EDITORIAL NOTES

We learn, to our sincere regret, that Mr. F. G. Hallett retires at the end of this year, after 50 years’ service, from his post of Secretary to the Joint Board of the Royal College of Physicians of London and the Royal College of Surgeons of England. Many post-graduates who have been candidates for the several special diplomas issued by these Colleges have good cause to remember Mr. Hallett’s kindness and constant help.

* * *

A short course of lectures on Functional Nervous Disorders will be given at the Tavistock-square Clinic, 51, Tavistock-square, W.C.1, beginning Oct. 10th. These lectures are open to practitioners and to students. For further particulars of the course apply to the Secretary of the Fellowship of Medicine, 1, Wimpole-street, W.1.

* * *

Post-graduate work did not come up for discussion at the meeting of the British Medical Association at Edinburgh, but it must not be inferred from this that the Association is unmindful of the importance of the subject, for there was a leading article on it in the number of the British Medical Journal dated July 16th, 1927. The writer was sympathetic towards the proposal of the Minister of Health to provide for the teaching of post-graduates a hospital of about 400 beds in connexion with the West London Hospital, although this was not as centrally situated as could be wished; further, 400 beds are hardly enough when we remember the number of special departments in which the post-graduate requires instruction. The British Medical Journal rightly urges that the arrangements for the staff of the hospital will require very careful and detailed consideration; at least one whole-time professor and several whole-time assistants will be necessary. Then, too, an attempt must be made to enlist the services of some teachers from undergraduate schools. In the opinion of the Journal it is absolutely essential that the new post-graduate institution should be a school of the University of London, but the Royal Colleges in London should have some considerable voice in the granting of diplomas. The administrative offices should be centrally situated, say in Bloomsbury. All these points and the vital matter of finance will have to be considered. If the West London Hospital is to be utilised it must be enlarged; for this purpose money must be obtained. It is obvious, considering all these circumstances, that considerable time, at least a few years, must elapse before the scheme can be working, so that the Fellowship of Medicine, which welcomes any move to improve post-graduate instruction in the capital of the Empire, must carry on its activities. The Fellowship has become such an important factor in post-graduate teaching that it is in a position to offer valuable advice, and there can be no doubt that its knowledge and organisation will lead to its incorporation in the new movement, especially as, even if the centre of the work is in one hospital, there will still be much post-graduate work to be done by the hospitals which are now working through the Fellowship, such as the Prince of Wales’s Hospital at Tottenham, Moorfields, the Hospital for Sick Children, the National Hospital for the Paralysed and Epileptic, and many others.

* * *

It is well known that the Royal College of Physicians of London and the Royal College of Surgeons of England grant diplomas in Public Health, Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, Psychological Medicine, Ophthalmic Medicine and Surgery, and Laryngology and Otology, and that many post-graduates present themselves for the examinations for these diplomas. Our readers will therefore be interested in the following announcement.

SOCIETY OF APOTHECARIES OF LONDON.

Proposed New Diploma.

The Examinations Committee of the Society of Apothecaries of London has drawn up a report which will shortly be presented to the Court of Assistants of the Society. The report recommends the institution at an early date of a diploma indicating specialised knowledge of the subjects of ante-natal care, midwifery, and infant welfare; it would be granted to registered medical practitioners who had been engaged in post-graduate study of the subjects, both in practice and theory, and a high standard of professional knowledge would be guaranteed by a stringent examination test. The diploma would be specially adapted to the needs of the general practitioner who wishes to show that he possesses a knowledge and experience in these subjects of a higher grade than that demanded for legal qualification.

* * *

But there is yet another new diploma that will interest post-graduates—namely, one in bacteriology, which has just been instituted by the University of London. The course of study and the examination will be divided into two parts. The first is concerned with bacteriological principles and technique. In the second the post-graduate will study and be examined on bacteriology as applied either to clinical medicine, hygiene, or industry. The London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine are about to provide a course of advanced bacteriology extending over a year. It begins on Oct. 4th next, and will be conducted by Prof. W. W. C. Topley. We warmly welcome all these special diplomas, and the number of them that can be obtained in London is as it should be, for London ought to be the home of British post-graduate medicine. The thanks of those who have at heart serious post-graduate study in London are due to the Royal Colleges, the University of London, and the Apothecaries’ Society.

* * *

Probably many of our readers have noticed that the Prudential Assurance Company have presented to the City of London Hospital for Diseases of the Heart and Lungs, at Victoria Park, a new pathological laboratory and research institute. This
is a generous gift, and we should like to see other insurance companies in this country making similar gifts. Millions of persons nowadays insure their life or their health. It is clearly therefore to the advantage of insurance companies that life should be prolonged and good health maintained. The two departments to which gifts from insurance companies should be applied are research laboratories and post-graduate education. If the doctor is given facilities to keep himself up to date in diagnosis and treatment, not only will much serious sickness be prevented, but those who are ill will recover more quickly, all to the benefit of insurance companies. We sincerely hope that the next gift from them will be for post-graduate education.

* * *

Early in August the Fellowship of Medicine was, to its delight, able to be of use to a party of post-graduates who came to this country from Canada and the United States. Under the guidance of Sir Henry Gray they first visited some of the medical schools and hospitals in the provinces. They then journeyed to London to attend a course arranged for them by the Fellowship. Its President, Sir William Hale-White, welcomed them in the hall of the Medical Society in Chandos-street at 10.15 A.M. on Tuesday, August 2nd. In his short address he explained to them what are the functions of the Fellowship, with the result that several of our visitors there and then subscribed to the Fellowship. Prof. H. MacLean then gave a lecture on the Intensive Alkaline Treatment of Gastric Ulcer, followed by one by Mr. H. J. Paterson on Gastrojejunostomy v. Gastrectomy in the Treatment of Gastric Ulcer. On the mornings of the next two days, the lecturers were Dr. R. Travers Smith, Mr. W. E. Miles, Mr. H. W. Carson, Mr. Zachary Cope, and Dr. Adolphe Abrahams. Afternoon work was provided at the Cancer Hospital, the West London Hospital, the London Temperance Hospital, and St. Bartholomew's Hospital. There was no doubt about the keenness of our friends, and we can only hope that they were satisfied with what was provided for them. The Fellowship can perform no more useful function than that of arranging that overseas visitors see something of the medical work in London, and we sincerely hope that in future years we shall have other visits from Canada and other British Dominions, as well as from the United States.

* * *

Our readers will remember that we recently recorded in the Post-Graduate Medical Journal that the Fellowship of Medicine had arranged for a panel of lecturers who are willing to go into the provinces to give post-graduate lectures and other forms of post-graduate instruction. Already applications have been received for many lectures during the ensuing winter. This is very gratifying, and shows that the Fellowship was right in thinking that a demand for such instruction exists. It must be remembered by applicants that the Fellowship can only send lecturers chosen either by the applicant or the Fellowship from among those who have agreed to be on the panel.

We should like to call attention to a most thorough course of post-graduate lectures to be delivered in English which have been arranged by the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Paris. They will be given in Paris during next October and the first week in November. Nearly the whole range of general medicine and surgery is covered, and lectures and demonstrations in all the special departments are included; so is operative surgery, and we notice that the post-graduate can obtain in this course that which he cannot obtain in this country—namely, operative surgery taught by operations on the dog. For all further information and a detailed programme application should be made to the Secretary of the "Association pour le Développement des Relations Médicales," Salle Béclard, Faculté de Médecine, 12 rue de l'Ecole de Médecine, Paris (6e). Many English-speaking people have been kept away from visiting foreign capitals to learn medicine from foreign teachers by the language difficulty; now this excuse no longer exists as regards Paris.

The Faculty of Medicine of the University of Paris also publishes the prospectus of a post-graduate course on Urinary Diseases. It will last a fortnight, beginning on Sept. 19th next. It will be conducted in the French language.

* * *

Those wishful to study abroad should notice that through the American Medical Association of Vienna it is possible to attend courses there in every branch of medicine and surgery. The courses are given in both English and German. Those desiring to attend them should write to the Secretary of the American Medical Association in Vienna. Although all branches of medicine and surgery are taught, we notice two especially attractive post-graduate courses during the forthcoming winter. One is in Ophthalmology. It lasts from Oct. 1st to Dec. 6th, 1927; it is very thorough, including the slit-lamp, advanced refraction, and microscopic work. The other is in Neurology. It lasts during January and February, 1928; it really is intensive, for instruction lasts for six hours on every week-day.

* * *

We have just referred to the sending of lecturers from London to give post-graduate lectures in the provinces; but this method of post-graduate instruction also exists in Australia, for we learn that a post-graduate course was held at the Launceston Public Hospital from June 2nd to June 4th, 1927, Dr. H. D. Stephens, honorary surgeon to the Children's Hospital, Melbourne, giving demonstrations and lectures. The course was largely attended by the practitioners of the city and surrounding districts. The Melbourne Permanent Committee for Post-Graduate Work has also arranged for two distinguished Americans to come to Melbourne to give post-graduate instruction.
The report of the activities of the Rockefeller Foundation for 1926 has just been issued. It is wonderful to contemplate the good work that has been done in the short space of one year. Nearly $10,000,000 have been spent on it; 21 Governments have been aided in their fight against hookworm disease, others have been helped in their campaign against malaria and yellow fever. Public health bodies have had grants. The Johns Hopkins University has been assisted in the carrying out by its Institute of Biological Research, of research on the possibility of extending the span of life. A research at the University of Yale on the behaviour of chimpanzees with especial reference to self-education has also been helped. Then we in this country must be grateful for assistance given to the Universities of Oxford, Cambridge, Edinburgh, and Wales, and to the University College and St. Thomas's Hospitals.

* * *

When a doctor buys a practice he is often hard put to it to find a large capital sum, therefore it is welcome news that the Committee of Management of the Medical Insurance Agency have propounded a scheme whereby buyers of a practice may be provided with a loan on the collateral security of a life insurance policy. We cannot help thinking that this will be of great use to many members of the profession.

* * *

We always look forward with interest to the annual publication of the Journal of the Research Defence Society. The issue for July, 1927, has just appeared. The Society, whose offices are at 11, Chandos-street, Cavendish-square, W. 1, has about 5000 members and associates; it is a national society of men and women united to promote national health and efficiency, to bring about a better understanding of the value of medical and surgical studies, and to expose false statements that are made against them. It was founded in 1908 by that delightful man Stephen Paget, under the presidency of the late Earl of Cromer.

* * *

This number has charming portraits of Paget and Starling. After the death of Paget an annual lecture in memory of him was founded, and the first lecture was delivered by Prof. Julian Huxley. He took for his theme the various ways in which research can beneficially influence the biological sciences. He pointed out the importance of density, for if the density of living things be increased beyond a certain point infectious diseases spread more rapidly among them. Thus in grouse disease the mere crowding of birds on a moor made the spread of parasites from bird to bird easy; the same is true of the incidence of malaria on human beings. Then we have the problem of the increase of plants—for example, the blackberry in New Zealand, the prickly pear in Australia, and the thistle in California are a nuisance and a menace, as they are rapidly covering enormous areas.

* * *

The only way to deal with such plagues is to study the parasites which will kill, and it is of great importance that the Empire Marketing Board are establishing in this country a "parasite zoo," where such parasites will be studied. The lecturer gave numerous other examples of how the balance of living things among each other must be studied scientifically. He alluded to the serious harm done by mice and rats, to the importance of the study of heredity, and how by such study it had been possible to breed a wheat which is not affected by "rust." Then he passed on to more medical topics. He told us that the expectation of life now was almost double what it was in the time of the early Roman empire. He told his audience of the many outstanding discoveries in medical science during the last 130 years. The whole lecture displayed admirably what can be done to help mankind by patient scientific research; it was also a fine plea for the furtherance of knowledge. As the lecturer said, without knowledge we cannot control.

* * *

We greatly regret to notice the death of Prof. Rudolph Magnus, of Utrecht. He was only 53 years old, yet his fame as a neurologist was known all over the world. He turned his attention chiefly to the study of posture, and he showed that when equilibrium is upset its restoration is entirely reflex. Considering the brilliance of his work, his early death is a very great loss to the profession.

* * *

It is also with deep regret that we have to record the sudden death of Dr. Charles Hirsch at the end of July last. To those post-graduates who have been fortunate enough to have taken one of the excellent practical courses arranged by Dr. Hirsch in anaesthetics his loss will be keenly felt. Time and again the Fellowship of Medicine has received expressions of praise for his admirable tuition in this particular subject.

OFFICIAL INTIMATIONS.

From September onwards the Fellowship of Medicine has arranged a varied choice of Special Courses. Particulars of these can be obtained from the Secretary of the Fellowship at I, Wimpole-street, W. 1, who will gladly supply copies of the syllabuses and also the list of the remaining special courses for 1927. Taking the September courses, a few remarks concerning each will perhaps be helpful to those wishing to undertake some post-graduate study.

From Sept. 6th to Oct. 1st, Dr. Porter Phillips, the superintendent, and the medical staff of the Bethlem Royal Hospital will give a series of lecture-demonstrations on Psychological Medicine. The demonstrations will be held bi-weekly at 11 a.m. on Tuesdays and Saturdays so that it is possible to undertake other post-graduate work simultaneously.
In connexion with the Bethlem Royal Hospital a diploma course is held from the beginning of September for three months. Entrants for the course who pay a composition fee of 15 guineas may, if due preliminary notice is given, attend either Part A or Part B of one course and postpone taking the remaining course until the next session. The fee for one part only is 10 guineas. Tickets for this course are issued by the Fellowship of Medicine, which can also supply copies of the prospectus and time-table.

From Sept. 12th to Oct. 1st the Royal Westminster Ophthalmic Hospital Staff will provide a special course in Ophthalmology. Clinical instruction will be given daily at 2 P.M., followed by operations at 3 P.M., and in addition three times a week special demonstrations on Chronic Glaucoma. Some common affections of the Eye and Examination of the Eye will be provided at 5 P.M. by the members of the Staff.

The Queen's Hospital for Children will provide an all-day course from Sept. 12th to the 24th. The chief feature at this hospital is the showing of cases rather than formal lectures. There is an abundance of medical and surgical material, as there are nearly 200 out-patients daily. Simple lunch and tea are kindly provided by the authorities.

The honorary staff of the Royal National Orthopedic Hospital have consented to give a course from Sept. 19th to Oct. 1st. Lecture-demonstrations are arranged throughout the week on the various deformities and disabilities of this particular branch of surgery, and the entire clinical practice of the hospital is open to those enrolling for the course. The syllabus, which is very attractive, includes a visit to Brockley Hill Country Hospital, where opportunities are afforded for seeing cases of surgical tuberculosis.

For the Panel Practitioner and others desirous of "brushing-up" their knowledge of medicine and surgery the Westminster Hospital will undertake an intensive course from Sept. 19th to Oct. 1st. The sessions are from 10.30 A.M. to 5.30 P.M. each day—Saturdays, mornings only, and the work provided will include instruction in general medicine, surgery, ophthalmology, laryngology, &c. A visit will be made to two mental institutions connected with the hospital.

Forthcoming Events.

The Fellowship of Medicine has arranged the following special courses for October: Cardiology; Diseases of Children; Antenatal; Diseases of the Throat, Nose, and Ear; Gynaecology; Ophthalmology, and Tropical Medicine.

The National Hospital, Queen-square, will hold a two months' course from Oct. 3rd to Nov. 25th, consisting of clinical lectures and demonstrations, teaching in the out-patient department, and lectures on the anatomy and physiology of the nervous system. Copies of the syllabus may be obtained from the Fellowship Office, 1, Wimpole-street.

The Fellowship of Medicine announces that it has arranged for the winter session an interesting series of lectures on Practical Hints on Medicine, Surgery, and Allied Specialities. Special demonstrations in Medicine, Surgery, and Ophthalmology will be resumed from October onwards, and detailed programmes will be sent on request.

Reviews

SOCIAL FACTORS IN MEDICAL PROGRESS.


The Columbia University Press has for some time been publishing a series of studies in History, Economics, and Public Law. If the others are as interesting as this the series must be well worth reading. The book under review seems to our editors a most logical continuation of some of the earlier works on medical discoveries. That such opposition exists there can be no doubt, and it is painful to have to confess that human nature is so perverse and acts as such a powerful deterrent to progress in science. It makes sad reading to peruse the chapters on the opposition to dissection, to the theory of the circulation of the blood, to the theory of percussion, to vaccination, to Holmes and Semmelweis, to Pasteur, to antisepsis and to asepsis. The author takes these as illustrations of his thesis; he could easily have added others had it been necessary for his purpose—for example, the opposition to Laennec. The pity of it is that even the best minds are not free from foolish opposition. The great Virchow declined to see anything in Charcot's ataxic joint symptoms; he held to the duality of tuberculosis, he opposed the Darwinian theory and the new views of Behring and Koch about toxins, and antitoxins were not acceptable to him. When we read this book and see the numberless instances of blind refusal to see truth we become almost ashamed of the human race.

The author regards the chief factors which hinder the diffusion of knowledge to be vested interest, the power of tradition, and the reverence for authority. Really sometimes one feels inclined to add more perversities. Most of the factors which are enumerated as having acted in the past are stifling the knowledge of discoveries are still with us except perhaps, in this country, the authority of the Church. But every right-thinking person desires to avoid them, and the best way to avoid them is to read this admirable book.

AN X-RAY ATLAS OF THE NORMAL AND ABNORMAL STRUCTURES OF THE BODY.


This atlas includes a series of radiograms illustrating the normal and abnormal structures of the body and its common injuries and diseases. For example, 60 radiograms are devoted to the normal joints of the limbs; then follow about a hundred on fractures and dislocations; next a series on tuberculous and other diseases of bone, followed by affections of the head and neck, odontoma, teeth, sinuses, diseased condition of the abdomen, ulcerations and neoplasms of stomach and duodenum, and gall-bladder conditions, visceraloptosis, diverticulits, renal calculi, hydropnephrosis, ending with diseases of the thorax (including a series of spinal injections) and diseases of the spine. For those practitioners who have not access to actual negatives of radiograms of diseased conditions and are unable to be present at screen examinations an atlas such as this (which seems to us an excellent one) is all but indispensable. In several cases where the radiograms are difficult of interpretation key diagrams are provided. We confidently recommend this atlas to the attention of our readers.

1 Course is limited to an entry of 16.
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Fellowship of Medicine

and

Post-Graduate Medical Association.

TELEPHONE: MAYFAIR 2236.

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The Secretary (Miss M. Roy, at 1, Wimpole Street, W. 1), to whom all inquiries should be addressed, is in attendance daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Saturday 10 a.m. to 12 noon).

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.

SEPTEMBER.

Medicine, Surgery, and the Specialties

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<th>Fees</th>
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<td>Diseases of Children</td>
<td>Sept. 19 to Oct. 1</td>
<td>Westminster Hospital, All day.</td>
<td>£2 3 s.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ophthalmology</td>
<td>Sept. 12 to Oct. 15</td>
<td>Royal Westminster Ophthalmic Hospital, Afternoons.</td>
<td>£3 3 s.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Psychological Medicine</td>
<td>Sept. 6 to Oct. 5</td>
<td>Bethlem Royal Hospital, Tuesday and Saturday, 11 A.M.</td>
<td>£1 1 s.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Orthopaedics</td>
<td>Sept. 19 to Oct. 1</td>
<td>Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital, All day.</td>
<td>£2 2 s.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Obstetrics</td>
<td>Oct. 7 to Oct. 28</td>
<td>Royal Free Hospital, Fridays at 5 p.m. (limited to 10.)</td>
<td>£1 1 s.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cardiology</td>
<td>Oct. 3 to Oct. 15</td>
<td>National Hospital for Diseases of the Heart, All day.</td>
<td>£7 7 s. (limited to 20).</td>
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<tr>
<td>Diseases of Children</td>
<td>Oct. 17 to Oct. 29</td>
<td>Paddington Green Children’s Hospital, Victoria Hospital for Children, All day.</td>
<td>£3 3 s.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Diseases of the Throat, Nose and Ear</td>
<td>Oct. 3 to Oct. 22</td>
<td>Central London Throat, Nose and Ear Hospital, All day.</td>
<td>£5 5 s. (Operative Class £7 7 s.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Electro-Therapy</td>
<td>Oct. 12 to Nov. 2</td>
<td>Royal Free Hospital, Wednesdays at 5.15 p.m. Fee £1 1 s.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gynaecology</td>
<td>Oct. 17 to Oct. 29</td>
<td>Chelsea Hospital for Women, Morning and/or afternoons. Fee £5 5 s.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ophthalmology</td>
<td>Oct. 24 to Nov. 5</td>
<td>Royal Eye Hospital. Afternoons. Fee £1 1 s.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tropical Medicine</td>
<td>Oct. 3 to Oct. 29</td>
<td>London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. Fee £2 2 s.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Neurology</td>
<td>Oct. 3 to Nov. 25</td>
<td>The National Hospital, Queen Square.</td>
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Practitioners’ Course

<table>
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<th>Dates</th>
<th>Hospital or Location</th>
<th>Fees</th>
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<tr>
<td>Medicine, Surgery, and Gynaecology</td>
<td>Nov. 14 to Dec. 3</td>
<td>Royal Waterloo Hospital, Afternoons and some mornings.</td>
<td>£3 3 s.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diseases of the Chest</td>
<td>Nov. 7 to Nov. 12</td>
<td>Brompton Hospital, All day.</td>
<td>£4 4 s.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Neurology</td>
<td>Nov. 21 to Dec. 17</td>
<td>West End Hospital for Nervous Diseases, Daily, 5 p.m. Fee £2 2 s.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Proctology</td>
<td>Nov. 28 to Dec. 3</td>
<td>St. Mark’s Hospital. Fee £3 3 s.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Urology</td>
<td>Nov. 14 to Nov. 26</td>
<td>St. Peter’s Hospital. Afternoons. Fee £5 5 s.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Venereal Diseases</td>
<td>Oct. 31 to Nov. 26</td>
<td>London Lock Hospital, Afternoons and evenings. Fee £3 3 s.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Practitioners’ Course</td>
<td>Nov. 21 to Dec. 3</td>
<td>London Temperance Hospital, Late afternoons, 1½ hrs. Fee £1 1 s.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NOVEMBER.

Dermatology

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Hospital or Location</th>
<th>Fees</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Diseases of Infants</td>
<td>Dec. 5 to Dec. 17</td>
<td>Blackfriars Skin Hospital, Afternoons. Fee £1 1 s.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Venereal Diseases</td>
<td>Dec. 5 to Dec. 17</td>
<td>The Infants Hospital, Afternoons. Fee £3 3 s.</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

NOTE.—Information on Clinical Assistanship 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.