

Now Dr. Millard says: "Under these circumstances vaccination proved quite incapable of preventing widespread and fatal epidemics," and in illustration of this extraordinary statement he refers to the Sheffield, Warrington, and Middlesbrough classics. Is this really Dr. Millard's opinion? Is his omission of the qualifying words "compulsory infantile" intentional or unintentional?

Under present conditions in this country in regard to small-pox and its prevention, any medical statement or opinion should admit of no misunderstanding, and should be made only under the clearest sense of responsibility. It is very essential also in dealing with this subject to bear in mind that there are others who quote extracts from medical writings on vaccination, and do so for a reason very different from the reason which has induced me to criticize Dr. Killick Millard's letter.—I am, etc.,

Dartford, Jan. 22nd.

A. F. CAMERON.

THE HISTORY OF DIPHTHERIA.

SIR,—I think that both Fleet Surgeon Home and Sir Humphry Rolleston have been led astray—the one by a natural zeal for the memory of his ancestor, the other by reliance upon a speculation put forward by the late Professor Adami. The disease we now know as diphtheria was sharply cut before the time of Bretonneau, and Francis Home was not the first to describe it separately. In support of my statement I would refer to several historians, of whom Bretonneau himself would be the first (see his second memoir, 1821). I am very far from wishing, however, to belittle the value of Bretonneau's work. He put our knowledge of the disease on a firm basis, and gave us a convenient name for it. But though Bretonneau's classical writings were published during the years 1821 to 1826, his views about diphtheria do not appear to have become diffused on this side of the Channel for many years. Nearly twenty-five years after the date of Bretonneau's first memoir diphtheria was not separately described in the great textbook of medicine of those days, Sir Thomas Watson's *Lectures on the Principles and Practice of Physic* (at any rate in the second edition, 1845, which is the one I happen to possess), nor are the words "diphtheritis" or "diphtheria" mentioned in it.

Though Francis Home certainly recorded a few cases of tracheal (and probably also laryngeal) diphtheria, I am sorry to have to say that the publication of his small book of sixty pages led to much confusion. It was the means by which the word "croup" was introduced into the medical literature of this and other countries. "Croup," a vulgar word applied in Scotland to the noise made by frogs, crows, cranes, and children affected with laryngeal spasm and obstruction (whatever the cause), was employed by Home to indicate a definite disease. No one who was a medical student forty to fifty years ago can forget the confusion not only he but his teachers floundered in over the disease and the word "croup." The confusion still lingers. I have asked many a third-year student attending my class at Homerton or Hampstead what he understood by the term "croupous" as applied to pneumonia, and though nearly all of them were acquainted with that use of the adjective, there was only one who could give me a correct answer.—I am, etc.,

Hemingford Abbots, Jan. 23rd.

E. W. GOODALL.

INFANTILE PARALYSIS: THE BROADSTAIRS OUTBREAK.

SIR,—I am much obliged to you for inserting my report on the Broadstairs outbreak of infantile paralysis in 1926 in your issue of January 15th (p. 113).

As regards the possibility of infection having been introduced from abroad, I do not wish to emphasize this unduly, and in view of further information I have received I think it is desirable that for the sentence, "At another school the first case, an abortive one, was that of a boy who spent his holidays in Brittany," the following should be substituted: "At another school a boy who had symptoms which were suggestive of the disease had visited Switzerland during the summer holidays."—I am, etc.,

Broadstairs, Jan. 25th

A. M. WATTS.

INSURANCE OF MOTOR CARS.

SIR,—You are aware that pressure is being brought to bear to secure a substantial increase in motor car insurance rates in the general market. But for the next twelve months the premiums for the Doctors' Special Policy, issued through the Medical Insurance Agency and underwritten at Lloyd's, will remain unchanged.

In addition the underwriters have, as from the beginning of this year, agreed to cover without further premium medical expenses up to 25 guineas in respect of personal injuries that may be sustained by the assured, his paid driver, or any passenger in the car. Morris-Cowley cars can be covered for the full comprehensive insurance benefits at a special premium of £11, whilst the Morris-Oxford is catered for under the special 13.9 rating.

In order to make clearer the restriction relating to the "named driver" allowance, the wording has been altered as follows:

"If driven solely by one named driver

Name.....

This reduction is not allowed in the case of paid servants or chauffeurs."

The position is thus no longer ambiguous, but our opinion that the choice of this restriction is unwise remains unaltered.—I am, etc.,

L. FERRIS-SCOTT,

Secretary of the Medical Insurance Agency.

British Medical Association House,
Tavistock Square, W.C.1.

CANCER AND TRAUMA.

SIR,—May I trespass upon your space to ask if anyone has met with the development of a tumour in a wound inflicted upon a combatant during the late war? If mere traumatism can induce carcinoma or sarcoma it would be natural to expect examples from so great a wealth of material.—I am, etc.,

London, W.1, Jan. 24th.

G. LENTHAL CHEATLE.

Obituary.

EDWARD STEPHEN PASMORE, M.D., M.R.C.P.LOND.,
Medical Superintendent, Croydon Mental Hospital.

On January 12th there passed away, after a brief illness, one of the most ambitious spirits in psychiatry in the personality of Dr. E. S. Pasmore, medical superintendent of the Croydon Mental Hospital.

Edward Stephen Pasmore was born in 1866, and entered as a student at University College, London, in 1885. He graduated M.B.Lond. in 1890, and became M.D. in the following year and M.R.C.P. in 1897. He first devoted himself to neurology, and served as a clinical assistant to the National Hospital for the Paralysed and Epileptic and other neurological hospitals. In 1895 he took up psychiatry and was appointed junior medical officer and pathologist at Banstead Mental Hospital, where ultimately he became second assistant medical officer, which rank he held when he, in 1903, was appointed medical superintendent of the new asylum then in the course of erection by the borough of Croydon.

Early in his career as a mental specialist he adopted advanced ideals in regard to mental institutions and the treatment of mental disorders, many of which he was able to put into practical application in the mental hospital over which he was called upon to preside in 1903. As exemplifying this it may be recorded that Mr. Akers Douglas, then Home Secretary, on April 21st, 1904, sanctioned the Croydon Borough Asylum being known for the future as the Croydon Mental Hospital; that was a new departure, and it has since been very generally adopted by other local authorities. With this change of name the hospital received an up-to-date equipment for the practice of surgery and other special branches of medical science as adjuncts to the treatment of mental illnesses, which was largely in those days limited to general medicine and moral and personal influences.

From the beginning Dr. Pasmore kept well abreast with the growth of modern psychiatry, contributing here and