

tissue is associated with the release of the characteristic tissue proteins into the general circulation. These stimulate the liver, which responds by elaborating corresponding proteinases, which are excreted in the urine and may be used in the diagnosis of endocrine diseases. A similar type of urinary proteinase is claimed to occur when malignant growths are present, and may be of value in diagnosis.

The book by Dr. Rangaswami and Prof. Seshadri, both of Andhra University, is a conscientious review of the progress of vitamin and hormone chemistry during the past fifteen or twenty years. The authors take little for granted and illustrate all important chemical reactions by the appropriate structural formulae. The book abounds in flow-reaction diagrams, carefully drawn, clearly printed, and not crowded on the page. The text is written in a direct and simple style, and, while there is nothing unusual in the plan of presentation, an unusual amount of information has been collected. The book will be useful to the student of organic chemistry as well as to the biochemist. European and American readers may regret the omission of any tabulations of the vitamin content of the principal Indian foodstuffs, and such might provide an instructive appendix to a subsequent edition of this useful book.

W. R. FEARON.

POISONS IN FIRST AID

Poisons, Their Properties, Chemical Identification, Symptoms, and Emergency Treatments. By Vincent J. Brookes and Hubert N. Alyea. (Pp. 209. 16s. 6d.) New York: D. Van Nostrand Company, Inc. (250 Fourth Avenue).

The authors of this book, which is intended for the use of the police and those who practise first aid, are a sergeant of police and an associate professor of chemistry. They begin with an account of tests, symptoms, and treatment. Under the latter they discuss the use of emetics but intentionally omit mention of gastric lavage. The main section is a list of poisons arranged alphabetically with formulae, description, uses, tests, symptoms, and treatment. Each entry is intended to be complete, which involves repetition of such phrases as "Summon a physician," but this arrangement is useful for quick reference provided that the poison taken is suspected. The tests given are for application to the remains of the substance or to a first vomit; they are not intended for traces. A table briefly summarizes the information. The authors then devote a section to industrial hazards, also arranged alphabetically, which includes a table of the number of parts per million of volatile substances and dusts in the atmosphere permitted in New Jersey. The division into these sections hardly seems necessary, since each is in alphabetical order and there is a good index. Chapter 6 is on foods, plants, snakes, and spiders, and chapter 7 on special techniques such as artificial respiration and the administration of oxygen. The appendix includes a glossary and tables of reagents and weights and measures. The illustrations are excellent, though perhaps that of a poisonous snake is too lurid.

Some of the omissions seem strange to us, though differences in American practice may account for them—for instance, neither weed killer nor sheep dip is mentioned under "arsenic." The authors do not discuss salicylic acid and aspirin, nor do they refer to the use of calcium compounds such as chalk in the treatment for oxalic acid poisoning. However, on the whole they present the material appropriately to the readers for whom the book is intended. No medical man will find it useful as a textbook, but for rapid reference, especially by those in contact with industry, it is well arranged and comprehensive.

J. H. RYFFEL.

A Synopsis of Orthopaedic Surgery (London: H. K. Lewis; 15s.), by A. David Le Vay, M.S., F.R.C.S., summarizes the literature to help students, including postgraduates, to prepare for examinations. We need not therefore expect it to be "readable," and indeed it is sometimes irritating. Readers will find it more useful for learning the facts of orthopaedic pathology and diagnosis than for its account of treatment, where there is some lack in critical assessment of method—for example, in the description of the now generally discarded lateral bloody approach to the hip-joint. Nevertheless Mr. Le Vay's book will be useful to a student for revision if he already has a knowledge of the subject based upon clinical study, and it should stimulate him to search other sources. For this purpose it would be improved if each section included selected references to the modern literature.

BOOKS RECEIVED

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

Escape to Live. By Wing Commander Edward Howell, O.B.E., D.F.C. (Pp. 230. 8s. 6d.) London: Longmans, Green and Co 1947.

The commander of a fighter squadron describes the 1941 Middle East campaigns, his capture, and ultimate escape.

An Introduction to Gastro-Enterology. By James D. Lickley, M.D. (Pp. 143. 8s. 6d.) London: Simpkin Marshall (1941), Ltd 1947.

A manual for medical students and house-men on the diagnosis and treatment of disorders of the alimentary tract.

Atlas of Bacteriology. By R. Cranston Low, M.D., F.R.C.P.Ed., F.R.S.Ed., and T. C. Dodds, F.I.M.L.T., F.I.B.P., F.R.P.S. (168 plates. 32s. 6d.) Edinburgh: E. and S. Livingstone. 1947.

Coloured plates depicting cultures and photomicrographs of micro-organisms.

An Introduction to Dermatology. Formerly by Sir Norman Walker, F.R.C.P., and G. H. Percival, M.D., Ph.D., F.R.C.P.E., D.P.H. 11th ed. by G. H. Percival. (Pp. 349. 35s.) Edinburgh: E. and S. Livingstone. 1947.

This edition has been rewritten; includes many coloured plates.

Studies of the Renal Circulation. By Joseph Trueta, M.D., et al. From the Nuffield Institute for Medical Research, Oxford. (Pp. 187. 25s.) Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1947.

Experimental investigations into the renal and intrarenal circulations.

A Guide to Anatomy. By E. D. Ewart. 6th ed. (Pp. 318. 25s.) London: H. K. Lewis. 1947.

An illustrated manual of anatomy intended for students of physiotherapy.

Le Vie dell'Errore Clinico. By Ettore Debenedetti. (Pp. 160. No price.) Turin: Edizioni Minerva Medica S.A. 1947.

A general account of errors in clinical diagnosis.

Medicine. By A. E. Clark-Kennedy, M.D., F.R.C.P. Vol. 1. "The Patient and His Disease." (Pp. 383. 20s.) Edinburgh: E. and S. Livingstone. 1947.

The first volume of a work intended to correlate the facts of medicine rather than to instruct in its various methods.

Modern Dermatology and Syphilology. By S. W. Becker, M.D., and M. E. Obermayer, M.D. 2nd ed. (Pp. 1,017. £5 10s.) London: J. B. Lippincott Company. 1947.

Includes new material on vitamin therapy, penicillin, and tests for syphilis.

Conduction Anesthesia. Edited by J. L. Southworth, M.D., and R. A. Hingson, M.D. (Pp. 981. £5 10s.) London: J. B. Lippincott Company. 1946.

An account of local analgesia by means of nerve block, refrigeration, and local infiltration, as well as spinal analgesia.

Précis de Physiologie. By L.-C. Soula. (Pp. 1,085. 1,450 francs.) Paris: Masson et Cie. 1947.

A textbook of physiology.

Précis de Dermatologie. By A. Civatte. 5th ed. (Pp. 1,152. 1,700 francs.) Paris: Masson et Cie. 1947.

An outline of dermatology for the student and practitioner.

Rheumatism. By Lord Horder. 5th ed. (Pp. 61. 2s. 6d.) London: H. K. Lewis. 1947.

Notes on the causes, incidence, and prevention of rheumatism, with a plan for national action.

Le Problème du Cancer et Son Evolution Recente. By Michael Mosinger. (Pp. 664. 1,000 francs.) Paris: Masson et Cie. 1946.

A study of the aetiology and pathology of neoplasms.

L'Hyperinsulinie. By Marcel Sendrail. (Pp. 247. 500 francs.) Paris: Masson et Cie. 1947.

A monograph on clinical and experimental hyperinsulinism.

Universities and Colleges

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

The late Dr. Louis Cobbett, formerly Lecturer in Pathology in the University, left £1,000 to the Department of Pathology to be applied by the person for the time being holding the post of professor of pathology in promotion of research in such manner as he shall think best.

H. M. Woodman, M.B., B.Chir., has been approved (in absence) for the degree of M.D.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

Prof. J. Z. Young, M.A., F.R.S., will deliver two public lectures in the physiology theatre, University College, Gower Street, W.C., on Tuesdays, Oct. 7 and 14, at 5.15 p.m. His subject is "The Structure of Peripheral Nerve and of Nerve Endings."

A course of six public lectures on "The Physiological Mechanisms of Vision" will be given by Dr. M. H. Pirenne in the physiology theatre, University College, on Wednesdays, Oct. 8, 15, 22, and 29, and Nov. 5 and 12, at 5 p.m.

Dr. Bernard Katz will deliver a course of six public lectures on "Transmission of Excitation in Nerve and Muscle" in the physiology theatre, University College, on Tuesdays, Oct. 21 and 28 and Nov. 4, 11, 18, and 25, at 5.15 p.m.

Students and others interested in the above subjects are invited to attend the lectures. Admission is free, without ticket.

On the occasion of the celebration of Foundation Day on Nov. 20 the degree of LL.D. (*honoris causa*) will be conferred on Viscount Nuffield.

Percy Cyril Claude Garnham, M.D., has been appointed to the University Readership in Medical Parasitology tenable at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

Francis Thomas Garnet Prunty, M.D., M.R.C.P., has been appointed to the University Readership in Chemical Pathology tenable at St. Thomas's Hospital Medical School from Oct. 1.

Frederick Robert Selbie, M.D., Ph.D., has been appointed to the University Readership in Bacteriology tenable at Middlesex Hospital Medical School from Oct. 1.

The degree of D.Sc. has been conferred on Prof. E. J. King, Ph.D., Professor of Chemical Pathology at the British Postgraduate Medical School.

The University of Toronto has been added to the list of approved institutions for the purposes of the M.B., B.S. degrees for external students.

The Warneford Hospital, Oxford, has been provisionally recognized for the purposes of the Postgraduate Diploma in Psychological Medicine under category (1) Institutions for Mental Diseases, and Great Barr Park Colony, Birmingham, has been recognized for the purposes of the Postgraduate Diploma in Psychological Medicine under category (2) Institutions for Mental Deficiency.

Selly Oak Hospital, Birmingham, and Dudley Road Hospital, Birmingham, have been added to the list of recognized institutions for the External Diploma in Clinical Pathology.

UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER

Andrew Topping, M.D., F.R.C.P., has been appointed Professor of Preventive Medicine and Director of the Department of Preventive Medicine of the University and will take up his duties in November.

UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD

The offices of the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine of the University are now at 358, Mushroom Lane, Sheffield, 10 (Tel.: Sheffield 63376).

UNIVERSITY OF ST. ANDREWS

George Howard Bell, M.D., F.R.F.P.S., lecturer in physiology in the University of Glasgow, has been appointed Professor of Physiology in University College, Dundee.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF LONDON

At a quarterly comitia of the College, held on July 31, with the President, Lord Moran, in the chair, the following Fellows of the College were elected officers for the ensuing year: *Censors*, George Graham, E. Bellingham Smith, William Johnson, Sir Adolphe Abrahams; *Treasurer*, W. G. Barnard; *Registrar*, H. E. A. Boldero; *Assistant Registrar*, W. D. W. Brooks.

The Registrar announced that the Murchison Scholarship for 1947 had been awarded to Constance C. Forsyth, M.B. The Baly Medal was awarded to Prof. B. A. Houssay (Buenos Aires) for his services to physiology by his researches on endocrine control of carbo-

hydrate metabolism, and the Bisset Hawkins Medal to Dr. C. H. Andrewes, F.R.S., for his researches in typhus and influenza.

Dr. F. M. R. Walshe was appointed Harveian Orator and Dr. J. A. Charles, Bradshaw Lecturer, both for 1948. The following lecturers for 1948 were also appointed: Lumleian, Dr. J. F. Natrass; Goulstonian, Dr. C. M. Fletcher; Oliver-Sharpey, Dr. J. F. Wilkinson; Mitchell, Dr. R. Coope; Abrahams, Dr. J. W. Trevan.

Lord Moran was elected representative of the College on the National Consultative Committee for the United Kingdom on Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

The following, having satisfied the Censors' Board, were elected Members of the College:

E. W. Abrahams, M.D., A. G. V. Aldridge, M.D., V. H. Allan, M.B., D. J. Arkle, B.M., K. Aterman, M.D., H. W. Balme, M.B., G. M. K. Baloch, M.D., J. A. Bassett, L.R.C.P., O. D. Beresford, M.B., A. Bloom, M.D., W. J. H. Butterfield, B.M., J. R. Chatterjee, M.B., H. Conway, M.B., J. A. Cosh, M.B., R. A. Craig, M.B., E. G. A. Crawshaw, M.B., D. M. Douglas, M.B., A. Y. Ekdawi, M.B., J. R. Ellis, M.B., E. Emanuel, B.M., M. Feiwel, M.B., H. M. Foreman, M.B., J. H. Goonewardene, M.B., N. S. Gordon, M.D., L. Guttman, M.D., J. B. Hannah, M.D., W. J. Hay, M.B., K. W. G. G. Heathfield, M.D., C. Langton Hewer, M.B., A. J. Hird, M.B., J. A. Hobson, M.D., W. H. Hood, M.D., Margaret E. Hughes, M.B., D. B. Irwin, M.B., D. I. Jenkins, M.B., R. A. Jones, M.B., F. E. Joules, M.D., R. E. Kelly, M.B., J. D. Kidd, M.B., G. L. Leathart, M.B., J. M. Ledingham, L.R.C.P., K. N. Lloyd, M.B., J. S. Logan, M.D., T. P. Loke, M.B., P. M. McAllen, M.B., J. K. G. MacArthur, M.B., S. L. Malhotra, M.B., D. E. Marmion, M.B., J. A. Milne, M.B., R. Montgomery, M.B., Captain, R.A.M.C., G. A. Neligan, B.M., J. H. Paterson, M.D., A. Poteliakhoff, M.B., J. D. L. Reinhold, B.M., Margaret L. Reinhold, M.B., A. H. T. Robb-Smith, M.D., R. W. Rowan, M.B., J. E. Royds, M.B., W. F. Scott, M.B., G. B. Shaw, M.B., B. H. Smith, M.B., T. Stapleton, B.M., R. S. Stevens, M.B., C. Symons, M.B., Margaret L. Taylor, M.B., H. E. Thomas, M.B., P. H. Tooley, M.D., S. C. Truelove, M.D., H. R. E. Wallis, M.B., F. J. H. Walters, M.B., M. Watt, M.B., H. F. West, M.B., C. B. I. Willey, B.M., M. W. Wood, M.B.

Licences to practise were conferred upon 137 candidates (including 28 women) who had passed the Final Examination in Medicine, Surgery, and Midwifery of the Conjoint Board and have complied with the necessary by-laws:

K. R. V. Argles, D. A. L. Ashforth, R. W. Attwood, J. M. Barritt, Janet B. Bell, J. H. Blackman, E. I. Boxer, D. G. Boyle, G. P. Bradfield, J. P. P. Bradshaw, H. R. Bridgford, T. C. L. Brown, C. M. Browne, K.-L. Bucky, Pauline P. Budd, G. H. Bulow, M. Caturani, K. L. Cleminson, J. M. Clubb, R. O. N. G. Colley, K. J. Covell, K. A. Cowan, W. R. Daniel, A. I. Darling, C. J. C. Davey, A. C. Davies, L. Dawson, Jacqueline Domenet, Ada Dudack, M. L. Dyson, Pamela M. Farmer, Loveday A. Farquharson, V. Feldman, T. J. Felix, W. J. Gall, J. H. Garson, N. Garwood, J. M. Gate, C. E. R. Gee, E. Gellatly, J. V. Gibson, Joy K. Goodacre, J. D. Greatrex, J. K. G. Grieves, R. H. Griffith, M. Grinstead, Angela W. Hall-Smith, B. Hardie, G. Harris, S. J. Harris, C. Havard, T. G. Heron, Stella C. Hill, D. Hobson, J. A. G. Holt, A. P. K. Homayouni, V. E. Ireland, Helen A. Jaques, Barbara Jones, D. G. Jones, A. H. Kasasian, M. R. Khan, D. B. Learning, J. Lederer, W. Lees, Ruth M. Licence, Joyce J. P. Lomas, T. McCaffry, R. I. MacInnes, I. D. Mackichan, J. A. Mahoney, A. E. B. Matthews, M. D. Mehta, F. W. Millard, I. O. Miller, A. L. Mintz, Barbara A. Moore, C. T. Morgan, Dorothy A. Morgan, A. H. Morris, M. Morris, H. J. Moss, G. N. Mulliner, D. J. Oakland, H. Owen, Susan H. Palmer, R. T. Parr, R. F. Pearson, A. R. Penn, R. S. Pine, R. C. S. Poinson, P. Pratt, J. Prestt, Violet M. J. Procter, P. K. Pybus, D. M. Rahilly, D. M. Reader, Pauline Readman, E. R. Reid, Sybil L. Reis, Joan Rendall, D. Rider, S. M. Rivlin, J. C. Rushton, A. J. Ruzicka, P. W. Seear, P. G. Seear, J. Southgate, Sheila J. Spencer, H. Spira, A. H. Stern, J. D. Stevens, D. B. Stott, Rosa Sutton, P. B. Taylor, J. R. Theobalds, J. M. Thomas, J. M. Titmas, Olive I. Todd, Ruth W. Towler, P. G. Trehanne, J. S. Turner, M. H. Turner, C. R. B. Vincent, I. McN. Walter, N. Don J. de S. Wijesekera, W. M. Wilkinson, K. P. Williams, L. B. Williams, Sheila G. Wills, G. Wiseman, C. H. Wood, Yvette Woodford-Williams, G. R. V. Worrall, Pamela N. Wright, F. Wynn, R. E. V. B. Young.

Diplomas in Public Health were conferred, jointly with the Royal College of Surgeons of England, on the following successful candidates:

A. S. Darling, D. C. Davidson, H. McI. Davies, W. J. Elwood, B. L. Frank, R. M. Galvan, G. I. Harding, J. H. Hudson, R. W. Kind, Evelyn M. Lee, N. C. Lendon, J. A. Lister, D. MacLeod, R. J. Niven, R. N. Onyemeluke, J. H. Rayner, C. A. Royde, B. Schwartz, R. W. Scott, M. Shamsuddin, C. H. Shaw, R. Shoulman, K. N. Srivastava, W. F. Tierney, K. O. A. Vickery, J. R. D. Williams, H. D. Wilson.

The following Diplomas were also conferred, jointly with the Royal College of Surgeons of England. The names of the successful candidates were printed in the issues of the *Journal* indicated in parentheses:

Diplomas in Anaesthetics (July 5, p. 37, and July 26, p. 156); Diploma in Laryngology and Otology (July 26, p. 156); Diploma in Child Health (July 5, p. 37); Diploma in Medical Radiotherapy (May 31, p. 789); Diploma in Psychological Medicine (July 26, p. 156); Diploma in Industrial Health (July 26, p. 156); and Diploma in Medical Radio-diagnosis (May 31, p. 789, and July 5, p. 37).

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND

At a meeting of the Council of the College, held on July 31, with Sir Alfred Webb-Johnson, Bt., President, in the chair, it was decided that candidates for the final F.R.C.S. must have served a period of postgraduate surgical training of 12 months in posts approved by the College and that six months of this period must have been occupied in residence in a hospital recognized for the purpose.

Diplomas of Membership were granted to the 137 successful candidates whose names are printed above in the report of the meeting of the Royal College of Physicians of London; Diplomas in Public Health were granted, jointly with the Royal College of Physicians of London, to the 27 successful candidates named in the same report.

COMING EVENTS

Aslib Conference

The 22nd annual conference of the Association of Special Libraries and Information Bureaux will be held on Sept. 19-21 at the London School of Economics, Houghton Street, W.C.2, and Canterbury Hall, Cartwright Gardens, W.C.1. Prof. R. E. Peierls, F.R.S., will deliver the opening address on Sept. 20 at 11 a.m. on "The Effect of Atomic Energy Developments on Scientific and Technical Publication."

Old Students' Dinner

St. Thomas's Hospital Old Students' Dinner will take place at Church House Restaurant, Great Smith Street, Westminster, S.W., on Friday, Oct. 3, at 6.45 p.m. for 7.30 p.m., when the chair will be taken by Mr. C. A. R. Nitch, M.S., F.R.C.S. Rationing restrictions will limit the number of places to 250. If therefore the number of applications exceeds 250, the list will be closed and unsuccessful applicants notified. It is regretted that no guests may be invited this year. Speeches will be strictly limited. The price of the dinner, inclusive of gratuities and drinks during dinner, will be 25s. Dinner jackets or lounge suits will be worn.

Ophthalmological Congress

The executive committee of the Third Pan-American Congress of Ophthalmology has issued a general invitation to all members of the British Medical Association interested in ophthalmology to attend the congress, which is to be held at Havana, Cuba, from Jan. 4 to 10, 1948. The president of the Congress is Dr. Tomas R. Yanes, P.O. Box 970, Havana, Cuba.

Advancement of Science

The American Association for the Advancement of Science will meet at Chicago on Dec. 26-30. Further information may be obtained from the society's headquarters, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.

APPOINTMENTS

The Civil Service Commissioners have appointed Drs. D. A. Ogden and F. Y. McKendrick to be medical officers in the Prison Service of England and Wales.

BOARDMAN, D. L., M.B., Ch.B., Assistant Pathologist, Bolton Royal Infirmary.
BODKIN, KATHLEEN M., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., Senior Assistant Medical Officer of Health, Borough of Hendon.

JACKSON, S. H., M.B., Ch.B., Pathologist, Bury Infirmary.

LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL.—The following appointment in the Council's mental health services at the hospital indicated in parentheses is announced: Assistant Medical Officer, G. C. Heller, M.D. (Friern).

MILLEN, R. M., M.D., M.R.C.O.G., Obstetrician, Chase Farm Hospital, The Ridgeway, Enfield, Middlesex.

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

DAVIES.—On Aug. 6, 1947, to Dr. Celia Marjorie Davies (*née* Rapport), wife of Dr. D. L. Davies, 13, Engel Park, N.W.7, a son.

DOYLE.—On Aug. 1, 1947, at Northampton, to Margaret (*née* Bethell), wife of Dr. G. B. Doyle, a son.

HAMILTON.—On July 30, 1947, at the London Hospital, to Norah, wife of Dr. Henry C. Hamilton, of Portrush, Co. Antrim, a daughter.

HARRISON.—On Aug. 7, 1947, at King's Lynn, to Mary (*née* Bowen), wife of John O. Harrison, F.R.C.S., a daughter.

REEVE.—On July 21, 1947, at Bristol, to Marjorie (*née* Organ), M.B., Ch.B., wife of C. P. Reeve, a daughter.

STANFORD.—On Aug. 3, 1947, to Elspeth Stanford, M.B., Ch.B. (*née* Harrison), wife of J. G. Stanford, a son.

TAIT.—On July 27, 1947, at Burton House Maternity Home, Stafford, to Maureen, wife of Squad.-Ldr. C. E. Tait, R.A.F.V.R., the gift of a daughter—Mary Edwina.

MARRIAGES

FLEMING.—FIELD.—On Aug. 5, 1947, at Banbury, Oxon, Dr. H. F. Fleming to Dr. Sheila Field.

PEEL.—MELLISH.—On July 26, 1947, John H. Peel, F.R.C.S., F.R.C.O.G., to Freda Margaret Mellish.

TILL.—TUNSTALL-BEHRENS.—On July 23, 1947, in Cornwall, Kenneth Till, M.B., B.Chir., to Morwenna M. Tunstall-Behrens, M.B., B.Chir.

DEATHS

AMBROSE.—On July 30, 1947, at his home, 2, Hilton Drive, Paignton, Devon, after a long illness, Alfred Parker Ambrose, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., L.S.A., London. Aged 73 years. R.I.P.

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.

Spread of Poliomyelitis

Q.—Under the heading "Poliomyelitis and Water" (July 19, p. 119) you suggest that infection often comes from the virus carried in the nasopharynx and conveyed in food. Can fruit-pickers infect the fruit at their work? Can infected mucus washed out of the nasopharynx during bathing in fresh water or at bathing pools infect other bathers? Can flies or insects carry infected mucus or excreta to food or fruit? Will food or fruit be sufficiently cleansed by tap water?

A.—It is possible for fruit to become infected with the virus of poliomyelitis, either directly from sprayed droplets and contaminated hands, or indirectly by faecal-feeding flies or dust. Various workers have drawn attention to the fact that poliomyelitis occurs during the fruit season and small localized outbreaks attributed to the eating of strawberries have been described (see Barber, G. O., *B.M.J.*, 1938, 2, 1137). It is therefore advisable to wash all fruit and when possible to peel off the skin before giving it to children. Bathing pools may also become contaminated, and children should not be allowed to use bathing pools in areas where the infection is occurring.

Sulphur in Rheumatism

Q.—The 1931 B.M.A. Committee on Chronic Rheumatism considered sulphur to be one of the few drugs of value in chronic osteoarthritis. Intramuscular or intravenous injections of colloidal sulphur are strongly advised for osteoarthritis in a modern textbook. Is there any knowledge of how this drug causes improvement?

A.—There is considerable diversity of opinion as to the value of sulphur in rheumatism, but it has been used a great deal in America and good results have been claimed, especially when it has been combined with a low-carbohydrate diet—a point of some importance. Race, in an investigation into its biochemical action, found deficient sulphur oxidation in rheumatism, and Cawadias found deficient sulphur conjugation. The organic matrix of the joint cartilages contains chondroitin acid, which when broken down yields chondroitin and sulphuric acid, and it has been suggested that loss of sulphur from the cartilage may tend to the development of arthritis. Many workers have found a deficiency of cystine in the nails in sufferers from rheumatic diseases. Rawls *et al.*, treating cases with injections of colloidal sulphur, thought it was of most value in cases of rheumatoid and mixed arthritis. When injected it usually causes a pyrexial reaction, and its beneficial action has been attributed to this effect in line with such other methods as injections of milk, T.A.B., etc. When given by mouth it has a mild purgative action, and many regard this as the explanation of any benefit that may follow.

Fluorine and Dental Caries

Q.—(a) Are minute quantities of fluorine in water essential for the proper formation of teeth? (b) What practical measures can be adopted to ensure that an infant obtains an adequate and assimilable intake of fluorine in a district devoid of natural fluorine? The incidence of dental caries is high in this area, mostly among young people, all teeth being extracted. The water supply is unprotected and thus potentially contaminated, so most people rely on rain-water collected in tanks. (c) What is the fluorine compound of choice for adding to water, and what quantity should be added to each 100 gallons (454.6 litres)?

A.—(a) It has been demonstrated that children living continuously for the first twelve years of life in fluoride areas have a lower caries attack rate than those residing in fluoride-free areas. It has not yet been established, however, that the addition of fluoride to fluoride-free domestic water supplies will produce similar or identical results. Large-scale experiments