

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.

THE annual general meeting of the Fellows and Members will take place at the College on Thursday next at 3 p.m. Mr. Sidney C. Lawrence, Honorary Secretary, 22, Latymer Road, Lower Edmonton, N., informs us that the following resolution will be moved by Sir Victor Horsley and seconded by Mr. George Jones:

That this thirtieth annual meeting of Fellows and Members again affirms the desirability of admitting Members to direct representation on the Council of the College, which as now constituted only represents those Members who also hold the Fellowship; and that it does so in order that the constitution of the Council of the Royal College of Surgeons of England shall be in keeping with modern ideas of true representation.

[A note on the Annual Report of the College to be presented to the meeting is published in the SUPPLEMENT, p. 236.]

Medical News.

SIR HENRY GREENWAY HOWSE, late President of the Royal College of Surgeons, left estate of the gross value of £30,367, of which £21,183 is net personality.

At a meeting of the Section of Dermatology of the Royal Society of Medicine on October 15th, the President, Dr. J. J. Pringle, announced that it would meet as usual during the forthcoming session. A number of interesting cases were then demonstrated.

THE Local Government Board has revised its memorandum of September 25th on the care of Belgian refugees. Local committees can obtain copies on application to the county or county borough council or the urban district council as the case may be.

THE meeting of the Pathological Section of the Royal Society of Medicine which was to have been held on November 17th has been postponed until Tuesday, December 1st, when Professor S. G. Shattock and Dr. Dudgeon will read a paper in the course of which they will discuss the subject of cytoides.

At a general meeting of the Medico-Psychological Association of Great Britain and Ireland to be held at the rooms of the Medical Society of London under the presidency of Dr. D. G. Thomson on Tuesday, November 24th, at 3.30 p.m., the chief business will be to consider the holding of meetings, etc., during the war.

ACCORDING to the New York *Medical Record*, Dr. Louis Livingston Seaman, whose name is well known as the author of a book on the Russo-Japanese war, has resigned his commission as First Lieutenant, Medical Reserve Corps, U.S.A., in order to be free to tell what he saw of the horrors of war as carried on by the Germans in Belgium, President Wilson having forbidden officers of the army and navy to comment on the situation.

MEMBERS of the medical profession who are not Fellows are invited to attend and take part in the discussion on enteric fever in war and the means for its prevention, which will be opened by Sir William Osler before the Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene on Friday next, at 8.30 p.m., at the house of the Medical Society of London. A précis of Sir William Osler's paper can be obtained on application to the secretaries at the above address.

IN the list of mayors elected on November 9th are the following members of the medical profession: Dr. S. R. Alexander, Faversham (re-elected); Dr. J. P. Atkinson, M.D., Saffron Walden (re-elected); Dr. R. Jones Evans, Pwllheli (re-elected); Dr. W. G. Gordon-Munn, Norwich (Lord Mayor); and Alderman Dr. Hale Puckle, Bishop's Castle (re-elected). Drs. Alexander and Atkinson have now been re-elected to the office of mayor four times in succession, while Drs. Hale Puckle and R. Jones Evans are re-elected for a second period.

THE Local Government Board in England has issued a circular to sanitary authorities pointing out the importance of having in immediate readiness adequate arrangements for dealing with any cases of small-pox which may appear. Under present conditions the introduction of the disease is not unlikely, and the prevention of the spread of the disease, if it should appear, will depend almost entirely on the efficiency of the arrangements made previously for dealing with and following up early cases. The circular is accompanied by memorandums on the steps to be taken on the notification of a case of small-pox, and in places where small-pox is prevalent. Copies of the circular letter and memorandums have also been sent to medical officers of health, county councils, and boards of guardians.

Letters, Notes, and Answers.

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.

A BELGIAN doctor at present staying in the country will be glad to receive hospitality in London where he desires to study. He is accompanied by his wife, their two children, aged 6½ and 4 years, and a nurse. Communications should be addressed to Dr. Alfred Cox, 429, Strand, London, W.C.

R. S. asks whether the mushroom known locally in the north of England as "blue stalks," and said to be much appreciated as an article of diet in some town districts, is wholesome, and whether it requires any special preparation, whether it must be freshly gathered and whether it requires to be cooked in any particular manner. The stalk bulb has a violet-blue staining.

HEREDITARY HYPERIDROSIS.

A. C. asks for advice or references on the following case: A married man, whose disease (hyperidrosis?) is as indicated below, wishes to know: (1) If, were he to have a child, it would probably be afflicted, as he has been, since infancy; (2) is there any treatment which, if applied early and thoroughly to a similarly affected child, would make its life much more comfortable than his has been? The patient's father suffered from it, and likewise the following relations of the father—namely, two of his four sisters, his mother and his maternal grandfather. A remote connexion of the family also had it in a slighter degree, and in this case, too, it was hereditary. The case is, briefly, that the patient has never been able to move about for more than ten minutes without the feet becoming hot and inflamed, so that further walking is painful and difficult and causes subsequent tenderness. But tenderness is often present even without previous walking, this being remarkably the case during the first hour or so after rising in the morning. The sweating has been greatly diminished by x rays, and the keratosis on the pressure areas of the soles of the feet has been reduced from time to time by various treatments.

ANSWERS.

SIR JAMES BARR (Liverpool) writes as follows in reply to questions in the JOURNAL of November 7th:

Thyroid extract, 5 or 10 grains daily, and decalcifying agents such as phosphoric acid are fairly effective in the treatment of enlarged prostate. I tried x rays in a case without any beneficial effect.

Regarding the case of perihepatitis "M.B." should see whether there is any marked deficiency of hydrochloric acid in the stomach, and whether the *Bacillus coli* has become an inhabitant of that organ. This not infrequently happens, and if it be the case with his patient, the treatment is fairly obvious.

Q.—*Mentally Defective Children*, by Alfred Binet and Th. Simon, M.D., being an authorized translation by Dr. Drummond, of Edinburgh (Crown 8vo. cloth, price 2s. 6d. net. London: Edward Arnold), contains in an appendix the Binet-Simon tests in their latest form given in full, with the diagrams and illustrations necessary for certain of the tests. Another convenient explanatory pamphlet is published by Henry H. Goddard, Ph.D., Psychologist to the Training School, Vineland, N.J., U.S.A. It contains sixteen pages, price 15 cents (8d.), and can be obtained from the above address. A larger work by the same author has recently appeared. Binet published his tests in *L'Année Psychologique* (1905). The most generally useful work on the subject is *Mental Deficiency (Amentia)*, by A. F. Tredgold, 2nd edition (London, 1914, Baillière, Tindall, and Cox, price 12s. 6d.).

LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.

A CORRECTION.

THE opener of a discussion at the Ophthalmological Congress at Oxford last July on compensation for eye injuries, a short account of which was given in last week's JOURNAL (p. 803), was Dr. William Robinson of Sunderland, not Dr. Robertson, as printed.

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