

EDITORIAL NOTES

As will be gathered from the account of the Conference on Obstetric Teaching in London which appeared in our last issue, one of the fundamental principles of post-graduate learning and teaching is the pre-eminent value of practical instruction to small groups of doctors. In gynæcology as in obstetrics—and they form a crucial test of the far larger field—formal lectures are of little value in comparison; obstetric or gynæcological “talks” in the presence of patients are doubtless of more value, but the real work is for the two or three clinical assistants for one half day, and this is now, or as it is anticipated will shortly be, possible at such well-known institutions as the Chelsea Hospital for Women, Queen Charlotte’s Hospital, the Samaritan Free Hospital, and the Soho-square Hospital. Of course, this limitation of numbers of the *quasi* learners at a time-limit of half a day means increased cost to them, but when all is said that will be on a very modest scale. * * *

The main idea, we say again, is the value of the small clinic. Where the two or three are together with teacher and patient there is actuality in learning and in the acquiring of power which is of more value by far than knowledge alone. The student-practitioner should seek for that, and nothing short of it, as the greatest good within his reach. But on this “two or three hypothesis” there follows, as will be clearly seen, the need for many coöperating hospitals or institutions of the hospital type. And for this need the Fellowship tries, and not altogether unsuccessfully, to provide. It is only by this route that the imperative goal of “contact with cases” can be reached. * * *

The value of the delivered lecture, on the other hand, ranks with the value of the written page as adumbrated in the article in our last number on Medical Writing and Libraries, and ranks, as we believe, before that. So the Fellowship seeks also to provide set lectures, when the arduous clinical day is over, for all the scattered groups of post-graduates to hear discussed, in the abstract, principles and methods and everything not needing the actual presence of patients. We would add that at these times a small attendance is no advantage to anybody, while it may be both embarrassing for the audience and discouraging for the lecturer. * * *

As our readers will doubtless be aware from the columns of the weekly medical press and from the daily newspapers, a Post-Graduate Hostel was opened on July 26th at the Imperial Hotel in Russell-square, Bloomsbury, W.C. In addition to ordinary hotel accommodation, for which, as we

understand, the usual charges will be made, ranging from about 5 guineas a week, there will be a portion of the general dining-room reserved for medical Post-Graduates and a special reading-room will be set apart for their use. In the evenings, after 9 P.M., a sort of common-room will be available, in which it is intended to hold informal discussions on subjects of medical interest.

The ideal of a hostel for members of the Fellowship and other Post-Graduates has for long held an important place in its scheme of things. What is, perhaps, not altogether to be deplored, the Fellowship has been legally advised that, according to the necessary terms of the proposed and sought-for incorporation of the Fellowship—as an association not conducted for profit—it would not be allowable for the Fellowship, as such, to organise and conduct a hostel. In these circumstances the Russell-square project is to be heartily welcomed, and it is hoped that it will meet the requirements of many of our members and others. For those to whom the accommodation may be more lavish and costly than they desire, there is the excellent Connaught Club close to the Marble Arch, which, if not so centrally placed geographically, is close to the Central London Railway and near the principal routes of traffic. It is also close to Hyde Park, which may be an attraction to those who are not precisely town-lovers. Besides this the Fellowship has information, which it is always ready to supply to enquirers, of other places of the type of modest hotels and indeed of numbers of private rooms situated in many cases near its outlying hospitals. The Fellowship will hope to do all that it properly may to foster and encourage the aims underlying this new venture in Bloomsbury. * * *

Before us is a copy of the remarkable and valuable *Handbook for Recently Qualified Medical Practitioners*¹ issued by the British Medical Association. It purports to be for the “recently qualified,” but much in it should prove of real service to medical practitioners whose “qualifying” was of long ago. It is, of course, primarily directed to recounting and explaining the activities of the British Medical Association for the benefit of those who have recently become post-graduates, but it is more, much more, than an Association advertisement. Opening with words addressed to the recent graduate, greatly noteworthy for their wisdom and insight, by the late Sir CLIFFORD ALLBUTT, he “will first remember that his duty to himself and his family is to be found by losing himself in the service of others,” it next proceeds to give a few useful addresses; British Medical Association; General Medical Council; Medical Protection Societies; Medical Sickness and Other “Assurance” Societies; Royal Medical Benevolent Fund; Royal Society of Medicine; Fellowship of Medicine and Post-

¹ British Medical Association House, 19B, Tavistock-square, London, W.C. 1. April, 1926. 3s. 6d.

Graduate Medical Association, and others. Next it deals with Registration and the Privileges of Medical Practitioners, Main Careers open to Members of the Medical Profession, and then passes in Section 6 (there are 12 sections in all) to Post-Graduation Study and Special Diplomas. To this section there are devoted some 27 pages out of a total of 168. Treating in the first place with Post-Graduation Study in General, it gives, in short subsections information (somewhat meagre in places it must be admitted) of post-graduate opportunities in the universities, medical schools, and hospital towns outside London, five pages being thus occupied. Then follow 13 pages detailing the opportunities that London affords. These, as would be expected, are mainly devoted to the facilities provided in the hospitals associated with the Fellowship of Medicine and Post-Graduate Medical Association. The remaining sections of the handbook deal with such subjects as Specialisation, Scholarships and Prizes open to Qualified Medical Practitioners, Individual Medical Defence, National Health Insurance, and the Medical Insurance Agency organised by the British Medical Association. The handbook is a veritable mine of useful information, and although its sense of "values" is, perhaps, not so highly developed as it will become, we hope it will be extensively utilised by British post-graduates, and we extend our congratulations to the British Medical Association on this part of its "publicity" work.

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There has just been concluded a successful Vacation Course in association with the Fellowship by the North-East London Post-Graduate College at the Prince of Wales's General Hospital, Tottenham, N. 15. There were 29 entrants gathered together from all parts of the British Empire—one just on the eve of leaving for the heart of Central Africa whose nearest medical brother is some 18 miles away; another from near the middle of South America, not far from the fringe of the Andes, a self-supporting missionary with wife and family, surrounded on the other hand by local practitioners; another from the Karoo, conducting an important medical institution under the management of the State; some from India, and others not thus isolated, if that is the right descriptive term. It has been a joy, as we understand, for the teaching staff to minister to such a group of heroes, if we may be excused for using such a phrase, and to witness their evident appreciation of the effort directed to their help.

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We are asked to draw attention to the facilities afforded for post-graduate instruction under the Fellowship of Medicine scheme during the vacation months. Although it must be understood that many seniors among the hospital teachers are then on leave, deputies are appointed to take their place, and it is thus possible for visitors to London desirous of seeing something of its valuable clinical material would be well advised to call or write to

the office of the Fellowship of Medicine for current particulars of its General Course of instruction. This General Course consists of the practice of the hospitals affiliated with the Fellowship of Medicine, and comprehensive tickets are issued for a week upwards to a year, price £2 2s. to £21, enabling the holder to construct his own time-table in accordance with his requirements and to attend any or all of the clinics at the hospitals in question. Few hospitals close down entirely during August, so that there is ample opportunity for study.

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Owing to unforeseen circumstances, the Hospital for Consumption and Diseases of the Chest, Brompton, S.W., has been obliged to abandon its original intention of holding a week's intensive course during August. Arrangements have, however, now been made which permit graduates to attend the daily clinical practice of the hospital, and those who avail themselves of this offer will be assured of a warm welcome. A small fee will be charged for this privilege, and the Secretary of the Fellowship of Medicine will be pleased to issue the necessary permit and to give further details.

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The Queen's Hospital for Children, Hackney-road, Bethnal Green, E., will give an all-day course from August 16th to August 28th. Both the medical and surgical aspect of diseases of children will be dealt with by clinic, operation, demonstration, and lecture, so that a thoroughly up-to-date representation of the handling of children-patients of all ages would be acquired by those following this course. The wards and out-patient departments of the hospital will be open continuously throughout the course, and the authorities have also kindly undertaken to provide simple lunch and tea daily, free of charge.

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For those desiring a "brush up" in medicine, surgery, and the specialities, there will be an all-day course organised by the staff of the Queen Mary's Hospital in the East, Stratford, from August 23rd to Sept. 4th. The work provided will consist of demonstrations in general surgery, general medicine, orthopædics, laryngology, genito-urinary surgery, ophthalmology, &c. Special attention is drawn to the latest acquisition of this hospital—namely, the pathological department, which was recently opened by Lord BIRKENHEAD. Mention must also be made of the admirable opportunities for attending antenatal clinics and the maternity wards, in which latter 40 beds are available. Arrangements are made in the neighbourhood for luncheon and tea is provided at the hospital. It will thus be seen that this course would provide for the graduate desirous of "refreshing" his knowledge of medical science in all departments.

It may not be out of place to remark that this course would no doubt appeal to medical practitioners on the insurance panels.

Fellowship of Medicine

AND

Post-Graduate Medical Association.

THE following is a condensed *conspectus*, recently issued by the Fellowship, of its more obvious activities. Measures have been taken to bring it before the notice of post-graduates on their arrival from overseas.

The Fellowship of Medicine and Post-Graduate Medical Association as an organisation in London for the provision of instruction in medicine for qualified men and women, has affiliated to it some 50 hospitals, containing 6000 beds, with out-patient departments attended by thousands of patients. All branches of medicine, surgery, and the special departments are dealt with, and instruction given by expert teachers. These hospitals permit post-graduates to attend their daily practice—ward rounds, out-patient departments, operations, &c. Detailed information supplied by them is arranged in diary form by the Fellowship of Medicine, and a comprehensive ticket for this "General Course" is issued for any period, from one week to one year, at a scale of fees ranging from two guineas to twenty guineas, according to the period selected.

In addition to participating in the "General Course" some 27 individual hospitals hold one or more "Special Courses" during the year, the total number of such courses averaging 56-60 per annum. In the case of the general hospitals these take the form of "refresher" courses, usually consisting of a fortnight's intensive work in general medicine, surgery, and the various specialities; each special hospital, on the other hand, deals solely with its own particular subject. The programme of special courses is arranged to give as varied a selection as possible at any given time, and care is taken that two courses on the same subject, but at different hospitals, do not run concurrently. The Fellowship arranges a year's programme in advance, submitting suitable dates to the hospitals for choice or confirmation, and a list is published at least six months ahead. A syllabus is then prepared for each course, so that copies may be circulated about a month prior to its opening date—to the London hospitals for display on their notice boards, to provincial hospitals who have expressed their interest in post-graduate work, and to past and present post-graduate members of the Fellowship. A reserve is kept in the office for the use of inquirers and others. Tickets for all courses are issued by the Fellowship, which also deals with all relevant correspondence, and from which copies of syllabuses may be obtained on application.

Besides the details of the general course programme and the list of special courses for the ensuing months, the Fellowship collates details of lectures, demonstrations, or courses open to post-graduates—but not necessarily directly connected with the Fellowship—that are to be held at the various colleges, institutions, and hospitals in London. In addition the Fellowship collects information on the post-graduate facilities offered in other parts of England (such as Bristol, Manchester, Birmingham, Leeds), in Scotland (Edinburgh, Glasgow, Aberdeen, St. Andrews), in Ireland, and in Wales, and is prepared to assist post-graduates desiring to work outside London. Advice can also be given as to the sources from which information may be obtained in regard to post-graduate work in Paris, Vienna and Berlin, and elsewhere Overseas. The Fellowship itself arranges courses of lectures each year, either on general medical science or confined to a particular subject. These lectures are open to all members of the medical profession.

Inquiries on all subjects connected with the medical profession are being received at the Fellowship Office, and

no effort is spared to find a satisfactory answer for the inquirer—even though the information wanted is hardly within the advertised scope of the Fellowship's activities. The Fellowship is always prepared to render all possible aid to post-graduates who may be unfamiliar with London, its hospitals, and their methods. Information has been sought, and received, from the Fellowship on such diverse subjects as the post-graduate instruction available in Vienna, the best means of reaching any hospital in London from various given points, the possibility and method of obtaining clinical assistantships, and particulars of various examinations of the Colleges.

Many of the Fellowship lectures are published in the POST-GRADUATE MEDICAL JOURNAL in each issue of which current information of interest to post-graduates will be found. Subscription to the JOURNAL (6s. per annum) may be sent to the Secretary, at the Office of the Fellowship.

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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, of which a complete time-table is included herein, 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.

The programme of Special Courses in Medicine, Surgery, and the Specialities is given on the next page.

FELLOWSHIP OF MEDICINE: SPECIAL COURSES.

AUGUST.

Medicine, Surgery, and the Specialities	Aug. 23 to Sept. 4—Queen Mary's Hospital.
Diseases of Children	Aug. 16 to Aug. 28—Queen's Hospital.

SEPTEMBER.

Medicine, Surgery, and the Specialities	Sept. 20 to Oct. 2—Westminster Hospital.
Diseases of Infants	Sept. 13 to Sept. 25—The Infants Hospital.
Electro-Therapy.. .. .	Sept. 22 to Oct. 13—Royal Free Hospital.
Ophthalmology	Sept. 6 to Oct. 2—Central London Ophthalmic Hospital.
Psychological Medicine.. .. .	Sept. 6 to Oct. 2—Bethlem Royal Hospital.
Orthopædics	Sept. 20 to Oct. 2—National Orthopædic Hospital.

OCTOBER.

Cardiology	Oct. 4 to Oct. 15—National Hospital for Diseases of the Heart.
Diseases of Children (Combined Course)	Oct. 18 to Oct. 30—Paddington Green Children's Hospital, Victoria Hospital and Children's Clinic.
Diseases of the Throat, Nose and Ear..	Oct. 4 to Oct. 23—Central London Throat, Nose and Ear Hospital.
Gynæcology	Oct. 18 to Nov. 6—Chelsea Hospital for Women.
Tropical Medicine	Oct. 5 to Oct. 28—London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.
Urology	Oct. 18 to Oct. 30—St. Peter's Hospital.

NOVEMBER.

Medicine, Surgery, and the Specialities	Nov. 1 to Nov. 13—Hampstead General Hospital.
Medicine, Surgery, and Gynæcology ..	Nov. 15 to Dec. 4—Royal Waterloo Hospital.
Dermatology	Nov. 15 to Dec. 11—St. John's Hospital.
Diseases of the Chest	Nov. 29 to Dec. 11—Victoria Park Hospital.
Neurology	Nov. 22 to Dec. 18—West End Hospital for Nervous Diseases.
Proctology	Nov. 22 to Nov. 27—St. Mark's Hospital.
Venereal Diseases	Nov. 1 to Nov. 27—London Lock Hospital.
General Practitioners	Nov. 29 to Dec. 11—London Temperance Hospital.
(4.30–6 P.M.)	

DECEMBER.

Diseases of Infants	Dec. 6 to Dec. 18—The Infants Hospital.
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NOTE.—Practical Courses in Anæsthetics can be arranged at any time, and information on Clinical Assistantships in London Hospitals given.

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.