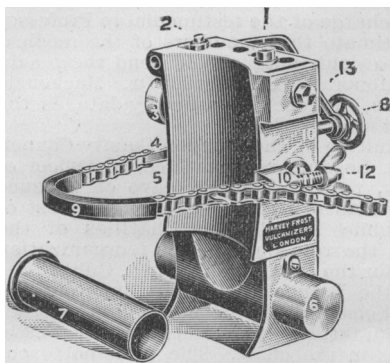


MOTOR CARS FOR MEDICAL MEN.

SELECTION AND REPAIR OF TYRES.

MESSRS. HARVEY, FROST AND Co., who are probably best known to medical motorists as the proprietors of a very simple and ingenious vulcanizer, recently issued the third edition of a pamphlet entitled *Economy in Motor Tyres: their Choice, Care, and Repair*, and have formed at their offices at 27, Charing Cross Road, a collection of tyres where all or most of the principal makes may be seen. The pamphlet contains some judicious observations by Mr. H. J. Garland on the choice of tyres, their care and repair, together with a summary of the risks to be guarded against in fitting a tyre and in using it. The bulk of the pamphlet consists of specially prepared statements by the several manufacturers of the merits of the tyres they make. A copy will, we understand, be forwarded on application.

The vulcanizer made by this firm has already been mentioned in these columns, but it appears likely to be so useful that attention may again be called to it. It can be used for repairing



both covers and inner tubes; it consists of a tubular boiler of the form indicated in the drawing. The heat is furnished by the spirit lamp (6), the heat of which can be regulated by the cover (7); a temperature sufficiently high for vulcanizing is obtained by steam under pressure, (2) being the safety valve and (3) the pressure gauge. On one side the boiler presents a flat surface, against which the inner tube can be held for

vulcanizing, by turning the screw wheel (8). The other side is curved to fit the tyre, being held in position by the chain and band (5 and 9), which is tightened by the thumb screw (12). The principal feature of the invention is that the result is not a patch, but new vulcanized material introduced into, and so to say welded with, the original rubber and there vulcanized. The edges of the tear are first freely excised on the slant, so as to produce a V-shaped cavity. The sides are then rasped to get a rough surface and treated with naphtha solution. Prepared rubber material, containing the necessary proportion of sulphur and supplied in sheets is softened by heating and is then easily worked into the tear; after it has cooled it is sliced level with a sharp knife and worked smooth with a roller. The object of vulcanization is to bring about the change in the physical properties of india-rubber which is due to the combination of the rubber with sulphur. This chemical combination only takes place at a high temperature and the next step in the process is to bring the soft rubber preparation which has been worked with the tear into close apposition with the boiler, which during these preparations has probably reached the required temperature. The actual vulcanizing takes about a quarter of an hour or twenty minutes, and after the removal from the vulcanizer the part should be allowed to cool thoroughly before being used. The cost of tyres is so serious a part of the upkeep of a car that this method of vulcanizing, which has already commended itself to many medical motorists, will probably become still more generally used in the future. It appeared to us when demonstrated recently to be at once simple and practical, and there can be no doubt that the result is to give a very satisfactory join, which appears to stand rough usage as well as the original tyre or tube. The price of the portable vulcanizer is 5 guineas, with 12s. 6d. extra for necessary tools and extra materials; a discount of 5 per cent. is allowed for cash. A larger size, for fixing in the garage, can be obtained for 12 guineas, with 2 guineas extra for tools and materials.

INSURANCE.

The notes published with regard to motor-car insurance in the JOURNAL of last week, pages 1173 and 1176, have brought a number of inquiries, and we may say that the owner of a car has considerable choice, and, as was pointed out last week, can practically adapt the benefit insured to his own particular needs. The rates are governed by the present full value taken in conjunction with the horse power. In estimating the horse power the lower of the two named by the maker is taken. As we have said the "doctor's policy" appears to be that most likely to meet the needs of medical men. Full particulars can be obtained on application to the Secretary and Agent of the Medical Insurance Committee, 429, Strand, London, W.C.

ACCORDING to the New York *Medical Record*, it is reported from Colorado Springs that valuable deposits of uranium, "the mother substance of radium," have been discovered at Woodland Park, a few miles west of Mainton, Colorado.

LITERARY NOTES.

MISS ROTHAMARY CLAY has written a book, entitled *The Mediaeval Hospitals of England*, which will be published as one of the volumes of Messrs. Methuen's series of "Antiquary's Books."

In the *Medical Record* of October 2nd, Dr. James J. Walsh, who some time ago recalled the fact (see BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, December 26th, 1908, p. 1876) that the first American medical school was that of the University of Mexico, in which a chair of medicine was founded—according to one chronicler in 1578, according to another in 1580—deals with the beginnings of clinical teaching in America. He says the first hospital in America was also founded in the city of Mexico nearly four centuries ago, and is still in existence. It was used for the purposes of clinical teaching over three centuries and a half ago. He quotes Professor Bourne of Yale as saying in the third volume of the American Nation Series:

It is not too much to say that the institutions of learning founded in Mexico in the sixteenth century, in number, range of studies, and standard of attainments by the officers, surpassed anything existing in English-America until the nineteenth century. Mexican scholars made distinguished achievements in some branches of science, particularly medicine and surgery, but pre-eminently linguistics, history, and anthropology.

The first universities in America were founded by a decree of the King of Spain in 1551. Both the University of Lima and that of Mexico had medical schools before the end of the sixteenth century. During the seventeenth century both these universities were fully organized with faculties of theology, law, and medicine, which were open only to men who had gone through at least three years of undergraduate work. The first hospital on the European model was built by Hernando Cortés, the Conqueror of Mexico, before 1524. Cortés, possibly as a salve to his conscience for his treatment of the natives, obtained a grant of land from the Emperor Charles V, and erected on it a hospital which he endowed out of the revenues obtained from the property conferred upon him by the Spanish Crown. The hospital was originally called by his desire the Immaculate Conception. In the church adjoining the hospital, however, there was a shrine with a famous image of Christ, called Jesus Nazareno. On account of the fame of this, says Dr. Walsh, both church and hospital came to be called by this title, so that this first Mexican hospital is now known as the Hospital of Jesus. Cortés declared in his will that he had established and endowed the hospital "in recognition of the graces and mercies that God had bestowed upon him in his discovery and conquest of New Spain, and as an expiation or satisfaction for his sins, and especially for any of his faults that he might have forgotten, but might still be a burden on his conscience, though, owing to his forgetfulness, he could not make a special atonement for them." Cortés so arranged the endowment that it has continued to be paid down to the present day. It was never given over to the State, but is a special corporation under a superintendent, and so it has survived the changes of government and the revolutions in Mexico. Cortés's principal descendants are the Italian Dukes of Terranova e Montaleone, who still have the right to name an agent to supervise the hospital. This they do regularly, so that the institution has been kept to its original intention and usefulness. But as we know from Prescott, who quotes Spanish authorities for the statement, there were hospitals in Mexico long before the Conquest. Dr. Walsh cites a passage from Hubert Howe Bancroft's *Native Races of the Pacific States of North America* to the effect that among the Mexicans for severe cases the expense of treatment which could not be borne except by the wealthy classes, hospitals were established by the Government in all the larger cities of the native states of Mexico before the coming of the Spaniards, and experienced doctors, surgeons, and nurses well versed in all the native healing arts were provided for them. According to Dr. Walsh there was even clinical teaching in these hospitals; and as it was the custom for the profession of healing to descend from father to son, the opportunities for a good training in medicine and surgery will be appreciated. Women occupied positions in these hospitals not alone as nurses but also as physicians, and women's diseases and obstetrics were entirely in their hands.

In the *American Journal of Clinical Medicine* for October, Dr. George H. Tichenor, of New Orleans, gives an account of the career of William Walker, who, like Thomas Dover, of opium and ipecacuanha powder fame, was a filibuster as well as a doctor. But Walker was a good deal else besides. He was born at Nashville, Tennessee, in 1824. He studied law at the University of Tennessee and afterwards medicine at Edinburgh. After practising as a doctor for a time he took up law as a profession in New Orleans. Whether Themis refused to smile upon him, or whether he wearied of her, he next tried journalism. At that time the gold fever was raging in California, and Walker became associate editor of the *San Francisco Herald*. But his true vocation seems to have been to "extend the area of freedom." He had Napoleonic ambitions, but without the ability—or the luck—to realize them. In 1853, when both the United States and Mexico had troubles enough on their hands to occupy their attention, Walker made a dash into Lower California with fifty-two men, proclaimed a republic, and elected himself president. He gathered some adherents about him, but the Mexicans drove him across the border, where he surrendered to American troops. He was tried, but acquitted of violating American neutrality. In 1854 the last remains of the expedition reached San Francisco, where the ex-president subsided into the editorial chair of a daily paper owned by one Byron Cole, who had some interest in Nicaragua. That same year a revolution broke out in Nicaragua, and Cole obtained a colonization grant, under the terms of which 300 Americans were to be brought in and granted the privilege of bearing arms. This grant was forwarded to Walker, who collected a small force and invaded Nicaragua, where somehow he became commander-in-chief of the army, and a year later President of Nicaragua. Adventurers flocked to his standard from all parts, among them Joaquim Miller, the poet. It was not long, however, before Walker's ambition soared so high as to make it evident to the Central American Republics that if they did not take strenuous action he would soon become emperor of the whole region. They combined against him, and war was declared upon Nicaragua. At that time Walker had 10,000 men, while the allied army numbered 21,000. He might have been victorious but for the hostility of Vanderbilt "the First," who withdrew his ships from Nicaraguan ports, thus cutting off his supplies. He had to leave Nicaragua and return to the United States, where he was received as a hero. But his career as a filibuster was not yet at an end. In a few months he took part in a revolution in Honduras. He was compelled to surrender to the British, who handed him over to the Honduras authorities, and he was executed on May 1st, 1857—a sad end for one whose career was more full of interest than that of the hero of Kipling's story, "The Man Who Would Be King." Walker wrote a part of his own history in a book entitled *The War in Nicaragua*. In it he mentions the stamping out of epidemics of dysentery and cholera among his soldiers, a fact which shows that he had not forgotten his first profession.

The American Western Association for the Preservation of Medical Records was organized in May, 1909, for the purpose of collecting the historical and biographical records of the profession of the West and South of the United States. Its aim is to preserve anything and everything pertaining to Western medicine. Arrangements have been made with the Lloyd Library, Cincinnati, Ohio, for the proper housing of the material collected. This material will be systematically arranged, catalogued, and properly preserved, so that it can be made available for research work. The Association is particularly anxious to obtain (1) medical journals published in the West and South prior to 1880; (2) medical books or pamphlets written or published in the West; (3) manuscripts and autographs of early Western physicians; (4) old diplomas and other documents of a medical character; (5) proceedings of medical societies; (6) reports of hospitals and other medical institutions; (7) catalogues and announcements of Western medical colleges of all "schools"; (8) biographies and portraits of Western physicians; (9) information and material of any kind pertaining to medicine and medical men and affairs in the West; (10) curios of a medico-historical character. An appeal to all persons who may have such documents or objects of

the kind described has been issued by Drs. C. A. L. Reed, Chairman, and Otto Juettnner, Secretary of the Association. The Librarian is Dr. A. G. Drury, of Chicago. We mention this appeal because it is one among many other evidences of the interest in things connected with medical history that has of late years been aroused, and, as the pages of the *JOURNAL* show, is steadily becoming keener.

Medical News.

DR. JAMIESON B. HURRY, well known as the historian of Reading Abbey, has been placed on the Commission of the Peace for the Borough of Reading.

THE new hall of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia, described by Dr. Keen in the *JOURNAL* of last week, page 1161, will be dedicated on November 10th.

THE committee in charge of the testimonial to Professor Ogston desires to intimate that members of the medical profession wishing to contribute should send their subscriptions to the Honorary Secretary, Dr. Mackenzie Booth, 1, Carden Place, Aberdeen, at an early date, as the subscription list must soon be closed.

THE Asylums Committee of the London County Council has granted Dr. T. S. Logan, Assistant Medical Officer of the Epileptic Colony, twelve months' leave of absence without pay in order that he may assist, at the request of the Secretary of Public Health and Charities of the Republic of Cuba, in the remodelling and reorganization of the State Asylum for the Insane in Mazorra, Cuba.

THE members of the Balneological and Climatological Section of the Royal Society of Medicine will dine together at the Imperial Restaurant, Regent Street, on October 29th, Dr. Leonard Williams in the chair. The principal event of the evening will be the presentation to Dr. S. F. Sunderland of a testimonial in acknowledgement of his services as secretary to the late Balneological Society during thirteen years.

THE tenth annual dinner for medical men residing in West Somerset will be held at the London Hotel, Taunton, on Tuesday, November 2nd, at 7 p.m. The chairman will be Mr. Chas. Farrant. The price of the dinner will be 6s. a head, exclusive of wine, etc., and guests, medical or other, will be welcome. Those who wish to be present are requested to intimate their intention by Saturday, October 30th, to the Honorary Secretary, Dr. W. B. Winckworth, Sussex Lodge, Taunton.

THE honorary secretaries of King Edward's Hospital Fund for London have received from the Foreign Office a cheque for £4,775, this being half the net profits of the late Franco-British Exhibition. Under one of the clauses of the charter by which that undertaking was incorporated it was provided that the net profits should be divided equally between France and England and placed in the hands of the respective Foreign Secretaries of these countries for devotion to such public object as they might select. The other moiety has been accordingly sent to France.

A QUARTERLY court of the directors of the Society for Relief of Widows and Orphans of Medical Men was held on October 13th, Dr. Blandford, President, in the chair. Nineteen members of the court were present. A vote of condolence with the family of the late Sir Thomas Smith, Bart., was passed from the Chair. Sir Thomas Smith was elected a member in 1870, had held the offices of Director and Vice-President, had always taken the keenest interest in the welfare of the society, and was a regular attendant at the quarterly courts. The death was announced of one of the annuitants of the charity, a widow, who came on the funds in 1907, and received in grants the sum of £145. The sum of £518 was voted to be distributed among the annuitants as a gift at Christmas, each widow to receive £10, each orphan £5, or the orphans in receipt of grants from the Copeland Fund £5 each. Membership is open to any registered medical practitioner who at the time of his election is resident within a twenty-mile radius of Charing Cross. The subscription is 2 guineas per annum, or a member may become a life member by paying one sum, the amount of which is fixed by the by-laws of the society. Relief is only granted to the widows or orphans of deceased members, and since the last court six letters had been received from widows of medical men asking for relief, but this had to be refused as their husbands had not been members of the society. Application forms for membership and full particulars may be obtained from the Secretary at 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square. The next election will be on January 12th, 1910. The invested funds of the society now amount to £100,500.