

in young children, and Dr. James A. Stephen, Aberdeen, spoke in regard to chemical investigations upon the blood of rachitic infants exposed to ultra-violet rays. The members of the conference were entertained in the evening by the Lord Provost and magistrates at a reception in the City Chambers, at which Bailie Dr. Nasmyth received the guests.

On January 27th Professor John Fraser (Edinburgh) read a paper on some common surgical conditions in early childhood, and referred to various deformities demanding surgical intervention. He expressed the opinion that the question of the age at which such operations were best done was of importance. In some cases operations should be performed as soon as possible after birth. The newborn child tolerated interference with the central nervous system extraordinarily well. In other cases operations should be postponed for some months or years. He thought that operations for hare-lip should be performed as early as possible when the child was about 10 lb. in weight, provided it was gaining weight at the time of operation. With regard to cleft palate, however, healing was bad at that early age and the mortality higher. Operations for wryneck, he considered, should be performed about the end of the second year. Hernia might be performed at 3 months of age, at the end of the second year, or before the child went to school, but he thought that no truss had yet been made which would suit the energy of an active child. With regard to infantile paralysis, no surgical intervention was suitable until the chronic stage had been reached, and in regard to rickets early operation was not in any case desirable. He did not consider that an operation for adenoids should be carried out before the age of 2 years. Dr. T. Y. Finlay, maternity and child welfare medical officer for Edinburgh, demonstrated a series of height and weight curves for infants up to 1 year, and explained the clinical value of regularly measuring infants. In the afternoon a clinical meeting was held at the City Fever Hospital, Edinburgh, and on January 28th a visit was arranged to Pilton Hospital, where a demonstration was given by Dr. David Lees on congenital syphilis.

VETERINARY SCIENCE IN SCOTLAND.

Dr. O. Charnock Bradley, principal of the Royal (Dick) Veterinary College, Edinburgh, was the chief guest at the annual dinner in Dingwall, on January 19th, of the Wester Ross Farmers' Club. In the course of replying to his toast, he said that veterinary science was now entering upon a new chapter in its history which promised to be more fruitful than any that had preceded it. Scotland was peculiarly well situated in having places where research into all agricultural problems could be prosecuted. The solution of such an extremely difficult problem as the disease of horses known as "grass sickness" required the co-operation of the clinician, the pathologist, the toxicologist, and of others, apart from veterinary specialists. Search for a means of increasing the fertility in breeding stock demanded the united efforts of the clinician, the pathologist, and the geneticist, while experiments indicated that the specialist in animal nutrition was also concerned. The Animal Diseases Research Association, the Rowett Institute at Aberdeen, and the University Department of Animal Breeding at Edinburgh were all willing and anxious to work together on such problems, and in this Scotland was very fortunate. Numerous examples occurred of discoveries of great importance which were made, not by research workers, but by those whose primary duty was teaching. Knowledge that could be applied successfully was a slow growth, and it could not be furnished by any method of cramming. The education of the prospective veterinary surgeon must be conducted in an atmosphere of research, so that the methods and healthy scepticism of the research worker might be absorbed and imitated by the student. For the veterinary practitioner was really every day conducting research, though in an unrecognized and unspectacular fashion; he was the main agent by whom the gold of discovery was coined into serviceable currency. In order that the best results might be derived from practice, with the least amount of wastage, co-operation, concentration, and consolidation of all available means were essential.

PRESENTATION TO DR. J. R. KENNEDY OF DUNBEATH.

The Royal Humane Society's medal for saving life was presented to Dr. J. R. Kennedy, on January 24th, in recognition of the gallantry he displayed at Longhope, Orkney, on August 23th, 1927. A man fell overboard between two ships during the night, and Dr. Kennedy, who was asleep in his bunk, at once dived over the ship's side, rescued the man, and brought him to safety. The dramatic circumstances of the rescue attracted considerable attention, and great gratification was expressed at the award of the medal. Sheriff Trotter, who presented it, spoke in high terms of the unsparing way in which Dr. Kennedy devoted himself to his patients throughout Caithness; his athletic prowess and his generosity, combined with his professional skill, had made him universally popular. During the evening a gold watch was presented to Mrs. Kennedy as a token of gratitude for the many services she had rendered to the whole community. Dr. Kennedy, who is medical officer of health and public vaccinator for the west ward of Latheron parish, graduated M.B., C.M. Aberd. in 1893.

England and Wales.

KING EDWARD VII SANATORIUM, MIDHURST.

DURING the twelve months ending June 30th, 1927, 294 patients were admitted to the King Edward VII Sanatorium, as compared with 268 in the course of the previous year. The number of applications for admission was 570, and the average waiting list has lengthened. This increase has involved considerably more work for the staff of the institution, particularly in the x-ray department. The attempt is being continued to restrict those cases accepted for treatment for a period of more than nine weeks to those classifiable in the first two groups of the Turban-Gerhardt system. This has naturally resulted in restriction of the numbers of those in whom the disease is more advanced, a procedure which can be justified on the grounds of better prospects of recovery. Thus, in the first two groups, it is shown in the twenty-first annual report of this sanatorium that while in 76.7 per cent. of cases in Group I the disease was arrested, a similar result was obtained in only 24.9 per cent. of Group II, and in 4.3 per cent. of Group III. The report contains a table illustrating the present state of 26 cases in which artificial pneumothorax had been induced since October, 1924. In 13 of these there was involvement of one lung only; in 12 there was excavation, or much evident fibrosis of one lung, or involvement of the upper lung not beyond the upper third; in one case the disease was far advanced. Of the 23 surviving patients, 20 are still continuing treatment; in 22 the general condition is good; in 8 cases exudation of fluid caused complications. Of the 3 patients who died, advancing disease on the opposite side of the chest was responsible in two cases, the third succumbing to complicating lymphadenoma. This list of cases included 6 of laryngeal tuberculosis, in 5 of which it was present before the induction of artificial pneumothorax; 4 patients were cured by the treatment, and one was definitely improved. The complement fixation tests for syphilis and tuberculosis are performed as a routine measure on all patients admitted. Careful investigation is in progress with regard to the value of the sedimentation test, using the capillary tube method introduced by the late Dr. A. C. Inman. An interesting correlation between these reactions and the progress of the patient appears to exist.

THE ROYAL NATIONAL ORTHOPAEDIC HOSPITAL.

The festival dinner of the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital was held at the Mansion House on January 30th under the chairmanship of Prince Henry, president of the hospital. Proposing the toast of "The Hospital," Prince Henry welcomed those who had assisted it over many difficulties in the past, and expressed his pleasure at the presence of so many new friends of the hospital. He said that nothing could be more worth while than transforming the crippled, twisted, and deformed body of a child into

what nature had intended it to be. The hospital required £40,000 to complete the first stage of its scheme for dealing with the crippled child by paying for the 200 beds provided at the country branch at Stanmore. The children were sent to the hospital from public health and education authorities all over the country, and their education was arranged in the hospital so that when they left they were able to take their place on more equal terms in the business of life. Dr. Graham Little, M.P., seconding the toast, said that the hospital was a fine example of the value of the voluntary system of management. He instanced the recent prudent action of Mr. West, chairman of the hospital, who, hearing that sixty acres of ground surrounding the hospital at Brockley Hill were about to be sold for building purposes, purchased them on his own initiative and out of his own purse. The hospital board gratefully took over Mr. West's purchase, but had he not acted with great promptitude the opportunity might have been missed and the hospital have been shut in by buildings. It was in such qualities of foresight and initiative that enterprises competed so successfully with public bodies. The hospital at Stanmore occupied some of the most beautiful country in the neighbourhood of London, and the newly acquired land would facilitate various necessary extensions in the future. Dr. Little also referred to the present-day orthopaedic treatment, which from its nature required time for its perfection. The toast was acknowledged by Mr. Herbert E. West, who stated that since Prince Henry became president of the hospital nearly eight years ago it had almost trebled its size; this result was pre-eminently due to the great interest taken by the president. The present extension had entailed a cost of £125,000, towards which £85,000 had been received. The toast of "The Guests" was proposed by Mr. Reginald McKenna, and responded to by Sir Philip Gibbs. The Lord Mayor, replying to the toast of his health and that of the Corporation, proposed by the Dean of Westminster, said he owed a personal debt to the hospital, because his crippled brother had been restored to health by the doctors of the hospital in earlier days. Mr. A. H. Campbell proposed the toast of "The President," who, in his reply, announced the receipt of donations amounting to £10,000.

TYPES OF RINGWORM INFECTION IN LONDON SCHOOL CHILDREN.

Some light has been thrown upon the origin and mode of spread of ringworm in a given community by a careful study of the precise nature of the fungi present. An investigation of this kind in children attending the London County Council schools has recently been undertaken by Drs. J. G. Hare and P. Tate,¹ their object being to cultivate and identify the fungi present in the cases of ringworm among such children, and thus to ascertain the relative prevalence of the various parasites isolated. In this way it was to be expected that the character of the fungi obtained would afford evidence of the importance, if any, of animals such as cats and dogs as carriers of infection, or whether the infection occurred chiefly from child to child. Cultures were obtained in 69 cases. In 3 of these direct microscopic examination of the infected hairs showed the presence of favus, the parasite in all cases being found on culture to be *Achorion schönleini*. Twelve large-spored ringworms due to endothrix trichophytions were obtained by direct microscopic examination which were found on culture to be *Trichophyton crateriforme* in 5 cases, *T. sulphureum* in 2 cases, *T. acuminatum* in 4 cases, and *T. violaceum* in 1 case. Microscopic examination revealed 54 small-spored ringworms due to microsporums, and cultures showed *Microsporum audouini* in 89 per cent. of the small-spored ringworms. They found this variety much the most prevalent of the ringworm fungi, being responsible for about 70 per cent. of all ringworm infections. *M. felineum* and *M. lanosum* were each found in one case, and represent 2 per cent. of the small-spored ringworms and about 1 per cent. of the total number of cases. In addition, four microsporums were isolated which have not yet been identified with any

known species. In Paris it would appear that the endothrix trichophytions are responsible for most of the ringworm of the scalp, having been found in about 66 per cent. of the cases; in London, on the other hand, the microsporums are most common. The figures obtained by Drs. Hare and Tate in the present investigation—namely, about 78 per cent. of all ringworms—are seen to agree fairly closely with those obtained in London by Fox and Blaxall in 1896—namely, from 80 to 90 per cent. Adamson in 1895, relying entirely on microscopic examination of the hairs, obtained a still higher percentage of small-spored ringworms. *M. audouini* constitutes the commonest cause of ringworm both in London and Paris. In London it was found in about 70 per cent. of all forms of ringworm infections, constituting 89 per cent. of the small-spored ringworms; while in Paris, according to Sabouraud, it occurs in about 77 per cent. of small-spored ringworms. Summing up these results, it will be noted that with the exception of two species, *M. lanosum* and *M. felineum*, and possibly of the four unidentified microsporums, no animal forms were found. Not a single ectothrix trichophyton was encountered by Hare and Tate, and they appear to be justified in concluding that among school children in London the infection with animal ringworm is negligible, the children themselves constituting the chief source of infection.

EMPLOYMENT OF TUBERCULOUS PERSONS.

A report by the medical officer of health to the London County Council was submitted to the council at its meeting on January 24th, on the subject of the employment of tuberculous persons. Dr. Menzies points out that every year a considerable number of patients discharged from sanatoriums and hospitals are incapable of work or fit only for light work. The working capacity of the latter is seldom more than 50 per cent. of that of the normal worker, and, as their disability varies in degree from time to time, they are unreliable as well as inefficient. Many of them, however, are capable of being employed under special conditions when little physical effort is called for, the hours of work adjusted to the physical capacity, and the environment hygienic. It is pointed out that whenever possible a tuberculous person should seek for employment for which his previous experience fits him, which, as a rule, will be his previous employment under modified conditions. In some cities a limited number of tuberculous persons may be, and are, employed by public bodies—for example, in parks; while institutions for the treatment of the tuberculous absorb a number as members of the staff. Specially organized schemes of employment may take the form of a settlement, as at Papworth, or the provision of suitably arranged workshops, the employees living in their homes, as at the Spero workshops in London (organized by the Central Fund for the Industrial Welfare of Tuberculous Persons) or at the Altro workshops, a Jewish charity in New York. It appears inevitable that such enterprises should be subsidized by the State or by charity in some form. Industrial settlements run in connexion with a sanatorium are more easily organized than independent workshops, but are very costly to establish. Dr. Menzies appears to regard more hopefully the work of care committees and similar voluntary agencies in placing tuberculous persons in suitable occupations; under present conditions, he says, they can do more for the patient than any other agency. The Public Health Committee also presented a report of its own on the subject to the London County Council, in which it expressed the hope that the Minister of Health would see his way to accede to the request made to him by the National Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis and by the council itself to institute an inquiry into the working of tuberculosis schemes in this country. At such an inquiry the employment of tuberculous persons would be thoroughly considered, and the Minister would no doubt indicate the attitude of the Government on the question of financial assistance. The Public Health Committee puts forward the suggestion, without actually expressing a definite opinion, that it would be more advantageous for enterprises providing employment for the tuberculous to be financially assisted than for such persons to be maintained at the public charge.

¹ On the Fungi Causing Ringworm in Children Attending London County Council Schools. J. G. Hare and P. Tate. *Journal of Hygiene*, vol. 27, No. 1, November, 1927, pp. 32-36.