

On October 23rd the Duke of Kent opened the Scarborough new general hospital, which has been built on the western outskirts of the town at a cost of £130,000, of which all but £15,000 has been raised since the scheme was initiated ten years ago. The new building contains 140 beds, and has been planned to allow for extensions which would double the accommodation.

The issue of *Hospitalstidende*, the organ of the Danish Medical Society, for September 15th contains a sympathetic obituary notice of Lord Moynihan by Professor S. A. Gammeltoft, director of the gynaecological clinic at Copenhagen University.

Dr. R. Fortescue Fox has been elected an honorary member of the Austrian Society of Balneology and Physiotherapy.

Guy's Hospital is to increase the number of its maternity beds from twenty-one to forty-nine. This change, which will be carried out within the next month, has been made possible by the rearrangement of beds in the medical block of the hospital.

## Letters, Notes, and Answers

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The TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESSES are  
EDITOR OF THE *BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL*, Aitiology Westcent, London.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY AND BUSINESS MANAGER  
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The address of the B.M.A. Scottish Office is 7, Drumsheugh Gardens, Edinburgh (telegrams: Associate, Edinburgh; telephone: 24361 Edinburgh), and of the Office of the Irish Free State Medical Union (I.M.A. and B.M.A.), 18, Kildare Street, Dublin (telegrams: Bacillus, Dublin; telephone: 62550 Dublin).

## QUERIES AND ANSWERS

### Rigid Neck in Parkinsonism

Dr. A. H. DUNKERLEY (Westerham, Kent) writes: I should be grateful for any suggestion as to treatment in the following case of Parkinsonism following encephalitis. The patient is an old lady of 70 years, who has responded well to atropine therapy, but is troubled exceedingly with the muscular rigidity in her neck muscles, so that her head is continually bent forward at an angle where she cannot see or read anything. The atropine has been pressed as far as possible, but I wonder if anybody has devised a piece of simple apparatus for holding the head back. The head can easily be pushed back, but will only stop in an upright position for thirty seconds.

### Income Tax

#### Replacement of Car

"F. H." bought a car for £172 in March, 1935, and for the financial year 1936-7 has been allowed £27 depreciation. The car has just been sold for £115 and a new one purchased for £178. Does the present assessment need adjusting?

\*\* No, because the tax for this year is based on the income and expenses of last year. But when the declaration of income is made next year depreciation should be claimed on the new car and "obsolescence" allowance in respect of the old car. The amount to be claimed will be (£172 - £115 =) £57 less the amount of the depreciation—that is, the full amount, not merely the proportion allowed for income tax.

## LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.

### Laboratory and Bedside

"Medical Science and Practical Medicine" was the subject of an address delivered to the University of Durham Medical Society by Professor G. H. Monrad-Krohn of Oslo. He explained that his object was not only to discuss the wonderful progress and development of modern medicine, but also to show possible pathological symptoms and signs of degeneration in medical science and practice of to-day. At first sight the terms "medical science" and "practical medicine" appeared synonymous, but too often they were antagonistic. The lecturer deplored the abyss that yawned between the laboratory and clinical science, and the lack of co-operation between laboratory workers and clinicians. In medical science he deprecated the influence of fashion, whereby mere postulates, sponsored by a fashionable creed, were too often mistaken for proven facts; also the scientific vanity which induced some ambitious workers to describe new reflexes or modifications of known diseases, solely to provide pegs in medical literature on which to hang their own names. Despite the enormous progress of medical science, the domain of aetiology was still largely a *terra incognita*, when even the cause of the common cold was not yet definitely known. With regard to practical medicine it was one of the functions of the practitioner to give to his patients what he received from medical science, and to return to science what he learned from his patients. The experience of old practitioners was often far ahead of medical science, and country doctors in Norway were prescribing cod-liver oil long before vitamins were discovered. Practical medicine was a mixture of science and art guided by knowledge, by tact, and by intuition. *Non medicamen sed medicus curat.*

### Population Policy

Dr. B. DUNLOP (Putney, S.W.) writes: Sir Henry Brackenbury's address on "Maternity in its Sociological Aspects" (October 24th, p. 828) is a masterly and valuable one. I submit, however, (1) that, as Dr. Louis I. Dublin, the eminent American statistician, has indicated, an average of three children per fertile couple may be enough to maintain numbers; (2) that to oppose birth control clinics for the poor is to deny them the right to voluntary parenthood, which, as Professor Carr-Saunders contends, must now be the basis of a satisfactory population policy; and (3) that, on the average, the couples in the richer half of a nation produce children at least slightly more gifted and good-looking by heredity than the other couples do.

### A Pharmaceutical Discrepancy

Mr. FRANK TAYLOR, M.P.S., writes with reference to the letter from Dr. Stuart Goldhurst under this heading (October 24th, p. 850): I have long thought that something should be done in the matter of tab. acid. acetylsal. co., as two are official: tab. acid. acetylsal. co. N.F. (*National Formulary*), which contains acid. acetylsal., phenacetin, and Dover's powder, and tab. acid. acetylsal. co., B.P.C., which contains acid. acetylsal., phenacetin, and caffeine. It is unfortunate that two tablets having the same name should have different formulae, and the sooner one of these has a different name the better for everyone concerned.

### Spa Technique at Aix

A report entitled "Les Techniques Thermales d'Aix-les-Bains et leurs Applications Cliniques," by Drs. Bertier, Blanc, and Folliet (Imprimeries Réunies de Chambéry), was prepared on behalf of the Medical Society of Aix-les-Bains for the *Réunion Scientifique* last year. The best part of it is the author's description of the technique at this famous Savoy spa, as now expanded and developed in the new State establishment. Following the practice in other countries, a school of thermal technique for bath attendants has been set up, with a qualifying examination, under the direction of the professor of hydrology at the University of Lyons.

### Vacancies

Notifications of offices vacant in universities, medical colleges, and of vacant resident and other appointments at hospitals, will be found at pages 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 54, 55, and 56, of our advertisement columns, and advertisements as to partnerships, assistantships, and locumtenencies at pages 52 and 53.

A short summary of vacant posts notified in the advertisement columns appears in the *Supplement* at page 243.