

At the meeting of the Guildford Division of the British Medical Association to be held at the Royal Surrey County Hospital, Guildford, on Thursday next, January 7th, at 4 p.m., Mr. R. P. Rowlands will give an address on the acute abdomen.

THE firm of John Wright and Sons of Bristol, founded a hundred years ago, has just issued a centenary souvenir, very elegantly printed and well illustrated, giving an account of the chief events in its history. It has long been the publisher of medical books, but it is, perhaps, best known to the profession through the *Medical Annual*, a very excellent year book, of which the forty-third consecutive issue appeared early last year and was reviewed in our columns last May (p. 845). It prints and publishes also the *British Journal of Surgery* for the committee of surgeons by which that very well got up periodical is conducted. The text and pictures of the souvenir contain an informing sketch of the development of the technical side of printing, and the relation of the firm to medicine is emphasized by pictures of the Bristol Royal Infirmary and the Bristol General Hospital.

THE sixth Salon des médécins will be held from March 14th to 24th at 117, Boulevard St. Germain, Paris, for the exhibition of painting, sculpture, engravings, and decorative art by practitioners and students of medicine, dentistry, veterinary science, and their families. Further information can be obtained from the organizing secretary, Dr. Paul Rabier, 84, Rue Lecourbe, Paris, XV.

PROFESSOR VERTOGEN has been appointed successor of the late Dr. Depage in the Brussels First Surgical Clinic.

Letters, Notes, and Answers.

All communications in regard to editorial business should be addressed to **THE EDITOR, British Medical Journal, British Medical Association House, Tavistock Square, W.C.1.**

ORIGINAL ARTICLES and LETTERS forwarded for publication are understood to be offered to the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL alone unless the contrary be stated. Correspondents who wish notice to be taken of their communications should authenticate them with their names, not necessarily for publication.

Authors desiring REPRINTS of their articles published in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL must communicate with the Financial Secretary and Business Manager, British Medical Association House, Tavistock Square, W.C.1, on receipt of proofs.

All communications with reference to ADVERTISEMENTS, as well as orders for copies of the JOURNAL, should be addressed to the Financial Secretary and Business Manager.

THE TELEPHONE NUMBERS of the British Medical Association and the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL are *MUSEUM* 9861, 9862, 9863, and 9864 (internal exchange, four lines).

THE TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESSES are:
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The address of the Irish Office of the British Medical Association is 16, South Frederick Street, Dublin (telegrams: *Bacillus, Dublin*; telephone: 4737 Dublin), and of the Scottish Office, 6, Drumsheugh Gardens, Edinburgh (telegrams: *Associate, Edinburgh*; telephone: 4361 Central).

QUERIES AND ANSWERS.

INCOME TAX.

Adjustment of Assessment of New Partner.

"G. M. S." entered into a partnership on May 5th, 1925, on the basis of a five-twelfths share, exclusive of prior book debts.

* * The assessment for the year commencing April 5th, 1925, must be based on the profits of the practice during the three previous years, and will not therefore specifically include either "G. M. S.'s" expenses after May 5th, 1925, or any increased earnings which his work may bring in. His share of the 1925-26 assessment, before deducting his personal allowances, life assurance relief, etc., will be eleven-twelfths of five-twelfths of the amount. He (or his partner) might usefully write to the local inspector of taxes stating the facts and asking for a note showing how the income tax payable on the 1925-26 assessment should be allocated as between the partners. It is, of course, clear that "G. M. S." may find that he has to pay on more than the net cash received from the practice; that is because he has to account for the tax on his earnings, whether received or not.

TREATMENT OF SPASTIC CONTRACTION IN DISSEMINATED SCLEROSIS.

"PARALYSIS" asks for suggestions for treating a woman, aged 57, suffering from an extreme form of spastic rigidity due to disseminated sclerosis of about ten years' duration. The onset was very gradual, the order of involvement being left leg, right leg, left arm, and now there is increasing diminution in power in the

right arm. The intelligence and general health are unaffected, and syphilis, tuberculosis, and malignancy can be excluded. The pain on the whole has not been very severe, but the pressure and contracture of the left arm over the cardiac region, especially at night, are painful and distressing. Various ingenious types of bandaging, straps, and pads have been tried. Our correspondent inquires whether any form of surgical intervention might be advisable, with a view to giving temporary relief or permanent benefit.

* * There appears to be no published record of surgical treatment for a case of this kind, and possibly systematic massage by a skilled masseuse might give considerable relief. It is important to exclude any cause of local pressure on the cervical cord, since this clinical picture is unusual in disseminated sclerosis, especially the onset at the age of 57.

LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.

DR. A. M. CAVERHILL (Ealing) asks us to state that the credentials of a man giving the name of James Campbell should be examined before money is given to him. He may show a scar of an Estlander's operation and solicit temporary help.

"IN THE TWILIGHT."

UNDER this title Dr. Duncan Greenlees has recently considered in the *Caledonian Medical Journal* the problem of a steadily enlarging class of sufferers, the "borderland cases." He finds amongst individuals ever since the war a diminished moral tone, a laxity in all ordinary relationships, and an unhealthy outlook which stands in marked contrast to the healthy and optimistic outlook that previously prevailed. This deterioration he finds expressing itself in the attitude of one country to another—"a sort of political neurasthenia spreading its poisonous germs among the races of mankind who participated in the conflict; a guarded suspicion of each other; an increasing want of confidence in each other's integrity and honesty." In the recent growth of various cults Dr. Greenlees sees evidence of this increasing mental instability, and instances charlatanry outside the profession and faddism within it. He urges the profession whose chief function it should be to educate the public in all matters pertaining to their health, actively to combat all such tendencies. From a consideration of these modern "crazes" the author proceeds to study manifestations approaching more the psychopathic. He draws attention to the periodicity of such attacks, and regards "psychorhythm" as being observable, not only in the alteration of states in the insane and in the borderland cases, but also amongst normal persons—"the ups and downs of normal health." The aggravation in the mental symptoms due to bad physical health or occurring after fatigue is noted, and attention is directed specially to the appearance and recurrence of obsessional states when the subject is suffering from exhaustion. Dr. Greenlees describes the various forms which these obsessions take. For this purpose he subdivides them into obsessions of indecision, obsessions of fear (the phobias), and obsessions of irresistible impulse; he illustrates his remarks by examples. He considers that the medical man in attendance requires to be temperamentally fitted to undertake the care of such cases, that he must be tactful, resourceful, and firm. Removal of the patient from his home and complete freedom from the visits of his friends and relations is likewise insisted on. The Weir Mitchell treatment, massage, electricity, and dieting are also recommended.

THE ORGANISM OF UNDULANT FEVER.

DR. DANIEL M. MARGUERAT (Malta) suggests that the organism of the disease formerly known as Malta fever might well be renamed "Bruce's undulococcus," and that the present title of *Micrococcus melitensis*, including its pseudo- and para-varieties, should be abandoned, since it is now well known that Mediterranean or undulant fever occurs also in India, South Africa, China, South America, Fiji, and other distant places. The proposed new name for the organism would indicate its discoverer, Sir David Bruce. Dr. Marguerat adds that on December 14th, 1925, the proposed change was suggested to the Minister for Public Health in the Legislative Assembly of Malta.

THE MEDICAL PROFESSION AND UNQUALIFIED PRACTICE.

In a letter in which he expresses dissatisfaction with the course and results of the discussion on the relation of the medical profession to unqualified practice, arranged by the Marylebone Division, a report of which was published in our issue of December 19th, 1925 (p. 1191), Mr. Paul Bernard Roth, F.R.C.S. (London, W.1), suggests that before the profession decides on its proper parliamentary action it would be well that an investigation committee should spend a few months in the United States and then draw up a fearless report on osteopathy, regardless of the consequences. He proposes that the committee should consist of a physician, a neurologist, an aurist, and an orthopaedist, chosen because specially interested in the subject.

VACANCIES.

NOTIFICATIONS of offices vacant in universities, medical colleges, and of vacant resident and other appointments at hospitals, will be found at pages 44, 45, 48, and 49 of our advertisement columns, and advertisements as to partnerships, assistantships, and locumtenencies at pages 46 and 47.

A short summary of vacant posts notified in the advertisement columns appears in the *Supplement* at page 8.