EDITORIAL NOTES

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENTS OF POST-GRADUATE FACILITIES.

As will be within the knowledge of most of our readers, the Minister of Health, who is also Chairman of the Departmental Committee on Post-Graduate Medical Education, in presenting estimates for 1927-28 in Committee of Supply of the House of Commons on June 29th last, made a statement in regard to a post-graduate hospital in London, as previously recommended by the Athlone Committee. That committee had laid it down that it was not possible to combine in one school undergraduate and post-graduate teaching, which conclusion was supported, he believed, by all expert opinion. His committee had decided against building a new school and hospital on account of cost. After considering the possibilities of various existing hospitals they had come to the conclusion that what was essential could be obtained in the West London Hospital at Hammersmith. Its utilisation would mean considerable enlargement, and it had space into which it could extend, so that necessary lecture rooms and laboratories and additional beds could be provided. The scheme had been accepted in principle by the authorities of the hospital, and at the present time the buildings were being examined by technical experts with a view to seeing how they could be adapted and extended so as to make them available for the purpose. The completion of a scheme of this kind would mean the expenditure of large sums of money, and, although he was not at present contemplating that it should be financed by the State, he felt confident that the funds that were necessary would be forthcoming.

The conception of the Athlone Committee was, it will be recollected, that the hospital required "should be situated in a central district and be easy of access." This fundamental idea, it must be admitted, cannot be held to have been fully met by the proposed scheme, for Hammersmith is certainly not centrally situated, and in that respect among others the hospital in question is not ideal. It, however, is fairly accessible from the centre of London, and we are prepared to admit that, among the existing hospitals supposedly prepared to undertake the onerous function, a good choice has been made. It is not ideal in respect of position not alone because it is only fairly accessible for post-graduates located for the time being in the central parts of London (an adjoining hostel at Hammersmith might to some extent meet that drawback), but also, which is a more serious consideration, it can hardly be said that outlying special hospitals, few being in the western districts, are even fairly accessible, and thus one great difficulty of organising post-graduate facilities, that arising from the time-robbing circumstance of transport, is not adequately met.

However, if, as is to be earnestly hoped, all the post-graduate general hospitals of London, north, south, and east as well as west, are utilised in association, that serious handicap may in some degree be minimised. We believe we are expressing the feeling of a very large number of those deeply interested in post-graduate education in London when we confess to disappointment that the hospital should not be centrally situated as the Athlone Committee recommended, and further, that the hospital provided is not to be a new hospital but one merely adapted.

It seems abundantly clear that given the location of the hospital so far from the central position, the location of the organising and directing institution itself should be, without any gloss, absolutely central, and for choice in or very near the geographical focus of medical education, as has been achieved for the University of London. The recommendation of the Athlone Committee was that such institution should be "established in a central position easily accessible from the central hospital"—a central position easily accessible from a hospital at Hammersmith is obviously a contradiction in terms.

The question of the imperative need, as we conceive it, for a multiplicity of hospitals acting in association, as has been the ideal of the Fellowship of Medicine, we will not now try to elaborate. Of course, the statement of the Minister of Health, to whom post-graduate education is already profoundly indebted, was based on wishes and hopes rather than on materialised plans, but he has the hearty goodwill of those we especially represent for a successful issue of his difficult task—the establishment of a "central" hospital.

POST-GRADUATE COURSES FOR PANEL DOCTORS.

Last autumn we referred, in our editorial columns, to a successful post-graduate course arranged for rural practitioners practising in the north-western counties by the Panel Committees of Lancashire, Westmorland, and Cumberland. It was instituted, as was then stated, under the supervision and with the financial assistance of the Ministry of Health, which were obtained through the mediation of the Rural Practitioners' Sub-Committee of the British Medical Association Insurance Acts Committee.

This course, which lasted a week, was held in late September, was carried through at Newcastle-on-Tyne in the Royal Victoria Hospital and the Princess Mary Maternity Hospital, was attended by 12 doctors, and was much appreciated. Each day of work began at 9.30 A.M., and ended with the witnessing of surgical operations from 6 P.M. onwards.

Since then other courses of a similar type have been held, notably one at Bristol, which was likewise entirely successful, useful, and valued.
The latest, so far as we are aware, was given in London by the old-established Post-Graduate College attached to the Prince of Wales's General Hospital at Tottenham, N., from Monday, June 27th, to Saturday, July 9th. Some 23 doctors from the counties of Hampshire, Wiltshire, and Dorset participated in it, following it through with obvious keenness and satisfaction.

As was to be expected, one department of work appealed more to one group of men and other kinds to other groups, and that, it was felt, was, as it should be, from the point of meeting individual needs or wishes. Incidentally, the point arose for consideration whether, in arrangement for future courses, it might not be expedient to hold more than one demonstration, on different subjects, during the same hour. It has long been recognised at this school that a small number of attendant post-graduates was preferable for a demonstration, properly so-called, alike for the post-graduates and the demonstrator, and the same principle applies in dealing with ward and out-patient clinics and general hospital work.

The syllabus was as follows: in the mornings, from 10.30 A.M. to 11.30 A.M., and from 11.45 A.M. to 12.45 P.M., demonstrations are given in a lecture room on methods, both clinical and laboratory, mainly methods concerned with diagnosis. In the syllabus under review the subjects dealt with included the following: the method and significance of blood-urea and blood-sugar estimations, the uses of the rectal tube, gynaecological pathology, methods of orthopaedic treatment with cases, and the special X-ray examination of the colon, clinical examination of the blood, various pathological methods of use in general practice, the use of the truss in the treatment of hernia, the examination of cases of disease of the nervous system, the graphic method in the study of heart disease, and the differentiation of pulse irregularities. From 2 P.M. to 2.45 P.M. there was the demonstration of groups of clinical cases, medical and surgical, and cases from the special departments. From 2.30 P.M. onwards, the routine work of the hospital was open to post-graduates—clinics in the wards, demonstrations in the various out-patient departments, including radiology and venereal disease. During the same time, surgical operations were being performed, sometimes in two theatres simultaneously. From 4.30 P.M. to 5.30 P.M. formal lectures were delivered which were open to members of the College and to members of the Fellowship of Medicine, as well as to the members of the special course. Among other subjects dealt with were "Surgical Emergencies," "Medicine and the State," "Light Treatment," "Modern Development in Anaesthesia," "The Pathology and Treatment of Puerperal Sepsis," and "Principles of Psychological Treatment." On the two Saturdays a demonstration was given in a neighbouring special hospital, on one day at a Mental Hospital, and on the other at a Fever Hospital, each possessing many hundreds of beds.

The regularity of attendance of members of the course was excellent; great interest, not to say enthusiasm, was amply manifested, and appreciative letters referring to the course have been received by the Fellowship of Medicine.

The Fellowship has in mind the provision of courses complementary to the general hospital courses, either in their affiliated special hospitals or a group of them, or in a general hospital on some days of the course, and on other days each in several special hospitals. It does not appear, moreover, that there would be any insuperable difficulty in arranging for alternative courses, to run concurrently during the summer months.

Speaking, on July 19th last, at the opening of the new Pathological Laboratory and Research Institute at the City of London Hospital for Diseases of the Chest, Victoria Park—one of the hospitals associated with the Fellowship of Medicine—Mr. Chamberlain, the Minister of Health, said that he was anxious to establish in London some kind of post-graduate courses for doctors. He wanted to make it possible to give general practitioners, who had been started in practice for some time and had been living away from the centre of things for years, the opportunity of coming from time to time to London to see the very latest ideas in medicine and surgery.

As participating in the same movement, we are glad to give our readers the foregoing circumstantial account of what we conceive to be a typical "vacation" course, "intensive" course, "refresher" course, or whatever name it may be called by, one adapted for the hard-working doctor in active general practice, short-rationed as to time as he assuredly is.

The syllabus of the course was, as is ordinarily stipulated, previously submitted to and approved for the purpose by the Ministry of Health.

It is good to know that the general plan of the course has already been adapted to their own needs by our medical brethren overseas—in Canada, for example.

It is a plan which will, we hope, be still further adopted, improved on, and altered to meet local requirements in the provincial centres throughout the country, as at Newcastle and Bristol, and it may be elsewhere. And it is one which, we hope, will be still more widely and earnestly taken up in London, not only by other general hospitals associated with the Fellowship of Medicine and by other non-undergraduate general hospitals not at present thus associated, but also—for we see no reason why it should not be so—by some or all of the undergraduate hospitals in London, so far as vacation seasons afford opportunity, as indeed has already been carried through at some of them—as, for example, at the Westminster Hospital.

It should, however, as we believe, ever be kept in mind that it is not the large hospitals, nor spacious lecture rooms, nor elaborately equipped
laboratories, that most matter—good as they all are—not, in a word, plant, but men—keen teachers and keen post-graduates.

* * *

Among the announcements involving points of principle raised during the annual meeting of the British Medical Association at Edinburgh that are of especial interest to us as supporters of post-graduate education, one is that the Sir Charles Hastings clinical prize, established by the Council of the Association for the promotion of systematic observation, research, and record in general practice, was awarded to Dr. John Sinclair Manson Warrington. We heartily congratulate both Dr. Warrington and the Council. The underlying idea is magnificent, and also war—the war in the campaign against disease in which we, as a profession, are all engaged.

* * *

Another contained in the memorandum of the policy of the Association in regard to hospital benefit is the statement, as part of the policy, that the primary purpose of the hospital out-patient department should be consultation, with the giving of such treatment as could not be given by a private practitioner independently of the hospital. This from the post-graduate angle is further support of the long-held view that post-graduate work should be mainly consultative and only secondarily didactic.

* * *

The London County Council invites applications for appointment to a Medical Research Fellowship tenable at the Maudsley Hospital, Denmark Hill, London, S.E. 5. The holder of the Fellowship will be required to undertake research in psychiatry or the allied subjects—Psychology, Physiology, or Pathology of the Central Nervous System. The Fellowship, which is of the value of £300 a year, will be awarded in the first instance for one year, but may be extended for not more than two succeeding years. Applicants will be required to submit evidence of their ability to conduct research and a plan of the work which they propose to undertake. The person selected will not be allowed to hold a paid appointment or to engage in private practice during his tenure of the Fellowship. Forms of application may be obtained from the Chief Officer, Mental Hospitals Department, County Hall, Westminster Bridge, S.E. 1, to whom they must be returned by Monday, Sept. 12th, 1927.

This announcement will doubtless make a moving appeal to not a few post-graduates of recent date. Upwards of £1000 spread over three years may be applied in aid of research by one individual, not merely in psychology, though that is wide enough, but also in the physiology or the pathology of the central nervous system. We doubt if Sir David Ferrier, F.R.S., who continues to take an interest in the affairs of the Fellowship of Medicine, had anything near this amount of financial assistance for his researches on the localisation of function in the cerebral cortex. It is highly probable, moreover, that the amount might, for the asking by a suitable person, be substantially augmented from other sources.

* * *

As to the "other sources," money prizes for accomplished research are awarded in many countries and in not a few workers among all nationalities are eligible. It is not, however, that aspect of the question we have in mind. It is the financial assistance for the researcher in posse, for the one who intends and has been encouraged to prosecute a piece of research undeterred by uncertainty as to its utilitarian outcome. For such financial assistance, however well deserved or acutely needed, is not so plentifully forthcoming. But even for such there are a goodly number of "sources."

* * *

In that excellent handbook 1 for recent post-graduates issued by the British Medical Association, which has more than once been recommended in our columns, there is a long list of a hundred or more separate fellowships, scholarships, studentships, prizes and research grants open to qualified medical practitioners, alike in special fields of medical research and in general medical science. As regards the latter avenue, reference is made to research grants from the British Medical Association itself, the Carnegie Trust Research Grants of the Scottish Universities, the Graham Research Grants of University College, London, the Thomas Smythe Hughes Research Grants of the University of London, the London Hospital Research Grants, the Royal Society Research Grants, the Beit Memorial Fellowship, and others.

As illustration of the grants obtainable for research in special fields of medicine mention may be made of those concerned with heart disease. In association with the London Hospital there is the Paterson scholarship of £400 for one year. Of recent date, too, is the R. Harmsworth Research Fund for the investigation of and research into the problem of ulcerative endocarditis. This fund, which exceeds £25,000 in amount, is administered by a committee of lay trustees and by a scientific committee. The secretary of the Fund is Dr. P. Seymour Price of 41, Sloane-gardens, S.W.1, from whom full information may be obtained.

OFFICIAL INTIMATIONS.

In view of many of the members of the hospital staffs being on vacation it is not possible to arrange many special courses during August. Two, however, of particular interest are provided.

Under the direction of Dr. Eric Pritchard the Infants Hospital will hold one of its popular courses from August 8th to 21st. These courses are

1 Handbook for Recently Qualified Medical Practitioners; British Medical Association. Second edition. April, 1925. 5s. 6d.
organised particularly for the benefit of those engaged in welfare centres, but are of great value to others especially in touch with diseases of infants. The instruction is either by demonstration or by lecture, and interesting visits have been arranged to be made to the Blind Babies’ Home at Chorley Wood, Thavies Inn, for Syphilitic Babies and to the model pasteurising plant at Willesden.

For those desiring a “brush-up” in medicine, surgery, and the specialities there will be an all-day course at the Queen Mary’s Hospital, Stratford, from August 29th to Sept. 10th. The work provided will consist of demonstrations in general surgery, general medicine, orthopaedics, laryngology, genito-urinary surgery, &c. This hospital is fortunate in possessing a fine pathological department, opened just about a year ago, and in being able to provide admirable opportunities for attending antenatal clinics and the maternity wards, in which latter 40 beds are available. Arrangements are made for obtaining luncheon in the neighbourhood, and tea is provided at the hospital. This course should make a strong appeal to medical practitioners on the insurance panels.

Attention must be drawn to the facilities afforded for post-graduate instruction under the general course scheme by the Fellowship of Medicine at the affiliated hospitals. Although many of the seniors among the hospital teachers are on leave, in most or all cases deputies are appointed to take their place, and it is thus possible for visitors to London to see something of the valuable clinical work done in them—work which never ceases. Visitors should therefore either call or write to the Fellowship of Medicine for particular details of this general course of instruction for which comprehensive tickets varying from one week to one year (£2 2s. to £21) are issued enabling the holder to map out his own time-table and attend any or all of the clinics at the associated hospitals, having regard to such subjects as may be of special interest to them.

For those who are free to undertake post-graduate work in September we would mention that the following courses have been arranged. At the Bethlem Royal Hospital, from Sept. 6th to Oct. 1st, a series of lecture-demonstrations on Psychological Medicine will be undertaken by Dr. Porter Phillips and members of the staff. These demonstrations are given on Tuesdays and Saturdays at 11 a.m. Fee £1 1s. From Sept. 12th to Oct. 1st the Queen’s Hospital for Children provides an all-day course. This hospital is particularly rich in the number of cases which are sent to the hospital by its casualty officers. From Sept. 12th to Oct. 1st the Royal Westminster Ophthalmic Hospital undertakes a course. From Sept. 19th to Oct. 1st there is the choice of two courses—one in medicine, surgery, and the specialities at the Westminster Hospital, and the other in Orthopaedics at the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital.

Copies of all syllabuses will be sent on application to the office of the Fellowship of Medicine at 1, Wimpole-street, W. 1.

**Reviews**

**Should We be Vaccinated?**


When this book came before us, naturally the first thing we read was the jacket from which we learnt that the work was a popular, critical, historical study of the sociological and psychological factors which have provoked the persistent opposition to vaccination. This excited our curiosity greatly, for we hoped for an explanation—or at any rate an analysis—of the mental attitude of many of the extraordinary opponents of vaccination, but what little the author has to say on this matter is confined to the last rather short chapter. His own description of his book, given as its subtitle, is, however, accurate, for he says it is a survey of the controversy in its historical and scientific aspects. He himself is obviously a whole-hearted believer in the efficacy of vaccination in preventing small-pox, and he gives briefly the overwhelming evidence in favour of this belief. Much attention has been given by the author to the study of the dull but very numerous pamphlets and books against vaccination. The library of the New York Academy of Medicine has a fine collection, from which Mr. Stern gives us many quotations. Engravings were published which professed to show the faces of children who had become cow-like as a result of vaccination, which some writers objected to as “an impious attempt to wrest from the Almighty the decrees of his Providence . . . This pestilential disease (small-pox) was considered as a merciful provision on the part of Providence to lessen the burden of a poor man’s family.” It was maintained that fewer deaths from small-pox were compensated for by an increase in measles. Vaccination was said to be the cause of deaths from gastro-intestinal diseases, for the decrease in fertility, and for the increase of bodily and mental disease. The political arguments against compulsory vaccination are well given, and we see clearly that the objection to this is quite a different matter from a disbelief in the efficacy of vaccination.

The last chapter gives an excellent brief summary of the causes of opposition to vaccination. From the first Jenner and his friends introduced it with too much of a dogmatic and crusading spirit which provoked opposition; they were inclined to resent being asked to wait for what was certainly necessary, the publication of corroborative evidence; then it was unfortunate that they maintained the incorrect view that cow-pox originated in the grease of the horse’s heel; Jenner himself was unyielding in denying the need for revaccination; there is the very remote possibility that arm-to-arm vaccination may transmit other diseases; then, too, there is also the remote possibility of a considerable illness as a result of vaccination.

Now we know, in spite of these criticisms, which are now so trivial as to be negligible, that vaccination is an inestimable advantage to mankind. Our author tells us that much of the objection arising from faddists of all sorts is insincere, for some of them gain by objecting. Then there is the objection of strange people—for example, those of the few clergy who have preached against vaccination, those who believe that if there is less small-pox there will be more deaths from other causes, and so on, with many other extraordinary beliefs.

Although the book does not deal with practical medicine, we strongly recommend it as being very interesting and as illuminating, by quotations from out-of-the-way documents, an obscure subject.
Fellowship of Medicine

AND

Post-Graduate Medical Association.

TELEPHONE: MAYFAIR 2236.

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The Fellowship provides open Post-Graduate Lectures; Special Courses in all the specialities of Medicine and Surgery, at individual hospitals, for fees and details of which application should be made to the Secretary of the Fellowship; a General Course at the 50 general and special hospitals affiliated to the Fellowship, the fees being as follows:—1 week, 2 gns.; 2 weeks, 3 gns.; 1 month, 5 gns.; 2 months, 9 gns.; 3 months, 12 gns.; 6 months, 18 gns.; 1 year, 20 gns. Holders of General Course tickets for one month or longer are entitled to certain privileges in regard to Special Courses. Arrangements are made to meet the needs of practitioners unable to do whole-time study. Cheques should be made payable to the Fellowship of Medicine and crossed “Barclay & Co.”

The minimum Annual Subscription for Membership of the Fellowship of Medicine and Post-Graduate Medical Association is 10s. (or $2.50) per annum, which includes the subscription to the Post-Graduate Medical Journal and admits the member to certain special lectures and demonstrations.

SPECIAL COURSES.

AUGUST (Bank Holiday, August 1).

Aug. 29 to Sept. 10—Queen Mary’s Hospital. All day. Fee £3 3s.
Aug. 8 to Aug. 20—The Infant’s Hospital. Afternoons. Fee £3 3s.

SEPTEMBER.

Sept. 10 to Oct. 1—Westminster Hospital. All day. Fee £3 3s.
Sept. 12 to Sept. 24—Queen’s Hospital. All day. Fee £3 3s.
Sept. 13 to Oct. 1—Royal Westminster Ophthalmic Hospital. Afternoons, and 1 morning. Fee £4 4s.
Sept. 6 to Oct. 1—Bethlem Royal Hospital. Tuesday and Saturday, 11 a.m. Fee £1 1s.

OCTOBER.

Oct. 7 to Oct. 28—Royal Free Hospital. Fridays at 5 p.m. Fee £1 1s. (Limited to 10.)
Oct. 3 to Oct. 15—National Hospital for Diseases of the Heart. All day. Fee £7 7s. (Limited to 20.)
Oct. 17 to Oct. 29—Paddington Green Children’s Hospital; Victoria Hospital for Children. All day. Fee £3 3s.
Oct. 3 to Oct. 22—Central London Throat, Nose and Ear Hospital. All day. Fee £5 5s. (Operative Class £7 7s.)
Oct. 12 to Nov. 2—Royal Free Hospital. Wednesdays at 5.15 p.m. Fee £1 1s.
Oct. 17 to Oct. 29—Chelsea Hospital for Women. Morning and/or afternoons. Fee £5 5s.
Oct. 24 to Nov. 5—Royal Eye Hospital. Afternoons. Fee £1 1s.
Oct. 3 to Oct. 29—London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. Fee £2 2s.

NOVEMBER.

Oct. 31 to Nov. 25—The National Hospital, Queen Square.

Practitioners’ Course

Oct. 31 to Nov. 12—Hampstead General Hospital.
Late afternoons, 1½ hrs. Fee £1 1s.

Medicine, Surgery, and Gynaecology

Nov. 14 to Dec. 3—Royal Waterloo Hospital.
Afternoons and some mornings. Fee £3 3s.

Diseases of the Chest

Nov. 7 to Nov. 12—Brompton Hospital. All day. Fee £4 4s.
Nov. 21 to Dec. 17—West End Hospital for Nervous Diseases. Daily, 5 p.m. Fee £3 2s.

Proctology

Nov. 28 to Dec. 3—St. Mark’s Hospital. Fee £3 3s.

Urology

Nov. 14 to Nov. 26—St. Peter’s Hospital. Afternoons. Fee £5 5s.

Venerable Diseases

Oct. 31 to Nov. 26—London Lock Hospital.
Afternoons and evenings. Fee £3 3s.

Practitioners’ Course

Nov. 21 to Dec. 3—London Temperance Hospital.
Late afternoons, 1½ hrs. Fee £1 1s.

NOTE.—Information on Clinical Assistantships in London Hospitals given. Courses in Obstetrics arranged.
Copies of the Syllabuses of above Courses and tickets of admission can be obtained from the Secretary to the Fellowship of Medicine, 1, Wimpole-street, W. 1.