

that candidates did not get "ploughed" in surgery because they were not surgeons. They "ploughed" themselves because they had not learnt to appreciate the fundamentals of just that part of medical practice which happened to have a surgical value. He desired to see in all examinations in anatomy and physiology actual physicians and surgeons sitting in the examinations with the professors in those subjects.

### Teaching the Art of Practice

The difficulty in teaching the art of practice, Mr. Pearce Gould continued, was to find the right type of man to give the right type of instruction. Surely the art of practice was something which could not be taught. The difficulty of the examiners was to decide whether the candidates were fit, the very next day, to go out and assume the rights and responsibilities of qualified medical practitioners. That being so, quite a heavy proportion of people were bound to be "ploughed."

One woman student from Birmingham University, in the discussion, mentioned the value of lectures on national health insurance practice, which had been given in Birmingham by Dr. Guy Dain. Mr. Pearce Gould said that it would be a matter of machinery for the Ministry of Health to prohibit any qualified practitioner from going on the insurance panel until he had received such instruction. But in his view the art of practice was much wider than learning the regulations of such a system as national health insurance. It was fairly easy to give such instruction because it was all cut and dried. He held that one could not really teach the coming doctor how to handle people, how to evaluate those outside conditions which had a bearing not only on diagnosis but also on treatment, how to talk to patients, how to judge whether someone was telling the truth or his motive in withholding it, how much sympathy to express, and when to adopt, if necessary, a dictatorial tone.

In reply to another student-speaker who complained that the curriculum was too full, Mr. Pearce Gould said that he saw a good deal of medical students and noticed very little sign of serious overwork. The curriculum as prescribed was only a daytime thing. The student had his evenings and week-ends, and he thought it required only a moderate degree of industry to get through the necessary reading.

One male student declared that if the profession was equally open to both sexes in all the medical training schools, it would be possible to enlarge the scope of student material by bringing in numbers of intelligent people (women) who were able to make good doctors in due course.

The final event of the conference was a general discussion on preventive medicine, which was opened by Professor W. W. JAMESON.

At a meeting of the last court of directors of the Society for Relief of Widows and Orphans of Medical Men, with Mr. V. Warren Low, president, in the chair, three new members were elected. Grants amounting to £2,423 were voted for the half-yearly payments to the widows and orphans in receipt of relief. Included in this sum was one of £78 for special grants to enable three orphans to study for professional careers. A gift of three articles of jewellery and two small Dutch paintings had been received from the executors of the late Mrs. Braley-Thomas. A widow of a deceased member applied for relief and she was voted an annual grant of £50 from the ordinary funds and one of £25 from the Bricknell Fund. It was decided that the proposed dinner to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the foundation of the society should not be held. The directors desire to bring to the notice of medical men the great advantages that may accrue by joining the society. Membership is open to any registered medical man who at the time of his election is residing within a twenty-mile radius of Charing Cross. Relief is only given to the necessitous widows and orphans of deceased members. Full particulars may be obtained from the secretary, 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, W.1.

## Local News

### ENGLAND AND WALES

#### Voluntary Hospitals Committee for London

The Voluntary Hospitals Committee for London, whose office is at 10, Old Jewry, E.C.2, has recently extended its area, and, the term of office having expired, a new committee has been elected for the next five years. Officers have been elected as follows: chairman, Mr. Oliver N. Chadwyck-Healey; vice-chairman, Dr. A. M. H. Gray; treasurer, Lord Annaly; secretary, Mr. A. G. L. Ives. The following is a list of the members elected by the hospitals:

#### Hospitals with Undergraduate Schools

Dr. H. E. A. Boldero.	Capt. H. L. Milsom.
Lt.-Gen. Sir George Cory.	Sir Frank Newnes, Bt.
Professor L. S. Dudgeon.	Mr. Austin Taylor.
Dr. Geoffrey Evans.	Mr. F. P. Whitbread.
Dr. A. M. H. Gray.	Mr. G. T. Whiteley.
Mr. Norman Lake, F.R.C.S.	Sir Charles Wilson, M.D.

#### Hospitals without Undergraduate Schools

<i>West and West Central:</i>	<i>North-West:</i>
Sir John Weir, M.B.	Mr. Harold Pearson.
<i>South-West:</i>	<i>South-East:</i>
Capt. G. M. Eden.	Mr. F. A. Lyon.
Dr. T. A. Matthews.	Mr. F. L. Richardson.
<i>East:</i>	Dr. C. E. Sundell.
Mr. Percival Cole, F.R.C.S.	<i>North:</i>
Mr. G. A. Hepworth.	Mr. G. G. Panter.
Major Raphael Jackson.	Mr. F. D. Saner, F.R.C.S.
Mr. Frank Jennings.	

#### Special Hospitals

<i>Children's:</i>	<i>Chest:</i>
Mr. O. N. Chadwyck-Healey.	Sir A. Kaye Butterworth.
Dr. Reginald Jewesbury.	Mr. A. J. M. Tarrant.
Mr. Arthur Morley, K.C.	
Sir Edward Penton.	
<i>Women and Maternity:</i>	<i>Ophthalmic:</i>
Mr. J. V. O'Sullivan, F.R.C.S.	Mr. A. J. M. Tarrant.
Mr. L. Carnac Rivett, F.R.C.S.	
Mr. C. S. Wentworth Stanley.	<i>Ungrouped:</i>
	Lord Annaly.
	Mr. J. Swift Joly, F.R.C.S.
	Capt. Robert Whitney.

#### Atmospheric Pollution

Twenty-four representatives of local authorities and other organizations co-operating with the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research in investigations into the nature and extent of atmospheric pollution met recently at the offices of the Department. Alderman D. Adams, M.P., of Newcastle, presided over the conference, which has now been meeting regularly for ten years. It was reported that during that period there had been a marked increase in the number of places at which observations of deposited and of suspended matter were being regularly made by co-operating bodies, and that in addition a continually growing number of regular observations were now being made of sulphur gases in the atmosphere by methods which had since been introduced. The conference expressed strong belief in the importance of continuing and extending the investigation in order to provide the assured basis of fact necessary for determining the nature of remedial measures desirable and for estimating their effect when introduced. Dr. G. M. B. Dobson, F.R.S., Chairman of the Atmospheric Pollution Research Committee, presented a report on the progress of the investigations carried out under his committee. He dealt first with

the work in progress at the special survey of atmospheric pollution in and around Leicester. Routine measurements had now been systematically made for a year over a considerable area to obtain information about the behaviour of pollution under various weather conditions. It was proposed to continue these for a further year at least. The work of the survey also included tests under practical conditions of new types of instrument and research on methods of measurement.

## SCOTLAND

### Surgical Research Department at Edinburgh University

The Minister of Health, Dr. Walter Elliot, opened the extensions to the surgical research department of Edinburgh University on July 20. They consist of an extra floor for laboratories and research rooms. The operating theatres, which were a leading feature in the original building, have been refitted and compare favourably with those of any modern hospital. There is also a medical art studio staffed by two fully trained medical artists. When this department was opened in 1926 it was the first of its kind in the Empire, but similar departments have since been introduced elsewhere. Dr. Elliot, at the opening ceremony, said that the function of the department was threefold: (1) the use of the experimental method in medical research; (2) the intimate study of the anatomy and the pathology of the spread of disease; (3) the gathering together of the younger members of the school for discussion of experimental physiological, pathological, and clinical problems. The importance of correlating all the most recent advances in physiology with practical problems in surgery could not be over-emphasized. That the younger generation of surgeons should be trained in the controlled observations of the laboratory was the best guarantee that a high standard of observation and record would prevail in our hospitals. Referring to the experimental work of the department, Dr. Elliot mentioned the researches into the causes of gall-bladder disease and of peptic ulceration of the stomach and duodenum, and into the cause of death in various forms of intestinal obstruction. The mechanism of massive collapse of the lung following operation had been studied, as also had the relation of kidney disease to rise in blood pressure. The successive changes which resulted when the outflow from one kidney was obstructed had formed the subject of a prolonged and delicate group of experiments. A series of experimental observations had been made on the relationship of disturbed nerve function to disorders of the abdominal viscera. With regard to the spread of cancer in man a special feature of the department had been the use of microscopical sections of whole organs combined with a detailed study of the spread by the lymphatic route. Thus cancer of the stomach, of the colon, and of the rectum had been the subjects of elaborate investigations, and authoritative data had been obtained. The feature common to all the research work, Dr. Elliot continued, had been the co-ordination between clinical problems in the hospital and experimental investigation in the laboratory. It was this stimulus of human interest and human need which lent to the work of a surgical research department the living interest which was often lacking in purely academic investigations.

The tenth French Paediatric Congress will be held at the Hôpital des Enfants Malades, Paris, from October 6 to 8, when the following subjects will be discussed: Severe anaemias in infancy, introduced by Dr. Louise Weill of Lyons; toxic infections in infancy, introduced by Dr. R. A. Marquézy and Mlle Ladet; and megacolon and dolichocolon, introduced by Drs. Rohmer and Boppe. Further information can be obtained from Dr. Maurice Lamy, 94, Rue de Varenne, Paris, 7e.

## Correspondence

### Testimonial to Dr. Robert Hutchison

SIR.—The election of Dr. Robert Hutchison to the Presidency of the Royal College of Physicians has given the greatest pleasure to a very wide circle of friends to whom Robert Hutchison has stood for all that is sound in the practice of medicine and all that is good in tradition. We feel that this occasion provides the opportunity of showing our esteem to him personally and acknowledging in some degree his fine contribution to medicine.

It is proposed to commemorate the occasion by presenting Dr. Hutchison with his portrait, and with this purpose in view we venture to make known the project to old students, friends, and societies in London, Edinburgh, and the Provinces.

Personal donations should not exceed three guineas. Cheques should be sent to the Manager, National Provincial Bank, 10, Marylebone High Street, London, W.1, for the credit of the Robert Hutchison Testimonial Fund.

—We are, etc.,

LANCLOET BARRINGTON-WARD.	FREDERICK KAY MENZIES.
HUBERT BOND.	GEORGE NEWMAN.
EDWIN BRAMWELL.	GEORGE RIDDOCH.
DAWSON OF PENN.	HUMPHRY ROLLESTON.
DUNCAN C. L. FITZWILLIAMS.	BERTRAM SHIRES.
FRANCIS FRASER.	FREDERICK STILL.
R. S. FREW (Hon. Treasurer).	G. A. SUTHERLAND.
WILLIAM GOSCHEN.	JAMES TAYLOR.
F. J. McCANN.	JAMES WALTON.
MACMILLAN.	DAVID WILKIE.
ARTHUR MACNALLY.	

### Cancer and Heredity

SIR.—The question whether malignant cells differ from normal cells in their genetic constitution is one of the central problems of cancer. If the existence of such a difference could be demonstrated conclusively, it might justifiably be claimed that an explanation of that phase of the causation of cancer which in a recent lecture I called "the growth of cancer" had been found. The statement made recently (*Journal*, July 9, p. 93) by Dr. P. A. Gorer, in which he refers to certain observations as presenting evidence for the existence of such a difference, deserves therefore the most careful consideration. The observations referred to by Dr. Gorer are, first, that "a virus-induced tumour" in the rabbit will regress spontaneously, and, secondly, that "the members of a pure line can be immunized against leukaemic cells derived from other members of the line."

The virus-induced tumour of the rabbit referred to by Dr. Gorer is the infective papilloma discovered by Shope. The argument underlying this conclusion is, if I understand Dr. Gorer correctly, that the production of cytotoxins, which he assumes to be responsible for the regressions of tumours, demonstrates necessarily the existence of a genetic difference between the normal cells of an organism and the "tumour cells" which have arisen from them. It is presumably true that cytotoxins can be produced in the organism by cells having a different genetic constitution, but it does not seem to me to follow logically that we can invert this argument and accept the appearance of cytotoxins as conclusive evidence of the existence of such a genetic difference. Furthermore, neither the infective papilloma nor leukaemia is a representative example of the phenomenon of malignancy. In fact, the frequency with which the rabbit papilloma regresses spontaneously after an initial cellular prolifera-

I can guarantee the life of your child, and the operation will be performed in perfect safety.' If, as probably happens when there is appendicitis, the child gets worse, the appendicitis becomes acute and the doctor has to operate, as he may have to, in such circumstances that he cannot guarantee the life of the child, the child may die. Suppose that choice is put to the parents: 'Will you have the operation to-day, or will you wait until to-morrow to see whether the disease becomes acute?'—what answer is there to that question but to say, 'Do it now; do it while you are still safe; do not wait to see whether she is near death.' The operation may be performed and it may be found that the appendix was quite all right; but is the surgeon blamed for performing the operation? He used his best judgment. The surgeon can only base his opinion on knowledge and experience, and if he in good faith thinks that it is necessary for preserving the life of the child in the real sense of the words, not only is he entitled to perform the operation but it is his duty to perform it.

"In regard to any other operation on the human body obviously no difficulty arises. The only difficulty that arises in the case of abortion is that the law of this land has always held human life to be sacred, and the protection that the law gives to human life extends to the unborn child in the womb. The unborn child must not be destroyed except for the purpose of preserving the yet more precious life of the mother."

In conclusion, the judge repeated the question on which the jury had to return their verdict. He added that so far as the members of the medical profession themselves were concerned they alone were the persons who could properly perform such an operation. It was to be hoped and expected that none of them would ever lend himself to the malpractices of the professional abortionist. No doubt they would act only in consultation with some other member of the profession of high standing, so as to confirm the view that the circumstances were such that an operation had to be performed and was legal.

The jury were absent for forty minutes and returned a verdict of "Not Guilty."

Mr. Aleck Bourne's defence was conducted by Messrs. Le Brasseur and Oakley, solicitors to the London and Counties Medical Protection Society.

#### AN ACTION WITHDRAWN

At Leeds Assizes on July 12 an action brought by a patient against a hospital house-surgeon was withdrawn. The plaintiff was John Neville Newmarch, a Hull rivet-heater, and he sought to recover damages for alleged negligence from Dr. Martin Fleischer, house-surgeon at Hull Royal Infirmary, who performed an operation on him in October, 1936. Mr. H. Hylton-Foster, counsel for Newmarch, said: "On behalf of the plaintiff I unreservedly and in the most unqualified manner withdraw every allegation of negligence made against the defendant in this case, and I ask for an order for the payment out of court of the sum paid into court to the defendant's solicitor." Mr. Justice Goddard made an order that all proceedings should be stayed on terms endorsed on counsel's briefs, and added that there would be a judge's order if necessary.

## Universities and Colleges

#### UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

In Convocation on July 16, the Vice-Chancellor, Mr. A. D. Lindsay, presiding, the honorary degree of D.Sc. was conferred on Dr. Harvey Cushing, C.B., Emeritus Professor of Surgery at Harvard University.

The Public Orator, Mr. Cyril Bailey, presented Professor Cushing as an illustrious surgeon who had performed more than 2,000 successful operations on the brain. He was descended from a long line of doctors and obtained his medical degree at Yale. After studying in Europe he returned home, and maintained in his writings and proved by his actions the value of the very difficult operation on the brain which he

himself once called "The North-West Passage of Surgery." The fine services he had rendered during the great war were well known to all. For nearly thirty years he was Professor, first at Yale University and then at Harvard, and many of his pupils were to-day famous. An expert with the pen as well as with the scalpel, he had written many technical treatises on the nerves, the structure of the brain, and the pituitary gland, and for the layman the great life of Sir William Osler.

The following medical degrees were conferred in Congregation presided over by the Vice-Chancellor:

D.M.—A. D. C. Bell; R. R. Bomford.

B.M.—T. R. Savage, J. M. Teasdale, W. E. Young, J. B. Atkins, R. H. Mole, E. B. G. Reeve, M. A. Slee, A. Shannon, R. A. Shawyer, J. C. Hewetson, O. I. Green, C. W. M. Whitty, J. S. Astbury, W. M. Gibson, D. R. Cargill, C. Exell, C. R. B. Welford, J. G. Jamieson, T. E. Ooi, Celia K. Westropp.

#### UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

##### Brown Animal Sanatory Institution Committee

The Senate has received the report of the Brown Institution Committee for 1937, which records that the superintendent has continued his research on viruses, and Dr. Nathan Raw has continued his research in human and bovine tuberculosis. Five lectures on "A Comparative Study of Filter-Passing Bacteria and Viruses" were delivered as required under the will of the late Mr. Brown. At the hospital during the year 1,298 cases were treated as out-patients, thirty-two as in-patients, and the number of operations performed was 311.

##### Graham Legacy Committee

Dr. A. M. H. Gray has been elected chairman of the Graham Legacy Committee for the year 1937-8. The Senate has received the annual report of the Committee for the year ending August, 1938, which states that the general purpose for which the Graham Fund was founded was to aid research in the school of advanced medical studies connected with University College Hospital. The Graham Scholar is Mr. C. H. Gray, and Drs. C. Bolton, G. R. Cameron, M. Maizels, and F. H. Teale have received grants in aid of research from the Graham Fund. Professor C. R. Harington, F.R.S., was reappointed Director of Research under the Charles Graham Medical Research Scheme for a period of one year from October 1.

Regulations relating to exemption from the internal intermediate examinations in arts, science, engineering, economics, and commerce, and from the first examination for medical degrees, through the higher school examination of other universities (*Red Book*, 1937-8, pp. 89, 345, 489, 556, 575, 269), have been approved.

In and after 1939 the examination for the academic post-graduate diploma in bacteriology (*Red Book*, 1937-8, p. 610) will begin on the Thursday following the third Monday in June instead of the first Tuesday in July.

Mr. Philip H. Mitchiner has been appointed a Governor of the West London Hospital Medical School for 1938-9.

The syllabuses in inorganic chemistry, physics, and general biology for the first examination for medical degrees for internal and external students (*Red Book*, 1937-8, pp. 264-7; *Blue Book*, September, 1937, pp. 809-12) have been amended, and copies can be obtained from the Academic and External Registrars.

##### Geoffrey E. Duveen Travelling Studentship

Applications are invited for the Geoffrey E. Duveen Travelling Studentship, of the value of £450, for research in any aspect of oto-rhino-laryngology. The studentship is normally tenable in the first instance for one year, part of which shall be spent in study abroad, in accordance with a scheme to be approved by the Studentship Board, but it may be extended for six months or for one or two years, and during the extended period the student may be allowed to undertake research at the Royal Ear Hospital or some other laboratory approved for the purpose. Full particulars can be obtained from the Academic Registrar, University of London, W.C.1, and prescribed forms of application must reach him not later than December 31.

##### William Julius Mickle Fellowship

Applications for the William Julius Mickle Fellowship are invited and must be sent in by October 1. The Fellowship is of the value of at least £200, and is awarded annually by the Senate to the man or woman who, being resident in London and a graduate of the University, has in its opinion done most to advance medical art or science within the preceding five years, and has therein shown conspicuous merit. Further particulars can be obtained on application to the Academic Registrar.