

in unless a sinus actually forms, as there is so much danger of the bone giving way again.

The great danger in operative treatment is sepsis, as this is much more liable to occur while there is injury to the soft parts and bruising of the skin. The bone most commonly operated upon is the tibia, and, although the operation seems easy because the bone is so near the skin, this very fact increases the risk of injury to the skin and the liability to sepsis. The after-treatment of the case is the same as the first, or ordinary method, except that provision must be made for the dressing of the wound.

The treatment of compound fractures follows the same lines, except that it is very important to purify the skin around as well as the wound.

If the bones go into perfect position and the opening is only a small one, it can be treated as a simple fracture, except for the necessary dressing. If the bones do not come into position, then an immediate operation can be carried out and the bones plated or wired as necessary. Sufficient drainage must be allowed for and the whole of the inside of the wound thoroughly purified.

According to the statistics of some cases treated over a number of years, those that were operated upon immediately appeared to be more likely to become septic than the cases that could be purified and covered up and treated as a simple fracture.

I take it that the reason for this is that the wound in the skin is nearly always very much larger in the cases that require operation, and there is much more likelihood of sepsis having already entered.

There are three uncommon complications which are occasionally met with. The first is delayed union, or "soft union," when the bone, though apparently quite firm, bends when the patient begins to use it after the full time for uniting has been allowed. In cases of fracture of the femur I do not allow

the patients to walk under ten weeks at the earliest, usually three months, and then only when an X-ray photograph shows plenty of bony callus.

The second complication occurs when the injury to the bone affects the periosteum more than the bone itself. It nearly always comes on from direct injury, and is called *myositis ossificans traumatica*. This is due to the osteoblasts growing in the tissues outside the bone and producing a hard, tender, bony swelling. This is usually misdiagnosed as sarcoma, but in every case that I have seen severe massage had been carried out almost immediately after the injury, and directly the massage was stopped and the patient put at rest the swelling commenced to subside, though some bony thickening always remained.

The third complication is Volkmann's ischæmic contracture. This is nearly always seen in the fore-arm, and is due to hæmorrhage in the tissues combined with too tight splinting, or flexion of the elbow-joint producing stagnation in the blood-supply.

The pathological condition finally produced appears to be fibrosis of the muscles, nerves and vessels. It may recover with continuous treatment by massage and electricity, though it often takes two or three years, and in some cases is permanent.

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## EDITORIAL NOTES.

THE Royal Institute of Public Health is holding its Whitsuntide Congress at Zurich from May 15 to 20, 1929. An attractive programme has been arranged. After the Congress, arrangements have been made to visit large numbers of interesting places in Switzerland, Austria and Germany. Many of the Spas in Czechoslovakia are included in the itinerary and also a visit to Dr. Rollier's clinic at Leysin.

The Institute is also arranging a Christmas-

tide tour to some of the chief winter health and sports stations and sanatoria of Switzerland. This tour will also include a visit to Dr. Rollier's clinic.

Particulars of both these tours can be obtained from the Hon. Secretaries, The Royal Institute of Public Health, 37, Russell Square, W.C.1.

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## POST-GRADUATE NEWS.

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It is not possible to arrange for more than two Special Courses in December by reason of the Christmas vacation, and these have been fixed to take place December 3 to 15.

Under the direction of Dr. Eric Pritchard, a course will be held at the Infants Hospital, Vincent Square, S.W. This course is for medical officers of welfare centres and others interested in this particular branch of medicine. The course occupies every afternoon, and the fee is £3 3s. An interesting feature is that visits are arranged to other centres, such as to the Nursery Training School, Hampstead, and to the United Dairies' Pasteurizing Plant, Willesden.

The second course, also an afternoon one, is undertaken by the staff at the Hospital for Diseases of the Skin, Blackfriars. This course includes instruction in the Out-patient Departments every afternoon from 2.30 p.m., and special demonstrations of interesting cases on Tuesday, December 4, and Tuesday, December 11. Fee £1 1s.

The last two lectures of the present series arranged by the Fellowship of Medicine are as follows:—

Dec. 3rd.—Dr. G. A. Sutherland, "Some Cardiac Problems in Childhood."

„ 10.—Dr. W. G. Wyllie, "Nephritis in Children."

We would mention that a new series of lectures will begin on Monday, January 21, 1929, entitled "Pitfalls in Medicine and Surgery." For the benefit of new readers we would say that these lectures are delivered in the lecture hall of the Medical Society of London, 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, W.1, at 5 o'clock, and all members of the medical profession are invited to attend without fee.

The last of the demonstrations to be given in the Wellcome Museum of Medical Science, 13, Gordon Street, W.C.1, this session is as follows:—

Dec. 5th.—Mr. Herbert J. Paterson on "Cancer."

This is the first occasion on which a series of demonstrations has been arranged at the Wellcome Museum of Medical Science, and we are happy to report that through the kindness of the Director, Dr. S. H. Daukes, a further series is in course of preparation for the Spring Session. We learn that these demonstrations have been well attended, and we recommend those of our readers living in or near London to visit this Museum which contains a fascinating collection of specimens, models, paintings, photographs, etc. Associated with each exhibit is a short summary of the important points, and also a file containing abstracts of all recent research work on the subject of the exhibit.

Dr. Robert Hutchison will give a clinical demonstration at the Hospital for Sick Children on December 6, at 10 a.m.; and on December 5, Messrs. Attwater, Coyte, Loughnane and Levy will demonstrate at the All Saints Hospital for "Genito-Urinary Diseases." Both of these demonstrations are free to members of the medical profession.

The following lectures will be given at the Central London Throat, Nose and Ear Hospital; free to members of the medical profession:—

December 7.—Mr. Archer Ryland, "Œsophagoscopy."

December 14.—Mr. Nicol Rankin, "Ear-ache."

A clinical afternoon will be held at the East London Hospital for Children, on Wednesday, December 5, at 4 p.m., on "Respiratory Affections of Childhood." Members of the medical profession are invited to attend without fee.

The following lectures, which are open to members of the medical profession, without fee, will be held on Thursdays, at 5.30 p.m., at the City of London Maternity Hospital, City Road, E.C. 1.

December 6.—Dr. S. A. Owen, "The Treatment of General Medical Diseases and Abnormalities."

December 13.—Mr. J. A. Willett, "Pro-

tracted Labour due to Failure of Forces and Increased Resistance of the Soft Parts."

December 20.—Mr. McKim McCullagh, "Contracted Pelvis."

Maudsley Hospital, Denmark Hill, S.E.5. Part I of the Twelfth Course for the Diploma in Psychological Medicine will begin on January 8 next, consisting of lectures and demonstrations in physiology, physiological psychology, biochemistry, anatomy and psychology. Fee for Part I and Part II, £15 15s.; for Part I, separately, £10 10s.; for One Single Series of Lectures in Part I, £4 4s.

Further information concerning this course and copies of the syllabus will be forwarded on application to the Fellowship of Medicine, at No. 1, Wimpole Street, W. 1, at which office tickets are obtainable.

In addition to the Diploma course four lectures on "Psychological Mechanisms" will be given by Dr. Edward Mapother at the Maudsley Hospital, on Fridays, February 22, and March 1, at 2.30 and 4 p.m.

The following interesting programme of lectures has been sent to us by one of our members. The series began on November 1, and will be continued on successive Thursdays up to January, at 8.15 p.m. The lectures are delivered at the South Devon and East Cornwall Hospital and are free: "Diabetes," "Obscure Pyrexia," "Acute Septicæmia," "Chronic Focal Sepsis," "Blood Transfusion," "Poliomyelitis," "Pneumothorax," "Colitis," "The Exanthema," "The Rheumatic Infections."

Other subjects will be interpolated.

We beg to remind our readers that a subscription of ten shillings per annum entitles them to become *Members of the Fellowship of Medicine*. Every Member gets this Journal post free for the year of his subscription, and he also receives any "Special Announcements" of lectures, demonstrations, &c., taking place at the various hospitals, general and special. Subscription for the Journal only is 6s. per annum.

Intending members should apply to the Secretary of the Fellowship of Medicine (Room 28), 1, Wimpole Street, W.1, either sending their subscription of ten shillings or asking for a Bankers' Order.

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## SPECIAL COURSES

### DECEMBER

58. Dermatology. Dec. 8 to Dec. 15. Blackfriars Skin Hospital. Afternoons. Fee £1 1s. 0d.
59. Diseases of Infants. Dec. 8 to Dec. 15. The Infants Hospital. Afternoons. Fee £3 3s. 0d.

### JANUARY

1. Cardiology. Jan. 14 to Jan. 25. National Hospital for Diseases of the Heart. All day. Fee £7 7s. 0d. (limited to 20).
2. Diseases of Children. Jan. 14 to Jan. 26. Queen's Hospital. All day. Fee £3 3s. 0d.
3. Medicine, Surgery & the Specialities. Jan. 28 to Feb. 9. Prince of Wales's General Hospital Group. All day. Fee £5 5s. 0d.
4. Psychological Medicine. Jan. 29 to Feb. 28. Bethlem Royal Hospital. Tuesdays and Saturdays. 11 a.m. Fee £1 1s. 0d.

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.



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