

Dr. Mandsley had bequeathed £2,000 to the Medico-Psychological Association of Great Britain and Ireland. The disposal of the bequest will be considered by the Council at its next meeting. The annual meeting will be held in Edinburgh next month, when Colonel Keay, Medical Superintendent, Edinburgh District Asylum (Bangour Village), will succeed Lieut.-Colonel Thomson as President.

At the annual general meeting of the Society for Relief of Widows and Orphans of Medical Men on May 29th, when Sir A. Pearce Gould, president, was in the chair, it was reported that the invested funds amounted to £143,550 and the income from investments to £4,557 18s. 7d. Subscriptions and donations amounted to £317 2s., and the working expenses for the year were £267 10s. The sum of £4,292 10s. was distributed among the annuitants of the charity (48 widows and 7 orphans). Membership is open to any registered medical practitioner who at the time of his election is resident within twenty miles of Charing Cross. Relief is only granted to the widows and orphans of deceased members. At the present time the widow of a member who has an income of £100 per annum or under receives a grant of about £80 per annum, and each orphan up to the age of 16 receives £43 per annum. There are, however, two special funds which enable the directors to continue the grants to orphans after the age of 16. Further particulars of the society may be obtained on application to the secretary at the offices of the society, 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, W.1.

The following provision has now been made by the Ministry of Food for the supply of extra rations to expectant and nursing mothers: Expectant mothers may receive, on application in due form to the Local Food Office, an extra ration during the last three months of pregnancy. This may consist either of two meat coupons per week or of one butter coupon per week. In districts where a milk priority scheme has been found necessary they may also obtain a priority permit for one pint of milk daily during the same period. Nursing mothers will not themselves receive any additional ration, but are entitled to use the rations obtainable for the infant, namely, the ordinary child's weekly ration of meat, butter or margarine, and sugar, and in districts in which priority schemes are in force, a priority certificate for one and a half pints of milk daily. To obtain the child's meat and food cards, application must be made to the Local Food Office on a special form.

Letters, Notes, and Answers.

THE postal address of the BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION and BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL is 429, Strand, London, W.C.2. The telegraphic addresses are:

1. EDITOR of the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, *Aitiology, Westrand, London*; telephone, 2631, Gerrard.
2. FINANCIAL SECRETARY AND BUSINESS MANAGER (Advertisements, etc.), *Articulate, Westrand, London*; telephone, 2630, Gerrard.
3. MEDICAL SECRETARY, *Mediœscra, Westrand, London*; telephone, 2634, Gerrard. The address of the Irish Office of the British Medical Association is 16, South Frederick Street, Dublin.

The address of the Central Medical War Committee for England and Wales is 429, Strand, London, W.C.2; that of the Reference Committee of the Royal Colleges in London is the Examination Hall, 3, Queen Square, Bloomsbury, W.C.1; and that of the Scottish Medical Service Emergency Committee is Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh.

QUERIES AND ANSWERS.

STERILIZATION OF CATGUT.

"OLD MEMBER."—There are many ways of sterilizing catgut. Lister's sulphochromic method is described in Caird and Cathcart's handbook. Boiling, or Jellett's method, is usually employed, under some modification, for the proprietary brands put up in sealed glass tubes. The ether and corrosive sublimate method requires the raw gut to be soaked in ether and 1 in 4,000 perchloride for a week each. The method of choice to-day, however, is the iodine method, which is at once simple and reliable. Commercial catgut is steeped in ether for twenty-four hours and then transferred to a 1 per cent. solution of iodine in potassium iodide for eight days. It may be kept in this solution indefinitely. Before use it should be placed in sterilized water for a few minutes.

LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.

MEDICAL SICKNESS AND ACCIDENT SOCIETY.

DISSATISFIED writes: Allow me to join in the protest against the withdrawal of bonus to those going out of benefit. I reach the age limit this summer, and have been expecting the usual payment at that time. That it should not be paid

is, I consider, a very great injustice to me and to those who have been paying their premiums for many years, and who are likewise approaching the end of their benefits, especially as the funds of the society are in a good sound state, and well able to bear the old bonus payment. I think that a special meeting of the society ought to be called to discuss and reconsider such an important decision, as I do not for a moment suppose it can have the support of the majority of its members.

A FATAL SELF-INFLICTED LESION.

PROFESSOR SANTI PUSATERI recently reported to the Royal Medical Academy of Palermo (*Il Policlinico: sezione pratica*, May 19th, 1918) a case which is of special interest owing to its extreme rarity. On May 8th, 1917, a soldier, in order to escape returning to the front, injected nitric acid into his right ear. This was followed by high fever, vomiting, giddiness, headache, and acute pain in the right mastoid region. Seventeen days afterwards facial paralysis supervened, and nearly three weeks later haemorrhage from the right ear and from the nose came on. On October 6th the tympanum was explored, and it was found that the ossicles had become disintegrated. A large amount of granulation tissue was removed and was quickly reproduced. On November 21st there was recurrence of venous haemorrhage, and the man died four days later (about 6½ months after the injection of the acid). *Post-mortem* examination showed rupture of aneurysms of the carotid artery and jugular vein at a point corresponding to the lower and anterior walls of the tympanic cavity. The front surface of the petrous bone was eroded, and on the corresponding surface of the dura there was a thin layer of pus spreading towards the middle fossa of the brain and the cerebellum. The erosion of the vessels by the necrotic and suppurating process was the direct cause of death by haemorrhage, but even without this the purulent leptomeningitis would probably have proved fatal. The present war has shown that the ear is chosen in preference to other organs as the object of self-inflicted injury probably because the public, and even some doctors, think that such lesions are of comparatively little importance.

THE BILLING CASE.

THE hearing of the case against Mr. Billing, M.P., which ended in his acquittal, was conducted in such a manner as to bring to the notice of a very wide public an evil which is apparently an invariable accompaniment of civilization when it reaches the stage of luxury. As we had occasion to show some years ago, the practices of sexual perverts are defended with the utmost effrontery by a number of persons who pose as philosophers, and many of whom have undoubtedly possessed literary talents of a high order. This attitude towards an irrational vice is inexplicable to the healthy mind of man or woman, and must be classed among pathological states. The vice seems usually to be congenital—that at least we take to be the outcome of Krafft-Ebing's researches—but apparently it may be developed by example and precept in individuals of unstable sexual equilibrium who, without such stimulation, would never spontaneously have given evidence of perversion. It is probably for this reason that the majority of people consider that such lapses are best treated by police methods.

THE BELGIAN DOCTORS' AND PHARMACISTS' RELIEF FUND.

Subscriptions to the Second Appeal.

The following subscriptions and donations to the Fund have been received during the fortnight ending June 1st:

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.			
Dr. W. Maxwell Penny	...	2	0	0	Dr. Evan Jones	...	0	10	6	
Dr. John A. Macdonald	...	1	1	0	Dr. Killen	...	...	1	1	0
Dr. J. J. Perkins	...	3	3	0	Dr. Edhir	...	...	1	1	0
The Viscount Iveagh, K.P.	...	25	0	0	Medical Insurance Agency	...	...	50	0	0
(per Sir Rickman Godlee)	...	5	5	0	(per Dr. Haslip, chair-	...	...	4	2	6
Dr. J. A. Macdonald (Tun-	...	5	0	0	man)	...	...	1	5	0
ton)	...	0	10	6	Sir Rickman Godlee	...	...	2	2	0
Sir Francis Champneys	...	20	0	0	Dr. A. Bowe (sale of micro-	...	...	...	...	...
Dr. C. Legg	scope)	...	...	...	...	...
R. H. W.	Dr. Taylor	...	...	...	...	...

Subscriptions to the Fund should be sent to the Treasurer, Dr. H. A. Des Vœux, at 14, Buckingham Gate, London, S.W.1, and should be made payable to the Belgian Doctors' and Pharmacists' Relief Fund, crossed Lloyds Bank, Limited.

SCALE OF CHARGES FOR ADVERTISEMENTS IN THE BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL.

	£	s.	d.	
Seven lines and under	...	0	6	0
Each additional line	...	0	0	9
Whole single column	...	4	0	0
Whole page	...	12	0	0

An average line contains six words.

All remittances by Post Office Orders must be made payable to the British Medical Association at the General Post Office, London. No responsibility will be accepted for any such remittance not so safeguarded.

Advertisements should be delivered, addressed to the Manager, 429, Strand, London, not later than the first post on Wednesday morning preceding publication, and, if not paid for at the time, should be accompanied by a reference.

NOTE.—It is against the rules of the Post Office to receive *poste restante* letters addressed either in initials or numbers.