

## PROPOSED MIDWIFERY SCHOOL IN WORKHOUSE WARDS.

The Wandsworth Board of Guardians, at their meeting on January 23rd, adopted a scheme embodying the establishment of a training school in midwifery for nurses at the lying-in wards at the workhouse. It is proposed, with the sanction of the Local Government Board, that eight senior probationers shall be allowed to enter on a fourth year of training, during six months of which they shall be taught midwifery, the remainder of the time being spent in the ordinary wards. They are to be paid £18 a year. No charge is to be made for the special training, but the probationers are to sign an undertaking to remain for the whole of the fourth year in the guardians' service. Dr. A. E. Dodson, the medical superintendent at St. James's Infirmary, is to undertake the teaching. The guardians, in agreeing to the proposal, decided to ask the Central Midwives Board to recognize the lying-in wards at the workhouse as a training school.

## Correspondence.

## THE POST-MORTEM EXAMINATION OF NAPOLEON.

SIR,—No one is more inclined to accept everything that Dr. Arnold Chaplin writes concerning the fatal illness of Napoleon as authoritative than myself; and yet his letter in your last issue, where he cites Surgeon Rutledge against our mutual friend, the pathologist Antommarchi, confirms me in my belief that the evidence produced in my Hunterian Lecture is convincing proof of the authenticity of the Napoleonic specimens which are now in the museum of the Royal College of Surgeons. The chief point which my opponents have to meet is: How was it possible for O'Meara to hand to Astley Cooper specimens which tally exactly with morbid appearances incidentally described by Antommarchi in his *post-mortem* report? They are specimens which could be obtained only from a case of chronic infection such as we have good reason for supposing Napoleon to have been the subject. Dr. Chaplin has overlooked that part of my evidence and addressed himself to the strictness of the watch over Napoleon's body. Surgeon Rutledge had a vigil by the corpse and the vessels containing the heart and stomach of over twenty-four hours; during that time Antommarchi stole Napoleon's mask, and, we may suppose, could, from his experience in Florence, have easily invented a manœuvre to obtain anything else he desired.

I know that Dr. Chaplin agrees with me in regarding Antommarchi's account of the *post-mortem* appearances as by far the most complete and reliable document we now have; without it we should know nothing of Napoleon's disease, except that there was cancer of the stomach. Surgeon Rutledge's statement that he cut the liver out is in contradiction to every other account available to me, and no one knows better than Dr. Chaplin that every attempt to discredit Antommarchi's statements would receive the most ready encouragement from the Lowe party, to whom he owes Rutledge's statement. Antommarchi's account of the condition of the liver must stand; the clinical symptoms of Napoleon's case leave not a shadow of doubt that at one period there was an inflammatory disturbance of the diaphragm and of the liver.

There is also another aspect of Napoleon's case to which Dr. Chaplin has not done justice—the evidence that Napoleon's illness was of the nature of a recurrent fever accompanied by enlargement of the lymphoid tissues, and the fact that the specimens in the museum of the College of Surgeons show an enlargement or hyperplasia of a part of this system.

As I corrected the proofs of the above part of this letter I received a communication from Sir Alexander Russell Simpson which throws a welcome light on the manner in which the watch was kept over Napoleon's remains. Many must have come across the tradition that the rats of Longwood attacked the heart, which was preserved in a separate vessel. My friend, Mr. Mackellar, first told me of this tradition; I have also come across it in newspapers, but have hitherto failed to trace the account to any reliable source. Sir Alexander Simpson has kindly

allowed me to make the following extract from his letter:

When my uncle, Sir James Simpson, came back from a professional visit in Berwickshire, where he had met Dr. Arnott, he was full of what Arnott had been telling him of his time in St. Helena. What specially impressed him was that Dr. Arnott had charge of the heart and other things that had been removed at the autopsy for the following night. Afraid that some of the Napoleonic retainers might come in and carry off the vessel in which they had been put at the time of the dissection, he emptied them into his wash-hand basin, covered them up with water, and lay down to sleep with loaded pistols under his pillow. He slept lightly. Hearing a splashing sound he jumped up, expecting to see Bertrand or some one at the preparations, and found that it was only rats trying to get at the flesh. "Fancy rats trying to make away with Napoleon's heart!" said Sir James, in repeating the story.

This account corroborates Antommarchi's statement that Arnott was the officer on watch. Probably he relieved Rutledge. In my lecture I stated that these two men kept alternate watch; the point I wish to emphasize is that Arnott was predisposed towards Antommarchi.

I should like to take this opportunity of thanking—not only Dr. Chaplin, but the other correspondents who have sent me valuable information—Mr. Cyril H. Howkins and Major F. S. Irvine. I wonder if any of your readers could help me in tracing those two parts of the mould of Napoleon's bust taken by Dr. Burton, who was a cousin of Graves, the famous physician of Dublin. The missing parts are: (1) The mould giving the impress of the back of the head and neck; (2) the front of the neck. They were, according to Graves, in the possession of Dr. Burton and may still be preserved by some of his descendants who have not realized their value. If they were recovered, an accurate cast of the head of the great Emperor could be obtained.—I am, etc.,

London, W.C., Jan. 27th.

A. KEITH.

## RESEARCH DEFENCE SOCIETY.

SIR,—It is said that the fifth year in the life of any society is the critical period of its fortunes. The Research Defence Society was founded on January 27th, 1908. To all who are interested—and who is not?—in medical research, we beg you to let us say that the Society has its hands full of work, and only wants more money to do more work. Much has already been done, by lectures and by distribution of literature, to bring home to people the truth about experiments on animals in this country, and the great value of them, not only to mankind, but also to the animal world. The expenses of our society are heavy, but the good results of our work are extended far and wide. We have lately opened a bureau and exhibition at 171, Piccadilly (opposite Burlington House). We are exhibiting pictures, portraits, charts, anaesthetics and inhalers, germs in pure culture, tsetse flies and mosquitos, and so forth. This little exhibition, every day and all day long, displays to "the man in the street" the facts of the case. We are the only society which is doing work of this kind; but, of course, it cannot be done without money. Our record for the last four years gives us the right to hope for a great increase of our membership, and of our funds, in the coming year.—We are, etc.,

DAVID GILL,

President.

F. M. SANDWICH,

Honorary Treasurer.

STEPHEN PAGET,

Honorary Secretary.

21, Ladbroke Square, W., Jan. 24th.

## ANTIVIVISECTION IN GLASGOW.

SIR,—Dr. Hadwen repeats the statement, "Not one word about alcohol drinking or vaccination escaped my lips *the whole evening*" (the italics are mine). He then professes to quote what he now says he did say upon these subjects, with the reservation that they were said during the discussion, and not during the lecture. Dr. Charles Bennett, one of the gentlemen whose names I quoted in my last letter, was not present at the discussion, but left before the end of the lecture. He remembers, as do the rest of us, that Dr. Hadwen spoke at length on these subjects. My object in writing was to show that many of Dr. Hadwen's statements to you were incorrect. Besides