

such a clinic. This is not a branch of medicine suitable for pre-graduate study, but should be approached only after a thorough and practical grounding in both general and psychological medicine. For a graduate in his early years to attack the problem of child mental hygiene without the discipline of a lengthy medico-psychological training, and a knowledge of even elementary social problems, would lead to the development of a superficiality in outlook against which this new department of medicine must be safeguarded. It is only by going beyond medicine, into the school and the family, that the proper perspective can be obtained.

The organization of the out-patient department and of the almoner's office of a general hospital are not, as yet, equipped for dealing with problems of this breadth.—We are, etc.,

Child Guidance Clinic, Jews' Free School,
Spitalfields, E., Dec. 29th, 1929.

NOEL H. M. BURKE.
EMANUEL MILLER.

SIR,—I was pleased to see the letter of Dr. Gillespie in the *Journal* of December 28th, 1929 (p. 1219), and I hope that it will attract attention in the right quarters. The indifference of the general hospitals throughout the country to medico-psychology is a very serious matter. Not only does it leave a large proportion of the population without adequate treatment for their neuroses, but, as Dr. Gillespie rightly says, it makes it difficult to see how sufficient men are to be trained in psychological work to meet the ever-growing need.—I am, etc.,

Birmingham, Dec. 30th, 1929.

R. MACDONALD LADELL.

"ACTIVATED" FLUORESCIN IN THE TREATMENT OF CANCER.

SIR,—May I be permitted a final word or two in reply to Dr. Webster's last letter (December 28th, 1929, p. 1220)? I feel that in justice to my colleagues and myself I must enter a protest against the unscientific basis of much of his criticism. To cite an instance: in a former letter he stated that he had tried fluorescein without result; he now admits that this statement was based on a trial with one case only, and that a case in which multiple secondary growths were present. Dr. Webster again stresses the point that it is for me to prove that fluorescein, when activated with an appropriate x-ray dose, is capable of exerting a more intensive effect on malignant tissues than the same x-ray dose alone. I claim that this fact is definitely demonstrated in the series of photographs published in the *Journal of Public Health* for November, 1928, to which I have previously directed attention. It is also of interest, in this connexion, to quote from the report for 1928-29 of the medical superintendent of the North Middlesex Hospital. He states, on page 20, that "recently one remarkable case, which proved refractory to x-ray treatment, a large rodent ulcer of the face, healed up in a remarkably short time" as the outcome of the additional use of fluorescein.—I am, etc.,

London, N.W.3, Dec. 29th, 1929.

S. MONCKTON COPEMAN.

** This correspondence is now closed.

MEMBERS OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.

SIR,—A resolution advocating representation of Members on the Council of the Royal College of Surgeons of England has now been passed by large majorities at forty-one annual meetings of the Fellows and Members. The reply to the resolution which was passed at the annual meeting of November 21st last is given in your issue of December 21st, 1929 (p. 1183), in a report of the proceedings at the subsequent meeting of the Council. In that reply the Council points out that no evidence is before them that any considerable number of Members desire a change in the constitution of the corporation. Now the only way to produce substantial evidence is to submit to the Council a widely signed request for consideration of a claim which all must admit to be just. With this object in view a card

will shortly be issued to all Members, which we trust, for the honour of the corporation, will meet with a very large response.

At this stage the question whether a Member is personally interested does not arise, for surely the whole body of Members are corporately interested in obtaining a recognition of their desire to be more intimately associated with the conduct of their College. Nor do any questions arise as to what measure of representation should be accorded. All that is needed is an adequate expression of the view that this modification in the constitution of the College should be brought about. In the meanwhile, financial help to meet the expenses of the movement is urgently needed, and I shall be glad to receive subscriptions towards the cost, which we estimate will be about £250.—I am, etc.,

60, Welbeck Street, London, W.1,
Dec. 30th, 1929.

ERNEST E. WARE,
President of the Society of Members.

THE ACETIC ANHYDRIDE TEST IN CEREBRO-SPINAL FLUID.

SIR,—May I put forward three points concerning the Boltz test, in reply to Dr. Grossman's letter in your issue of December 7th, 1929 (p. 1084)?

(1) I can confirm Dr. Herbert's finding that the reaction is due to tryptophane, having come to this conclusion working independently and from a different point of view. (2) The reaction is therefore only an indirect test for an excess of protein, and is positive when applied to cerebro-spinal fluids of high protein content from non-syphilitic cases. (3) In asylum practice the test is probably valuable, as the non-syphilitic insanities are not associated with a high protein content in the cerebro-spinal fluid, but in general hospital practice the test is useless.—I am, etc.,

King's College Hospital, London,
Dec. 18th, 1929.

C. E. NEWMAN, M.D.

The Services.

DEATHS IN THE SERVICES.

Lieut.-Colonel Arthur William Take, Indian Medical Service (retired), died very suddenly, while playing billiards, in the New Club at Cheltenham, on December 7th, 1929. Another medical man was present in the billiard room at the time, but nothing could be done, and he died almost immediately from cerebral haemorrhage. He was the youngest son of the late H. G. Take, Esq., barrister-at-law, of Charlton Kings, Cheltenham, and was born on March 30th, 1871. He was educated at Cheltenham College and at St. Thomas's, and took the M.R.C.S. and L.R.C.P. Lond. in 1896; also subsequently the F.R.C.S.I. and the D.P.H. of the Irish Colleges in 1906. Entering the I.M.S. as lieutenant on July 27th, 1899, he became lieutenant-colonel on January 28th, 1919, was placed on the selected list for promotion on March 28th, 1925, and retired on July 27th, 1926. He served with the Aden Boundary Commission in 1903-4, and in Mesopotamia during the great war. After his retirement he settled at Cheltenham, and built a house for himself on Cleeve Hill. He took a great interest in the enlargement and development of the Winchcombe Hospital, of which he was honorary secretary and treasurer. While in India he married Miss Anna Boyd, of a County Cavan family, who is left a widow without children.

Major Robert Sutherland Strachan, R.A.M.C., died suddenly at Cairo on December 10th, 1929. He was educated at Glasgow, where he graduated as M.B. and Ch.B. in 1915, entered the army as lieutenant on June 15th, 1917, and became major after twelve years' service. He served during the latter half of the war of 1914-18.

Major William Egan, D.S.O., O.B.E., R.A.M.C., died on December 11th, 1929, at Kingston, Jamaica. He was educated at University College, Cork, and at the Catholic University in Dublin, and graduated as M.B., Ch.B., and B.A.O. of the Royal University of Ireland in 1904. After filling the post of house-surgeon to the County and City Infirmary, Waterford, he entered the R.A.M.C., attaining the rank of major on January 30th, 1918. He served throughout the war of 1914-18, was mentioned in despatches in the *London Gazette* of December 24th, 1917, received the D.S.O. on January 1st, 1918, and later the O.B.E.