

## Medical News

### A Book for Christmas

*50 Years of Medicine*, containing in book form articles surveying the progress of medicine and surgery during the first half of this century which appeared in a special number of the *Journal* last year, is again available. Very pleasantly brought out, and handsomely bound, not only does it look impressive but the information it gathers together is useful and enlightening, and is of interest to both lay and medical readers. Over 300 pages of text, a complete index, and 32 illustrations make this a valuable book to have, and, incidentally, an excellent Christmas present. Costing 15s., *50 Years of Medicine* may be obtained through booksellers, or direct (post free) from the Publishing Manager, B.M.A. House, Tavistock Square, London, W.C.1.

### Smoking and Lung Cancer

Investigations into the possible association between tobacco-smoking and carcinoma of the lung are being continued by Professor A. Bradford Hill and Dr. W. R. S. Doll, whose paper on the subject appeared in the *Journal* of September 30, 1950 (p. 739). Professor Bradford Hill is sending (see our correspondence columns this week, p. 1157) a questionnaire to all registered medical practitioners asking them to record briefly their smoking habits. These particulars can be related to mortality statistics recorded by the Registrar-General. The replies will be strictly confidential, and it is hoped that every doctor will give the information required for this important piece of research.

### Guide to Postgraduate Scholarships

The British Commonwealth Scientific Office (London) has just published a useful guide to all medical and other scientific postgraduate scholarships and fellowships offered in Britain and other Commonwealth countries to open competition. The great majority are awarded in the United Kingdom, but Canada, Australia, New Zealand, India, and Pakistan are also covered. *Inter-Commonwealth Postgraduate Scholarships in Science* is obtainable from the Stationery Office and usual agencies, price 5s.

### A Great Embryologist

The centenary of the birth of Francis Maitland Balfour, the biologist, falls on November 10. He was the younger brother of A. J. Balfour, Prime Minister from 1902 to 1905 and later Earl of Balfour. F. M. Balfour had a distinguished student career at Cambridge and was appointed lecturer in animal pathology there in 1876. Two years later he was elected F.R.S. In 1880-1 appeared his great two-volume *Treatise on Comparative Embryology*. This was a masterly digest of all previous work (including Balfour's own classical contributions) upon which modern embryology is based. Early in 1882 a special professorship of animal morphology was instituted for him at Cambridge. Later that same year Balfour started out on a mountaineering holiday in the Swiss Alps and met a tragic end, apparently on July 19, when both he and his guide fell while on the Aiguille Blanche de Peuterey. Balfour was held in great esteem by his teacher, Michael Foster, who wrote his obituary in the *British Medical Journal* and his biography in the *Dictionary of National Biography*.

### A Film on the Care of Old People

Dr. Trevor H. Howell has had made a silent film lasting about 20 minutes which traces the history of one rheumatic patient from the moment she is seen by her own doctor, through her admission to hospital and transfer to a half-way house, to her final discharge home. Great emphasis is laid on physiotherapy and occupational therapy, and on the value of the half-way house. On October 31, when the film was shown at the Hammer Theatre, Dr. Howell personally

gave a running commentary which was very effective, and which the film needs. With it the film could be a useful introduction for both lay and medical (student) audiences to some of the special problems of a geriatric unit.

### Doctor in the Government

It was announced on October 31 that Dr. Charles Hill, M.P. for Luton and former Secretary of the B.M.A., has been appointed Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Food.

### British Cardiac Society

The autumn meeting of the British Cardiac Society was held in London on October 19 under the chairmanship of Dr. J. H. Wright. Both the morning and afternoon sessions were devoted to short communications, including papers on mitral valvulotomy, the results of ligation of the patent ductus arteriosus, the bronchodilator action of khellin, clinical and cardiographical aspects of ambiguous cases of cardiac infarction, and the F.933 test in hypertension. A dinner was held at the Savoy Hotel.

### Age of Marriage in Northern Ireland

The marriage age in Northern Ireland is to be brought into line with that in Great Britain. The Government has introduced a Bill by which, in future, marriages of persons under 16 will be void. Hitherto the age has been 12 in respect of girls and 14 for boys.

### Emergency Bed Service: Applications and Admissions

During the seven days ending November 5 the number of applications made by doctors to the London Emergency Bed Service for admission of patients was 960, of whom 88.02% were admitted.

## COMING EVENTS

### Society of Medical Officers of Health

The annual dinner of the Society of Medical Officers of Health will be held at the Piccadilly Hotel, London, W., on Thursday, November 22, at 7 for 7.30 p.m., when it is hoped that the newly appointed Minister of Health and Secretary of State for Scotland will be able to attend.

### Stephen Paget Memorial Lecture

The twentieth Stephen Paget Memorial Lecture of the Research Defence Society will be delivered by Sir Wilson Jameson at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Keppel Street, Gower Street, W.C., on Thursday, November 22, at 5.30 p.m. His subject is "Research and Administration—A Profitable Partnership?" The annual general meeting of the Society will be held after the lecture.

### British Empire Cancer Campaign

The annual meeting of the Nottinghamshire Council of the British Empire Cancer Campaign will be held at the Y.W.C.A. Hall, Shakespeare Street, Nottingham, on Tuesday, November 13, at 3 p.m., when Lord Horder will deliver an address. All medical practitioners are invited to attend.

### West Midlands Physicians Association

The third meeting of the West Midlands Physicians Association will be held at Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham, on Saturday, November 17, at 11 a.m. There will be case presentations during the morning and general business and scientific communications in the afternoon.

### Medical Films

Dr. Brian Stanford will give a talk on "Medical Films: Their Cataloguing and Care" to the Medical Section of the Library Association at the British Dental Association, 13, Hill Street, Berkeley Square, London, W.1, on Friday, November 16, at 7 p.m. The meeting is open to all.

**Home Safety**

A meeting, arranged by the City of Nottingham, the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents, and the Royal Institute of Public Health and Hygiene, will be held at the Young Women's Christian Association (Shakespeare Street, Nottingham) on Wednesday, November 28, at 6.15 p.m., when Dr. J. L. Burn will speak on "Home Safety and Health," and Mrs. Winifred E. Duncan on "The Formation of the Nottingham Home Safety Committee." Admission is free, without ticket.

**"Outwitting Handicaps"**

The Central Council for the Care of Cripples is arranging an exhibition of aids for the disabled in the Goldsmiths' Hall, Foster Lane, London, E.C.2, on November 27 and 28 from 10 a.m. to 6.30 p.m. Admittance will be free.

**International Symposium on Yaws Control**

The symposium will be held in Bangkok, Thailand, on March 14 to 22, 1952, under the auspices of the World Health Organization in collaboration with the Government of Thailand. During the week following the symposium, a field demonstration and training seminar will be conducted, utilizing the facilities of the W.H.O. Yaws Control Team in that country. All interested in the subject are cordially invited to attend. Copies of the programme will be available about February 1, 1952. Requests for copies should be sent to Dr. Frank W. Reynolds, World Health Organization, Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland. Inquiries may be addressed to any regional office of the World Health Organization or to W.H.O. Headquarters in Geneva.

**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**

HUNTERIAN SOCIETY.—At Society of Apothecaries of London, Black Friars Lane, Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C., November 12, 8.30 p.m., "That this Age of Speed has Outrun Human Adaptation," proposed by Dr. Macdonald Critchley and the Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of Pontefract, opened by Air Vice-Marshal J. M. Kilpatrick and Mr. Raymond Mays. Discussion.

MEDICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON, 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, London, W.—November 12, 8.30 p.m., "Newer Antibiotics," discussion to be introduced by Professor Robert Knox and Dr. K. S. MacLean.

●POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL SCHOOL OF LONDON, Hammersmith Hospital, Ducane Road, W.—November 12, 4 p.m., "Some Practical Aspects of Immunization," by Dr. H. Stanley Banks.

ROYAL EYE HOSPITAL, St. George's Circus, Southwark, London, S.E.—November 12, 5 p.m., "Inflammatory Affections of the Fundus," by Professor Arnold Sorsby.

**Tuesday**

CHELSEA CLINICAL SOCIETY.—At South Kensington Hotel, 41, Queensgate Terrace, London, S.W., November 13, 8.30 p.m., "The Origin and History of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem (illustrated with cinematograph film)," discussion to be opened by Lord Wakehurst, Prior of the Order.

●INSTITUTE OF DERMATOLOGY, Lisle Street, Leicester Square, London, W.C.—November 13, 5.30 p.m., "Urticaria, Dermographism, Physical Allergy," by Dr. E. J. Moynahan.

LONDON UNIVERSITY.—At London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Keppel Street, Gower Street, W.C., November 13, 5 p.m., "Trends of Opinion about the Public Health, 1901-1951. 3.—Hopes and Fears after the First World War," Heath Clark Lecture by Professor J. M. Mackintosh.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF LONDON, Pall Mall East, S.W.—November 13, 5 p.m., "The Selection of Medical Students," Bradshaw Lecture by Dr. D. H. Brinton.

ROYAL EYE HOSPITAL, St. George's Circus, Southwark, London, S.E.—November 13, 5.30 p.m., lecture to nurses and ophthalmic auxiliaries, by Miss Iris Kane.

WEST END HOSPITAL FOR NERVOUS DISEASES, 40, Marylebone Lane, London, W.—November 13, 5.30 p.m., "Vascular Diseases of Central Nervous System," clinical demonstration by Dr. T. Rowland Hill.

**Wednesday**

BRITISH POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL FEDERATION.—At London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Keppel Street, Gower Street, W.C., November 14, 5.30 p.m., "Folic Acid and Vitamin B<sub>12</sub> in the Metabolism of Micro-organisms," by Dr. D. D. Woods.

●DAVIDSON CLINIC, 58, Dalkeith Road, Edinburgh.—November 14, 8 p.m., "Psychology and Politics," by Dr. W. P. Kraemer.

GLASGOW UNIVERSITY MEDICO-CHIRURGICAL SOCIETY.—At Geography Lecture Theatre (N.E. corner of Medical Quadrangle of University), November 14, 7.30 p.m., "The Evolution of the Modern Concepts of Disease," by Sir Henry Cohen.

HARVEIAN SOCIETY OF LONDON.—At 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, W., November 14, 8.15 p.m., "Psychiatry and the Law," speakers, Mr. John Maud, K.C., and Dr. Lindesay Neustatter.

●INSTITUTE OF DERMATOLOGY, Lisle Street, Leicester Square, London, W.C.—November 14, 5.30 p.m., "Mycology—Trichophyton Infections," by Dr. R. W. Riddell.

●INSTITUTE OF UROLOGY.—At St. Paul's Hospital, Endell Street, London, W.C., November 14, 4.30 p.m., "Prevention of Recurrence in Urinary Calculi," by Mr. D. I. Williams.

●LONDON MARRIAGE GUIDANCE COUNCIL, 78, Duke Street, Grosvenor Square, W.—November 14, 6 p.m., "The Psychology of Marriage Relationships," by Dr. Ethel Dukes.

●POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL SCHOOL OF LONDON, Hammersmith Hospital, Ducane Road, W.—November 14, 11.45 a.m., Medical Clinical-pathology Conference.

●ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF LONDON, Pall Mall East, London, S.W.—November 14, 5 p.m., "Cerebral Localization," by Dr. W. Russell Brain, P.R.C.P.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, W.C.—November 14, 3.45 p.m., "The Pathological Aspects of Osteomyelitis," Erasmus Wilson Demonstration by Mr. L. W. Proger.

ROYAL EYE HOSPITAL, St. George's Circus, Southwark, London, S.E.—November 14, 5.30 p.m., "The Facies in Disease," by Mr. L. H. Savin.

ROYAL FACULTY OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS OF GLASGOW, 242, St. Vincent Street, Glasgow.—November 14, 5 p.m., "Syndromes of the Thoracic Inlet and Cervico-axillary Canal," Finlayson Memorial Lecture by Dr. F. M. R. Walshe, F.R.S.

ROYAL INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND HYGIENE, 28, Portland Place, London, W.—November 14, 3.30 p.m., "Modern School Hygiene and the Schoolchild" (illustrated), by Dr. G. D. Pirrie.

ROYAL SANITARY INSTITUTE, 90, Buckingham Palace Road, London, S.W.—November 14, 2.30 p.m., Symposium on Smallpox. (a) "The First Few Days of the Brighton Outbreak, 1950"; (b) "Laboratory Diagnosis, with Special Reference to the Brighton Outbreak," by Dr. F. O. MacCallum; (c) "Comment," by Dr. W. H. Bradley.

**Thursday**

BRITISH INSTITUTE OF RADIOLOGY, 32, Welbeck Street, London, W.—November 15, 8 p.m., "Is Your Physics Really Necessary?" Presidential Address by Professor J. E. Roberts.

DREADNOUGHT SEAMEN'S HOSPITAL, Greenwich, London, S.E.—November 15, 3 p.m., clinical demonstration of surgical cases by Mr. Stephen Power.

EDINBURGH CLINICAL CLUB.—At B.M.A. Rooms, 7, Drumsheugh Gardens, Edinburgh, November 15, 8 p.m., "Contact Dermatitis," by Dr. G. A. G. Peterkin.

HONYMAN GILLESPIE LECTURE.—At University New Buildings (Anatomy Theatre), Teviot Place, Edinburgh, November 15, 5 p.m., "The Reticuloses from the Point of View of the Radio-therapist," by Miss Margaret C. Tod, F.R.C.S.Ed.

●INSTITUTE OF CHILD HEALTH, Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, London, W.C.—November 15, 5 p.m., "Orthopaedic Problems in Infancy," by Mr. J. C. R. Hindenach.

LONDON UNIVERSITY.—At London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Keppel Street, Gower Street, W.C., November 15, 5 p.m., "Trends of Opinion about the Public Health, 1901-1951. 4.—The Great Depression," Heath Clark Lecture by Professor J. M. Mackintosh.

ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL COLLEGE.—At Lecture Theatre, John Islip Street, London, S.W., November 15, 5 p.m., "The Meaning of Military Uniforms," by Mr. James Laver.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF LONDON, Pall Mall East, S.W.—November 15, 5 p.m., "The Power of Words," Lloyd-Roberts Lecture by Lady Violet Bonham Carter.

ROYAL EYE HOSPITAL, St. George's Circus, Southwark, London, S.E.—November 15, 5.30 p.m., "Post-operative Complications and Their Management," by Miss Jean M. Dollar.

ROYAL MEDICAL SOCIETY, 7, Melbourn Place, Edinburgh.—November 15, 8 p.m., Presidents' Annual Dinner. Guest of honour: Sir Henry Cohen.

ROYAL MEDICO-PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION.—At 26, Portland Place, London, W., November 15, 2.15 p.m., "The Assessment of Personality," Maudsley Lecture by Sir Cyril Burt.

ROYAL SOCIETY OF TROPICAL MEDICINE AND HYGIENE.—At London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Keppel Street, Gower Street, W.C., November 15, 7.30 p.m., laboratory meeting. Various demonstrations will be given.

ST. GEORGE'S HOSPITAL MEDICAL SCHOOL, Hyde Park Corner, London, S.W.—November 15, 4.30 p.m., lecture-demonstration in neurology by Dr. A. S. Paterson.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, Gower Street, London, W.C.—November 15, 5 p.m., "Hospitals and the National Health Service Act," lecture on current legal problems by Dr. O. R. Marshall.

WREXHAM AND DISTRICT CLINICAL SOCIETY.—At Wynstay Arms Hotel, Wrexham, November 15, "Observations on Corneal Biology," by Mr. Tudor Thomas.

## Friday

- BRITISH INSTITUTE OF RADIOLOGY, 32, Welbeck Street, London, W.—November 16, 5 p.m., meeting of medical members.
- BRITISH POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL FEDERATION.—At London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Keppel Street, Gower Street, W.C., November 16, 5.30 p.m., "Adrenal Hormones and A.C.T.H.," by Professor F. G. Young, F.R.S.
- FACULTY OF RADIOLOGISTS.—November 16, joint meeting of the Therapy Section with the Section of Radiology, Royal Society of Medicine, in connexion with the Royal Cancer Hospital Centenary, 1851-1951. (1) At Royal Cancer Hospital, Fulham Road, London, S.W., 2.30 p.m., demonstrations arranged by Professor D. W. Smithers; (2) At Royal Society of Medicine, 1, Wimpole Street, London, W., 8.15 p.m., papers: "Cancer of the Breast and the Menopause," by Professor D. W. Smithers; "Cancer of the Middle Ear," by Dr. V. M. Dalley; "Preliminary Results in the Treatment of Patients with Advanced Carcinoma of the Bladder by 2 MeV Rotation Therapy," by Dr. J. E. Stapleton; "The Use of Radioactive Colloidal Gold in the Palliative Treatment of Patients with Pleural Effusions and Ascites Due to Malignant Disease," by Dr. R. J. Walton.
- INSTITUTE OF DERMATOLOGY, Lisle Street, Leicester Square, London, W.C.—November 16, 5.30 p.m., "Pigmentary Disturbances," clinical demonstration by Dr. I. Muende.
- POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL SCHOOL OF LONDON, Hammersmith Hospital, Ducane Road, W.—November 16, 11.15 a.m., Surgical Clinical-Pathological Conference; 2 p.m., "Stab Wounds of the Heart," by Mr. A. T. Andreasen.
- ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, W.C.—November 16, 5 p.m., "Oral Syphilis," Webb-Johnson Lecture by Professor R. V. Bradlaw.
- ROYAL MEDICAL SOCIETY, 7, Melbourn Place, Edinburgh.—November 16, 8 p.m., "Idiopathic Ulcerative Colitis," by Mr. J. D. Cormack.
- ROYAL SANITARY INSTITUTE.—At Darlington Town Hall, November 16, 10 a.m., "Brucellosis: A Disease of Man and Animals," by Dr. D. J. H. Payne.
- SOCIETY OF CHEMICAL INDUSTRY: FINE CHEMICALS GROUP.—At Middlesex Hospital Medical School, Mortimer Street, London, W., November 16, 7 p.m., "Blood Anticoagulants, with Special Reference to Dextran Sulphate," by Mr. C. R. Ricketts, Ph.D., and Dr. K. W. Walton.

## APPOINTMENTS

- AUSTIN, THOMAS A., C.M.G., L.R.C.P.&S.I., D.P.H., D.T.M.&H., Public Health Officer, Regional Office for Africa, World Health Organization.
- GILLET, JOS. A., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., Medical Officer of Health and Chief School Medical Officer, County Borough of Rotherham.
- HARDING, W. G., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., Deputy Medical Officer of Health, Metropolitan Borough of Wandsworth, and Assistant Divisional Medical Officer, Public Health Department, London County Council.

## BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS

## BIRTHS

- Divers.—On October 26, 1951, at the Redhill County Hospital, Surrey, to Betty (formerly Craig), wife of Dr. Lloyd Divers, a daughter.
- Drummond.—On October 1, 1951, to Margaret, wife of James W. Drummond, M.B., Ch.B., Hatfield, Salisbury, Southern Rhodesia, a son.
- Franklin.—On October 27, 1951, at the North Staffordshire Royal Infirmary, to Margaret (formerly McIlroy), wife of Dr. C. B. Franklin, a son.
- Prestit.—On October 18, 1951, to June (formerly Coops), wife of Dr. John Prestit, of West Ridge Lodge, Oxton, Cheshire, a son—Jonathan.
- Wolff.—On October 23, 1951, to Catherine Bernadette, wife of Dr. Frederick Wolff, a daughter.

## MARRIAGES

- Nash—Phillips.—On October 13, 1951, at Sidcup, Kent, Peter Howard Nash, M.D., of London, to Ada Elizabeth Phillips, of Adelaide, South Australia.
- Old—Say.—On October 10, 1951, at Combe Down, Bath, Dr. Rowton Old to Pamela Say.

## DEATHS

- Bidie.—On October 30, 1951, at Edinburgh, George Bidie, M.D., F.R.C.S.Ed., Lieutenant-Colonel, I.M.S., retired.
- Hadfield.—On October 27, 1951, at "Overhays," Marazion, Cornwall, Rowland Hurst Hadfield, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., aged 71.
- Low.—On September 2, 1951, at his home, 50, Merton Road, Harrow, Middlesex, Peter Lowe, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., formerly of Hereford, aged 77.
- MacKenna.—On November 1, 1951, at Mellish Hotel, Mellish Road, Walsall, Staffs, David Lockhart MacKenna, M.B., Ch.B.
- Moore.—On October 28, 1951, at 24, Minster Yard, Lincoln, Jane Kerry McElroy Moore, J.P., M.B., Ch.B.
- Prentice.—On October 29, 1951, at 63, Cambridge Road, Southport, Alexander Prentice, M.B., C.M.
- Robson.—On November 2, 1951, at King Edward VII Hospital, Windsor, William Gordon Robson, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.P., of Green Alley, Farnham Common, Bucks.
- Scott.—On October 30, 1951, at Boincy, Blandford, Dorset, Leonard Bodley Scott, M.D., D.P.H., Lieutenant Colonel, I.M.S., retired.
- Steen.—On October 29, 1951, at "Dunboe," Shepperton-on-Thames, Middlesex, Hugh Barkley Steen, M.D., M.Ch., Lieutenant-Colonel, I.M.S., retired.
- Thomas.—On October 30, 1951, at 49, Victoria Road North, Southsea, Hants, Arthur Richard Thomas, O.B.E., F.R.C.S.Ed., Surgeon Rear-Admiral, R.N., retired, aged 75.

## Any Questions?

Correspondents should give their names and addresses (not for publication) and include all relevant details in their questions, which should be typed. We publish here a selection of those questions and answers which seem to be of general interest.

## Early Ambulation

**Q.**—How early should patients be got on their feet after abdominal operations such as appendectomy or cholecystectomy? What is gained by early ambulation, and what are the risks? Do follow-up studies support the claims made for early ambulation?

**A.**—It is the current practice of most abdominal surgeons to get their patients out of bed fairly soon after operation. Not unnaturally, there are considerable individual variations in this practice, but there is a general tendency to get patients up and about within two to four days of an abdominal operation. Some have suggested that it is important to have the patient walking within 24 hours, but most surgeons prefer a more considerate regime.

There is no doubt at all that most patients benefit greatly both in their morale and in their sense of physical well-being. Other advantages are: first, that urinals and bedpans are used to the very minimum, to the mutual advantage of nurses and patients; secondly, that there is a diminished incidence of post-operative pulmonary collapse (although it is stressed that early ambulation is merely one aspect of the modern "shake-up" regime); and, thirdly, there is probably a lower incidence of venous thrombosis. There seem to be no real risks associated with the intelligent practice of early ambulation. Anxiety about integrity of the suture line has proved unfounded. Some believe that wounds heal better, and there is experimental support for this view; at all events there is certainly neither a higher incidence of wound disruption nor a greater number of recurrences following hernia operations. Early rising should not, however, be used as a pretext for too early discharge from hospital care.

Follow-up studies do support the reasonable claims for early ambulation; they do not support extravagant claims that, for example, post-operative venous thrombosis is reduced tenfold in its incidence.

All these points are fully discussed with a good bibliography in the *British Medical Journal* (1948, 2, 1026), and the questioner is referred to this leading article for a compact summary of the recent literature on this subject.

## Excision of Patella after Fracture

**Q.**—What are the indications for excising the patella after fracture? What is the prognosis? What exercises are suggested for rehabilitation after the operation?

**A.**—Excision of the patella is advisable for comminuted fractures with displacement at all ages, and for transverse fractures with displacement in patients over the age of 45 years. The prognosis is good provided the operation is performed skilfully and is followed by an adequate period of intensive physiotherapy. The only common residual disability in such cases is slight impairment of power of extension of the knee, noticed when climbing stairs or ladders, and perhaps slight limitation of the range of flexion.

Exercises should be begun one week after operation. At first they should consist simply of active quadriceps contractions. After about three weeks, when the tendon repair is becoming sound, straight-leg-raising exercises and more intensive static quadriceps contractions are practised. As strength improves, resistance exercises are added. The object should be to secure a powerful quadriceps muscle, able to sustain the knee in full extension when raised from the bed, before flexion exercises are begun. In a favour-