

Board send ambulances to bring both the mother and baby to the hospital.

It is of the utmost importance for the sake of the children's health and also for the successful treatment of the disease in infants who are not accompanied by the mothers that they should be placed in open-air wards specially built for the purpose, which could not well be provided at any general hospital without building; also isolation wards have to be provided, both for the sake of the child and the mother.

With regard to the teaching of students, it seems to me that there ought to be no more difficulty in their attending St. Margaret's Hospital, which they do not do at present, than any of the fever hospitals as they do during the course of their training.—I am, etc.,

London, W., March 7th.

M. S. MAYOU.

GENERAL OEDEMA OF THE FOETUS.

SIR,—May I be permitted to call attention to the report (BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, March 17th, p. 470) of some remarks made by me at a meeting of the North of England Obstetrical and Gynaecological Society, and to point out that they give expression to an opinion with which I do not agree? The histological appearance of the liver in general oedema of the foetus is certainly suggestive of leukaemia, and some of the earlier writers believed the condition to be of this nature. More recent observers, however, have shown that the small round cells seen in great numbers in the liver and elsewhere are not white blood cells, but are nucleated erythrocytes. The condition is not, therefore, a leukaemia, though at first glance this mistake might easily be made.—I am, etc.,

Liverpool, March 18th.

NORMAN B. CAPON.

THE RIGHTS OF A REGISTERED MEDICAL PRACTITIONER.

SIR,—The retired practitioner has been discriminated against before. In a lunacy certificate there is this clause: "I am a person registered under the Medical Act, 1858, and I am in the actual practice of the medical profession." I have always regarded this as an infringement of the privileges of the profession.—I am, etc.,

Rotherham, March 18th.

GILBERT E. MOULD.

SIR,—Is the distinction between a practitioner in actual practice and one not in actual practice quite an innovation? It is found in the "Certificate of Medical Practitioner," Lunacy Act, 1890, Second Schedule, Form 8. I am not sure that anyone knows what it really means. It should certainly not be put into any more Acts or Regulations.—I am, etc.,

Birmingham, March 20th.

WALTER R. JORDAN.

Universities and Colleges.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.

NOTICE is given that among members of the Senate vacating office next May is Dr. T. D. Lister, elected by the graduates of medicine. Nominations should be sent to the Clerk of Convocation, at the University, not later than April 4th. Dr. Lister is eligible for re-election.

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF IRELAND.

OWING to the death of the Registrar, Sir Joseph McGrath, LL.D., the meeting of the Senate on March 16th was adjourned to March 27th, and a resolution of regret and sympathy was passed unanimously and ordered to be transmitted to the family.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.

Council Election.

THE following Fellows are candidates for election to the Council: Sir Herbert Furnivall Waterhouse (F. 1890); James Berry (F. 1885); John Herbert Fisher (F. 1893); Herbert John Paterson, C.B.E. (F. 1897); William Sampson Handley (F. 1897); Thomas Percy Legg, C.M.G. (F. 1897); Victor Bonney (F. 1899); Donald Armour, C.M.G. (F. 1900); Percy Sargent, C.M.G., D.S.O. (F. 1900); George Ernest Gask, C.M.G., D.S.O. (F. 1901); George Grey Turner (F. 1903).

The death of Sir William Thorburn increases the vacancies from four to five.

Voting papers will be issued on April 3rd.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS IN IRELAND.

THE following have been appointed to professorships in the schools of surgery: Medicine, F. C. Purser, M.D., F.R.C.P.I.; Midwifery, E. Hastings Tweedy, F.R.C.P.I.; Preventive Medicine and Medical Jurisprudence, V. M. Syngé, M.D., F.R.C.P.I.

Obituary.

SIR WILLIAM THORBURN, K.B.E., F.R.C.S.,
Consulting Surgeon, Manchester Royal Infirmary.

THE announcement of the death of Sir William Thorburn on Sunday last, March 18th, will cause great regret among a wide circle of friends and old pupils. He had removed from Manchester to London only a few months ago, shortly after the death of his wife, and then appeared to be in his usual health. Although he felt severely the loss of his two sons in the war, he returned from his service with the British Mediterranean Force in apparently good health and with renewed energy. He had been ill for about two months, and his death was not unexpected by those who were closely associated with him.

William Thorburn, who was born on April 7th, 1861, was the son of Dr. John Thorburn, professor of obstetric medicine at Owens College, where William Thorburn received his medical education. He was a brilliant student. He graduated in the University of London B.Sc. in 1880, M.B., B.S. in 1884, with gold medals in medicine and obstetrical medicine and surgery, and M.D. in 1885 and the F.R.C.S. in 1886. He became house-surgeon at the Manchester Royal Infirmary in 1883, and after filling other offices was elected honorary assistant surgeon in 1889, and succeeded the late Walter Whitehead as honorary surgeon in 1900. He retired in 1921, becoming honorary consulting surgeon before his full period of service had expired, so as to be free to attend to his other duties and to allow promotion of his junior colleagues. At an early stage of his career in Manchester he came under the influence of James Ross, then working out his neurological researches at the Manchester Royal Infirmary. Thorburn directed his mind to nerve surgery and was awarded in 1890 the Jacksonian prize of the Royal College of Surgeons for his essay on the Nature and Treatment of Injuries to the Spinal Column and the consequences arising therefrom. As Hunterian professor at the College he delivered a course of lectures on the surgery of the spinal cord, which was expanded into a book published in 1889. He wrote many other papers on spinal cord and brain surgery, and he also contributed to the knowledge of the pathological results cervical rib may produce.

In the Bradshaw lecture delivered last December on the surgery of the nervous system he reviewed his experience of many years. His tone of disappointment on his results was not surprising to those who heard his conclusions on the subject of the operative treatment of traumatic epilepsy delirated at the Manchester Medical Society several years ago. Nerve and brain surgery was by no means his only interest, and he had a large practice in general operative work in Manchester. His great knowledge, fine memory, wide experience, and his powers of lucid, concise expression and ordered arrangement of material made him a great teacher; and his ward classes and clinical lectures were eagerly attended by students. His lectures and addresses were all very carefully prepared beforehand and more or less memorized.

Thorburn had, indeed, a clear thinking type of brain. At one time he took a great interest in the war game, or Kriegspiel, which was played in Volunteer circles, and he became skilful at it. He also had a good whist and bridge mind. His knowledge was pigeon-holed and card-indexed. As a speaker he was precise and had his argument arranged in logical and connected order and with no padding. In this way he conveyed the impression that he was a thorough master of the subject he was speaking on, and suggested to some the thought that he would have risen to as high an eminence at the Bar as he did in surgery had he chosen the former profession, and that his judgements would have been models of lucidity and commendable brevity. He possessed a great faculty of summing up the points of a difficult subject, and could crystallize the ideas expressed in a debate in a few well chosen and clear words. He was one of the Pelhams of life, preferring to stop before his audience had had enough of his discourse rather than to outstay his welcome. He would have made an ideal representative of the medical profession in Parliament. He was eminently fitted to command the applause of listening senates.

For many years before the war Thorburn was a much trusted adviser in the Council, the Senate, and the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Manchester, and his opinion on educational matters was highly appreciated by