

sufficiently to assist his father in his business, and later returned to London to work with an uncle. He suddenly left this relation and travelled to several towns in the north of England; he retained a faint recollection of his wandering, and was at length found lying by the roadside in an exhausted state. He was sent back to his relative, but shortly after left and walked into the country, and was found sitting by a straw rick he had set on fire. He was reported to have gone through the stereotyped motion of striking matches for some hours after arrest. A further inquiry into his history showed that he had attempted suicide by drowning when 11 years old, later by jumping out of a train, and still later by taking poison and cutting his wrist. He had been depressed for a considerable period before the incendiarism; he admitted excessive masturbation. He felt he was unworthy to live and had withdrawn himself from relations and friends in consequence. He appeared to have lost all family affection, he lacked any capacity for sustained effort, was preoccupied, hallucinated, suffered from sleeplessness, and *flexibilitas cerea* was present. He stated that he had been thinking of doing something wrong since his last attempt at suicide, as he considered he deserved punishment for his bad sex habits, and selected arson as he thought the penalty would be severe and probably a life sentence. He was dealt with at court as insane.

A concluding observation. The remissions which occur in this disorder are of medico-legal importance, and if an accused person has made an apparent recovery from an attack, the subsequent commission of a crime may be the first indication of a relapse. The condition of the accused may not justify evidence of insanity then, but the medical witness may properly testify that the crime may be due to undeveloped mental disorder.

CORRESPONDENCE.

ROYAL MEDICAL BENEVOLENT FUND CHRISTMAS GIFTS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE POST-GRADUATE MEDICAL JOURNAL.

DEAR SIR,—It has been the practice of the Royal Medical Benevolent Fund for many years to give a Christmas gift to each annuitant and some of the most necessitous of the grantees.

Both the annuitants, who are over 60 years of age, and the grantees are deprived of those little amenities of life which the more fortunate of us enjoy.

Many of our beneficiaries are alone in the world as their friends and relations have passed over and consequently they will not receive any gift or extra comfort this Christmas.

Last year the Fund gave to each 30s., this meant an expenditure of £500. Many readers will wish that the recipients of this gift in former years should not be deprived of it this year.

But unless I am favoured by a generous response to this appeal our funds will not allow of this gracious and friendly act.

Will every reader of this letter please consider if he or she cannot send to the Honorary Treasurer, Royal Medical Benevolent Fund, 11, Chandos Street, London, W.1, a Christmas donation?

I shall be grateful whether the donation be large or small.

Yours faithfully,

(signed) THOMAS BARLOW,
President.

POST-GRADUATE NEWS.

It is not possible to arrange for more than three Special Courses in December by reason of the Christmas vacation, and these have been fixed to take place December 2 to December 14. Under the direction of Dr. Eric Pritchard a course will be held at the Infants Hospital, Vincent Square, S.W.

This course is of special value to 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 of the course is that visits are arranged to other centres, such as to the United Dairies Pasteurizing Plant at Willesden, and to Thavies Inn V.D. Centre.

The second course, also an afternoon one, will be undertaken by the staff at the Hospital for Diseases of the Skin, Blackfriars Road, S.E. 1. Clinical instruction will be given in the Out-patient Department every afternoon from 2.30 p.m. and special demonstrations of interesting cases on Tuesday, December 3 and Tuesday, December 10. Fee £1 1s.

The third course is one in medicine, surgery and the specialities, primarily of interest to the general practitioner, as it is arranged from 4.0 to 5.45 p.m., and will take place at the London Temperance Hospital. Fee £1 1s.

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

December 2.—Mr. Harold Kisch, "Aches and Pains in the Throat."

December 9.—Mr. John F. O'Malley, "Inflammations of the External Ear."

For the benefit of new readers we would say that these lectures are given at the Medical Society of London Lecture Hall, 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, W. 1, at 5 o'clock. No Fee.

The Fellowship of Medicine is arranging a new series of lectures to begin on January 21, 1930, and we would draw the attention of readers to the fact that the lectures will be given on Tuesdays (instead of the usual Mondays) at 4 o'clock.

The remaining clinical demonstrations for this session arranged by the Fellowship are:—

December 5.—Hospital for Epilepsy and Paralysis (Maida Vale, W. 9), 2 p.m. Dr. Russell Brain.

December 6.—Royal Free Hospital, 4 p.m. Mr. C. A. Joll, "The Early and Late Results of Operations for Exophthalmic Goitre."

December 11.—South London Hospital for Women (103, South Side, S.W. 4), 2.30 p.m. Miss Huxley (General).

This particular demonstration is open to women graduates only.

December 11.—National Heart Hospital, 6 p.m. Dr. T. F. Cotton.

These demonstrations are open to the medical profession, without fee.

South West London Post Graduate Association.

The following lectures will be given at the St. James's Hospital, Ouseley Road, Balham, S.W. 12, at 4 p.m.

December 3.—Mr. L. E. Phillips, "Disorders of the Menopause."

December 11.—Mr. E. T. C. Milligan, "Modern Methods of Diagnosis of Rectal Diseases."

These lectures are free to members of the Fellowship of Medicine only.

The two remaining lectures of the M.R.C.P. Special Course are as follows:—

December 3.—Dr. Kinnier Wilson, "Fits: Varieties; Pathogenesis; Relation to Narcolepsy, Catalepsy, Syncopy."

This lecture will be delivered at the Medical Society, 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, W. 1, at 8.30 p.m.

December 6.—Dr. Knyvett Gordon, "Diagnosis of Bacterial Infection," illustrated by the epidiascope, followed by a laboratory demonstration.

Please note that this lecture-demonstration will be given at 10, *Bedford Square, W.C. 1*, at 8.30 p.m.

Fees: 10s. 6d. per lecture. Tickets must be taken in *advance*.

Central London Throat, Nose and Ear Hospital, Gray's Inn Road, W.C. 1.

The following lectures will be given at

4 p.m. at the above Hospital, and medical practitioners are cordially invited to attend without payment of fee.

December 13.—Dr. Dan McKenzie, "Early Mastoid Operations."

December 20.—Mr. F. W. Watkyn-Thomas, "Fractured Skull and the Aural Surgeon."

King's College Hospital Medical School, Denmark Hill, S.E.5.

The following lectures will be delivered at 9 p.m. and are free to all medical practitioners:—

December 5.—Mr. Cecil P. G. Wakeley, "Diseases of the Breast and their Treatment."

December 12.—Dr. Terence East, "The Electrocardiograph and its Use." A practical demonstration."

Coffee will be served in the ante-room at 8.45 p.m.

Royal Northern Hospital, Holloway Road, N.7.

An Intensive Course will be held at the above hospital from December 2 to December 6 consisting of teaching in the wards and various departments of the Hospital during the morning, and the following lecture-demonstrations in the afternoon:—

December 2, 2.15 p.m.—Mr. Kenneth Walker, "Urinary Calculi."

3.15 p.m.—Mr. A. M. Zamora, "Some Points about Mastoid Infection."

December 3, 2.15 p.m.—Mr. T. T. Higgins, "Use of Sodium Morrhuate in the Injection Treatment of Varicose Veins."

3.15 p.m.—Dr. A. L. Punch, "Bronchiectasis."

December 4, 2.15 p.m.—Dr. Bernard Schlesinger, Ward demonstration of cases.

3.15 p.m.—Dr. H. C. Semon, "The Problem of Trade Dermatoses in General Practice."

December 5, 2.15 p.m.—Mr. Frederick Roques, "Some Modern Obstetric Methods."

3.15 p.m.—Mr. E. Wolff, "Headache."

December 6, 2.15 p.m.—Dr. Bruce Williamson, "The Arrhythmias in General Practice."

3.15 p.m.—Dr. C. Gouldsbrough, "Osteo-Arthritis."

This course is free to all practitioners.

Maudsley Hospital, Denmark Hill, S.E.5.

Part I of the Diploma Course in Psychological Medicine, held at the above hospital, will begin on January 7, 1930. This will include Physiology, Physiological Psychology, Biochemistry, Anatomy and Psychology. Part II will be held from March to May inclusive. The fee for the whole course is £15 15s., or for either Part I or Part II separately £10 10s. each part. For single series of lectures in Part I the fee is £4 4s. The Fellowship of Medicine is authorized to issue tickets of admission and will also supply copies of the syllabus.

The Semon lecture will be delivered by Dr. Harris P. Mosher (Professor of Laryngology, Harvard University) in the Barnes Hall of the Royal Society of Medicine, 1, Wimpole Street, W.1, on Thursday, December 5, at 5 p.m. The subject of the lecture is "The Lower End of the Oesophagus at Birth and in the Adult." Admission Free.

REVIEWS.

CATECHISM SERIES.

This series, published by Messrs. E. and S. Livingstone, Teviot Place, Edinburgh, will be found very useful by the student about to enter for his final examination. The number of subjects in the medical curriculum is now so great that something in the nature of a cram is almost a necessity in order to refresh the mind before an examination, and the arrangement of ques-

tion and answer in this series covers most of the ground. Although of little value to the student who has not previously studied his subject in the ordinary textbooks, these volumes will be most valuable for emphasizing the essential points.

MEDICAL DISEASES IN CHILDREN. By D. N. Nicholson, M.B., M.R.C.P. Pp. 74. Price 1s. 6d.

This little book, which is one of the Catechism Series, presents the essential facts on "Diseases of Children," and it is intended for the student about to enter for his final examination. As in the other volumes of this series the book is arranged in the form of question and answer. The first chapter deals with the physiology of infancy, and includes useful information about feeding. The various systems are then dealt with, and the book concludes with a valuable chapter on prescriptions and directions as to making various foods, such as albumen water. It is easy to read and can be recommended to the student who wishes to refresh his memory.

PSYCHOLOGY. By J. H. Ewen, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H. Pp. 72. Price 1s. 6d.

This volume will be read with considerable interest not only by those who intend to make a special study of psychology but by every student of medicine. It is one of the Catechism Series and is arranged in the form of question and answer. In the ordinary medical examination the student is not expected to have a deep knowledge of psychology and this subject is sadly neglected. At the same time a knowledge of human nature, of conduct and of the mental outlook found in human nature is an absolute necessity to anyone who would be a successful physician. For a deep knowledge of this important and fascinating subject the student should refer to the textbooks and very large literature on the subject, but in order to obtain a general idea of psychology and a knowledge not only of the elemental facts, but of the direction in which progress is being made, this little volume can be highly recommended.

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THE SECRETARY, FELLOWSHIP OF MEDICINE,
1, Wimpole Street, London, W. 1.

SPECIAL COURSES

DECEMBER.

53. Dermatology. Dec. 2 to Dec. 14. Blackfriars Skin Hospital. Afternoons. Fee £1 1s. 0d.
54. Diseases of Infants. Dec. 2 to Dec. 14. Infants Hospital. Afternoons. Fee £3 3s. 0d.
55. Practitioners' Course. Dec. 2 to Dec. 14. London Temperance Hospital. Late Afternoons. 1½ hr. Fee £1 1s. 0d.

JANUARY, 1930.

- Cardiology. Jan. 18 to Jan. 25. National Hospital for Diseases of the Heart. All day. Fee £7 7s. 0d. (limited to 20).
- Diseases of Children. Jan. 13 to Jan. 25. Queen's Hospital. All day. Fee £3 8s. 0d.
- Medicine, Surgery and the Specialities. Jan. 27 to Feb. 8. Prince of Wales's General Hospital Group. All day. Fee £5 5s. 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.