

therapy department at Guy's Hospital, where the high-voltage x-ray treatment unit for research work, provided at his own expense, demonstrated in a most striking manner its enormous powers for the relief and possible cure of cancer and of serious diseases of the blood. Later the unit was incorporated in the radiotherapy department, to which he became consulting surgeon. He retired from the active staff of the hospital, under the age limit, in 1937, but continued to practise in London until after the end of the second world war, when he returned to Canada. He married Miss Violet Clarke in 1916, and she survives him, together with the son and daughter of the marriage.

Professor MAXIME LAIGNEL-LAVASTINE, the distinguished French psychiatrist and medical historian, died in Paris on September 5. Born at Evreux on September 12, 1875, he received his medical education in Paris, where he qualified in 1903. At the Hôpital Laennec he was chef de clinique médicale from 1904 to 1907, and in 1919 was appointed chef de service. His early interests lay in neurology and psychiatry, and his many publications in this field include *La Méthode Concentrique dans l'Etude des Psychonévroses* (1928), which was translated into English in 1931. He later turned to the study of medical history and was appointed professor of the history of medicine at Paris in 1931. He was co-author of *Les Maladies de l'Esprit et leurs Médecins du XVII au XIX Siècle* (1930), and with Molinery he wrote a short history of French medicine, which in 1934 appeared in translation in the *Clio Medica* series. He edited the superbly produced three-volume *Histoire Générale de la Médecine* (1934-49). Laignel-Lavastine was elected a member of the Académie de Médecine in 1936, and was made an officer of the Legion of Honour in 1939. He was president of the Société Internationale d'Histoire de la Médecine and of the Ligue de Défense de l'Homme contre le Crime. He was on his way from Paris to preside over the Second International Congress of Hippocratic Medicine at Evian when he had a fatal coronary thrombosis.

Medico-Legal

ANAESTHETIST'S RESPONSIBILITY

The administration of a general dental anaesthetic is ruled to be the responsibility of the anaesthetist and not the dentist. The London Executive Council has had before it a case in which a dentist extracted the wrong tooth from a patient who was given a general anaesthetic by an anaesthetist. The dentist, while very much regretting the occurrence, said that in his opinion it was due to the unaccountable nervousness of the anaesthetist. The Dental Services Committee, after hearing the case, expressed its opinion in the following terms:

"There was an unavoidable breach of the Terms of Service in connexion with the administration of the general anaesthetic, and, although the fault lay primarily with the anaesthetist, the responsibility for the treatment of the patient nevertheless rests with the respondent [dental] practitioner."

The executive council communicated this to the Ministry of Health, and the Ministry responded with this contrary opinion:

"The Minister has noted and agrees with the recommendation of the council, except with regard to the findings that there was a breach of the Terms of Service. In this connexion . . . the Minister is advised by his lawyers that under the regulations the dentist is not responsible for the acts and omissions of the anaesthetist and that any person who suffers injury at the hands of the anaesthetist should be left to his civil rights for a remedy."

The Services

Colonel W. R. Ward, T.D., Q.H.S., late R.A.M.C., T.A., has been appointed Honorary Colonel of a T.A. unit in succession to Major-General R. E. Barnsley, C.B., M.C., late R.A.M.C., whose tenure has expired.

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

First Clasp to the Territorial Efficiency Decoration.—Colonel W. R. Ward, T.D., late R.A.M.C., Lieutenant-Colonel (Honorary Colonel) E. J. G. Glass, T.D., Lieutenant-Colonel and Brevet Colonel O. G. Prosser, M.C., T.D., Lieutenant-Colonel A. E. K. Price, T.D., Major (Acting Lieutenant-Colonel) R. R. Davies, T.D., Majors J. O. McCarter, F. C. Mayo, T. R. W. Millar, T.D., J. H. Pattinson, T.D., H. R. Shields, B. St. J. Steadman, T.D., and Captain (now Temporary Major, S.S.R.C.) D. R. Hood, R.A.M.C.

Territorial Efficiency Decoration.—Majors (Honorary Lieutenant-Colonels) D. A. Hunt and A. J. Moffett, Majors J. O. McCarter, F. C. Mayo, H. R. Shields, W. J. Street, Captains (Honorary Majors) H. L. Cohen (retired) and W. H. Stephen, Captain (now Temporary Major, S.S.R.C.) D. R. Hood, and Captains H. C. W. Baker and S. S. B. Gilder, R.A.M.C.

Universities and Colleges

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF EDINBURGH

At a meeting of the College held on July 15, with Professor Walter Mercer, President, in the chair, the following were admitted Fellows of the College without examination: Professor Harold Robert Dew, F.R.C.S., F.R.A.C.S., Professor Robert Walmsley, M.D.

At the same meeting the following candidates, having passed the requisite examinations, were admitted Fellows: I. A. Agjee, A. M. Akram, M. A. Uddin, V. Benatar, A. C. Boonzaier, H. D. Bulos, Anne M. Calder, B. M. Chatterjee, S. Chinnatamby, B. H. Colman, D. J. Currie, D. S. Desai, R. B. Duthie, E. C. Eadie, Stella P. Eadie, H. H. Francis, R. Ger, V. N. Larsen, C. W. Law, K. H. Macdonald, J. M. Moore, A. Moselhi, W. J. Oram, J. R. S. Paterson, R. E. Peasegood, J. K. M. Quartey, W. L. Robinson, S. Schwartz, M. Shaffi, S. Sher, K. Y. Shrikhande, H. B. Torrance, H. T. V. Reddi, P. Vulfsons, R. le S. van der Riet.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF IRELAND

The following candidates were duly admitted licentiates in medicine and midwifery on July 3, having passed the final examination in medicine, surgery, and midwifery of the Conjoint Board of Ireland: B. D. Amarasingham, J. J. Biezenski, P. J. Bofin, Eleanor R. Comyn, M. G. Connell, T. A. I. Cunningham, F. T. Daly, R. K. Doyle, H. W. Eldemire, I. J. Fiberesima, P. W. Ford, C. W. Gale, T. U. Glasspole, A. J. Grehan, T. Kirkwood-Hackett, B. P. Harkin, P. J. G. Henry, T. E. C. Jarrett, Zofia Jedliczka, R. Kachan, H. Levison, Barbara Lipowska, D. Lynch, R. B. Macaulay, G. C. Martin, M. J. Murphy, A. Mutchnik, Joan McGill, E. H. Noble, G. A. Obiora, L. O'Brien, C. L. O'Connell, N. O'Connor, T. O'Keeffe, K. N. Oji, K. Ramouthar, D. Stachiewicz, M. O. Thomas, Madeline G. P. Thomson, O. A. Tomlinson, S. W. Wajdenfeld, F. H. Walter.

ROYAL AUSTRALASIAN COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS

At the annual meeting of the College held at Hobart in March, with Dr. Alex Murphy, the President, in the chair, the following were elected to the Fellowship: Dr. Ruthven Blackburn, Dr. J. T. Cahill, Dr. M. V. Clarke, Dr. R. G. de Crespiigny, Dr. E. B. Durie, Dr. T. H. Steel, Dr. I. M. Wartzki, Dr. S. W. Williams, and Dr. F. Hales Wilson.

The following, having satisfied the Board of Censors in New Zealand, were admitted to the Membership: Dr. K. E. Eyre, Dr. L. G. Hannah, Dr. M. J. Murray, Dr. J. L. Newman, and Dr. G. H. Robertson.

At a meeting of the Council held at Melbourne on May 30, the following, having satisfied the Board of Censors in Australia, were admitted to Membership by the President: Dr. D. E. Anderson, Dr. Peter Bull, Dr. F. Harding Burns, Dr. Eugene G. Galea, Dr. Bryan Gandevia, Dr. R. A. Joske, Dr. J. B. Hickie, Dr. D. A. Hicks, Dr. W. M. Moore, Dr. J. L. Stubbe, Dr. H. P. B. Harvey, Dr. J. D. McDonald, Dr. J. A. W. Kelly, Dr. J. S. Calder, Dr. S. C. Milazzo.

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.

Friday, October 2

WHIPPS CROSS HOSPITAL MEDICAL SOCIETY.—8.30 p.m., Dr. E. Hinden: Tuberculosis in Childhood.

Monday, October 5

INSTITUTE OF PSYCHIATRY.—5.30 p.m., Dr. E. Stengel: Lecture demonstration.

LONDON SCHOOL OF HYGIENE AND TROPICAL MEDICINE.—5.15 p.m., Manson Lecture by Sir Rickard Christopher: Malaria in the Field.

● ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.—5.15 p.m., Mr. Rainsford Mowlem: Role of Surgical Repair in Burns; 6.30 p.m., Mr. Denis Browne: Hirschsprung's Disease.

Tuesday, October 6

INSTITUTE OF DERMATOLOGY.—5.30 p.m., Dr. C. O. Carter: Principles of Genetics.

● ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.—5.15 p.m., Mr. A. Lawrence Abel: Carcinoma of the Rectum; 6.30 p.m., Major C. K. Anderson: Blood Substitutes.

Wednesday, October 7

EUGENICS SOCIETY.—At Royal Society, Burlington House, Piccadilly, W. 1, 5.30 p.m., Mr. James Shields: Personality Differences and Neurotic Traits in Normal Twin Schoolchildren.

INSTITUTE OF DERMATOLOGY.—5.30 p.m., Dr. H. Haber: Normal Histology of the Skin.

INSTITUTE OF NEUROLOGY.—5 p.m., Sir Francis Walshe, F.R.S.: Principles of Clinical Neurology.

INSTITUTE OF ORTHOPAEDICS.—8 p.m., clinical-pathological conference.

MANCHESTER MEDICAL SOCIETY.—At Medical School, Manchester University, 4.30 p.m., Presidential address by Professor John Morley: A Surgical Retrospect; 8.30 p.m., Reception at Whitworth Art Gallery.

POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL SCHOOL OF LONDON.—2 p.m., Dr. G. H. Algire: Observations on Tissue and Tumour Growth *in vivo*.

● ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.—5.15 p.m., Mr. V. H. Ellis: Internal Derangement of Joints; 6.30 p.m., Mr. J. M. P. Clark: Some Aspects of Poliomyelitis.

SOCIETY OF PUBLIC ANALYSTS.—At Burlington House, Piccadilly, W. 1, 7 p.m., discussion to be introduced by Dr. G. Roche Lynch: Destruction of Organic Matter.

YORKSHIRE SOCIETY OF ANAESTHETISTS.—At Leeds General Infirmary, 8 p.m., Dr. W. D. Wylie: Obstetrical Anaesthesia, with Particular Reference to Cases with Cardiac Disease.

Thursday, October 8

ALFRED ADLER MEDICAL SOCIETY.—At 11, Chandos Street, W. 1, 8 p.m., discussion between psychiatrists and physicians: Psychological Reactions to Physical Disease.

BRITISH POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL FEDERATION.—At Beveridge Hall, Senate House, 5.30 p.m., Sir Henry Dale, O.M., F.R.S.: Scientific Method in Medical Research.

● INSTITUTE OF CHILD HEALTH AND INSTITUTE OF NEUROLOGY.—At National Hospital, Queen Square, W.C. 1, 5.30 p.m., Dr. J. Purdon Martin: Terminology, Diagnosis, Classification, and Physiological Considerations.

LONDON HOSPITAL MEDICAL COLLEGE.—At Bartsford Theatre, 5 p.m., Schorstein Memorial Lecture by Sir James C. Spence: Varieties of Clinical Experience.

● ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.—5.15 p.m., Mr. D. J. Robertson: Arterio-venous Fistulae of the Extremities; 6.30 p.m., Mr. Norman C. Tanner: Carcinoma of the Stomach.

ST. ANDREWS UNIVERSITY.—At Physiology Department, Dundee, 5 p.m., Sir W. Russell Brain, P.R.C.P.: Consciousness and Unconsciousness.

ST. GEORGE'S HOSPITAL MEDICAL SCHOOL.—5 p.m., Dr. Denis Williams: Neurology demonstration.

Friday, October 9

INSTITUTE OF DERMATOLOGY.—5.30 p.m., clinical demonstration by Dr. O. L. S. Scott: Developmental Abnormalities.

● POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL SCHOOL OF LONDON.—4 p.m., Sir Neil Hamilton Fairley, F.R.S.: Malaria and its Modern Treatment.

● ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.—5.15 p.m., Professor Bryan L. McFarland: Reconstructive Surgery of the Hip.

Saturday, October 10

SOUTH-EAST METROPOLITAN REGIONAL TUBERCULOSIS SOCIETY.—At Grove Park Hospital, Marvels Lane, Lee, S.E. 1, 10.30 for 11 a.m., general meeting. "Brains Trust." Speakers, Sir Geoffrey Todd, Dr. James Maxwell, Dr. Thomas C. Wright, and Mr. F. Ronald Edwards.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS

BIRTHS

Collinson.—On September 6, 1953, at Rotherham nursing-home, to Elaine (formerly Micklethwait), wife of John Pexton Collinson, T.D., M.R.C.S., of Burgh-le-Marsh, Lincs, a son—Edward Peter.

Gibson.—On September 7, 1953, to Agnes Macfarlane Stark, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.O.G., wife of John Baird Gibson, M.B., Ch.B., D.A., 3, Ebwaren Avenue, Newcastle-upon-Tyne—a son.

Rowe.—On August 8, 1953, at Ashleigh Private Hospital, Gosforth, to Sheila (formerly Cowling), wife of Dr. Alan I. Rowe, a son—Simon Inness.

Sloan.—On September 14, 1953, to Mairi, wife of Dr. J. Burnley Sloan, Kelvin Glen, Abbotts Way, Highfield, Southampton, a son—Iain Douglas.

Tighe.—On September 11, 1953, at Birmingham, to Nora (formerly Cregon), wife of John Robert Tighe, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., a second daughter—Geraldine Mary.

Vella.—On September 20, 1953, at Cannock, Staffs, to Corinna, wife of Dr. J. M. Vella, a daughter.

DEATHS

Andrews.—On August 22, 1953, at his home, Beechmount, Pittville Circus Road, Cheltenham, Glos, Robin Andrews, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., aged 53.

Daman.—On September 3, 1953, in a nursing-home, Lincoln, Thomas Walter Alfred Daman, M.B., C.M.

Hardman.—On September 8, 1953, at Ryde, Isle of Wight, John Leycester Hardman, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., late of Nyasaland, aged 31.

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.

Gamma Globulin and Poliomyelitis

Q.—How does gamma globulin prevent poliomyelitis? Is it a specific effect depending on the donor having developed antibodies to the particular strain of poliomyelitis virus concerned?

A.—The success of gamma globulin in the prophylaxis or modification of measles is based on the sound assumption that most people have had an attack of measles in childhood, and that the antibodies persist into adult life and are concentrated in the gamma globulin fraction of the plasma proteins. The same assumption has been made in regard to poliomyelitis in the U.S.A., where this infection has been prevalent for the past fifty years, and in fact tests of the gamma globulin prepared from adult donors showed that antibodies to the three main types of poliomyelitis virus were present. It has also been shown that viraemia is a common occurrence in the early stages of poliomyelitis, so that an injection of gamma globulin, containing antibody to the polio virus, at a stage before the virus has become fixed in the nerve cells may be expected—and has proved—to give at least some temporary protection against the infection. In Britain poliomyelitis has occurred in widespread epidemics only since 1947, and it is not yet certain which type or types of the virus are responsible for these recent outbreaks. It would therefore be unwise, and would indeed be impracticable, to use gamma globulin from British donors for the prevention of poliomyelitis in those likely to be exposed to the risk of infection. This matter has been fully discussed in a recent leading article (*Journal*, April 18, p. 874).

Hormones in Cosmetics

Q.—Various cosmetic preparations, such as "skin foods" and certain hair preparations, are said to contain hormones. Have they any useful therapeutic action, or is their use dangerous?

A.—Most frequently these cosmetics contain oestrogens in an ointment basis. The inunction of steroid hormones is a recognized therapeutic method of administration, and there is no doubt that the hormone is absorbed into the general circulation. It is possible that the local effect is more concentrated than if given orally or by injection. The effects claimed by the cosmetic sellers, such as "rejuvenation" of skin and abolition of wrinkles, have not been substantiated by any scientific findings. The same is probably true of the scalp hair. This does not mean that oestrogens are not useful under certain recognized conditions—for example, in Simmonds's disease oestrogens are beneficial to scalp hair, restoring its lustre and pigment. In some phases of the climacteric, oestrogens may be indicated.

As to harmful effects, in so far as an oestrogen is a very potent substance even in small doses, and capable of disturbing the rhythm of the menstrual cycle, it is obvious that the use of such preparations may prove harmful quite apart from the controversial question of their potential carcinogenic qualities when administered over long periods. I think it also obvious, from what I have written above, that such preparations should not be used except under the guidance of the patient's physician, who has knowledge of her underlying conditions and of the exact quantities of oestrogen he is prescribing.

There is little doubt that the sale of hormones in shops dealing with cosmetics, and their increasingly widespread