

following. Books were their only guide. Andrews read, I think it was, Treves's *Manual of Surgery* the night before an operation, and my father gave the anaesthetic. If the stories now told me of their arrangements for studying anatomy are correct it is a wonder they lasted as long as they did even in an Indian State as opposed to British India and even in 1896.

Andrews qualified in America. He had laid the foundation for the Catherine Booth Hospital in Nagercoil, moved to Anand, and started another great hospital, and finally repeated this in Moradabad. Fourteen years after his death I had the honour to follow him to Moradabad. Such was his ability and vivid personality that no man, European or Indian, who had known him could forbear to talk of him with affection and devotion. Now those yearly helped by institutions he founded must be numbered by the hundred thousand.—I am, etc.,

Llewellyn Hospital,  
Kitwe, Northern Rhodesia.

E. E. BARNETT.

### Over-attractive Capsules

SIR,—A representative from a pharmaceutical firm has just been to see me and left me several samples. Most of these are most attractive to look at, particularly those capsules containing multicoloured granules. Is it any wonder that children make a bee-line for them? Many patients, particularly insomniacs, keep one or two capsules on their bedside tables within easy reach of childish hands. Should not these preparations be made less like sweets and bitter to the taste, so that children will not be tempted either by their appearance or palatability?—I am, etc.,

Guildford, Surrey.

DICK GLOVER.

### Zip Fasteners on Trousers

SIR,—Correspondents on this subject don't seem to realize that by cutting the lower part of the zip with pliers or wire-cutters the two halves can be separated with ease. A local anaesthetic, however, may still be necessary to remove the parts embedded in the prepuce.—I am, etc.,

Epsom.

O. G. WILDE.

\* \* A number of other correspondents have written to make the same or a similar suggestion.—ED., *B.M.J.*

### Society for Cytologists

SIR,—The First International Congress on Cytology, sponsored by the International Academy of Gynaecological Cytology, will take place in Vienna from August 31 to September 2, 1961.

While exfoliative cytology has been fully recognized as a branch of medicine in Europe and America, there are only a few isolated centres in Great Britain where cytology (endocrine or cancer) is practised. We believe that the creation of a Society may be of value to practising cytologists as well as to those studying the subject. Would those interested please communicate with the undersigned.—We are, etc.,

Chelsea Hospital for Women,  
Dovehouse Street,  
London S.W.3.

MOIRA MURRAY.  
FREDÁ OSMOND-CLARKE.

Postgraduate Medical School,  
Ducane Road,  
London W.12.

ERICA WACHTEL.

Royal Free Hospital,  
Gray's Inn Road,  
London W.C.2.

MARY EGERTON.

## Obituary

J. PRESTON MAXWELL, M.D., F.R.C.S., F.R.C.O.G.

Professor J. Preston Maxwell, emeritus professor of gynaecology and obstetrics in the Peking Union Medical College, died suddenly in his car near his home at Brinkley, Cambridgeshire, on July 25. He was 89 years of age.

John Preston Maxwell was born in Birmingham on December 5, 1871, the son of Dr. James L. Maxwell. Educated at University College School and University College, he went on to St. Bartholomew's Hospital for his clinical training. He had a distinguished career there, qualifying in 1896, taking the F.R.C.S. in 1897, and graduating M.B. (with scholarship and gold medal in obstetric medicine), B.S. (with first-class honours and gold medal) in 1898. After holding resident posts at St. Bartholomew's Hospital he went out to Fukien, South China, as a medical missionary for the English Presbyterian Church. An outstanding clinician, he was an obvious choice for the post of director of the department of obstetrics and gynaecology at the Union Medical College, Peking—a teaching school supported by the Rockefeller Foundation. There he became a leading figure in the medical life of China. He was president of the Chinese Society of Obstetrics and Gynaecology; and for his services to the Republic of China he was decorated with the Chinese Republic Army and Navy Medal. He was elected to the Fellowship of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists in 1929. His published work included papers on osteomalacia, filariasis, intestinal parasitism, and food deficiencies.

Professor Maxwell returned to England about twenty-three years ago and settled at Brinkley, near Newmarket, where he was elected to the staff of the Newmarket General Hospital as consultant obstetrician and gynaecologist. For some time before the second world war he was secretary of the medical subcommittee of the Lord Mayor's Fund for the Relief of Distress in China.

Professor GORDON KING writes from Perth, W. Australia: The news of the death of Professor J. Preston Maxwell will bring a sense of deep personal loss to his many friends in almost every part of the world. My own friendship with him began in 1927, when he invited me to join the staff of his department of obstetrics and gynaecology in the Peking Union Medical College, which had recently been reorganized by the Rockefeller Foundation. In Peking, Preston Maxwell exerted a lasting influence not only upon his colleagues but on the lives of innumerable Chinese students who were destined to form the nucleus of the medical teaching profession of their own land. He was a most gifted teacher, a superb operator, and a man beloved by patients and staff alike. His own important researches into osteomalacia formed a major contribution to that subject, and he also had the capacity of stimulating younger men and women to undertake original work, the results of which may be seen to-day in many medical schools not only in China but in many other parts of the world.

No appreciation of Preston Maxwell would be complete which failed to mention the very sincere faith in God which actuated the whole of his life and activities. His numberless acts of kindness and thoughtfulness were carried out unobtrusively and often anonymously. The hospitality of the Maxwell household had an old-world charm, as many visitors to his home in Peking or to his beautiful summer cottage at Peitaiho, will recollect. Even after he retired from China, over twenty years ago, he still maintained a very full life, and his friends of all nationalities, whether American or British or Chinese, all regarded a visit to his country home in Brinkley as an absolute "must" when they were in England. His wife, who predeceased him, was a most charming character, and a true helpmeet in every