

The Committee of the Athenaeum has elected Sir John Ledingham, F.R.S., under Rule II of the Club, which empowers the annual election of a certain number of persons of distinguished eminence in science, literature, the arts, or for their public services.

Mr. W. McAdam Eccles, M.S., F.R.C.S., has been appointed chairman of the United Kingdom Council of the International Hospital Association, a post vacant since Mr. H. L. Eason resigned on becoming Principal of the University of London.

King Edward's Hospital Fund for London has received a donation of £5,000 from the League of Mercy for distribution to the London hospitals. This is the fortieth contribution received from the League of Mercy since its foundation in 1899, and the amount of money it has provided for the London hospitals now totals more than £570,000.

Dr. Frederick Price has been elected a Corresponding Member of the Société Française de Cardiologie.

Hawaii has recently had the severest and most virulent epidemic of measles in its history. The number of reported cases from November, 1936, when it started, until September, 1937, when it ended, equalled the number reported during the preceding twenty years. The number of deaths from measles during the first three months of 1937 exceeded that for any cause except heart disease and pneumonia, and the respective rates per 100,000 of population were 102, 110, and 135.

Letters, Notes, and Answers

All communications in regard to editorial business should be addressed to THE EDITOR, BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, B.M.A. HOUSE, TAVISTOCK SQUARE, W.C.1.

ORIGINAL ARTICLES and LETTERS forwarded for publication are understood to be offered to the *British Medical Journal* alone, unless the contrary be stated. Correspondents who wish notice to be taken of their communications should authenticate them with their names, not necessarily for publication.

Authors desiring REPRINTS of their articles published in the *British Medical Journal* must communicate with the Secretary, B.M.A. House, Tavistock Square, W.C.1, on receipt of proofs. Authors over-seas should indicate on MSS. if reprints are required, as proofs are not sent abroad.

All communications with reference to ADVERTISEMENTS should be addressed to the Advertisement Manager. Orders for copies of the *Journal* and communications with reference to subscriptions should be addressed to the Secretary, B.M.A. House, Tavistock Square, W.C.1.

THE TELEPHONE NUMBER of the British Medical Association and the *British Medical Journal* is EUSTON 2111.

THE TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESSES are
EDITOR OF THE BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, *Aitiology Westcent, London.*

SECRETARY, *Medisecra Westcent, London.*
The address of the B.M.A. Scottish Office is 7, Drumsheugh Gardens, Edinburgh (telegrams: *Associate, Edinburgh*; telephone: 24361 Edinburgh), and of the Office of the Irish Free State Medical Union (I.M.A. and B.M.A.), 18, Kildare Street, Dublin (telegrams: *Bacillus, Dublin*; telephone 62550 Dublin).

QUERIES AND ANSWERS

Cardiac Massage

The anaesthetists committee of the Glasgow Royal Infirmary would welcome information on instances of cardiac massage as a resuscitative measure for cardiac failure during anaesthesia. Descriptions of cases with special points of interest, or other references, may be sent to Dr. W. B. Primrose, at 10, Park Quadrant, Glasgow, C.3, or at the Infirmary.

Painful Heel

"D. C." writes: I have a patient, aged 76, whose only recreation is walking. For the past three months he has complained of pain under the os calcis; this comes on after walking for some time. The time interval is getting less, and now little exertion brings on pain. I have tried rubber pads, a raised heel, and massage without appreciable effect. X-ray examination shows "some minute points of calcification just below the os calcis; no definite bony spur." I should be glad of any advice as to treatment of this condition.

Income Tax

Allowable Expenses

"S. M." has, during the past year, (a) bought a share in a partnership, (b) bought and furnished a house, and (c) sold his old car and bought a new one. He asks what relief from income tax can be claimed in respect of these transactions.

** In respect of (a) and (b) none, for in both cases the expenditure represents an outlay of capital and consequently gives rise to no claim. As regards (c), if the old car had been used professionally we are of opinion that our correspondent can deduct as an expense the net cost of replacement, less any amount due to "improvement." For example, if an old car costing £200 has been sold for £50 and a new one purchased for £225, he can claim the net cost of renewal, £225 - £50 = £175 (the amount expended) less £25 (the improvement element)—that is, £150 net. We assume that he has not been allowed depreciation in respect of the car sold and does not intend to claim it on the new car.

LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.

Posture of Children

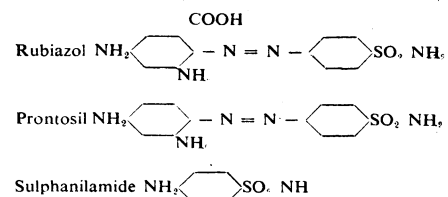
In these days when the need for physical fitness is being stressed by all and sundry, anything that helps to achieve this desirable end is to be welcomed. Not least among the matters conducive to physical fitness is the maintenance of a correct posture. The evils, for example, of any abnormal relation of one part of the axial skeleton to another are not limited to the deformed region, but extend from the top of the head to the soles of the feet. Once incorrect posture has been adopted as the result of faulty habits, bad health, fatigue, the wrong physical attitude tends to persist. It is therefore essential that those who have the care of children should do what they can to encourage the adoption of such a posture as will make for good health. To this end we welcome the twenty-three-page pamphlet entitled *Posture and Exercise for Young Children*, by Dr. John Gibbens, and published by the National Association of Maternity and Child Welfare Centres and for the Prevention of Infant Mortality. It can be obtained for 6d. on application to Carnegie House, 117, Piccadilly, W.1.

Dr. Nash's Cookery Book

Simpkin Marshall, Ltd., Stationers' Hall Court, E.C.4, inform us that they are receiving applications from medical officers of health for various boroughs and county councils for copies of *Dr. Nash's Cookery Book* for free distribution. Under the agreement of the Publishers' Association they are permitted to give a special discount to such councils providing the books are given away free. Medical officers of health can obtain from Messrs. Simpkin Marshall the terms they are prepared to grant for redistribution. A notice of the book appeared in our issue of December 11, 1937 (p. 1172).

Corrigendum

ROUSSEL LABORATORIES LTD. write: In the leading article in the *Journal* of March 5 (p. 552) it is stated that, "According to de Leon prontosil will cure malaria. . . ." May we point out that the preparation used by de Leon in the treatment of fifteen cases of malaria was Rubiazol Rousset, not prontosil or sulphanilamide. Rubiazol is an azo dye possessing a carboxylated function, and has the formula 6 carboxy-2, 4 di-amino-4 sulphamide-azo-benzene. It differs from both prontosil and sulphanilamide.



Sulphanilamide is, we understand, the generic term applied to para-amino-benzene-sulphamide, which is a white body without any azoic molecule. Prontosil differs from rubiazol in that it does not carry the COOH group.