items of procedure. A previous memorandum dealt with hospital out-patient dispensaries. The Out-patient Arrangements Committee, of which Dr. Morley Fletcher is chairman, was set up as a result of the report of a special King's Fund inquiry into out-patient methods. That report gave a brief outline of time-saving suggestions at every stage of out-patient procedure, and recommended that the King's Fund should follow this up in more detail, so as to assist all hospitals to ascertain whether their own waiting time

is capable of reduction, and, if so, how to reduce it. The report states that very much has been and can be done by hospitals to reduce waiting by shortening the interval between the time when patients arrive and the time when they see the doctor. Part I deals with these possibilities under such headings as different times of arrival for different patients; group or class appointments; sorting; sifting; general supervision. Part II deals in detail with registration. It describes a system based on the latest improvements in such matters as the number and design of the forms, their use at the registry, at the various departments and at the dispensary, and indexing and filing. Part III gives a list of salient points in a form intended to be of use to a hospital reviewing its procedure. Copies of the memorandum may be obtained from the publishers, Messrs. Geo. Barber and Son, price 1½d. net, post free.

Birmingham Health Congress

About 2,000 people will be in Birmingham for the health congress which is to be held there by the Royal Sanitary Institute from July 12 to 17. It is expected that a record number of delegates will be appointed to attend from Governments and local authorities in all parts of the world. The Earl of Dudley will be installed as president of the Congress on July 12 and will deliver his inaugural address. The congress luncheon will be held at the Grand Hotel on Monday, July 12, at 1 p.m., and the congress dinner at the same place on Thursday, July 15, at 7.45 p.m. The Minister of Health has promised to address a general session on July 13. The comprehensive list of papers to be read includes such subjects as the future of our population, the national fitness campaign, development of the maternity service, care of the pre-school child, housing progress and prospects, slum clearance, roads and public health, and protection of bulk milk. Altogether there will be fifty addresses and papers. At the exhibition in the Bingley Hall manufacturers from all parts of the country will be represented, and there will be exhibits illustrating municipal hygiene and health and comfort in the home.

SCOTLAND

Medical Education

Speaking at Edinburgh on June 17 on the national drive for health and nutrition, Dr. Chalmers Watson said that the Government programme to promote a great national drive in the interests of health, nutrition, and physical education had done little or nothing to secure the interest and co-operation of general practitioners, who ought to be able to play an important part in the Government's scheme. Much had been heard lately about improved national health and increased longevity, but statistical evidence, on which these statements were based, must be interpreted with caution; employers of labour and others interested would do well to note that the Department of Health in its last report revealed the fact that the cost of sick benefit for insured persons last year showed an increase of 10 per cent. over the previous year. Medical education was to-day more closely related to medical treatment than it used to be, but a continuation of this relationship would depend largely upon a progressive attitude on the part of the universities. The Scottish Committee on Health Services had reported last autumn that unless medical training was preventive in outlook many of the committee's recommendations for the development of health policy would be stultified. In 1932 the League of Nations had gone into this matter, and had published several volumes recording the opinions of medical representatives of various countries. Their main conclusions had been that reform had long been called for, but that universities and teaching schools were either unable or unwilling to move in the matter. It had been announced by the medical faculty of Edinburgh University that a

comprehensive series of changes in the curriculum was about to be made to bring medical education more into line with modern requirements, but traditions died hard, and the changes that were necessary would not be easily secured. A more efficient medical curriculum would undoubtedly involve increased expenditure, but that expenditure would be amply repaid by the greater value of an improved curriculum.

Dundee Royal Infirmary

At the annual meeting of governors of Dundee Royal Infirmary on June 14 the report which was submitted showed that the ordinary income for the previous year had amounted to £48,393, which was an increase of £449 upon that of 1935. There had, however, been an increase in expenditure of £1,642, and the deficit on the year's working amounted to £7,577. Mr. David Air, the chairman, said that the financial position had caused grave concern, and could be improved only by the increased generosity of all subscribers. It was hoped that the public who valued the work carried on efficiently by voluntary hospitals would show their appreciation by an increase in both contributions and legacies and substantial donations.

Correspondence

Population Investigation Committee

SIR.—We should be grateful if you would give us the opportunity of correcting, in your columns, a misconception which has arisen about one of the activities of the above committee. At present there is little accurate information available as to the amount of physiological sterility existing in this country; we are still in doubt as to whether this is increasing or decreasing, and as to the part which it plays in the decline in fertility. With the object of obtaining accurate data on this and other aspects of the problem of fertility our committee has prepared a questionnaire of which very misleading accounts have been published in the Press.

We should like to point out (1) that the questionnaire has been produced on the sole initiative of our committee, and that neither the Ministry of Health, the General Register Office, nor any other organization is in any way responsible for it; and (2) that it will not be sent direct to parents or other members of the public. We are not yet in a position to give full particulars of the procedure by which we hope to obtain the desired information.—We are, etc.,

EARDLEY HOLLAND.
C. P. BLACKER.

London, S.W.1, June 24.

The Age Incidence and Sex Incidence of Milk-borne Typhoid

SIR.—An interesting comparison may be made of the figures for the Bournemouth epidemic given by Professor R. M. Picken (*Journal*, June 19, p. 1284), and those recorded by Dr. R. W. Johnstone (1910)¹ for the Folkestone Urban District during the fourteen years 1896-1909. A total of 357 cases of typhoid fever occurred in that period, and of these 206 were traced to milk infected by one individual, who was eventually proved to be a typhoid carrier. Among the milk-infected cases children under 15 numbered seventy-eight, or 37.9 per cent., while

among those presumably infected in other ways the percentage of children under 15 was 27.2.

In the age groups over 15 the sex ratio in the milk-infected patients was 100 males to 220 females, and in the others 100 males to 108 females. As the proportion of males to females over the age of 15 in Folkestone at the census of 1901 was 100 to 151, the contrast between the incidence in the milk-infected group as compared with the other is striking. It is interesting that at Bournemouth, where the milk was apparently infective for about a month, and at Folkestone, where infection from a single source persisted for fourteen years, the incidence on adult females should correspond so closely.

Study of such data as are available suggests that, generally speaking, milk-borne infection falls more heavily on women and children, but there are so many exceptions on record that the observation is of little practical value when applied to the investigation of any given epidemic. Most of us will agree with Professor Picken's view that "this method of differentiating the cause of epidemics is in practice unreliable."—I am, etc.,

Dumfries, June 25.

JOHN RITCHIE.

Technique in Knee-joint Operations

SIR.—I was surprised to read Mr. A. S. Blundell Bankart's comments on the technique employed by Mr. Eric Lloyd in operations on the knee-joint (*Journal*, June 12, p. 1227). Bacteriological investigation has demonstrated that although the surface of the skin may be rendered sterile, the deeper layers may still harbour organisms. For many years it has been my practice to sterilize the deep layers of the skin incision by the direct application of iodine before proceeding with the operation, and many surgeons from foreign clinics have acknowledged the added safety which this ensures.

Surely surgeons do not believe that they eliminate the possibility of infection from the deeper layers of the skin by clipping towels over the edges? Does Mr. Bankart believe that although the towel becomes stained with blood no organism can pass? This question raises a practical point in technique which applies to all branches of surgery, and one which I had intended to make the subject of a special communication to the *Journal*. I am grateful to Mr. Eric Lloyd for referring to it in his address on "Technique in Operations on the Knee-joint."—I am, etc.,

Birmingham, June 20.

NAUGHTON DUNN.

When to Operate in Appendicitis

SIR.—I should be glad to know what is the general opinion of surgeons on the question of cases of inflamed appendix with abscess formation. To-day I sent a case of this type into hospital.

Briefly, the history, which varies little in these illnesses, is one of a six-day illness commencing with pain in the right iliac fossa six days ago. The patient had no gastric symptoms till the third day, when he was sick and continued so till a simple bismuth mixture allayed matters within twenty-four hours. His temperature began to rise, and varied between 99.8° and 100°; the bowels moved daily without any aperient. To-day, the sixth day, a palpable lump in the appendix area was evident; he had anorexia; the pain still remained as it had done, but the tenderness was much more marked. The diagnosis was obvious.

His wife came to see me four hours after his admission to hospital with the report that the surgeon had decided not to operate. I was surprised to hear this; and to placate her and to ensure that the patient's condition had been investigated I phoned the hospital and spoke to the medical officer

¹ Johnstone, R. W. (1910). *Reports to the Local Government Board on Public Health and Medical Subjects*, New Series, No. 41.

figure! Consequently Wilson's leisure time was scanty. When work permitted he enjoyed a game of golf, usually with his lifelong friend and colleague, the present chairman of the Division. Their encounters on the Rochdale links during the last twenty-five years have become part of the history (and legend) of the club. Wilson's other relaxation was reading—philosophy, biography, and the classics being his choice. In the enjoyment of his books he stole many hours from the night. At the funeral service at Rochdale Parish Church and the burial at Rochdale Cemetery on June 2 a large number of his patients and medical colleagues gathered to show their affection and regard. Dr. Wilson is survived by a widow, two daughters, and two sons: both the latter are medical students.

Universities and Colleges

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

At a congregation held on June 24 the degree of Bachelor of Medicine (B.M.) was conferred on N. H. Martin.

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

At a congregation held on June 22 the following medical degrees were conferred:

M.B., B.CHR.—W. H. Phillipps, *C. N. Pulvertaft, N. T. Holden, J. A. Seymour-Jones.

M.B.—R. C. F. Catterall, G. N. St. J. Hallett, A. R. Pope, M. S. M. Rayner, C. J. F. Coombs, *H. W. Sadlier, *K. M. Mayall.

* By proxy.

The following candidates have been approved at the examinations indicated:

THIRD M.B.—*Part I (Surgery, Midwifery, and Gynaecology):* E. W. O. Adkins, G. E. Adkins, R. F. Ashwin, T. M. Banham, C. F. Barwell, P. F. Barwood, R. D. D. Birdwood, A. W. Box, E. E. Bullock, J. F. H. Bulman, G. A. Burfield, O. J. Curl, J. K. Denham, R. C. S. Dick, H. G. Dowler, H. L. Ellis, T. J. Fairbank, A. L. Fawdry, N. Feiwei, A. Garcés, E. A. G. Goldie, A. C. F. Green, J. L. Griffith, J. E. Hardwick-Smith, S. W. G. Hargrove, N. J. P. Hewlings, J. H. S. Hopkins, R. T. Johnson, J. S. Joly, H. S. Kellett, P. Kelly, A. Leese, P. F. Malim, R. W. Mason, J. H. Moir, W. E. D. Moore, K. S. Mullard, W. A. Nicholson, A. P. Norman, W. E. Owens, G. R. C. Peatfield, P. A. T. Phibbs, E. H. D. Phillips, C. G. Rob, D. Rubin, G. Sheers, J. F. Stokes, D. C. Sturdy, D. J. D. Torrens, R. L. Townsend, S. C. Truelove, W. B. Waterfall, P. H. Willcox, J. M. G. Wilson, P. R. Wilson, D. E. Yarrow, M. D. Young. *Women: V. E. A. Sykes. Part II (Principles and Practice of Physic, Pathology, and Pharmacology):* C. D. Anderson, R. A. Andrews, R. F. Ashwin, E. F. Aubert, J. L. W. Ball, T. M. Banham, R. C. B. Barbor, P. F. Barwood, I. G. Braddon, H. A. Brook, J. F. H. Bulman, C. T. A. Burgess, L. H. Cane, N. F. Coghill, J. O. Collin, F. S. Cosh, F. M. Crawshaw, A. C. Cunliffe, R. C. S. Dick, C. M. Dickins, H. G. Dowler, R. Edwards, W. H. Ekin, E. A. Evans, E. M. Evans, N. Feiwei, J. N. Fell, C. H. C. Ferguson, G. M. Fleming, E. B. French, J. C. Gilson, C. E. D. H. Goodhart, I. C. A. D. P. Graham, I. A. Guest, H. Haigh, S. G. Hamilton, J. N. Horne, W. H. R. Jeremy, J. S. Joly, P. Kidd, A. B. Lintott, T. P. H. McKelvey, R. W. Markham, J. H. Moir, M. D. Molesworth, C. R. Morison, W. G. Murray-Browne, T. P. Myles, R. C. Neville, L. B. Paling, A. K. Pardhy, M. T. Parker, E. A. Pask, J. P. Reidy, G. O. Richardson, C. G. Scorer, C. J. S. Sergel, K. M. M. Sheldon, J. P. Singer, R. M. Solomon, R. S. Stevens, A. W. Stewart, J. F. Stokes, R. F. Tredgold, W. B. Waterfall, R. W. Watts, D. O. Wharton, B. D. Whitworth, E. H. L. Wigram, L. A. C. Wood, H. R. Wynne, G. E. Yardley. *Women: M. B. Billington, G. M. S. Caldwell, A. C. Clark, C. E. Peaker.*

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

At a meeting of the Senate held on June 23, with the Vice-Chancellor, Mr. H. L. Eason, M.D., M.S., in the chair, Sir Robert Pickard, D.Sc., F.R.S., was elected Vice-Chancellor for the remainder of the year 1936-7 and for 1937-8. A cordial vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Eason for the great services he has rendered to the University during his tenure of the office of Vice-Chancellor. Mr. Eason took up his duties as Principal of the University on July 1.

Professor L. S. Dudgeon, F.R.C.P., has been appointed as from July 1 a representative of the General Medical Schools on the Senate for the remainder of the period 1934-8.

Sir Ernest Graham-Little, M.P., M.D., has been re-elected a member of the University Court for a further term of five years from October, 1937.

UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor J. S. B. Stopford, M.D., F.R.S., has intimated to Senate and Council his desire to be relieved of the duties of the chair of anatomy, in view of the increasing responsibilities of his administrative work, and Mr. Frederic Wood Jones, D.Sc., F.R.C.S., F.R.S., at present professor of anatomy in the University of Melbourne, has accepted an invitation to the chair in succession to Professor Stopford, and will take up his duties in January, 1938.

UNIVERSITY OF WALES

WELSH NATIONAL SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

The following candidates for the degrees of M.B., Ch.B. have satisfied the examiners in the subjects indicated:

OBSTETRICS AND GYNAECOLOGY.—D. W. Abse, S. W. Beswick, Alice Davies, Miriam E. Davies, D. G. Evans, W. G. Miles, A. H. Millard, Mary D. Owen, W. L. Ll. Rees, R. Tipple, Emily K. Williams, Mary Williams.

UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW

At a ceremony of graduation held on June 25 the following degrees were conferred:

M.D.—E. D. Cooper (with honours), S. Lazarus (with high commendation), A. Dick.

PH.D.—D. Matta, M.B., Ch.B. (*in absentia*).

M.B., CH.B.—A. M. Thomson.

The Asher Asher Gold Medal in Laryngology and Rhinology was awarded to D. Christison.

The Services

HONORARY PHYSICIAN TO THE KING

Lieutenant-Colonel A. G. Biggam, O.B.E., R.A.M.C., has been appointed Honorary Physician to the King and promoted to Brevet Colonel, vice Colonel J. Heatly-Spencer, C.B.E., late R.A.M.C., who has retired.

VOLUNTARY AID DETACHMENTS

The latest official returns of the progress made in the organization of Voluntary Aid Detachments show that 154 men's and 1,060 women's detachments, comprising a total membership of 30,942, have received recognition by the War Office. During the past year there has been an increase of 39 detachments and 1,673 members. Of the present membership 6,832 have undertaken the "mobile" obligation.

The county areas in England which have a total membership of 500 or over are: County of London, 1,785; East Lancashire, 1,761; Norfolk, 1,489; Hampshire, 1,278; Yorkshire (West Riding), 1,155; Surrey, 1,110; Devonshire, 1,030; Sussex, 1,005; Somerset, 982; West Lancashire, 976; Cheshire, 974; Essex, 865; Kent, 759; Yorkshire (North Riding), 713; Gloucestershire, 551; Nottinghamshire, 525; Lincolnshire, 519; Staffordshire, 500.

In Scotland there are 160 detachments, with a total membership of 4,132, of whom 1,091 are "mobile" members. There are 75 detachments in Wales, the total membership being 1,704, of whom 340 are "mobile" members.

The present scheme for Voluntary Aid Detachments was inaugurated in 1923, and is designed to supplement the medical services of the Naval, Military, and Air Forces in time of war. "Mobile" members are required to give an undertaking that, in the event of the embodiment of the Territorial Army, they are prepared to serve with the medical services either at home or abroad. "Immobile" members undertake to serve within reach of their own homes.

BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL

THE JOURNAL OF THE BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

S U P P L E M E N T

containing

Current Notes on the Work of the Association

Reports of Conferences

Meetings of Branches and Divisions

General Medical Council

Public Health Notes. Post-graduate News

National Health Insurance Proceedings

Naval, Military, and Air Force Appointments

Correspondence, etc.

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