

dissertations now being published on its prevalence throughout the world. It is impossible not to extend sympathy to employers and workpeople alike over the risks attendant on so useful and, in its output, so beautiful an art and craft. The industry has, in magnificent manner, overcome the risk from lead poisoning which was another of its banes in bygone years. In 1898, for example, from pottery works alone 457 cases of saturnism were reported; last year the number was 14. This success should inspire all concerned to cope with the trouble now brought to light.

REGISTER OF BIO-PHYSICAL ASSISTANTS.

THE Representative Body of the British Medical Association in July, 1928, pointed out the need for the registration of competent and suitable lay persons to whom doctors could with confidence send their patients for electrical treatment and actinotherapy. In the following December the Science Committee presented to the Council a report on the practical steps to be taken to organize courses of training in these procedures, and to prepare a roll of persons who had satisfactorily followed such courses. A small committee of experts was then formed to draft general lines of procedure, and an arrangement was entered into with the Society of Apothecaries of London to institute a register of approved persons under the conditions prescribed. Regulations were drawn up and the first *Register of Bio-Physical Assistants* was printed and published a few months ago under the direction of the Society of Apothecaries.¹ This contained full details of what is required in order to become a registered bio-physical assistant, a statement of the undertakings which registered persons are required to sign, and the first list of names arranged both alphabetically and topographically. At the suggestion of the Science Committee, and with the co-operation of the Society of Apothecaries, we publish in the *Supplement* this week, for the convenience of medical practitioners at home and abroad, the topographical part of the *Register of Bio-Physical Assistants* revised to October 31st, 1930. Those whose names appear therein have been approved as persons "competent to dispense the direct current, ionization, faradic currents, sinusoidal currents, diathermy, high frequency currents, light and heat, and ultra-violet light."

PUBLIC HEALTH CONGRESS IN LONDON.

A CONGRESS and exhibition are held every November at the Agricultural Hall, Islington, organized by a council composed of representatives of the Ministry of Health, the Board of Education, the Board of Control, and the various associations of municipal corporations, county councils, and other public bodies. The congress is devoted in alternate years to local administration on the engineering and public works side, and to local administration on the side of public health. This year it is the turn of public health, and the congress, which is to be opened by Mr. Arthur Greenwood, the Minister of Health, on November 17th, and to continue until November 21st, has a very full and interesting programme. Among those who are giving addresses are Sir Arthur Newsholme, who is to speak on medicine and the State; Dr. W. M. Ash, on the school medical service; Professor E. Mellanby, on maternal mortality; Dr. T. Beaton, on the mental health problem; Dr. E. S. Littelljohn, on mental deficiency; and Professor C. S. Myers, on industrial psychology. The chairmen at the various sessions include Sir Herbert Samuel, Sir Charles Trevelyan, President of the Board of Education, Miss Susan Lawrence, Sir Arthur Robinson, and Mr. L. G. Brock. A special discussion is to take place on the morning of November 21st on the sterilization of the unfit, and among the announced speakers are Dr. W. F. Menzies,

¹ *British Medical Journal*, May 31st, 1930, p. 1012.

Dr. A. F. Tredgold, Dr. C. P. Blacker, and the Right Rev. Monsignor Newsome. In addition to the ordinary sessions, meetings of various associations are to be held in connexion with the congress. The British Hospitals Association is to discuss hospital contributory schemes, the Association of Hospital Officers is to take up the subject of co-operation between the voluntary and council hospitals, and other bodies are to debate sewage disposal, water supply, and public cleansing problems. Evidently a full week's work is anticipated, and delegates are expected from very many of the local authorities in Great Britain. An exhibition filling the vast space of the Agricultural Hall, and including plant, machinery, and materials used in the various public health services, will be held during the week.

"TABULAE BIOLOGICAE."

THE six volumes of collected data published in Berlin under the title *Tabulae Biologicae* deserve the attention of workers in biological sciences. The appearance of the first volume of the series in 1925 was welcomed warmly in these columns, for the difficulty of hunting down data is well known to all investigators. Collected tables of data have long been recognized as an elementary necessity by chemists and physicists, and the lack of anything in biology that corresponded to the volumes of Landolt-Bornstein or Kaye and Laby was a very serious hindrance to research. *Tabulae Biologicae* evidently met a widely felt need, for the work, which was originally planned to comprise four volumes dealing with physiological and biochemical data, has since been expanded by the addition of botanical and zoological volumes. The collection of biological data, even on a modest scale, is a remarkably difficult and tedious task, and it is impossible to escape a feeling of amazement when glancing through the thousands of pages of tabulated data brought together in these volumes. Biological workers certainly have reason to be grateful to the authors who have completed this labour, and it is pleasing to learn that the volumes have met with widespread appreciation. The editors announce that the series will be continued in periodical form; one volume in four parts will appear annually. The bulk of scientific literature becomes every year more overwhelming, but we can welcome this particular addition without hesitation, because it will serve to reduce rather than increase labour.

SIR FREDERICK GOWLAND HOPKINS, D.Sc., F.R.C.P., Professor of Biochemistry in the University of Cambridge, has been recommended by the President and Council of the Royal Society for election to the presidency of the Society at the anniversary meeting to be held on December 1st.

SIR ARTHUR KEITH, M.D., F.R.S., was, on November 8th, elected Rector of the University of Aberdeen in succession to the late Earl of Birkenhead.

At the Yeomanry Dinner to be given by the Master Wardens and Court of Assistants of the Society of Apothecaries of London on Tuesday next, November 18th, the honorary freedom of the Society will be conferred upon Mr. Arthur Greenwood, Minister of Health, and the gold medal will be presented to M. Fourneau.

"ORGANIC GASTRIC SYPHILIS."

CORRECTION.

WE hasten to correct an unaccountable blunder which occurred in our last issue, dated November 8th, 1930. Dr. David Smith, the author of the article on "Organic gastric syphilis," printed at page 773, was described in the heading as "Assistant Physician, Royal Infirmary, *Edinburgh*." This, of course, should be "Royal Infirmary, *Glasgow*."