task possible within a few days. This work was believed to have averted a major catastrophe, and was later described as "one of the greatest achievements in medical military history." At the end of hostilities, Blumberg was presented with an illuminated address by the English, French, Italian, and Russian prisoners of war who were in Brandenburg camp and under his direct command.

On return to his civilian practice Blumberg gave up most of his general surgery for gynaecology, but continued to work in the x-ray and radium institute which he founded. His sympathetic, yet firm personality inspired immediate confidence in those who sought his advice. He spent much of his time during the twenties in organizing and superintending prenatal treatment centres in Berlin.

When the Nazi regime drove Blumberg from the country he had served so well in war and in peace, he joined his son, Dr. E. F. Blumberg, in England, and later on was able to resume medical work in London. Though over 70, he did much major surgery during the second world war and acquired a considerable practice. He faced the long-drawn-out suffering of his last illness with firmness and great dignity, and his fine sense of humour supported him until the very end.

Dr. J. P. QUINN, of Reedyford, Nelson, Lancashire, died in Reedyford Hospital on June 9 after a long illness. He was 66 years of age. Joseph Patrick Quinn was born in Dublin on November 23, 1888, the second son of Dr. J. P. Quinn of that city. He was educated at Blackrock College and at Trinity College, Dublin, where he graduated M.B., B.Ch. in 1914, taking the D.P.H. six years later. A notable Rugby player, he was capped fifteen times for Ireland, played for the Barbarians, and was a member of the British Expeditionary Force team which beat "The Rest" in 1919. Twice mentioned in dispatches during his service in the R.A.M.C. in the first world war, he was also awarded the Military Cross. In 1921 he went to Nelson as a general practitioner and remained there until his death. Dr. Quinn had a remarkable record of public service. He was a member of both the Lancashire and Burnley executive councils and of the Lancashire and Burnley local medical committees. He was also a member of the Burnley hospitals advisory committee, and a corps surgeon of the St. John Ambulance Brigade. In 1945 he was appointed a serving brother of the Venerable Order of St. John of Jerusalem. Dr. Quinn had a warm and generous nature, and throughout Lancashire his death will be deeply felt by very many friends who admired and respected him. It was indeed a delight to know him.—H. S.

Dr. JOHN SEXTON died at his home at Stourbridge, Worcestershire, on July 24, fifteen days after his 56th birthday. His long and tedious illness was patiently born, and he died as he had lived, an inspiration and an example to all. John Sexton was born on July 9, 1899, and was educated at University College, Dublin, graduating M.B., B.Ch. from the National University of Ireland in 1925. He had been in partnership in Stourbridge for nine years, and previously had practised at King's Lynn, Norfolk, for over twenty years. He was chairman of the West Norfolk Division of the British Medical Association in 1939-40. During his short stay in the Midlands he earned a reputation which few can hope to attain. A man without guile, he was respected and admired by his colleagues, and greatly loved by his patients. Well versed in all branches of medicine, he had a special flair for midwifery. It was an education and a delight to watch him at a case, and no confinement, however awkward, presented any terrors for him. In every way he was the complete general practitioner. He is survived by his widow and three children.—J. K.
Vital Statistics

OUTBREAK AT ROYAL FREE HOSPITAL

OBSCURE NATURE OF INFECTION

The following information has been received from the Royal Free Hospital:

During the past four weeks 83 of the nursing staff, 5 of the medical staff, 11 of the ancillary medical staff, 8 of the students, and 22 of the domestic staff of the Royal Free Hospital at Gray's Inn Road and Liverpool Road, London, have developed an infection. Initially, the cases were referred to as glandular fever, but, as the outbreak has progressed, so many unusual features have been observed that it is now difficult to use that, or any other, diagnostic label. Lymph nodes, liver, and spleen are involved, and a large majority of the cases show signs and symptoms of encephalomyelitis or polyneuritis. The disease has usually run a benign course.

The incubation period appears to be five to seven days. Although the majority of patients were young nurses, some were sisters, and some of these are over 40 years of age. The initial symptom has been vague malaise, followed within one to about seven days by mild sore throat; tender enlargement of the lymph glands, often confined to the posterior cervical region, but in some cases generalized; pain under both costal margins and in the neck, back, and limbs of varying severity. Headache without meningeal has been common, but the symptom which seems to be peculiar to this infection, especially in the early stages, is vertigo. This has often been transient, but in a few cases it has been persistent and severe, and has been accompanied by slight nerve deafness.

Symptoms and signs of encephalomyelitis have appeared in some cases within 48 hours of the onset, but in others these neurological complications have been delayed for as long as three weeks. Cranial nerve pareses, particularly ocular, have been common; mild paries of either pyramidal or lower motor neurone type has been observed, sometimes with painful muscle spasms. Paraesthesia, numbness, neuralgic pains, or anaesthesia have appeared either alone or in association with motor manifestations. Coma was not observed, but a state of drowsiness has been relatively common.

Tenderness of the lymph nodes has been accompanied in some cases by extreme tenderness in the region of the liver and over the spleen. Liver enlargement has been quite definite, but tenderness has made it difficult to determine the size of the spleen. Even when the infection has been severe, pyrexia has been slight or absent. In certain cases there has been a disproportionate tachycardia, sometimes persisting into convalescence.

Haematological investigations have revealed total white cell counts varying from 3,000 to 12,000 per c.mm., sometimes with a neutropenia and occasionally with an absolute lymphocytosis. Although typical glandular fever cells have not been observed, morphological changes have occurred in some lymphocytes, and the specificity of these is being studied. The Paul–Bunnell test has not been found to be positive in any case. The cerebrospinal fluid has been examined in a few cases, and in none was there a pleocytosis or an increase in the protein content. With the help of a number of virus workers outside the hospital extensive studies are being made to identify the aetiological agent.

On clinical grounds it seems doubtful if this is an outbreak of infectious mononucleosis, for, though the neurological complications encountered in the present outbreak have been described in reports of that disease, they were exceptional in other epidemics; yet in the present epidemic they are almost the rule. Furthermore, laboratory tests at the hospital have failed to support a diagnosis of infectious mononucleosis. On the other hand, it is known that in the “epidemic variant” of infectious mononucleosis haematological and serological changes typical of the
education and services.” For the past ten years the Royal College of Nursing in Scotland has organized post-registration courses for nurses, particularly those entering teaching, the University of Edinburgh providing the teachers, setting the examinations, and awarding the certificates. The course was recently reviewed by Miss G. B. Carter, while holding a Boots Research Fellowship in Nursing, and improvements were suggested. The present offer on the part of the Rockefeller Foundation follows a visit of their nursing adviser, Miss M. E. Tennant, to Edinburgh.

Sir Earle Page, Chancellor of New University.—Sir Earle Page, Federal Minister of Health of Australia and former surgeon, was installed as the first Chancellor of the University of New England at Armidale, New South Wales, on August 4. He had been chairman of the council of the New England University College, the predecessor of the new university, since its inception in 1938 as a branch of Sydney University, Armidale being 350 miles distant. Autonomy was granted early in 1954, and at present there are Faculties of Arts and Science. Faculties of Agriculture and Agricultural Economics are contemplated. A feature unique among Australian universities is that all students, unless married or living with their parents or legal guardians, must be residential.

R.S.I. Becomes Royal Society for the Promotion of Health.—The Royal Sanitary Institute announces that in the near future it will be known as the Royal Society for the Promotion of Health. The change in title, after approval by the Queen, patron of the Institute, was unanimously adopted at a recent Extraordinary General Meeting of members, under the chairmanship of Sir Arthur MacNalty. The official announcement states that the word “sanitary,” has now become a misnomer, the scope and work of the Institute comprising all aspects of health, not being confined to any particular branch of it. The Institute was founded in 1876 for the purpose of promoting the health of the people. Now there are over 12,500 members, branches in Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa, and 20 overseas examination boards. The first Fellows included Sir Edwin Chadwick, Sir Benjamin Ward Richardson, and Florence Nightingale. Current activities of the Society are modernization of the Museum of Health, and plans for some fresh features at next year’s congress.

Royal College of Physicians: Orator and Lecturers.—Professor J. Crighton Bramwell was appointed Harveian Orator and Dr. W. Phillips Bradshaw Lecturer for 1956 at the annual comitia on July 28. The following lecturers for 1956 were also appointed: Lumleian, Dr. F. Avery Jones; Goulstonian, Dr. J. R. Ellis; Oliver-Sharpey, Professor A. C. Frazer; Lloyd-Roberts, Sir Maurice Bowra; Bertram Louis Abrahams, Dr. I. de B. Daly, F.R.S.; Humphry Davy Rolleston, Professor F. T. G. Prunty. For 1957 the following lecturers were appointed: Croonian, Professor G. W. Pickering; FitzPatrick, Dr. C. F. T. East; Watson Smith, Dr. R. M. B. Mackenna.

Marc Daniels Memorial Lecture.—Mr. and Mrs. Daniels have given to the Royal College of Physicians and the Medical Research Council a donation to found a lecture in memory of their son, Dr. Marc Daniels, who died in March, 1953, aged 46. Dr. Daniels is remembered particularly for the important part he played in organizing the various Medical Research Council trials on the treatment and prevention of tuberculosis. The first lecture will be given by Sir Geoffrey Todd on January 12 next year.

Notes on Atomic Energy for Medical Officers.—Her Majesty's Stationery Office has published a 170-page illustrated Admiralty booklet entitled Notes on Atomic Energy for Medical Officers (price 6s. net). Prepared by the staff of the Royal Naval Medical School, Alverstone, the Notes aim to provide medical officers with the necessary basic facts for an understanding of the immediate and late consequences of atomic explosions and the hazards of radiation warfare generally. Starting with elementary physics and atomic structure, the book proceeds to describe the release of atomic energy and the properties of fission products. Then follow chapters on the effects of radiation on the body, monitoring and protection, and the treatment of radiation casualties.

Baly Medal.—Professor A. L. Hodgkin, F.R.S., research professor of the Royal College of Physicians, has been awarded the Royal College of Physicians' Baly Medal for 1955. The award is for his "services to physiology and his work on the conduction and excitation of nerve fibres and the biophysics of the cell membrane."

Aberdeen University.—Dr. H. W. Kosterlitz, lecturer in physiology, and Dr. T. N. Morgan, lecturer in materia medica, have been appointed readers.

Wellcome Foundation.—The Wellcome Trustees announce the appointment of Brigadier J. S. K. Boyd, F.R.S., as a Trustee, as from January 1, 1956, in succession to Professor T. R. Elliott, F.R.S., who is retiring in October. Brigadier Boyd is relinquishing the directorship of the Wellcome Laboratories of Tropical Medicine on December 31, and will be succeeded by Dr. R. S. F. Hennessey, lately Director of Medical Services, Uganda.

Methylpentynol has been added to Part I of the Poisons List and to the First Schedule to the Poisons Rules.

Dr. W. S. C. Copeman, chairman of the Empire Rheumatism Council, is going to Australia and New Zealand for a lecture tour. He will be away about four months.

COMING EVENTS

British Association for the Advancement of Science.—The 117th annual meeting will be held at Bristol from August 31 to September 7 under the presidency of Sir Robert Robinson, O.M., F.R.S.

Lectures for Medical Photographers.—Details of a series of 12 lectures for medical photographers at the Polytechnic, Regent Street, London, W.1, may be obtained from Miss J. Hunt, the Royal Marden Hospital, Fulham Road, London, S.W.3. The course begins on September 28, but application for admission should be made immediately. The fee is £1.

Minnesota Symposium on Arteriosclerosis.—An international symposium on arteriosclerosis, under the chairmanship of Dr. Ancel Keys, will be held at the University of Minnesota Medical School, Minneapolis, 14, Minnesota, from September 7 to 9.

NEW ISSUES

Abstracts of World Medicine.—The August issue (Vol. 18, No. 2), which is now available, contains abstracts of important papers drawn from medical and other scientific journals published in some 20 different countries and in all five continents. The subjects covered range over the whole field of clinical medicine, and include pathology, bacteriology, pharmacology, and chemotherapy; there are also sections dealing with medical genetics, public health and industrial medicine, forensic medicine and toxicology, anaesthesiology, radiology, and the history of medicine. Issued monthly; annual subscription £4 4s.; single copy 8s. 6d.; a specimen will be sent free on request to the Publishing Manager, B.M.A. House, Tavistock Square, London, W.C.1.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS

BIRTHS

Abramson.—On July 16, 1955, at Ayrshire Central Hospital, Irvine, to Mr. and Mrs. S. Abramson, 8, Tavistock Road, Prestwick—a son.

Morgan.—On July 15, 1955, at Tavistock Road, Keswick, Dame Morgan, M.B., wife of Mr. S. Morgan, 6, Whinfell Road, Keswick—a son.

Cameron.—On July 15, 1955, at Crosthwaite (formerly Craig), Keswick, to Dr. W. H. P. Minto, M.D., D.P.H., Croft House, Brampton, Cumberland—a daughter.

DEATHS

Cameron.—On July 18, 1955, at "Ardmore," Crowthwaite Road, Keswick, Cumberland, John Cameron, M.B., Ch.B., aged 47.


Dognait.—On July 16, 1955, at Walthamstow, to Mrs. M. Dognait, 47, 17, Oaklands House, Keighley, Yorkshire—a son.