

Some thirty members of the Inter-State Post-Graduate Medical Association of North America will arrive in London on Sunday, May 26th. They will visit the Middlesex Hospital on the afternoon of May 27th, Guy's Hospital on the 28th, and St. Bartholomew's Hospital on the 29th, where a special programme of clinical demonstrations has been arranged. Mr. Philip Franklin (27, Wimpole Street, W.1) is in charge of clinical arrangements for Great Britain.

The annual medical missionary breakfast of the Medical Prayer Union will be held at the Refectory, University College, Gower Street, W.C., on Wednesday, May 29th, at 8 a.m., with Mr. W. McAdam Eccles in the chair. An address will be given by Dr. Frederick N. Green of the Church Missionary Society, Maseno, E. Africa. Those wishing to attend should notify the honorary secretary, Dr. Tom Jays, at Livingstone College, Leyton, E.10.

On May 10th the research group known as "P E P" (Political and Economic Planning) published two reports, one dealing with the raising of the school age and part-time continued education until 18, the other surveying what has been done about retirement pensions, and what might be done in the near future. These reports are called "The Entrance to Industry" and "The Exit from Industry" in order to emphasize that the policies proposed are not only to be considered on their own merits, but also as a carefully worked out contribution to a more orderly structure of British social services. In order to make them as widely available as possible they are priced at 1s. each, and copies may be obtained from P E P, 16, Queen Anne's Gate, S.W.1, price 1s. 3d., post free.

Letters, Notes, and Answers

All communications in regard to editorial business should be addressed to **The EDITOR, British Medical Journal, B.M.A. 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. Authors over-seas should indicate on MSS. if reprints are required, as proofs are not sent abroad.

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 NUMBER of the British Medical Association and the *British Medical Journal* is EUSTON 2111 (internal exchange, five lines).

The TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESSES are:

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The address of the Irish Office of the British Medical Association is 18, Kildare Street, Dublin (telegrams: *Bacillus, Dublin*; telephone: 62550 Dublin), and of the Scottish Office, 7, Drumsheugh Gardens, Edinburgh (telegrams: *Associate, Edinburgh*; telephone: 24361 Edinburgh).

QUERIES AND ANSWERS

Painful Swelling of Breasts

"P. G. D." writes: Mrs. X., aged 31, married seven years, no issue, is complaining of painful enlargement of both mammary glands, associated with menstruation. The pain and swelling commences about seven to ten days before each period. There is secretion from breasts. A neuropathic strain is evident from patient's history. What relation these phenomena in the mammary tissues bear to ovarian activity and pituitary influences is a question upon which I should value the opinion of some of your readers. Also suggestions for suitable therapy.

Insufflation of Eustachian Tube

"J. D." writes: Can any reader suggest a method of conducting hot air into the Eustachian tube, either by the pharyngeal extremity or by the external auditory canal, where the drum is absent?

LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.

Unqualified Practice

"WEST COUNTRY G.P." writes: I often wonder, and in fact am not a little amazed, at the way in which some pharmaceutical chemists undertake to treat medical and surgical cases. I know several chemists who actually bring patients into a special room, where they examine and prescribe for them. The peculiar thing is, the patient never dreams of accusing the chemist, should his diagnosis and treatment be wrong, and the chemist, on his part, is ignorant of the end-results of his muddling, except where the cure is due to "vis medicatrix naturae." During the past six months the following cases have come to my notice, and I feel something should be done about it. First, a child, whose mother described to a chemist the symptoms of abdominal pain with occasional bouts of diarrhoea. For this the chemist not only advised but prescribed, brave man. Because the child failed to improve the mother sent for me. It was an obvious case of tuberculous peritonitis with marked wasting. Still, it might have been something else. Secondly, a child with a septic cut on the knee, which a chemist examined, advising fomentations with his boric lint. The child cried so much the mother brought it to me, and examination revealed a large inguinal abscess. Thirdly, a man who was "under the chemist's care for three weeks" and then was discharged because the chemist failed to effect a cure. When I saw him the diagnosis was not obvious, but he had a Hb of 26 per cent., a red blood count of 1½ millions, and marked icterus. Fourthly, a girl with bad pyrrhoea was advised by her dentist, in whom I personally have every faith, to have total extraction. She returned in a few days to say she had had her mouth examined by a chemist, who stated extraction was unnecessary and that mouth washes were all that was required. A fifth and rather tragic case was that of a woman with sternal pain resembling coronary sclerosis and also symptoms suggesting cholelithiasis. On account of her cardiac condition operation was denied her for her gall-stones. Nevertheless, a chemist undertook to "dissolve" them for her, and treated her with olive oil and a powder resembling a seidlitz. His fee, I know, was high, and the relief afforded was in inverse proportion. She died shortly afterwards from a coronary thrombosis.

Osteopathic Treatment

Mr. J. F. PEART, F.R.C.S.I. (London, W.), writes: The following, which has recently come to my notice, you may think sufficiently interesting to publish. A young woman of 25 years consulted me for a hernia she was supposed to be suffering from. She had been under treatment for such for some time by an osteopath. He evidently did not consider spinal treatment sufficient, as he ordered her to get a truss, which she was wearing. The condition was one of uterine fibroids, which have since been removed.

Vitamins

Glaxo Laboratories have published in pamphlet form a summary of the nature, physiological actions, and clinical applications of the vitamins, with particular reference to the concentrated preparations issued from 56, Osnaburgh Street, N.W.1. Copies will be sent to medical practitioners on application to the laboratories.

Corrigenda

In the article "Eleven Years' Work on Anaesthetics" in last week's *Journal* (p. 984) there were two errors: in lines 16-17 reference was made to the late Professor W. E. Dixon; this should, of course, be the late Professor H. B. Dixon of Manchester. In the last paragraph, thirteen lines from the bottom, Dr. N. E. Pitt's name was wrongly spelt.

In correction of the paragraph published last week at page 995, we are asked to state that Dame Louise McIlroy will preside over Section C, Maternity, Child Welfare, and School Hygiene, at the health congress of the Royal Sanitary Institute, to be held at Bournemouth next July.

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, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 54, and 55 of our advertisement columns, and advertisements as to partnerships, assistantships, and locumtenancies at pages 52 and 53.

A short summary of vacant posts notified in the advertisement columns appears in the *Supplement* at page 223.