

should begin at the very rudiments, and advance through a term of six weeks or so to the requirements of the speciality.

How valuable, for instance, to many of us would be an attendance on four or six consecutive Fridays at a course of instruction on the heart; still more on the lungs.—I am, etc.,

March 30th.

A. O. W.

SIR,—I feel sure many will agree with Dr. Melville Harvey's letter on the need for special post-graduate facilities for London practitioners. It is to be hoped that his proposals will be considered by the Fellowship of Medicine.—I am, etc.,

London, N.W.1, March 30th.

RUSSELL STEELE.

SIR,—It may interest Dr. Melville Harvey to know that there is a post-graduate association in London which might be able to give him what he wants. Any general practitioner in active practice and permanently settled in the London area may become an annual member of the West London Hospital Post-Graduate College at a fee of three guineas a year, and for this he may attend the hospital practice once a week. A syllabus of the work done each day can be obtained on application to the secretary at the College, but as a typical example may I be permitted to set out the Monday afternoon time table.

In-Patient Work.—2 o'clock, surgeon No. 1, operations; 2, surgeon No. 2, surgical ward visit; 3, senior physician—medical ward visit.

Out-Patient Work.—2 o'clock, medical out-patients; 2, surgical out-patients; 2, diseases of the eye; 2, diseases of women.

On the second Monday of each month, at 4 p.m., a staff consultation is held, when cases of special interest are demonstrated and discussed by members of the hospital staff.—I am, etc.,

March 30th.

HENRY SIMSON,
Dean, West London Hospital.

ISOLATION HOSPITALS AND SCARLET FEVER.

SIR,—I have no wish to enter into any discussion with Dr. J. A. Milne on his father's method for attempting to prevent the spread of scarlet fever without isolation. My reference was to the Barnardo Homes, Ilford, in which institution the photographs displayed by his father, illustrating the treatment, were taken. At this particular institution the treatment was found to be so inefficacious in the control of scarlet fever that the usual system of isolation is now enforced. Is it not a fact that isolation is now insisted on even at the Barnardo Home, Woodford Bridge, an institution actually under Dr. J. A. Milne's charge? Whether he still employs carbolized oil for its "analgesic" properties is beside the mark. The method was initiated to prevent the spread of infection and avoid the necessity for isolation, and it was on this question that the discussion in the *BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL* arose.

There is no need for Dr. J. A. Milne to refer me to the reports of other medical officers of health, with which I am quite familiar. A number of cases are nursed annually in Ilford in their homes (where conditions are suitable), without the Milne treatment, and as a rule there are no return cases. It is altogether a different question whether cases of scarlet fever should be nursed in workmen's dwellings in overcrowded and unhygienic conditions, reliance being placed on the Milne method to prevent the spread of infection.

In the Barnardo Homes, Ilford, taking one year only, the return case rate was 28 per cent. with the Milne treatment; in the same year the return case rate for the Ilford Isolation Hospital without the Milne treatment was 3 per cent. When, however, a full period of isolation was insisted upon at the Barnardo institution the return case rate for both institutions became the same.

These are the facts which Dr. J. A. Milne cannot gainsay. While we all respect his reverence for his father's method I confess I am unable to understand how any medical man could think (in view of our knowledge of

the difficulty of dealing with carriers generally) that the Milne treatment could render the scarlet fever organisms in the naso-pharynx innocuous.

The unchallenged published results, extending over a period of eighteen years, have added the final proof.—I am, etc.,

Ilford, Essex, March 22nd.

A. H. G. BURTON,
Medical Officer of Health.

THE TREATMENT OF INFANTILE PARALYSIS.

SIR,—Dr. Charles MacKay (*JOURNAL*, March 28th, p. 634) would give the credit for the muscle re-education treatment to Dr. William MacKenzie in 1915, but I suggest he should go fifty years back and give it to my grandfather, Dr. M. Roth, who, in his book on paralysis in infancy, etc., published in 1869, wrote: "As soon as possible rouse the action of the paralysed muscles by the most important functional stimulus of the will, which cannot be replaced by any other."

In Professor Hey Groves's account of the treatment I was amazed to observe the absence of any mention of the importance of keeping the affected limb warm. I thought it was now generally agreed that the prevention of deformity, the maintenance of warmth, and the re-education of muscles, constituted a trinity, no member of which was efficient without the other two. Did he omit this on purpose?—I am, etc.,

London, W.1, March 28th.

PAUL BERNARD ROTH.

RADIUM EMANATION (RADON).

SIR,—It has recently been prominently stated in the lay press that the production and clinical use of radon (radium emanation) by the Middlesex Hospital is a "new discovery." In justice to the Radium Institute will you allow me to say that the technique of treatment by radon tubes has been practised here since 1912, and that the method adopted was published in the annual report of this institute for that year? Since that date radon tubes have been supplied in steadily increasing number to medical practitioners and hospitals throughout the country, and 1,067 such tubes were distributed in the year ending December 31st, 1924.—I am, etc.,

A. E. HAYWARD PINCH,
The Radium Institute, London, W.1,
March 30th.
Medical Superintendent.

Medico-Legal.

AN ALLEGATION OF NEGLIGENCE AT A CONFINEMENT.

GRAY AND WIFE v. PEACOCK.

AN action was heard in the King's Bench Division, on March 25th, 26th, and 27th, before the Lord Chief Justice and a special jury, in which William Gray and his wife Alfreda claimed damages against William Ernest Peacock, M.D., a general practitioner of Great Portland Street, London, W., for alleged negligence in treating Mrs. Gray during her confinement. In his reply, Dr. Peacock denied any negligence, and said that if Mrs. Gray sustained any injury it was unavoidable, and that what he did was done in accordance with correct medical practice. The defendant counterclaimed for £42 16s., the amount of his fees. Mr. Barrington-Ward, K.C., with Mr. P. E. Sandlands, appeared for the plaintiffs, and Mr. H. C. Dickens for the defendant.

In opening the case, Mr. Barrington-Ward said that the plaintiffs, now both aged 23, were married in June, 1922. In the following November Mrs. Gray, who had become pregnant, consulted Dr. Peacock, and he undertook to treat her during her confinement for a fee of fifteen guineas. Between January and March, 1923, there were various consultations. It was alleged that at the confinement, on March 26th, the defendant applied forceps in the first stage of labour, and without the plaintiffs' consent. During delivery, shortly before 10 p.m., the perineum was ruptured. Dr. Peacock sent the husband for gut and needles and repaired the tear, but left without removing the placenta, saying that it might come away during the night. At 7 next morning the nurse, who had tried to remove the placenta, telephoned for Dr. Peacock; he arrived an hour later with Mr. E. M. Rowe, and the latter removed the placenta under chloroform. On March 31st the stitches gave way. On May 11th Mrs. Gray consulted Dr. Burnet, who advised her to discharge Dr. Peacock from further

attendance, and six days later she was operated on in a nursing home by Dr. F. J. McCann and Dr. Burnet. Counsel argued that the defendant's negligence had cost the plaintiffs £220 in fees for the nursing home, nurses, and holidays. The defendant, he said, had not brought to his task that competence and care which the law required of everyone engaged in a skilled profession.

Both the plaintiffs gave evidence in support of counsel's opening speech, and were cross-examined by Mr. Dickens.

Dr. Edward Burnet said that he had had a large obstetrical experience, and expressed the opinion that it would be wrong to use forceps in the first stage of labour. The placenta should never be left unremoved for more than an hour. With a perineum torn as in this case a thorough reparative operation ought to be performed at once after the third stage of labour was concluded. When he first examined Mrs. Gray forty-six days after the birth her condition seemed to him such that she should be attended to without further delay, and he advised her to see a gynaecologist. He came to the conclusion that there was no justification for the damage that had been done or for the delay in repairing it. In cross-examination he said it was about ten years since he last attended a confinement. He did not agree with the school of thought which held that if a first suture failed an interval of three months should pass before re-suturing.

Dr. F. J. McCann, who performed the operation on May 17th, 1923, said that in his view the sooner ruptures of the perineum, such as Mrs. Gray had sustained, were repaired the better. He inclined to the opinion that the operation could properly have been performed before May 11th, when he first examined the patient. It was right to postpone an operation in cases of infection, but when he operated in this case there was no trace of infection. The condition of this patient might, however, quite possibly have been such that it would not have been prudent to perform the operation earlier than it was performed. Assuming that the labour pains began at 8 a.m., and became severe at 8 p.m., it seemed to him extraordinary that forceps should be applied at 9 p.m.; they ought never to be used in the first stage of labour. In reply to the Lord Chief Justice, Dr. McCann expressed the view that the patient's condition was undoubtedly produced by the forceps, but he would not be prepared to say that because forceps had been used such use was improper. Dr. W. E. Falconar also gave evidence for the plaintiffs.

Mr. Dickens, addressing the jury, described it as a monstrous thing to blame Dr. Peacock, who was on the spot and was the best person to judge what should be done. The only charge of negligence against him was that he brought about delivery with undue speed; but that was merely a matter of conjecture, which the medical witnesses for the defence would dispel. The child was born alive and healthy, and who was to say that the defendant was wrong in what he did?

Mr. Aleck W. Bourne, F.R.C.S., said that the injury in this case was one of the commonest happenings in confinements, especially a first confinement. In his view Dr. Peacock acted with fine judgement and skill, and was in no respect negligent. If the mother showed signs of exhaustion or the child showed that it was feeling the stress of labour unduly, it would be quite proper to apply forceps whatever the time.

Mr. Leonard Phillips, F.R.C.S., entirely agreed with what Mr. Bourne had said as to the use of forceps and with his evidence generally. He thought Dr. McCann had been lucky in obtaining a cure after operating so early as May 17th.

Mr. Victor Bonney, F.R.C.S., said he had known defendant for twenty years, and from what he had heard of this case considered Dr. Peacock was justified in the judgement he came to regarding the conduct of Mrs. Gray's confinement. Forceps delivery one hour after the beginning of the second stage of labour was not improper. Rupture of the perineum was not evidence of precipitancy on the part of the attendant; forceps properly applied might minimize the tear. In general, if the first sutures broke down his own practice was to wait six months before attempting operative repair; the reason for this was the risk of septic infection.

Dr. Peacock, giving evidence on his own behalf, said he had been in general practice for thirty years; he had a large midwifery practice, and had never lost a child nor had a case of sepsis. He still considered that he was right in what he did in connexion with Mrs. Gray's confinement. Her exhausted condition, through inability to take food, necessitated the use of forceps. The patient's exhaustion and the risk of sepsis led him to leave the placenta unremoved until the next morning. The first sutures, as often happened, broke down, and he postponed resuturing until such time as he should consider the patient's condition justified it.

Eleanor Ferry, the nurse in attendance at the confinement, described the birth as difficult, and said that before forceps were applied the patient appeared to be suffering from uterine inertia. She heard no complaint about the defendant's treatment of Mrs. Gray while she was attending the case.

Mr. R. M. Rowe, F.R.C.S., who accompanied the defendant to the case on the day after the confinement, said that in his view events justified Dr. Peacock's treatment.

In the course of his summing up, the Lord Chief Justice said that a doctor did not guarantee results; but in holding himself out to practise medicine and surgery he undertook to have a reasonable and competent measure of skill, and to use reasonable care. The jury had to decide whether they were satisfied that defendant used forceps in circumstances in which he should not have done so, and if the injury Mrs. Gray afterwards showed was due to the use of forceps.

The jury returned a verdict for the defendant, and judgement was entered accordingly for Dr. Peacock on the claim and on the counterclaim for £42 16s., with costs.

Universities and Colleges.

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD.

Radcliffe Prize and Travelling Fellowship.

On the report of the examiners the Radcliffe Prize has been awarded by the Master and Fellows of University College to John M. H. Campbell, D.M. (Magdalen and New College). The work of Kenneth J. Franklin, M.A., B.M., Fellow of Oriel College, was highly commended. The prize is of the value of £50, and is awarded every two years for research work in medicine by a medical graduate of the University.

The Radcliffe Travelling Fellowship, 1925, has been awarded to Kenneth J. Franklin. The fellowship is of the annual value of £300, and is tenable for two years, subject to certain conditions of travel and study abroad.

UNIVERSITY OF DURHAM.

At the convocation held on March 28th the following degrees were conferred:

M.B. B.S.—J. F. Hedley, Gwendolen Jones, M. H. Jones, W. F. Lascelles, H. Levy, F. Lishman, Charlotte B. Schofield, A. B. W. Smart.

VICTORIA UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER.

DR. FREDERICK CRAVEN MOORE, at present lecturer in systematic medicine, has been appointed to the chair of systematic medicine.

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH.

THE Senatus Academicus of the University of Edinburgh proposes to confer at the graduation ceremonial in July the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws upon Dr. A. H. Freeland Barbour, formerly Lecturer in Gynaecology, University of Edinburgh, Mr. Alexander Miles, M.D., F.R.C.S.E., formerly Lecturer in Clinical Surgery, University of Edinburgh, Dr. Robert Muir, F.R.S., Professor of Pathology, University of Glasgow, and Sir Harold J. Stiles, K.B.E., Regius Professor-Emeritus of Clinical Surgery, University of Edinburgh. On the occasion of the meeting in June of the Interstate Post-Graduate Assembly the honorary degree of LL.D. will be conferred upon Dr. Charles H. Mayo, of Rochester, Minnesota.

At a graduation ceremony, held on March 26th, the following degree and diploma were conferred:

D.Sc. (Department of Pure Science).—Eric Ponder, M.B., Ch.B.
D.P.H.—W. N. J. Chapman.

UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN.

THE following candidates have been approved at the examinations indicated:

M.D.—M. M. Cruickshank, A. Mitchell, R. R. Traill, J. MacLennan.
FINAL M.B., Ch.B.—*P. Bayer, H. C. Bonney, W. Booth, L. Chanock, *A. Cruickshank, R. A. Cumming, J. M. Davidson, G. M. Davis, C. A. Dean, Jessie E. G. Dingwall, *C. S. D. Don, A. T. Duncan, G. N. Duthie, Margaret M. Gair, A. Galloway, J. A. Gordon, J. D. Gordon, T. R. Gordon, Janet Johnston, W. Kelly, D. B. Laing, J. Macarthur, *P. D. A. Macdonald, K. C. Mackenzie, D. N. MacKinnon, F. S. McLean, Anne G. I. MacLennan, *W. A. Mar, G. W. Mearns, L. Morgan, J. A. Mulligan, N. M. Munro, *J. A. R. Paterson, O. G. Prosser, W. J. Raitt, W. P. E. Richards, J. Robertson, *M. C. G. Robertson, A. A. Simpson, *J. T. Sorley, W. R. Soutter, Barbara W. Spark, D. S. Stewart, J. I. Taylor, H. M. Walker, J. D. Walker, *R. W. H. Welsh, A. D. F. White, A. H. Wilson, Charlotte M. Wilson, D. E. Wilson.

* Passed with distinction.

UNIVERSITY OF DUBLIN.

SCHOOL OF PHYSIC, TRINITY COLLEGE.

THE following candidates have been approved at the examinations indicated:

FINAL M.B., PART I.—*Materia Medica and Therapeutics, Medical Jurisprudence and Hygiene, Pathology and Bacteriology*: *H. A. Q. O'Meara, *J. W. Bowden, *J. M. Selkon, *R. E. Hadden, *T. J. W. Keown, *J. H. McLean, J. J. O'Dwyer, G. W. H. Townsend, A. B. Brooks, J. N. S. Gouws, M. H. Homan, C. G. Nell, Kathleen I. Purdy, D. St. C. Mackenzie, G. O. Taylor, E. A. Ellis, Gladys L. Craig, D. J. Roux, J. Johnston, Christina McDonald, Rachael E. Porter, J. Quigley.

PART II.—*Medicine*: *T. W. MacDowell, C. F. D. M'Callin, W. C. Somerville-Lange, Kathleen P. Murison, G. F. Gillespie, E. M'Alpine, W. H. Anderson O'D. T. D. Browne, J. R. Gregory, R. T. Cronin, J. Dick, T. C. Foster, P. N. H. Labuschagne, W. B. Roantree, F. M. Purcell, N. M. Greeves, F. J. Marais, Annie T. Deane, F. H. McKenna, J. V. Morris, R. W. Harte, J. Cussen, G. P. Bamford, O. Chance, W. P. E. McIntyre, Augusta M. Young, W. Gallacher, J. L. Livingston, J. L. Marshall, Mary Galvin, F. V. Duke, C. Lord-Flood, J. A. MacDonnell, R. A. Heatley, J. Horwich, H. Nelson, A. A. Shaik. *Surgery*: *E. M'Alpine, R. K. Carson, W. A. Redmond, R. T. Cronin, J. A. MacDonnell, L. C. Brough, E. T. S. Rudd, E. S. A. Crawford, T. G. B. Crawford, F. M. Prouce, H. W. Strong, J. M. Johnston, C. J. du Plessis, E. J. Walsh, J. E. Beatty, J. Crawford, F. J. Marais, L. M. Whitsitt, E. A. Bennett, R. J. G. Hyde, J. G. Maguire, G. W. Gardie, W. C. G. Potts, C. R. Moore, H. Birney, R. V. Franklin, R. A. Heatley, I. Strasburg. *Midwifery*: *C. R. Boand, *J. F. Wilde, *R. L. Forsyth, *E. Rakoff, Eispeth V. D. Hewat, F. H. McKenna, J. E. Stokes, G. D. Edwards, A. A. Shaik, M. Sherowitz, P. B. Robinson, B. P. Pienaar, Margaret W. Pike, L. W. R. Haskins, C. E. McCausland, W. Sinclair, Mary Galvin, Henrietta Armstrong, J. E. Beatty, W. C. Sloan.

M.Ch.—D. de Bruijn.

M.A.O.—D. J. Malan.

DIPLOMA IN GYNAECOLOGY AND OBSTETRICS.—Elizabeth N. Thompson.

* Passed on high marks.