

Medical News

Dr. Philip Hamill, F.R.C.P., will deliver a lecture on "Prescribing in Wartime" before the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain at Friends House, Euston Road, N.W., on Wednesday, May 13, at 2.30 p.m.

A meeting of the Tuberculosis Association will be held at 26, Portland Place, W., on Friday, May 15, at 4.30 p.m., when a paper on "The Outline of a Scheme for the Prevention of Tuberculosis" will be read by Dr. J. E. Stokes. At 5.30 p.m. there will be a continuation of the discussion held at previous meetings on the rehabilitation of the tuberculous.

The annual meeting of the members of the Royal Medical Benevolent Fund will be held at 4 p.m. on Thursday, May 21, at 10, Wimpole Street, W.1, when the financial statement for the year 1941 will be presented and the officers and committee for the current year elected.

A meeting of the Medical Society for the Study of Venereal Diseases will be held at 11, Chandos Street, W., on May 30, at 2 p.m., when there will be a discussion on "Non-gonococcal Urethritis," to be opened by Wing Comdr. G. L. M. McElligott and Dr. I. N. Orpwood Price.

The London School of Dermatology, at St. John's Hospital for Diseases of the Skin, Leicester Square, W.C., proposes to hold a short course of lectures, beginning in the third week of May, on Wednesdays at 4.30 p.m. The lectures will be on practical subjects and specially directed to be of help to medical officers of H.M. Forces. There will be no fee.

The Nutrition Society is arranging a whole-day conference on "Problems of Collective Feeding in Wartime," to be held at the London School of Hygiene, Keppel Street, W.C., on Saturday, May 30, at 11 a.m.

The 31st annual meeting of the Canadian Public Health Association will be held in Toronto on June 1 to 3 under the presidency of Dr. J. J. McCann.

The Medical Bureau of the Scottish National Union of Students has drawn up a report on medical education representing the collective opinion of the medical students of the four university medical schools in Scotland (Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Glasgow, and St. Andrews and Dundee). In order to obtain a reliable cross-section of student opinion the appropriate committees in the universities were asked to hold mass meetings and issue questionnaires, each committee adopting the same general plan. The task of collating the results of these inquiries was entrusted to Mr. R. M. Archibald of the S.N.U.S. Medical Bureau, 11, Park Circus Place, Glasgow, C.3, from whom copies of the printed report can be obtained (price 2d.). The report has already been submitted to the B.M.A. Medical Planning Commission for consideration by one of its committees.

Between Aug. 1, 1939, and July 31, 1941, the Hospital Saving Association put £200,000 into a special war emergency reserve fund, on the understanding that the distribution of this sum would be determined in due course in consultation with the voluntary hospitals. To relieve their immediate necessities it has been decided to release £100,000 at once. In 1939 the H.S.A. paid the hospitals £700,000; in 1941 the figure was £556,000. The extra £100,000 will now be shared among the hospitals on the basis of the mean of the amount each received in those two years. This was agreed at a recent meeting between the H.S.A. and representatives of the London voluntary hospitals. Any other method would have been unfair, for the hospitals have not fared alike at the hands of the Luftwaffe, and those which have suffered have had to reduce their bed complement, thereby losing patients and the H.S.A. payments those patients would have brought.

The King has granted Major John Gilmour, C.M.G., M.C., M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.S.Ed., authority to wear the Insignia of Grand Officer of the Order of Ismail, conferred upon him by the King of Egypt.

Mr. Gerald S. Hughes, J.P., F.R.C.S.Ed., has been elected Governour of the Merchant Adventurers Company of York.

Lord Horder has accepted the presidency of the Food Education Society in succession to the late Sybil Lady Rhondda.

Ten people (seven men and three women) have died recently in Glasgow from the effects of poisoning caused by drinking wood alcohol in the form of industrial spirit, presumably pilfered from casks stored at a dock. Several other persons are seriously ill in hospital with wood alcohol poisoning, which had accounted for the deaths of five men in the early part of April.

The address of the Drugs Branch, Home Office, is now Meyrick Cliffs Hotel, Beacon Road, Bournehamouth, Hants.

Letters, Notes, and Answers

All communications in regard to editorial business should be addressed to THE EDITOR, BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, B.M.A. HOUSE, TAVISTOCK SQUARE, LONDON, W.C.1.

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QUERIES AND ANSWERS

Persistent Psoriasis

S. C. M. writes: It has crossed my mind that perhaps some of your readers might be able to throw new light upon an old subject—psoriasis. There appears to be no cause and no cure, but in the following case the victim is a practising midwife; if the condition spreads much more she will soon cease as such. *History*.—Painful swellings, discoloration of the legs, diagnosed as erythema nodosum, at the ages of 12, 21, 24, 29. Each time there was pain in the joints and general tiredness for several weeks before the "nodules" reddened on the surface. At the age of 30 the psoriasis appeared: since then there has been no other complaint but ulcers in the mouth. All treatments, regular and irregular, have failed, including arsenic, autohaemotherapy, removal of tonsils followed by autogenous vaccines, and sulphapyridine.

Sharpening Blades and Needles

P. K. writes: I should be very glad of any advice or "tips" on the sharpening and cleaning of scalpel blades and hypodermic needles.

LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.

The Baby's Milk

Mrs. MARIE C. STOPES, D.Sc., Ph.D., writes: Your annotation entitled "What is a Truby King Baby?" (March 14, p. 365) is very welcome. Even Dr. Truby King's original formulae for so-called "humanized milk," in which no commercialized product but merely water, ordinary lime-water, and ordinary "sugar of milk" were used, were misnomers, and deprived the infant of essential mineral salts, etc. Now these formulae are changed and the use of specialized products has become associated with Dr. Truby King's system; one wonders whether he would have welcomed the position to-day. In my opinion, unless whey from fresh milk is used to dilute the full milk, the infant is defrauded. Particularly in wartime it would help young mothers to nourish their babies properly if the medical profession would encourage them to use the whey from goat's milk, because it is so very much easier to make. Goat's milk sets a much harder curd much more easily and quickly than does cow's milk, and, instead of the rather toilsome and extravagant process with cow's milk, it is a simple and easy matter to make part of the goat's milk into whey to dilute the rest. All anxiety about tuberculous infection is banished, and the child can be fed, as it should be fed, on fresh milk with its mineral and vital content.

Blackcurrant Concentrate

Dr. MARY BAKER (Birmingham) writes: Dr. Howard English states (April 25, p. 542) that the blackcurrant concentrate issued by the Ministry of Health is unsuitable for young infants. The prescribed dose of the syrup is two teaspoons three times daily, but I find that even less than one-third of this quantity causes frequent loose green motions, a result confirmed by other doctors. For a child of from 6 months to 2 years blackcurrant purée is issued, and this produces the same effect in a young infant. The purée must be consumed within seven days of opening the tin, an impossible feat for an infant; hence the remainder goes for workers' sandwiches, etc., as stated. Would it not be more satisfactory to provide ascorbic acid tablets in place of the blackcurrant concentrate?

The New Order of Things

Dr. B. RICHARDSON BILLINGS writes: One is accustomed to see cars with a "DOCTOR" label on the windscreen; but I was surprised when I met to-day a car with "OSTEOPATH" as the legend. "It makes you think."

** It does.—ED., B.M.J.