

### Treatment of Carbuncles

SIR,—I read with interest the note on the treatment of carbuncles by Mr. A. P. Bertwistle in the *Journal* of June 11 (p. 1284). Packs of saturated sodium sulphate may be left on for three days in cold countries like England, as suggested by Mr. Bertwistle, but in the humid high temperatures of India it is very uncomfortable for the patient if the dressings are not changed at least every twenty-four hours. I have had good results from the four-hourly application of compresses of a hot saturated solution of magnesium sulphate. Sometimes, in sensitive patients, the application of magnesium sulphate directly on to the wound is painful and irritating. In these cases I cover the actual wound with fine gauze soaked in hexyl-resorcinol and secure this by cross-strips of adhesive plaster. This dressing is changed every twenty-four hours, while the four-hourly magnesium sulphate compresses are applied over it. This softens the necrotic tissue, which can be easily removed by scissors and forceps. Along with this local treatment I give collosol manganese either orally or by injection.—I am, etc.,

Agra, July 19.

P. K. BANERJEE.

### Thrombocytopenic Purpura from Sedormid

SIR,—I welcome the annotation on thrombocytopenic purpura from sedormid in your issue of July 30 (p. 229), but I cannot agree that this at times so serious illness is "evidently a very uncommon side-effect."

In November, 1931, when sedormid had hardly been introduced into this country, I was able to prove experimentally that a severe case of purpura had been caused by this drug, and in the first paper on sedormid purpura in the *Lancet* of April 21, 1934 (Thrombopenic Haemorrhagic Purpura due to Idiosyncrasy towards the Hypnotic Sedormid: Allergotoxic Effect), I was already reporting three cases seen by me within little over two years. In 1938 so far two new serious cases have been brought to my notice in London.

I have reason to believe that frequently the causative connexion between purpura and sedormid has been missed because the makers—a reputable firm—continued to praise the "harmlessness" of sedormid in their advertisements even after I had brought my experience and publication to their notice. Only recently I have at last received the assurance that purpura would be mentioned as a possible side-effect, but it will naturally take some time before the old packages have been replaced, and I should like meanwhile to emphasize the practical importance of the subject.—I am, etc.,

London, W.1, July 30.

F. E. LOEWY.

### Effects of Smoking

SIR,—I was much interested in the annotation in the *Journal* of July 23 (p. 187) on electrocardiographic changes due to smoking, describing the experiments of Graybiel and his co-workers. In these experiments the smoke from a cigarette was inhaled until toxic symptoms appeared or it was finished, and in some cases two or three cigarettes, a pipe, or a cigar were smoked. In 1929, with the assistance of Mr. C. A. Beck, B.Sc., I carried out very similar experiments to determine the effect of smoking on the sugar content of the blood. It was found that a reduction of the blood sugar was the rule in non-smokers, and also among smokers, although in two cases there was a very slight increase in the blood sugar. Maitland (*Journal*,

1933, 1, 268) states that it is probable that in many adults who suffer from toxic amblyopia—the result of over-indulgence in tobacco or alcohol, or both—there is a disturbance of carbohydrate metabolism, and that a systematic estimation of the blood sugar may prove an important factor in both prognosis and treatment. A full investigation of this subject offers a promising field for research. Graybiel does not think that carbon monoxide is usually absorbed in amounts capable of inducing the changes recorded. Armstrong (*Journal*, 1922, 1, 922) stated that quite an appreciable amount of carbon monoxide is present in smoke and is largely determined, for example, in cigars, by the closeness of the packing and the rate of smoking. He remarked that 1 cubic foot of ordinary coal gas contained an amount of carbon monoxide equal to that in the smoke from four cigars. The proportion of carbon monoxide in South Metropolitan gas, it may be added, is about that of average cigar smoke. It is evident, therefore, that alterations in the blood pressure and the frequency of the heart beats due to smoking are of a somewhat complex nature.—I am, etc.,

Southampton, July 23.

E. SAKOSCHANSKY.

### Bragg-Paul Pulsator

SIR,—With your permission, and with the concurrence of Sir William Bragg, I should like to supplement his story of the development of the pulsator, as given in his letter which you print in the *Journal* of July 30 (p. 254).

I have received valuable aid and advice, freely given, from Dr. P. M. T. Kerridge, M.R.C.P., of University College, London, and from the Department of Industrial Physiology at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. To the former I owe suggestions for the form and mode of application of the air-belt which is an essential part of the equipment. In the early stages of the work the measurements of ventilation efficiency made at the latter gave me confidence in introducing the Bragg-Paul pulsator to the notice of the medical profession, with the results already reported.—I am, etc.,

London, W.14, July 30.

ROBERT W. PAUL.

## The Services

### NAVAL MEDICAL COMPASSIONATE FUND

At the quarterly meeting of the directors of the Naval Medical Compassionate Fund, held on July 8, with Surgeon Vice-Admiral P. T. Nicholls, Medical Director-General of the Navy, in the chair, the sum of £56 10s. was distributed among the several applicants.

### DEATHS IN THE SERVICES

Lieutenant-Colonel JAMES CHARLES GORDON CARMICHAEL, O.B.E., R.A.M.C. (ret.), died at Ewell, Surrey, on July 22. He was born on October 28, 1876, the son of the late Colonel J. C. G. Carmichael, I.M.S., and was educated at Edinburgh University, where he graduated M.B., Ch.B. in 1902. He took the Cambridge D.P.H. in 1912. He entered the Royal Army Medical Corps as lieutenant on January 31, 1903, became major on October 31, 1914, and retired as lieutenant-colonel on August 11, 1925. After retirement he went into practice at Ewell, where he was honorary physician to the Epsom and Ewell Cottage Hospital. He served throughout the war of 1914-18, and was mentioned in dispatches in the *London Gazette* of December 18, 1917. He had been a member of the British Medical Association since 1905.

## Universities and Colleges

### UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

T. D. Day, M.A., M.B., B.Chir., has been appointed Assistant in Research in Pathology (Morbid Anatomy and Histology) to the Regius Professor of Physic for three years from October 1, 1938.

The Marmaduke Sheild scholarship has been awarded to G. J. Romanes, B.A.; D. J. Bauer, B.A., has been re-elected to the Michael Foster studentship in physiology.

During June titles of the degrees of M.B., B.Chir. were conferred by diploma on Mrs. F. C. Edwards of Girton College.

### UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

The following candidates have been approved at the examination indicated:

M.S.—*Branch I (Surgery)*: K. C. Eden, S. H. Wass. *Branch III (Ophthalmology)*: E. J. Somerset.

ACADEMIC POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN MEDICAL RADIOLOGY.—E. P. Allen, J. W. D. Bull, A. G. S. Cooper, N. F. C. Hill, D. J. Hurrell, C. W. S. Jerram, O. Macfeat, B. Y. Mina, J. G. Nel, S. F. Oosthuizen, K. M. Rai, P. N. Vaus, H. H. Winterstein-Gillespie.

ACADEMIC POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN PSYCHOLOGY.—Eveline M. Begbie, J. D. Copp, Eleanor A. Eattell, Phyllis M. Freeston, W. M. Gould, G. H. Kjellberg, Ivy W. Langan, Jeannie McM. McKinlay, H. Sampson-Relf, Doria M. Wills, Rachel Zabari. *Part I*: S. C. Amin, Vera D. Deutz, Sylvia C. Harnett. *Part II*: Norah C. Morrison.

### LONDON SCHOOL OF HYGIENE AND TROPICAL MEDICINE

The following candidates have been approved at the examination indicated:

ACADEMIC POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN PUBLIC HEALTH.—\*S. Amarasinghe, P. H. R. Anderson, Annie R. Chalmers, F. C. L. B. D. Crawford, P. A. Crowley, L. D. P. Dharmaratne, C. W. Dixon, \*R. Y. Dunlop, A. C. Gee, F. W. Gilbert, M. G. Hyder, O. G. Lloyd, G. A. Macgregor, I. M. Macgregor, M. Markowe, J. S. Minnett, F. Noronha, P. X. O'Dwyer, D. E. Parry, A. I. Ross, A. F. H. Stewart, S. Sivasankara Pillai, J. Taylor, Emily S. O. Thomson, S. C. Thurai-Rajah, M. Watkins, Helen E. Wight.

ACADEMIC POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN BACTERIOLOGY.—E. Agius, R. D. Andrews, D. R. Balcombe-Brown, Dharmendra, Winifred M. Hill, H. D. Holt, W. Lewin, H. H. Stroud, J. M. Vincent.

\* Mark of distinction.

### UNIVERSITY OF DURHAM

The honorary degree of D.C.L. will be conferred on the Prime Minister, Mr. Neville Chamberlain, on the occasion of the opening of the new buildings of the Medical School at Newcastle-upon-Tyne on October 8.

The Council of King's College, Newcastle, has appointed J. E. Francis, M.B., B.S., B.Sc., assistant demonstrator in the Department of Physiology.

### UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

A graduation ceremony was held in M'Ewan Hall on July 20, when the following degrees and diplomas were conferred:

HON. LL.D.—The Right Hon. Walter Elliot Elliot, D.Sc., M.B., F.R.S., Minister of Health.

M.D.—\*D. Bell, \*D. S. Cownie, G. Fraser, K. Girgis, \*J. W. D. Goodall, \*J. L. Henderson, R. Lees, A. D. Macdonald, A. M. Mackenzie, N. Macmichael, G. R. M'Nab, C. de C. Martin, \*R. Scott, E. Townsend, \*H. L. Wallace, \*\*D. Wyllie.

M.B., Ch.B.—A. Y. Adam, J. A. W. Adams, T. M. Adnams, A. S. Affara, B. H. M. Aldridge, J. H. Annan, S. V. Appavoo, R. S. G. Arnott, R. B. Baird, †J. M. Barkla, F. C. Barlow, Olive B. Barnetson, J. Baxter, D. E. H. Beattie, †Marion B. Bethune, R. W. Biagi, Margaret E. Black, A. de V. Bourke, K. Brauer, J. A. C. Brown, J. W. Buchanan, Joan Campsie, Mary Cannell, J. Carrick, Geraldine M. H. Carrington, R. Cathcart, L. J. Charles, J. Cohen, W. P. Collingwood, A. E. A. Cordin, W. R. S. Cowe, J. Cowen, W. N. Crow, Dorothy Cunningham, C. H. Davidson, J. S. Davidson, T. K. Davidson, J. G. Davies, P. F. de Caires, D. P. Degenhardt, D. S. Dick, G. W. A. Dick, W. Donaldson, †A. J. M. Drennan, Agnes D. Ferguson, J. R. P. Finlay, W. Forbes, D. D. A. Fraser, W. R. N. Friel, †Jessie R. M'C. Fulton, Eileen M. Gavin, W. D. Giffen, W. A. Gordon, A. P. Gracie, M. K. Granger, R. G. S.

Grant, W. D. Gray, R. H. Greig, C. Grimshaw, P. M'L. Gunn, L. J. Gurry, J. P. A. Halcrow, G. R. Hales, E. S. Hamaty, D. J. Harman, J. R. Hassan, G. Hay, P. J. Helliwell, M. L. R. Hersey, Elizabeth G. Higgins, Marjory C. Hogg, R. B. Hunter, A. D. Ingram, M. Ismail, R. M. Johnstone, J. S. Keress, Jean M. Laidlaw, M. L. Levinson, R. I. S. Lewis, R. G. Linton, A. P. Littlewood, J. D. Lodge, D. Lorimer, Isobel St. M. Macaulay, D. I. M'Callum, G. H. M'Cracken, J. M'Garrrity, Agnes D. M'Harg, E. G. M'Intosh, C. G. G. Mackay, C. M. Mackenzie, Marjorie L. Mackinnon, †J. G. Macleod, A. S. B. M'Neil, G. H. M'Pherson, D. A. C. M' Rae, R. Makin, W. J. Matheson, D. R. S. Milne, J. B. M. Milne, E. H. Minors, A. M. Morris, R. C. Morton, H. B. M. Murphy, W. H. Murray, W. D. Oliver, E. Oppenheim, D. L. Owen, L. M. Owen, T. Parkin, F. H. Patel, W. I. Paterson, H. S. Patterson, I. P. Paul, D. T. Pitt, S. L. Pollock, Ivy F. Proctor, H. S. Provis, K. D. G. Reid, L. E. Resnikoff, D. A. W. Rittie, C. G. Robertson, D. M. Robertson, D. S. F. Robertson, F. J. Robertson, R. H. Robertson, T. W. Robson, Elizabeth M. Rose, D. E. Ross, J. M'L. Ross, R. A. Rutherford, G. Salvesen, Sarah C. Saunders, G. S. Scott, Jean M. G. Shaw, J. A. S. Shaw, E. J. M. Shearer (*in absentia*), H. R. Shenkin, D. M. Sheppard, M. Simenoff, J. M'D. Simpson, T. B. M. Sloan, H. J. C. C. Smith, M. J. Stein, J. Stratton, J. Taylor, L. F. Togneri, J. K. Toop, W. J. Toop, Jean L. Turnbull, Ida F. Tweedie, Janet A. Walker, G. B. R. Warnock, W. S. Watson, A. C. Watt, R. G. M. Wedderburn, C. D. Weir, R. B. C. Welsh, A. Whitewright, Katherine M. Wilkie, A. R. Wilson, Lesley M. Wilson, M. E. Winston.

B.Sc. PATHOLOGY, *First Class*.—†R. M. M. Hunter.

DIPLOMA IN PUBLIC HEALTH.—J. Cooper, Winifred M. Dempster, J. M. Erskine-Young, S. B. Lal, D. C. Logan, A. M'Diarmid, J. S. Oliphant, Isabella A. Purdie, E. Townsend.

DIPLOMA IN TROPICAL MEDICINE AND HYGIENE.—H. Hastings, E. Maung.

DIPLOMA IN PSYCHIATRY.—J. K. Grant, J. S. Johnstone, A. Paterson, G. R. Pile, F. M. G. Prendergast, H. Stalker.

DIPLOMA IN MEDICAL RADIOLOGY.—R. J. C. Campbell, D. B. Faulds, M. Y. Khan.

\* Commended for thesis. \*\* Highly commended for thesis.

† Passed with honours.

The following prizes were presented:

*Cameron Prize in Practical Therapeutics*: Karl Landsteiner, M.D. (Vienna), member of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, New York. In recognition of his researches on isohaemagglutinins and blood groups and the influence of his discoveries on the practice of therapeutic blood transfusion. *Etiles Scholarship and Leslie Gold Medal, Beaney Prize in Anatomy and Surgery, Annandale Gold Medal in Clinical Surgery, and Murdoch Brown Silver Medal in Clinical Medicine*: J. M. Barkla. *Scottish Association for Medical Education of Women Prize*: Marion B. Bethune and Jessie R. M'C. Fulton (equal). *Mouat Scholarship in the Practice of Physic*: Marion B. Bethune. *Buchanan Scholarship in Midwifery and Gynaecology*: G. W. A. Dick. *James Scott Scholarship in Midwifery and Gynaecology, and Dorothy Gilfillan Memorial Prize*: Jessie R. M'C. Fulton. *Conan Doyle Prize*: A. C. Watt. *Royal Victoria Hospital Tuberculosis Trust Gold Medal*: G. R. Hales. *Wightman Prize in Clinical Medicine*: J. Cohen. *Syme Surgical Fellowship*: D. L. C. Bingham. *Stark Scholarship in Clinical Medicine*: H. Milne-Redhead. *Vans Dunlop Scholarship in Materia Medica and Medicine*: J. Innes. *Ellis Prize in Physiology*: Barbara Petrovskaja. *Gunning Victoria Jubilee Prize in Chemistry*: J. L. Bolland. *Gunning Victoria Jubilee Prize in Materia Medica*: J. C. Lees. *Gunning Victoria Jubilee Prize in Therapeutics*: H. W. Dryerre and D. Wyllie (equal). *Gunning Victoria Jubilee Prize in the Practice of Physic*: J. W. D. Goodall. *Gunning Victoria Jubilee Prize in Psychiatry*: W. M. Millar. *Lewis Cameron Postgraduate Prize*: R. Scott. *Thomson Memorial Medal in Child Life and Health*: J. L. Henderson. *Lewis Cameron Undergraduate Prize in Bacteriology*: G. R. Millar. *MacLagan Prize in Forensic Medicine*: L. S. Cooke. *Wellcome Gold Medal and Prize in the History of Medicine*: H. W. Smith. *Wellcome Silver Medal and Prize in the History of Medicine*: H. L. de Waal. *Cunningham Memorial Medal and Prize in Anatomy*: J. R. Lauckner; *Proxime Accessit*, Elizabeth G. Harris. *Whiteside Bruce Bursary*: R. T. S. Louttit. *Vans Dunlop Prize in Botany and Zoology*: M. S. Fraser.

An address was delivered to the new graduates by the Chancellor, Lord Tweedsmuir.

### ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF EDINBURGH

At a meeting of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh held on July 23, with Mr. W. J. Stuart, President, in the chair, the following, having passed the requisite examinations, were admitted Fellows:

H. Aitken, M. M. Ali, N. F. Babbage, G. K. Bhide, Ida L. Birchall, R. B. Eaton, J. A. Elliot, C. A. Haysmer, R. G. Henderson, S. Henderson, G. W. A. Keddy, J. S. Kinnear, S. Kleinot, P. Kohnstamm, L. R. Levy, J. Ll. Lewis, R. A. Lucas, N. M. L. Lund, J. S. Mackay, D. E. Mackenzie, I. Mackenzie, J. A. Magnus, D. V. Marshall, D. A. O'Reilly, J. F. Philip, D. F. Price, D. K. Rao, J. B. Shield, D. F. Smith, Anna Vaeed, P. M. Williams, W. W. Wilson, J. Wolfowitz, W. A. Wright.