

predecessors that institutions provided at the cost of public funds should not be used for so controversial a purpose without express directions from Parliament. He considered, however, that women attending maternity or infant welfare centres who, on medical grounds, appeared to need information on birth control should be referred to a private doctor or to a hospital.

**Boron Preservatives.**—Answering Mr. Whiteley on June 15th, Mr. Neville Chamberlain said that the harmfulness of boron preservatives was thoroughly considered by the Departmental Committee which inquired into the subject. Its report showed that boric acid in small doses had been known to produce ill effects, and that in continued doses it was likely to impair the health of the consumer.

**Parasites of Insect Pests.**—On June 15th, Mr. Cadogan asked whether the experiment of breeding beneficial parasites with a view to fighting insect plagues in our overseas dominions had proved a success. Mr. Ormsby-Gore (Under Secretary for the Colonies) replied that the Director of the Imperial Bureau of Entomology reported that during the eighteen months in which this experiment was being carried out two successful introductions of beneficial parasites were effected. A New Zealand parasite of the pear-slug was introduced from Nyasaland into Nigeria with a view to control of *Glossina tachinoides*, a species of tsetse fly prevalent in Nigeria. Two parasites of the earwig had also been introduced into New Zealand, but owing to difficulties in rearing them in the laboratory there the strains had died out. This work had been suspended, but it was hoped to resume it shortly.

**Veneral Disease in the Straits Settlements.**—On June 15th, in reply to Mr. Pethick-Lawrence, who asked whether the Legislative Council of the Straits Settlements had submitted a draft bill embodying any of the proposals of the committee appointed to investigate the spread of venereal disease there, which recommended in favour of the licensing and registration of all brothels by a Government official to be called the Controller, and the submission to a weekly medical examination of all prostitutes, Mr. Ormsby-Gore replied that a draft bill had been received from the Governor of the Straits Settlements, which embodied the proposals of the committee referred to. The bill had been under consideration by the Advisory Committee on Social Hygiene, and he was now awaiting its report.

#### Notes in Brief.

For advertisements of soap on the back of the current issue of notices of the requirement of vaccination, £135 was received. It is not intended to continue this means of raising revenue.

In 1923-24 the estimated gross expenditure of local authorities in England and Wales for milk for mothers and children was £383,900, and the estimated net expenditure £175,000.

In the first quarter of 1924 West Ham supplied 61,625 lb. of dried milk to mothers and children, but no liquid milk; Poplar, 3,733 lb. of dried milk and 139,974 pints of liquid milk; Birmingham, 17,772 lb. of dried milk, but no liquid milk.

The Government has decided to set up a Food Council as recommended by the Royal Commission on Food Prices.

Early steps are to be taken for the re-establishment of the Amami Institute in Tanganyika Territory, and for its upkeep as a centre of scientific agricultural research.

Commander Kenworthy has presented a petition from 1,606 residents in Brighton and Hove against vivisection.

On January 1st, 1924, 203,757 persons were in Poor Law institutions, of whom 19,965 were insane.

Officers of the Ministry of Health are giving constant attention to the question of providing separate accommodation for children outside workhouses where boards of guardians have not already provided this.

The Government cannot undertake legislation to enable the guardians to take legal proceedings, prior to the birth of an illegitimate child, against the putative father, for the expenses of the mother's confinement.

On June 15th, the Secretary for Air stated that no officer or airman would be allowed to carry out a practice parachute jump from an aeroplane until he possessed considerable air experience. It was clearly laid down in regulations that such jumps were only to be made by volunteers.

The Home Secretary informed Colonel Day that he is looking into the police regulation which, when a person is in custody on a charge of being drunk while in charge of a motor car, does not permit that person to be examined by a doctor called by anyone other than himself.

No issues of medical importance have yet been raised in Grand Committee on the Public Health Bill.

No reputed cure for tuberculosis in cattle has been submitted to the Government for testing.

In the recent outbreak of poisoning in the York and Lancaster Regiment at Cologne no soldiers died. The War Office is awaiting a report.

On January 1st last 10,489 children were boarded out by Poor Law authorities in England and Wales. Ten women inspectors are supervising.

## Obituary.

WE regret to record the death of Dr. SAMUEL DODD CLIPPINGDALE, who before his retirement had practised for many years in Kensington, and was a familiar and respected figure in London medical circles. He was educated at the University of Aberdeen and the London Hospital, and obtained the diploma of M.R.C.S. in 1875. He graduated M.B., C.M. Aberd. in 1876, and M.D. in 1879, and became F.R.C.S. Eng. in 1880. He had served as prosector at the Royal College of Surgeons and house-physician to the London Hospital, and was for a considerable period surgeon to the Kensington Dispensary and Children's Hospital. Dr. Clippingdale was a diligent student of historical and antiquarian matters. He had held office as president of the West London Medico-Chirurgical Society, and was a former vice-president of the Section of Balneology and Climatology of the Royal Society of Medicine. His medico-literary turn of mind and the industry with which he worked up historical material were shown in the papers he published in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL. These were a Medical Roll of Honour of Physicians and Surgeons who remained in London during the Great Plague, which appeared in 1909; a Medical Parliamentary Roll, 1558-1910, published in the following year; and an article on Medical Baronets, 1654-1911, published in 1912. He contributed also to the *London Hospital Gazette* a large number of biographical sketches of past members of the medical and surgical staffs of that institution, and had published several papers on the climatology of London and its environs.

Dr. WILLIAM LESLIE, who died in Edinburgh on May 29th, was born in 1865. He received his medical education at Edinburgh, graduating M.B., C.M. in 1894, and proceeding M.D. in 1907. Dr. R. A. Fleming writes: His love of surgery induced Dr. Leslie to become a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh in 1908, and as one of the surgeons to the Clackmannan Hospital his surgical dexterity had free and successful scope. He practised in Alloa for thirty years, where he speedily acquired a large and ever-increasing practice. Dr. Leslie will be long remembered, not merely for his professional skill, but also for the friendship and for the confidence inspired in his patients. For a long time he had suffered from the effects of high blood pressure, unquestionably due in part to the anxious solicitude he bestowed on his patients. A severe attack of pneumonia subsequently necessitated his retirement for a prolonged rest. He had come to Edinburgh for medical advice, when his death from angina pectoris occurred with tragic suddenness. Our sympathy in full measure goes out to his widow, whose care and devotion enabled Dr. Leslie to continue his work in spite of considerable and increasing physical difficulty. Dr. Leslie was laid to rest at Alloa on June 2nd, among those whom he had so long served as physician and friend.

Dr. JOHN KENDALL, who died on May 22nd at Coniston, Lancashire, at the age of 71, came of a well known local family, the Kendalls of Cockenshell, Blawith. Dr. Kendall was educated at Anderson College, Glasgow, and obtained the diplomas L.R.C.P. and S.Ed. and L.M. in 1875. After filling the appointment of house-surgeon at the Glasgow Royal Infirmary he began practice in Coniston. He was a member of the British Medical Association and was a justice of the peace for Lancashire. A colleague writes: Dr. Kendall belonged to the finest type of country practitioner. He had a wide experience of the surgery of accidents, particularly in connexion with the quarries on "Coniston Old Man" and "Tilberthwaite," and there are many men now walking about Coniston sound in health who have to thank him for his skill and devotion. He was a loyal friend and true colleague; no petty thought ever came into his mind. He was the soul of honour, and his devotion and kindness to his patients set a fine example to his fellow practitioners. That this was appreciated was well shown by the large number of sorrowing friends who attended the funeral on May 25th at the little church where he had been for many years churchwarden. Dr. Kendall retired

about eighteen months ago, since he found the work becoming rather too much for him in what is, geographically, probably one of the most difficult practices in England. Even in his retirement he took a lively interest in the affairs of the village where he had been in practice for forty-eight years. He leaves a widow, two daughters, and a son (in the medical profession) to mourn his loss.

## Medico-Legal.

### ALLEGATIONS OF NEGLIGENCE REBUTTED.

#### INMAN v. TANNER.

IN a High Court action, brought on May 20th and 21st by Mrs. Nina Inman of Bayswater against Mr. Herbert Tanner, F.R.C.S., for damages under Lord Campbell's Act, on the ground that the death of her son, Cecil George Inman, aged 24, was due to the negligence of Mr. Tanner, the special jury, after hearing Mr. Tanner's evidence, stopped the case and gave a verdict in his favour, the Lord Chief Justice adding that he entirely concurred in the verdict.

The deceased was a panel patient, and, prior to the hearing of the case in the High Court, Mrs. Inman's complaint was dealt with under the National Insurance Acts. The Medical Service Subcommittee—the medical members, however, recording their disagreement—found the case proved against Mr. Tanner, and severely censured him, and Mr. Tanner's appeal to the Ministry of Health was dismissed—save in respect of one particular finding of fact—the Ministry stating that the question of the sum to be deducted would be deferred until after the hearing of the High Court action. An officer of the Ministry present at the hearing of the appeal was also present at the hearing in the High Court. The Ministry has not yet made its decision known.

The case against Mr. Tanner was that he diagnosed a case of diabetes mellitus as one of cerebro-spinal meningitis and so failed to treat the deceased properly; that he failed to visit the deceased one night when informed of the patient's condition; and that he did not make any examination of the deceased's urine; further, that he failed (a) to make or cause to be made a lumbar puncture or examination of the spinal fluid, (b) to examine the optic discs, (c) to give sodium salicylate or potassium sulphite, (d) to give Flexner's antimeningococci or any other serum, (e) to order a sufficiently low or liquid diet.

Sir Reginald Coventry, K.C., and Mr. Eric Sachs (instructed by Messrs. Judge and Priestly) appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. J. A. Hawke, K.C., and Mr. T. F. Davis (instructed by Messrs. Bulcraig and Davis) appeared for the defendant, who denied negligence and damage.

The plaintiff's evidence was to the effect that her son had not been well from January, 1924, and first visited Mr. Tanner on April 14th, 1924. He was getting thin, passed much urine, and was very thirsty. After a few surgery visits the deceased grew worse, and was visited at his home by Mr. Tanner on May 10th, 12th, and 14th. She showed Mr. Tanner the quantity of urine passed in a night, and she said the doctor said it was normal. On May 10th Mr. Tanner certified the deceased to be suffering from bladder irritability, and ordered him to be kept warm and to be given a little nourishing diet, not much meat. On May 12th her son went "boss-eyed." On the night of May 14th Mr. Tanner was informed that the patient was sick, and he ordered that ice be sucked and soda water drunk, adding that he would call in the morning. She agreed that the doctor was not asked to call that night. The deceased, however, became unconscious late that evening, and Dr. Goldfoot was called in. He diagnosed diabetic coma, and sent the deceased to Paddington Infirmary, where he was treated with insulin. To this treatment there was no response, and death occurred at 2 a.m. on May 16th, 1924.

Dr. Goldfoot, in his evidence, said that polyuria, glycosuria, and wasting were signs of diabetes, but that sugar in the urine could be present from meningitis, and that as (1) the doctor had examined the urine on April 23rd or April 28th and found no sugar, (2) there was no reaction from the injection of insulin, (3) the deceased had gone "boss-eyed," it was reasonable for Mr. Tanner to come to the conclusion that the deceased was suffering from meningitis.

Dr. Conolly, resident medical officer at the Paddington Infirmary, said he certified the cause of death to be diabetes mellitus. A *post-mortem* examination was made, but the brain and spinal cord were not examined. A specimen of the urine was taken, and showed sugar present. The presence of sugar was not conclusive of diabetes, and when he gave the death certificate he was not aware that the deceased had gone "boss-eyed." Coupling that fact with the lack of response to insulin, there was a possibility of cerebral trouble.

Dr. A. S. Woodward said if Mr. Tanner examined the urine and found no sugar, and was unaware of polyuria and great thirst and wasting, he was quite reasonable in excluding diabetes. Sugar could be present in the urine from brain trouble, and in diabetes there was generally a response to insulin treatment.

Mr. Tanner, in his evidence, said that on April 23rd or April 28th he examined the urine and got no reaction for sugar. The patient was dull and lethargic, but he found no signs of wasting. The urine passed in one night was normal, both in quantity and colour. He was not surprised at the fact that the deceased was

a little thirsty, because he had been prescribing diuretics. By May 14th he was very suspicious that the case was cerebro-spinal meningitis, and decided that if there were no change by May 15th he would send the deceased to hospital. On calling the next day he found the deceased had been removed. He was still of opinion that the deceased did not die of diabetes mellitus, but from meningitis.

Before the hearing in the High Court, the Ministry of Health, in dismissing Mr. Tanner's appeal to it, said:

"We cannot escape from the conclusion that the presence of diabetes mellitus was excluded upon insufficient grounds, and, further, that, having regard to the very serious suspicions present in his mind, Dr. Tanner was at fault in omitting to take active steps either to confirm or dispel them. While we fully recognize the frequent necessity for keeping a doubtful case under observation, we feel that the period of observation, pure and simple, unaccompanied by active investigation, should be kept within reasonable limits, and that in this case even if Dr. Tanner had not recognized the need earlier, yet in view of his serious suspicions the onset of an increasingly acute condition on and after May 10th should have indicated the urgent necessity of making an immediate attempt to clear up the real nature of the case by all available means (for example, further tests of urine, lumbar puncture, examination of the optic discs, second opinion, removal to hospital). The failure to take any of these courses, some of which, as the doctor's own evidence showed, he had in mind, constitutes, in our opinion, something more than an error of judgement on his part."

They did not think the fact of the patient being sick, without the disclosure of the fact that the patient was also in a state of coma, was sufficient ground for the allegation that the doctor refused to respond to a summons for help on the night of May 14th.

"On the other hand, we agree in this respect with the view taken by the subcommittee, that whatever the terms of the message the doctor should have gone to the patient. . . . The peculiar significance attaching to a lethargic condition in diseases of the central nervous system is, in our view, an additional reason for his responding to a message which gave any indications of the onset of fresh symptoms whatever its terms."

## Universities and Colleges.

### UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE.

THE Professor of Anatomy has reappointed Dr. A. B. Appleton, Mr. D. G. Reid, Mr. A. Hopkinson, and Mr. V. C. Pennell as demonstrators of anatomy.

The congregation for conferring degrees in medicine and surgery has been postponed from July 14th to Tuesday, July 21st.

### UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL.

AT a congregation held on June 9th, in connexion with the opening by H.M. the King of the new University buildings, the Chancellor (Viscount Haldane) presiding, a number of honorary degrees were conferred. Among these was the LL.D. on Sir George Oatley, architect of the new building; the D.Litt. on Sir Henry Hadow, Vice-Chancellor of Sheffield University; and the D.Sc. on Sir Richard Gregory, F.R.S., Editor of *Nature*, and Sir John Herbert Parsons, F.R.S., F.R.C.S., both natives of Bristol.

### UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER.

THE Council of the University has accepted the resignation of Dr. J. M. W. Morison, lecturer in applied anatomy, on his appointment to the lectureship in radiology in the University of Edinburgh.

### ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.

AN ordinary Council meeting was held on June 11th, when the President, Sir John Bland-Sutton, was in the chair.

The congratulations of the Council were offered to the President on having received the honour of a baronetcy and to Sir James Berry on having received the honour of knighthood on the occasion of His Majesty's birthday.

#### Diploma of Fellowship.

Mr. J. Basil Hall, President of the British Medical Association, was introduced and admitted a Fellow of the College.

Diplomas of Fellowship were granted to the following twenty-four candidates:

A. C. B. Biggs (Univ. Coll.), G. O. Chambers (St. Bart's), V. R. Mirajkar, I.M.S. (Bombay and St. Bart's), C. M. Brophy (Univ. Coll. and St. Bart's), K. N. Purkis (Guy's), J. D. M. Cardell (St. Thomas's), B. C. Shaw (Manchester), G. Armitage (Leeds), G. M. F. Barnett (Otago and Middlesex), B. L. Laver (Guy's), F. Hudson (Univ. Coll.), C. M. Pearce (St. Bart's), M. M. Riad (Cairo and St. Bart's), N. F. Adeney (Camb. and St. Mary's), H. K. Christie (Otago and Guy's), J. R. Nicholson-Lailey (Bristol and Lond.), M. Geaney (Sydney and Guy's), C. A. Wells (Liverpool), J. B. Oldham (Liverpool), C. C. Coghlan (Sydney and Guy's), W. M. Cotter (Otago and St. Bart's), J. A. James (Sydney and Guy's), A. Rugg Gunn (Edin. and St. Mary's), M. P. Susman (Sydney and St. Bart's).

#### Lectures and Demonstrations.

The following Professors and Lecturers were appointed for the ensuing year:

*Hunterian Professors.*—Sir Arthur Keith: Six lectures on the Evolution of the Higher Primates. Arthur Edmunds. C.B.: One