EDITORIAL

NEW HIPS FOR OLD
Kenneth H. Pridie, F.R.C.S.

SURGERY OF THE RHEUMATOID
DISEASES
John Bastow, M.S., F.R.C.S.

INFANTILE VOMITING AND
DIARRHOEA
G. H. Newns, M.D., M.R.C.P.

LAY CLINICIANS, No. 2

POST GRADUATE NEWS

BOOK REVIEWS

BOOKS RECEIVED

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LAY CLINICIANS
No. 2

Often when reading a book or play one comes across an excellent description of some disease, which though written by a layman, is probably more happily phrased than in any textbook of medicine. We hope to introduce some of these 'case records' in subsequent issues and for those who would like to try their hand at naming the author and book this information will be given at the end of the extract.

'Then, all at once, he broke off, and his large face screwed itself up into a grimace of pain. He raised a hand to his chest.

'“Heartburn,” he said, shaking his head. "That’s the trouble with white wine. I’ve had to give up Hock and Riesling completely; and sometimes even champagne...”

'Eustace made another grimace, and bit his lip. The pain subsided a little. With some difficulty he heaved himself out of his deep seat.

'“Luckily,” he added, with a smile, "there’s nothing that a little bicarbonate of soda won’t set right.”

'He walked out of the drawing-room, across the hall and along the little passage that led to the downstairs lavatory.

'There was an onyx ashtray on the lavatory window-sill. Very carefully, so as not to disturb its faultless combustion, Eustace put down his cigar, then turned and opened the door of the little medicine cupboard above the wash-basin... From the row of medicaments on the upper shelf he selected the bicarbonate of soda, unscrewed the stopper and shook out four of the white tablets. He was in the act of replacing the bottle, when another spasm of this strangely violent heartburn made him double the dose. He filled a glass and began to swallow the tablets one by one, with a sip of water after each. Two, three, four, five, six... And then suddenly the pain was like a red-hot poker boring through the chest. He felt dizzy, and a whirling blackness obscured the outside world. Groping blindly, his hands slid across the wall and found the smooth enamelled cistern of the toilet. He lowered himself unsteadily onto the seat and almost immediately felt a good deal better. “It must have been that bloody fish,” he said to himself. The recipe called for a lot of cream, and he had taken two helpings. He swallowed the last two tablets, drank the rest of the water and, reaching out, set down the glass on the window-sill. Just as his arm was at full stretch the pain returned—but in a new form, for it had now become, in some indescribable way, obscene as well as agonizing. And all at once he found himself panting for breath and in the clutch of a terror more intense than any fear he had ever experienced before. It was terror, for a few seconds, absolutely pure and unmotivated. Then all at once the pain shot down his left arm—nauseating, disgusting, like being hit in the wind, like getting a blow in the genitals—and in a flash the causeless fear crystallized into a fear of heart failure, of death.

'Death, death, death. He remembered what Dr. Burgess had told him last time he went for consultation. “The old pump can’t put up with indefinite abuse.” And his wife—she too. . . . But with her it hadn’t come suddenly. There had been years and years of sofas and nurses and strophanthine drops. Quite an agreeable existence really. He wouldn’t mind it at all; he’d even give up smoking altogether.

'More excruciating than ever, the pain
Lay Clinicians

The pain and the awful fear of death. . . .

"Sebastian!" The shout produced no more than a whisper. "Don't let me die. Don't let me. . . ." Suddenly he was gasping with a strange crowing noise. There was no air, no air. And suddenly he remembered that beastly glacier where they had taken him climbing when he was a boy of twelve. Whooping and gasping in the snow, and vomiting his breakfast, while his father stood there with John and the Swiss guide, smiling in a superior sort of way and telling him it was only a touch of mountain sickness. The memory vanished; and nothing remained but this crowing for breath, this pressure on the darkened eyes, this precipitated thudding of blood in the ears, and the pain increasing and increasing, as though some pitiless hand were gradually tightening a screw, until at last—ah, Christ! Christ! but it was impossible to scream—something seemed to crack and give way; and suddenly there was a kind of tearing. The stab of that redoubled anguish brought him to his feet. He took three steps towards the door and turned the key backwards in the lock; but before he could open, his knees gave way and he fell. Face downwards on the tiled floor, he continued to gasp for a little, more and more stertorously. But there was no air; only the smell of cigar smoke.

This description of a fatal coronary thrombosis is taken from 'Time Must Have a Stop' by Aldous Huxley (1945), an author who is too well-known to need further introduction.
General Post Graduate News

Please note that instruction arranged by the Fellowship of Post Graduate Medicine is open only to Members (annual subscription, from month of joining, 10s. 6d.). In the case of 'limited' courses no entries are accepted in advance of the detailed syllabuses being published and circulated; post graduates (whether Members or not) are not automatically included in the mailing lists, but must notify the Fellowship of Post Graduate Medicine, 1 Wimpole Street, London, W.1, if they wish to be sent syllabuses as published, and must specify the subjects in which they are interested. Information regarding courses can be obtained from the Office, daily between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays 10 a.m. to 12 noon). Telephone: Langham 4266.

PROCTOLOGY:
July 7th to July 12th. St. Mark's Hospital. All day. Limited. Fee, £3 3s. 0d. (This course is now full and no further entries can be accepted.)

SURGICAL CLINICAL DEMONSTRATIONS:
July 3rd to August 1st. Thursday and Friday afternoons at 2.0 p.m. Royal Cancer Hospital. Limited. Fee, £4 4s. 0d. (This course is now full and no further entries can be accepted.)

RECENT ADVANCES IN MEDICINE AND SURGERY (Week-end): FOR GENERAL PRACTITIONERS:
July 12th and July 13th. Royal Hospital, Richmond. All day Saturday and Sunday. Fee, £2 2s. 0d.

GENERAL MEDICINE AND SURGERY (Week-end): FOR GENERAL PRACTITIONERS:
July 26th and July 27th. Dreadnought Hospital, Greenwich. All day Saturday and Sunday. Fee, £2 2s. 0d.

F.R.C.S. (PRIMARY): EVENING LECTURES:
August 18th to October 24th. Royal Cancer Hospital. Mondays, Wednesdays, at 7.30 p.m. and 8.45 p.m. Limited. Fee, £16 16s. 0d.

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF UROLOGY
The 7th Congress will be held at St. Moritz (Switzerland) 25th-28th August, 1947

PROGRAMME

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August 25th</td>
<td>Discussion on the aetiology of Primary Renal Calculus (Mr. H. P. Winsbury White).</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 26th</td>
<td>Discussion on 1. The diagnosis and treatment of renal tuberculosis (Dr. Cuthbert Dukes, Mr. David Band and Mr. Hamilton Bailey). 2. Transplantation of the ureter (Mr. Arthur Jacobs).</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 27th</td>
<td>General excursion and meeting.</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 28th</td>
<td>Discussions on 1. The use of sulphonamides and penicillin in urology (Mr. Yates Bell and Mr. Clifford Morson). 2. Hormone therapy in cancer of the prostate (Mr. Clifford Morson and Mr. Hamilton Bailey). Official banquet.</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 29th</td>
<td>Excursion to sanatoria.</td>
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Clifford Morson (Delegate), 86, Brook Street, W.1.

Copies of the Index to Post Graduate Medical Journal, 1946, can now be obtained from The Fellowship of Post Graduate Medicine, 1, Wimpole Street, London, W.1.
BOOKS RECEIVED

The Editorial Board acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the following volumes. A selection from these will be made for review.


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