

scientist knows that you cannot enlarge a flea to the size of an elephant and still expect it to jump, or put a plank bridge across Niagara, but the social planners still seem to have to learn this natural law by painful experience. The other fallacy is what has been called "the blue-print without the engine," in other words, the disregard of incentives. The Vice-Chancellor of Oxford in his Annual Oration this year pointed out that the two major problems facing the university to-day are, What is to be its size? and, How is a proper balance of studies within it to be maintained? Our universities have already reached, if they have not passed, the limits of effective size for a community within which all the arts and faculties are taught and studied and there is free exchange of ideas. Administration takes up so much time that the last thing a man who loves learning and the pursuit of knowledge now wishes to be is the head of a university department.

The Nuffield College Committee states the problem and barely hints at a solution. It seems clear that there must be a more ruthless separation of university and technical education and the creation of more technical colleges. The distinction between university and technical education is fully discussed in Aldous Huxley's *Ends and Means*, so I need not go into it here. It is more urgent to think of the future of the medical schools. They are being affected by three tendencies which were overlooked in the Goodenough and B.M.A. curriculum reports. The first is the pressure on the universities to extrude technical forms of education. The second is the increasing preoccupation of the clinical schools with regional medical planning and administration. The third is the widening of the rift between clinical and non-clinical teachers by the Spens Reports. The effect of these tendencies may well be to bring about a complete break between preclinical and clinical education. In other words, the Oxford and Cambridge practice of a preclinical education within the university and a clinical education in separate and autonomous teaching hospitals may become the pattern for medical education throughout Britain in the future.

L. J. WITTS.

TEXTBOOK FOR ALMONERS

Textbook for Almoners. By Dorothy Manchée, Almoner, St. Mary's Hospital, with foreword by Sir Alfred B. Howitt, C.V.O., M.D. (Pp. 466; 7 plates, 49 figures. £1 7s. 6d.) London: Baillière, Tindall and Cox. 1947.

This is the first textbook written for hospital almoners. It lacks encyclopaedic accuracy, but it is written in a pleasant style. The account of the first 50 years of the profession is interesting. The first almoner was appointed in 1895 at the Royal Free Hospital. It was Sir Charles Loch, of the Charity Organization Society, who had seen the need for the almoner, "a man or woman of some insight, prompt decision, and firmness," to supplement the work of the medical man by obtaining the general assistance without which medical relief would often fail in its purpose.

After a slow start the number of almoners appointed to hospitals increased rapidly during the decade 1915-25, but the reasons behind the new interest in almoning were regrettable. Many almoners were appointed only to assess the patient's ability to pay. It is true that the newly appointed almoners eagerly seized the opportunity to do invaluable social work for the patients, but a misconception grew up in the public mind that the almoner was a tax-gatherer. Now the almoner can look forward to a new phase in her career when the National Health Service Act banishes the uncongenial duties of assessment and leaves her with increased time and opportunity for her real work. The general practitioner can hope that eventually he too will have her invaluable consultant assistance with the growth of health-centre practice.

For the rest the author is unfortunate in her times, which make so much of the detailed information she provides on social agencies already out of date. There is altogether too much about London in a book intended for almoners everywhere. The value of the sketchy and sometimes inaccurate accounts of clinical details is questionable; it would have been interesting to have seen more discussion of the social background of disease in a book for almoners. But the author deserves the credit which goes to the pioneer.

J.H. F. BROTHERSTON.

BOOKS RECEIVED

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

Twelve Years with Roosevelt. By Vice-Admiral Ross T. McIntire. (Pp. 244. 12s. 6d.) London: Putnam. 1948.

The author was physician at the White House and a personal friend of President Roosevelt.

Osteo-Arthritis of the Hip-Joint. By H. Warren Crowe, D.M., B.Ch., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. (Pp. 70. No price.) London: George Pulman and Sons. 1948.

A monograph on treatment based on the author's experience.

History of Factory and Mine Hygiene. By L. Teleky, M.D. (Pp. 342. 25s.) London: Geoffrey Cumberlege. 1948.

The author discusses the prevention of occupational illness from antiquity to the present day.

A Penicilina por Via Arterial nas Osteomielites. By E. B. Ribeiro. (Pp. 124. No price.) Brazil: São Paulo. 1947.

A monograph on the treatment of osteomyelitis with intra-arterial penicillin.

New Fields of Psychiatry. By D. M. Levy, M.D. (Pp. 171. 12s. 6d.) London: Chapman and Hall. 1948.

An account of psychiatry in child guidance, delinquency, education, industry, and other spheres outside the hospital.

Handbook of Orthopaedic Surgery. By A. R. Shands, Jr., B.A., M.D., and R. B. Raney, B.A., M.D. 3rd ed. (Pp. 574. \$6.00.) St. Louis: C. V. Mosby. 1948.

A manual for the student and general practitioner.

A Textbook of Histology. By A. A. Maximow and W. Bloom. 5th ed. (Pp. 700. 42s.) London: W. B. Saunders. 1948.

The authors present the subject from a functional point of view.

General Cytology. By E. D. P. De Robertis, M.D., and others. (Pp. 345. 27s. 6d.) London: W. B. Saunders. 1948.

A review of modern cytology; translated from the Spanish.

Black's Medical Dictionary. By J. D. Comrie, M.D., F.R.C.P.Ed., revised by W. A. R. Thomson, M.D. 19th ed. (Pp. 995. 25s.) London: Adam and Charles Black. 1948.

The material has been revised and some new plates included.

The Skin Diseases. By J. Marshall, M.D., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. (Pp. 363. 30s.) London: Macmillan. 1948.

A manual for students and general practitioners.

Preoperative and Postoperative Care of Surgical Patients. By H. C. Ilgenfritz, A.B., M.D., F.A.C.S. (Pp. 898. \$10.00.) St. Louis: C. V. Mosby. 1948.

The author gives the physiological basis for his recommendations as well as detailed instructions.

Rh Factor. Selected Reprints. By A. S. Wiener, A.B., M.D., F.A.C.P. (No price.) Brooklyn, New York. 1948.

Bound reprints of the author's papers on the Rh factor; intended chiefly for libraries.

The Epithelia of Woman's Reproductive Organs. By G. N. Papanicolaou, M.D., and others. (Pp. 53. 55s.) London: Geoffrey Cumberlege. 1948.

The author emphasizes the relation between cytological changes and the phases of the menstrual cycle.

Investigations on Agonal Acidosis. By I. F. Hansen. (Pp. 134. No price.) Copenhagen: Povl Branner. 1948.

The study is based particularly on electrolyte determinations on blood collected just before or after death.

An Introduction to Surgery. By R. Morison, M.D., F.R.C.S., F.R.C.S.Ed., M.A., D.C.L., LL.D., and C. F. M. Saint, C.B.E., M.D., M.S., F.R.C.S., F.R.A.C.S. 4th ed. (Pp. 330. 42s.) London: Simpkin Marshall. 1948.

A guide to make the student think for himself about problems he encounters in the wards.

Medical Notes in Parliament

Remuneration

Sir ERNEST GRAHAM-LITTLE asked the Minister of Health if he knew that under the present statutory limitations a medical practitioner's income could not exceed £3,600 per annum gross, whereas that of a dental practitioner could reach £4,800 per annum gross; and if, in view of the fact that the period of professional training for the qualifying diploma in medicine was fifty-seven months, while the period of training for the dental qualifying diploma was forty-eight months, he would review the position, which caused dissatisfaction among medical practitioners.

Mr. BEVAN answered on Dec. 15 that he could not accept many of the implications in this question, but was about to review the present scale of dental fees in consultation with the profession.

Artificial Insemination

Sir HARTLEY SHAWCROSS declared on Dec. 13 that difficult questions had arisen in regard to the legitimacy of a child born during wedlock in a case in which cohabitation existed at the time of conception but did not take place after the marriage. Further difficult questions had arisen where a child was conceived either by means of artificial insemination or in spite of the fact that there had been no complete intercourse. Such cases were very exceptional. He said the Lord Chancellor doubted whether special legislation was desirable, but the matter was being kept under review.

Certificates.—Sir JOHN MELLOR on Dec. 13 asked whether Mr. Bevan would amend the National Health Service Regulations to reduce the administrative work of doctors and enable them to devote a larger proportion of their time to treatment. Mr. J. EDWARDS replied that Mr. Bevan was always ready to consider any specific suggestions to that end, so long as the intentions of the Act were safeguarded.

Rations for Diabetics.—Persons who produce a medical certificate indicating that they suffer from diabetes retain all the ordinary rations except sugar. In addition they are allowed 12 oz. of butter and margarine, 12 oz. of cheese, and two rations of meat a week. Where the medical certificate classes a diabetic patient as in need of a special supply of milk, a priority allowance of 7 pints a week is also granted.

"Agenized" Bread.—Mr. STRACHEY states that nitrogen trichloride is still used in the manufacture of wheat flour. A scientific committee including Sir Edward Mellanby and Sir Wilson Jameson was reviewing its use. Mr. Strachey will be guided by their conclusions. He added that Sir Edward Mellanby had done the most recent work on the question.

Medico-Legal

CRUELTY OF AN INVALID

[FROM OUR MEDICO-LEGAL CORRESPONDENT]

The wife of an officer serving in India was a chronic invalid. Over a period of years she made very exacting demands on him. He had to bathe her and dress her, and she systematically for nights on end prevented him from sleeping by demanding that he should read to her. If he showed signs of going to sleep she stripped the clothes from his bed, moved furniture about the room, and switched on the lights. Ultimately his health broke down. When the couple returned home, he left her and petitioned for divorce on the ground of cruelty. Mr. Justice Finmore dismissed the petition, holding that her conduct was not cruelty in a legal sense, as it was not deliberate, malignant, or intended. The Court of Appeal, however, gave the husband his divorce, holding that the judge was wrong in law.¹

Lord Justice Tucker admitted that the state of health of the parties was a relevant matter to be taken into consideration, and that it was the duty of each spouse to care for, tend, and show forbearance towards the other in illness. On the other hand, if certain conduct was legal cruelty it was not necessary

to inquire into the motives behind it. There was no need to prove malignity. Lord Justice Evershed added that some limit must be set to the obligation of a spouse to take the other in sickness and in health.

The wife's conduct had seriously injured the husband's health and rendered it impossible for him to continue to live with her, and this constituted cruelty. On the other hand, Mr. Justice Hodson, who has had long experience of the divorce court, disagreed with the opinion of the two Lords Justices on the ground that the judge at the trial did not find cruelty as a fact. He did not agree that the husband was at any time acting under compulsion; he had written to his wife, during the events complained of, asking her to join him, and he only alleged cruelty many years after the events because his wife would not divorce him for desertion. Cruelty (as Lord Justice Asquith said recently) must exceed in gravity such behaviour, vexatious and trying though it might be, as every spouse bargained to endure when accepting the other for better or for worse. The ordinary wear and tear of conjugal life did not in itself suffice. He therefore was for disallowing the appeal.

The acceptance by the husband of the conduct he complained of later was, of course, a strong point against him, and unless the court had taken the view that he had to a large extent acted under compulsion it would probably have dismissed his appeal. This case also emphasized the distinction between violent and disorderly affections of the mind, as a judge once put it, and disease of the mind sufficient to prevent the spouse from appreciating the nature and quality of her acts. The distinction may be easier for a lawyer than for a psychiatrist to make, but the case of *Astle v. Astle* (1939) clearly settled that if insanity is proved a petition on the ground of cruelty must fail.

Universities and Colleges

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

Matthew Bennett, M.D., D.M.R., Assistant Director of the Radio-therapeutic Centre, has been recognized as a Lecturer in the Faculty of Medicine.

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

Walter Mercer, M.B., F.R.C.S.Ed., has been appointed as the first incumbent of the recently established Chair of Orthopaedic Surgery in the University. Mr. Mercer will hold the appointment conjointly with the post of Director of Orthopaedics for the South-Eastern Region of Scotland, to which office he has been appointed by the Scottish South-Eastern Regional Hospital Board. Part of Mr. Mercer's work in these complementary posts will be the organization of undergraduate and postgraduate instruction with a view to the establishment of an Edinburgh School of Orthopaedics.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

The Governing Body of the British Postgraduate Medical Federation, on behalf of the University of London, have appointed Mr. L. E. C. Norbury to be Regional Adviser in Postgraduate Medical Education for the North-West Metropolitan Hospital Region.

Mr. J. B. Hunter has been appointed a member of the Committee on Higher Education in the Colonies for the remainder of the session 1948-9 and as the second representative of the University on the Inter-University Council for Higher Education in the Colonies for the period ending July 31, 1953.

Dr. W. F. Harper has resigned the post of Reader in Anatomy at London Hospital Medical College from a date between Jan. 1 and April 1, 1949.

A detailed scheme of examination for the first examination for medical degrees at the University College of the West Indies has been approved. The examination is to be held for the first time in June, 1949.

FACULTY OF RADIOLOGISTS

The following candidates satisfied the Fellowship Board at the recent examination for the Fellowship of the Faculty of Radiologists: *Radiodiagnosis*.—E. P. Allen, M.B., Ch.B., J. H. Middlemiss, M.D.; *Radiotherapy*.—G. W. Boden, M.R.C.S., M.R.C.P., W. M. Court Brown, M.B., Ch.B., O. B. Millar, M.D.

¹ *Squire v. Squire* (1948) 2 All E.R. 51.

to use ether as an anaesthetic, in 1847. In the West the American dentist Morton is generally recognized as the first to have used it as an anaesthetic, in 1846. Pirogov is also named as the inventor of the plaster cast for fractures, and "Pirogov was the father of modern field surgery," claims the report. Another monograph at the exhibition names Yanovich Chayinsky as the inventor of an original method of skin grafting in 1870. Years later, says the report, a U.S. scientist announced this as his own discovery. The report also claims that the discovery of insulin in the treatment of diabetes is wrongly attributed to Sir Frederick Banting. It was really discovered by Professor Sobolev, a Russian scientist. (*British United Press*.)

Recognitions for Gallantry

The *London Gazette* has announced the appointment as M.B.E. (Civil Division) of EDMUND MONK HAMILTON, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., ship surgeon, m.v. *Reina del Pacifico*, Pacific Steam Navigation Company (Bangor, Co. Down), and the award of the B.E.M. (Civil Division) to Messrs. S. BLAIR, R. G. CROTHERS, and F. WATT. The citation reads as follows:

While the m.v. *Reina del Pacifico* was undergoing sea trials a series of explosions occurred in the engine-room as a result of which 28 persons lost their lives and 23 were injured. Conditions in the engine-room immediately after the explosions were chaotic. All lights were extinguished and access was very difficult owing to smashed ladders, loose floor plates, and the obstruction offered by displaced crank-case doors. A number of fires broke out and escaping oil caused grave risks of further explosions or more serious fires. The ship surgeon, Mr. Hamilton, immediately went to the engine-room. The stairway to the main motor room was wrecked, and, despite the fact that the engine-room was in complete darkness, full of smoke, and that fires had started, he jumped in and gave first-aid assistance to save life and ease the sufferings of those who had been badly injured. These services were rendered under exceptionally difficult and dangerous conditions, and for three hours he was the only medical man on board. Blair, Crothers, and Watt, although fully aware of the danger, did not hesitate to enter the wrecked engine-room and showed courage and coolness in the work of rescue and in relieving the sufferings of their comrades.

Medical Golf

The Annual General Meeting of the Medical Golfing Society was held on Dec. 9. Dr. D. G. Halsted was elected president and Dr. C. Carran Brown captain for the ensuing year.

Wills

Dr. Charles Samson Thomson, late medical superintendent officer of health in Belfast, left £4,915. Dr. Thomas Browne Bearder, of Ilkley, Yorks, left £11,993; Dr. George Baynton Forge, of Handley, Dorset, £9,165; Dr. James Ironside Hutcheson, of Edinburgh, £12,168; and Dr. Eric Avery Gordon Goldie, of Richmond, £14,071.

COMING EVENTS

British Association of Physical Medicine

A short course of lectures on the various aspects of physical medicine has been arranged on Tuesdays and Thursdays from Jan. 4 to Feb. 10, 1949, inclusive, at 5 p.m. The lectures will be suitable for candidates preparing for Part II of the Diploma in Physical Medicine. Further details can be obtained from the honorary secretary, British Association of Physical Medicine, 45, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, W.C.2.

Congress of Obstetrics and Gynaecology

The 12th British Congress of Obstetrics and Gynaecology will be held at Friends Meeting House, Euston Road, London, N.W.1, on July 6-8, 1949, under the presidency of Sir Eardley Holland. The programme is as follows: *Wednesday, July 6*, 10 a.m.: The Congress will be declared open by the Minister of Health. "Modern Caesarean Section," introduced by Mr. C. McIntosh Marshall (Liverpool). 2 p.m.: (1) "Endometriosis," by Dr. Joe Meigs (Boston, Mass.); (2) "The Methods of Assay and Clinical Significance of Pregnanediol in the Urine," introduced by Professor C. F. Marrian (Edinburgh) and Dr. G. I. M. Swyer (London). 8.45 p.m.: Reception by the President and Council of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists at the University of London, Bloomsbury, W.C.1. *Thursday, July 7*, 10 a.m.: "Essential Hypertension in Pregnancy," introduced by Professor George W. Pickering (London) and Professor F. J. Browne (London). 2 p.m.: (1) "The Management of Pregnancy in Diabetes," introduced by Mr. John H. Peel (London) and Dr. G. Douglas Matthew (Edinburgh); (2) "Hernia of Pouch of Douglas," introduced by Mr. Charles D. Read (London). 8-10.30 p.m.: Reception by the President of the Congress at the Zoological Gardens, by courtesy of the Council of the Zoological Society of London. *Friday, July 8*, 10 a.m.: "Modern Concepts in Diagnosis, Treatment, and Prognosis of Carcinoma of the Uterus": (1) "The Diagnosis by Vaginal Smear," by Dr. J. E. Ayre (Montreal); (2) "Precancerous Cellular Changes in Carcinoma of the Cervix," by Professor Gilbert I. Strachan (Cardiff); (3) "Prognosis based on Biopsies," by Mr. A. Glucksmann (Cambridge); (4) "The Operation of Pelvic Exenteration," by Dr. Joe Meigs (Boston, Mass.). A discussion will follow each paper. 2 p.m.: Discussion on Maternal

Mortality, introduced by Sir William Gilliatt (London). 7.45 p.m.: Congress banquet in Guildhall. Those who hope to attend should apply as soon as possible to Mr. A. J. Wrigley, Hon. Sec., 58, Queen Anne Street (Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists), London, W.1.

SOCIETIES AND LECTURES

Tuesday

INSTITUTE OF DERMATOLOGY, 5, Lisle Street, Leicester Square, London, W.C.—Dec. 28, 5 p.m. "*Histopathology of the Skin*," by Dr. I. Muende.

INSTITUTE OF UROLOGY.—At St. Paul's Hospital, Endell Street, London, W.C., Dec. 28, 11 a.m. "*Film and Cultural Diagnosis of Gonorrhoea*," by Dr. R. Thomson.

Wednesday

INSTITUTE OF UROLOGY.—At St. Paul's Hospital, Endell Street, London, W.C., Dec. 29, 11 a.m. "*The Complement Fixation Test in the Diagnosis of Gonorrhoea*," by Dr. R. Thomson.

Thursday

INSTITUTE OF DERMATOLOGY, 5, Lisle Street, Leicester Square, London, W.C.—Dec. 30, 5 p.m. "*Affections of the Lips and Mucous Membranes*," by Dr. Brian Russell.

INSTITUTE OF UROLOGY.—At St. Paul's Hospital, Endell Street, London, W.C., Dec. 30, 11 a.m. "*Local Complications of Gonorrhoea in the Male*," by Dr. A. H. Harkness.

Friday

MAIDA VALE HOSPITAL MEDICAL SCHOOL, Maida Vale, London, W.—Dec. 31, 5 p.m. Case demonstration by Mr. H. E. Hobbs.

APPOINTMENTS

COLLINS, F. M., M.Chir., F.R.C.S., Deputy Chief Medical Officer, Ministry of National Insurance.

CRABB, JOHN, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., Port Medical Officer of Health, Hartlepool Port Health Authority.

MORRISON, J., O.B.E., M.C., M.D., D.P.H., Medical Superintendent for Aberdeen Special Hospitals.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL.—*District Medical Officers of Health and Assistant County Medical Officers of Health*: W. Aitchison, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.; P. X. Bermingham, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.; A. Lucas, L.R.C.P.&S.Ed., D.P.H. *Assistant County Medical Officer of Health*: Margaret M. F. Robinson, M.D., D.P.H.

OWEN, EVELYN D., M.B., B.S., D.P.H., Whole-time Medical Officer of Health, Caerleon Urban District Council and Assistant County Medical Officer.

RIGBY, J. P. V., B.M., B.Ch., Chest Physician, Deptford Area, London, S.E.

WEBSTER, ROBERT, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., Medical Officer for Eastern District of Flintshire.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS

BIRTHS

Bennett.—On Sept. 19, 1948, at Melbourne, Australia, to Christine (née Hudson, of Cambridge), wife of Dr. J. W. Bennett, a son—David John.

Harvey.—On Dec. 8, 1948, at Hove, to Betty (née Woodward), the wife of Dr. N. W. A. Harvey, twin sons.

MARRIAGE

Stowers—Alabaster.—On Dec. 10, 1948, at Haslemere, John M. Stowers, M.R.C.P., to Mary Alabaster, M.B., B.S.

DEATHS

Alford.—On Dec. 11, 1948, at Tynedale, Weston-super-Mare, Herbert Thomas Marmaduke Alford, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., aged 75.

Borges.—On Dec. 13, 1948, at Druid's Mead, Stoke Bishop, Bristol, Richard Burges, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Cole.—On Dec. 9, 1948, at Seaford, Sussex, George Cole, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. Dickson.—On Dec. 11, 1948, Jack Edgar Dickson, M.B., B.S., of 5, Grange Road, Bushey, Herts.

Frain.—Recently, at Batley, Yorkshire, William John Frain, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., aged 46.

Green.—On Dec. 13, 1948, at The Limes, Lakenheath, Suffolk, Hugh Frederick Green, M.B., C.M.Ed., aged 80.

Jones.—Recently, W. J. Bennett-Jones, M.D.Ed., of Liverpool.

Leslie.—Recently, at Birmingham, Peter Leslie, M.B., Ch.B.Aberd.

Milsome.—On Dec. 9, 1948, at Guildford House, Chertsey, Surrey, Harry Blunt Milsome, M.B., B.Ch., aged 78.

Murphy.—Recently, Richard Murphy, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., of 3, Halifax Road, Grenoside, Sheffield, aged 40.

Oilphant.—On Dec. 11, 1948, at Rydens, Bothenhampton, Bridport, Dorset, Frank Binfield Oilphant, M.B., C.M.Ed., aged 77.

Phillips.—On Dec. 14, 1948, at The Park House, Port Talbot, Glam., Evan William Monger Hubert Phillips, M.D., M.Ch., F.R.C.S.Ed., J.P.

Robertson.—On Dec. 14, 1948, at Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford, William John Robertson, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., aged 85.

Sinton.—On Dec. 8, 1948, at Leeds, as the result of an accident, Frederick Ritchie Sinton, M.B., Ch.B.Ed.

Smalley.—On Dec. 11, 1948, at Torcross, Kingsbridge, Devon, James Smalley, M.B.

Wells.—On Dec. 6, 1948, at Duncan, Vancouver Island, B.C., Canada, Albert Primrose Wells, L.R.C.P.&S.Ed. and L.M., aged 94.

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