

## Medical News

The Honorary Fellowship of the American College of Surgeons has been conferred on Sir James Walton, surgeon to the London Hospital, and Professor William Fletcher Shaw of Manchester.

A Chadwick Public Lecture, entitled "The Doctor's Mandate in Parliament," will be delivered by Sir Francis Fremantle in the Great Hall of British Medical Association House, Tavistock Square, W.C., on Tuesday, November 24th, at 5.15 p.m., with Sir James Crichton-Browne, F.R.S., in the chair.

Dr. Edward Mellanby, F.R.S., will deliver a lecture on "Recent Advances in the Treatment of Disease," at the Royal Institution, 21, Albemarle Street, W., on Friday, November 27th, at 9 p.m.

A dinner will take place at the Hyde Park Hotel, Knightsbridge, S.W., on November 24th, at 8 p.m., when the president of the British Science Guild, Lord Melchett, will preside. A presentation will be made to Sir Richard Gregory, Bt., LL.D., D.Sc., F.R.S., chairman of the Council of Management, in recognition of his eminent services to science generally and to the British Science Guild in particular.

The annual dinner of King's College Hospital Past and Present Students was held at the May Fair Hotel on October 24th. Mr. H. A. T. Fairbank, F.R.C.S., was in the chair, and proposed the health of "The Hospital and Medical School," which was responded to by the dean, Dr. J. A. Drake. "The Chairman's Health" was proposed by Dr. G. F. Still.

A sessional meeting of the Royal Sanitary Institute will be held at the Winter Gardens, Margate, on Friday, November 27th, at 5 p.m., when there will be discussions on "The Role of the Health Department on Carrying Out the Air Raid Precautions Regulations," to be opened by Major H. S. Blackmore of the Air Raid Precautions Department of the Home Office, and on "The Accredited Milk Scheme in Kent," to be opened by Mr. G. H. Garrad.

A meeting of the Royal Microscopical Society will be held at B.M.A. House, Tavistock Square, W.C., on Wednesday, November 18th, at 5.30 p.m., when Mr. J. E. Barnard, F.R.S., and Mr. F. V. Welch will read a paper on "Microscopy with Ultra-violet Light: A Simplification of Method."

A meeting of the Society of Radiotherapists of Great Britain and Ireland will be held at 11, Chandos Street, W., on Friday, December 4th, at 4.30 p.m., when there will be a discussion on "The Intensity Factor in Radiation," to be opened by Drs. Spear, Mayneord, McWhirter, and Fulton, and Mr. Stanford Cade and Professor Russ.

A meeting of the Medico-Legal Society will be held at 26, Portland Place, W., on Thursday, November 26th, at 8.30 p.m., when a paper will be read by Dr. W. G. Barnard on "The Medico-Legal Institute."

At a meeting of the French Academy of Medicine on October 27th grave concern was expressed with regard to the future supply of "crin de Florence" from Spain. Hitherto this material for sutures and ligatures has been obtained solely from Spain, and only from a limited area where the peasants cultivate silkworms of a special breed. The silk thus obtained is prepared locally. At present none of it is coming into France, and the supply for 1937 is already seriously compromised. It is anticipated that it will be difficult to obtain such silk in France in another five or six months.

At the meeting of the Central Midwives Board for England and Wales on November 5th the draft of the annual report on the work of the Board for the year ended March 31st, 1936, was considered and approved, and the secretary was instructed to send a copy to the Minister of Health.

A severe epidemic of bubonic plague has recently broken out in the Tucuman Province of the Argentine, the principal focus being Mache.

The new x-ray clinic attached to the Margaret Street Hospital for Diseases of the Chest was officially opened by the Marchioness of Titchfield on November 4th. Before the ceremony Dr. F. Hernaman-Johnson, radiologist in charge of the clinic, described the work to be carried out there and referred to the arrangements for private patients. An inspection of the hospital concluded the proceedings.

## 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.

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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.

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## QUERIES AND ANSWERS

### Resection of Ileo-caecal Valve

"B. Q." writes: Fifteen years ago, as a result of appendix abscess, a portion of gut was resected, including the ileo-caecal valve. Persistent diarrhoea has been the result ever since. Apart from the inconvenience, it results in burning discomfort in the large bowel when contents of small bowel are hurried into it, with a sensation of spasm (x-rays show this). More or less frequent periods of extreme prostration with dyspnoea and irregular heart beat due to toxæmia are the most troublesome feature. I have never heard of, or met with, a case of resection of ileo-caecal valve. Any observations or suggestions from colleagues would be welcome.

### Nocturnal Cramp

"T. P." writes: Referring to "Alpha's" communication in the *Journal* of October 24th (p. 850), might the "error" suggested be an Fe deficiency? There seems to be a relation between the iron intake and protein digestion, whether gastric or pancreatic, according to some of my observations, where this deficiency has been noted in several members of a family, though with different consequences. The aggravation caused by excessive carbohydrates may be occasioned by a functional hepatic insufficiency. Where hexamine or acetylsalicylic acid may act as a corrective Crookes's "ferrofax" seems to be an easily assimilable preparation in these cases.

"74" writes: If the cause of cramp in "Alpha" is the same as mine he will get immediate relief from the muscular spasm by emptying his bladder, no matter how small the contents of it may be.

### Income Tax

#### Obsolescence of Car

"J. H. A.'s" transactions have been as follows:

1920 bought car A for £575  
1926 sold A for £5 and bought car B for £375  
1932 sold B for £10 and bought car C for £188  
1936 sold C for £40 and bought car D for £220

Depreciation has not been claimed, but an "obsolescence" allowance of £188 was made in 1932. The cars have been of similar grade and power.

\*\* The obsolescence allowance due in respect of car C in 1936 is £198 - £40 = £158. The 1932 allowance was apparently calculated on a "renewal" basis. The "obsolescence" allowance in respect of car B due in 1932 would

be £375 - £10 = £365, and we suggest that "J. H. A." might point out to the inspector of taxes that he is still within the six years' time limit for the correction of errors, and that he asks for an adjustment of his liability for the year concerned. The older and higher car costs do not influence the effect of the present transaction, and this case illustrates, what we have pointed out in the past—namely, that failure to claim the depreciation allowance often involves the practitioner in loss.

### LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.

#### *The British Legion Fund*

The 1935 Poppy Day appeal of Earl Haig's British Legion Fund realized the gross total of £527,302. This exceeded the appeal of 1934 by £21,674, and the previous record collection of 1930 by about £3,000. The bulk of the money is allocated to the Benevolent Department of the British Legion, but grants are also made to the Officers' Benevolent Department, Preston Hall, and the British Legion Poppy Factory at Richmond. In addition, £20,000 is given to the Prince of Wales's British Legion Pension Fund, and St. Dunstan's receives an annual grant of £15,000. Occasional grants are also made to other societies which help ex-service men; during the last financial year these grants numbered seventeen, and the total so distributed was £4,870. A small fixed percentage of the net income of the British Legion Fund is applied for the purposes of the General Fund, which finances the work of the Legion, including its Pensions, Disablement, and Employment Departments. The Poppy Day report for 1935 comprises details of the activities thus forwarded. In spite of the better statutory allowances now available for unemployed persons, cases of emergency among ex-service men are not infrequent, and in the year under review £61,923 was devoted to men and their families suffering from acute illnesses. Help was also given to sufferers from chronic diseases from time to time, particularly during the autumn and winter seasons, when aid is most desired. Dental treatment was provided for 1,526 cases at a cost of £4,331. Loans and grants were made to 904 cases to assist in the establishment of new small businesses, and £3,879 was employed in promoting schemes for the employment of ex-service men in varied other remunerative activities. A new scheme of assistance came into being in 1935, in which provision was made for the fatherless children whose mothers had had to undergo treatment in hospitals, and for the maintenance of total orphans of school age. It has been possible to assist twenty-five ex-service men and their families to emigrate to the Dominions. The total amount administered by the Benevolent Department during 1935 was £465,874. During the two years ended September 30th, 1935, 880 patients were admitted to the British Legion Village; 681 were discharged, of whom 429 were definitely improved. The average number of patients in residence is about 400, the highest figure reached since the British Legion took over the charge of Preston Hall in 1925. The surgical treatment of pulmonary tuberculosis has made outstanding advances there, and the radiographical equipment has been much improved.

#### *Public Health Congress*

A Public Health Congress and Exhibition is to be held at the Royal Agricultural Hall, Islington, next week from November 16th to 21st. It will be opened by Sir Kingsley Wood, Minister of Health, and on the first afternoon an address on "The Rise of the Medical Officer of Health" will be given by Sir Arthur MacNalty, Chief Medical Officer to the Ministry. The sessions on succeeding days and in different sections will be devoted to discussions, among other subjects, on the welfare of mothers and pre-school children, recreational physical training for adolescents and adults, occupation as a therapeutic and educational agent, problems of institutional administration with special reference to voluntary hospitals, and the past, present, and future of the municipal hospital. One day (Friday) is to be devoted chiefly to mental health, when papers will be read on such subjects as the organization of recreations and amusements in mental hospitals, the therapeutic value in mental illness of physical fitness through exercise, and the extension of holiday provision for working patients in mental hospitals. One paper to be read in another section on the Friday is on air raid precautions so far as they affect the departments of the municipal and county engineer and cleansing superintendent, by the city engineer of Sheffield (Mr. R. Nicholas). The exhibition will be generally devoted to equipment for the public health services. The arrangement of the event is

in the hands of an organizing council presided over by Sir Frederick J. Willis and including representatives of the Ministry of Health and Board of Control, the County Councils Association and Association of Municipal Corporations, and other national bodies interested in local government.

#### *Relief of Spanish Distress*

The following letter, signed by Lord FITZALAN OF DERWENT, Lord HOWARD OF PENRITH, and Mr. A. HUNGERFORD POLLEN, has been received for publication: The Catholic Bishops' Committee for the Relief of Spanish Distress (president, the Archbishop of Westminster) recently appealed for funds to assist the refugees and children rendered destitute and orphaned by the civil war in Spain, and to mitigate the suffering of the wounded of both sides now in the care of the Burgos authorities. We have since learnt that the case of the wounded is the more poignant, for the reason that drugs, medical comforts, etc., are almost unobtainable. The generous response to our first appeal has enabled us to acquire, fully equip, and dispatch a motor ambulance, auxiliary lorry, tent, operating instruments, anaesthetics, antiseptics, etc., and we have funds to maintain this unit in the field for some time. But many more, and more completely equipped, units, as well as blankets and woollen clothes, are urgently needed. We have secured that everything sent out will be administered with Red Cross impartiality. The state of the wounded is appalling; and we cannot believe that our fellow-countrymen, whatever their creed, can be indifferent to the call of mercy. We therefore beg them, irrespective of faith or party, to help us to assuage the appalling miseries of these war victims. All subscriptions, large or small, will be gratefully received and acknowledged by the Honorary Treasurer, National Bank Ltd., 21, Grosvenor Gardens, S.W.1.

#### *Autumn in Sweden*

Professor I. WALKER HALL, M.D., writes: Advice is often sought as to the suitability and facilities of foreign resorts by those who wish to winter abroad. It may be of assistance to indicate, therefore, that the terrain and climate of the southern part of Sweden offer certain advantages to rheumatic, bronchitic, arteriosclerotic, and neurasthenic patients. There are several resorts to which a practitioner may send his inquiries with every confidence. One with which I am well acquainted is Tyinge. It is set in the midst of pine and birch forests, 500 feet above sea-level, with air that is unusually dry and ozonic, and soil that is sandy. There is an excellent hotel-sanatorium, replete with baths and all medical accessories. The resident physician speaks English. The food is varied and attractive. Vegetarian, diabetic, and special diets are available. The staff is most efficient, both medical and general. As I happen to be staying here for a time I shall be glad to reply to any practitioner who may wish for further independent information.

#### *p-Aminobenzenesulphonamide*

Evans Sons Lescher and Webb Ltd. (56, Hanover Street, Liverpool) write: Although supplies of this drug have actually been prepared by us sufficient data regarding clinical application have not yet been accumulated to justify its introduction into common practice. While clinical trials have so far been encouraging, the uses, dosage, and possible dangers of the product are not yet fully determined. At the moment, therefore, it is undesirable to administer the drug indiscriminately, but small supplies are available for the use of the medical profession for trial on proved cases of haemolytic streptococcal infection, and will be issued free of charge on request, subject to it being agreed that the practitioners concerned will take the necessary steps to ensure the presence of haemolytic streptococci in the case, prior to the institution of treatment, and will undertake to supply full particulars to the Medical Director, Evans Biological Institute, Runcorn, Cheshire.

#### *Corrigendum*

We have to correct an error in last week's *Supplement*. In our vacancies column the London Hospital was incorrectly stated to have advertised for a house-surgeon.

#### *Vacancies*

Notifications of offices vacant in universities, medical colleges, and of vacant resident and other appointments at hospitals, will be found at pages 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 60, and 61 of our advertisement columns, and advertisements as to partnerships, assistantships, and locumtenencies at pages 58 and 59.

A short summary of vacant posts notified in the advertisement columns appears in the *Supplement* at page 267.