

or McGull, near Liverpool, both being equally remote and inaccessible.

Thus, from a purely medical point of view, slight and often curable cases were neglected, and those cases which were likely to be intractable ran the risk of being intensified by being removed from home and placed far away among strangers. Plymouth is fortunate in possessing two excellent open-air schools, one of which can accommodate a few boarders of both sexes. They have been of much use in the treatment of cases of mild neurosis and cases which were suspected of being pre-epileptic. These schools embody almost everything that one can wish for in the treatment of epilepsy.

In the past children from epileptic schools who had reached school-leaving age were returned to Plymouth without any provision being made to help them on their arrival in their new approach to life. This difficulty has now been met by the dispensary acting in conjunction with the education authorities. An after-care and treatment committee has been formed to interview the children on their return, to advise and help them over their difficulties. Furthermore, medical treatment, if necessary, will be provided for them at the neurological department at the dispensary. It is hoped that now the return to their homes of children from epileptic schools will be both facilitated and expedited.

Lectures on medical subjects are provided for teachers, and it is possible to hope that the nervous child will be recognized earlier and receive more sympathetic treatment than formerly. A child guidance clinic has now been established at the dispensary and teachers are encouraged to send, or better still to bring, children there for advice. In addition a nursery school is shortly to be opened, and it is hoped that others will be started.

Medicinally luminal has undoubtedly been of considerable assistance, though I have not been struck with its results in childhood to the same extent as I have in young adults. Possibly the judicial use of environment in early cases curtails its opportunities.—I am, etc.,

Plymouth, Dec. 17th.

E. L. FOX.

Cysticercosis and Epilepsy

SIR,—Major-General MacArthur's letter in your issue of December 21st, 1935 (p. 1229), on the incidence of cysticercosis and its relationship to epilepsy, recalls to mind such a case seen post mortem in the Allgemeine Krankenhaus, Vienna. The case was that of a female, aged 45 or thereabouts, with a history of fits of such a fleeting nature that she was diagnosed as a chronic hysteric. At post-mortem a cysticercus was found in the fourth ventricle.—I am, etc.,

London, N.7, Dec. 22nd, 1935.

W. LEES TEMPLETON.

The Food Value of Alcohol

SIR,—It was interesting to note the remarks on the above subject by your correspondent Dr. E. H. Snell in the *Journal* of December 14th, 1935. Many readers will have also noted the discrepancy to which Dr. Snell refers, and I feel, like himself, that many medical men have difficulty in reconciling the diverse statements made by various authorities on this much-vexed question.

Might I be allowed to refer readers who are interested to an admirable little book, *Alcohol and Human Life*, written by Dr. C. C. Weeks and published by Messrs. H. K. Lewis and Co., Ltd. For a clear, scientific, and rational survey of the whole subject this book can be thoroughly recommended.—I am, etc.,

Ormiston, East Lothian,
Dec. 19th, 1935.

A. W. TURNBULL.

Ante-natal Diagnosis of Quadruplets

SIR,—In his paper in the *British Medical Journal* of December 21st, 1935 (p. 1206), Dr. Ulysses Williams states that he failed to find in the literature any previous illustrated record of the x-ray diagnosis of quadruplets. If he refers to the *Münchener medizinische Wochenschrift* for March 20th, 1931 (p. 493), he will find a case recorded by A. Hermstein and G. J. Pfalz, with several very interesting x-ray plates.—I am, etc.,

W. M. FELDMAN, M.D., F.R.C.P.

London, W.1, Dec. 21st, 1935.

Tuberculosis Among Students and Nurses

SIR,—I am glad to see that one old resident, Dr. P. W. Parkes (*Journal*, December 21st, 1935, p. 1230), does not join in the general bleat against the appalling conditions in which most of your correspondents would seem to have had to work. Admittedly a resident's work can sometimes be very hard—in one appointment at my own hospital I had to look after sixty beds, three chiefs (which meant three visits), three out-patient sessions, and three operating days weekly, and all the indoor midwifery of the hospital—but I thoroughly enjoyed it. In fact, I look back, as must many others, on my resident appointments as one of the happiest periods of my life.

Many present-day residents seem to forget that they come to a hospital not to play but to work, and to get as much experience as possible before settling down in practice. One such applicant for a resident post actually asked, as one of his first questions, "What are the off-duty times?" Needless to say, he was not appointed.

I cannot believe that these plaintive letters really represent the general feeling of ex-residents, although if the incidence of tuberculosis among residents is excessively high it certainly is a matter for careful investigation. I wonder, however, if it is any higher than among medical students, the majority of whom manage to qualify without breaking either their hearts or their backs with work.—I am, etc.,

London, Dec. 21st, 1935.

EX-RESIDENT.

SIR,—I was charmed with Dr. Parkes's naïve letter. He is wrong in supposing that residents no longer enjoy their period of residency. But it is because young men can be happy under almost any conditions, not because the conditions are conducive to happiness. It is a gross misstatement to say that housemen are careless of their physical well-being. A houseman who has not played outdoor games throughout his school and 'varsity career and is not anxious to do so after qualification, is a rarity. The most characteristic feature of the mess-room is the pile of golf bags, football boots, and tennis rackets in the corner. They accumulate there because the housemen realize, reluctantly, that they have no time to use them. Is it fair that the housemen's games should be cut down to running—a dull sport at best—which even Dr. Parkes admits is frequently the case? Is he to be allowed so little free time for exercise that if he wishes to take tea with a friend he must sacrifice his hour or two in the open? Even so, open country and convenient towpaths are not so common as Dr. Parkes imagines. I wonder what would be the attitude of the governors of a hospital towards the notoriety induced by the residents taking their run up and down the Embankment, shall we say?

One would imagine from Dr. Parkes's letter that residents spent their nights in Bacchanalian revelry. Nothing is farther from the truth in these days when three out of every five residents are working for higher