The Welsh grammarians were many, and although some of them seem to have been Catholics, their work culminated in Wales, as in England, in translations of the Scriptures, which became not only theological canons, but cannot also of literary style and diction. Several of these Welsh grammarians were physicians who sought relaxation from the cares of practice in the study of what one of them characteristically enough termed "the anatomy of language."

Sir Thomas ap Williams, curate and country physician, who was one of the many medical advisors of Sir John Wynn of Gwydir, compiled a Welsh-Latin dictionary. Henry Salesbury of Dolbelider, in Denbighshire, published a Latin grammar of the Welsh language in 1583. Salesbury was a graduate of Oxford and a physician of some eminence in North Wales. He also compiled a Latin-Welsh dictionary, but it was never published.

The most picturesque, the most typical, and the most learned of the Welsh grammarians of the Renaissance was, however, another physician—Doctor Rhys. John Dafydd Rhys was born in Anglesey. He was educated at Oxford, but did not graduate at that university. In 1555 he went abroad—perhaps as a recusant, for Wood stated that he lived and died a Catholic. However, that may have been, his wanderings brought him to at least Italy, the home of learning in the Renaissance, where he studied medicine at the ancient university of Siena. In Tuscany, he is said as doctor of physic and then became moderator of the school at Pistoia. While in Italy he acquired a profound knowledge of Italian, and wrote two grammatical treatises in that language which were published at Padua, an introduction to the study of Latin; the other was a guide to the pronunciation of Italian, which became a favourite text for Englishmen visiting Italy.

After many years, however, the exile felt again the call of his native hills. He left Italy, that land of light and warmth, and returned to Wales, where he practised as a physician amid the sombre environment of the Brecknock Beacons. He died in Brecknockshire in 1609.

During this last period of his life he wrote a scholarly Latin treatise on Welsh grammar and prosody, and it is by this work of massive learning that he is best remembered by his contemporaries. He also published a Welsh translation of Aristotle's Metaphysics, but the manuscript of that work has been lost.

His eminence in two lands as a grammarian has overshadowed John Dafydd Rhys as a physician, but he described himself in the preface to his Welsh grammar as "a man of harassed years in the care of the sick and the worries of business."

In the introduction to the same work, too, Humphrey Prichard referred to him as having gained the title of doctor for his eminent studies in medicine.

The annals of the Renaissance in Wales would be the poorer if time had not preserved for us, at least in silhouette, the likeness of this insatiable old scholar. He was just such a personality as Browning has portrayed so vividly in The Grammarian's Funeral. Hakluyt described his contemporaries as "men full of activity, stirring authors and searchers of the most remote parts of the earth." John Dafydd Rhys was just such a one, but adventuring for learning as others of his time and generation adventured for spices and gold moidores.

LITERATURE.
The MSS. of the Wynn Papers at the National Library of Wales.
Record: The Sixt of Physick.
Lloyd: The Treasir of Heith.
Rhys: The Treasir of Physick.
Lewis: The Welsh Leech Book.
Williams: Euestor Welchmen.
Phillips: History of Clymmen.
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Phillips: History of Clymmen.
The Dictionary of National Biography.

LOCAL ASPHYXIA IN A YOUNG CHILD.
Such a case as the following seems to be sufficiently rare to merit recording.
A girl, aged 2, was wheeled several miles in a push-chair on a chilly evening. When she was taken out on reaching home it was found that she was unable to stand, and that her feet were blue, swollen, and painful. On the next morning (Thursday) the left foot was still affected, but the right foot had recovered. In the evening both feet were normal, and the child was able to walk.
about as usual. On Friday morning the left was healthy and the right was affected; in the evening both were normal. On the mornings of the following Saturday, Sunday, and Monday both feet were affected; each evening they became normal again. After Monday there was no recurrence.

I was called to see the child on Saturday morning, when I found both feet deformed; especially the plantar surfaces, swollen, and extremely painful, so that she screamed with apprehension if any attempt was made to handle them. I was informed that during the afternoon the lower part of both legs had become blue and swollen, but that after this the trouble was confined to the feet and ankles.

Two bows were filled, one with hot and the other with cold water. For ten minutes I plunged the feet first into one, then into the other and the condition markedly improved. The cyanosis quickly disappeared, giving place to an appearance of hyperemia. The mother continued this treatment every two hours, and there was no further recurrence.

On the Monday morning I exposed the legs and feet to irradiation by a mercury vapour lamp, but only five exposures were tried, the child being told that her mother would not bring her again. This was four months ago, and there has been no recurrence.

The abrupt onset and paroxysmal nature of the attacks leaves little doubt as to the diagnosis. With regard to the treatment I am under no illusion, although it may have helped matters. There appeared to be no blood in the urine, but this was not examined microscopically.

Gray, Envoy.
F. P. WHEELER, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

SELF-REDUCED DISLOCATION OF THE FIBULA.

The following accident may be worth recording, because of its rare nature.

A boy, aged 18½ years, was playing (forward) in a rugger match between two sides. In a tackle, a foot from one side appeared to fall at right angles to the other side of the leg below the knee-joint. It was, without doubt, the head of the fibula, dislocated forwards and outwards from behind the head of the tibia. I tried to reduce it then and there, and so did two other doctors who were present; but though our efforts gave him no pain, even the hardest pressure, together with alternate flexion and extension of the knee-joint, was entirely unsuccessful, and subsequent efforts in bed also failed.

Later in the evening he got out of bed and put his foot to the ground, with slight pressure, heard a click with slight pain, and found that the lump had vanished, and that his leg felt perfectly normal. X-ray pictures were taken before and after (unfortunately the exposures were very poor), and quite clearly the difference in angle made by the heads of the tibia and fibula on the two sides.

Presumably the head of the fibula was forced through a narrow rent in the strong ligament binding it to the tibia, which became tight and rigid behind it, and any effort to reduce the head failed, and was bound to fail, unless the exact place of tearing was relaxed sufficiently to let the head slip back.

There was no fracture of the fibula, no involvement of the knee-joint, and no subsequent swelling of the surrounding tissues, and the patient was able to walk normally as soon as the self-accomplished reduction was effected.

L. R. LEMPIERRE,
Medical Officer, Ballybunion College.

British Medical Association.

CLINICAL AND SCIENTIFIC PROCEEDINGS.

STAFFORDSHIRE BRANCH.

General Paralysis of the Insane.

A MEETING of the Staffordshire Branch was held at the North Staffordshire Royal Infirmary on December 6th, with Dr. B. H. Symonds, the president, in the chair.

Dr. W. F. MENGES, who opened the proceedings with some notes on general paralysis of the insane, stated that he would emphasize points which were not generally stressed in textbooks and current literature on the subject, and that his remarks would apply particularly to his experience in North Staffordshire. He discussed the place of lead as an aetiological feature in the causation of dementia lytica, and concluded that, while this metal had probably some causative significance, the manner of its action was entirely unknown. He next touched upon the thorny question relating to the possibility of there being two strains of Spirocheta pallida, in the event of there being only one strain, the possibility of that one undergoing two stages was discussed. In this connexion the speaker mentioned the efficacy of the metals in the treatment of interstitial syphilis, in contradistinction to their comparative uselessness in parenchymatous syphilis. He pointed out that the possiblity was reversed in the case of malaria, this form of treatment being extremely useful in parenchymatous syphilis, but of no value in interstitial syphilis. Passing to the symptomatology of the disease, Dr. Menges mentioned the almost constant presence of euphoria and the extreme diagnostic significance of this symptom. With regard to treatment, he emphasized the great reliability of double miosis as a sign, and the corresponding unreliability of a bilateral dilatation of the pupils. Referring to malaria therapy in dementia paralytica, Dr. Menges pointed out that the foundation of this form of treatment lay in the observation, made a long time ago, that an acute disease occurring in a general paralytic usually improved the condition to a very marked degree. Much work on this subject had been done in Vienna, and malaria had been selected as being the most suitable acute infection to produce in a paralytic, for the reason that it was easily controlled by the exhibition of quinine; and it was interesting to note that induced malaria was more amenable to quinine than was natural malaria. The rationale of the treatment was unknown. Dr. Menges stated that while, originally, twelve rigors had been allowed to occur before the disease was cut down, he now considered the patient as one to allow only one rigor with three days or so of fever. It appeared that this method retained all the good points of malaria therapy, but eliminated all the dangers inherent in allowing the patient to have a more or less prolonged series of rigors. The induced malaria having been cut short by quinine, trypanosoma was administered, and if necessary, was followed by a further induction of malaria.

The Sequels of Gastro-enterotomy.

Mr. F. N. S. COKKSON read notes upon an inquiry into the after-history of gastro-enterotomy, and referred to the results which he had obtained from the operation in twenty-four cases operated upon him between 1920 and 1924. The cases were divided into the following groups:

- Chronic gastric ulcer
- Chronic pyloric ulcer with obstruction
- Chronic duodenal ulcer with obstruction
- Perforated ulcer (gastric and duodenal)
- Malignant disease

The results were extremely good in the majority of instances, being least favourable in the cases of perforated ulcer. The speaker explained his operative technique, and mentioned unusual anatomical relations which might be met with in the course of the operation. In the three instances of malignant disease the operation was undertaken for the relief of pain and vomiting, and in these cases the growth was not removable.

Routine Radiography.

Dr. Bromley read a paper on some questions and experiences in routine X-ray work. Dr. Bromley explained that interpretation of X-ray photographs was really an interpretation of relative densities, and that it was only by realizing this that X-ray photographs could be construed to the best advantage. He emphasized the great importance of routine in technique, and stated his belief that attention paid to routine would result in the best careful consideration and in the light of accumulated experience. The speaker showed on the screen a large number of X-ray photographs. In those showing bones and joints he indicated the necessity of eliminating the possibility of unusual bony formations before arriving at the place of fracture. In cases of this kind he allowed instances of the two small ossicles occasionally present, one near the base of the fifth metatarsal bone, and the other in the neighborhood of the joint between the tarsal scaphoid.
System of Gynaecology, and on "vaginal operations" to Cheyne and Barbour's Operative Surgery. This book entitled Outlines of the Diseases of Women, reached its fourth edition in 1906. Among his contributions to medical journals may be mentioned papers on the management of the pregnant, parturient, and lying-in woman suffering from cardiac disease; on rupture of the vagina during labour; on hysterical toxemias complicating pregnancy and labour; and on the therapeutic influence of X rays on female pelvic disorders. For some years he acted as joint editor of the King's College Hospital Reports.

As an obstetrician he was noted for thoroughness and remarkable dexterity, and the qualities, combined with dignity and charm of presence, brought him a large private practice. His method of handling a case from beginning to end was an object lesson to the young accoucheur. In the gynaecological theatre his technique was marked by thoroughness and neatness and unhesitating precision at every stage of the operation.

Sir John Phillps married in 1890, and leaves a son and three daughters; his first wife died in 1917. He married again in 1926. His later years were clouded by progressive failure of sight, leading to almost total blindness.

THE LATE DR. MICHAEL DAVITT.

We have received from Dr. John Mills, honorary secretary of the Connaught Branch, the following appreciation.

The tragically sudden death of Dr. Michael Davitt has evoked the widest sympathy of his professional brethren and the general public, not alone in Galway, but throughout Ireland. As a student he had carried a career of distinction, rarely equalled in the annals of the National University of Ireland, of which he was a graduate, and he achieved a unique place in the affection and regard of his fellow students, being with them in the social and athletic life to the fullest extent. The son of one of the ablest and most disinterested men who has contributed in a very large degree to the making of recent history in Ireland Davitt was very thorough in anything he undertook, and especially made his mark in the devoted work he gave to the organization of the Central Hospital in Galway and its remodelling into a modern hospital from the form of a workhouse, an undertaking begun some few years ago, and entailing a vast amount of thought and care.

For the accomplishment of this work Davitt was appointed physician to the Central Hospital, and fulfilled his task so fully and completely that the hospital which now replaces the old Union Hospital is a modern structure which can very favourably compare with similar ones in much larger areas. He was unremitting in the discharge of his duties, seeking only and always the good of his patients, by whom he was greatly esteemed. His professional colleagues regret a courteous, kind gentleman, who was always helpful and cordial in spirit, bringing pleasure in associating with a professional colleague. With such a character, alert intellect and keen interest in the profession he was frequently engaged in consultation.

Universities and Colleges.

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD.

At a congregation held on December 17th the following medical degrees were conferred:


UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.

The following candidates have been approved at the examination indicated:

Dr. D. J. Law.

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD.

At a congregation held on December 17th the following medical degrees were conferred:


Honours: Distinguished in Surgery.  *
Distinguished in Pathology.
ACTION AGAINST MATERNITY HOME TRUSTEES AND COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT.

The hearing of an action before Mr Justice Avery and a special jury in the King's Bench Division, in which one of the three defendants was the hospital, was brought to an end by his learned Britannic Majesty's Lord Justiceing by his majesty's claimant damages for personal injuries received through the alleged negligence of the defendants as trustees of the Crayford Maternity and Nursing Home, the management of the committee of the home and the medical officers. The case of the plaintiff came to an end, after proceedings extending over several days, on December 10th, when the members of the jury found themselves unable to agree, and were accordingly discharged without a verdict. The trial of the defendant's claim for damages was not proceeded with, and the husband claimed special damages by reason of the injuries to his wife and child. The defendants denied any breach of contract or negligence, or that the plaintiff suffered any damages as alleged.

It appeared that the infant was born in the home on November 28th, 1927. Three days later, following the usual practice in the establishment, he was taken from his mother at 9 p.m. and placed in a cot in a basement kitchen. The cot, it was stated, was not protected or enclosed, and the kitchen floor was about 3 feet below the level of the ground. At about 1.30 a.m. Nurse Campbell, on night duty, heard the infant cry, and on going to the cot saw that something was wrong. She discharged the window. It was found that the child's face had been bitten. Mrs. Ross, who had been awakened at 5 a.m. and taken down to the kitchen, having been told that her baby had met with an accident caused by a cat. She found that the baby was bleeding from the right eye and left ear and had a great shock that her sleep was broken. She and her husband complained that the authorities at the home were negligent in not having the cot enclosed, and that the injuries to the infant were inflicted by rats. In cross-examination, Mrs. Ross agreed that, for the accident, she had no fault to find with the way in which the home was conducted. She stated that when her doctor told her he told her she had a severe shock to her nerves, but she did not know incurred had left the home. She was under treatment for two months, and had to have a daily help and a housekeeper.

Dr. W. A. Rogerson, Roxley Heath, said that he was honorary medical superintendent of the home at the time of the occurrence. He had attended his own cases there for four or five years, and had sent his wife there for convalescence. The home was in every way a fit and proper place for nursing; it had a most efficient matron and staff. He had never seen a rat in the home. Answering Mr. Melville, for the plaintiff, Dr. Rogerson said that he had no recollection of having read a letter sent to the home from the clerk of the local urban council complaining that a report of the occurrence had not been sent to the council. Miss C. E. M. Campbell, giving evidence, stated that she had been night nurse at the last four cases. She described the occurrence of the accident, after which she stated that she had at once picked up the baby and ran with him to the matron, who was in bed. The infant was washed and dressed, but the deformity was not permanent unless something was done. The effect of the accident and the sight of the child on the mother was what it was. There was no rash or inflammation of the hand, it was not permanent. Mr. Ross, giving evidence, stated that, when nursing with his wife, she had twice fainted when rats ran across the road. The home average during 1923 and 1924 rats were often seen running along the banks of the River Cray, by the home, and across the lawns, and a rat catcher said that new rats emerged and ran across the lawn.

On December 10th the matron of the home, Miss Mina Walker, gave evidence to the effect that she had never seen or heard about any rats in the house before that occurrence. She afterwards described the events which followed the accident, saying that there was no indication while the mother was in the home that the baby was suffering from shock. Dr. H. W. Barber said that he examined the infant plaintiff on April 11th, 1927, when he was brought by his parents to the witness's consulting room. There was a tear on the bridge of the nose and one from the inner corner of the right eye; also a mark beneath the eye, two punctate scars on the forehead. The chief ones were on the area of skin below the right eye. The healing of the tears appeared to be quite sound, and there was no pulling down, and it was not thought that his lordship would be troubled with that point. Counsel addressed the jury, and his Lordship summed up. The jury, after hearing about 30 hours, intimated that they were unable to agree, and, as already stated, were discharged.

Medical News

The Royal College of Physicians of London will be closed from Saturday, December 22nd, till Saturday, December 29th, both days inclusive.

The Christmas lectures at the Royal Institution this year will be on "Sound Waves and their Uses," by Mr. Alexander Graham Bell, to a lecturer in physics in the United States. It will be given at the Institution of Electrical Engineers, Victoria Embankment. The general courses of lectures to be given before Easter at the house of the Institution (21. Grenville Street), lectures include "The Problem of Species," by Professor Julian Huxley; and three lectures by Sir William Bragg on "The Early History of X-rays." The final meeting will be by Sir Robert Robertson on "The Infra-red Spectra," and on March 22nd by Sir Ernest Rutherford on "Diffuse Radiations.""}

SESSIONAL meetings of the Royal Sanitary Institution will be held at 90, Buckingham Palace Road, S.W.1, on Tuesday, January 8th, 1929, at 5.30 p.m., and on Friday, February 1st, at 5 p.m. Professor Bosworth Hill will open a discussion on cleanliness as the basis of health at the first meeting, and at the second there will be a consideration on the civilian population and chemical warfare, introduced by Dr. F. R. Humphreys.

The nineteenth annual exhibition of the Physical and Optical Societies will be held from January 8th to 10th, 1929, at the Imperial College of Science, South Kensington. The exhibition will be open in the afternoon from 3 to 6 p.m., and in the evening from 7 to 10 p.m. Lectures will be given at each evening. The chairman will be Lord Hopwood will describe experiments with high-frequency sound waves; on January 9th Mr. Conrad Beck will deal with lenses; and on January 10th the Colour Problems in Photo-engraving. Tickets, which are required for the first two days, may be obtained from the secretary of the Physical and Optical Societies, 1, Llewellyn Gardens, S.W.7.

At the annual meeting of the Metropolitan Hospital Sunday Fund at the Mansion House, London, on December 17th, it was reported that the amount collected last year was £85,414, showing a decrease on the previous year of £1,550. Collectors in the churches amounted to £35,089, this being the smallest total since 1914. The distribution committee reported that 227 institutions, 4 more than in 1927, had applied to receive payment in the Fund, and recommended the distribution of £81,310.

The fifty-first annual meeting and dinner of the Old Epsomian Club was held at the Trocadero Restaurant on December 13th, and attracted a "record" attendance. The new president, Dr. G. Pretty of Kettering, was in the chair, and proposed the toast of "Floreat Epsom," commenting on the value of the influence of the masters at Epsom College on the character of the boys in the earlier part of the history of the school. In responding, the headmaster, Mr. A. C. Powell, mentioned the great services rendered to the club by the late president, Sir Cecil Hildyard. He referred to the conduct of the club by the club in the last few years, and related the more salient scholastic and athletic successes achieved by the school in the previous months. Mr. A. C. Parkinson proposed the health of "The Old Epsomians" in an entertaining speech, and, in reply to it, Dr. J. W. Carr told various witty stories. Mr. G. E. Waugh, in a highly amusing speech, waxed reminiscent over the earlier connexion of Dr. H. T. Pretty with the school, and proposed the toast of his health. The president suitably responded.
A three months’ course of lectures and demonstrations on clinical practice and on hospital administration for the diploma in public health will be given at the North-Eastern Hospital, St. Ann’s Road, Tottenham, N.15, by Dr. F. H. Thomson, medical superintendent, on Mondays and Wednesdays, at 9.45 p.m., and alternate Saturdays at 11 a.m., commencing on Monday, Jan. 12th. The fee for the course, which complies with the requirements of the revised regulations of the General Medical Council, is £4 4s. A copy of the old regulations may be taken for £3 5s. The fees should be sent to the Clerk of the Metropolitan Asylums Board, Victoria Embankment, E.C.4.

LETTERS, NOTES, AND ANSWERS.

All communications in regard to editorial business should be addressed to the EDITOR, British Medical Journal, British Medical Association House, Tavistock Square, W.C.I.

ORIGINAL ARTICLES and LETTERS forwarded for publication are understood to be offered to the British Medical Journal alone unless the contrary be stated. Correspondents who wish notice to be taken of their communications should authenticate them with their name and not necessarily for publication.

Authors desiring REPRINTS of their articles published in the British Medical Journal must communicate with the Financial Secretary and Business Manager, British Medical Association House, Tavistock Square, W.C.1., on receipt of proofs.

All communications with reference to ADVERTISEMENTS, as well as orders for copies of the Journal, should be addressed to the Financial Secretary and Business Manager.

The TELEPHONE NUMBERS of the British Medical Association and the British Medical Journal are MUSEUM 9861, 9862, 9863, and 9862 (internal exchange, Fourth Floor).

The TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESSES are: EDITOR of the British Medical Journal, Athison Westminster, London.


The address of the Irish Office of the British Medical Association is 18, South Frederick Street, Dublin (telegrams: Baritius, Dublin; telephone: 62520), Dublin, and of the Scottish Office, 7, Drumsheugh Gardens, Edinburgh (telegrams: Associate, Edinburgh; telephone 24361 Edinburgh).

QUERIES AND ANSWERS.

INCOME TAX.

Repayment of Costs.

"J. K." has been informed by the inspector of taxes that the allowance is "either the cost of the new car less the amount received for the old car, or the cost of the old car less the amount received for the new car, whichever is the less." Is this correct?

"Yes. There are, in effect, two different limits to the amount of the allowance; the first is that a taxpayer cannot claim to deduct more than the out-of-pocket cost—the former of the above alternatives—and the second limit is that the amount must extend to the provision of a better car, and must not include capital outlay. We may perhaps add that the second alternative would not necessarily apply if the cost of cars generally were rising."

Payment under Supercarriage Scheme.

"F. J. B." holds an appointment and pays £100 a year under a supercarriage scheme. What is the payable service once? Can he claim deductions in respect of subscriptions to medical societies?

"The question is dealt with in Section 33 (3) of the Income Tax Act, 1918, as amended by Section 26 of the Finance Act of 1920. The result of a somewhat complicated provision is to give payments made in connexion with such a supercarriage scheme an allowance equivalent to that given formerly for payments made to life assurance companies under policies to secure deferred annuities. Possibly the regulation which "F. J. B." has in mind is that relating to compulsory deductions by Act of Parliament. The appropriate allowance, therefore, is £100 x 2s. 6d. and F. J. B.'s "total income does not exceed £1,000, and in the £ if it exceeds £1,000, but not £1,500. The subscriptions can be deducted if incorporated of the membership of the society in question is a condition of the employment."

Allowance for Children during Education.

"W. M." has two sons undergoing medical and dental training as hospital assistants. The inspector of taxes demurs to the usual rebate, on the ground that they are receiving vocational, as distinct from educational, training.

"We assume that the students in question have not yet qualified—special post qualification training might raise different questions. On that assumption we are at a loss to understand the inspector's attitude in this case, as it seems at variance with general practice elsewhere. If he adheres to his view we suggest that "W. M." might place the facts before the Board of Inland Revenue, and communicate his consultation to their Secretary at Somerset House, W.C.2."

LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.

TREATMENT OF UTRINE SEPSIS.

Dr. Michael Keyes (Harrogate), in the course of a letter on the treatment of septic uterine conditions (puerperal and non-puerperal), writes: "I am by a slight modification of the Remington-Holt modification of the Remington technique, the removal of preparing the patient and using a bivalve speculum, I have been able to treat these cases single-handed. The patient lies across the bed, on a mackintosh, with her buttocks well over the edge and towards the light, and keeps her knees on her chest. The legs are covered from foot to groin with warmed towels, placed against a sheet, and finally placed at the vaginal orifice in such a way that the labia, when released, will keep it in position. Three bowels (if any) are required, and the uterus is soaked in antiseptic (but squeezed fairly dry), another containing the bivalve speculum and Hobbs' 'introducing' forceps in antisepctic lotion, and the third containing a syringe (with a catheter attached) filled with warmed glycerine. The third bowel stands in a basin containing very hot water, to ensure that the syringe and speculum shall remain warm. The operation, his hands, knocks down the vulval swab, introduces the speculum, and cleanses the cervix. He now lifts the syringe from the basin, presses it hard against the cervix, and means of "introducing" forceps raises the free end of the catheter and passes it to the external roof. The glycerine is expelled slowly to facilitate the passage of the canal to the cervix. The end of the canal and to cleanse the canal from below upwards; a little to-and-fro play on the catheter allows for the return flow. While the patient is being irrigated she is asked by name, and the temperature is taken, with her mouth wide open. If she is in severe pain before the treatment her knees should not be drawn up to her chest, but her feet placed on two chairs, which are separated. The operator then kneels between the chairs and needs a headlight. I use monosol for sterilising the vulva, etc., and for my own hands, swabs, and instruments."

INITIALS IN THE "MEDICAL REGISTER."

The General Medical Council recently had an application from a medical man whose second Christian name is "ibsun" to have this name spelt in the Register as the initial "H." Presumably he found a female name occasionally gave rise to confusion, although there have been many instances in history of distinguished persons who have been known as kings or queens or great ladies, bearing female Christian names. But it has never been the custom to allow initials to take the place of names in the Medical Register. There were a few such cases many years ago, and there is still on the Register one practitioner whose second name was 'ibsun', the spelling of which, on being written to by the Registrar, replied that "C." was his second name, so written on his birth certificate and on his diploma, and in these circumstances the objection was not to enter it as such on the Register. The applicant who wanted to diminish the name "Ibun" to its first letter, however, was informed that the Commissioner of the Register would not provide the initial to appear, but that on complying with the prescribed requirements the second name could be deleted.

AN APPOINTMENT BOOK.

We have received from Messrs. John Bale, Sons, and Danielsson, Ltd., 85, Great Titchfield Street, W.1., a copy of their Dental Surgeon's Daily Diary and Appointment Book for 1929, which enables appointments to be booked for each half-hour during the day: every page opening shows a column. The daily page also contains pages for cash entries and an almanac, etc. The price is 7s. 6d., or intercourse 5s. 6d.

MIRROR-WRITING.

Miss M. L. Spackman (Citheroe, Lancashire) writes: Your readers may be interested to hear, apropos the article published on December 1st, that mirror or looking-glass writing is practiced more commonly than is generally supposed. Occasionally the more hardy saram of schoolgirls learn it deliberately as a "secret society" method of communicating with each other; and I know a woman of 40 who learned it in this manner, and still uses it on postcards, even to friends who can read it only through a mirror.

CHRISTMAS NOTORING.

The Automobile Association road patrols will not be on duty in England, Wales, and Ireland on Christmas Day. During the rest of the holiday season A. A. patrols, road service outfits, and night service outfits will continue as usual.

VACANCIES.

NOTIFICATIONS of offices vacant in universities, medical colleges, and of vacant resident and other appointments at hospitals, will be found at pages 37, 38, 39, and 42 of our advertisement columns, and advertisements as to partnerships, assistantships, and locumtenancies at pages 40 and 41.

A short summary of vacant posts notified in the advertisement columns appears in the Supplement at page 376.