

kindred organisations, many of which are in abeyance for lack of helpers; (c) as guides for educational visits to places of public interest, and in every personal way to counteract the lack of recreative occupation which has left the children more than ever open to the abnormal influences of the times. The address of the State Children's Association is 53, Victoria-street, London, S.W.

SYPHILIS IN THE NEGRO.

Dr. Walter G. Baetz contributes to the Proceedings of the Medical Association of the Isthmian Canal Zone (Vol. VII., Part I., Panama Canal Press, 1916) a valuable study of 500 consecutive cases of syphilis among coloured canal labourers. He says that a question frequently asked by medical men visiting the tropics is: "Do you see all of the diseases we have in the temperate zones, and, if so, do these diseases in the tropical climate and native run the usual course of their temperate prototypes?" Dr. Baetz has failed to find among 20,000 medical admissions to the Ancon Hospital of tropical male negroes a case of acute articular rheumatism, scarlet fever, or tabes dorsalis, and has observed only a single case of dementia paralytica in a negro of Indian type. On the other hand, certain syphilitic manifestations he finds much more frequent among tropical negroes than in Caucasians. The relative frequency of syphilitic manifestations expressed in percentages was as follows: adenopathy, 88; genital chancre or scar, 65; arthritis, periostitis, exostoses, 60; cerebro-spinal lesions, 36; skin lesions, 28; cardio-vascular lesions, 10; gummata and visceral infiltrations, 5. Dr. Baetz finds that in the implantation of the treponema pallidum in the aorta and aortic valves the negro pays a heavy toll. Over 31 per cent. of cases showed some febrile movement. "Tertiary" yaws he regards as a charitable diagnosis of tertiary syphilis. Prognosis as regards recovery is bad in this class of ignorant and careless patients. "The permanently disabled remain behind as inmates of the chronic ward until relieved by death, while the relieved ones will return to their habitations to perpetuate and increase the disease." Dr. Baetz concludes that the "negro will always remain a fertile supply depôt for venereal infections. The less he is cared for the more will he retaliate by increasing the supply."

A SUGGESTION FOR THE TREATMENT OF OBSTINATE HICCOUGH.

A PHILADELPHIA correspondent writes that when doing electrical work on a street car he received a shock of 550 volts, which passed from one arm through the chest and down to the other hand. His life was saved by being in series with five 16 c.p. lamps. During the passage of the current his chest muscles were tense and immovable. He suggests an imitation of this process in the treatment of intractable hiccough. The patient is to be firmly strapped to the operating table, a ring electrode fastened round the neck, the other terminal of 6 in. diameter applied to the abdomen, and a sufficient current passed for 10 seconds, a time which our correspondent thinks would suffice. The battery should have a range of voltage adjustable from 55 to 110, with 15 to 250 alternations per second. The skin effect may be avoided by rubbing in vaseline previously. He would be pleased to learn of any case where the method is tried.

A CORONER'S CLERK ON CERTIFICATION.

Dubitans makes the following communication: "A is in medical practice in a sparsely populated district. He has a patient aged 94 whom he has not been asked to see for six months. Her son comes for a bottle of medicine for her on a Saturday, stating that she is up and about as usual, but has difficulty in swallowing. A suggests that she should be seen by him, and the son promises, if the medicine does her no good, he shall see her. On that understanding the medicine is given. On the Monday the son returns, stating that his mother died on the Sunday without complaining of anything further. A tells him that, not having seen her for six months, he must get the coroner's consent to certify. The coroner gives a form to be signed by the neighbours and by A, after viewing the body, stating that an inquest is not necessary and that on the return of the form signed he will give a certificate. The head clerk of the coroner is alleged by the deceased's son to have told him that, as the patient was so old, A should have certified in spite of not having been asked to see her for six months. Deceased's family are indignant and blame A. Did A act correctly?"

The action of A was unquestionably correct and the head clerk was not justified in his statement. A could not in the public interest certify without inquiry, as he had not seen his patient for half a year. He rightly subordinated to a general and higher claim the feelings of a particular family. The coroner's head clerk appears not to have risen above a parochial view.

FRAMBÆSIA IN FIJI.

In his annual medical report for 1914 to the Legislative Council of Fiji, Dr. A. A. Montague, acting chief medical officer, notes that the intentional infection of native children with frambœsia is no longer universal. It is, however, probable that most Fijian children still contract the disease. It accounts for a large infantile death-rate, either directly or when complicated by dysentery or broncho-pneumonia. In its tertiary stage it is responsible for a large proportion of the serious disease occurring among Fijians. At the Colonial Hospital 31 cases of secondary frambœsia and 206 of tertiary frambœsia were treated during the year. To the provincial hospitals 1046 cases of the disease, mainly in its tertiary stage, were admitted out of a total of admissions from all causes of 3793. Dr. Montague adds that salvarsan continues to give admirable results in this disease, and the number of recorded relapses after its use is small.

TROMMER'S MALT EXTRACTS.

Messrs. F. Newbery and Son, Limited, of Charterhouse-square, London, E.C., ask to be allowed to point out, in response to recent inquiries, that the constitution of the Trommer Company is entirely British, that their malt extracts are of British manufacture, and that none of their share capital has at any time been held by alien enemies. These preparations have been referred to in our analytical columns.

BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED.

- COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS, Philadelphia.
S. Weir Mitchell, M.D., LL.D., F.R.S., 1829-1914. Memorial Addresses and Resolutions.
- FORBES AND COMPANY, Chicago.
Painless Childbirth: Eutocia and Nitrous Oxid-oxygen Analgesia. By Dr. Carl Henry Davis. Price \$1.
- HODGE, WILLIAM, AND CO., London.
Construction, Equipment, and Management of a General Hospital. By Donald J. Mackintosh, M.V.O., M.B., LL.D., F.R.S.E. Second edition. Price 15s. net.
- KIMPTON, HENRY, London.
Essentials of Medical Electricity, by E. Reginald Morton, M.D., F.R.C.S. Third edition, revised and re-written, with addition of new matter, by Elkin P. Cumberbatch, M.A., M.B., Ch.B. Price 6s. net.
- LIVINGSTONE, E. AND S., Edinburgh.
Wheeler's Handbook of Medicine. By W. R. Jack, B.Sc., M.D., F.R.F.P.S. Glasg. Fifth edition. Price 8s. net.
- MACMILLAN AND CO., London.
Who is Insane? By Stephen Smith, A.M., M.D., LL.D. Price 5s. 6d. net.
- The Treatment of Acute Infectious Diseases. By Frank Sherman Meara, M.D., Ph.D. Price 15s. net.
- Keeping Physically Fit: Common-sense Exercises for the Whole Family. By William J. Cromie. Price 4s. 6d. net.
- MASSON ET CIE., Paris.
Précis de Médecin Opératoire. Par Aug. Broca, Professeur d'Opérations et Appareils à la Faculté de Médecine de Paris. Price 9fr.
- MILFORD, HUMPHREY, London. COLUMBIAN UNIVERSITY PRESS, New York.
Harvey's Views on the Use of the Circulation of the Blood. By J. G. Curtis, M.D., LL.D. Price 6s. 6d. net.

Medical Diary for the ensuing Week.

SOCIETIES.

ROYAL SOCIETY OF MEDICINE, 1, Wimpole-street, W.

MEETINGS OF SECTIONS.

Wednesday, March 22nd.

OPHTHALMOLOGY (Hon. Secretaries—Elmore W. Brewerton, Arthur W. Ormond): at 8.30 P.M.

Paper:

Colonel Lister, A.M.S., and Lieutenant-Colonel Gordon Holmes, R.A.M.C.: Disturbances of Vision from Cerebral Lesions with Special Reference to the Cortical Representation of the Macula.

NEUROLOGY.—Members of this Section are specially invited to attend the meeting of the Section of Ophthalmology (see above).

Friday, March 24th.

STUDY OF DISEASE IN CHILDREN (Hon. Secretaries—J. D. Rolleston, A. S. Blundell Bankart, Sidney Gilford): at 4.30 P.M.

Cases:

Dr. E. A. Cockayne: (1) Sclerodermia; (2) Paroxysmal Hemoglobinuria.

Dr. E. B. Gunson: Gangrene of Leg following Diphtheria.

Dr. J. L. Bunch: A Papulo-necrotic Tuberculid.

Dr. H. Thursfield: Rickets: Multiple Fractures.

And other Cases.

Specimen:

Dr. J. D. Rolleston: Brain of "Mongolian" Imbecile.

Short Papers:

Dr. R. Hutchison: Report on a Case of Hemi-hypertrophy with Post-mortem Examination.

Dr. H. C. Cameron: Osteogenesis Imperfecta (Illustrated by cases and skiagrams).

MEDICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON, 11, Chandos-street, Cavendish-square, W.

MONDAY.—8.30 P.M., Discussion on Gunshot Wounds of the Spine, introduced by Captain J. S. Collier (Medical Aspect) and Lieutenant-Colonel D. Armour (Surgical). Followed by Major F. W. Mott, Captain W. Harris, Dr. L. Guthrie, Captain E. Adams, Captain F. Buzzard, Major G. N. Pitt, Dr. S. A. K. Wilson, and Dr. E. G. Fearnside.

LONDON DERMATOLOGICAL SOCIETY, St. John's Hospital 49, Leicester-square, W.C.

TUESDAY.—4.30 P.M., Cases sent for Consultation. Demonstration of Pathological Specimens. Exhibition of Clinical Cases. 5.30 P.M., Paper:—Dr. J. L. Bunch: Dermatitis due to Hair Dyes.

HUNTERIAN SOCIETY, 1, Wimpole-street, W.

WEDNESDAY.—9 P.M., Annual Discussion:—The Relationship of the Medical Profession to the State and the Community (opened by Dr. F. J. Smith). Sir John Collie, Dr. T. D. Lister, Mr. L. Dodd and others will take part in the discussion.

LECTURES, ADDRESSES, DEMONSTRATIONS, &c.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND, Lincoln's Inn Fields, W.C.

Course of Lectures on the Anatomy of the Human Body, for First-aid and Ambulance Students (open to all members of ambulance companies and first-aid classes):—

MONDAY, WEDNESDAY, AND FRIDAY.—5.30 P.M., Prof. A. Keith. 4 P.M. to 7 P.M., Exhibition of Anatomical Preparations and Specimens in the Theatre on lecture days, and between 10 A.M. and 5 P.M. in the Hall of the Museum on the following day.

POST-GRADUATE COLLEGE, West London Hospital, Hammersmith-road, W.

MONDAY.—2 P.M., Medical and Surgical Clinics. X Rays. Mr. Gray: Operations. Mr. B. Harman: Diseases of the Eye. Dr. Simson: Diseases of Women.

TUESDAY.—2 P.M., Medical and Surgical Clinics. X Rays. Mr. Addison: Operations. Dr. Banks Davis: Diseases of the Throat, Nose, and Ear. Dr. Pernet: Diseases of the Skin.

WEDNESDAY.—10 A.M., Dr. Saunders: Diseases of Children. Dr. Banks Davis: Operations of the Throat, Nose, and Ear. 2 P.M., Medical and Surgical Clinics. X Rays. Mr. Pardoe: Operations. Dr. Simson: Diseases of Women.

THURSDAY.—2 P.M., Medical and Surgical Clinics. X Rays. Mr. Gray: Operations. Mr. B. Harman: Diseases of the Eye.

FRIDAY.—10 A.M., Dr. Simson: Gynaecological Operations. 2 P.M., Medical and Surgical Clinics. X Rays. Mr. Addison: Operations. Dr. Banks Davis: Diseases of the Throat, Nose, and Ear. Dr. Pernet: Diseases of the Skin.

SATURDAY.—10 A.M., Dr. Saunders: Diseases of Children. Dr. Banks Davis: Operations of the Throat, Nose, and Ear. Mr. B. Harman: Eye Operations. 2 P.M., Medical and Surgical Clinics. X Rays. Mr. Pardoe: Operations.

NORTH-EAST LONDON POST-GRADUATE COLLEGE, Prince of Wales's General Hospital, Tottenham, N.

MONDAY.—Clinics:—10.30 A.M., Surgical Out-patients (Mr. E. Gillespie). 2.30 P.M., Medical Out-patients (Dr. T. R. Whipham); Gynaecological Out-patients (Dr. Banister). 3 P.M., Medical In-patients (Dr. R. M. Leslie).

TUESDAY.—2.30 P.M., Surgical Operations (Mr. Carson). Clinics:—Medical Out-patients (Dr. A. G. Auld); Surgical Out-patients (Mr. Howell Evans); Nose, Throat, and Ear Out-patients (Mr. C. H. Hayton). Radiography (Dr. Metcalfe). 3.30 P.M., Medical In-patients (Dr. A. J. Whiting).

WEDNESDAY.—Clinics:—2.30 P.M., Throat Operations (Mr. C. H. Hayton). Children Out-patients (Dr. T. R. Whipham); Eye Out-patients (Mr. R. P. Brooks); Skin Out-patients (Dr. H. W. Barber). 5.30 P.M., Eye Operations (Mr. R. P. Brooks).

THURSDAY.—2.30 P.M., Gynaecological Operations (Dr. A. E. Giles). Clinics:—Medical Out-patients (Dr. A. J. Whiting); Surgical Out-patients (Mr. Carson); Radiography (Dr. Metcalfe). 3 P.M., Medical In-patients (Dr. R. M. Leslie).

FRIDAY.—2.30 P.M., Surgical Operations (Mr. Howell Evans). Clinics:—Medical Out-patients (Dr. A. G. Auld); Surgical Out-patients (Mr. E. Gillespie); Eye Out-patients (Mr. R. P. Brooks).

THE THROAT HOSPITAL, Golden square, W.

MONDAY.—5.15 P.M., Special Demonstration of Selected Cases.

THURSDAY.—5.15 P.M., Clinical Lecture.

ROYAL INSTITUTION OF GREAT BRITAIN, Albemarle-street, Piccadilly, W.

THURSDAY.—3 P.M., Prof. H. E. Armstrong: Organic Chemistry in War—Organic Products used as Propulsive and Explosive Agents. (Lecture II.)

FRIDAY.—5.30 P.M., Prof. W. M. Bayliss: The Mechanism of Chemical Change in Living Organisms.

For further particulars of the above Lectures, &c., see Advertisement Pages.

METEOROLOGICAL READINGS.

(Taken daily at 8.30 a.m. by Steward's Instruments.)

THE LANCET Office, March 15th, 1916.

Date.	Barometer reduced to Sea Level and 32° F.	Direction of Wind.	Rain-fall.	Solar Radio in Vacuo.	Maximum Temp. in Shade.	Min. Temp.	Wet Bulb.	Dry Bulb.	Remarks
Mar. 9	29.910	N.E.	...	67	42	32	33	34	Overcast
" 10	29.810	N.E.	...	44	37	34	34	36	Raining
" 11	29.436	N.E.	0.09	39	38	35	36	36	Overcast
" 12	29.550	N.	0.03	79	51	36	37	40	Overcast
" 13	29.670	E.	...	57	43	36	39	39	Overcast
" 14	29.702	E.	0.39	72	50	39	43	43	Overcast
" 15	29.616	N.E.	...	53	49	39	40	40	Overcast

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It is most important that communications relating to the Editorial business of THE LANCET should be addressed *exclusively* "TO THE EDITOR," and not in any case to any gentleman who may be supposed to be connected with the Editorial staff. It is urgently necessary that attention should be given to this notice.

It is especially requested that early intelligence of local events having a medical interest, or which it is desirable to bring under the notice of the profession, may be sent direct to this office.

Lectures, original articles, and reports should be written on one side of the paper only, AND WHEN ACCOMPANIED BY BLOCKS IT IS REQUESTED THAT THE NAME OF THE AUTHOR, AND IF POSSIBLE OF THE ARTICLE, SHOULD BE WRITTEN ON THE BLOCKS TO FACILITATE IDENTIFICATION.

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We cannot prescribe or recommend practitioners. Local papers containing reports or news paragraphs should be marked and addressed "To the Sub-Editor."

Letters relating to the publication, sale, and advertising departments of THE LANCET should be addressed "To the Manager."

We cannot undertake to return MSS. not used

MANAGER'S NOTICES.

THE INDEX TO THE LANCET.

THE Index and Title-page to Vol. II. of 1915 were given in THE LANCET of Dec. 25th, 1915.

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VOLUMES for the second half of the year 1915 are now ready. Bound in cloth, gilt lettered, price 16s., carriage extra.

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