

vitamins, but it is not full enough to help much in diagnosis. On the other hand he has extended the scope of the book, and thereby improved it, by discussing some aspects of treatment where they have a bearing on diagnosis.

Originally dedicated to his wife, Prof. Feer's book now is presented to his four children and twelve grandchildren. He can be assured that its popularity and value have grown over the past quarter of a century as certainly as his family.

ALAN MONCRIEFF.

### EASY CHILDBIRTH

*The Birth of a Child. Obstetric Procedure in Normal Childbirth for Those who Attend Women in Labour.* By Grantly Dick Read, M.D. (Pp. 99. 5s.) London: William Heinemann Medical Books. 1947.

Dr. Dick Read's views on normal childbirth and its management, from the standpoint of rendering it easy and less painful, are sufficiently well known not to require any introduction. In this small and inexpensive book he restates his beliefs in a simple and practical form suitable for midwives, physiotherapists, and the laity, as well as doctors. It should be a particularly useful book for intelligent expectant mothers (and fathers) to read for themselves. Essentially it is a collection of lectures and previously published papers, and most of the chapters are complete in themselves, each a variation on the same theme. Inevitably, therefore, there is much repetition, which may be instructive to the lay reader even though wearisome for others.

Few will question the fundamental soundness of Dick Read's ideas, though some may think he overstates his case. It is to be hoped that this book will not lead readers to expect too much so far as painless labour is concerned, and that it will not be allowed to discredit what is perhaps the most important aspect of his thesis—namely, that emotion and nervous tension can, and often do, profoundly disturb and inhibit uterine action in labour.

T. N. A. JEFFCOATE.

### BEDSIDE VERSES

*The Diagnosis of the Acute Abdomen in Rhyme.* By Zeta. Drawings by Peter Collingwood. (Pp. 88; illustrated. 5s. 6d.) London: H. K. Lewis and Co. 1947.

How much surgery should be taught the medical student of the future? Most of the operations that he now watches with interest but without profit, particularly the major operations of neurosurgery, cardiovascular, thoracic, and gastric surgery, proctology, and urology, should be shown rather to post-graduates. But all medical men should be taught the principles of first aid, the treatment of soft-tissue injuries and ambulant cases of fracture, the surgery of sepsis and in particular of the septic hand, the part that operative surgery can play in the treatment of disease (without operative details being discussed), and above all the recognition of all those emergencies in which early operation offers the only chance of saving life. Of these the abdominal emergencies are the most important.

*The Diagnosis of the Acute Abdomen in Rhyme* is an excellent little book, for "Zeta" considers the whole of this important subject with admirable completeness. Many of the more popular works favoured by the student tend to encourage the "penny in the slot" mentality: consult a table, stick in a few needles, send a few fluids to the laboratory, and the place where the pointer stops is the disease from which the patient is suffering. "Zeta's" advice is commendably practical. He insists that nothing can replace careful clinical observation, and that only by repeated bedside study can wisdom finally be attained.

The use of rhyme, the serio-humorous style, and the delightful cartoons by Peter Collingwood are exactly right, for lessons conveyed in this way remain in the mind long after those delivered in more serious vein have faded. The coat of arms on p. 21, with the motto *Per Anum ad Salutem*, might well be hung in every students' club. "Zeta" exemplifies many of his more important lessons by describing mistakes that have occurred in his own practice. This may be the reason why he has adopted a pseudonym, which masks without concealing the identity of one of the leaders of surgery to-day.

HENEAGE OGILVIE.

### BOOKS RECEIVED

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

*Ulcers of the Stomach and Duodenum.* By Edmundo Vasconcelos, M.D., F.A.C.S. (Pp. 125. No price.) Sao Paulo, Brazil: Editora Renascença S.A. 1947.

The author summarizes his experience of over 1,000 operations for peptic ulcer.

*Sex Power in Marriage.* By E. W. Hirsch, B.S., M.D. (Pp. 218 53s.) Chicago: Research Publications of Chicago. 1947.

A practical discourse on sex for the layman.

*Albert Schweitzer: The Man and His Mind.* By George Seaver. (Pp. 346. 18s.) London: Adam and Charles Black. 1947.

A biography of Schweitzer—theologian, philosopher, musician, and medical practitioner.

*Sex and Common Sense.* By Maude Royden, D.D., C.H. Revised edition. (Pp. 112. 8s. 6d.) London: Hurst and Blackett 1947.

Essays on various aspects of sex and society.

*A Penicilina Por Via Arterial Nas Osteomielites.* By Eurico Branco Ribeiro. (Pp. 124. No price.) Sao Paulo, Brazil: Sao Paulo Editora S.A. 1947.

A monograph on penicillin in the treatment of osteomyelitis.

*Beiträge zur Kenntnis der Blutgerinnung.* By W. K. Rieben (Pp. 96. 9 Swiss francs.) Basle: Benno Schwabe and Co. 1947.

A monograph on blood coagulation and anticoagulants.

*Brochure on Control of Malaria in India.* By C. F. Chenoy, M.B., B.S.(Bombay), D.T.M., D.P.H.(London.). (Pp. 63. No price.)

A short account of the malaria parasite, the mosquitoes that transmit it, and the control of the disease in India.

*Le Infiltrazioni del Simpatico.* By E. Tosatti. 2nd ed. (Pp. 203 No price.) Rome: Edizioni Italiane. 1947.

A monograph on infiltrating the sympathetic nervous system with local analgesics.

*New Biology.* Edited by M. L. Johnson and Michael Abercrombie. (Pp. 175. 1s.) London: Penguin Books. 1947.

A number of biological topics discussed for the layman.

*Introducción al Estudio de la Plasmoterapia.* By J. M. Massons. (Pp. 276. No price.) Barcelona: Editorial "Miguel Servet." 1947.

A monograph on transfusion therapy, its technique, indications, and dangers.

*Rezeptaschenbuch.* Edited by L. Heilmeyer. 7th revised edition. (Pp. 410. No price.) Jena: Gustav Fischer. 1946.

A manual of classified therapeutics.

*Symptoms and Signs in Clinical Medicine.* By E. Noble Chamberlain, M.D., M.Sc., F.R.C.P. 4th ed. (Pp. 463. 30s.) Bristol: John Wright and Sons, Ltd. London: Simpkin Marshall (1941), Ltd. 1947.

A general account of how to examine the patient; the text has been thoroughly revised for this edition.

*The Trend of National Intelligence.* By Godfrey Thomson, D.C.L., Ph.D., D.Sc. (Pp. 35. 2s.) The Eugenics Society and Hamish Hamilton. 1947.

The 1946 Galton Lecture. The author suggests that the mean level of national intelligence is likely to decline.

*Cancer: Diagnosis, Treatment, and Prognosis.* By L. V. Ackerman, M.D., and J. A. del Regato, M.D. (Pp. 1,115. £5.) London: Henry Kimpton. 1947.

A general account of malignant neoplasms; with many illustrations.

*Nova e Rapida Interpretação do Quadro Leucocitário.* By Eurico Salis. (Pp. 26. No price.) Bagé: Rio Grande do Sul. 1947.

Notes on the differential leucocyte count.

## Universities and Colleges

### UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

The following medical degrees were conferred on Oct. 18:

M.D.—C. W. A. Searle.  
M.B., B.Chir.—\*A. S. Fairbairn, \*A. P. C. Bacon, \*H. B. Barlow, \*D. M. Evans, \*I. C. K. Mackenzie, \*J. S. W. Whitehead, \*E. T. Roberts, \*M. H. D. Veale, \*P. E. Hughesdon, \*W. Spector, \*C. F. Hingston, \*R. H. L. Wolfsohn, \*A. J. W. Woodroffe, I. B. Smith, J. L. Harris.  
\*A.B.—N. C. London.

\*By proxy.

### UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN

John Craig, M.B., Ch.B. Aberd., F.R.C.P.Ed., M.R.C.O.G., lecturer in diseases of children, has been appointed to the new Chair of Child Health in the University.

### UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

Norman McOmish Dott, M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.S.Ed., Director of the Neurological and Neurosurgical Brain Injuries Unit at Bangour Hospital, Uphall, West Lothian, has been appointed first holder of the Forbes Chair of Neurological Surgery in the University.

### UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW

At a Ceremony of Graduation, held on Nov. 1, the following degrees were conferred:

M.D.—P. Macarthur (with commendation), F. J. Hebbert, J. E. Tillotson.  
The degree of Bachelor of Law was conferred on George Buchanan, L.R.C.P.&S.Ed.

### UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

Dr. Hermann Mannheim will deliver a course of eight weekly lectures on "The Philosophy and Psychology of Punishment," at the Institute for the Scientific Treatment of Delinquency, 8, Bourdon Street, Davies Street, W., on Mondays, at 6.30 p.m., beginning on Jan. 12, 1948. He will develop his theme from punishment in primitive societies, punishment by parents and teachers and by Church and State, up to a concluding lecture on punishment in the international sphere, with special reference to war crimes and the Nuremberg trials. He will also discuss the aims and the effect of punishment, and the obstacles in the way of establishing a reasonable penal system.

Prof. Henry Barcroft, M.D., has been appointed to the University Chair of Physiology tenable at St. Thomas's Hospital Medical School from Jan. 1, 1948.

Victor Wilkinson Dix, F.R.C.S., has been appointed to the University Chair of Surgery tenable at London Hospital Medical College from Oct. 1.

Thomas Duncan Day, M.D., has been appointed to the University Readership in Pathology tenable at St. Thomas's Hospital Medical School from Oct. 1.

Thomas Russell Cumming Fraser, M.D., M.R.C.P., D.P.M., has been appointed to the University Readership in Medicine tenable at the British Postgraduate Medical School from Aug. 1, 1947.

C. J. O. R. Morris, M.Sc., Ph.D., has been appointed to the University Readership in Chemical Pathology tenable at London Hospital Medical College from Oct. 1.

The degree of D.Sc. has been conferred on Claude Rimington, Ph.D., professor of chemical pathology at University College Hospital Medical School.

The following candidates have been approved at the examinations indicated:

ACADEMIC POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN CLINICAL PATHOLOGY.—B. M. Bloomberg, M. J. G. Furnell, B. Godwin, Elizabeth Himmelhoeh, G. B. Leyton, A. G. E. Pearce, J. T. Prendiville, V. A. Vanikar.

EXTERNAL DIPLOMA IN CLINICAL PATHOLOGY.—H. B. Stein.

### UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD

The following appointments were made at a meeting of the University Council held on Oct. 17: *Honorary Lecturers in Pathology*, J. L. Edwards, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.P., LL.B., and L. C. D. Hermitte, M.B., Ch.B. *Part-time Lecturer in Medicine to Dental Students*, R. T. Gaunt, M.Sc., M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.P. *Assistant Lecturer in Pathology*, H. J. Whiteley, M.B., Ch.B.

### ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND

The annual meeting of Fellows and Members will be held at the College (Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, W.C.) on Wednesday, Nov. 12, at 5.30 p.m., when a report from the Council will be presented.

### ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF EDINBURGH

At the annual meeting of the College held on Oct. 29 the following officers were elected for the ensuing year: *President*, Mr. Frank E. Jardine; *Vice-President*, Mr. James M. Graham; *Secretary and Treasurer*, Mr. K. Paterson Brown; *Representative on General Medical Council*, Sir Henry Wade; *Conservator of Museum*,

Mr. James N. J. Hartley; *Convener of Museum Committee*, Mr. W. Quarry Wood; *Librarian*, Dr. Douglas Guthrie.

The following candidates, having passed the requisite examinations, were admitted Fellows:

J. Aitken, H. M. Bennett, S. M. Boctor, Y. G. Bodhe, E. S. Brawn, J. E. S. Carmichael, Florence Cavanagh, D. H. Clark, J. C. Comline, W. T. Cumming, J. B. Cuthbert, N. M. B. Dean, D. Dencer, M. D. Desai, G. de L. Fenwick, W. J. Fraser, D. Ghose, I. L. Gregory, A. P. Guttman, J. A. V. Hamilton, H. El S. Higazi, R. M. Hugo, J. Huston, G. C. W. James, J. M. Jones, V. A. F. Martin, E. Millington, J. C. G. Moore, G. Murdoch, A. M. Murray, M. P. McCormack, C. G. G. Mackay, F. D. Mackenzie, D. L. Poddar, E. W. Price, Agnes R. Russell, W. H. Scrase, E. Seidenman, N. C. Sen, N. C. Shah, H. V.-Ol-M. Shaibany, K. J. Sheth, D. W. Short, F. MacN. Smith, C. E. E. Stevens, F. V. Stonham, J. W. M. Sutherland, A. F. Torrie, S. L. Townsend, H. M. Urquhart, C. H. Vipond, R. G. M. Wedderburn, V. H. Wheble, J. S. Young.

### ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF IRELAND

At the annual meeting of the College, held on Oct. 18, the following officers, etc., were elected: *President*, Dr. Bethel Solomons; *Vice-President*, Dr. E. A. Keelan; *Treasurer*, Prof. G. Bewley; *Registrar*, Dr. T. P. C. Kirkpatrick; *Representative on General Medical Council*, Prof. T. Gillman Moorhead; *Representative on Medical Registration Council*, Prof. J. W. Bigger.

## The Services

The King of Norway has conferred the Knight Grand Cross of the Order of St. Olav upon Air Marshal Sir Harold E. Whittingham, K.C.B., K.B.E., R.A.F. (Retired).

Major (Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel) J. G. McCrie, O.B.E., and Captains (Honorary Majors) W. A. Liston, M.C., and G. K. Thornton, R.A.M.C., have been awarded the Efficiency Decoration of the Territorial Army.

Captain B. G. Duggan, Lieutenant (now Temporary Major) J. J. Wiese, and Lieutenant (now Captain) H. A. Wood, R.A.M.C., have been awarded the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal (Military), without Gratuity.

Captain (Honorary Major) J. Kerr and Lieutenant (Honorary Captain) L. C. J. Coker, R.A.M.C., have been awarded the Efficiency Medal (Territorial).

### DEATHS IN THE SERVICES

Surgeon Rear-Admiral Sir GEORGE WELCH died on Oct. 26 at the age of 90. Born on Sept. 13, 1858, he entered the service in 1884 and was promoted surgeon-general in 1915. He was surgeon of the *Royalist* in the Niger expedition in 1886, and staff-surgeon of the *Tyne* during the Cretan troubles in 1896-7, and was specially promoted to fleet-surgeon in 1899 for conspicuous professional merit. Among other appointments he held were those of assistant to the medical director-general, 1899-1906, and instructor in Naval hygiene to surgeons on entry at Haslar, 1906-10. He was a member of the Commission to inquire into tuberculosis in the Navy in 1911; deputy director-general of the Medical Department of the Navy, November, 1912-16; and a member of the Committee on Vision of Naval Officers, 1914. He was awarded the C.B. in 1917 and created K.C.M.G. two years later. He was placed on the retired list in 1918 after thirty-four years' service, for the last two years of which he was P.M.O., R.N. Hospital, Haslar.

## EPIDEMIOLOGICAL NOTES

### Poliomyelitis

Notifications of poliomyelitis in England and Wales in the week ending Oct. 25 showed a further small reduction on those of the previous week, 251 (276), but those of polio-encephalitis showed a rise, 29 (12). The trend of incidence of polio-encephalitis has not been very consistent throughout. It seems likely that there are considerable differences in the meaning attached to this term by different doctors.

Provisional figures of registrations of deaths from poliomyelitis and polio-encephalitis supplied by the Registrar-General are as follows: July, 74; August, 206; September, 160. It is, of course, impossible to relate these directly to notifications because of the varying duration of illness and possible delay in the registration of a death, but notifications which relate to roughly the same periods were:

	<i>Poliomyelitis</i>		<i>Polio-encephalitis</i>	
July .. .. .	..	668	..	75
August (5 weeks) .. .. .	..	2,900	..	235
September .. .. .	..	2,246	..	143
		5,814		453

These figures suggest a case fatality rate of the order of 7%. Preliminary analysis of deaths by age suggests that the increase

## SOCIETIES AND LECTURES

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF LONDON, Pall Mall East, S.W.—Tuesday, Nov. 11, 5 p.m. Lloyd-Roberts Lecture by the Hon. Harold Nicolson: The Health of Authors.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, W.C.—Thursday, Nov. 13, 5 p.m. Bradshaw Lecture by Sir Cecil Wakeley: Vogue and Fashion in Abdominal Surgery.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF OBSTETRICIANS AND GYNAECOLOGISTS, 58, Queen Anne Street, W.—Friday, Nov. 14, 5 p.m. William Blair-Bell Memorial Lecture by Dr. D. J. MacRae: Heart Disease in Pregnancy.

## ROYAL SOCIETY OF MEDICINE

*Section of Psychiatry.*—Tuesday, Nov. 11, 5 p.m. Paper by Dr. Fraser-Steele: The Assessment of Prognosis in Psychiatry.

*Section of Physical Medicine.*—Wednesday, Nov. 12, 4.30 p.m. Discussion: Brachial Neuralgia. Openers: Dr. W. Russell Brain and Mr. D. W. C. Northfield.

*Section of Proctology.*—Wednesday, Nov. 12, 5 p.m. Presidential Address by Mr. A. Dickson Wright: Total Colectomy.

*Section of Ophthalmology.*—Thursday, Nov. 13, 5 p.m. (Cases at 4.30 p.m.) Discussion: Policy in Dealing with Partially Sighted and Blind Persons. Openers: Mr. D. D. Stenhouse-Stewart and Dr. A. A. Newth.

*Clinical Section.*—Friday, Nov. 14, 5 p.m. (Cases at 4 p.m.)

LONDON: UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, Gower Street, W.C.—Tuesday, Nov. 11, 5.15 p.m. Dr. Bernard Katz: Nature of the Propagation of Messages in Nerve. Wednesday, Nov. 12, 5.30 p.m. Dr. M. H. Pirenne: Physiological Mechanisms of Vision.

MEDICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON, 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, W.—Monday, Nov. 10, 8.30 p.m. Discussion: Cardiac Pain. To be introduced by Dr. William Evans.

ROYAL INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND HYGIENE, 28, Portland Place, W.—Wednesday, Nov. 12, 3.30 p.m. Prof. W. C. W. Nixon: Diet in Pregnancy (illustrated).

ROYAL MEDICAL SOCIETY, 7, Melbourne Place, Edinburgh.—Friday, Nov. 14, 8 p.m. Address by Mr. George Perkins: A Broken Ankle.

WEST LONDON MEDICO-CHIRURGICAL SOCIETY.—At West London Hospital, Hammersmith, W., Friday, Nov. 14, 8.30 p.m. Clinicopathological meeting. Demonstration of Some Results of Medical and Surgical Treatment.

## POSTGRADUATE DIARY

INSTITUTE OF DERMATOLOGY, 5, Lisle Street, Leicester Square, W.C.—Tuesday, Nov. 11, 5 p.m. Dr. I. Muende: Pathological Demonstrations. Thursday Nov. 13, 5 p.m. Dr. J. Franklin: Cutaneous Neoplasms.

EDINBURGH POSTGRADUATE BOARD FOR MEDICINE.—At West Medical Lecture Theatre, Edinburgh Royal Infirmary, Tuesday, Nov. 11, 5 p.m. Prof. W. S. Tindal: The Modern Approach to Miracles.

EDINBURGH ROYAL INFIRMARY.—Thursday, Nov. 13, 4.30 p.m. Honyman Gillespie Lecture by Dr. E. A. Carmichael: Some Observations on the Dynamics of the Cerebrospinal Fluid.

LONDON CHEST HOSPITAL, Victoria Park, E.—Friday, Nov. 14, 5 p.m. Dr. J. R. B. Hern: Dyspnoea.

## BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS

## BIRTHS

SINCLAIR.—On Oct. 19, 1947, at East London, to Nancy, wife of Dr. S. A. Sinclair Lovedale, a son.

SKEMPTON.—On Oct. 31, 1947, to Leslie, wife of Ivor P. D. Skempton, M.B., B.S., a second son—Howard White.

WILLIAMS.—On Sept. 21, 1947, in Nairobi, Kenya, to Philippa Gaffikin, M.B., Ch.B., wife of John G. Williams, twins—son and daughter.

## MARRIAGES

WILSON—GILLAN.—On Sept. 26, 1947, in London, William Proctor Wilson, C.B.E., B.Sc., M.I.E.E., to Agnes Christian Gillan, O.B.E., M.B., Ch.B.

## DEATHS

BEADLES.—On Nov. 1, 1947, John Nathaniel Beadles, M.B., B.S., of 85, Valleyfield Road, Streatham, S.W.

BRYDEN.—On Oct. 27, 1947, at 2, Adamton Terrace, Prestwich, William John Jardine Bryden, M.B., Ch.B., Edin., aged 29 years. Late of District Asylum, Inverness, and dearly beloved husband of Anne Scott Morrison, S.R.N.

HINGSTON.—On Oct. 14, 1947, at "Polpentre," Falmouth, Colonel James Clarence Ledeatt Hingston, late R.A.M.C.

LYTLE.—On Oct. 26, 1947, Robert James Lytle, M.D.

PALLET.—At Earls Colne, Essex, Thomas Edward Pallett, M.D.

PIERCE.—On Oct. 26, 1947, at 14, Roland Gardens, London, S.W., Ward Irving Pierce, M.D.

RICHMOND.—On Oct. 23, 1947, at Dartford, Kent, Hugh Richmond, M.B., Ch.B. SCHWIZER.—On Oct. 22, 1947, as the result of a car accident, George Clemens Schwizer, M.D., Medical Officer, Shell Refinery, Ellesmere Port.

TRUMAN.—On Oct. 26, 1947, at Woodlands, Woodland Drive, Mapperley Park, Nottingham, Bernard Renshaw Beckett Truman, M.B.

WEBBER.—On Oct. 26, 1947, at West Cliff, Cliff Road, Sandown, Isle of Wight, Alexander Moxon Webber, M.S., F.R.C.S., formerly of 2, The Ropewalk, Nottingham.

WEEKS.—On Oct. 26, 1947, at Pershore Cottage Hospital, Courtenay Charles Weeks, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., Rector of The Combertons, Worcestershire.

WELCH.—On Oct. 26, 1947, at the Royal Naval Hospital, Haslar, Surgeon Rear-Admiral Sir George Welch, K.C.M.G., C.B.

## 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.*

## Quinine in Auricular Fibrillation

**Q.**—A middle-aged patient subject to frequent short attacks of auricular fibrillation finds that taking a 5-gr. (0.32-g.) tablet of ordinary quinine two or three times a day almost completely wards off the attacks. He has taken large quantities of quinine tablets over a long period; is there any danger in its continued use and is it a good treatment?

**A.**—Paroxysmal auricular fibrillation requires treatment only if the bouts are prolonged or frequent or if there is underlying heart disease. Sometimes they produce discomfort and anxiety quite out of proportion to their significance. The regularizing effect of quinine on the rhythm of the heart was recognized long before quinidine was introduced. Wenckebach recommended its use in a pill combined with nux vomica: quinine sulphate gr. 3 (0.2 g.) with ext. nucis vomicae gr. 1/4 (16 mg.) twice or thrice daily. Probably this pill will suffice to control the attacks. Frequently the patient is able to anticipate the onset of attacks and can prevent them by taking the pills. If these measures are satisfactory they may obviate the need for the larger doses which have been taken. Alternatively, quinidine gr. 3 (0.2 g.) twice or thrice daily may be taken with impunity.

## Allergy and the Endocrines

**Q.**—Is there any interrelationship between the production of histamine in the body and the endocrines? I have a puzzling case of vasomotor rhinitis associated with breathlessness, vertigo, and headache. This is thought to be allergic in origin, but it is noted that the condition is aggravated during the premenstrual phase. Treatment on antihistamine lines, presuming an allergic factor is responsible, is contemplated; but would an endocrine imbalance be remediable by oestrogen therapy (dien-oestrol), either independently or in conjunction with the other treatment?

**A.**—The clinical influence of phases of the menstrual cycle and of pregnancy on some allergic conditions indicates relationship with the endocrines. It is also known that some patients react allergically to the injection of one of the hormones, even in pure crystalline state. Further, Zondek and his colleagues have demonstrated an apparent allergy in some cases to endogenous natural hormones. Intracutaneous injection may demonstrate allergic reactions to oestradiol, progesterone, or testosterone, as well as to the pituitary trophic hormones. If such a reaction is obtained desensitization may be brought about by the daily injection of small and progressive doses of the appropriate hormone. Other aspects of allergy should not be neglected, of course, and may be more important in any particular case.

## Chilblains

**Q.**—A man aged 60 has had chilblains for several winters. He has fissures across his finger nails as a result of previous chilblains at the base of the nails, which keep reappearing. What is the probable cause and is there any helpful treatment?

**A.**—The cause of chilblains is unknown, but they are influenced by circulatory, nutritional, and endocrine disturbances and by environmental conditions of temperature and humidity. The combination of small doses of phenobarbitone, thyroid, and vitamin K may be helpful.

## "Dead-weight"

**Q.**—Why is a dead body much heavier than the same body alive—hence "dead-weight"?

**A.**—A dead body is not heavier than the same body alive. The complete inertness and lack of all co-operation, complicated frequently by the rigidity and consequent awkwardness of a dead body, give the impression of greater weight—this is the significance of the term "dead-weight."