

At the meeting of the London County Council on April 4th Dr. Edward Mapother, deputy medical superintendent of the Long Grove Mental Hospital, was appointed medical superintendent of the Maudsley Hospital. Each candidate for the post was informed that the appointment would be held subject to the pleasure of the Council, which would be exercised at the expiration of six years at latest. The salary is to be £900 a year, on a pre-war basis, and the approved temporary additions bring the amount up to £1,200 a year. It is understood that the superintendent is to be permitted to practise as a consultant so far as this is consistent with his duties at the hospital. In the selection of the candidate two eminent psychologists, nominated by the University of London, gave the Asylums Committee the benefit of their views.

THE North-East London Post-Graduate College will hold a special intensive course at the Prince of Wales's General Hospital, Tottenham, N.15, from Monday, May 15th, to Saturday, May 27th, inclusive. It will include demonstrations, in the mornings, of clinical and laboratory methods, groups of illustrative cases, etc., and on Saturday mornings practical demonstrations in associated hospitals. The afternoons will be devoted to general hospital work with clinics in the various departments, which will be followed each afternoon by a clinical lecture dealing more especially with the treatment of disease. The first of the series of clinical lectures will be given by Sir Thomas Horder, M.D., on "Some clinical types of arthritis and their treatment." Luncheon will be obtainable in the neighbourhood of the hospital, and tea will be provided each day. It is expected that the syllabus will be available before Easter.

THE membership of the Tuberculosis Society of Scotland is now nearly 70; the President for the current session is Professor Sir Robert Philip, P.R.C.P. Edin., the honorary secretaries are Dr. W. Leslie Lyall and Dr. Ian Struthers Stewart, the honorary treasurer is Dr. Macrae Taylor, and the Editor of the *Transactions* Dr. A. Fergus Hewat. The Society holds regular meetings for discussion; the next will take place on Friday, April 28th, at 4 p.m., in the New University Buildings, Edinburgh.

The house and library of the Royal Society of Medicine, 1, Wimpole Street, W.1, will be closed from Thursday, April 13th, to Tuesday, April 18th, both days inclusive.

## Letters, Notes, and Answers.

As, owing to printing difficulties, the JOURNAL must be sent to press earlier than hitherto, it is essential that communications intended for the current issue should be received by the first post on Tuesday, and lengthy documents on Monday.

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 names—of course not necessarily for publication.

AUTHORS desiring reprints of their articles published in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL are requested to communicate with the Office, 429, Strand, W.C.2, on receipt of proof.

IN order to avoid delay, it is particularly requested that ALL letters on the editorial business of the JOURNAL be addressed to the Editor at the Office of the JOURNAL.

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, *Aetiology*, Westrand, London; telephone, 2630, Gerrard.

2. FINANCIAL SECRETARY AND BUSINESS MANAGER (Advertisements, etc.), *Articulate*, Westrand, London; telephone, 2630, Gerrard.

3. MEDICAL SECRETARY, *Medisecra*, Westrand, London; telephone, 2630, Gerrard. The address of the Irish Office of the British Medical Association is 16, South Frederick Street, Dublin (telegrams: *Bacillus, Dublin*; telephone, 4737, Dublin), and of the Scottish Office, 6, Rutland Square, Edinburgh (telegrams: *Associate, Edinburgh*; telephone, 4361, Central).

### QUERIES AND ANSWERS.

#### INCOME TAX.

P. S." has ceased to use his own car and is hiring from a job-master as occasion requires. Has he any claim in respect of the loss incurred in connexion with the former purchase of his now useless car?

\*. No. A claim to depreciation cannot be made in connexion with an assessment of professional as distinct from trade profits; he is entitled to the cost of replacement only, and in the circumstances there was no such outlay. The point was raised before the Royal Commission on Income Tax, and that body recommended that this distinction should be abolished, but that has not yet been effected. With regard to the purchased premises, "P. S." can deduct in lieu of the rent the amount on which he is assessed to Property Tax—that is, Income Tax Sch. A.

### LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.

#### SLIPPING RIB.

DR. EDGAR F. CYRIAX (London, W.1) writes with reference to Mr. R. Davies-Colley's communication on slipping rib (March 18th, p. 432), to point out that this condition of the rib has been described by him in the *Practitioner* for June, 1919, and also that Stillier (*Die asthenische Konstitutionskrankheit*, 1907) essayed under this title to establish a clinical entity one of whose most constant symptoms was looseness of the tenth rib.

#### COUÉ AND DUBOIS.

DR. N. W. MARKWELL (London) writes: M. Coué has recently been credited with bringing forward a new principle in connexion with his so-called "Law of Reversal of Effort." The name and explanation of the mechanism involved are new, but the description and the use of the mechanism are not. Professor Paul Dubois (*The Psychic Treatment of Nervous Disorders*, English translation by Jelliffe and White, 1907) enunciated the mechanism clearly enough for others to grasp it and to use it in practice. It is a main feature in his persuasive method. . . . The whole book expounds this mechanism. For example (p. 155) he states: "If we can, by a healthy philosophy of life and by moral hygiene suppress this toxic element of emotion we shall rid the greatest physical and intellectual fatigue of its harmful influence." In this and other passages Dubois points out unequivocally that a fundamental psychological principle which is of the greatest utility in practice does exist. One may not agree with Dubois's psychology and metaphysics, nevertheless we are in his debt, and not in the debt of M. Coué. For some years I have been in the habit of designating the mechanism "The Positive Reaction."

#### AESCULAPIUS AND CONSUMPTION.

MR. MORLEY ROBERTS (London) writes: Doubtless most physicians have read Sir Thomas Browne's *Religio Medici*, and it is possible that some may even have looked into his essay entitled *On Dreams*, but I have never seen any comment on the passage in the latter piece which runs: "And a man might be hard put to it to interpret the language of Aesculapius, when, to a consumptive person, he held forth his fingers, implying thereby that his cure lay in dates, from the homonymy of the Greek, which signifies dates and fingers." As our learned author does not quote his authority, it is hard to say where this comes from, but it seems capable of an interesting interpretation. As Hippocrates was of the family of the Asclepiadae, one of whose chief seats was Cos, this saying may possibly be found in his works or the pseudo-Hippocratic writings. Perhaps some student of Hippocrates can tell me if this is so. It seems to me that this cryptic saying may be regarded as sound advice. Suppose that the physician's comment was, "By this I do not mean dried dates but fresh ones. Go where you can get them daily. I suggest Egypt as the handiest place where the date tree flourishes." If my suggestion is correct one may infer that modern doctors, when they recommend the dry, pure desert air, are but following, without knowing it, the advice of some unknown Greek colleague, unless Browne really meant Hippocrates when he wrote of the mythical Aesculapius.

#### FIRST AID TO THE INJURED.

SQUADRON LEADER W. ROUS KEMP, R.A.F.M.S., writes to call attention to the fact that the present edition of the St. John Ambulance Association's *First Aid to the Injured*, which has been rewritten by Dr. R. Bruce, was originally compiled by the late Surgeon-Major Peter Sheppard, R.A.M.C., who was killed at the Battle of Isandula, Zululand, in 1879. Our correspondent considers that this small volume, which has been the origin and foundation of all first aid work, ought still to retain, as a lasting memorial to him, the original author's name, which, he says, used to appear in the earlier editions.

#### VACANCIES.

NOTIFICATIONS of offices vacant in universities, medical colleges, and of vacant resident and other appointments at hospitals, will be found at pages 32, 33, 36, 37, 38, and 39 of our advertisement columns, and advertisements as to partnerships, assistantships, and locumtenencies at pages 34 and 35.

THE following appointments of certifying factory surgeons are vacant: Brynmawr (Brecon), Carlisle (Cumberland).

### SCALE OF CHARGES FOR ADVERTISEMENTS IN THE BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL.

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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 Tuesday 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.