

the Royal College of Physicians. This and my last book *Tuberculin: its Vindication by Technique* (J. and A. Churchill) will disclose the truth. Clear proof can also be seen any Monday afternoon at my Tuberculin Clinic, 36, Nottingham Place.—I am, etc.,

London, W.1, June 25.

W. CAMAC WILKINSON.

### Complications of Gold Therapy

SIR,—Referring to the letter of Dr. John B. Bennett in the *Journal* of June 25 (p. 1392) describing a case of gold "dermatitis," we are constantly treating considerable numbers of patients at the Charterhouse Clinic with injections of gold with most satisfactory results, and in some cases quite dramatic improvement. In our series we have never had any toxic reaction of any kind whatever, nor has any single patient ever developed a dermatitis. We are convinced therefore that these complications are entirely unnecessary, and are simply due to the method of administration, and more particularly to the amount of gold given.

Gold is most valuable when interposed in a course of vaccine treatment where hyperergy develops. The gold is given in minimum doses at as long an interval as possible, depending on the tendency of the symptoms which are allayed by the gold to recur. The usual period is a fortnight, but three weeks or even a month may elapse during which period the symptoms are relieved. It is true that after the first injection there may be an exacerbation of the rheumatic pains, and if this is found to occur on the next occasion the amount of gold injected is one-tenth of the initial dose. In rare cases even one-hundredth of the dose is required before relief is obtained. The kind of gold salt used does not appear to make very much difference.—I am, etc.,

London, W.1, June 27.

H. WARREN CROWE.

### Blood Pressure after Spinal Anaesthetic

SIR,—Mr. D. L. Lewis and Dr. E. G. M. Palser (*Journal*, June 4, p. 1202) state that falls in the systolic and diastolic blood pressures after a spinal anaesthetic are regular and begin 2.6 and 2.2 minutes after administration, ceasing after 13 and 12½ minutes for the systolic and diastolic pressures respectively. They say the recovery is to the extent of 7½ to 10½ per cent. of the initial values, and occupies eight minutes.

Looking back at records taken during the past year of blood-pressure curves following spinal analgesia alone, I find a great variation in the times of onset and recovery. In all cases the anaesthetic is the same, but some exhibit only a slight fall and others go on falling for fifty minutes. This divergence of results is interesting, because it points to the fact that spinal analgesia alone is not adequate to protect the patient from shock-producing stimuli, except in the case of very low blocks.—I am, etc.,

June 24.

R. P. HARBORD,  
Demonstrator in Anaesthetics,  
University of Liverpool.

Three professors of the Lyons medical faculty have recently retired—namely, Drs. Collet (oto-rhino-laryngology), Cluzet (biological physics, radiology, and physiotherapy), and Gayet (urological chemistry). A new chair has been founded at the faculty for infectious diseases, and its first occupant is Dr. Joseph Chaliar, hitherto professor of medical pathology.

## Obituary

JOHN V. W. RUTHERFORD, M.B., C.M.,

Consulting Surgeon, Newcastle-on-Tyne Infirmary

The death took place on June 21 of Colonel J. V. W. Rutherford in his eighty-second year. John Victor Walton Rutherford was educated at Bedford School, subsequently proceeding to the Royal High School, Edinburgh, and later to Edinburgh University, where he graduated M.B., C.M. He was for some time honorary surgeon to the Newcastle Royal Victoria Infirmary. Before and during the war he held the position of Assistant Director of Medical Services of the 50th Division, and was mentioned in dispatches for his services in France. After returning from France he became D.M.S. at Catterick Camp; from 1918 to 1922 he was Honorary Colonel of the R.A.M.C. (Northumbrian Division). On his retirement from the Newcastle Infirmary he went to reside in the South of France, but returned to Newcastle last September. He had been in indifferent health for the last two years. Colonel Rutherford was a keen sportsman and one of the stalwarts of Rugby football, and did notable service in the Northern Football Club and the Northumberland Rugby Union. Of a kindly nature, he was most popular with all with whom he came in contact, and his death will be regretted by his many friends in the Newcastle-upon-Tyne district. He is survived by his wife and one son. His first wife was the daughter of the late Sir Walter Scott; she died in 1922.

Professor G. Grey Turner writes:

With his brother, the late Dr. Vickerman Rutherford, John Victor Walton Rutherford started in general practice in Newcastle-on-Tyne to carry on the work of their father, who was not only a successful practitioner, but a very well-known educationist. It was, in fact, as a result of the efforts of John Rutherford senior that the College which still flourishes under his name was founded.

The subject of this note was educated in Edinburgh, where he was well known as a Rugby player. He was always attracted to surgery, and when the opportunity arose at the Newcastle Infirmary he sought election. In 1897 he became assistant surgeon and for some years was associated in that capacity with Professor Rutherford Morison. In 1906 he was appointed to the full staff with charge of wards and continued in that office until 1917, when he retired on reaching the age limit and was made an honorary consulting surgeon. John Rutherford had a great knowledge of human nature and was very shrewd, and sometimes made striking diagnoses by some process of intuition. He was always considerate to his patients and was popular with his colleagues. Rutherford had good hands and was a very nice operator, but was not attracted to the routine of hospital work or of teaching; but he did encourage the junior members of his firm and gave them many opportunities and was always interested in their exploits. I was associated with him at the Newcastle-on-Tyne Infirmary during the whole of my hospital service as registrar and as assistant surgeon, and am grateful for the encouragement which I received. Comparative affluence at that time enabled Rutherford to enjoy those country pursuits at which he was an adept and also allowed him time to take a very active interest in the old volunteers and in the Territorial Army. At the outbreak of the late war he was A.D.M.S. for the Northumbrian Division of the Territorial Army and served in France in that capacity.