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and Baggot later. There is probably nothing significant in the history of the Rotunda not included in Dr. Browne's story or in his excellent synopsis. His illustrations are numerous, well chosen, and well reproduced. Medical historians will find his book useful, but a shorter version with more carefully selected and differently presented material would appeal to a much wider circle of readers.

THE N.H.S. ACT

The National Health Service Act, 1946. Being the Complete Text of the National Health Service Act, 1946, with an Introductory Explanation of the Act. By J. A. Scott, M.D., D.P.H. Together with an Index to the Act compiled by H. A. C. Sturgess. (Pp. 93. 9s. 6d.) London: Eyre and Spottiswoode (Publishers), Ltd.

Two-thirds of this volume reproduce the text of the Act, the remaining third being shared equally by an introductory section, a summary of the Act, and an index to the Act. In the introductory section the author briefly considers the Government's social legislation for preventing individual poverty, and he sketches the main principles of the National Insurance, the National Insurance (Industrial Injuries), and the Family Allowance Act. Under the title "The planning proposals of the medical profession" he includes a paragraph on the B.M.A. proposals for a General Medical Service for the Nation and a summary of the Draft Interim Report of the Medical Planning Commission (1942). There follows a section in which health centres, including the model centre suggested by the Commission, are discussed at some length, and with the author's personal observations on the health centre concept thrown in. He stresses two trends in modern medicine: first, a strong desire to combine preventive and therapeutic work, and secondly a tendency for child health and maternal care to become separate specialties in the hands of different sections of the profession. In discussing the staffing of the "public health" part of health centres he contemplates that many of the whole-time officers engaged in maternity and child welfare and school medicine will wish to continue with their present work, and to that extent both general practitioners and specialists may only gradually have the opportunity to take part in the work, but "there is no inherent reason why the general practitioner with suitable experience should not undertake it, as he wishes to do." Notes on (1) the areas of Regional Hospital Boards, (2) the regional hospital surveys, and (3) the original White Paper on a national health service issued by the Coalition Government, in this somewhat topsy-turvy order, complete the introductory section.

In Part II he summarizes objectively and concisely the main provisions of the Act. It will be welcomed by those who seek a broad picture of the scheme. For the most part he avoids the pitfalls inherent in the translation of the Act's legal terminology into lighter and less tiresome reading. In two minor instances, however, the summarized version may be misconstrued in relation to the text of the Act. On page 25 it is stated: "Lists of medical practitioners providing general medical services will be published, and every doctor (who is not a paid assistant) in practice before the appointed day who duly applies is entitled to have his name on the list." The right of the practising doctor to have his name on the list is limited to the list of "the Executive Council for any area in which he is practising." On page 26 it is stated: "It is a duty of every Executive Council to arrange for the supply of drugs, medicines, and appliances from health centres or otherwise to everyone in the area entitled to general medical and dental services." The terms of clause 38 of the Act do not extend to everyone in the area entitled to general medical or dental services but to persons in the area receiving those services. From clause 38 (2) it appears that the Executive Council's arrangements are to ensure for those persons the supply of "proper and sufficient drugs and medicines and prescribed appliances" if ordered by the medical practitioner rendering general medical services (or by the dental practitioner in the case of general dental services). The index is masterly and certainly the most valuable part of the book.

The 1947 edition of the *Medical Register* has recently been published (22s., post free). Particulars given in tabular form reveal that on Dec. 31, 1946, there were 76,292 names on the Register—nearly half as many again as in 1927, when there were 53,591. In 1946 2,237 names were added and 1,092 removed for various reasons.

BOOKS RECEIVED

[Review is not precluded by notice here of books recently received]

Diseases of Children's Eyes. By J. H. Doggart, M.A., M.D., F.R.C.S. (Pp. 288. 42s.) London: Henry Kimpton. 1947.

After discussing principles of examination, anatomy, developmental errors, and methods of treatment, the author considers eye diseases in children and their treatment. Many coloured illustrations.

Old Age and How to Make the Best of It. By R. A. Bennett, M.D. (Pp. 23. 2s. 6d.) Bristol: John Wright and Sons. 1947.

Comments, with quotations from the classics, on growing old.

Current Therapies of Personality Disorders. Ed. by Bernard Glueck, M.D. (Pp. 296. 17s. 6d.) London: William Heinemann. 1946.

Evaluation of various methods of psychotherapy by a number of different authors.

History of the Abolition of State Regulation of Prostitution. By Mme. Legrand-Falco. (Pp. 30. 1s. 6d.) London: The Association for Moral and Social Hygiene. 1946.

The history in France is referred to particularly.

Laboratory Instructions in Biochemistry. By I. S. Kleiner, Ph.D., and L. B. Dotti, Ph.D. 2nd ed. (Pp. 245. 12s. 6d.) London: Henry Kimpton. 1946.

A manual of practical biochemistry for use in the laboratory, with space for notes.

Nozioni di Immunologia. By Prof. E. Carlinfanti. (Pp. 760. No price given.) Milan: Istituto Sieroterapico Milanese Serafino Belfanti Editore.

An account of antigen-antibody reactions in diagnosis, therapy, and prophylaxis.

Recopilacion de Leyes, Reglamentaciones, Decretos y Resoluciones Sanitarias. Published by the Argentine Ministry of the Interior, Direccion Nacional de Salud Publica. (Pp. 928. No price.) Buenos Aires: Imprenta de la Camara de Diputados. 1945.

Laws relating to public health in Argentina.

Jubilee Volume. Dedicated to Emil Christoph Barell by the Scientific Workers of the Roche Companies. (Pp. 468. No price.) Basle: F. Hoffmann-La Roche. 1946.

Includes papers on the synthesis of certain vitamins and other compounds, on the furans, and on antibiotics.

Dolores Mortales. By Dr. Miguel Lopez Esnaurrizar. (Pp. 65. \$15 M.M.) Uteha, Mexico: Editorial Conzalez Porto. 1947.

A monograph on the conduction of pain impulses by the autonomic nervous system.

La Douleur. By Dr. Paul Chauchard. (Pp. 128. No price.) Paris: Presses Universitaires de France. 1947.

A study of pain as a protective mechanism.

Food Inspection Notes. By H. Hill, F.R.San.I., and E. Dods-worth, M.R.San.I. 2nd ed. (Pp. 125. 6s.) London: H. K. Lewis. 1947.

A summary for public health students of the properties of healthy and diseased foodstuffs.

The Problem of Fertility. Ed. by Earl T. Engle. (Pp. 254. 21s.) Princeton University Press (London: Geoffrey Cumberlege). 1947.

A collection of papers on the factors affecting fertility in man and in animals.

Textbook of Surgical Treatment. Ed. by C. F. W. Illingworth, C.B.E., M.D., Ch.M., F.R.C.S.Ed. 3rd ed. (Pp. 644. 32s. 6d.) Edinburgh: E. and S. Livingstone. 1947.

Includes new sections on wound infections, penicillin in surgery, plastic surgery, facio-maxillary injuries, the use of protein in surgery, and the anticoagulant treatment of thrombosis.

Notes on Clinical Laboratory Methods By the Standing Committee on Laboratory Methods, University of Glasgow. 5th ed. revised. (Pp. 95. 3s. 6d.) Glasgow: John Smith. 1947.

An outline of laboratory methods in clinical medicine for medical students.

scratch and could hit a tennis ball hard and straight. He loved his garden, and it was a joy to behold, while his knowledge of pewter and his personal collection were outstanding. He seemed happiest in his home, and watched with great pride the promise of his son and daughter, while his constant care of a wife who had been through a long illness was good to see. It will be a long time before the gap his death has made will be filled, for he had made for himself a unique position in the professional and social life of his city. He was as dearly loved as he was admired, and the writer's feeling of deep personal loss will be shared by many.

Mr. L. Z. Cosin writes: Although the obituary notices of Prof. NOAH MORRIS have paid due praise to much of his work, I do not think it is sufficiently widely known how great his interest in the medical care and general welfare of all old people had been latterly. In addition to stimulating general interest in the geriatric work in his own hospital, Prof. Noah Morris had instituted several interesting and original approaches to research in this subject. Meeting him regularly at a small Ministry Committee considering this problem, we were all struck by the warm humanity and medical skill he brought to bear on this pressing subject.

V. A. writes: It was with the deepest regret I saw the death of Prof. A. F. BERNARD SHAW reported in the *Journal* of June 21 (p. 904). To Durham students who had the privilege of his teaching during the years when his health was relatively good, he will be unforgettable. He combined a passion for his subject which he endowed with almost the grandeur of the heroic saga, with an intense hatred of all that was petty and slovenly. We will remember him with gratitude for the inspiration which he gave us as a teacher, for the kindness and encouragement which he gave us individually, and for his refusal to compromise with anything falling short of the highest standards of our profession.

Medico-Legal

A LONG GESTATION PERIOD

[FROM OUR MEDICO-LEGAL CORRESPONDENT]

English law dislikes rigid rules of evidence binding the court to presumptions of fact. For instance, whereas the law of several foreign countries lays down limits for the possible period of gestation, our law knows no such limits and our courts have consistently refused to fix one. In the case of *Clark v. Clark*¹ the President, Lord Merriman, refused to hold that a child was illegitimate which survived after an apparent pregnancy of 174 days. At the other end of the scale the court held in *Gaskill v. Gaskill*² that 331 days was not too long a pregnancy to admit as possible. Even this record was broken in the recent case of *Wood v. Wood*.³

A wife summoned her husband before the justices for desertion. The husband's defence was that he was not bound to continue to live with his wife because she had committed adultery. Evidence was given of the last date on which the couple actually cohabited, and of the birth of a child, fully grown and somewhat over the average weight, 346 days afterwards. The husband called no evidence of any association between the wife and other men, but maintained solely in view of the length of the gestation that the child could not be his. The magistrates, rightly considering that the allegation of adultery is serious and must be strictly proved, refused to assume adultery on the gestation period alone, but accepted the evidence of the wife denying it.

The president of the Divorce Court, hearing the husband's appeal, agreed that there must come a point at which any judge must take judicial knowledge of the fact that the period is altogether outside what is possible, and also that one case or another must be on the wrong side of any line that can possibly be drawn. He absolutely declined, however, on the information before the court, to say that it was bound to hold that 346 days was on the wrong side of any line that could possibly be drawn and that the wife had committed adultery. The court also held

that, although the husband believed that the wife had committed adultery and that he was not the father of her child, he had nevertheless deserted her, because his belief was not induced by such an act on her part as would lead a reasonable person to believe that she was guilty of adultery. It therefore upheld the order of the justices requiring the husband to maintain the wife.

Universities and Colleges

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

On June 12 the honorary degree of D.Sc. was conferred on Sir Edward Mellanby, K.C.B., M.D., F.R.S., Honorary Fellow of Emmanuel College and Secretary of the Medical Research Council.

On June 17 the degree of M.D. was conferred on M. S. M. Fordham.

The following candidates have been approved at the examination indicated:

FINAL M.B.—Part II (*Principles and Practice of Physic, Pathology, and Pharmacology*): A. Ackroyd, W. E. C. Astle, A. P. C. Bacon, W. H. Barker, H. B. Barlow, W. Beautyman, S. B. Bennett, G. A. Bracewell, R. W. Brown, M. A. J. Browne, J. H. S. Buchanan, J. D. Burton, H. W. Cornford, A. F. Crick, M. de B. Daly, R. J. Dickson, A. B. Douglas, M. C. Edmond, D. M. Evans, G. R. Faber, A. S. Fairbairn, A. W. Ferguson, N. B. Finter, D. K. Ford, W. D. Foster, A. G. Freeman, J. H. Garson, K. O. George, R. V. Gibson, J. G. Goodhart, C. L. Grandage, J. L. Hansell, P. A. S. Hargrove, M. Harrington, J. L. Harris, R. E. D. Harvey-Samuel, F. G. Herman, C. F. Hingston, C. W. Hollingsworth, S. H. F. Howard, G. W. C. Johnson, H. B. Kidd, R. G. Law, I. S. Longmuir, J. M. S. McCoy, J. McFie, L. E. McGee, I. C. K. Mackenzie, I. D. Mackichan, G. T. B. Mackinnell-Childs, K. M. McNicol, G. C. Manning, J. L. Moffatt, D. C. Morley, T. G. Osmond, J. M. Palmer, J. K. P. Perera, E. E. Philipp, G. S. Plaut, R. C. S. Pointon, R. H. B. Protheroe, P. K. Pybus, R. C. Read, D. H. Richards, E. T. Roberts, A. W. Robinson, R. A. Robinson, M. G. Rolfe, A. J. Russell, E. Sherrah-Davies, E. P. H. Shortt, R. S. Smylie, W. Spector, M. P. Spence, F. C. Stallybrass, I. W. Stoddart, G. W. Sykes, N. Tate, G. E. Thomas, P. G. Trearne, J. A. Tutton, M. H. D. Veale, L. G. R. Wand, A. P. Waterson, J. S. W. Whitehead, A. J. W. Woodroffe, P.-M. Yap, P. M. Yeoman, R. E. V. B. Young. *Women*: J. M. Cockrell, J. Crossley, P. E. Davis, L. A. Farquharson, J. K. Goodacre, H. A. Jaques, I. Kane, Mrs. P. D. Kilner, R. M. Licence, Mrs. M. R. Simpson, S. G. Wills.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

Sir Francis Fraser, M.D., F.R.C.P., director of the British Post-graduate Medical Federation, has been appointed Deputy Vice-Chancellor of the University for 1947-8.

Kenneth James Franklin, D.M., F.R.C.P., has been appointed to the University Chair of Physiology tenable at St. Bartholomew's Hospital Medical College, from Oct. 1.

The regree of D.Sc. has been conferred on W. J. Martin, an internal student of Birkbeck College and of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

Sir Herbert Eason has been reappointed to represent the University on the General Medical Council for a further period of three years from November, 1947.

Prof. Hamilton Hartridge, M.D., Sc.D., F.R.S., resigns from the Chair of Physiology at St. Bartholomew's Hospital Medical College, as from Sept. 30.

The following have been recognized as Teachers of the University in the subjects indicated in parentheses. *London Hospital Medical College*: Mr. A. Bowen-Davies (Oto-Rhino-Laryngology); Mr. H. Osmond Clarke (Orthopaedics); Mr. A. J. King (Venereal Diseases); Dr. K. M. A. Perry (Medicine); Dr. W. S. Tegner (Physical Medicine); Mr. V. C. Thompson (Surgery). *Guy's Hospital Medical School*: Dr. P. M. F. Bishop (Medicine). *St. George's Hospital Medical School*: Mr. A. H. Charles (Obstetrics and Gynaecology); Dr. T. Crawford (Pathology); Dr. J. F. Dow (Medicine); Dr. E. Miller (Mental Diseases); Mr. A. H. M. Siddons and Mr. E. R. Smith (Surgery); Dr. D. J. Williams (Medicine); Mr. R. H. Young (Orthopaedics). *Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine*: Miss Dorothy J. Collier (Oto-Rhino-Laryngology); Dr. Katharine G. Lloyd-Williams (Anaesthetics); Dr. Dulcie C. Staveley and Dr. E. U. Williams (Radiology); Mr. R. H. Maingot (Surgery). *University College*: Dr. W. A. Fell (Anatomy). *University College Hospital Medical School*: Dr. W. Moodie and Dr. F. Dillon (Mental Diseases); Dr. E. E. Pochin (Medicine). *National Institute for Medical Research*: Dr. A. A. Miles (Bacteriology, Immunology, and Hygiene). Dr. D. C. Shields has been granted probationary recognition as a Teacher of Physical Medicine at St. George's Hospital Medical School for two years from February, 1947.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND

Dr. W. K. Livingston, professor of surgery in the University of Oregon, will deliver a Moynihan Lecture at the College (Lincoln's Inn Fields, W.C.) on Tuesday, July 8, at 6.15 p.m. His subject is "Physiological Responses to Wounding."

¹ (1939) P. 228.

² (1921) P. 425.

³ (1947) 2 All E.R. 95.

At an ordinary meeting of the Council of the College, held on June 12, with Sir Alfred Webb-Johnson, Bt., President, in the chair, it was announced that a Supplemental Charter had been granted to the College, giving power, among other things, to co-opt additional members of the Council, to conduct a special Final Fellowship examination in ophthalmology and otolaryngology, to grant a Fellowship in Dental Surgery, and to institute faculties in the College.

The following were co-opted members of the Council for the ensuing year: Dr. H. Guy Dain (General Practice), Mr. G. F. Stebbing (Radiology), Mr. V. E. Negus (Otolaryngology), Dr. A. D. Marston (Anaesthetics), Mr. George Black (Ophthalmology), Mr. R. V. Bradlaw (Dental Surgery), Mr. L. Carnac Rivett, subject to the result of the Council election (Gynaecology and Obstetrics).

Mr. R. J. McNeill Love was appointed as representative of the College on the British Social Hygiene Council.

Diplomas of Fellowship were granted to the following successful candidates:

J. McA. McArthur, A. S. Bullough, R. Petticrew, K. G. Rotter, A. W. L. Kessel, P. Shemilt, R. E. Horton, St. J. M. C. Birt, J. V. Crawford, G. R. Crawshaw, M. H. Kinmonth, F. J. Gillingham, F. B. Cockett, R. E. Shaw, H. M. Lewis, M. T. Phelps, J. J. Shipman, J. G. Taylor, F. T. Wheeldon, K. W. Wilkinson, B. B. Milstein, D. J. Robertson, S. G. Tuffill, D. P. Choyce, R. Anthonis, D. B. Brown, R. T. Campbell, M. Chaudhuri, L. P. Clark, R. L. Cooke, J. B. Curtis, E. T. Dick, J. L. Dowling, Marjorie O. Dunster, S. M. Ghosh, N. O. K. Gibbon, W. Girdwood, A. J. P. Graham, R. T. Grime, W. G. Hendry, J. P. Herdman, C. Hollenberg, B. Lewin, G. M. Lewis, E. T. McCartney, S. T. McCollum, D. McIntosh, A. M. Mair, H. L. C. Maitland, P. E. Marchand, R. P. Melville, H. D. Moore, E. J. Nangle, S. M. Nawab, G. E. Nevill, J. S. Peters, S. F. Reid, R. B. Scott, R. A. Stephen, H. D'A. Sutherland, R. A. R. Taylor, G. J. Walley.

Diplomas in Anaesthetics were granted, jointly with the Royal College of Physicians of London, to the following successful candidates:

D. V. Bateman, O. H. Belam, C. H. Boyd, W. H. F. Boyd, P. R. Bromage, E. K. Brownrigg, R. Bryce-Smith, J. E. Bulow, D. Canter, A. A. Cilliers, R. B. Clayton, F. E. Clynick, S. W. Coffin, E. R. Coleman, P. B. Conroy, C. J. Corcoran, G. Curá, R. M. de Gregory, A. B. Eastwood, I. C. W. English, J. U. Forbes, A. Fraser, Eileen McC. Gibson, L. J. Goggin, J. Gordon, A. H. Grace, P. W. S. Gray, H. Grenville, J. H. G. Halliday, J. K. Harper, A. W. Hind, A. C. Holms, H. R. Hudd, G. Hughes, R. McD. S. Keir, J. Lapraik, C. H. Levick, J. K. Lewis, Mary E. Lloyd, R. E. Loder, J. M. McCormack, R. M. Mackenzie, R. L. McMillan, S. A. Mason, J. G. Matheson, E. T. Moersch, P. H. Moore, W. B. Neff, G. S. Ostlere, W. J. Patterson, J. Psaila, H. J. Richardson, Hilda Roberts, J. D. Robertson, F. R. Russell, C. F. Scurr, E. Thomas, T. C. Thorne, C. E. Tudor, Ambrosine B. Vaughan, Patricia E. Wallace, Mary Watson, H. L. J. Wilson, G. P. Williams, T. M. Williams, T. N. P. Wilton, E. H. Winterbottom, Luise Wislicki, R. B. Wright.

A Diploma in Medical Radio-diagnosis was granted, jointly with the Royal College of Physicians of London, to R. L. T. Hill (Glasgow).

A Diploma in Child Health was granted, jointly with the Royal College of Physicians of London, to S. Ray (Calcutta Medical School).

A series of lectures on anatomy, applied physiology, and pathology will be delivered at the College from Monday, June 30, to Thursday, July 31, and from Monday, Sept. 1, to Tuesday, Sept. 16 (Saturdays and Sundays excepted), at 3.45 p.m. and 5 p.m. each day. The fee is £16 16s. Fellows and Members of the College and Licentiates in Dental Surgery will be admitted for £12 12s. Admission cards may be obtained from the assistant secretary of the College.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF IRELAND

At the meeting of the President and Fellows of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland held on June 6 Dr. Eamonn de Valera and Dr. J. Browne Fleming were admitted Fellows and Dr. P. M. Alston, Leslie Doyle, Leslie Fridjohn, Alan P. Grant, George Gregg, John Hayes, P. D. J. Holland, W. Dillon Hughes, Sean D. McGrath, Harry O'Flanagan, and Bethel E. R. Solomons Members of the College.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF OBSTETRICIANS AND GYNAECOLOGISTS

At a meeting of the Council of the College, held on May 31 with the President, Mr. W. Gilliatt, in the chair, it was announced that the Rt. Hon. Field Marshal Jan Smuts, P.C., had accepted an invitation to become an Honorary Fellow.

To mark the grant of the Royal Charter of Incorporation on March 21 the following four surviving signatories to the Articles of Association, whereby the College was founded, were elected to the Honorary Fellowship: Prof. J. M. Munro Kerr, Prof. C. G. Lowry, Sir Ewen Maclean, and Sir William Fletcher Shaw.

The following were elected to the Council to replace those retiring in statutory rotation: As Representatives of the Fellows, D. Baird (Aberdeen), Alice Bloomfield (London), G. I. Strachan (Cardiff). As Representatives of the Members, J. A. Stallworthy (Oxford), A. M. Sutherland (Glasgow), R. J. Wotherspoon (Glasgow).

A standing committee of the Council, to be known as the Australian Regional Council, has been set up in Australia, with Dr. F. A. Maguire (Sydney) as chairman, to act as a representative committee of the council of the College in discussions and negotiations affecting the practice of obstetrics and gynaecology in Australia.

Prof. B. T. Mayes (Sydney) will act as honorary secretary of the Australian Regional Council.

The following were admitted to the Fellowship of the College:

M. D. Black, J. S. Hovell, J. Jhirad, T. N. MacGregor, R. Newton, G. D. Shaw, G. S. Smyth, H. S. Waters, B. Williams.

The following were admitted to the Membership of the College:

D. Ballantine, Margaret R. Biggs, W. S. Campbell, J. B. Cochrane, S. J. Cohen, H. V. Corbett, A. Davis, J. R. Dickinson, Bessie Dodd, Morag Dods, R. C. Gill, Jean L. Hallum, R. F. Lawrence, T. H. Lawton, J. M. McBride, R. A. E. Magee, M. K. O'Driscoll, S. F. Pooley, L. J. Quinn, R. B. Salter, P. C. Thomas, Kathleen M. FitzG. Worrall, J. L. Wright.

Medical Notes in Parliament

V.D. in British Forces

Dr. SEGAL, on June 25, discussed the incidence of venereal disease in British Forces overseas. He said the British soldier was less prone to V.D. than the soldiers of any other Allied force. He believed statistics which had been given lately in the House of Lords (*Journal*, June 14, p. 867) were unreliable, because though they dealt with incidence of the disease over 12 months per 1,000 men in a Command they failed to take account that these men were in a mobile state through postings and replacements, so that their numbers were considerably increased. The real problem was how far risks of infection had been taken for every recorded case of disease. With wide dissemination of knowledge, with well-known methods of prophylaxis and early treatment, and with a relatively low proportion of relapses and recurrences, the figures actually given were symptomatic of a general loosening of moral ties which affected many countries beside our own. He asked how the Secretary for War explained a rate of incidence of V.D. in the Far East six times as high as in the Middle East. Why was the rate in Germany and Austria to-day almost five times as high as in the Middle East? More could be done in regard to the branches of the Services which dealt with the moral and cultural well-being of men in the Forces, and welfare activities by civilian agencies should be encouraged more, even in occupied territories.

Mr. JOHN FREEMAN, replying for the War Office, said Dr. Segal's approach to the problem was correct. The difficulty could only be overcome by making conditions in the Services overseas such that the temptation leading to this scourge was less likely to arise. There tended to be a periodic rise in the incidence of the disease after a war, and a peak period which the Forces had now perhaps passed. For the first quarter of 1946 the Rhine Army figures were 30.4 per 1,000; for the second quarter 41.8; for the third quarter 44.6; for the fourth quarter 41.8, and for the first quarter of 1947 30 per 1,000. He hoped the decline would be accelerated. The increase in the middle of 1946, the reduction at the end of last year, and in the beginning of this year were substantially reflected in the Commands. These were terrible figures, but lower than for a similar period after the first World War, although men were now more ready to report this disease. He could not give a clear answer to show why the incidence of the disease should be lower in the Middle East, but Service conditions there, substantially removing the men from female companionship, had a great deal to do with it. In Germany, Austria, and the Far East conditions were conducive to V.D., and its incidence among the civilian population was high. Only recently had the Army started to make progress in controlling sources of infection in the Far East. It had more civilians doing welfare work abroad than it had during the war. It was obvious that, although medical methods could limit the seriousness of the problem, the way to eliminate it was by a moral, educational, and welfare approach.

Central Purchase of Hospital Equipment

Mr. HAYDN DAVIES, on June 26, asked the Minister of Health to what extent it was proposed to obtain equipment and supplies for hospitals under the National Health Service by centralized purchase in place of the present system of purchase by individual hospitals; and whether a similar policy would be applied to installation and maintenance services.

Mr. BEVAN answered that hospital equipment and supplies covered a wide range. For some items, there might be advantage in central purchase. But where present methods of supply and servicing worked satisfactorily it was not proposed, at the outset of the new Service, to interfere with them. For the time being central purchase would be limited to major

Presentation of Prizes

Sir Frederick Ogilvie will present the prizes in the library of the London Hospital Medical College on Wednesday, July 9, at 3 p.m.

Pure and Applied Chemistry

The eleventh International Congress of Pure and Applied Chemistry, which the war prevented from being held in 1941, will be held in London on July 16-24, in conjunction with the also postponed Centenary Celebrations of the Chemical Society. Lord Leverhulme will preside. Further information may be obtained from the Hon. Organizer, the 11th International Congress of Pure and Applied Chemistry, 56, Victoria Street, London, S.W.1.

Medical Hydrology

The annual meeting of the International Society of Medical Hydrology will be held at Rheinfelden, Switzerland, from Sept. 11 to 15, with the following programme: Sept. 11, first medical discussion, "Spa and Climatic Treatment for Children"; Sept. 12, papers on "Peripheral Vascular Disorder," followed by "Balneotherapy in Non-rheumatic Diseases," at Schinznach Bad; Sept. 13, "Spa Treatment in Rehabilitation after Accidents and War Injuries," to be held at Baden; Sept. 14, Further papers, at Basle; Sept. 15, Beginning of excursion through the Engadine, due to last eight days, with a supplemental three days in the Bernese Oberland, if so wished. Further details may be obtained from the honorary secretary, International Society of Medical Hydrology, 28, The Circus, Bath, England.

SOCIETIES AND LECTURES

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND, Lincoln's Inn Fields, W.C.—Tuesday, July 8, 6.15 p.m. Moynihan Lecture by Dr. W. K. Livingston (Professor of Surgery in the University of Oregon): Physiological Responses to Wounding. Thursday, July 10, 6.15 p.m. Hunterian Lecture by Prof. H. Jackson: Role of Anatomy in Symptomatology of Lumbar Disk Protrusions.

POSTGRADUATE DIARY

INSTITUTE OF LARYNGOLOGY AND OTOTOLOGY, 330-2, Gray's Inn Road, W.C.—Tuesday, July 8, 5 p.m. Mr. V. E. Negus: The Nose, Nasopharynx, and Paranasal Sinuses.

APPOINTMENTS

QUEEN MARY'S HOSPITAL FOR THE EAST END, Stratford.—*Honorary Assistant Obstetric Surgeons*, H. H. Fouracre Barns, F.R.C.S., M.R.C.O.G., B. G. Spiers, F.R.C.S.Ed., M.R.C.O.G.

LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL.—The following appointments in the Council's mental health services are announced as the hospitals indicated in parentheses: *Assistant Medical Officers*, J. Aminoff, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. (Friern); M. W. Annear, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. (Cane Hill); P. R. A. May, M.B., B.Chir. (Bexley); R. M. Jones, M.B., B.S. (Long Grove).

LOUIS, F., F.R.C.S., Accident and Orthopaedic Surgeon, St. Margaret's Hospital and Great Western Hospital, Swindon.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS

The charge for an insertion under this head is 10s. 6d. for 18 words or less. Extra words 3s. 6d. for each six or less. Payment should be forwarded with the notice, authenticated by the name and permanent address of the sender, and should reach the Advertisement Manager not later than first post Monday morning.

BIRTHS

BARNES.—On June 22, 1947, at St. Anne's Nursing Home, Nottingham, to Edith (née Flinn), wife of Dr. H. G. Barnes, a daughter.

FLETCHER.—On June 23, 1947, at Chertsey Hill Nursing Home, Carlisle, to Mollie, wife of Tom Fletcher, M.D., F.R.C.S., of Papcastle, Cockerham, a son and brother for Gain and Nigel.

GRIFFITHS.—On June 22, 1947, at the North Oxford Nursing Home, Oxford, to Lucie, wife of Dr. R. C. L. Griffiths, of Newport Pagnell, a daughter.

LAKE.—On June 22, 1947, at Newcastle-on-Tyne, to Marie Barbara (née Ivey), wife of Dr. Leonard H. Lake, of 79, Holly Avenue, Jesmond, Newcastle-on-Tyne, 2, a daughter—Janet Havelock.

McLAREN.—On June 4, 1947, at Fernbrae Nursing Home, Dundee, to Pat (née Taylor), wife of Flt.-Lt. Bill McLaren, R.A.F., a son—Andrew Hood.

MARRIAGE

CRAWFORD—SETON.—On June 18, 1947, at Kilmarnock, Ayrshire, W. Cowan Crawford, L.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., to Mary Stewart Seton, S.R.N.

DEATHS

BRENTNALL.—On June 26, 1947, at Riversdale, Fielden Park, West Didsbury, Manchester, Charles Philip Brentnall, M.C., F.R.C.O.G., Honorary Surgeon St. Mary's Hospitals, Manchester, aged 56 years. The very dearly loved husband of Muriel Young Brentnall.

FINDLAY.—On June 14, 1947, at Amarah, Lower Bourne, Farnham, Surrey, Leonard Findlay, M.D., D.Sc., F.R.C.P., in his 70th year. Funeral private. American and Canadian papers please copy.

HUMPHRIS.—On June 17, 1947, at Bath, Francis Howard, Companion Order of St. John, Chevalier Order of Leopold I, M.D., F.R.C.P., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.M.R.E., L.M., formerly of 4, Stanhope Gate, Park Lane, London.

LIPPIATT.—On May 31, 1947, in Gloucester, Havelock Thos. Lippiatt, M.C., M.D., M.C.Gill, F.R.C.S.Ed.

VEALE.—On June 22, 1947, at 60, Kewstoke Road, Bristol, 9, Ethel, wife of F. de Coverly Veale.

Any Questions?

Correspondents should give their names and addresses (not for publication) and include all relevant details in their questions, which should be typed. We publish here a selection of those questions and answers which seem to be of general interest.

Stammering

Q.—A boy aged 10 stammers badly. He started stammering at the age of 4 after removal of tonsils and adenoids. He is not a mouth-breather, and had training by an elocutionist for about a year without improvement. He is very intelligent and good at studies and games. Will you kindly discuss in detail the examination and treatment, as stammering is not discussed in most textbooks?

A.—First, any remediable physical disorders should be attended to, particularly if they are in the ear, nose, or throat area. These latter troubles do not cause stammering but they may delay the patient's recovery. Then it is essential in a young child to determine by observation which hand Nature intended him to use for his most skilled actions, and to see to it that he writes with that hand, whether left or right. Do not attempt corrective training; there is no justification whatever for forcing him to conform with the majority. If, however, the habit of writing with the non-dominant hand has been well established, any change may cause too great an upheaval. Speaking generally, the reversal can be made without serious disturbance if the child is less than 12 years old, provided that he is blessed with reasonable educators.

The next step is to induce all those coming into contact with him—and particularly parents and school-teachers—to refrain from treating the child's stammer and to ignore it so far as is possible. The teaching of elocution is likely to make many stammerers worse and it is doubtful if it is ever a help. Speech treatment can be carried out satisfactorily only by qualified speech therapists, who now form a recognized branch of medical auxiliaries and undergo a three-years training and after their final examination receive a standard diploma. The family doctor rarely has the knowledge and never the time necessary to treat this disorder. The speech treatment consists in a fairly complete re-education of the whole speech process, beginning with a "detensing" of the patient by instruction in complete bodily—and if possible mental—relaxation. Further treatment varies with the case and is too technical and detailed to outline here. In every case, however, a psychiatric survey should be made to ensure that serious psychological factors are not perpetuating the stammer. When present their treatment should be attempted at the same time as that of the speech itself. A brief outline of the problem of stammering will be found in the *Survey of Child Psychiatry*, edited by R. G. Gordon and published by the Oxford University Press.

Psychology of Make-believe

Q.—Children between the ages of 2 and 5 are prone to pretend they are other children. My son, nearly 3, occasionally insists that he is his cousin, and that his name is Bobby and not David. He also pretends that his parents are his aunt and uncle respectively—Bobby's parents. Can this be explained by a psychologist; and is it wise to encourage this play-acting? In all other respects the child is normal and plays with friends of his own age.

A.—Young children who pretend that they are other people have a way of solving their difficulties by this means. Sometimes it is obvious how this is done; for example, when a child has an imaginary companion whom he invests with all his "naughty" characteristics, so escaping the uncomfortable sense of guilt which he would otherwise experience. In the same way it may be useful to have an extra imaginary set of parents, for children are often afraid that their angry wishes may do harm to the parents whom they love, and so they invent "whipping-boys" of various sorts. Certainly such make-believe is no sign of abnormality but a natural defence mechanism making for mental health.

BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL

THE JOURNAL OF THE BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

SUPPLEMENT

containing

Notes on the Work of the Association

Future of Health Services

General Medical Council

Meetings of Branches and Divisions

Service Appointments

Correspondence, etc.

VOLUME II 1947

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