

logical appearances are related to pathological findings, a wide field is covered, and the book will be of interest to all concerned with the long-term treatment and diagnosis of this disease. The author pays particular attention to the early features of the disease and the detection of the minimal lesion. There is a well-illustrated series of cases showing the main primary sites of infection and their progress. A knowledge of this is of value in forming a prognosis and some assistance in deciding when operative treatment should be carried out.

The author carefully analyses the relationship of the radiological appearances to the healing process. This point is obviously important if minimal immobilization is the goal of treatment. The undesirable influence of pus and caseation in healing is well shown, though its presence does not appear to excite any direct effect on reparative ossification, which starts in the majority of cases from the acetabular area.

In general, the findings emphasize the value of conservative treatment. It is a pity that the space devoted to the discussion of differential diagnosis is disproportionate to the rest of the volume. A diet of rich detail of one aspect raises an appetite for a similar exposition of the imitative lesions.

J. G. BONNIN.

SOMATOGENIC ILLNESSES

Klinische Psychopathologie. By Kurt Schneider. Third edition. (Pp. 179. M. 11.40.) Stuttgart: Georg Thieme. 1950.

The various schools of psychopathology differ in their basic assumptions and the type of clinical data on which they build their systems. This book starts out with a sharp division of psychological disorders into two categories: mental illness, which is due to somatic disease or malformation; and mental abnormality, which is merely an excessive deviation from a normal average. The author claims that this distinction is supported by clinical experience, which revealed to him that transitional conditions between the two categories are exceedingly rare, so that diagnostic difficulties in distinguishing between them hardly ever occur. For example, he has rarely been in doubt whether a patient should be classified as schizophrenic or manic-depressive, or whether he should be regarded merely as an abnormal personality. Therefore he concludes that schizophrenia and manic-depressive psychosis are due to an as yet unknown somatic disease—a rather daring conclusion in view of the slender, subjective, and speculative basis on which it rests.

The psychopathology of these two categories of mental disorder are treated in a different manner. Discussing the somatogenic illnesses, the interest of the author is focused on the kind of symptom which can be caused by the underlying somatic disease. In this section of the book he therefore concentrates on a careful and detailed description of the possible symptomatology. He also classifies the symptoms into two groups according to the diagnostic value they have.

When he turns to his second category of mental disorders the author does not limit himself to descriptive analysis and classification. The deviations with which he deals in particular are abnormal intellectual endowment, abnormal personality, and abnormal reactions to experience. A delineation of psychopathic and neurotic personality types is attempted, but only limited clinical usefulness is claimed for it. These descriptive formulations are supplemented by dynamic considerations of the interaction between con-

stitutional trends and individual experiences. The views in these chapters approach certain concepts which have been developed by the psycho-analytical school. But the author is critical of these concepts and underlines the difference from them of his point of view. The name of Freud is never mentioned, not even in disagreement. Nor does the term "unconscious" appear in the book; it has to be replaced by such cumbersome circumlocutions as "the basis which is not and cannot be experienced," and "the background of previous experiences which need not be immediately recalled."

F. K. TAYLOR.

BOOKS RECEIVED

Review is not precluded by notice here of books recently received

A Handbook on Diseases of Children. By B. Williamson, M.D., F.R.C.P. 6th ed. (Pp. 440. 17s. 6d.) Edinburgh: E. and S. Livingstone. 1951.

Life Among the Doctors. By P. de Kruif. (Pp. 479. 16s.) London: Jonathan Cape. 1950.

Just — Medley of Amusing Tales and Interesting Medical and Legal Experiences. By "An Old Retired Scotch Doctor." (Pp. 80. 5s.) Reigate, Surrey: George J. Heatt. 1950.

Injuries of the Knee Joint. By I. S. Smillie, O.B.E., Ch.M., F.R.C.S. Ed., F.R.F.P.S. 2nd ed. (Pp. 391. 50s.) Edinburgh: E. and S. Livingstone. 1951.

Le Salmonellosi nell'Uomo. By G. Scotti and G. T. Sicca. (Pp. 143. \$3.50.) Pisa: Omnia Medica. 1950.

Medical Dictionary. By Dr. E. Veillon. (Pp. 1,407. 126s.) London: H. K. Lewis. 1950.

The Care of Young Babies. By J. Gibbens, M.B., M.R.C.P. 3rd ed. (Pp. 204. 5s.) London: J. and A. Churchill. 1950.

You are Younger than You Think. By M. Gumpert, M.D. (Pp. 261. 10s. 6d.) London: Hammond and Hammond. 1950.

The Mystery of Dreams. By W. O. Stevens. (Pp. 280. 16s.) London: George Allen and Unwin. 1950.

Dental Surgery and Pathology. By T. W. Widdowson, F.D.S., R.C.S. Eng., and E. V. B. Widdowson, L.D.S., R.C.S. Eng. 4th ed. (Pp. 745. 63s.) London: Staples Press. 1950.

Health and Disease in the Tropics. By C. Wilcocks, M.D., F.R.C.P., D.T.M.&H. (Pp. 200. 15s.) London: Geoffrey Cumberlege. 1950.

Santa Claus, M.D. By W. W. Bauer, M.D. (Pp. 266. \$2.75.) New York: The Bobbs-Merrill Company. 1950.

La Constipation. By M. Chiray and R. Stieffel. (Pp. 189. No price.) Paris: L'Expansion Scientifique Française. 1950.

Les Hémorroïdes et leur Traitement. By R. Bensaude and P. Oury. 3rd ed. (Pp. 209. 650 francs.) Paris: L'Expansion Scientifique Française. 1950.

Recent Advances in Ophthalmology. By Sir Stewart Duke-Elder, K.C.V.O., M.A., D.Sc., LL.D., Ph.D., M.D., F.R.C.S., F.A.C.S., and A. J. B. Goldsmith, M.B., B.S., F.R.C.S. 4th ed. (Pp. 372. 28s.) London: J. and A. Churchill. 1951.

The Pathogenesis and Pathology of Viral Diseases. Edited by J. G. Kidd. (Pp. 235. 32s. 6d.) London: Geoffrey Cumberlege. 1950.

Contribution à la Thérapeutique Biologique de L'Alcoolisme Chronique: Le Traitement par L'Apomorphine. By H. Feldmann, M.D. (Pp. 239. 800 francs.) Paris: L'Expansion Scientifique Française. 1950.

Das Problem der Bisexualität. By Professor B. Breiten. (Pp. 77. M. 5.) Vienna: Wilhelm Maudrich. 1951.

distribution of money is regulated by statute and the Minister of Health has no power to vary it by a direction. Hospital management committees should have regard to the original intention of the gift in the use made of their shares.

Clean Food.—The Minister of Food announced that up to November 17 he had confirmed model by-laws governing cleanliness in the handling, wrapping, and delivery of food for 973 authorities, and was shortly to do likewise for a further 260; but 211 authorities were still outstanding.

Exemption from National Service.—Men exempt on medical grounds (excluding men not examined, because blind, etc.) in 1946 numbered 39,964; in 1947, 24,648; in 1948, 24,711; in 1949, 33,818; in 1950 (to September 28), 34,506.

Housing.—In Liverpool 27,328 houses are classified by the Liverpool medical officer of health as unfit for human habitation.

Medico-Legal

DEATH DUE TO A SWAB

[FROM OUR MEDICO-LEGAL CORRESPONDENT]

In spite of the strict precautions taken in all operating theatres, now and again a swab still eludes the vigilance of the team. In a recent case the victim was a girl aged 2 who was brought into the Warwick Hospital for an emergency operation to relieve torsion of a dermoid cyst in the region of the left ovary. She made a good recovery and was sent back in due course to the sanatorium from which she had been admitted, where she was under treatment for advanced tuberculosis of the lungs. About 11 weeks afterwards she was readmitted for abdominal pain and vomiting. A tumour was palpable in the mid-abdominal region, but radiography gave no assistance in diagnosis. There was no evidence of obstruction. She settled down very rapidly, and, in view of the tuberculosis and the finding at the operation of enlarged mesenteric glands, the surgeon thought that her symptoms might be due to a plastic tuberculous peritonitis with further enlargement of the glands. He therefore decided to observe her and treat her conservatively. She continued to improve up to the fourth day after admission, when she suddenly collapsed and died. At necropsy the palpable mass in the abdomen was found to be a swab which had become encysted and adherent to a loop of small bowel.

The case was therefore reported to the coroner, who held an inquest on August 29. The surgical registrar who performed the operation said that great care was always taken over the counting of swabs both before use and after the closing of the abdominal cavity. He might, on account of the child's small size, have used a "large six" swab as a pack instead of an ordinary pack, but even so it should have been counted with the other swabs. He maintained that, when the child was brought in for the second time, there had been no evidence of obstruction, and the diagnosis of the condition as a result of her tuberculosis was clinically right. The theatre sister explained in evidence that large swabs ("big sixes") were counted before and after an operation; small swabs were not counted but were always used on a holder. The night, however, had been hot, and the surgeon might have had to have his brow wiped. If this were done with an unsterilized swab it might have been picked up and included in the count. The theatre technician, whose task had been to check the swabs, described how an operation was usually begun with 24 "big sixes" and two abdominal packs, which were all checked. During the operation it was his custom to collect all the used swabs and lay them in a special rack until six were used; those were then taken out of the rack, placed in a bucket, and marked off on the graph which he used for keeping the count. If extra swabs were taken into use they also were marked on the graph. He was certain that the routine had been observed on that occasion. It was his duty to wipe the surgeon's brow, which he did with an unsterile swab which he would put into his pocket.

The jury found that the little girl had died from intestinal obstruction by a surgical swab inadvertently left in the abdo-

men during the operation. They added two riders: (1) that thought should be given by the hospital authorities to devising a scheme by which swabs used for packing could be recorded and recovered, and (2) that a record should be kept by the hospital of all the persons engaged in an operation.

In a letter to the senior officer of the Birmingham Regional Board the acting deputy coroner, Mr. L. D. Overell, suggested that in their first rider the jury might have been referring to the possible use of a "big six" as a pack, and have considered it desirable for any material used for packing to be quite distinct from ordinary dressings. The second rider referred to an uncertainty in regard to the identity of the assistant to the theatre sister, which had caused an adjournment. The surgeon, he added, had immediately given instructions that in future some quite different material, which could not be mistaken for a dressing, should always be used for wiping the surgeon's brow. The coroner went on to say that all the usual routine drill to prevent a mishap of this kind appeared to be in operation at the Warwick Hospital; but he expressed the personal opinion that, as quite well educated persons were frequently faulty in arithmetic, such an accident could easily be due to a failure by a harassed theatre sister to add correctly the numbers of the used and the unused swabs. Whether this or the use of a swab for the surgeon's brow is the true explanation, this case has pointed to another possible source of what is fortunately an extremely rare mishap.

Universities and Colleges

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

The Weldon Memorial Prize for 1950 has been awarded to Lionel Sharples Penrose, M.D., Galton Professor of Eugenics, University College, London.

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

In Congregation on December 2 the following degrees were conferred:

M.A.—Oswald Lloyd, M.D., F.R.C.S., M.R.C.O.G., Associate Lecturer in the Faculty of Medicine.
M.D.—P. Sainsbury, G. M. Fleming, W. L. Calnan, H. Butler.
M.B., B.CHIR.—*Ion-Dan Edeleanu.

A Grace recommending the conferment of the degree of M.A. upon Janet E. Bottomley, M.D., F.R.C.S., M.R.C.O.G., Associate Lecturer in the Faculty of Medicine, passed the Senate on December 2.

*By proxy.

UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW

On December 1 the degree of Ph.D. was confirmed *in absentia* by diploma upon C. Mukherjee, M.B., Ch.B.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

The following candidates have been approved at the examination indicated:

THIRD M.B., B.S.—¹ D. Burman, ¹ M. W. Cemlyn-Jones, ¹ P. J. Chapman, ¹ S. S. Epstein, ¹ D. I. Fryer, ¹ L. G. Goodwin, ¹ P. E. B. Holmes, ¹ C. B. Ingor-Wiley, ¹ R. P. V. Jayewardene, ¹ R. S. Jelliffe, ¹ D. J. Jenden (*University Medal*), ¹ N. MacDonald, ¹ F. W. O'Grady, ¹ T. H. Roffe, ¹ M. K. Sawday, ¹ G. Walker, R. G. Adams, D. G. E. Alldridge, J. D. B. Andrews, B. Bass, D. A. Begg, Marion Berry, C. N. Best, Margaret E. Beynon, N. P. Bhandari, Irene F. A. Blakeney, A. G. Blyth, Elizabeth M. Bough, J. Ll. Bowen, Betty B. Boxall, T. L. Bradbeer, C. J. Bradfield, Yvonne J. Bradfield, R. O. Brettell, J. E. Bridger, W. V. Brooks, D. E. Brown, O. F. Brown, K. M. Bryant, N. L. Bucky, M. G. Budden, S. H. Burges, Patricia M. Bushell, R. P. Butt, G. Canti, R. J. A. Carey, S. J. Carne, W. I. Carter, P. J. Chesterman, J. W. Cieszynski, P. H. Cima, D. A. Clements, N. F. Cockett, R. A. Cocks, R. F. Coggins, Sheila D. Cooper, C. H. Corby, A. H. Cox, Elizabeth P. Cracroft, A. J. I. Dacre, Mary G. C. A. Dale, R. A. Davidson, Aldwyth H. Davies, J. W. Davies, W. H. G. Davies, J. G. Dawe, Geva B. P. de Winton, P. L. C. Diggory, S. Dische, F. B. Dobbs, Winifred B. Drew, B. H. Du Heaume, W. R. Edwards, Alison M. M. Fleming, N. S. Galbraith, O. P. Galpin, M. F. Gardiner, F. P. A. Garton, Angela M. Geere, M. J. Gilkes, D. Goldman, A. M. Goldstein, Edwina R. Goodall, Helen

Medical News

Plan for New Medical Centre

London University has just acquired property in Bloomsbury at the corner of Guildford Street and Millman Street almost opposite London House, the hostel for postgraduate students from the Dominions, and hopes to build there, as soon as circumstances permit, a headquarters for the British Postgraduate Medical Federation. This new centre will be within easy reach of the Institutes of Neurology in Queen Square, of Child Health in Great Ormond Street, of Ophthalmology in Judd Street, and of Laryngology and Otology in Gray's Inn Road, and will probably contain a refectory and common-rooms and be a social as well as an administrative centre.

A Medical Christmas Present

The last 50 years have seen astounding developments in medicine and surgery, in public health, and in medical administration. In a well-designed book of 330 pages, in an attractive dust-jacket and beautifully bound in red cloth boards with gold lettering on the spine, the articles on "Fifty Years of Medicine" which appeared originally in the special issue of the *British Medical Journal* for January 7, 1950, have now been reprinted. There are over 300 text pages, a 16-page index, and 32 pages of illustrations on art paper, and the price is 15s. through booksellers, or post free from the Publishing Manager, B.M.A. House, Tavistock Square, London, W.C.1.

Chelsea Clinical Society

The second meeting of the session was held on November 14, at the South Kensington Hotel, with the president, Mr. Geoffrey Parker, in the chair, when Mr. Dickson Wright, M.S., F.R.C.S., showed a series of films from the B.M.A. library: "Radioactive Isotopes in Cancer of the Thyroid," "Thrombosis and Embolism," "Infections of the Hands," and "Total Retro-Pleural Sympathectomy for Relief of Hypertension."

Medical Films for Pathologists

In 1946 the Scientific Film Association issued a *Catalogue of Medical Films*, which has now long been sold out. While a new edition is in preparation, the association is issuing up-to-date interim lists of films on special subjects. A list of films for nurses is on the way, and a list of *Films of Interest to Pathologists* (publication 60) is now available, price 2s. 6d., from 4, Great Russell Street, London, W.C.1, or 16-17, Woodside Terrace, Glasgow, C.3.

Cortisone Summary

Some 90 papers on cortisone and A.C.T.H., mostly published this year in British or American journals, have been summarized conveniently in a 48-page booklet just issued by the Empire Rheumatism Council from Tavistock House, Tavistock Square, London, W.C.1, price 5s.

Centenary of Bernhard Baron

December 5 was the hundredth anniversary of the birth of Bernhard Baron, and also marked the end of the distribution of the funds of the two charitable trusts he founded, in accordance with his order that all money must be given away within 20 years of foundation. In addition to orphanages, homes for cripples and old people, and institutions for the blind, many hospitals have benefited from large gifts, including the Middlesex (£61,000), which has a wing named after him, Queen Charlotte's (£75,000), and the Hospital for Sick Children (£14,000). The Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists received £10,000 for a travelling scholarship and the Royal College of Surgeons £70,000 to establish research laboratories and a professorship. In all £1,625,922 has been distributed to many hundreds of institutions not supported by the State or local rates. A maximum of one-quarter of one fund, and one-fifth of the other, have been devoted to Jewish charities, as the

Gordon, R. Goulding, J. Gower, B. P. Green, C. R. Greenacre, E. J. Griffiths, P. W. W. Griffiths, S. Hacking, Antoinette I. Hallett, C. P. Handforth, H. R. Hewitt, P. G. Higgins, June R. Hill, R. R. W. Hill, R. F. H. Horn, H. Horwitz, B. J. Hovenden, J. G. Howard, St. C. M. L'A. Hubbard, E. R. Huehns, F. T. Hunt, Sylvia R. Ingold, Diana H. Ireland-Jones, M. C. H. Jackson, Elsie S. Jaikaran, Brenda James, G. C. Jenkins, F. G. Johnson, M. H. F. Johnson, D. R. Jones, R. J. B. H. Jones, Ann Kiln, A. E. Kingston, G. W. Korn, E. B. Kraus, A. C. K. Lawrence, D. A. Lawrence, J. J. Lesser, S. Liu, J. W. McCloy, D. H. McFerren, K. A. McNeill, I. J. MacQueen, G. W. Marsh, Nancy A. H. Marston, J. A. M. Martin, M. Mason, Jennie C. Maurice-Jones, A. R. May, A. Melinek, A. L. Miller, J. Minnis, C. Molloy, D. Montague Jackson, Margaret C. R. Moore, Doreen P. Morgan, P. D. Moyes, A. R. Moynahan, D. J. F. Munro, R. W. Nash, B. E. C. Nordin, S. F. Oakenfull, K. J. O'Connor, A. L. C. Packham, H. J. G. Palmer, Kathleen M. Parker, Mary Parsons, J. C. Paterson, Dina Patuk, D. L. Pedersen, R. D. Peduzzi, J. R. P. Pegg, H. F. Pile, J. D. Pollitt, W. E. B. Preston, C. F. G. Prideaux, K. G. Prior, Rebe S. Rainsbury, J. H. Reading, Doreen M. Reside, Mary Rhoderick, G. A. Roberts, Margaret E. Robson, I. Rocker, E. H. Roffey, J. K. Ross, P. W. Ruggles, R. H. B. Sacks, Barbara J. Salisbury, J. F. Santer, J. N. McM. Schofield, J. Scorey, W. C. Scott, D. I. Segall, S. A. Seligman, S. J. G. Semple, Pauline M. Seymour-Cole, I. M. Sharpe, E. M. Shipsey, Isabel G. Smith, D. P. Smyly, R. S. Somers, T. Spiro, V. Stanhill, C. Steer, F. P. Stephens, P. B. Stewart, K. H. Stone, L. R. Sweetman, P. K. Sylvester, Gwendolyn R. Tapp, P. K. Thomas, D. J. G. Tilley, W. L. Timmins, J. A. Tottle, A. F. Tuohy, C. L. Tutty, Lilian S. Underhill, J. Vaccaro, R. Vickers, M. H. Vickery, F. H. Walker, I. H. Wallington, A. V. Watts, T. P. S. Watts, D. M. Webster, R. H. C. Wells, Mary F. West, E. J. Williams, J. Ll. Williams, F. P. Willis, M. L. N. Willoughby, M. A. Wilson, H. Windschauer, M. Wise, M. E. Y. York-Moore, J. P. W. Young, T. M. Young.

¹With honours. ²Distinguished in pathology. ³Distinguished in hygiene and forensic medicine. ⁴Distinguished in medicine. ⁵Distinguished in applied pharmacology and therapeutics. ⁶Distinguished in surgery. ⁷Distinguished in obstetrics and gynaecology.

UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

In the *Journal* of December 2 (p. 1286) we announced the appointment of Mr. Alexander Innes as University Lecturer in Minor Operative Surgery. The announcement should have read that Mr. Innes has *resigned* from the post.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF EDINBURGH

At the annual meeting of the College held on November 30, with the President, Sir David K. Henderson, in the chair, the following were elected to the Council: Dr. W. A. Alexander, Dr. D. J. A. Kerr, Dr. D. N. Nicholson, Dr. R. M. Murray-Lyon, Dr. J. G. M. Hamilton, Dr. T. Anderson.

Sir David Henderson was re-elected President for the ensuing year and Dr. Alexander was re-elected Vice-president.

At a meeting of Council held on December 5, the following were elected office-bearers for the ensuing year: *Trustees*, The Treasurer, Dr. A. Fergus Hewat, Dr. W. D. D. Small, Professor Thomas Ferguson, Mr. I. Simson Hall; *Treasurer*, Dr. J. Alastair Bruce; *Secretary and Registrar*, Dr. J. Halliday Croom; *Honorary Librarian*, Professor D. M. Lyon.

CONJOINT BOARD OF IRELAND

The following candidates were duly admitted licentiates in medicine and midwifery on December 1, having passed the final examination in medicine, surgery, and midwifery of the Conjoint Board of Ireland: Eleanor A. Bolger, Alice Boushel, J. P. Cahill, James Connolly, Dorothy J. Davis, M. J. Foley, Carmel P. Gibson, V. J. Haslan, Mabel Jackson, Sheila Moriarty, Mary J. McCann, Helena M. McManus, M. P. McPartlin, Maureen B. O'Gorman, A. P. O'Kelly, M. P. O'Reilly, Sheelah K. O'Shea, R. A. Power, S. J. Raverty, A. Rudnick, W. E. Rutherford, Dymphna E. Sharkey, W. S. Snow, C. M. Watson, Avril M. Webb, J. R. White, J. E. Whyte, C. E. Wilson.

The Services

The *London Gazette* has announced the appointment as M.B.E. (Military Division) to Temporary Surgeon Lieutenant-Commander D. S. Macphail, R.N.V.R., for courage, skill, and determination when he was dropped by parachute into Yugoslavia in May, 1944, and, in spite of the very primitive conditions and the scarcity of medical supplies, established a hospital for the Partisans.

Thursday

BRITISH POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL FEDERATION.—At London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Keppel Street, London, W.C.; December 21, 5.30 p.m., "*Respiratory Chemistry of the Blood*," by Professor F. J. W. Roughton, Ph.D., F.R.S.

INSTITUTE OF UROLOGY (UNIVERSITY OF LONDON).—At St. Paul's Hospital, Endell Street, London, W.C., December 21, 5 p.m., "*Infertility in the Male*," by Mr. A. R. C. Higham.

ROYAL EYE HOSPITAL, St. George's Circus, Southwark, London, S.E.—December 21, 5 p.m., "*Methods of Examination*," by Mr. C. M. Shafto.

ST. GEORGE'S HOSPITAL MEDICAL SCHOOL, Hyde Park Corner, London, S.W.—December 21, 4.30 p.m., lecture-demonstration on psychiatry by Dr. M. A. Partridge.

APPOINTMENTS

CROYDON GROUP HOSPITAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE.—The following appointments at the hospitals indicated in parentheses are announced: *Consultant Venereologist*, Joan Halstead, M.B., Ch.B. (General Hospital); *Resident Anaesthetist*, T. R. Bomonji, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. (General Hospital); *Casualty Officer*, W. E. O'Hara, M.D. (General Hospital); *Junior Obstetrical Registrar*, D. J. Cassidy, M.B., B.S. (Mayday Hospital); *Obstetrical House Officer*, A. K. Doust, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. (Mayday Hospital); *Assistant Medical Officer (Surgical)*, D. O'Keefe, M.B., B.Ch. (Mayday Hospital); *Anaesthetist Registrar*, Mary Connolly, M.B., B.Ch. (Mayday Hospital); *Casualty Officer*, D. W. Heustis, M.D. (Mayday Hospital); *Consultant Radiologist*, D. W. Seth-Smith, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.M.R.C. (Croydon Group).

DUIGAN, JAMES, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H., Assistant County Medical Officer of Health, County Mayo, Eire.

MILLER, R. G., M.B., M.R.C.P., Resident Medical Officer, Manchester Royal Infirmary.

SMYTH, MICHAEL J., M.Ch., F.R.C.S., Consulting Surgeon to the Jockey Club; Consulting Surgeon to the National Hunt.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS

BIRTHS

Beaton.—On November 13, 1950, to Betty (formerly Dr. Elizabeth S. Bayne), wife of Donald Beaton, M.B., Ch.B., D.A., 92, Bonnymuir Place, Aberdeen, a daughter.

Davidson.—On November 3, 1950, at Nicosia General Hospital, to Helen Audrey Davidson, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O. (formerly Lynas), wife of Mr. Malcolm Norman Davidson, Colonial Administrative Service, Cyprus, a daughter.

Hingston.—On November 9, 1950, at Leeds, to Dr. Etheline (formerly Brady), wife of Dr. James Hingston, 19, Bainbridge Road, Headingley, Leeds, a daughter.

Sloan.—On December 7, 1950, to Mairi, wife of Dr. J. Burnley Sloan, High Corner, Ardnave Crescent, Bassett, Southampton, a son—Gordon Burnley.

MARRIAGES

Pearce-Thompson.—On December 2, 1950, at Llanishen, Cardiff, Douglas John Pearce, M.B., B.S., to Margaret Patricia Thompson, S.R.N.

Sidebotham-Jefferies.—On December 2, 1950, at Wilmslow Parish Church, Robert Noël Sidebotham, M.B., B.S., to Patricia Mary Jefferies, M.C.S.P.

DEATHS

Barford.—On November 29, 1950, in hospital, James Leslie Barford, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.M., of 2, Earlswood Road, Redhill, Surrey.

Benton.—On December 5, 1950, at Broughton Corner, Thornton Road, Thornton Heath, Surrey, William Benton, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., J.P., also of 35, Robson Road, Worthing, Sussex, aged 82.

Caldwell.—On December 3, 1950, at St. Albans, Alfred George Caldwell, M.D., D.P.H.

Evans.—On November 26, 1950, at Crowell, Oxford, Jessie Downie Granger Evans, M.D.

Howat.—On November 26, 1950, at Westminster Hospital, William Howat, M.B., Ch.B., of Leyton, London, E.

Hutchinson.—On December 2, 1950, at Highbury, Walmersley, Bury, Gladys Hilda Hutchinson, M.B., Ch.B.

Purdon.—On December 1, 1950, at his home, Kensington, London, William Brooke Purdon, D.S.O., O.B.E., M.C., M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H., Major-General, A.M.S., retired, aged 68.

Rankin.—On November 16, 1950, at Southport, Lancs, John Rankin, M.B., F.R.C.S.I., aged 77.

Russell.—On November 27, 1950, Henry Bret Russell, M.D., M.R.C.P., aged 55.

Walcot.—On November 24, 1950, at a North Finchley nursing-home, Thomas Walcot, M.D., aged 87.

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL NOTES

Poliomyelitis

Notifications of poliomyelitis in the week ending December 2 were: paralytic, 90 (111); non-paralytic, 38 (19); total, 128 (130). The figures for the previous week, compared with which there was a total decrease of 2, are in parentheses.

Uncorrected notifications for the corresponding week in 1947 and 1949 totalled 106 and 157 respectively. Total uncorrected notifications for 1950 up to and including the week under review are 8,379. The corresponding figures for 1947, 1948, and 1949 are 8,927, 2,272, and 6,483 respectively.

County areas with the most numerous notifications were Devon 6, Gloucester 10, Lancs 12, Southampton 6, Surrey 10, and West Riding 10. The decrease in the week ending December 2 is insignificant and disappointing in view of the large fall in the previous week.

Discussion of Table

In *England and Wales* a further increase was reported in the very high incidence of measles 1,211, whooping-cough 204, and dysentery 152. A rise of 97 occurred in the number of notifications of scarlet fever, but, in relation to the incidence in former years, this disease is at a low level. A fall in incidence was recorded for acute pneumonia 68, acute poliomyelitis 19, and diphtheria 15.

The largest rises in the number of notifications of measles were Lancashire 512, Middlesex 215, Essex 101, while the chief exception to the rising trend was a decrease of 107 in Surrey. A small rise in the incidence of whooping-cough was general throughout the country; the outstanding exception to the increasing trend was a fall of 106 in Yorkshire West Riding. The increase in the incidence of scarlet fever was due to a small rise in most sections of the country. The chief variations in the returns for diphtheria were falls in Yorkshire West Riding 9, Lancashire 8, Glamorganshire 5, and a rise of 4 in London.

The largest rises in the number of notifications of dysentery were Lancashire 63, Leicestershire 36, and Wales 26. The largest returns for dysentery during the week were Lancashire 129 (Manchester C.B. 22, Southport C.B. 16, Prestwich M.B. 15, Great Harwood U.D. 14, Middleton M.B. 10, Urmston U.D. 8); Leicestershire 76 (Leicester C.B. 63); Yorkshire West Riding 52 (Dewsbury C.B. 14, Saddleworth U.D. 14); Durham 39 (Darlington C.B. 13, South Shields C.B. 13); Monmouthshire 29 (Abercorn U.D. 17, Newport C.B. 9); London 28; Cheshire 28; Surrey 23 (Surbiton M.B. 18); Essex 23 (Romford M.B. 17); Shropshire 21 (Whitchurch U.D. 11); Northumberland 20 (Newcastle-upon-Tyne C.B. 11); Nottinghamshire 16 (Mansfield M.B. 12); Northamptonshire 15 (Kettering M.B. 14); Middlesex 12; Gloucestershire 12 (Thornbury R.D. 7); Cumberland 12; Caernarvonshire 12 (Bangor M.B. 8); Carmarthenshire 10 (Llandovery M.B. 8).

The largest returns of acute poliomyelitis were Surrey 9, Lancashire 9, Devonshire 8, Gloucestershire 8 (Bristol C.B. 8), Yorkshire West Riding 8.

In *Scotland* infectious diseases were more prevalent during the week, and increases occurred in the number of notifications of whooping-cough 110, measles 79, diphtheria 16, and dysentery 11. The largest increases in diphtheria were Glasgow 7 and Lanark county 5. The number of notifications of dysentery in Glasgow fell from 103 to 64, and rises were recorded in Edinburgh from 9 to 36, and in Dundee from 4 to 14. The other important centre of dysentery was Lanark county 17.

In *Eire* rises occurred in the number of notifications of measles 60, whooping-cough 14, diarrhoea and enteritis 12, and a fall of 34 was recorded for scarlet fever. A decline in the incidence of scarlet fever occurred in the country generally with the exception of Dublin C.B.

In *Northern Ireland* a rise of 85 in the notifications of measles and of 15 for scarlet fever were the chief features of the returns. The largest rise for measles was 32 in Armagh county.

Week Ending December 2

The notifications of infectious diseases in *England and Wales* during the week included scarlet fever 1,434, whooping-cough 4,458, diphtheria 45, measles 12,323, acute pneumonia 497, acute poliomyelitis 128, dysentery 856, paratyphoid fever 8, and typhoid fever 1.

Quarterly Returns for Northern Ireland

The birth rate during the March quarter of this year was equivalent to an annual rate of 21.3 per 1,000, and was 1.2 below the average of the five preceding first quarters. The infant mortality was 44 per 1,000 registered births, and was 21 below the average of the corresponding quarter for the five preceding years. The general death rate was 13.3 per 1,000, and was 2.0 below the five-year average. Deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis numbered 152, and 36 from other forms of tuberculosis. These were 45 and 2 below the number registered in the first quarter of 1949. Of the 113 deaths attributed to the principal epidemic diseases, 75 were due to influenza, 21 to diarrhoea and enteritis, and 11 to whooping-cough.