

Notes, Short Comments, and Answers to Correspondents.

A HEALTHY BRITISH DEPENDENCY.

THE Cayman Islands, forming a dependency of the colony of Jamaica, are situated between the meridians 79° 44' and 81° 26' parallels of 19° 41' and 19° 46' N., and consist of three islands—Grand Cayman, Cayman Brac, and Little Cayman—with a total area of 225 square miles. They are said to have been discovered by Christopher Columbus and to have been originally a rendezvous for pirates. The principal town is Georgetown, in Grand Cayman. The government is administered by a Commissioner, Mr. A. C. Robinson, who in his report for 1913-14, just received at the Colonial Office, states that the islands are among the healthiest places in the world. There are no cases of illness attributable to climatic conditions. The weather is warm for the greater part of the year. The prevailing breeze is from the south-east from April until October, and the cool season begins with a change of the wind to the north and north-west in the early part of November. In the hot months the average temperature is 83° F. in the morning, 89° at midday, and 86° in the evening; in the cool months (November to March) it is 71° in the morning, 80° at midday, and 74° in the evening. A census taken in June, 1911, showed the total population of the islands to be 5564. Of these 2322 are white, 2211 coloured, and 1031 black. 3087 were returned as able to read and write, 749 as able to read only, and 1728, including children, as illiterate. There are many islanders who attach no importance whatsoever to the education of their children and who do not consider even reading or writing as in any way essential to a child's future welfare. During 1914 there were 195 births, 99 males and 96 females. Of these 160 were legitimate and 35 illegitimate. In the same period there were 39 deaths, 21 males and 18 females. There is a small building kept for the purpose of isolating infectious diseases, but it is not generally used. Government medical officers are appointed for the Lesser Islands and Grand Cayman, whose duty it is to visit all the outlying districts. The mosquito season begins in April and continues until September, when they begin to abate, and from November to February almost disappear. Householders adopt the method of lighting a smoke fire to ward off the attacks of these insects, which swarm in myriads and render life a torture to man and beast. A few houses are mosquito-screened. There are fortunately very few of the anopheline or malaria-transmitting variety. Although these islands are practically immune from the recognised mosquito-borne diseases—as malaria, yellow fever, and filariasis—the mosquito is nevertheless seriously detrimental to the health in other respects, the conditions of anæmia and general debility met with being attributed by the Government medical officer to the blood-sucking power of these insects. Swamps are found in various places, but as these are below the level of the sea they could only be drained by a large expenditure of money. So far as it is possible to ascertain, the people generally seem to display a more marked interest in hygiene, and, as this subject is taught in all the Government schools and particular importance attached to it, the rising generation may be taught to realise to the full the benefits to be derived from living in healthy surroundings.

RABIES AND QUARANTINE FOR DOGS.

FROM time to time the newspapers report cases in which persons are summoned for endeavouring to evade the restrictions placed by the Board of Agriculture upon the introduction into this country of dogs from abroad, and it is fairly well known that ladies often bring, or endeavour to bring, small pet dogs in by smuggling them under cloaks and other garments. Such cases would not be in the same class as that of a dog which recently was brought to England from Northern Nigeria and fortunately was not smuggled, but was duly placed in quarantine where it sickened and died, subsequent investigation by the officers of the Board of Agriculture showing that the cause of death was rabies. The loyal acquiescence of all in the salutary regulations referred to is a public duty.

THE DANGER OF CARTS AS PLATFORMS.

A HORSE and van are often hired by orators who wish to address the public from a convenient moving platform in the open air, but there is a danger in so doing when standing at the rear of the cart facing the public, without sufficient protection from the tailboard as a small parapet, and without careful attention to the horse's head. This week several public recruiting meetings have been

PULLING-GREY.—On April 8th, at the Church of St. Michael and All Angels, Sunninghill, John Bernard Pulling, M.B., B.S. Cantab., Faringdon, Berks, to Sybil Constance Grey, daughter of the late Mr. William Lewis Grey, of Pykara, Nilgiris, S. India.
STUART-SHELDON.—On April 10th, at St. Luke's Church, Kingston-on-Thames, Francis Wilson Stuart, M.D., M.Ch., to Constance Fanny, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. Sheldon, Birchfields, Birmingham.
WRIGLEY-MITCHELL.—On April 17th, at the Parish Church, Llandulas, by the Rev. Canon Roberts, assisted by the Rev. J. W. Thomas, Frank Graham Wrigley, M.D., third son of the late Roscoe Wrigley, of Oldham, and Mrs. Wrigley, of Didsbury, Manchester, to Marjorie Mary, eldest daughter of the late John Mitchell and Mrs. Mitchell, of Edinburgh.

DEATHS.

BENDLE.—On April 13th, at Sunnyside, Oldfield-road, Bath, James Huxtable Bendle, M.B., M.R.C.S., aged 40 years.
BOMFORD.—On April 12th, at St. Thomas's Home, London, Surgeon-General Sir Gerald Bomford, K.C.I.E., M.D., late Director-General, Indian Medical Service, aged 63 years.
DUNCAN.—On April 12th, at Oxford-road, Finsbury Park, N., Frederick Percy Duncan, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., in his 43rd year.
JOLLYE.—On April 16th, at 41, Nelson-road South, Great Yarmouth, Edward William Jollye, Surgeon, formerly of Donington, near Spalding, aged 81 years.
KAY.—On April 13th, at Worthing, William Kay, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., of Bentley, Hampshire, in his 63rd year.
TUNNICLIFFE.—On April 15th, suddenly, at Radlett, Edwin Thomas Mosse Tunnicliffe, M.R.C.S. Eng., aged 54 years.

N.B.—A fee of 5s. is charged for the insertion of Notices of Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED.

AMERICAN CLIMATOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION, Philadelphia.
 Transactions for the Year 1914. Vol. XXX.
BALE, JOHN, SONS, AND DANIELSSON, LIMITED, London.
 Defective Children. Edited by T. N. Kelynaek, M.D. Price 7s. 6d. net.
 Scheme for Dealing with Tuberculous Persons in the County of London: its Application to other Cities, with some Observations on the National Organisation of the Campaign against Tuberculosis. By D. Barty King, M.A., M.D. Edin., M.R.C.P. Lond. & Edin. With Foreword by Professor Sir William Osler, Bart., M.D., F.R.C.P., F.R.S. Price 5s. net.
CHURCHILL, J. AND A., London.
 Malay Poisons and Charm Cures. By John D. Gimlette, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. Price 3s. 6d. net.
DENT, J. M. AND SONS, LIMITED, Bedford-street, Strand, London, W.C.
 A Plea for the Thorough and Unbiased Investigation of Christian Science and a Challenge to its Critics. By Charles Herman Lea. Second and revised edition. Price 1s. net.
HODDER AND STOURTON, London, New York, and Toronto.
 The Way of the Red Cross. By E. Charles Vivian and J. E. Hodder Williams. Price 2s. 6d. net.
INSTITUT D'ESTUDIS CATALANS, Palace de la Diputació, Barcelona.
 Treballs de la Societat de Biologia Any Primer. 1913. Publicats sota la Direcció de A. Pi Suñer. Price 10 ptes.
LIPPINCOTT, J. B., COMPANY, Philadelphia and London.
 The Diseases of Children. Edited by Dr. M. Pfaundler and Dr. A. Schlossmann. English translation by Dr. H. L. K. Shaw and Dr. Linnaeus La Féttra. With introduction by Dr. L. Emmett Holt. Vol. VII.: Diseases of the Eye and Disorders of Speech. Price 21s. net.
LIVINGSTONE, E. AND S., Edinburgh.
 A Text-book of Medical Jurisprudence and Toxicology. By John Glaister, M.D., D.P.H. Cantab., F.R.S.E. Third edition. Price 15s. net.
NISBET, JAMES, AND CO., LIMITED, London.
 Operative Treatment of Chronic Intestinal Stasis. By Sir W. Arbuthnot Lane, Bart., M.S., F.R.C.S. Third edition. Price 10s. 6d. net.
SAMPSON LOW, MARSTON, AND CO., London.
 The Chronicles of the Imp: A Romance. By Jeffery Farnol. And an appreciation of the author and his work by Clement K. Shorter. Price 5s. 6d.
SCIENTIFIC PRESS, LIMITED, London.
 The Nervous System. By Dr. Ash. Price 1s. net.
 The Muscular System. By H. Burrows, F.R.C.S. Price 1s. net.
SMITH, ELDER, AND CO., London.
 The Minor Horrors of War. By A. E. Shipley, Sc.D., F.R.S., Master of Christ's College, Cambridge. Price 1s. 6d. net.
STANFORD UNIVERSITY, California.
 Introduction to the Study of the Endocrine Glands and Internal Secretions (Lane Medical Lectures, 1913). By Sir Edward Schäfer, Regius Professor of Physiology, Edinburgh University.
UNIVERSITY PRESS, Cambridge.
 Zoology: an Elementary Text-book. By A. E. Shipley, Sc.D., Hon. D.Sc. (Princeton), F.R.S., and E. W. MacBride, M.A. Cantab., D.Sc. Lond., F.R.S. Third edition. Price 12s. 6d. net.
WHITTAKER AND CO., London.
 Modern Illuminants and Illuminating Engineering. By Leon Gaster and J. S. Dow. Price 12s. 6d. net.

held in different parts of London, and one such meeting was addressed by a soldier supporting himself on two crutches, standing at the rear of a van. He called for one recruit to take his place in the ranks, and when one came forward there was clapping of hands. Simultaneously an electric tramcar passed, and probably the combined noises frightened the horse, which gave a jerk forward, with the consequence that the crippled soldier was thrown headlong on to the ground amidst the groans of the crowd. He might have been seriously hurt, but he was evidently plucky, for he rose again, and in a few minutes was assisted up and reoccupied his former dangerous position, although he was pale and evidently shaken.

WHISKY, ABSINTHE, AND BEER.

THE subject of "Drink and Prohibition" is now receiving much Government, public, and private attention. Whisky is the spirit chiefly consumed, perhaps, by the working classes. The "uisge beatha," "usque baugh," or "water of life," was originally known officially to the Government under the name of "agua vitæ," and those who are interested in its history will find a few particulars in THE LANCET of Jan. 28th, 1905, p. 240, under the heading of "Definition of Whisky in the Olden Times," from which it will be seen that the Scotch did not fear their own product but did fear the admixture of nauseous foreign spirit as an adulteration. Before the Royal Commission on Whisky and other Potable Spirits, whisky was defined as "a spirit obtained by distillation from a mash of cereal grains saccharified by the diastase of malt," and no distinction was allowed between "pot-still" and "patent" spirit. Whisky is generally considered to be mild in effects compared with absinthe, which has lately been prohibited in France, but no whisky is mild which has not been well matured. It would certainly be of advantage that beer should take the place of whisky, but much beer is too strong. A light or lager beer is seemingly proposed to be brewed by direction of the Government and sold in this country, in place of the heavy beers. It is interesting to recall that by the 4th and 5th of Philip and Mary it was enacted that "No bere bruer to brewe nor sell to any typpler, or other person, any bere called doble doble bere, but only two sorts of bere—viz., best bere and small bere, upon forfeit of ye bere and cask." To understand this more fully it is necessary to recollect that the "typpler" was what we now call the "publican," and not the "constant toper" or the publican's frequent customer. The dangers of too strong beer have long been recognised, but it may not be easy to make a very light beer popular.

CHILDREN'S FRESH-AIR MISSION.

THE annual meeting of this mission will be held in Staple Inn Hall, Holborn, E.C. (by permission of the Institute of Actuaries), on Wednesday next, April 28th, at 4 P.M., when the Bishop of Islington will preside. The following speakers in support of the fund are announced: Alderman Sir W. H. Dunn, Miss Paget, Mr. W. Pett Ridge, and Mr. Ernest E. Wild, K.C.

A BELATED NOTIFICATION.

ON April 17th we received through the post from the Secretariat of the III. Internationaler Kongress für Gewerbkrankheiten, Vienna, the following notification:—

August, 1914.

DEAR SIR,—The International Congress for Occupational Diseases which had to take place between the 21st and 26th of September in Vienna, has to be given up on account of the state of war.—Yours faithfully,

(Signed) Dr. TELEKY (?)

The exact date in August is, like the signature, undecipherable. The card, however, is surprisingly fresh and new-looking considering the time that it has been *en route*.

A USEFUL ANTISEPTIC SWAB.

WITH the object of minimising as far as possible the effects of septic poisoning of wounds received on active service, Dr. Campbell Highet, honorary medical officer to the Worcester Voluntary Aid Detachment, has devised a useful swab for applying an antiseptic solution. A glass ampoule is wrapped in a pad of plain gauze about 3 inches in diameter, and of 8 to 16 layers. The gauze is gathered round the thin neck of the ampoule, where it is tied with thread after the whole has been wrapped in an impervious covering. The ampoule holds half a dram or more of a solution recommended by Mr. G. Lenthal Cheate, C.V.O., C.B., in the *British Medical Journal* (vol. ii., 1914, p. 1006), consisting of 1 in 20 carbolic acid and 1 in 500 mercury perchloride in absolute alcohol coloured with rosoline, the latter acting as a mordant. For use the ampoule is fractured by a sharp blow from any hard object, the impervious covering (which prevents leakage

in case the glass container is accidentally broken) torn away, and the surface of the wound brushed with the impregnated swab. The swabs, which cost 2½d. each, are made by Messrs. J. Richardson and Co., and their inexpensiveness, portability, and easy manipulation should commend their use.

THE PAY OF GERMAN MILITARY MEDICAL OFFICERS.

"THE rate of pay of German military medical officers may be of interest to our own medical officers," writes a frequent correspondent. "The following appear to be the rates, unless they have been altered in any way since the war began. Sanitätsinspekteure, M. 10,260; generalärzte (surgeon-generals), M. 8772; general-oberärzte (colonels) and oberstabsärzte (lieutenant-colonels), M. 6102 to M. 6552; stabsärzte (staff-surgeons), M. 3400 to M. 5100; oberärzte (surgeons) and assistenärzte (assistant surgeons), M. 1700 to M. 2400; and unterärzte (subordinates or orderlies), M. 745. These are annual salaries, but may be supplemented by special house allowance, lodging allowance, or horse allowance. A mark may be reckoned roughly as a shilling."

DIABETIC CLINICAL CHARTS.

Messrs. J. B. Lippincott Company, of John-street, Adelphi, London, W.C., have submitted to us a convenient form of clinical chart for permanently recording the essential facts in regard to the urine, &c., in diabetic cases, both in hospital and private practice. They are printed on good paper, measuring 11 by 8 inches, and sold in packages of 50 at the price of 2s. 6d.

A. S. G.—One of the best tests for blood in urine is that devised by Meyer. It contains phenolphthalein, grm. 2; caustic potash, grm. 20; and distilled water, grm. 100. Mix and raise to boiling-point, then add powdered zinc, grm. 10; maintain at boiling-point for five minutes. Shake up and filter rapidly as soon as decoloration takes place. Add 1 c.c. of the reagent to a small quantity of the urine to be tested, also a few drops of peroxide of hydrogen when, if blood be present, a reddish colour is produced which is absolutely characteristic. With regard to the presence of urobilin in urine, Florence's test is easy of application and reliable: pyridine, alcohol, and chloroform $\bar{a}\bar{a}$ 50 grm., acetate of zinc 7.50 grm. Add to the suspected urine twice its volume of the reagent and set aside. If positive a very characteristic fluorescence is produced.

COMMUNICATIONS not noticed in our present issue will receive attention in our next.

Medical Diary for the ensuing Week.

SOCIETIES.

ROYAL SOCIETY, Burlington House, London, W.

THURSDAY.—Mr. H. Hartridge and Mr. A. V. Hill: The Transmission of Infra-red Rays by the Media of the Eye, the Transmission of Radiant Energy by Crookes's and other Glasses, and the Radiation from Various Light Sources (communicated by Mr. W. B. Hardy).—Mr. E. Beard and Mr. W. Cramer: Surface Tension and Ferment Action (communicated by Sir E. Schäfer).—Mr. W. Cramer: Surface Tension as a Factor controlling all Metabolism (communicated by Sir E. Schäfer).

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

MONDAY.

SECTION OF ODONTOLOGY (Hon. Secretaries—F. Coleman, F. R. Smyth): at 8 P.M.

Adjourned Discussion:

On Dr. Ewan Waller's paper, The Influence of the Thyroid Gland on Dental Caries (published in the March number of the Proceedings of the Section of Odontology).

Paper:

Dr. J. Sim Wallace: The Principles of Dietetics.

SECTION OF MEDICINE—The Members of this Section are specially invited to attend the discussion on Dr. Waller's and Dr. Sim Wallace's papers (as above).

SECTION FOR THE STUDY OF DISEASE IN CHILDREN.—The Members of this Section are specially invited to attend the discussion on Dr. Sim Wallace's paper (as above).

TUESDAY.

SECTION OF MEDICINE (Hon. Secretaries—John Fawcett, Charles R. Box): at 5.30 P.M.

Annual General Meeting.—Election of Officers and Council for Session 1915-1916.

Papers:

Dr. Arthur J. Hall: Notes on (1) A Case presenting Symptoms of Lymphatic Leukæmia of Acute Onset terminating in Complete Recovery; (2) Some Cases of Myelogenic Leukæmia.

Dr. F. Parkes Weber: An Instance of Long Quiescence of Leukæmia.

To be followed by a discussion on the Treatment of Leukæmia