

class-room, behind the teacher, it is the custom to place them on the right-hand side of the children, opposite the window. It is found, according to some detailed measurements which were presented to the Congress, that the boards, when in this position, actually diminish the lighting on the desks by an average of 15 per cent., while white boards increase the illumination almost by the same amount. Even slighter changes than this are important when the general illumination is poor. Apparently the European practice of stationing the blackboards at the end of the room makes only a negligible difference to the desk illumination. Apart from this aspect of the question, however, the difficulty of lighting the blackboard efficiently, and of preventing glare from its shiny surface, is putting educationalists on the alert for some substitute. One Viennese delegate at the Congress urged the value of rolls of white paper on an easel, and others suggested green or brown boards in place of the universal black. If blackboards are retained care should be taken at least to tilt them so as to get the regular reflection away from the children's faces, and thus to make this convenient teaching instrument less of an eye torture than it was in the schooldays of many of us.

THE University of the Philippines which was founded under the authority of the United States by an Act of the Philippine Legislature in January, 1911, includes faculties of arts, of medicine and surgery, agriculture, veterinary science, engineering, law, and a school of fine arts, each possessing an educational college. The entire teaching staff of the University consists of 12 full professors, 8 professorial lecturers, 20 associate professors, 18 assistant professors, 57 instructors, 10 lecturers on law, 21 lecturers on special subjects, and 7 assistants. The Philippine Medical School was founded in 1905, before the University was established. Seven professors, 12 associate professors, 6 assistant professors, 14 instructors, with 2 temporary instructors, 16 special and 6 assistants, belong to the Medical College. A five years' course is required. Clinical facilities are afforded by the Philippine General Hospital, which has 200 beds, with a free dispensary; the Bilibid Prison Hospital; the Hospital for Infectious Diseases of San Lazaro, which includes departments for incurable tuberculosis, small-pox, diphtheria, plague, cholera, and other dangerous communicable diseases. Then there is the San Juan del Monte Tuberculosis Sanatorium; the "Gota de Leche" (*Goutte de lait*), for undeveloped and abnormal children; and the municipal and tuberculosis free dispensaries of Manila. In the course of last year more than 80,000 patients passed through the clinics. There is ample laboratory accommodation, with facilities for individual work by students in animal experimentation, and a sufficient supply of all the ordinary laboratory animals to meet the requirements of the courses, as well as for purposes of investigation. There are also a Graduate School of Tropical Medicine and Public Health, in which courses of instruction are given throughout the year. The school gives the degrees of Tropical Medicine (D.T.M.) and Doctor of Public Health (D.P.H.).

PROFESSOR OPPENHEIM of Berlin has reported 2 cases of cerebellar tumour treated by operation (*Berl. klin. Woch.*, November 3rd). The surgeon in both cases was Professor Borchardt of the Virchow Krankenhaus. The first was a case of tumour involving the vermis and right cerebellar hemisphere, and the operation was performed under local anaesthesia in three stages, owing to the collapse which threatened to supervene at any moment. It was only at the third sitting, which lasted for two hours, that the tumour was successfully dissected and removed from its bed. It proved to be a fibro-sarcoma. Before the operation was completed dyspnoea began to set in and continued throughout that night, with periods of complete apnoea, and Cheyne-Stokes respiration, with prolonged rattling in the trachea. Artificial respiration was continually required until the patient turned the corner and resumed the automatic function. The pulse remained good throughout and convalescence was very rapid, so that three months after the operation scarcely any symptoms of his original malady were present. The other case was that of a tumour in a child of 7, which involved the left cerebellar hemisphere, and required two operative stages under general anaesthesia. The child was completely ataxic and amaurotic at that time, but a year after the operation could count fingers at 2 ft. and was able to walk three hours without undue fatigue. The recovery of the smallest degree of vision once papillitis has advanced to a stage in which complete blindness has ensued, is most exceptional, so that this particular case deserves a position among the triumphs of surgery.

Letters, Notes, and Answers.

AUTHORS desiring reprints of their articles published in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL are requested to communicate with the Office, 429, Strand, W.C., on receipt of proof.

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS.—The telegraphic address of the EDITOR of the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL is *Articulate, Westrand, London*. The telegraphic address of the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL is *Articulate, Westrand, London*.

TELEPHONE (National).—
2631, Gerrard, EDITOR, BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL.
2630, Gerrard, BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.
2634, Gerrard, MEDICAL SECRETARY.

Queries, answers, and communications relating to subjects to which special departments of the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL are devoted will be found under their respective headings.

QUERIES.

VERITAS desires to know the date and treatise in which the term "thyroid insufficiency" was first used.

RADIUM EMANATIONS.

THE fee charged by the Radium Institute, 16, Ridinghouse Street, London, W., for treatment with radium emanation solution is three guineas a week, and it is stated that a course of at least six weeks is essential if any benefit is to be expected. A correspondent wishes to know whether a reliable emanation solution can be obtained for a smaller sum elsewhere.

ANSWERS.

M. W. B. writes to advise "St. Kitts" to consider the question of gall stones, and treat accordingly.

TREATMENT OF TERTIARY SYPHILIS.

DR. J. BARKER SMITH (Herne Hill, S.E.) advises "Country Practitioner" to try the effects of nascent iodine on the lines lately tried for tuberculosis. Ten grains or less of potassium iodide in peppermint water every morning for a week, immediately after breakfast: follow in four and eight hours by well diluted chlorine water. Take a dry bottle, put into it a drachm of powdered potassium chlorate, pour on the chlorate twenty drops of strong hydrochloric acid and evolve the chlorine, entangle it by shaking with water, and make up with water to six ounces. A tablespoonful in water or lemon water should be taken four and eight hours after the iodide. Again, by permanganate solution or hydrogen peroxide applied locally the effects should be intensified. I have met with success, so that I have suitable labels printed. I am convinced that nascent iodine is effective, and in one case of partial paralysis in a verified case of tertiary syphilis without a history, results surprised me. In this case the blood acidity was increased (verified by Joulie's method), and the urine, as noticed by the patient, was wonderfully cleared up.

LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.

THE EXECUTIONER SURGEON.

DR. FREDERIC WOOD JONES (London) writes: It has been a great disappointment to me to note that, as an organ of the medical profession, you have taken up what can only be termed a flippant attitude towards a subject which, though raised in this instance in the lay press, has before now engaged the attention of medical men. How the suggestion that the regulation of the means of putting our fellow creatures to death should be ordered by the scientific inquiry of medical men, could be regarded as a "silly joke," or as "offensive," neither I nor any thinking person can see. That it should be regulated by a person ignorant of anatomical and physiological science is the abuse, and no earnest suggestion for the alteration of this state of affairs should be stigmatized as "silly" or "offensive." Medical men have devoted thought and time to this question; experiments have been done, and sober suggestions have been made, and yet, though animals are slaughtered with all the humanity that science can suggest, our fellow unfortunates are still hanged with mediaeval pageant, and by methods that are crude, cruel, and unscientific.

SCALE OF CHARGES FOR ADVERTISEMENTS IN THE BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL.

	£	s.	d.
Seven lines and under
Each additional line
A whole column
A page

An average line contains six words.

All remittances by Post Office Orders must be made payable to the British Medical Association at the General Post Office, London. No responsibility will be accepted for any such remittance not so safeguarded.

Advertisements should be delivered, addressed to the Manager, 429, Strand, London, not later than the first post on Wednesday morning preceding publication, and, if not paid for at the time, should be accompanied by a reference.

NOTE.—It is against the rules of the Post Office to receive *poste restante* letters addressed either in initials or numbers.