

useless. On the other hand, a group of Europeans who have lived here for years, and have been vaccinated many times without effect, have recently "taken" with a supply of fresh lymph only a day or so old. Obviously such factors must be taken into account when making statements about the failure of universal vaccination.—I am, etc.,

Jeypore, Upper Assam.

JOHN A. LEWIS.

Sir Arthur Newsholme and Russian Medicine

SIR,—In your obituary of Sir Arthur Newsholme (May 29) reference is made to *Red Medicine*, written in collaboration with the late J. A. Kingsbury after a visit to the Soviet Union in 1933. It is stated: "His own impressions of Russia at that time were very mixed. He saw it with some misgiving 'going bald-headed' into a completely socialized medicine, a policy and action towards which nearly every Western country was advancing but by slow degrees."

This summary does scant justice to Newsholme, who provided many of us with our first introduction to the achievements and potentialities of Soviet medicine. Actual quotations give a clearer idea of the general viewpoint expressed in this book. In the preface (p. vii) the authors write: "Soviet Russia has decided that the health of the individual is the concern of society as a whole. Indeed, the Soviet Union is the one nation in the world which has undertaken to set up and operate a complete organization designed to provide preventive and curative medical care for every man, woman, and child within its borders." In the introduction (p. 4) they state that they were forced to the conclusion that "a marvellous reformed and extended medical service had been organized in Russia, the methods and procedures of which the rest of the world would do well to study." And in their concluding observations on the socialization of medicine (p. 309) Newsholme and Kingsbury state that in the U.S.S.R. this "has removed the doctor almost entirely from the field of monetary competition, and has thus abolished a chief source of inadequate medical service. It has made a gratuitous (that is, State-paid) medical service of an astonishingly complete character promptly available for the vast majority of urban populations, a service which is being rapidly extended to rural Russia; and it has given the whole of this service an admirable turn in the direction of social as well as medical preventive measures."—I am, etc.,

P. D'ARCY HART.

Feeding the World's Population

SIR,—It is deplorable that the delegates to the United Nations conference on food and the influential persons who have contributed articles or speeches regarding its aims seem ignorant of the Malthusian difficulty. The world's inhabitants still have a birth rate of 30 or more per 1,000 a year, due mainly to those in Asia, Russia, the Balkan States, and Africa. To have enough for all, they would therefore need to increase their food supply at a rate of at least 20 per 1,000 a year. Can they possibly increase their food supply twice as fast as hitherto? If they could, and did, they would double their numbers about every thirty-five years. However, Sir John Orr has gone far beyond the foregoing Malthusian view by stating that the "world supply of food would have to be increased by about 150 or 200% to maintain the world population in health"—meaning, presumably, even merely its present 2,000 or so millions.—I am, etc.,

Binfield, Berks.

B. DUNLOP.

Arsenical Encephalopathy

SIR,—The two articles on arsenical encephalopathy (May 29, pp. 661 and 663) were especially interesting to me in that of the five cases reported four were treated by twice-weekly injections of arsenic and bismuth. This method, of which I was the sole advocate in this country for several years, has now become widely used because of the unfailling serological cure which is effected in primary and secondary syphilis. Cases 1 and 2 in the first article were actually treated for syphilis by me. Case 1 was regarded as of sero-positive primary syphilis, since a penile ulcer was present, but no *Spirochaeta pallida* were found on three examinations by the dark-ground method. The blood Wassermann, originally reported as doubtful, became positive later, and treatment was instituted for sero-positive

primary syphilis, despite the inference in the article that this was a case of late latent syphilis.

Another interesting point was the insistence by the authors on the symmetry of the lesions found in the brain. This could be explained if one leans to a belief that syphilis plays some part in the pathology. The lesions of secondary syphilis are characteristically symmetrical, and as most of the victims of this catastrophe are in the 18–22 age group the probability is that the disease is in its early secondary stage. It is an interesting parallel that Milian's erythema and the manifestation of arsenical encephalopathy both occur about the ninth day of treatment.

The apparent increased incidence of this complication would be alarming were it not realized that in the series of cases quoted the hospital authorities concerned were aware that the patient was undergoing arsenical treatment. This is a coincidence that must in the ordinary course of events be unusual, since most patients prefer to keep the knowledge of their infection to themselves. There must have been many cases of coma resulting in rapid death where, in the absence of any history, the possibility of arsenical encephalopathy has never been considered. Unfortunately there is usually no search for signs of acupuncture in the antecubital area in the receiving room.

Those who have been interested in the relative toxicities of mapharside and neo-arsphenamine will not fail to note that in the Liverpool series, quoted by Dr. Glyn-Hughes and his collaborators, three out of the four cases were treated by neo-arsphenamine. For two and a half years in all the Liverpool clinics mapharside has been substituted for neo-arsphenamine in the twice-weekly injection routine for early syphilis, and there has been no evidence to suggest that it is more encephalotoxic than neo-arsphenamine.—I am, etc.,

Liverpool.

A. O. F. ROSS.

Obituary

ARCHIBALD SIMPSON, M.B., F.R.C.S.ED.

Mr. Archibald Simpson, one of the best-known practitioners in Shropshire, died suddenly on June 5 at the age of 60. He had practised in Shrewsbury for 32 years and held the following appointments: honorary surgeon, Royal Salop Infirmary; consulting general surgeon, Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital; officer-in-charge, Ante-natal Clinic, Shrewsbury; medical officer, Shropshire Technical College of Domestic Science. A native of Edinburgh, Mr. Simpson graduated M.B., B.Ch. in 1905; five years later he acquired the F.R.C.S.ED. He held house appointments at the Royal Maternity Hospital, Edinburgh, the Darlington Hospital, and the Royal Hospital for Sick Children and Women at Bristol. In the last war he served over-seas in the R.A.M.C., holding the rank of captain.

In the passing of Mr. Simpson (writes a colleague) Shropshire loses an outstanding personality. In spite of the natural reserve of the Scot his essential kindness in practical directions could not be concealed. Most thorough in his attention to patients, he proved himself a real friend and counsellor in serious trouble. His patients showed great attachment to him and confidence in his professional skill and stimulating personality. A man of fine physique, he took an active interest in sport during his brief leisure hours. He was generally admired as an excellent shot; he also distinguished himself as a horticulturist. He is survived by his wife and by his only child, an officer in the Royal Artillery now unfortunately a prisoner of war in Singapore.

A. G. MCKENDRICK, D.Sc. ABERD., M.B. GLASG., F.R.C.P. ED.
Lieut.-Col. Anderson Gray McKendrick, late superintendent of the Laboratories of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh and a former director of the Pasteur Institute of India, Kasauli, died on May 30 in Inverness-shire. He studied medicine at the University of Glasgow, graduating M.B., Ch.B. in 1900; he was elected F.R.C.P. ED. in 1924, and received the degree of D.Sc. from Aberdeen University in 1927. He was a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, and the Royal