

Medical News

The Central Midwives Board for England and Wales has unanimously re-elected Sir Comyns Berkeley, M.D., F.R.C.P., F.R.C.S., F.R.C.O.G., as its chairman for the year ending March 31, 1943.

Prof. M. Greenwood, F.R.S., F.R.C.P., head of the Department of Epidemiology and Vital Statistics, London School of Hygiene, has been elected an Honorary Fellow of the National Institute of Sciences of India.

The Harveian Lecture will be delivered before the Harveian Society of London by Col. L. E. H. Whitby at the Medical Society of London, 11, Chandos Street, W., on Monday, May 4, at 4 p.m. His subject is "The Hazards of Transfusion."

Dr. G. C. Anderson will deliver a lecture on "Planning for the Future of Medicine" at Weston Hotel, Bath, on Thursday, April 23, at 5.30 p.m. All Service medical officers and civilian practitioners will be welcome.

The Association of Austrian Doctors in Great Britain will hold a meeting on Sunday, April 19, at 11 a.m., at 69, Eaton Avenue, N.W.3 (near Swiss Cottage Station), when Mr. Rodney Maingot will lecture on "Peptic Ulcer and Gastric Surgery," illustrated by films. English colleagues are cordially invited.

The annual general meeting of the Governors of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund will be held at the Royal College of Surgeons, Lincoln's Inn Fields, W.C., on Wednesday, April 22, at 2.30 p.m., when the chairman of the council, Prof. H. R. Dean, will present the thirty-ninth annual report and make a statement on the work of the Fund.

The Board of Registration of Medical Auxiliaries (B.M.A. House, Tavistock Square, W.C.1) has issued a third edition, dated March, 1942, of the orthoptic section of the National Register of Medical Auxiliary Services. This gives the names, addresses, and qualifications of orthoptists—i.e., persons who practise the development of binocular vision in cases of squint under the direction and control of an ophthalmic surgeon or a registered medical practitioner engaged in ophthalmology. Copies may be had from the acting secretary of the Board.

The Ministry of Health has issued as appendices to Circular 2578 schedules of the authorized equipment for: (1) first-aid posts and mobile first-aid units; (2) large mobile first-aid units; (3) gas cleansing stations; (4) first-aid points; (5) up-graded first-aid points; (6) ambulance satchels. Among the changes announced are the substitution of paraffin. moll. flav. for tannic acid jelly for the treatment of burns at first-aid posts, the omission of albucid soluble for the treatment of mustard-gas lesions of the eyes at first-aid posts and gas cleansing stations, and the gradual replacement of liq. cresol. sap. by liq. antisepticus.

Imperial Chemical (Pharmaceuticals) Ltd., a private limited company with a capital of £500,000 in £1 shares, has been formed as a subsidiary of Imperial Chemical Industries Ltd.

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, LONDON, 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.

Authors desiring REPRINTS should communicate with the Secretary of the Journal Board, 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.

ADVERTISEMENTS should be addressed to the Advertisement Manager (hours 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.). Orders for copies of the *Journal* and subscriptions should be sent to the Secretary.

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QUERIES AND ANSWERS

Sterilizing Rubber Gloves

Dr. W. F. COOPER (Kingston-on-Thames) writes: Will some of your readers explain why rubber gloves are sterilized by heat at all, except in emergencies? Can they not be sterilized in fluids such as formalin, carbolic in acid or alkaline solution, any of the coefficient disinfectants, mercury chloride with a soap or saponin? A number of gloves could be kept in such solution and used as required; the cost would be trivial. The point is by no means so trivial as it seems.

"Keens"

Mr. F. R. WALTERS, F.R.C.S. (Farnham) writes: Mr. Maynard Heath may be interested to know that in Halliwell's *Dictionary of Archaic and Provincial Words* (6th ed., London, 1868) "keen-bitten" is given as a North of England term for frost-bitten.

Miss GWENDOLINE BOWES writes from Grange-in-Borrowdale, Keswick, in answer to Mr. P. Maynard Heath's inquiry: I have heard the word "keens" used locally, and find it and its fellow "kins" in *Prévost's Glossary of the Cumberland Dialect*, meaning "keen cuts, cracks in the hand caused by frost." I cannot trace its source of origin, but it is tempting to think it may have some connexion with "kibe," meaning chilblain, used in parts of Northern England—I have met it in Lancashire. According to *Webster's Dictionary* "kibe" (cf. Welsh "cibwst") means a chap or crack in the flesh caused by cold, an ulcerated chilblain, or a sore on the hoof of a horse or sheep. Perhaps another reader may be able to give proof of the relationship, if any, between keens, kins, and kibes.

Income Tax

Expenses: Schedule D

H. G.'s main source of income is a salary taxed under Schedule E; last year he received in addition some fees for consulting work. What expenses can he claim for the latter income, which, of course, is assessable under Schedule D?

** The rules for both schedules require the expenses to have been incurred wholly and exclusively for the purpose of the profession or in carrying out the duties of the office. In addition the Schedule E rules require the expenses to have been "necessarily" so incurred. As a consequence, subscriptions to professional societies are deductible from earnings assessable under Schedule D, but where Schedule E rules apply only when membership of the society is a condition of the appointment. What other expenses are chargeable by H. G. against his consultation fees must depend on the particular facts. If, for instance, he has a consulting room set aside in his house some portion of the cost of rent, rates, lighting, etc., is allowable; also there may be some part of the cost of telephone, professional books, etc., allowable.

LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.

Appendix in Hernia

Dr. W. M. CHAPMAN (Shaftesbury) writes: Although one has frequently heard of the presence of the appendix in an inguinal hernia, I feel that the following case is of sufficient interest to merit some mention. The patient, a man aged 78, was admitted to hospital on January 26 with a history of having had a painful swelling in the right groin for two days. He had suffered from an easily reducible hernia for many years, which was normally kept in position by a truss. The normal rupture he described as being egg-shaped, but on this occasion it was rather elongated. There had been no sickness, and his bowels had opened normally that morning. His pulse and temperature were within normal limits. On examination the mass was "finger-shaped," was about three inches in length, and could be felt extending downwards from the external abdominal ring. The swelling was tense and extremely tender. There was no impulse on coughing, and the transillumination test was negative. An unsuccessful attempt at reduction was tried, and repeated again under gas-and-oxygen anaesthesia, but without result. At operation the sac of the hernia was found to contain an appendix about four inches long. The distal inch was acutely inflamed, and was bound to the opening of the sac by dense adhesions. The appendix itself contained a large faecal concretion, which presumably and fortunately did not allow its reduction. The neck of the sac was not unduly constricted, and I think it can be definitely stated that the inflammatory condition of the appendix was primary and not secondary to any constricting influence. The patient has made a quick and uninterrupted recovery.

The Teaching of Anatomy

Dr. C. E. S. FLEMMING (Westbury, Wilts) writes: In a leading article in the *Journal* of Dec. 3, 1932, appear the following sentences that are of interest now: "It is necessary to remember that it is a general practitioner that is being made, not a specialist—that specialist study can or should only be made after qualification. . . . What the medical service of the country wants first of all and all the time is a due supply of competent practitioners; whereas the schools, under the spell of the examination system, are training the student primarily for examination and incidentally for practice."

Corrigendum

In the letter by Dr. J. Price Williams on the teaching of anatomy (April 11, p. 479) the word "unless" was inadvertently changed into "when." The passage should read: "We stuff the innocent student's mind with 'BODFI' and its congeners, few of which can ever benefit him or his patients unless he becomes a specialist. . . ."