

Editorial Notes.

The Versatility of the Doctor.

It is a common but erroneous popular belief that medicine is the most uncultured of the professions and compares most unfavourably with those of the church and the law. We medicals, however, know that it is otherwise. Indeed, it would be remarkable if such were not the case, for the work of the medical man brings him into intimate contact not only with the workings of human nature in its most various aspects but also with the mysteries of Nature herself. Hence, if he has any natural aptitude at all he has the fullest scope for its development.

This very topic has of course been discussed by many members of our profession and they have all revealed that the wielder of the lancet has played a not inconsiderable part in the progress of civilization, spiritual and material alike. Only some three years ago Prof. T. K. Monro published under the title of "The Physician as a Man of Science, Letters and Action"* a volume containing some 430 biographies of medical men who had earned distinction in other directions than by the study of disease and the treatment of their sick brothers. In this considerable number, too, it should be mentioned that living members are excluded.

It may also be pointed out that many of these famous colleagues continued to practise their profession with the greatest distinction so that we felt, when Lord Moynihan chose the same theme for the subject of his recent Linacre Lecture†, his title "Truants of Medicine" was hardly appropriate. Indeed, the majority of Lord Moynihan's examples were not truants at all. Some of them, e.g., Thomas Young the Egyptologist, Lower of physiological fame, Sir Thomas Browne the philosopher, Silas Weir Mitchell, Oliver Wendell Holmes, Sir Charles Sherrington and Sir Ronald Ross (all poets and essayists) most certainly did not only not neglect their professional duties, but they have all done much for the advancement of our science. Nor could David Livingstone and Sir Donald Macalister (also present in Lord Moynihan's list) be considered truants of medicine for they were only able to do what they did in virtue of their medical attainments. And Malpighi, Sir Thomas Hooker and Huxley, who all illuminated the basic sciences of the medical art, are no more truants than the bacteriologist and biochemist.

Truants in the strict sense of the term of course there have been, but they are wonderfully few considering the temptations that the full life of the medical man offers. It is interesting to note, too, although it is quite understandable, that in most instances these men were true poets. Among these can be mentioned Oliver Goldsmith (although it is doubtful if he ever qualified in medicine), John Keats, Robert Bridges during the later years of his life, Warwick Deeping, Somerset Maugham, Conan Doyle and Pirandello. To follow in the footsteps of David Garrick being quite incompatible with the practice of medicine, we find that those of our colleagues who became actors—Sheridan Knowles and Charles Wyndham—devoted their whole energies to their new love. The same is true of many medical men who have been distinguished as men of affairs, e.g., Viscount Finlay, Clemenceau, Jameson and Sun Yat Sen. On the other hand, and especially within our own time, we can point to many doctors who have lent lustre to our art while devoting much time and valuable service to the community. But when all is said and done, real truants are few, but they are sufficiently numerous to demonstrate that, whatever be the influence of a medical education, the profession of medicine attracts men with as varied and rare qualities just as much as does any other walk of life.

*Published by Jackson, Wylie & Co. 1933.

†Brit. Med. Journ.. 1936. T. 943.

Chronic Rheumatic Arthritis.

Well over a hundred years ago, Babbington described rheumatism as "a denomination of disease including affections which though connected with and often changing into each other, yet differ considerably both in their respective assemblage of symptoms and methods of cure." In spite of all that has been written and talked about since the enunciation of this sonorous definition, there is very little to be added to it.

Dr. Philip Ellman in the current issue of the Journal (p. 211) gives a very good description of the anatomical changes to be found in two types of the disease. He refers to them as "atrophic" and "hypertrophic", the former being regarded as proliferative and the latter as degenerative. But in what way this nomenclature is superior to that suggested by Garrod now many years ago, viz.:—rheumatoid arthritis and osteo-arthritis, it is difficult to appreciate. This newer classification is certainly not founded on a pathological basis, for we are told that the changes associated with the "degenerative" variety of the disease are characterized by proliferation. There is no doubt that this confused and contradictory state of the classification of chronic arthritis is eloquent of our ignorance regarding its true nature, as it is also one of the chief reasons for the want of interest on the part of the profession generally so much lamented by Dr. Ellman.

The confusion in terminology is of course merely a reflection of the confusion of ideas regarding the fundamental question of cause. Dr. Ellman, for instance, tells us that in the "atrophic type" "The joint changes, which are of an inflammatory nature, are essentially the result of focal sepsis." But a Committee for the investigation of chronic rheumatic disease describes two kinds of atrophic arthritis, one of known and the other of unknown ætiology. Thus some authorities would not agree that all kinds of "atrophic" or "rheumatoid arthritis" are necessarily associated with a focus of infection. A further disquieting feature of the question is that the term "rheumatoid" or "atrophic" arthritis has not the same meaning for everyone.

The fact of the matter is that not until this large group of diseases is properly analysed and subdivided, according to definite and indisputable cause, can any satisfactory classification, and, of course any intelligible nomenclature, be forthcoming. However, with the increase in interest during the last few years, the creation of the clinics of the British Red Cross and The Order of St. John of Jerusalem, and the rejuvenation of such famous centres as Bath and Buxton, there is every cause for optimism and we can look forward with confidence to fruitful results accruing.

Special Instruction in Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

One of the most creditable activities of the Fellowship of Medicine is the arranging of courses in special departments of medicine. Through the co-operation of the Staffs of the Brompton Hospital and the Victoria Park Hospital courses of various lengths and of various types of instruction on diseases of the lungs are provided periodically, perhaps the most specialized being that on Surgery of the Chest. But an even more limited and special field is that of Medicine and Surgery of Pulmonary Tuberculosis, and it is with pleasure that we are able to announce that the Staff of the British Legion Village, Preston Hall, situated near Maidstone, Kent, are willing to provide any type of instruction that may be desired in this important field of medicine. The Sanatorium has accommodation for 300 patients, and the Village, intended to provide opportunities of residence and employment under probation, has a population of some 162 arrested cases, which with the wives and families and other dependants amounts to over 600. (For details see p. 210).

General Post-Graduate News.

It should be noted that instruction arranged by the Fellowship of Medicine is open only to Members and Associates unless otherwise stated. A copy of each detailed syllabus is sent to every Member and Associate.

To ensure admission or to avoid cancellation of the Courses application must be made by the date given on each syllabus.

ADVANCED COURSES.

Gynæcology : June 8 to June 20. Chelsea Hospital for Women. All day. Fee £5 5s. 0d.

M.R.C.P. (Neurology) : June 8 to July 4. West End Hospital for Nervous Diseases. Afternoons. Fee £4 4s. 0d. (*Limited to 10*).

M.R.C.P. : June 9 to June 25. National Temperance Hospital. Tuesday and Thursday evenings at 8.0 p.m. Clinical and Pathological. Fee £6 6s. 0d. (*Maximum of 24*).

M.R.C.P. (Chest) : June 15 to July 10. Brompton Hospital. Two afternoons weekly, 5 to 6.30 p.m. Fee £3 13s. 6d. (*Limited to 6 per class*).

M.R.C.P. (Tuberculosis) : Saturday, June 27. Preston Hall, near Maidstone, Kent. Special demonstrations. 11.0 a.m. to 6.0 p.m. Fee 10s. 6d. (*Limited to 6*).

Proctology : July 6 to July 11. St. Mark's Hospital. All day. Fee £3 3s. 0d.

Urology : July 13 to August 1. All Saints Hospital. Afternoons and evenings. Fee £2 12s. 6d.

OTHER COURSES.

Medicine (Week-end Course) : June 6 and June 7. Prince of Wales's General Hospital. All day. Saturday and Sunday. Fee £1 11s. 6d.

Obstetrics (Week-end Course) : June 13 and June 14. City of London Maternity Hospital. All day. Saturday and Sunday. Fee £2 2s. 0d.

Fevers (Week-end Course) : June 20 and June 21. Park Hospital. All day. Saturday and Sunday. Fee £1 11s. 6d. (*Limited to 20*).

Surgery (Week-end Course) : June 27 and June 28. Prince of Wales's General Hospital. All day. Saturday and Sunday. Fee £1 11s. 6d.

Dermatology : July 13 to July 25. Hospital for Diseases of the Skin, Blackfriars. Afternoons. Fee £1 1s. 0d.

Children's Diseases : July 4 and July 5. Princess Elizabeth of York Hospital. Fee £1 11s. 6d.

Heart and Lungs : July 11 and July 12. Victoria Park Hospital. Fee £1 11s. 6d.

LECTURE.

Dr. R. T. de Hellebranth, of New Jersey, U.S.A., will give a lecture on Thursday, June 11th, at 8.30 p.m., in the West Lecture Hall of the Royal Society of Medicine, 1, Wimpole Street. The subject of the lecture will be "The Present-day Treatment of gastric and duodenal ulcers in the United States," and all members of the medical profession will be welcome.

STANDING ARRANGEMENTS.

- Anæsthetics** : Practical tuition for a fortnight or a month can be arranged. Limited to two Post-Graduates at a time.
- Ante-Natal Clinics** : (*For Women Post-Graduates only*). *East Islington Mothers and Babies Welfare Centre*. Tuesdays 10.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. Two Post-Graduates only per clinic. Fee 5/- a time. Arrangements *must* be made in advance with the Fellowship of Medicine.
- Children's Diseases** : *The Hospital for Sick Children*. Three terms of ten to twelve Weeks. Instruction consists of out-patient work every morning in general medicine and surgery, and in the special skin, ophthalmic, and ear, nose and throat departments : Ward Visits in the afternoons, and on Wednesdays a special lecture from 2.0 to 3.0 p.m., followed by clinical pathology from 3.0 to 4.0 p.m. Fees : One week, £1 11s. 6d. ; two weeks, £3 3s. ; one month, £5 5s. ; two months, £7 17s. 6d. ; three months or the full term, £10 10s. Special courses in Practical Pathology, consisting of six demonstrations, fee £3 3s. Tickets and full information may be obtained from the Fellowship of Medicine. (Open to non-Members). Next Term : April 20 to July 18.
- Clinical Assistantships** : *Hospital for Consumption, Brompton* : Tenable for 3 months ; eligible for re-appointment. Candidates (men or women) will be attached to an In-Patient Physician and the corresponding Out-Patient Physician, to a Surgeon and/or to a Member of the Staff in charge of any Special Dept. They will be responsible for the performance of their duties to the Members of the Hon. Staff to whom they are attached, and may be required to undertake any special work which is considered desirable. Fee £5 5s. per 3 months or portion thereof. (Open to non-Members).
- Radiology** : Instruction in the Screening and Interpretation of radiographs can be arranged covering 2 hours daily. Fee £3 3s. a week. Limited to 2 Post-Graduates at a time.
- Tuberculosis** : Preston Hall, near Maidstone, Kent. By arrangement with the Fellowship of Medicine. Tuesdays : Practical demonstrations in collapse therapy, including indications and pre-operative investigations used in assessing patients' suitability for such treatment, in the morning, followed in the afternoon by operations and a demonstration of interesting surgical cases. Thursdays : Clinical work to suit individual requirements, morning and afternoon. No fee.
At Preston Hall all stages in the treatment of Pulmonary Tuberculosis may be studied, including hospital treatment, surgical collapse therapy, sanatorium regime, occupational therapy and the management of the quiescent case and his family in the settlement from the medical, economic and sociological aspects.
- Venereal Disease** : (*For Women Post-Graduates only*). *Royal Free Hospital*. Special Course extending over twelve weeks (not less than 130 hours attendance) entitling the Post-Graduate to a certificate which the Ministry of Health requires for any practitioner who desires to be in charge of a recognized V.D. Centre. Fee £21. (Open to non-Members).
- Wellcome Museum of Medical Science** : 183, Euston Road, N.W.1. Open daily 10.0 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. (Saturdays 10.0 to 12.30 p.m.). The whole range of medicine is set out in this museum, illustrated by drawings, charts and specimens. A copy of the guide-book and an introduction card may be obtained from the Fellowship of Medicine.
- Panel of Teachers** : Details of the daily clinics may be obtained from the Fellowship of Medicine. Fee 5/- per clinic.

A new and enlarged edition of the Guide Book, giving details of how to reach the various London Hospitals by tube, tram, or 'bus, can now be obtained from the Fellowship. Price 6d. (Members and Associates, 3d.).

Forthcoming Medical Books.

J. & A. CHURCHILL LTD.,
104, Gloucester Place, Portman Square,
London, W.1.

"*Recent Advances in Radiology*" by P. J. Kerley, M.D., D.M.R.E. The second edition, with many new illustrations, will be ready in June, price 15s.

"*The Relief of Pain*"—A Handbook of Modern Analgesia—is an entirely new work by Harold Balme, M.D., F.R.C.S. A Foreword is contributed by Sir Farquhar Buzzard, Bt., M.D., F.R.C.P. The volume will cost 12s. 6d.

"*Recent Advances in Genito-Urinary Surgery*" by Hamilton Bailey, F.R.C.S. and N. M. Matheson, F.R.C.S. This new addition to the famous "Recent Advances Series" will contain about 90 illustrations and will be published at the end of June.

Other works in preparation include a new edition of *Taylor's Practice of Medicine*, again under the editorship of Dr. E. P. Poulton. Ready end of June. *The Treatment of Respiratory Diseases* by Dr. A. Lisle Punch and Dr. F. A. Knott will be a valuable work containing many beautiful illustrations. *Diseases of Children* is the title of a new work by Dr. W. P. H. Sheldon which is scheduled for early publication.

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"*The Nervous Patient.*" A Frontier of Internal Medicine by Charles Phillips Emerson, M.D. 381 pages. Price 18s. net.

"*Text-Book of Urology,*" For Students and Practitioners by Daniel N. Eisen-drath, M.D. and Harry C. Rolnick, M.D. Third revised edition. Price 42s.

"*Prescription Writing and Formulary. The Art of Prescribing*" by Charles Solomon, M.D. With a foreword by Lewellys F. Barker, M.D. 351 pages. 32 illustrations. Price 18s. net.

"*Diseases of the Nose and Throat*" by Charles J. Imperatori, M.D. and Herman J. Burman, M.D. 723 pages. 480 illustrations. Index. Price 35s.

E. & S. LIVINGSTONE,
16 & 17, Teviot Place, Edinburgh.

"*Salts and their Reactions,*" by Leonard Dobbin, Ph.D., Reader-Emeritus in

Chemistry, University of Edinburgh and John E. Mackenzie, D.Sc., Reader in Chemistry, University of Edinburgh. This will be the sixth edition of this class book of practical chemistry. Demy 8vo. 256 pages. Price 6s. net.

"*Pathology of the Nervous System*" by J. Henry Biggart, M.D. (Belfast), Pathologist to the Scottish Asylums Board; Neuropathologist to the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh; Lecturer in Neuro-pathology, Edinburgh University, etc., etc. The price of this volume is 15s. net, it has 350 pages with 204 half-tone illustrations. The foreword is written by A. Murray Drennan, M.D., F.R.C.P.

"*An Introduction to Hygiene*" by W. Robertson, M.D., D.P.H., F.R.C.P. (E.). Formerly Medical Officer of Health, Edinburgh and Leith; Lecturer on Public Health School of Medicine, Royal College Edinburgh; Examiner in Public Health, Conjoint Board Scotland. This is the second edition and is priced at 8s. 6d. net. It contains 27 illustrations and 336 pages.

"*Manual of Public Health Laboratory Practice,*" by Professor Currie of Glasgow University with the assistance of several contributors. This volume will completely cover the scientific subjects associated with Public Health Work. Later, this will be followed by "*Hygiene*" and "*Law and Vital Statistics*". The idea of these publications is to cover the whole field of Public Health work. Each volume will be published independently, prices and size will vary. "*Laboratory Practice*" should be ready in June and will run to nearly 400 pages. Price will be either 21s. or 25s. net.

WILLIAMS & NORGATE LTD.,

36, Great Russell Street, London, W.C.1.

"*The Medical Dictator*" by Major Greenwood, F.R.C.P., F.R.S. Biographical studies of Galen, Freind, Latham, Farr, Louis, Osler and Baoot. Illustrated. Price 7s. 6d. net.

JOHN WRIGHT & SONS, LTD., Bristol.
Macalpine's "*Cystoscopy and Urography.*" (2nd edition). Price 30s. net.

GLASGOW POST-GRADUATE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

We have just received the Summer Syllabus of the Glasgow Post-Graduate Medical Association which covers the period from June to October 1936. The teaching facilities fall chiefly into two divisions—(A) A General Medical and Surgical Course, and (B) Clinical Assistantships. During the winter and spring the arrangements for the Clinical Assistantships continue and a course of Post-Graduate Lectures and Demonstrations will take place as well as occasional Special Courses in individual subjects.

(A) *The General Medical and Surgical Course.*

During the last two weeks of August and the first two weeks of September a whole time Course, for which an inclusive fee will be charged, will be conducted in a number of the General and Special Hospitals. The Course is arranged to include most of the subjects of interest to the general practitioner. The forenoons will be occupied with general medicine and surgical diagnosis and minor surgery, in the Western Infirmary and in the Royal Infirmary. In the afternoons, special subjects will be dealt with in some of the Special Hospitals of the City, or in the Special Departments of the General Hospitals—two subjects being dealt with each afternoon.

(B) *Clinical Assistantships.*

In a number of the Institutions taking part in the work of the Association, Clinical

Assistantships are available during the summer months as well as at other times of the year. These Clinical Assistantships are limited in number, and have been designed to make provision for graduates who desire opportunities for the detailed study of one or other of the "Specialities." Graduates may thus become attached to Wards or Out-patient Departments, nominally as Clinical Assistants. As such they will work under the direct supervision of the Physician or Surgeon in charge, taking advantage of the facilities for intimate study of the cases, and carrying out such detailed investigations as may be directed. They will not be permitted, however, to treat any patient. A graduate desiring to obtain one of these Clinical Assistantships is recommended to enrol for a period of *three months*, and he must be prepared to devote to the work either the whole or part of the day according to the terms of the particular Clinical Assistantship which he holds. Graduates who have less time at their disposal may be accepted for a shorter period. These Clinical Assistantships provide quite exceptional opportunities for those who are able to devote the necessary time to the work, and they should appeal more especially to young graduates who contemplate practising some special subject, and to practitioners from overseas who wish to become acquainted with the methods of diagnosis and treatment employed in the various branches of Medicine, Surgery, and the special subjects.

Miscellaneous.

This Section deals with New Drugs, Preparations, Surgical Instruments, etc. The description of each article is supplied by the Producer. Particulars regarding insertions, which are free of cost, may be obtained from the Business Manager, Fellowship of Medicine and Post-Graduate Journal, 404, Grand Buildings, W.C.2.

The consumption of tea in England being enormous, it is axiomatic that it plays a vital part in diet.

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The manufacture and distribution in Great Britain of Dr. Lettermann's Foot Supports is now controlled by **Allen and Hanburys** Messrs. Allen and Hanburys. They have recently issued a useful booklet dealing with the treatment of foot and walking troubles by means of a physiological corrective system which has been devised by Dr. A. Lettermann. The following is an extract from a report by Dr. Hans Scherer, of the

Retailers' Association Accident Institution : "The very first supports supplied to me by Dr. Lettermann in March, 1929, had such good results that I ordered them further for the members of the Association suffering from accidents. And now, having in the course of 2½ years ordered 633 pairs of foot supports, I think I may be permitted to express an opinion regarding the quality or the curative action of the foot supports . . ." "All statically caused pains are at once abolished in about 86 per cent. of the cases, and the patients are delighted by the great relief which they observe on walking . . ."

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