

Medical Science Department

THE POST-GRADUATE MEDICAL JOURNAL

Vol. IV.

OCTOBER, 1928.

No. 37.

CONTENTS

	PAGE
ASTHMA	1
By MAURICE DAVIDSON, M.A., M.D.Oxon., F.R.C.P.Lond.	
AMENTIA IN RELATION TO CEREBRAL DISEASE AND ABNORMALITY	6
By E. W. NEILL HOBHOUSE, M.D., M.R.C.P.	
THE CANARY ISLANDS AS A HEALTH RESORT	13
By GEOFFREY LUCAS, B.A., M.D.	
EDITORIAL NOTES	17
POST-GRADUATE NEWS	17
FELLOWSHIP OF MEDICINE AND POST-GRADUATE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.—	
SPECIAL COURSES	iii

ASTHMA.

A CLINICAL LECTURE DELIVERED AT THE BROMPTON
HOSPITAL, ON TUESDAY, JULY 31, 1928.

By MAURICE DAVIDSON,

M.A., M.D.OXON., F.R.C.P.LOND.,

Physician to the Hospital, and Dean of the Medical School.

THE disability caused by this distressing and almost universal complaint is too well recognized alike by the medical profession and by the public to need much advertisement. In view of the attention recently directed to the subject in the lay press apropos of the formation of the Asthma Research Council, and of the valuable work carried out in the last few years by Freeman, Auld, Hurst, and others in this country, as well as by Cooke in America, and Professor

van Leeuwen in Holland, I felt that it might be of use to attempt a brief survey of the problem as it appears at the present time.

It is a little difficult to give a satisfactory definition of asthma that is both comprehensive and scientific. For the purpose of this lecture I shall make use of the term in a broad sense to indicate the well-known syndrome in which the patient suffers from attacks of intense dyspnoea, more or less sudden in onset, very frequently nocturnal, depending on a condition of spasm of the bronchioles. The syndrome may or may not be associated clinically with the condition described as bronchitis or bronchial catarrh, but must, I think, be regarded as distinct from the respiratory distress common in cardiac and renal disorders, as well as from that seen in certain cases of