

for 25 fruitful years he was guide, philosopher, and friend to an ever-increasing circle of patients. He allied clinical acumen of a high order with boundless energy, and inevitably acquired a splendid reputation as a practitioner in the best family-doctor tradition. He did not spare himself, and on many an occasion Sheldon would excuse himself to his guests—there was nothing he liked better than to play the host—to go and visit a patient in response to an urgent message. This spirit was apparent even during his last illness, when he was to be seen, driven by his son, for he was no longer able to drive his car himself, doing his round of visits, an ill man and obviously suffering. During his busy life he found time for broader interests and served on the executive committee of the Willesden Division of the British Medical Association, where his unobtrusive good sense made him a valued member. He was well known at the Willesden General Hospital, where he worked for some time as clinical assistant, and at the West End Hospital for Nervous Diseases. His local interests were many. He served as medical officer to the local Red Cross detachment, St. John Ambulance Brigade, and the Willesden Air Training Cadets, and, in another field, as medical officer to the Hendon Football Club, a reflection of his youthful enthusiasm for soccer and his days in the London Hospital first eleven. During the last war he was one of those whose work at the Stonebridge first-aid post during the worst days is still remembered. All in all he left his mark on Willesden, and his death leaves a gap which will not easily be filled. His patients' sorrow can best be epitomized in the inscription on a wreath sent by one of them—"To our dear doctor and friend." His colleagues in Willesden will not soon forget him. To his widow, who bore the great strain of his last illness with wonderful courage, and to his son, who carries on the medical tradition of his father, his colleagues and friends offer their heartfelt sympathy.—M. M.

Medico-Legal

FATAL PENICILLIN INJECTION

At an inquest held in Kingston-upon-Hull on July 14 the coroner recorded a verdict of misadventure on a woman aged 41 who had died from anaphylaxis following an injection of penicillin administered for pyrexia during delivery.

After a normal pregnancy the patient was admitted to hospital at 10.30 a.m. on June 30. The same evening she was still in early labour and was given morphine $\frac{1}{4}$ gr. (16 mg.). On the evening of July 1 she developed a temperature of 101° F. (38.3° C.). No cause for the pyrexia was apparent, but she was given 400,000 units of procaine penicillin intramuscularly at 6.30 p.m. At 7.30 p.m. the patient vomited; two minutes later she had a labour pain, and while at the height of this pain she suddenly collapsed. She immediately became unconscious, and her breathing was stertorous as in cerebral haemorrhage. Despite all attempts at resuscitation she died within a few minutes. The patient had had previous injections of penicillin, though she had no history of previous reactions to it. Other patients had received injections from the same batch of penicillin without ill effect.

Dr. James Ross McKenzie, senior registrar, Kingston General Hospital, Hull, who did the post-mortem examination, said there were signs of asphyxia, with many petechial haemorrhages over the surfaces of the lungs. He gave the cause of death as anaphylaxis following the injection of penicillin. He was able to find only two such cases reported in this country out of the millions of penicillin injections which had been given. Only one such case had been reported in the American literature.

The coroner, in summing up, suggested that it would be a wise precaution for any patient who had had a previous reaction from penicillin to tell a new doctor about it before penicillin was administered.

Universities and Colleges

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

The following medical degrees were conferred on June 25:

D.M.—W. D. M. Paton, R. Seidelin, G. Loewi.

B.M.—R. B. Roe.

On July 1, in connexion with the centenary of Cecil Rhodes and the jubilee of the Rhodes scholarships, the honorary degree of D.C.L. was conferred on W. G. Penfield, O.M., Honorary Fellow of Merton College, Director of the Montreal Neurological Institute, and Professor of Neurosurgery in the University of McGill.

In Congregation on July 18 the following medical degrees were conferred:

D.M.—R. M. Mason, J. T. Wright.

B.M.—B. C. Davies, B. J. Drake, W. A. F. Macdonald, H. Merskey, P. S. Mitchell, G. L. Feinstein, G. C. Fisk, M. R. C. Heffernan, M. P. Carter, J. G. Ross, J. H. Fairley, P. D. P. McGrath, C. J. Good, I. E. Hughes, V. Parsons, R. W. G. P. Best, J. B. L. Gee, J. A. Kay, G. A. Rose, Christian A. K. Carritt, Diana J. Collins, Rosalind M. Rewcastle, *C. E. Elliott, *N. R. Garden, *R. E. Gillson, *F. I. Caird, *J. I. McFeeters, *Priscilla A. Clark-Maxwell.

The Theodore Williams Scholarship in Human Anatomy for 1953 has been awarded to Oliver Wolf Sacks, Scholar of Queen's College.

The Radcliffe Scholarship in Pharmacology has been awarded to Antony Babington Herring (Brasenose College) and John Verrier Jones (University College).

Dr. R. S. Creed has been elected a member of the Board of Studies for Psychology for two years from October 1, 1953.

*In absence.

UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW

The following medical degrees were conferred on July 4:

M.D.—P. A. Duke, *G. M. Edington, *C. R. Forrest, *I. MacGillivray, *A. F. McLean, W. W. McNeish, D. G. Scott.

M.B., Ch.B.—J. Allan, J. M. Atkinson, J. T. B. Bain, Muriel M. E. Barr, *J. S. Beck, Sheila J. D. Black, M. Blair, D. A. P. Brown, D. D. Bryson, T. H. L. Bryson, R. T. Cameron, J. S. Cant, R. L. K. Colville, I. J. Coulthart, J. L. C. Dall, A. Davidson, J. S. H. Davidson, J. A. S. Dickson, H. P. Dinwoodie, A. Donnelly, J. A. Duncan, I. E. Farrington, H. C. Ferguson, A. H. Findlay, Margaret E. Finlayson, T. Forrest, J. Frame, W. Gallacher, H. H. Gebbie, Lillian M. Gibson, Biruta R. Giedraitis, I. E. Gillespie, S. S. Graham, J. H. Graham-Marr, M. Haase, W. A. McL. Hall, L. Harris, D. D. Hart, Grace J. K. Harvey, J. C. Henderson, Martha C. Howat, R. McN. Howie, R. M. Humble, R. Hume, Isobel H. Hunter, A. G. Hutchison, Margaret W. Irwin, G. H. Johnson, J. A. Johnston, Margaret N. S. Johnston, C. C. Keay, J. D. Kinloch, J. W. S. Knox, K. A. Kwarko, T. J. Lees, H. C. Leslie, J. G. Lindsay, L. E. Lonergan, E. C. McCracken, Morag C. McCulloch, J. C. H. McDonald, C. G. McEwen, A. McGowan, Berthea J. MacGregor, W. L. MacIndoe, Eleanor M. MacIver, T. M. McKendrick, Catriona Mackenzie, A. C. MacIachlan, K. M. McLaren, J. C. MacLaurin, Lindsay McLeman, P. B. McMain, J. P. McMillan, G. W. Macnab, Christine McNair, *M. W. McNicol, W. A. Maley, T. S. Mann, F. Mariotti, J. J. F. Merry, H. McI. Morgan, Elizabeth A. Mowat, I. S. Murray, J. W. Myles, G. F. Nabi, E. G. Oram, J. R. Paterson, P. M. Peacock, J. G. Provan, Maria A. Ratzer, C. B. Rennick, C. J. C. Renton, J. A. Riddell, A. Robertson, K. M. Robertson, A. J. Rosin, Margaret C. Russell, R. C. I. Russell, R. J. Scott, R. Shields, A. M. Short, *J. D. Sleigh, C. C. S. Slorach, Margaret B. Smith, M. G. H. Smith, N. M. Smith, V. B. Smith, Kathleen A. R. Smith, W. T. Sommerville, C. Sorbie, Isobel Speirs, J. M. Stark, Norah E. Stewart, J. R. Styles, V. Sweeney, Lillian M. G. Tait, T. E. Torbet, J. J. Treanor, R. D. Unkles, D. H. Urquhart, J. M. T. Warnock, J. McI. Williamson, A. Wilson, D. W. Wylie.

*In absentia. *With high commendation. *With commendation. *With honours.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

Dr. J. D. N. Nabarro and Dr. Howard Nicholson have been recognized as teachers of medicine in the University at University College Hospital Medical School.

The Sir William Dunn Scholarship for 1953-4 has been awarded to Barbara Joan Boucher (London Hospital Medical College).

The title of Professor of Experimental Pathology in the University has been conferred on Dr. A. A. Miles in respect of the post held by him at the Lister Institute of Preventive Medicine.

Dr. George Dennett Lumb has been appointed to the University Readership in Pathology tenable at Westminster Medical School, from October 1, 1953.

Dr. W. St. C. Symmers, senior lecturer in the University of Birmingham, has been appointed to the University Chair of Morbid Anatomy tenable at Charing Cross Hospital Medical School.

Dr. J. H. F. Brotherston, Senior Lecturer in Public Health at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, has been appointed to the University Readership in Public Health tenable at that school.

The Mary Scharlieb Research Studentship has been awarded to Dr. Andrew William Anderson for the session 1953-4 in the first instance.

The following candidates at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine have been approved at the examinations indicated:

ACADEMIC POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN BACTERIOLOGY.—A. M. Cook, N. G. Fowler, K. A. Lim, D. McKenzie, Janet J. Mackintosh, D. J. H. Payne, L. Robertson, D. N. Sengupta, P. H. A. Sneath (awarded a mark of distinction), K. R. Wallace, J. E. M. Whitehead.

ACADEMIC POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN PUBLIC HEALTH.—I. Ash, D. E. Boye-Johnson, R. Bradley, J. H. Brodie, J. Carlton, Gwen S. Clark, C. Eid, A. J. Essex-Cater, R. S. Gibson, G. J. Glynn, L. P. Harington, I. K. Hay, Winifred M. Hiscock, G. B. Hopkins, I. A. Hussein, Dorothy D. Jones, F. R. S. Kellett, A. J. I. Kelynack, J. H. Lewis, *Khoon-Huat Lim, B. Mahadevan, G. P. Merson, H. Mowschenson, F. G. Neild, B. Nicholson, *W. F. Ross, S. Sandmo, M. C. Sanyal, W. Sheffield, J. H. Taylor, A. M. Thomson, D. E. Thompson, G. F. Willson, A. B. Wittek, C. H. Wood, D. Yarom, A. Zahra, A. A. Zaki.

ACADEMIC POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN TROPICAL MEDICINE AND HYGIENE.—E. B. Bright, P. Jordan.

The following candidates have been approved at the examination indicated:

ACADEMIC POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN MEDICAL RADIOLOGY (DIAGNOSIS).—N. L. Bucky, M. A. Harris, K. N. Kamdar, J. K. Lundie, G. A. Medhurst, D. MacK. K. Muir, J. V. Tillet, L. E. Wolpert, M. Ziman.

*Awarded a Mark of Distinction.

UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

Dr. Geoffrey Watkinson, lecturer in the Department of Medicine, has been granted leave of absence for the session 1953-4 to enable him to take up a Rockefeller Travelling Fellowship.

The Services

Major-General F. Kingsley Norris, C.B.E., D.S.O., E.D., R.A.A.M.C., has been appointed Honorary Physician to the Queen, and Colonel K. B. Fraser, E.D., R.A.A.M.C., Honorary Surgeon to the Queen.

Major-General F. C. Hilton-Sergeant, Q.H.P., late R.A.M.C., has been appointed Commandant and Director of Studies, Royal Army Medical College, in succession to Major-General F. R. H. Mollan, C.B., O.B.E., M.C., Q.H.S., late R.A.M.C., who is retiring.

Colonel A. Swindale, C.B.E., T.D., has been appointed Honorary Colonel of a T.A. Unit in succession to Colonel A. H. Whyte, D.S.O., T.D., whose tenure has expired.

A *Supplement* to the *London Gazette* has announced the following appointments in recognition of gallant and distinguished services in Korea:

C.B.E. (Military Division).—Colonel G. L. M. Smith, O.B.E., C.D., R.C.A.M.C.

M.B.E. (Military Division).—Lieutenant-Colonel (Acting) R. A. Smillie, R.C.A.M.C.

A *Supplement* to the *London Gazette* has announced the following awards:

First Clasp to the Territorial Efficiency Decoration.—Major R. Barraclough, M.B.E., T.D., and Captain (Honorary Major) H. R. Vernon, R.A.M.C.

Territorial Efficiency Decoration.—Major (Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel) J. B. McEwen, M.C., and Captain (Honorary Major) H. R. Vernon, R.A.M.C.

Vital Statistics

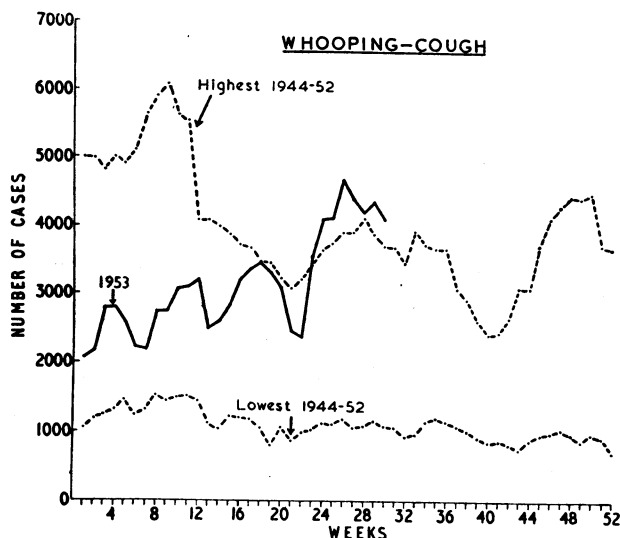
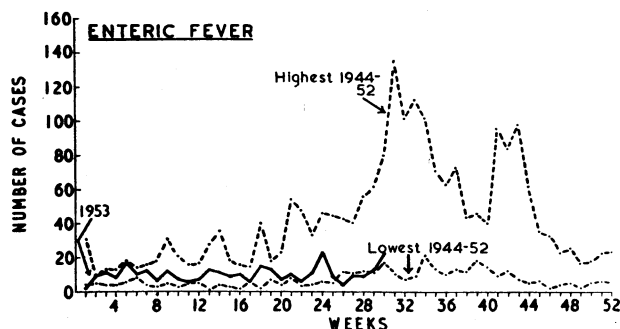
Poliomyelitis

Poliomyelitis notifications (uncorrected) in the week ending August 8 (31st week of the year) were as follows: paralytic, 181 (167); non-paralytic, 116 (103); total, 297 (270). This is an increase of 27 compared with the previous week, the figures for which are in parentheses. The individual districts which have notified 20 or more cases in the year to August 8, with incidences per 100,000 in parentheses, are as follows: Southend-on-Sea C.B., 37 (24.42); Liverpool C.B., 25 (3.16); Birmingham C.B., 46 (4.11); Coventry C.B., 76 (29.12); Leicester C.B., 22 (7.69); Lewisham M.B., 22 (9.69); Blackpool C.B., 21 (14.26); Camberwell M.B., 20 (11.04); Islington M.B., 21 (8.92); Bournemouth C.B., 25 (18.00).

The seasonal rise in the notifications of poliomyelitis is not gaining momentum. The increase in paralytic cases was two less than in the previous week (14 compared with 16), and there is still hope that the curve will be like that for 1952. Although the seasonal rise is expected to continue, the outlook is somewhat more favourable than it appeared to be a month ago. Epidemic proportions are not being approached in any of the greater centres of population.

Graphs of Infectious Diseases

The graphs below show the uncorrected numbers of cases of certain diseases notified weekly in England and Wales. Highest and lowest figures reported in each week during the nine years 1944-52 are shown thus -----, the figures for 1953 thus ————. Except for the curves showing notifications in 1953, the graphs were prepared at the Department of Medical Statistics and Epidemiology, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.



Medical News

Family Rehabilitation.—The Elizabeth Fry Memorial Trust has just issued an account of the establishment of the Spofforth Hall Recuperative Centre, to which mothers (and their children) are sent who fail to provide a satisfactory home for themselves and their families. The majority of the mothers have simply failed to cope with domestic problems and difficulties, and have reached a point when they have accepted defeat and allowed the home conditions to deteriorate. A small proportion of the families are those in which the parents have already been charged in the courts with neglecting their children. Instead of sending the mother to prison, often the prelude to the permanent collapse of the home, she can be put on probation and, with the consent of the Home Office, may be required to accept at least four months' residence at Spofforth Hall, which is near Harrogate. "In more human terms the results of homes which have failed are seen in the dispirited mothers and pathetic babies and children who come to Spofforth Hall." The home was established under the auspices of the Society of Friends, and the first families arrived last November. The demand for accommodation has grown rapidly since then, and the trustees have decided to adapt an extra wing of Spofforth Hall in order that three more families may be received. Although the cost of maintaining most of the families is met by statutory authorities, there is still need for generous public support of this worthy project.

Society of Apothecaries.—On August 18 the Society elected as Master Dr. H. Seaward Morley, as Senior Warden Sir Cecil Wakeley, P.R.C.S., and as Junior Warden Dr. N. S. Finzi.

NEW ISSUES

Journal of Neurology, Neurosurgery, and Psychiatry.—The next issue (Vol. 16, No. 3) will be available in a week's time.

Journal of Clinical Pathology.—The next issue (Vol. 6, No. 3) will be available in a week's time.

Issued quarterly; annual subscription £2 2s., single copy 12s. 6d. These journals are obtainable from the Publishing Manager, B.M.A. House, Tavistock Square, London, W.C.1.

SOCIETIES AND LECTURES

A fee is charged or a ticket is required for attending lectures marked ●. Applications should be made first to the institution concerned.

Tuesday, August 25

INSTITUTE OF NEUROLOGY, National Hospital, Queen Square, W.C.—5 p.m., Professor John Fulton (U.S.A.), Harvey Cushing: A Biographical Appreciation.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS

BIRTHS

Hales.—On July 1, 1953, at the London Hospital, London, E., to Mary (formerly Notley), wife of John Hales, M.B., B.S., a daughter—Kathryn Mary.

Scott.—On August 11, 1953, at the General Hospital, Neath, Glamorgan, to Dorothy, M.B., Ch.B. (formerly Wood), wife of Dr. B. K. Scott, a daughter.

Walsh.—On August 5, 1953, at Saint John, New Brunswick, Canada, to Ruth (formerly Broughton), wife of Peter Walsh, M.R.C.P., of 260, Germain Street, Saint John, New Brunswick, Canada, a son—Robert Edward.

DEATHS

Jhangiani.—On July 5, 1953, Parmanand Harumal Jhangiani, M.B., B.S., D.M.R.E., of Canonbury, London, N.

Legat.—On July 23, 1953, at his home, 8, Hughenden Road, Clifton, Bristol, Robert Eddowes Legat, M.B., C.M., aged 83.

McMichael.—On July 28, 1953, Arthur William McMichael, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., of 27, Frenchay Road, Weston-super-Mare, late of Vowchurch, Herefordshire, aged 85.

Rafferty.—On July 28, 1953, suddenly, at Clayton Hospital, Wakefield, Patrick Joseph Rafferty, L.R.C.P.&S.I. & L.M., of Westgate End House, Wakefield, Yorks, aged 54.

Raw.—On July 25, 1953, at Ardgay (Bonar Bridge), Ross-shire, Mary Raw, M.B., B.S., of Ravenswood, Low Fell, Gateshead, late of the Baptist Missionary Society's Dholpur Station, India.

Talbot.—On July 28, 1953, at his home, Coed-y-Castell, Deganwy, Caern., N. Wales, Philip Talbot, M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.S., aged 72.

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.

Sensitivity to Oil of Bergamot

Q.—Is a skin reaction to oil of bergamot found only in certain sensitive individuals, or will it occur in anyone under appropriate conditions? What is meant by the term "photosensitivity," which is often used in describing bergamot reactions?

A.—The skin reaction to oil of bergamot is found only in certain people. In these subjects the application of oil of bergamot to the skin results in a temporary increase in light sensitivity on that particular area of skin. The mechanism by which this occurs is not known, but the substances most often involved are of vegetable origin, and for this type of reaction the term "phyto-photo dermatitis" was coined by Klaber,¹ whose original work should be consulted.

REFERENCE

¹ Klaber, R., and Wittkower, E. (1939). *Brit. J. Derm.*, 51, 501.

Vaginitis in Girls

Q.—What is the modern treatment of non-gonococcal vaginitis in small girls?

A.—The organisms responsible for the vaginitis should first be determined by examination (direct smear and culture) of the discharge obtained from the vagina by a swab or fine pipette gently inserted through the hymeneal opening. The possibility of a foreign body in the vagina should be considered and excluded, especially if the discharge is blood-stained as well as purulent.

The treatment of the vaginitis depends to a large extent on the organisms present and on their sensitivity to chemotherapeutic and antibiotic agents. The appropriate agent should be administered systemically, and at the same time it is an advantage to administer oestrone, 0.3 mg. twice daily by mouth, for three to four weeks. This latter increases the resistance of the vagina, but can have undesirable temporary side-effects such as enlargement of the breasts and uterine bleeding.

Intravaginal therapy is best avoided because of possible psychological reactions. However, under certain circumstances—trichomonal vaginitis, for example—it may be necessary to administer appropriate antiseptics by means of a small-sized vaginal pessary. Thrice-weekly instillations of a 0.5% aqueous solution of mercurochrome by means of a funnel and fine soft rubber catheter are useful in some cases.

Many other considerations arise, and these include measures to reduce the risk of transfer of the infection to other children, and the general management of the child and its mother to avoid introspective tendencies and over-anxiety.

Congenital Deformities of Fingers and Toes

Q.—What can be done surgically to correct congenital absence or fusion of the fingers or toes? When is the best time to start treatment?

A.—Little surgically can be done to correct congenital absence of fingers and toes. Later in life, provided some thumb metacarpal function remains, it may be possible to construct a gripping mechanism, but this will always depend upon the individual case.

Fusion of the fingers or toes is much more amenable to surgical treatment, and the excellence of the result depends upon the degree of webbing of the fingers. Where a simple skin web exists it can, under the best circumstances, be effectively separated to produce a good result without