

toxic goitre is due to the direct action of an emotional stimulus on the thyroid by way of its nerve supply or by the direct action of adrenaline on the thyroid mechanism. But the effect of emotional stimulation is immediately evident on the cardiovascular mechanism, disturbance of which may be assumed to precede the thyroid response, and is probably caused by the increased entry of adrenaline into the circulation. The immediate clinical effect of an adequate psychic trauma is a brief exhibition of pallor, sometimes with goose-skin, followed by flushing, pulse acceleration, dynamic action of the heart, and throbbing in the vessels of the neck. The organs nearest to the cardiac force pump are the thyroid, thymus, and parathyroid glands, and it seems reasonable to assume that the intense circulatory energy let loose by sudden emotional upset or by continued strain must be greater in these structures than elsewhere in the body, excepting the heart wall itself. The thyroid and thymus are both enlarged in primary toxic goitre, and the parathyroids are probably over-active, in view of the known excessive loss of calcium in the urine and also the marked softening of bone which has been described following post-mortem examination. No single factor of any other nature than that now suggested seems so likely to cause the parallel changes in these three structures.—I am, etc.,

JOHN EASON.

Edinburgh, Aug. 30.

### Foreign Bodies in Bladder

SIR,—The article by Mr. A. H. Charles (*Journal*, July 29, p. 224) and the subsequent correspondence have prompted me to look up my records of the following three cases which may be of interest.

*Case 1.*—A married woman, aged 24, had a forceps delivery in September, 1931, and was admitted to the London Road Hospital, Stoke-on-Trent, in February, 1932. She complained of stress incontinence of urine, frequency and pain on micturition, and a yellowish vaginal discharge, the symptoms having begun shortly after her confinement. The urine was alkaline and contained pus and staphylococci, but treatment with hexamine, etc., caused rapid improvement. Examination revealed a moderate degree of cystocele and rectocele and marked cervicitis. I performed curettage and cauterization of the cervix and an anterior and posterior colporrhaphy on March 4, 1932, following which there was much improvement in her symptoms. Two months later, however, she was readmitted with intense frequency and scalding on micturition, and the urine was again infected. X-ray and cystoscopic examination revealed the presence of a vesical calculus and suprapubic lithotomy was performed. The convalescence and subsequent course were satisfactory. Examination of the phosphatic calculus showed a nucleus of slippery elm about one and a half inches long, and subsequent interrogation of the patient suggested that this was probably used in an attempt to interrupt the preceding pregnancy, though accurate information was not forthcoming. This case, however, taught me a valuable lesson in the diagnosis of bladder symptoms.

*Case 2.*—A married woman, aged about 40, was, by a coincidence, admitted to the next bed to the above patient during May, 1932, and complained of somewhat similar symptoms but had no prolapse. X-ray and cystoscopic examination showed an ovoid calculus and suspicions of its nature were thereby aroused. Suprapubic lithotomy was performed and a phosphatic calculus rather larger than the preceding one was removed. There was, again, a nucleus of slippery elm two inches in length and the thickness of a pencil, and a history of self-attempted abortion, dating some two years previously, was obtained.

For the facilities to treat these two cases I am indebted to Dr. C. G. Lewis, superintendent of the hospital.

*Case 3.*—A boy of 15, a mill-hand, was admitted to the Blackburn Royal Infirmary on February 13, 1934, suffering from frequency and pain on micturition with dribbling incontinence at times. The symptoms had arisen three months previously and the urine had become increasingly "muddy." Cystoscopy revealed considerable cystitis and phosphatic incrustation with a V-shaped phosphatic calculus. After preliminary treatment, I removed the calculus suprapubically and drained the bladder. His symptoms rapidly disappeared. Examination of the calculus showed a nucleus of twisted hemp which, after dissolving off the phosphates, consisted of thirty-four twisted strands of hemp, eleven inches in length. The boy explained, with some pride, that he had won a bet in the cloakroom of his mill by passing this length of string up his urethra, but that, having shown that it could be done, he was unable to retrieve the protruding end and the string had been lost to sight for four months.

I am indebted to Dr. John Kyle for allowing me to treat this case.

—I am, etc.,

G. F. LANGLEY, Ch.M., F.R.C.S.,

Ipswich, Aug. 20.

Medical Superintendent, Borough  
General Hospital.

### "Medical Testament" on Nutrition

SIR,—In your issue of August 19 (p. 425) Dr. L. J. Picton replies to Dr. N. I. Spriggs, who asked for evidence that foods grown with artificial fertilizers are inferior to those raised on natural manure. Dr. Picton quotes some convincing authorities, but may I add one more, which should carry considerable weight. Some years ago Dr. Hugh Nicol, bacteriologist of the Rothamsted Experimental Station, wrote an article on "Nutrition and Health" which perhaps at the time did not draw the attention which it merited (*Morning Post*, August 3, 1937). Among other evidence produced in that article, it was stated that some farmers who had abolished livestock on their farms found difficulty in growing disease-free crops on chalky land. The use of artificial fertilizers had led to a large increase in the yield per acre, but the question of quality had not received adequate consideration. This is much more than an agricultural question; it vitally concerns the public health, and offers a promising field to the medical research worker. I know nothing of agricultural chemistry, but am told by practical farmers that artificially raised crops are inferior to those grown on natural manures; and, without entering into elaborate chemical formulae, is it not reasonable to suppose that vitamins are as necessary in the growth of plants as of animals?—I am, etc.,

Sheffield, Aug. 21.

HY. BROWN.

## The Services

### PROFESSOR OF MILITARY SURGERY

Colonel J. M. Weddell, late R.A.M.C., on his retirement on retired pay, has relinquished the appointment of Professor of Military Surgery and Consulting Surgeon to the Army, and is succeeded by Colonel B. Biggar, late R.A.M.C.

### HONORARY SURGEON TO THE VICEROY

Colonel D. H. Rai, M.C., I.M.S., has been appointed Honorary Surgeon to the Viceroy and Governor-General of India, vice Colonel A. F. Babonau, C.I.E., O.B.E., I.M.S., vacated.

## Medical News

The offices of the Medical Research Council, which are at present largely occupied with emergency work, have been temporarily removed to the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Keppel Street, Gower Street, London, W.C.1 (Telephone: Museum 3041).

During war the offices of the Medical Women's Federation will be moved to 73, Bourne Way, Hayes, Bromley, Kent (telephone: Hurstway 1904).

The Ministry of Health announced on August 30 that there were then nearly 60,000 nursing auxiliaries in the Reserve in addition to many thousand V.A.D.s who have been released by the War Office and are joining the Reserve. More are still needed to make up "the first 100,000." Applications should be sent to the Central Emergency Committee for Nursing, Romney House, Marsham Street, London, S.W.1, or the medical officer of health of the county or county borough, or the nearest branch of the Order of St. John, the British Red Cross Society, or Women's Voluntary Services.

The full staff of the Ambulance Department of the Order of St. John and British Red Cross Society will continue to function from its headquarters at No. 12, Grosvenor Crescent, London, S.W.1.

The Secretary of the Royal Society of Medicine announced on August 30 that in the event of war the Society's House and Library would be closed for fourteen days from the date of outbreak. At the end of that time the Society's activities would be resumed on as nearly normal lines as circumstances permitted.

The Tavistock Clinic for Functional Nervous Disorders has been transferred to the Orchard Wing, Westfield College, Kidderpore Avenue, Hampstead, London, N.W.3., near the junction of Finchley Road and Platt's Lane. (Phone: Hampstead 4626.) In addition to the usual work of the clinic, private practice on a pooled basis is being carried on by a large resident staff. Appointments for both clinic and private patients will be made by the secretary at any time.

It was decided on the afternoon of September 2 to cancel the remainder of the meeting of the British Association at Dundee.

The King has appointed Dr. Ralph Roylance Scott, C.M.G., M.C., to be an Official Member, and Dr. Sultan Bakhsh Malik to be an Unofficial Member of the Executive Council of the Tanganyika Territory. Dr. Malik has also been appointed an Unofficial Member of the Legislative Council of the Tanganyika Territory.

The sixth biennial Congress of the International Hospital Association, announced in the *Journal* of August 19 (p. 410) to be held at Toronto from September 19 to 23, has been postponed indefinitely.

The Regional Commissioner for Scotland announced on September 4 that the Department of Health for Scotland are engaged in large extensions of hospital facilities and heavy demands are consequently being made on manufacturers of surgical instruments and similar appliances. The Regional Commissioner stated that it would be of great public service if private institutions and nursing homes, medical men and firms possessing stocks, large or small, of the following appliances surplus to immediate needs would communicate with the Secretary, Department of Health for Scotland, 121a, Princes Street, Edinburgh: artery forceps and other types of surgical forceps in common use, surgical clamps, towel clips, hooks, retractors, surgical knives, osteotomes, hypodermic syringes, bed-pans, catgut, irrigator stands, sterilizing packs of any type, fish kettles, x-ray thermometers, and any other of the more common varieties of surgical instruments and apparatus.

Caldecote Hall has been taken over by the Ministry of Health as part of the base hospital for Warwickshire.

Dr. Lévy-Valensi has been nominated professor of the history of medicine in the Paris faculty in succession to Professor Laignel-Lavastine, who has been elected professor of psychiatry.

An honorarium of \$1,000 to promote research work in ophthalmology is offered through the International Association for the Prevention of Blindness, the jury to consist of the executive committee together with the president and the officers of the association. The award will be made in connexion with the sixteenth Concilium Ophthalmologicum. Papers may be presented by any responsible research worker. The subject is to be simple non-inflammatory glaucoma, and may include anything definitely relative to the question. The matter must be new and of such value, in the judgment of the jury, as to merit this recognition. Papers may be written in English, French, German, or Italian; papers written in the last two languages should be accompanied by a translation in English or French. They should be in the hands of the secretary of the International Association for the Prevention of Blindness, 66, Boulevard Saint-Michel, Paris, through whom they will reach the members of the judicial committee, not later than six months before the date of the congress.

The third specification in the series of A.R.P. British Standards Specifications has just been published. This specification (BS/ARP 3) is for electric hand-lamps (fitted with primary battery or unspillable accumulator), and was prepared at the request of the Air Raid Precautions Department of the Home Office. The specification relates to the design and construction of electric hand-lamps for general use out of doors or in buildings in which the windows, roof lights, etc., are not screened. The ordinary torch type of hand-lamp would not be suitable for use in such conditions, as no means are provided for preventing the light rays being directed upwards. The specification requires that the design of the hand-lamp shall be such that the light emitted is properly directed and screened. Copies can be obtained from the British Standards Institution, 28, Victoria Street, Westminster, S.W.1, price 3d.

The French Society of Dermatology and Syphiligraphy has recently celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of its foundation.

Sir Thomas Barlow was 94 on September 4.

## Universities and Colleges

### UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

Titles of medical degrees were conferred by diploma on the following women during July:

M.B., B.CHIR.—W. F. Holman, R. M. Howitt, A. M. Lewis, M. Savory, M. J. Scott.  
M.B.—Mrs. A. G. Gardham.

### SOCIETY OF APOTHECARIES OF LONDON

The following candidates have passed in the subjects indicated:

SURGERY.—J. V. Braithwaite, W. D. Jenkins, E. A. Milner, T. Owen, D. B. Roberts, E. Smith, H. F. Sparling, E. Wolfendale, H. Woolwich.

MEDICINE.—E. J. S. Barthorpe, A. N. Boyle, R. M. Coplans, M. E. Davies, D. H. Dracup, R. H. Gaman, T. L. B. Iredale, J. Lieber, M. C. Mair, E. C. G. Miller, E. A. Milner, D. Pryor-Jones, G. L. L. Reynolds.

FORENSIC MEDICINE.—E. J. S. Barthorpe, A. N. Boyle, R. M. Coplans, M. E. Davies, D. H. Dracup, R. H. Gaman, T. L. B. Iredale, J. Lieber, M. C. Mair, E. C. G. Miller, E. A. Milner, D. Pryor-Jones, G. L. L. Reynolds.

MIDWIFERY.—C. Bucknall, D. W. Burnford, P. S. Clarke, G. O. C. Davies-Webb, W. Gordon, K. P. D. Griffiths, S. T. Nakib, K. W. N. Palmer, V. N. Stevenage, M. Venugopalachari.

The diploma of the Society has been granted to A. N. Boyle, R. M. Coplans, D. H. Dracup, K. P. D. Griffiths, T. L. B. Iredale, J. Lieber, E. C. G. Miller, D. Pryor-Jones, E. Smith, V. N. Stevenage, H. Woolwich.