

facts who does not advocate a scientific inquiry. What is true of tuberculosis is plainly true of other diseases dependent on malnutrition.

The Insurance Act was meant to check consumption; if its premisses were correct, it should have done so; it has disastrously failed. It is childish to blame the war for the culmination of a process nearly twenty years old. The war has, indeed, illustrated our position, while it has glossed over the effects of the Insurance Act. Other classes—for example, the inmates of the lunatic asylums—died faster in the later years; but evidence is constantly accumulating that after 1915 (that is, after money wages had overtaken prices so that poverty was abolished) among “the poor” the tuberculosis mortality (civil) actually diminished up to the end of the war. Under such conditions a wise man would pause to investigate before he extended the principle of governmental subsidies, by way of improving national health. But the deputies of Providence “who sit up aloft” round about Whitehall and “watch over our lives” have no need of mundane wisdom. The poor were dying of consumption; they must have a series of Insurance Acts; whereupon the ingrates died faster still. Taxation has made us all poorer, commodities dearer, and thrown the hospitals into straits; *ergo*, we must be taxed more. The hospitals were meant for the poor; they used to cost the poor no penny which they did not voluntarily spare: therefore an extra burden must be put on the poor; they are to be chastised with scorpions instead of whips.

For that, in plain English, is what the Ministry's bill means; it proposes to throw a burden on the poor which had been voluntarily shouldered by the well-to-do. No means of keeping taxation off the shoulders of the poor has ever been found; the miners are poorer to-day *because* the Government nine months ago cut of taxes raised their money wages. Until the question of the incidence of taxation is settled, to put the hospitals on the rates is a wicked wrong to the poor. Until they have explained the inevitable association of rising poverty with rising rates or taxes, or the gradual slackening of the rate of fall of our tuberculous mortality as taxation rose, the Ministry of Health are bound by the very pity which prompts them to these megalomaniac schemes to inquire what will be their total effect.

I have reason to believe that Dr. Addison's bill has not been referred to the Consultative Council. If that is so, may I beg those who sympathize with the position that no measures (especially at this awful time) which act in restraint of real wages can possibly effect an improvement in the national health, to do all they possibly can to ensure that that Council shall be consulted without delay? or, failing that, to ensure that the Council should ultroneously advise the Ministry?—I am, etc.,

Rayleigh, Essex, Oct. 21st.

B. G. M. BASKETT.

#### THE MOBILE PROXIMAL COLON.

SIR,—I recently had occasion to resect a portion of the transverse colon on account of the presence of a deep ulcer which was so evidently caused by mechanical traction that it may be taken as affording indirect support to Mr. Waugh's theory that the drag of an abnormally mobile ascending colon may be a cause of ulceration of the duodenum. A man of 50 complained of symptoms that made one suspect the presence of a malignant growth in the colon; he also had an irreducible inguinal hernia of long standing. At the operation a mass of omentum was found incarcerated in the right inguinal canal and the omentum itself was thickened into a stout band along the line of traction between the herniated portion and the transverse colon. The latter was drawn downwards and sharply kinked at the point of attachment of this thickened band. A deep ulcer was found in the kinked portion. In this case it seems clear that traction was responsible for the formation of the ulcer. A somewhat similar mechanical effect, though less extreme, might be exerted upon the duodenum by a mobile proximal colon, and predispose to ulceration.—I am, etc.,

Leicester, Oct. 25th.

T. C. CLARE.

SIR,—May I ask you to be good enough to correct a misprint that has crept into my letter in reply to Mr. Waugh, which appears in to-day's issue of the JOURNAL?

The sentence, “The distribution of duodenal ulcers in his series, and Mr. Waugh's definite statement as to their usual distribution, are so much at variance with the experience of the surgeons,” etc., should read, “the experience of other surgeons.”

The error is obviously due to the fact that you had not sufficient time to send me a proof, but the effect of it is most unfortunate, and I should be glad if you would correct it in your next issue.—I am, etc.,

Manchester, Oct. 23rd.

JOHN MORLEY.

### Obituary.

SAMUEL SLOAN, M.D.,  
Glasgow.

WE regret to record the death of Dr. Samuel Sloan, which took place at his residence in Glasgow on October 17th, after a brief illness. Born in Glasgow in 1843, Dr. Sloan received his education at the High School and University of Glasgow; he graduated M.B., C.M. in 1866 with commendation, M.D. in 1870, and F.R.F.P.S.Glasg. in 1877. For many years he enjoyed an extensive practice in Glasgow and the neighbourhood. Dr. Sloan had special interests in many branches of medical science—notably midwifery, gynaecology, and electro-therapeutics; he was connected with the Glasgow Hospital for Diseases of Women as a teacher and as a visiting physician, and was consulting physician successively to the Samaritan and Maternity Hospitals. His numerous students bear testimony to the benefits they derived from his tuition. He had acted as examiner in midwifery and gynaecology at Glasgow University, and in the Royal Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons, and was a past president of the Electro-therapeutic Section of the Royal Society of Medicine. He was President of the Glasgow Obstetrical and Gynaecological Society from 1908 to 1912. Dr. Sloan was the author of “Treatment of labour delayed by obstruction at pelvic brim,” “Ionic medication in treatment of obstinate cases of pelvic diseases in women,” “Physiological effects of high-frequency currents in disease,” as well as numerous other papers on kindred subjects. His book on *Electro-therapy in Gynaecology*, published in 1917, is a well known and standard work containing a record of much valuable original investigation. At the time of his last illness he was busily engaged in revising a new edition of this book. He was an excellent mechanic and constructed many of his own instruments; one of his pleasures was to survey the planets with a telescope to which he had adapted various mechanical appliances with his own hands. Dr. Sloan was a man of most exceptional energy, and in the leisure left him by the very exacting demands of his practice he found recreation in the study of zoology, astronomy, and scientific photography. He was a genial, unassuming, and kindly man, and highly respected by a large circle of friends. He is survived by his widow and a numerous family, three of whom are well known members of the medical profession—his namesake, Dr. Samuel Macfarlane Sloan of Birmingham, Colonel John Macfarlane Sloan, C.M.G., D.S.O., and Mrs. Elizabeth Sloan Chesser, M.D., of Harley Street, London. One of his sons was killed in the late war. Dr. Sloan was buried in the Glasgow Necropolis.

Dr. JOHN RITCHIE writes: As one who had for many years acted for Dr. Samuel Sloan during his annual summer holiday, who had derived counsel and inspiration from his bright and cheering advice, and had received many kindnesses at his hands, I should like to pay a brief tribute to his memory. Dr. Sloan's capacity and zeal for work were enormous. Possessed of good health, a retentive memory, exact and methodical habits, he overtook the duties of a large and widely scattered practice in a way that many of us failed to comprehend. It was said of him at one time that he lived in his carriage. At all events, it sometimes taxed the powers of three pairs of horses to carry him over his rounds in a day. He was a very well-read man, and there were few subjects, not only in medicine, but in most of the allied subjects, regarding which he was not able to speak, and to speak well and fluently. During his later years he devoted great attention to electro-therapeutics. Dr. Sloan used to say that the real object of a holiday was to make oneself better able to

do his duty, and that if the holiday did not produce this effect it had better not be taken. He was pure and upright in his ways, and he was deeply religious, though some were surprised at the views which he expressed. He was a living sermon on the text "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with all thy might."

Another colleague, "W. G. D.," sends the following personal appreciation: Dr. Samuel Sloan was a man of striking physical appearance, tall, erect, and quick and active in his movements. He certainly looked ten years younger than his age, and many of us must have been astonished to learn that he was in his 78th year. He was of a bright, happy disposition, and while he, like Dr. Peter Low, "cured many while he lived . . . of his God he got the grace to live in mirth and die in peace." I am sure that by his bright and hopeful manner Dr. Sloan brought comfort and healing to many a stricken soul. Whilst distinguished as an obstetrician and electrical therapist, Dr. Sloan took a great interest in biological questions, and particularly in marine biology, making a practical study of this on the shores of the Island of Bute, where he had a house, and where he regularly spent the week-end all the year round. He made a study also of astronomy, and nothing pleased him more than, in the company of a congenial friend, to survey with his astronomical telescope the starry heavens. He was an excellent conversationalist, and his friendship will be missed by many.

#### ROBERT KIRK, M.D. EDIN.

DR. ROBERT KIRK of Rowan Bank, Bathgate, Linlithgowshire, was one of a number of distinguished men who during the last forty years settled in country practices in the neighbourhood of Edinburgh.

After studying in Edinburgh University he took the degrees of M.B. and C.M. in 1876, and in the same year became a Licentiate of the Royal College of Physicians; in 1879 he graduated M.D. with honours, and two years later he became a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh. He was a president of the Royal Medical Society, and held various posts in the Royal Infirmary. His interest in the scholarly aspects of medicine was shown by his being a member of the Harveian, the Obstetrical, and of the Botanical Societies of Edinburgh. He settled in Bathgate, the birthplace of Sir James Simpson and of John Reid, the physiologist, and soon established a great reputation there. He was parochial medical officer, medical officer of health, and public vaccinator for Bathgate, and a J.P. for Linlithgowshire, as well as surgeon to the post-office; and he took a great interest in the R.A.M.C., in which he was lieutenant-colonel, and had a Volunteer Decoration. He also had a large and influential private practice in and around Bathgate. He was a keen curler, and greatly enjoyed his game of golf.

Dr. Kirk died at Crieff on October 16th, and was buried on the 19th at Bathgate. He will be greatly missed by the many patients who made up his practice.

## Universities and Colleges.

### UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.

#### Proposed New Site.

AT its meeting on October 20th the Senate, after considering a report of the Site and Accommodation Committee and the correspondence which has passed between the Vice-Chancellor, Dr. S. Russell Wells, and the President of the Board of Education, resolved to accept the offer of His Majesty's Government of the site to the north of the British Museum, in accordance with the terms of Mr. Fisher's letter of April 7th, 1920.

The site is to be provided gratis and in perpetuity on the terms as regards the maintenance, rates, etc., of the University head quarters buildings laid down in the Treasury Minutes of February 16th and July 13th, 1899, and in Mr. Fisher's letters of June 26th, September 24th, and October 6th, 1920, to the Vice-Chancellor, which provided:

1. That such grant for maintenance, rates, etc., shall not be counted as a portion of the grants made to universities for educational purposes.

2. That the allocation of the site between the various buildings to be erected thereon shall be at the sole discretion of the Senate of the University.

3. That the University shall retain, and King's College shall retain, full possession of their present sites and buildings under the conditions under which they now hold them until such time as the new buildings are ready for occupation and are free from debt.

4. That the buildings to be erected for the University head quarters shall be, as regards dimensions and design, in accordance with plans to be agreed upon between the Senate and His Majesty's Treasury, and shall afford not less than 50 per cent. more floor space than is now allocated in the buildings at South Kensington for the separate use of the University.

5. That the terms of the removal of King's College from the Strand to the Bloomsbury site shall be a matter of subsequent negotiation between His Majesty's Government, the council of King's College, and the Senate of the University, and that an agreement shall be concluded between the said parties.

The Senate, in accepting, subject to the above conditions, the Government's offer of a site in Bloomsbury, assume that the offer does not incidentally involve a policy of curtailing the development of the work of those colleges and schools of the University which are not now, nor in the future will be, situated in the neighbourhood of the Bloomsbury site, and that these institutions will not receive less favourable consideration at the hands of the Government than would otherwise have been the case.

### ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.

THE annual meeting of Fellows and Members will be held at the College in Lincoln's Inn Fields on Thursday, November 18th, at 3 p.m., when a report of the Council will be laid before the meeting. Fellows and Members can obtain copies of the report on application to the secretary. Motions to be brought forward at the meeting must be signed by the mover, and be received by the secretary not later than November 8th. A printed copy of the agenda will be issued to any Fellow or Member who applies for it.

### ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF EDINBURGH.

AT a meeting of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, held on October 20th, Dr. George Mackay was re-elected president, Dr. R. McKenzie Johnston vice-president, and Mr. Alexander Miles secretary and treasurer.

The following candidates, having passed the requisite examinations, have been admitted as Fellows:

E. G. Anderson, Captain N.Z.M.C., W. B. G. Angus, O.B.E., M.C., S. Batchelor, A. J. Caird, C. L. Chapman, D.S.O., Lieut.-Colonel A.A.M.C., G. W. Christie, B. K. T. Collins, W. F. Currie, J. K. Datta, N. H. Dempster, H. M. Desai, J. L. Diggle, O. Ellis, D. S. Falconer, K. G. Fraser, A. Goodwin, E. A. Guymer, Major A.A.M.C., Alice M. Headwards, J. M'A. Holmes, Surgeon Commander R.N., A. M. Jones, J. T. Kyle, J. H. Lechler, J. Lyons, D. McIntyre, D. McVicker, Captain R.A.M.C., H. H. McWilliams, Major A.A.M.C., G. E. Martin, T. A. Milroy, Captain N.Z.M.C., A. R. Moodie, W. Morris, K. D. Pantou, Lieut.-Colonel C.A.M.C., W. C. Paton, Brevet Major I.M.S., R. Richards, G. Richardson, J. S. Taylor, J. H. Tennent, B. Thomas, W. A. Thompson, C. H. Vernon, D. G. Wishart, M. Yuille, Major A.A.M.C.

Miss Alice M. Headwards is the first woman admitted to the Fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh.

## The Services.

### HONOURS.

#### FOREIGN DECORATIONS.

THE following decorations have been conferred by the Allied Powers in recognition of valuable services during the war:

*By the King of the Belgians.*—Cross of Officer of the Crown of Belgium: Sir George T. Beatson, K.C.B., K.B.E. (for services rendered as President of the Scottish Branch of the British Red Cross Society).

*By the President of the French Republic.*—Croix de Guerre: Colonel Arthur M. Connell, A.M.S. (T.F. (ret.)); Surgeon Lieutenant E. G. S. Slesinger, O.B.E., R.N. *By the King of Hellenes.*—Order of George I, Commander: Major J. Utting, R.A.M.C. (T.F.), ex-Lord Mayor of Liverpool.

*By the King of Rumania.*—Order of the Crown of Rumania, Commander: Sir W. R. Smith, ex-Sheriff of the City of London. *By the King of the Serbs, Croates, and Slovenes.*—Order of the White Eagle (Fifth Class): Brevet Major William Bentley Purchase, M.C., R.A.M.C. Order of St. Sava (Third Class): Brevet Colonel Harold Hugh Norman, R.A.M.C.; Lieut.-Colonels Robert James William Oswald, O.B.E., R.A.M.C. (T.F.), Alexander Brodie Seton Stewart, R.A.M.C. (T.F.), Sir Nestor Isidor Charles Tirard, late R.A.M.C. (T.F.), temporary Major (acting Lieut.-Colonel) H. W. Marett Tims, O.B.E., R.A.M.C. (Fourth Class); Temporary Captain Augustus William Tabuteau, R.A.M.C. (Fifth Class); Temporary Captain Eustace Robert Barton, R.A.M.C.

### DEATHS IN THE SERVICES.

Lieut.-Colonel Thomas Edward Noding, R.A.M.C. (retired), died in London on September 28th. He was born in Trinidad on May 25th, 1858, took the M.R.C.S. and the L.R.C.P. Ed. in 1880, and entered the army as surgeon on July 30th, 1881, becoming lieutenant-colonel after twenty years' service, and retiring on May 25th, 1913. He served in the Egyptian war of 1882, gaining the medal and the Khedive's bronze star; and on the North-West Frontier of India in the Waziristan campaign of 1894-5, receiving the Frontier medal with a clasp. He also rejoined for service during the recent war.