

Medical News

New International Information Centre

Early in 1960, 11 countries will co-operate with the International Labour Office in providing information on literature and legislation for a new International Occupational Safety and Health Information Centre. The organizers in this country will be the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents, Artillery Mansions, 75, Victoria Street, London, S.W.1, to whom all inquiries should be addressed.

Among the organizations in Britain which have agreed to co-operate with the society are the British Occupational Hygiene Society, the Association of Industrial Medical Officers, and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. The other countries taking part are France, Germany, Italy, Austria, Belgium, Denmark, the Netherlands, Poland, Sweden, and Switzerland.

Harveian Society and Memory

At a meeting of the Harveian Society of London on December 16, Professor J. Z. YOUNG, F.R.S., Dr. R. S. ALLISON, and Dr. MACDONALD CRITCHLEY discussed "memory."

Professor YOUNG defined memory as a record stored for a purpose, and went on to describe some of the memory devices stored within the cell, transmitting information in the form of chemical codes. He then described some of his recent experiments on visual-shape discrimination in octopuses, from which he concluded that the basis of the mechanism was an inborn horizontal and vertical grid in the eye, on which certain shapes only could be resolved and discriminated. Dr. ALLISON reviewed 42 cases of memory defect in patients without other physical signs. The patient was usually the last person to recognize the defect, which was always more severe for recent events. Similar conditions occurred in pre-senile dementia, cerebral arteriosclerosis, post-anoxic states, and carbon-monoxide poisoning.

Dr. MACDONALD CRITCHLEY described some cases of unusual exaltation of memory. After quoting the examples of Seneca, Johnson, and Mozart, in whom unusually developed memory was combined with high intelligence, he mentioned several cases of *idiots savants*. Mr. DICKSON WRIGHT revealed in public for the first time that he had been gifted as a child with a precocious memory, but had purposely allowed this gift to atrophy as soon as he heard how often the condition was allied with low intelligence.

National Coal Board's Report

According to the *Annual Report, 1958*, of the National Coal Board's Medical Service there were fewer pre-employment medical examinations in 1958—24,018 as against 40,805 in 1957—because of the decline in recruitment, but the start of the periodic x-ray scheme for mineworkers added significantly to the service's work.

Defective vision, disease of the ear, and poor physique accounted for most of the rejections. The x-ray scheme is voluntary, and results so far suggest that more than 80% of mineworkers may attend for examination. The numbers of new cases of pneumoconiosis diagnosed by the medical panels of the Ministry of Pensions and National Insurance showed a sharp and somewhat unexpected fall, but the x-ray scheme is likely to reverse this trend in 1959. Lighting improvements in pits in the last 20 years have made miners' nystagmus a rarity. More miners are seeking medical advice on health problems related to their work; these consultations rose from 34,032 in 1957 to 39,293 in 1958. At the end of that year the Board employed 79 doctors, including four engaged on medical research.

Road Research

In its annual report, *Road Research, 1958*, the Road Research Board says that upward trends in traffic and accidents were again recorded in 1958. It has recommended that the emphasis in research in 1959-60 should be on—among other projects—the study of accidents in detail and on crash inquiries.

Extensive work has been devoted to the cause, effects, and prevention of skidding. It has been found that the percentage of skidding in accidents decreases with increasing age of the driver, and is lower for women than men drivers

except for women under 30 on wet roads. Accidents have been markedly reduced at certain notorious skidding-accident sites by treating the road surface.

Stanley Royd Hospital

The Stanley Royd Hospital, Wakefield, has embarked on a long-term programme to modernize its main building, built between 1818 and 1880 and accommodating 1,000 of its 2,000 patients. A pilot venture to see whether it was architecturally and economically practicable to convert an old building into a modern hospital was recently opened by Major J. C. HUNTER, chairman of the Leeds Regional Hospital Board.



["Nursing Mirror" photograph]

The three wards concerned in the pilot scheme are for long-stay women patients: the old corridors and single rooms have been converted into open-plan lounges, dining-rooms, and dormitories, such as are shown here, and the rather grim windows with small sash bars have been replaced by considerably larger ones of the picture type. Together with the next phase planned for 1960-1, the pilot scheme will have provided accommodation for 200 patients at a cost of £500 a bed. The Leeds Regional Hospital Board has also chosen the Stanley Royd for an experimental increase in medical officers in an attempt to combat chronicity and overcrowding—the medical establishment will shortly be double what it was a year ago.

Fluorine in Food

On March 14, 1960, new regulations relating to the fluorine content of acidic phosphates used for food purposes and of food containing acidic phosphates will come into operation in England and Wales.

The regulations, based on the recommendations of the Food Standards Committee, revoke the Fluorine in Food Order, 1947, and prescribe lower maximum limits than those laid down in the 1947 Order for the fluorine content of acidic phosphates and related foods. The Secretary of State for Scotland proposes to make corresponding regulations which will apply in Scotland, and similar regulations for Northern Ireland are under consideration.

Chesterfield Medal

The examination for the Chesterfield Medal was founded in the year 1894 by the late Earl of Chesterfield, president of St. John's Hospital for Diseases of the Skin, to encourage a deeper study of dermatology. The medal is awarded to the applicant submitting the best essay or report on original work on a dermatological subject selected by himself. It should not exceed 5,000 words. Candidates must be medically qualified practitioners who do not hold consultant rank in the National Health Service. The closing date for this year's essays will be September 30. Details may be obtained from the Dean at the hospital's Institute of Dermatology, Lisle Street, Leicester Square, London, W.C.2.

International Academy of Proctology

The International Academy of Proctology will award \$100 and a certificate of merit for the best unpublished contribution on proctology or allied subjects. Entries are limited to 5,000 words, typewritten in English, and five

copies should be submitted to Dr. A. J. CANTOR, at the Academy, 147-41, Sanford Avenue, Flushing, 55, New York, U.S.A.

Sir George Earle Trophy

Anxiety has been growing in the building and civil engineering industries about the lack of any substantial improvement in their accident figures. In an endeavour to stimulate efforts by management and employees in these industries to pay greater attention to safety standards, the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents announces that the Sir George Earle Trophy will, in 1961, be presented to a unit of the building, building equipment, or civil engineering industries which has made the greatest contribution to safety or improvement in safety measures during 1960.

Tankers' Medical Outfits

The Ministry of Transport points out that a fire which occurred recently on board a tanker destroyed the amidship accommodation and the contents of the medical cabinet. In the light of this experience, it is strongly recommended that tankers having the bridge amidships, and which may carry low-flash-grade cargoes, carry an emergency medical outfit, additional to the statutory medical scale requirements for the ship, in the after part of the ship—for example, near the engine room.

Central Middlesex Hospital Research Prizes

Prizes of £50 each have been awarded to Mr. K. LLOYD WILLIAMS for his paper on "Acute Solitary Ulcers and Acute Diverticulitis of the Caecum and Ascending Colon," and to Dr. W. H. SUMMERSKILL for research on gastroenterology.

Gift to Melbourne Research Institute

The Walter and Eliza Hall Institute, Melbourne, has received a donation of £20,000 from Major HAROLD HALL, a nephew of the family whose financial help first made the Institute possible more than 40 years ago.

COMING EVENTS

Royal College of Physicians.—For details of Marc Daniels Lecture and Watson Smith Lecture see *Journal*, advertisement page 55.

Institute of Dermatology.—Semi-permanent exhibitions are available during the winter term. The first, from January 4 to 27, will be by Dr. W. FRAIN-BELL on "Drug Eruptions."

Institute of Diseases of Chest.—Clinical demonstrations, open to medical practitioners without fee, will be arranged by Dr. J. C. BATTEN in the Institute's lecture room (grounds of Brompton Hospital, Fulham Road, S.W.3) on Fridays at 5 p.m. from January 8 to March 25, except March 18.

British Association of Allergists.—Annual general meeting, Royal Society of Medicine, 1, Wimpole Street, London, January 30. Details from Dr. A. W. FRANKLAND at the Wright-Fleming Institute, St. Mary's Hospital, London, W.2.

"Human Relationships in Care of Mother and Baby."—Residential Conference arranged by Royal College of Midwives, St. Anne's College, Oxford, March 28-April 1, 1960. Details from Education Officer, Royal College of Midwives, 15, Mansfield Street, London, W.1.

Ophthalmological Society of United Kingdom.—Annual Congress, Royal Society of Medicine, 1, Wimpole Street, London, W.1, March 31, April 1 and 2, 1960. Discussion: "The Problem of the Visually Defective Infant"; symposium: "The Management of Hormonal Exophthalmos." Details from Mr. L. G. FISON, of the Society, at 47, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, W.C.2.

SOCIETIES AND LECTURES

A fee is charged or a ticket is required for attending lectures marked ●. Application should be made first to the institution concerned.

Monday, January 4

DENTAL AND MEDICAL SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF HYPNOSIS.—At Royal Society of Medicine, 8 p.m., clinical meeting.

Tuesday, January 5

LEEDS NEUROLOGICAL SCIENCES COLLOQUIUM, 1959-60.—At Littlewood Hall, General Infirmary at Leeds, 5.15 p.m., Professor D. Whitteridge, F.R.S.: Calcarine Cortex and Cerebral Organization.

WEST END HOSPITAL FOR NEUROLOGY AND NEUROSURGERY.—5.30 p.m., Mr. J. Minton: Ocular Manifestations in Clinical Neurology (Part 1).

Wednesday, January 6

INSTITUTE OF UROLOGY.—4.30 for 5 p.m., Mr. F. R. Kilpatrick: Injuries of the Urinary Tract.

ROYAL FREE HOSPITAL.—5 p.m., Dr. Ellis Dresner (Harvard): Latex Fixation Reaction.

Thursday, January 7

LIVERPOOL MEDICAL INSTITUTION.—8 p.m., joint meeting with Liverpool Paediatric Club. Symposium: Epilepsy in Childhood.

ROYAL EYE HOSPITAL.—5 p.m., Dr. T. H. Whittington: Binocular Vision in Refraction Work.

Friday, January 8

INSTITUTE OF DISEASES OF THE CHEST.—5 p.m., Dr. J. C. Batten: Clinical demonstration.

INSTITUTE OF LARYNGOLOGY AND OTOLGY.—3.30 p.m., clinical discussion for general practitioners. Mr. C. Gill-Carey: Otitis Media.

INSTITUTION OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS: MEDICAL ELECTRONICS DISCUSSION GROUP.—At Savoy Place, W.C., 5.30 for 6 p.m., discussion to be opened by Professor R. F. Woolmer and Mr. D. W. Hill, M.Sc.: Electrical and Electronic Techniques in Respiratory Research.

ROYAL EYE HOSPITAL.—5 p.m., Dr. T. H. Whittington: Hypermetropic Patients and Their Treatment.

Saturday, January 9

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY MEDICAL SCHOOL.—At Addenbrooke's Hospital, Symposium on General Surgery. Morning: At Lecture Room B, 10.30 a.m., Mr. R. E. B. Taggart: Heartburn; 11.30 a.m., Mr. B. McN. Truscott: The Neck; 12.15 p.m., Mr. P. H. R. Ghey: Cancer of the Large Bowel. Afternoon: At Lecture Room B, 2.15 p.m., Mr. J. H. L. Ferguson: Vascular Problems in the Leg; 3.15 p.m., Mr. J. F. R. Withycombe: Haematuria.

APPOINTMENTS

HAYWARD-BUTT, J. T., F.F.A. R.C.S., Assistant Visiting Professor at the State University of Iowa, has been appointed Director of the Department of Anesthesia of the Maricopa County General Hospital, Phoenix, Arizona, U.S.A.

HORTON, JEAN M., M.B., B.S., F.F.A. R.C.S., D.A., Consultant Anaesthetist, Western General Hospital, Edinburgh, and Edinburgh Royal Infirmary.

HOSPITAL FOR SICK CHILDREN, Great Ormond Street, London, W.C.—A. W. Bruce, M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.S. Ed., Surgical Out-patient Assistant; Rachel G. Evans, M.B., B.S., and J. A. Inall, M.B., B.S., D.C.H., House-physicians; V. C. Talwalker, M.B., B.S., House-surgeon; M. J. Simpkins, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.P., Resident Assistant Physician.

LIVERPOOL REGIONAL HOSPITAL BOARD.—Joan K. Perkins, M.B., B.Chir., F.F.A. R.C.S., D.A., D.Obst.R.C.O.G., Consultant Anaesthetist, giving maximum part-time sessions to Warrington Group of Hospitals and to Winwick Hospital; G. P. Walsh, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.M., Whole-time Assistant Psychiatrist to Rainhill Hospital.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS

DEATHS

Allan.—On December 12, 1959, at the Duke of York Home, Bradford, Yorks, John Finlay Allan, M.B., Ch.B., of Bridge End, Baildon, Yorks, aged 81.

Anderson.—On December 10, 1959, at "Manzai," The Broadway, Letchworth, Herts, William Black Anderson, M.B., C.M., aged 86.

Ashcroft.—On December 8, 1959, at Victoria Hospital, Morecambe, Lancs, Lionel Spence Ashcroft, V.D., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., Surgeon Captain, R.N.V.R., retired, of The Bungalow, Levens, Kendal, Westmorland.

Bradlaw.—On December 10, 1959, at Beacon House, Beacon Park Road, Plymouth, Devon, Albert Stanley Bradlaw, V.R.D., M.B., B.Ch., Surgeon Commander, R.N.V.R., retired, aged 60.

Browse.—On December 13, 1959, George Browse, D.S.O., M.D., D.T.M.&H., Colonel, I.M.S., retired, of Penhayes, Kenton, near Exeter, Devon.

Carey.—On December 10, 1959, in hospital, London, Edward Patrick Carey, LL.D.(Hon.), M.B., B.Ch., of 106, Manor Park, London, S.E.

Dawson.—On December 11, 1959, at Dean's Cottage, Walton-on-the-Hill, Surrey, George William Dawson, F.R.C.S.I., D.P.H.

Francis.—On December 15, 1959, at Penkenna, Westward Ho, Devon, John Edmund Francis, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., aged 88.

Mackay.—On December 8, 1959, the result of a car accident, Norman Ramsay Mackay, M.B., F.R.C.S. Ed., F.F.R., of Radon, Woodlands Road, Bickley, Bromley, Kent.

Munday.—On December 14, 1959, in a nursing-home, London, Margaret Stewart Munday, O.B.E., M.B., Ch.B.

Nasmyth.—On December 12, 1959, at Boars Hill, Oxford, Dorothea Clara Nasmyth (formerly Maude), M.D.

Rowntree.—On December 8, 1959, Harold Kirkby Rowntree, M.C., M.B., F.R.F.P.S., M.R.C.O.G., Lieutenant-Colonel, I.M.S., retired, of Overdale, Aveley Lane, Farnham, Surrey, aged 72.

Rutherford.—On December 15, 1959, Robert Rutherford, M.C., M.B., B.S., D.P.H., B.Hy., of 24, West Avenue, Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne, late of Wallsend, Northumberland, aged 78.

Spong.—On December 8, 1959, Ambrose Spong, M.D., F.R.C.S., M.R.C.P., of Rose Lea, St. Martin, Jersey, Channel Islands, aged 84.