

may get a little better of their symptoms in a few hours, but it takes twelve hours to get rid of their symptoms. I shall not go into the clinical effects of alcohol, because you will find them described in the books.

Now a word or two about other alcohols. In appearance and smell and taste, methyl alcohol is exactly like ethyl alcohol; but methyl alcohol is a much more deadly poison; 10 c.c. of it has caused death. And it is a poison which does not produce the pleasurable effects of alcohol. The onset of the symptoms of methyl alcohol may be delayed, but its action is very prolonged; a person may be in coma from it for three or four days.

Methyl alcohol has a selective affinity for the optic nerve, and many persons who have been poisoned by methyl alcohol have developed blindness and optic atrophy in a large number of cases. You may say, again, What has that to do with us? It has this. Sometimes the makers of spirits—fortunately not in England but in other countries—and of brandies and liqueurs and scents and essences have used methyl alcohol instead of ethyl alcohol. In Germany there have been several very bad epidemics of blindness from the use of adulterated brandy; and, in America, from adulterated whisky and essences. I have seen some cases. Fortunately, however, they are very rare in this country.

Remember what methylated spirit is. Before the War it was an ordinary crude alcohol, but since the War, in order to prevent people from drinking methylated spirit, it has had additions. Before the War it contained 10 per cent of wood naphtha, a very impure methyl alcohol. Since the War it has been made nauseous stuff; it is coloured blue with aniline dye, and it has in it pyridine and paraffin, as well as wood naphtha, and anyone who drank this would have violent vomiting. It contains $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of pyridine, and 0.375 per cent. of paraffin. But for industrial purposes methylated spirit can be bought which is purer than that sold

before the war. It is methyl alcohol with 5 per cent. commercial wood naphtha. It is difficult to buy industrial methylated spirit; all sorts of forms have to be filled up, because of the danger of people drinking it. "Surgical spirit" is industrial spirit to which some castor oil has been added; why that should be added I do not know; whether it is to prevent surgeons drinking it I cannot say! They do, however, put in 3 per cent. of castor oil.

There is another alcohol, isopropyl alcohol. It is an alcohol which is very similar to ethyl alcohol in appearance, and it has many of the facilities and properties of that which render it useful for the arts; it is a solvent for varnishes and can be used for perfumes, and it may replace ethyl alcohol. It is twice as poisonous as ethyl alcohol, though it is not likely to replace it as a drug of addiction, as it does not produce pleasurable effects; it only makes the person drowsy and sleepy. If people know about it, there is a danger of it being used in this country as a beverage.

Lastly, I remind you that amyl alcohol is a toxic, nasty, irritant liquid, has a pear-like odour, is five times as poisonous as ethyl alcohol, causes headache, stupor and coma, and persons taking it suffer from glycosuria. It is one of the chief constituents of fusel oil, that is to say the spirit which is produced in ethylic fermentation. And it is one of the impurities occurring in bad whisky.

Those points which I have mentioned will, I hope, be useful to you in supplementing your reading on toxicological subjects.

POST-GRADUATE NEWS.

FROM September onwards the Fellowship of Medicine has arranged a varied choice of Special Courses. Particulars of these can be obtained from the Secretary of the Fellowship, 1, Wimpole Street, London, W. 1, who will be pleased to supply copies of syllabuses

and the list of the remaining special courses for 1930.

From September 1 to September 13 an all-day course will be given at the Queen's Hospital for Children. This hospital specializes in the showing of cases, rather than formal lectures.

There is an abundance of material, both medical and surgical, as there are nearly 200 out-patients daily. Simple lunch and tea are kindly provided by the authorities. Fee £2 12s. 6d.

A revision course will be undertaken by the staff of the Westminster Hospital from September 15 to September 27. Instruction will take place in all departments of the hospital, and the daily sessions are from 10.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. Visits will be made to two mental institutions connected with the hospital. Fee £5 5s. for two weeks, or £3 3s. for either week.

The Metropolitan Hospital, Kingsland Road, E. 8, will be holding a revision course on similar lines to the above Course, Westminster Hospital, from September 29 to October 11.

The daily sessions will begin at 10.30 and will continue until 5.30 p.m. and instruction will be given in all branches of general medicine, general surgery and the special departments. Fee £3 3s. or £2 2s. for week.

For forthcoming special courses we would draw attention to page iii, and any graduates desirous of receiving detailed copies of syllabuses are invited to make application, also for the 1931 list of Special Courses.

The Fellowship of Medicine desires to draw attention to two of its evening courses, namely those arranged for the M.R.C.P. and for the Final Fellowship Course. The former begins on the evening of October 7 and will continue until December 2. The lectures will be delivered as hitherto in the building of the Medical Society of London, 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, W. 1, at 8.30 p.m. The fees are 10s. 6d. per

lecture, or £6 6s. for seventeen lectures, in addition there are two eye demonstrations for which an extra fee of 10s. 6d. each demonstration is payable. The course to be arranged for the Final Fellowship will consist of a series of clinical evenings, October 8, 17, 22, 29, and November 5 and 12, when demonstrations will be on clinical surgery and pathology. Candidates will have the opportunity of examining patients and being questioned on the diagnosis and treatment in a manner similar to that which obtains in the Fellowship Examination. These demonstrations will likewise take place at the Medical Society, and the fees are 12s. for each demonstration, or £3 3s. for the series of six.

A series of lectures on "Recent Advances in Medicine and Surgery" has been arranged for the winter session. The lectures will be delivered on Monday at 4 o'clock at the Medical Society of London, from October 13 to December 8. These lectures are open to the medical profession, without fee or ticket.

The weekly clinical demonstrations in medicine and surgery at the associated hospitals will be resumed in October and copies of the syllabus are now available. These demonstrations are likewise open to the medical profession, without fee or ticket.

We would invite our readers to observe that the special course in Clinical Tropical Medicine, see p. iii, held under the ægis of the Fellowship of Medicine has been considerably augmented. The course is now spread over a period of three weeks, and there are daily sessions from 11 to 12.30, and 2.0 to 3.30. The fee is £8 8s.

We are pleased also to announce that the staff of the City of London Maternity Hospital, Victoria Park, has kindly consented to hold a further special course this year of two weeks' duration. The dates are November 17 to November 29. Post-graduates can spend the entire day at the hospital, and the fee is £2 2s. for the two weeks.

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

The following lectures will be given at 4 p.m., and are free to medical practitioners.

September 5.—Mr. N. Asherson, "Acute Mastoiditis."

September 12.—Mr. Lowndes Yates, "The Treatment of Chronic Nasal Discharge."

There will be a course in Methods of Examination and Diagnosis, September 17, 18, 24, 25, October 1 and 2, at the above Hospital. Fee 1 guinea, payable to the Fellowship of Medicine, from which office copies of the syllabus can be obtained. This course precedes the intensive course (October 6 to November 1), held at this Hospital under the auspices of the Fellowship of Medicine.

A Course in Radiotherapy will be available at the National Centre and Post-graduate School of Radiotherapy (the Mount Vernon Hospital and Radium Institute), Riding House Street, London, W.1, from October 6 to October 31. The fee will be £15 15s., and instruction will be given at Riding House Street except where otherwise stated.

Mr. Bruce M. Dick and Mr. C. F. W. Illingworth will give a further course of lectures in Surgery and Surgical Pathology in Edinburgh towards the end of October. We hope to receive copies of the new syllabus shortly, but any reader desirous of seeing a copy of the programme of the course now in progress is invited to write to the Fellowship of Medicine.

Tavistock Clinic, 51, Tavistock Square, W.C.1.

Twenty-four lectures on Psychological Types and Mechanisms will be given at the Clinic on Wednesdays, beginning October 1, and there will be two lectures each afternoon, namely 3 to 4 p.m., and 4.30 to 5.30 p.m. Copies of the syllabus and tickets of admission (£2 2s. for the series) obtainable from the Fellowship of Medicine.

INDEX TO VOLUME V.

	PAGE
ABDOMINAL Disease, Acute—Remarks upon the Pathology. Cope, Zachary	188
Anæsthesia and Analgesia in Labour. McIlroy, Dame Louise	93
— Local, in Rectal Surgery. Gabriel, W. B.	171
Analgesia and Anæsthesia in Labour. McIlroy, Dame Louise	93
Armour, Donald. British Medical Association at Winnipeg	187
Arterial Pressure, Some Clinical Aspects of. Dally, J. F. Halls	7
BLOOD Transfusion, Technique of Treatment of. Thomas, G. Price	67
Bradford, Sir John Rose. The Canadian Visit	180
British Medical Association at Winnipeg. Armour, Donald	187
Burrell, L. S. T. Intrathoracic Tumours	147
CÆSARIAN Section. Dearnley, Gertrude	39
Canada, Post-Graduate Facilities in. Primrose, A.	185
Canadian Visit, The. Bradford, Sir John Rose	180
Carson, H. W. Fellowship of Medicine and Post-Graduate Medical Association	181
Chest, especially in Relation to Tuberculosis. After-results of Gassing and Gunshot-Wound. Price, G. Basil	27
Cold, Treatment of Common. Poulton, E. P.	75
Cope, Zachary. Abdominal Disease, Acute — Remarks upon the Pathology... ..	188
Crime and Insanity. East, W. Norwood 21, 50, 57, 150, 172	172
DALLY, J. F. Halls. Arterial Pressure, Some Clinical Aspects of	7
Daukes, S. H. Drug Administration, Consideration of the Various Methods of	1
Dearnley, Gertrude. Cæsarian Section	39
Digitalis, Uses and Abuses of. Fraser, F. R.	111
Drug Administration, Consideration of the Various Methods of. Daukes, S. H.	1
EAST, W. NORWOOD. Crime and Insanity 21, 50, 57, 150, 172	172
Electrocardiographic Problems, Some. Hoskin, Jenner	103
FELLOWSHIP of Medicine and Post-Graduate Medical Association. Carson, H. W.	181
Fraser, F. R. Digitalis, Uses and Abuses of	111
GABRIEL, W. B. Rectal Surgery, Local Anæsthesia in Gardiner-Hill, H. Goitre, Varieties of Simple and Thyrototoxic and their Differentiation	99
Gastric Surgery, Lecture on. Gillespie, E.	201
Gillespie, E. A Lecture on Gastric Surgery... ..	201
Goitre, Varieties of Simple and Thyrototoxic and their Differentiation. Gardiner-Hill, H.	99
HALE-WHITE, Sir William. Post-Graduate Medical Study... ..	179
Hæmorrhoids, Technique of Treatment of. Thomas, G. Price	67
Hoskin, Jenner. Some Electrocardiographic Problems	103
Hydrology in Medical Practice, The Rôle of. Ray, Matthew B.	115, 137
INTRATHORACIC Tumours. Burrell, L. S. T.	147
KIDNEY, Relationship between Certain Diseases of the. Shore, T. H. Gostwyck	81
LABOUR, Analgesia and Anæsthesia in. McIlroy, Dame Louise	93
Lockhart-Mummeley, J. P. Post-Graduate Teaching in Special Subjects	182
London, Post-Graduate Teaching in. Paterson, Herbert J.	184

	PAGE
MCILROY, Dame Louise. Analgesia and Anæsthesia in Labour	93
Maizels, Montague. The Stools in Infancy	78
Malaria, General Paralysis treated by. Tennent, Thomas	129
Meteorological Conditions in Relation to Open-air Treatment and Tuberculosis. Robertson, A. Niven... ..	44
PARALYSIS, General; Treatment by Malaria. Tennent, Thomas	129
Paterson, Herbert J. Post-Graduate Teaching in London	184
Pathology of Acute Abdominal Disease, Remarks upon the. Cope, Zachary... ..	188
Pearson, S. Vere. Tuberculosis: The Subject for Teaching Medicine	14
Post-Graduate Facilities in Canada. Primrose, A.	185
— Medical Study. Hale-White, Sir William	179
— Teaching in London. Paterson, Herbert J.	184
— in Special Subjects. Lockhart-Mummery, J. P.	182
Poulton, E. P. Common Cold, Treatment of	75
Price, G. Basil. Gassing and Gunshot-Wound Chest, especially in Relation to Tuberculosis, After-results of	27
Problems, Some Electrocardiographic. Hoskin, Jenner	103
Primrose, A. Post-Graduate Facilities in Canada	185
Prostatectomy, The Complications of. Walker, Kenneth	197
RAY, Matthew B. Hydrology in Medical Practice, The Rôle of	115, 137
Rectal Surgery, Local Anæsthesia in. Gabriel, W. B. Robertson, A. Niven. A Plea for the Study of Meteorological Conditions in Relation to Open-air Treatment and Tuberculosis	171
Rolleston, J. D. Question of Vaccination against Smallpox	165
SHANKS, S. Cochrane. X-ray Examination of the Urinary Tract	193
Shore, T. H. Gostwyck. Kidney, Relationship between Certain Diseases of the... ..	81
Smallpox, Question of Vaccination against. Rolleston, J. D.	165
Special Subjects, Post-Graduate Teaching in. Lockhart-Mummery, J. P.	182
Stools in Infancy. Maizels, Montague	78
Surgical Resurrections—VII. Zeta	31
TENNENT, Thomas. General Paralysis by Malaria, Treatment of	129
Thomas, G. Price. Technique of Treatment of Varicose Veins, of Hæmorrhoids, and of Blood Transfusion	67
Toxic Effects of Lead, Arsenic, Morphine, Cocaine, &c. Some points in connection with the. Willcox, Sir William	205
Tuberculosis: The Subject for Teaching Medicine. Pearson, S. Vere	14
— After-results of Gassing and Gunshot-Wound Chest. Price, G. Basil	27
— Meteorological Conditions in Open-air Treatment and. Robertson, A. Niven... ..	44
Tumours, Intrathoracic. Burrell, L. S. T.	147
URINARY Tract, X-ray Examination of. Shanks, S. Cochrane	193
VACCINATION against Smallpox, Question of. Rolleston, J. D.	165
Varicose Veins, Technique of Treatment of. Thomas, G. Price	67

	PAGE
WALKER, Kenneth. The Complications of Prostatectomy	197
Willcox, Sir William. Some points in connection with the Toxic Effects of Lead, Arsenic, Morphine, Cocaine, &c.	205
X-RAY Examination of the Urinary Tract. Shanks, S. Cochrane	193
ZETA. Surgical Resurrections... ..	31
CORRESPONDENCE—	
Canary Islands... ..	34
Royal Medical Benevolent Fund	54
REVIEWS—	
Campbell, David. Handbook of Therapeutics	196
Currie, J. R. A Textbook of Hygiene	177
Davidson, Maurice. Cancer of the Lung and other Intrathoracic Tumours	196
Draper, George. Disease and the Man	74
E. and S. Livingstone. Catechism Series	56
— Medical and D.P.H. Examination Papers	74
Edited by Berkeley, Comyns; Andrews, H. Russell; Fairbairn, J. S. Diseases of Women	164
Ewen, J. H. Psychology	56
Gloyne, S. Roodhouse. The Clinical Pathology of Thoracic Puncture Fluids	177
Hutchison, Robert. Clinical Methods	74
Nicholson, D. N. Medical Diseases in Children ..	56
Oldfield, Carlton. Herman's Difficult Labour ...	38
Rood and Webber. Anæsthesia and Anæsthetics... ..	163
Scott, G. Laughton. The Morphine Habit and its Painless Treatment... ..	163

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