

Regular Army) will take place immediately afterwards. Officers desiring information regarding these funds are requested to communicate beforehand with the secretary, Lieut.-Colonel E. M. Wilson, 124, Victoria Street, S.W.

AUXILIARY ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS FUNDS.
THE usual quarterly committee meeting was held at 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, W., on April 26th, 1918, when grants were made to the orphans of three commissioned officers of the Auxiliary R.A.M.C. and to the widows of three of the rank and file of the Auxiliary Branch of the R.A.M.C. Applications for grants and subscriptions to the funds should be addressed to the honorary secretary, 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, W.1.

Medical News.

THE inter-allied conference on the after-care of discharged sailors and soldiers will be opened at the Central Hall, Westminster, on Whit Monday, May 20th, at 11.30 a.m., by the Duke of Connaught. The King and Queen will visit the exhibition arranged in connexion with the conference at 12.30 on the same day. The conference and exhibition will close on Saturday, May 25th.

ANOTHER discussion at the Royal Society of Medicine on the future of the medical profession under a Ministry of Health will be opened by Sir William Osler on Wednesday, May 29th, at 5 p.m.

DR. R. HOWDEN, professor of anatomy in the Faculty of Medicine, Newcastle-on-Tyne, has been appointed to represent the University of Durham on the General Medical Council.

DR. JAMESON B. HURBY has presented to the Town Council of Reading an historical picture by Mr. Harry Morley, A.R.C.A., representing the martyrdom of Hugh Faringdon, last Abbot of Reading.

THE Disabled Soldiers' Aid Committee (40, Ebury Street, London, S.W.) asks for disused periodicals, to be made into war envelopes by disabled soldiers, whereby they are able to earn as much as £1 a week.

ON the initiative of Professor Gradenigo stations of psycho-physiological research on the effects of aviation have lately been founded at Turin and Naples. They are chiefly intended for the examination of candidates for service as air pilots.

A CONFERENCE on maternity nursing will be held in the Board Room of the Metropolitan Asylums Board (Embankment, Blackfriars Bridge) on June 4th. Sir William J. Collins, M.P., who will preside, will open a discussion at 5 p.m. on maternity nursing in relation to the district nursing services of London.

THE first of a course of lectures and demonstrations on ambulance work and first aid will be given at the College of Ambulance, Vere Street, Cavendish Square, W., on Thursday next, at 4.30, by Sir James Cantlie, K.B.E., who will deal with aid to the agricultural worker. Other lectures will be given at the same hour and place on Thursdays during May, June, and July. Particulars can be obtained from the secretary.

DURING the annual meeting of the South-Eastern Union of Scientific Societies, which is to take place in London at the end of this month in the rooms of the Linnean Society (Burlington House, Piccadilly, W.), a discussion on mosquitoes in England will be opened by Colonel Sir Ronald Ross, K.C.B., F.R.S. This discussion will be held at 8 p.m. on Thursday, May 30th, in the theatre of the Civil Service Commission, Burlington Gardens, Piccadilly, W., and will be open to all interested in the subject.

AT a meeting of the East Sussex Medico-Chirurgical Society held at the East Sussex Hospital on April 26th Dr. Overend gave an x-ray demonstration of certain diseases of the chest by means of lantern slides. After illustrations of the normal chest slides were shown of hilar and peritracheal phthisis in various stages; of interlobar tubercle (discrete and confluent) and its subsequent development, either into ordinary disseminated peribronchial phthisis, or into a slow, advancing fibro-caseous form, with the formation of cavities in the interlobar area, which are often silent to the stethoscope. In one example the interlobar opacity was grafted on pneumoconiosis. Radio-slides were also exhibited showing disseminated peribronchial tubercle, unilateral and bilateral, active and progressive, stationary and arrested, with the production of cavities; chronic indurated phthisis, and unilateral pure fibroid lung; asthma and emphysema; commencing and resolving pneumonia; Hodgkin's disease and mediastinal sarcoma affecting the paratracheal glands, before and after x-ray treatment; bronchiectasis and subphrenic abscess.

THE United States Secretaries of State of War and Navy have authorized the organization of a committee in Washington, with branch committees in London and Paris, for the collection, classification, and dissemination of scientific, technical, and industrial research information, with special reference to war problems, and the interchange of such information between the Allies in Europe and the United States. The British and French committees are to establish contact with all important research laboratories and agencies, governmental and private. They will prepare reports on the results obtained; maintain continuous contact with the work of military and naval attachés; serve as auxiliaries in the collection, analysis, and compilation of information, and as centres of distribution to the American Expeditionary Forces in France and to the American naval forces in European waters of scientific and technical information originating in the United States and to the Allies in Europe. The headquarters of the Committee in Washington are in the offices of the National Research Council, 1023, Sixteenth Street. The branch committees are located at the American Embassies in London and Paris.

Letters, Notes, and Answers.

THE postal address of the BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION and BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL is 423, Strand, London, W.C.2. The telegraphic addresses are:

1. EDITOR of the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, *Atitology, Westrand, London*; telephone, 2631, Gerrard.

2. FINANCIAL SECRETARY AND BUSINESS MANAGER (Advertisements, etc.), *Articulata, Westrand, London*; telephone, 2630, Gerrard.

3. MEDICAL SECRETARY, *Medisecra, Westrand, London*; telephone, 2634, Gerrard. The address of the Irish Office of the British Medical Association is 16, South Frederick Street, Dublin.

The address of the Central Medical War Committees for England and Wales is 423, Strand, London, W.C.2; that of the Reference Committee of the Royal Colleges in London is the Examination Hall, 8, Queen Square, Bloomsbury, W.C.1; and that of the Scottish Medical Service Emergency Committee is Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh.

LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.

HAY FEVER.

DR. LIONEL JAMES PICTON writes in response to our request for suggestions for the local treatment of hay fever: I have found that the unguentum acidi salicylicum introduced several times a day into the nostrils—either with the little finger or the butt end of a wax match or wax taper—is of value.

UNIVERSITY REPRESENTATION IN PARLIAMENT.

J. C. writes: Dr. Fothergill's letter in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL of April 20th contains the following: "... who knows his subject and who we can support." The letter in the JOURNAL of May 4th signed by Sir W. M. Abbot Anderson and Herbert G. Williams contains the following: "These are presumably the official bodies whom he suggests should wake up." Also for the preliminary education which is displayed in these letters.

INVALID RATIONS.

DR. A. KINSEY-MORGAN (Bournemouth) writes with reference to Dr. E. I. Spriggs's article (p. 505): Differentiation is not always made between constitutional and alimentary diabetes; thus with a mistaken diagnosis the patient is burdened with an unsuitable diet for his requirements; such a case has quite recently come under my observation. "Extra rations," as Dr. Spriggs points out, are only suitable for "subjects of persistent glycosuria who are in need of special diet." In tuberculous cases it is imperative that a generous diet of protein and fat should be allowed; nutrition is thus maintained, and the arrest of the disease is a manhood gain from the public point of view. Dr. Spriggs's concluding remarks on "restricted tastes" are words of wisdom which should appeal to all of us as a great help out of many of our daily difficulties.

TWO CASES OF PTOSIS (? BOTULISM).

DR. JOHN W. DUNCAN (Hockley, Birmingham) sends us notes of two cases he has seen within the last fortnight which may be instances of botulism. (1) A married woman, several months pregnant, who had been ill a few days, was, when first seen, sitting by the fireside with both eyes closed. She was dull, but spoke when addressed and could raise the eyelids, the right more than the left. She had herpes on the upper lip. She was admitted to hospital next day. (2) A man aged 56, first seen on April 19th, had been ill for some time with drowsiness, closed eyes, and twitching fingers. On the previous night he had delusions. He was constipated, and the temperature was raised—on May 4th it was 103°; since May 3rd he had been confined to bed, comatose, speechless, and taking no food. The eyelids are persistently closed, and he does not respond when spoken to. The right side of the face is smooth, the left drawn, showing a deep line. The hands twitch; the plantar reflexes are present. The bowels

have been opened after castor oil. The only point in his history bearing on his illness was that he had eaten pig's pudding a fortnight before being taken ill.

TREATMENT OF MENINGITIS.

Mrs. Fysh, M.B.Lond. (Dryhurst, Tonbridge), writes: In reply to Captain Cade (April 13th, p. 444) I would recommend the iodine treatment, which must be carried out carefully in every detail, for example, the iodine tincture being applied all over the head and not merely "to the shaven crown," for meningitis in cases of the acute suppurative variety either alone or complicating an acute fever such as pneumonia or enteric. I have only tried it in one case of the tuberculous variety; it was unsuccessful, but the child (a Jewess of 10 years) came under my care late in the second week of her illness. Of the four other cases mentioned in my previous letter, one, a woman, died, and pus was found in the meninges in all parts; it was white, and in places inspissated, as if beginning to undergo absorption. Dr. Castellani reported the presence of a diplococcus in this case. The diagnosis of the other three was made on clinical grounds only; they were all very acute and apparently hopeless young children suffering from the characteristic symptoms, one having passed the convulsive stage and being in deep coma when he began at last to respond to treatment. This is a kind of meningitis which so far I have not seen in England, but which occurs with some frequency in Ceylon.

GLYCERIN IN THE TREATMENT OF WOUNDS.

DR. A. OGIER WARD (London, E.C.) writes with reference to Mr. A. E. Morison's article (March 23rd) on the virtues of magnesium sulphate for wounds: I find that the recipe contains 1½ lb. magnes. sulph. and 11 oz. glycerinum ac. carbol. (1 to 10). Why use the magnesium sulphate? Is it not time that the key to all antiseptic treatment should be recognized to be osmosis? And is not glycerin the simplest and most ideal substance for its promotion?

DO MOVING PICTURES INJURE THE EYES?

IN a communication to *The Annals of Ophthalmology* last year Dr. Bahn of New Orleans comes to the following conclusions: (1) Moving pictures, under favourable conditions, do not cause as much fatigue as the same period of concentrated reading. (2) Most persons who complain that the pictures cause ocular discomfort have some defect of the eye. (3) Moving pictures act as a test of distant vision endurance. A person with no ocular defect should be able to enjoy at least four sittings, of one and a half hours each, a week with no discomfort. (4) Under unfavourable conditions the pictures produce ocular fatigue. (5) A review of the literature up to date records no permanent harm to the eyes from the cinema.

AN OLD MILITARY MEDICAL PHARMACOPOEIA.

DR. OLDERIGO GRANDINI gives in *La Medicina Pratica* an account of a *Pharmacopoeia Austriaco-Castrensis*, printed at Vienna in 1795. It is a list of the remedies then considered most useful for soldiers on campaign. It includes vulneraries (Hoffmann's liquor and the theriaca); extracts of aconite, anodynes, taraxacum, and bark; liquorice plasters (simple, compound, and blistering); sublimate and other mercurials; anodyne, mercurial, and purgative pills; Dover's powder; resins of guaiacum and julep; confections of elder, juniper, and prune; Glauber's salts, tartar emetic and other forms of tartar; oils of aniseed, juniper berry, peppermint, turpentine, and laurel berry; antimony in various forms; vinegars (litharge and squills); mercurial, "nervine," and other ointments, one being for scab. Fifty-nine formulæ are given for the use of these substances in military hospitals.

THE BEGINNING OF CLINICAL TEACHING.

ANDREA FERRANNINI, writing in the *Riforma Medica*, claims for Italy priority in the foundation of scientific academies. The Accademia Cosentina was founded by Parrasio at Cosenza in 1550; the Accademia dei Segreti, a leading member of which was Giovanni Battista della Porta, discoverer of the camera obscura and founder of the science of physiognomics a century before Lavater, at Naples in 1600; the Accademia dei Lincei at Rome, by Prince Cesi, in 1603; the Accademia del Cimento, by pupils of Galileo, under the patronage of Prince Leopold of Tuscany, in 1657. The Royal Society of London was founded in 1660, and the Paris Académie des Sciences in 1666. The first Academy of Medicine in Europe was founded at Palermo in 1623 as an annexe to the School of Anatomy. Ferrannini also claims precedence for Italy in the foundation of university chairs of medicine. He says that the first anatomical amphitheatre was established at Padua in 1490 through the efforts of Alessandro Benevetti, and the first chair of clinical medicine at Padua by Giovanni Battista Da Monte in the hospital of St. Francis in 1543. Instruction at the bedside had, however, been given in ancient Rome, as we know from Martial's epigram about Symmachus; in the Nestorian school at Edessa in the fifth century, in the Arabic schools, and also by some mediæval teachers, such as Lanfranc. Withington, in his *Medical History from the Earliest Times* (p. 312), says that although the system had been revived at Padua for a short period during the Renaissance, clinical teaching in the modern sense had its origin in the "little infirmary at

Leyden with its twelve beds." Francis de la Boe (Sylvius, the discoverer of the fissure in the brain which bears his name), writing in 1664, says: "I have led my pupils by the hand to medical practice, using a method unknown at Leyden, or perhaps elsewhere, that is taking them daily to visit the sick at the public hospital."

THE BELGIAN DOCTORS' AND PHARMACISTS' RELIEF FUND.

Subscriptions to the Second Appeal.

The following subscriptions and donations to the Fund have been received during the week ending May 4th:

£ s. d.		£ s. d.	
Dr. John Fletcher ...	1 1 0	Dr. E. C. Prichard ...	3 3 0
Dr. W. O. Magoris ...	2 2 0	Lieutenant John Ritchie,	
Dr. Hodgson Moore ...	1 1 0	R.A.M.C. ...	1 1 0
Dr. J. B. Cumming ...	2 2 0	Dr. T. Ridley Bailey ...	1 1 0
Dr. J. A. Alston ...	1 0 0	Dr. Percy Rowland ...	0 10 6
Surgeon James M. Harrison,		Sir Alfred Pearce Gould ...	5 0 0
R.N. ...	0 10 6	Dr. H. Morley Fletcher ...	3 3 0
Dr. Archibald Donald ...	5 5 0	Mr. E. Spencer Evans ...	0 10 0
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Dr. Percy Ashworth ...	1 1 0	Dr. G. Rome Hall ...	1 1 0
Dr. R. W. Innes Smith ...	5 5 0	Dr. W. B. Bennett ...	2 2 0
Dr. E. C. Duncan ...	1 1 0	Dr. Herbert Calger ...	1 1 0
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Surgeon P. G. S. Davis,		Mr. E. Spencer Evans ...	0 10 0
R.N. ...	0 10 0	Dr. Herbert Calger ...	0 10 6
Sir Alfred Pearce Gould ...	5 0 0		

Subscriptions to the Fund should be sent to the Treasurer, Dr. H. A. Des Vœux, at 14, Buckingham Gate, London, S.W.1, and should be made payable to the Belgian Doctors' and Pharmacists' Relief Fund, crossed Lloyds Bank, Limited.

THE COMMEMORATIVE MEDAL IN THE SERVICE OF GERMANY.

THE industry of German propagandists in keeping up warlike enthusiasm in their own homes and in attempting to impress neutrals is curiously shown in the issue of war medals, of which at least 580 have found their way to other lands; selections can be studied in the Victoria and Albert Museum, South Kensington, and in the War Exhibition at Burlington House. With the light touch of a velvet-covered hand, Mr. G. F. Hill, Keeper of the Department of Coins and Medals, British Museum, has described, in a pamphlet with the title at the head of this note (Longmans, 6d.), the various kinds, and criticized their bearings—the patriotic impressions of the reigning house, including that of the Crown Prince, which, if, as is reported, they be accurate, have surely rendered the caricaturist's skill unnecessary; the hero-worshipping reproductions of von Hindenburg, of von Tirpitz—nothing if not genial—of von Kluck wistfully gazing at the distant fortifications of Paris; the "victory pennies" of the bombardment of Scarborough and Hartlepool and of Zeppelin attacks on the London docks; and the medals for satiric purposes, such as the notorious *Lusitania* production "flagellating the levity of mind of the Cunard line," and that of the landing of the Indians at Marseilles. While exposing the want of humour and the bad taste obvious in many instances, Mr. Hill refers to the pleasing conception of Götze's memorial medal of Admiral von Spee and his two sons with the German Eagle flying over a waste of waters to lay a laurel branch on their ocean grave. This is shown in one of the seventeen illustrations. That museums devoted to the ethnology of primitive races should preserve specimens of these German war medals for the future student is a proper provision.

A GAS GANGRENE RHYME.

H. M. E. sends us the following metrical "tip," which, though rather absolute, has, he says, proved helpful to a casualty clearing station in France:

When a compound fracture's seen, bubbly pus denotes gangrene.
If the skin is grey and mottled and the circulation's throttled,
Resonance upon percussion does away with all discussion.
Amputate by night or day; death ensues if there's delay.

THE appointment of certifying factory surgeon for Newbury (Berks) is vacant.

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An average line contains six words.

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Advertisements should be delivered, addressed to the Manager, 423, Strand, London, not later than the first post on Wednesday morning preceding publication, and, if not paid for at the time, should be accompanied by a reference.

NOTE.—It is against the rules of the Post Office to receive *poste restante* letters addressed either in initials or numbers.