

Medical News

Dr. Charles Bolton, C.B.E., F.R.S., F.R.C.P.

We announce with regret the death, on Dec. 6, of Dr. Charles Bolton, C.B.E., F.R.S., F.R.C.P., consulting physician to University College Hospital and Fellow of University College, London.

Moray Lodge Sick Bay

A sick bay was opened on Dec. 4 at Moray Lodge, Campden Hill, Kensington, London, W., for civil servants of the lower-paid groups who are appointed to posts in the London area and who live in hostels or lodgings. The sick bay will be administered by the Ministry of Health; the British Red Cross Society will be responsible for its day-to-day management; and the Treasury Medical Adviser and his staff will act as medical officers. While private doctors will be free to visit their patients in the sick bay this will not always be necessary since medical officers will be available on the spot. No case of serious or notifiable infectious disease will be accepted at the sick bay, its function being to deal with the "home nursing" type of case only.

Common Cold Research

More volunteers are required for the experiments which for the past eighteen months have been conducted by the Common Cold Research Unit set up at the Harvard Hospital, Salisbury, by the Medical Research Council and the Ministry of Health. It was emphasized when the investigations started that dramatic results could not be expected, but the work is making steady progress. It has been established that the virus is about the size of the influenza virus, and that it can withstand freezing at temperatures as low as -70°C . Attempts to grow the virus in the laboratory have so far proved unsuccessful. Ten-day sessions for which volunteers are required next year are the periods beginning Jan. 14 and 28, Feb. 11 and 25, March 10, April 14 and 28, May 26, and June 9. People of either sex between the ages of 18 and 40 are wanted, and full details may be obtained from the Medical Officer, Harvard Hospital, Coombe Road, Salisbury.

British Association of Allergists

At a meeting held at Oxford on Nov. 15, it was decided to form a British Association of Allergists. The first general meeting of the association will be held at St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington, London, W., on Saturday, Jan. 24, when the speakers will include Dr. John Freeman and Mr. Frank Coke. Further particulars of the association may be obtained from the secretary (Dr. A. W. Frankland), The Wright-Fleming Institute of Microbiology, St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington, London, W.2.

Yorkshire Society of Anaesthetists

The Yorkshire Society of Anaesthetists has been formed with the object of promoting fellowship and scientific advance in the subject, and an inaugural meeting was held recently at Leeds, under the presidency of Dr. S. T. Rowling. Any doctor who is interested in the society and who did not know of the first meeting should write for particulars to the honorary secretary, Dr. R. C. Lawrence, 6, Wedgewood Grove, Roundhay, Leeds, 8.

Tuberculosis Fellowships

The National Jewish Hospital at Denver announces that Fellowships for postgraduate study in tuberculosis and allied diseases will be granted for three-months, six-months, or one-year periods. Information regarding the Fellowships can be obtained from Dr. Edgar Mayer, chairman of the National Medical Advisory Board, National Jewish Hospital at Denver, 470, Park Avenue, New York, N.Y., or Dr. Allan Hurst, medical director, National Jewish Hospital at Denver, 3,800, East Colfax Avenue, Denver 6, Colorado, U.S.A.

Unification of Pharmacopoeias

The first meeting of the Expert Committee on the Unification of Pharmacopoeias—a committee of the World Health Organization—was held at Geneva on Oct. 13–17. Dr. C. H. Hampshire (Great Britain) was elected chairman. The intention is to produce an international pharmacopoeia whose scope in the first place would be limited to drugs considered essential in medical practice, and 244 drugs were selected from a list of 534 for immediate attention. The preparation of draft monographs and the carrying out of research were allocated among the members present. In view of the amount of work required the Committee recommended that at least three additional members be appointed and that a unified secretariat should be formed.

William Gibson Research Scholarship

The Royal Society of Medicine has awarded the William Gibson Research Scholarship to Dr. Alice Palmer, of Sydney, Australia, for her proposed research on the circulation in pregnancy.

Colony of Aden

Edgar Cochrane, M.D., has been appointed a member of the Executive Council of the Colony of Aden.

Change of Address

Messrs. Burroughs Wellcome and Co. announce that from Dec. 15 the address of their Home Division will be 183–193, Euston Road, London, N.W.1 (Telephone: Euston 4477). The same address will apply to their Overseas Division from Dec. 21.

Wills

Dr. Walter Dickson, Ealing, W., who died on July 6, left £67,039; he left £500 to the Royal Medical Benevolent Fund. Dr. John Alexander Neilan, for some years M.O.H. for Seaham, left £6,208. Dr. Phillip William McCrea, of Bristol, who died intestate, left £178. Dr. Edward Theodore Withington, of Oxford, the well-known medical historian, who died on April 20, left £20,552; he left £100 to the Royal Medical Benevolent Fund.

COMING EVENTS

Royal Microscopical Society

A meeting of the Royal Microscopical Society will be held at B.M.A. House, Tavistock Square, London, W.C., on Wednesday, Dec. 17, at 5.30 p.m., when Mr. Basil Wright, president of the Scientific Film Association, will describe the aims and objects of the association; Mr. A. F. W. Hughes will show films, including "Tissue Culture by Phase-Contrast"; and Dr. Adrianus Pijper's film "Shape and Mobility of Bacteria" will be exhibited.

Bearsted Memorial Hospital

The opening ceremony of the new building of the Bearsted Memorial Hospital in Lordship Road, Stoke Newington, London, N., will be performed by Viscountess Bearsted, president of the hospital, on Wednesday, Dec. 17, at 3 p.m. The hospital is open to patients irrespective of race or creed, and emergency cases and abnormalities may be referred to the board for admission and ante-natal treatment by the hospital's consultant obstetric staff.

Pan-American Association of Ophthalmology

The Third Pan-American Congress of Ophthalmology will be held at Havana, Cuba, from Jan. 4 to 10, 1948, when it is anticipated that about 1,000 eye specialists will attend the sessions at the University of Havana School of Medicine. A programme of more than forty formal papers has been arranged, with speakers divided about equally between physicians of the northern half of the hemisphere and those of the Latin-American countries. In addition to the contributions by members there will be several by specially invited guests, including Sir Stewart Duke-Elder (London), who will speak on "Penicillin in Ophthalmology," and Dr. Elizabeth Cass (Gibraltar), who will discuss strabismus.

SOCIETIES AND LECTURES

ROYAL SOCIETY OF MEDICINE

General Meeting of Fellows.—Tuesday, Dec. 16, 5.30 p.m. Ballot for election to the Fellowship.

Section of Pathology.—Tuesday, Dec. 16, 8.15 p.m. Communications by Dr. A. Glücksmann: Quantitative Histological Examinations of Serial Biopsies in Relation to the Radiotherapy of Epithelial Tumours. Dr. G. Payling Wright: The Action of Tetanus Toxin on the Rabbit Iris. Dr. J. Holborow: Effects of Penicillin on the Nasopharyngeal Flora.

Section of Dermatology.—Thursday, Dec. 18, 5 p.m. (Cases at 4 p.m.)

Section of Obstetrics and Gynaecology.—Friday, Dec. 19, 8 p.m. Discussion: Urological Problems in Gynaecological Surgery, with Special Reference to the Vesicovaginal Fistula and the Divided Ureter. Openers: Mr. Everard Williams, Miss Catherine Lewis, and Mr. Ogier Ward.

EDINBURGH CLINICAL CLUB.—At B.M.A. Scottish House, 7, Drumshugh Gardens, Edinburgh. Thursday, Dec. 18, 8 p.m. Dr. H. M. Traquair: The Lazy Eye. A discussion will follow.

EUGENICS SOCIETY.—At Royal Society's Rooms, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London, W., Tuesday, Dec. 16, 5.30 p.m. Dr. J. A. Fraser Roberts and Dr. Eliot Slater: Genetics, Medicine, and Practical Eugenics. All interested in the subject are invited to attend.

HUNTERIAN SOCIETY.—At Talbot Restaurant, London Wall, E.C., Monday, Dec. 15, 7 for 7.30 p.m. Dinner-meeting. Discussion: Menstrual Disorders in Relation to General Medicine. To be opened by Mr. Aleck Bourne, Dr. Edward Sharp, and Mr. John Howkins.

ROYAL INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND HYGIENE, 28, Portland Place, London, W.—Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, Dec. 15, 16, and 17, 3 p.m. Harben Lectures by Prof. E. D. Adrian, O.M., M.D., F.R.S., F.R.C.P.: The Organization of the Nervous System.

POSTGRADUATE DIARY

LONDON CHEST HOSPITAL, Victoria Park, E.—Friday, Dec. 12, 6 p.m. Mr. S. C. Suggit: Common Lesions of the Glottis. (*Change of lecturer and subject.*) Friday, Dec. 19, 5 p.m. Dr. Franklin Wood: X-ray Kymography of the Heart and Lungs.

LONDON SCHOOL OF DERMATOLOGY, 5, Lisle Street, Leicester Square, W.C.—Tuesday, Dec. 16, 5 p.m. Dr. J. E. M. Wigley: The Pemphigus Group of Eruptions.

A two-months postgraduate course in surgery will be held at the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland starting on April 12, 1948. The number of students is limited to 30 and the fee is 20 guineas. Students may enrol now with the Registrar, Royal College of Surgeons, St. Stephen's Green, Dublin.

APPOINTMENTS

LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL.—The following appointments have been made in the Council's mental health services at the hospitals indicated in parentheses: *Physician Deputy Superintendents*, J. C. Batt, M.D., M.R.C.P., D.P.M. (St. Ebba's); D. Shaw, M.D., M.R.C.P., D.P.M. (Sutton Emergency).

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS

BIRTHS

Jarratt.—On Nov. 28, 1947, at King's College Hospital, Denmark Hill, S.E., to Mary, wife of Dr. E. W. Jarratt, a son.

Mories.—On Nov. 22, 1947, at Albion House, Faversham, to Joan (*née* Cannon, M.B., Ch.B.), wife of Dr. Alexander Mories, a daughter.

Petit.—On Nov. 28, 1947, to Joan Lamplugh, M.B., Ch.B., wife of Joseph Petit, of Tanganyika, a daughter—Anne.

Shaw.—On Nov. 21, 1947, at Grove House Nursing Home, Norwich, to Jean (*née* Hart), wife of Richard E. Shaw, F.R.C.S., a son.

Todd.—On Nov. 28, 1947, at the Private Hospital, Leicester, to Eileen (*née* Gilbert), wife of R. McLaren Todd, M.D., M.R.C.P., a son—Hugh Ronald McLaren.

Trussell.—On Nov. 29, 1947, at South London Hospital, to Lily (*née* Chant, B.Sc.), wife of Sq.-Ldr. R. R. Trussell, R.A.F.V.R., a daughter.

Zaki.—On Nov. 30, 1947, at Private Clinic Nursing Home, 35, Drumsheugh Gardens, Edinburgh, to Irene (*née* Hope), wife of Dr. Y. E. Zaki, a son—Stuart Swinton.

DEATHS

Bolton.—On Dec. 6, 1947, in London, Charles Bolton, C.B.E., D.Sc., M.D., F.R.C.P., F.R.S.

Downton.—On Dec. 2, 1947, at Hornsey Central Hospital, Arthur Sydney Downton, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., aged 68.

Fleming.—On Dec. 5, 1947, at Innerhadden, Kinloch Rannoch, Robert Alexander Fleming, LL.D., M.D., F.R.C.P., F.R.S.Ed., Surgeon, H.M. The King's Bodyguard for Scotland.

Forbes.—On Nov. 27, 1947, at 9, Albyn Terrace, Aberdeen, Charles Forbes, O.B.E., M.B., Ch.B.

Fraser.—On Dec. 1, 1947, Sir John Fraser, Bt., K.C.V.O., M.C., LL.D., M.D., F.R.C.S.Ed., Principal and Vice-Chancellor, University of Edinburgh.

Hegarty.—On Dec. 8, 1947, at 8, Ravenslea Road, London, S.W., Patrick Nicholas Hegarty, L.R.C.P.I. & L.M.

Howard.—On Nov. 26, 1947, outside his home, "Pleasance," Beaumont Rise, Marlow, Bucks, Robert Howard, M.B.E., M.D., aged 75.

Jackson.—On Dec. 1, 1947, after an accident, at Manchester Royal Infirmary, William Ferriday Jackson, M.B., Ch.B., aged 74.

Lacey.—On Nov. 29, 1947, at Capetown, Bernard Warner Lacey, M.B., B.S., of 181, Herbert Road, Woolwich, S.E.

Masson.—On Dec. 7, 1947, at Southdene, the Shrubberies, South Woodford, E., Hamish Falconer Masson, F.R.C.S.Ed.

Moffat.—On Nov. 15, 1947, at Bulawayo, S. Rhodesia, Robert Unwin Moffat, C.M.G., M.D., Colonial Medical Service, retired.

Moore.—At "Blairfinde," Greystones, Co. Wicklow, George Peirce Moore, M.D., aged 77.

Scott.—On Nov. 20, 1947, at 13, Southernhay West, Exeter, Robert Scott, M.B., Ch.B.

Smith.—On Dec. 6, 1947, at "Maritzburg," Chipping Norton, Oxon, Thomas St. Clair Smith, M.B., aged 71.

Thomson.—On Dec. 2, 1947, at 83, Duke Street, London, W., William Brown Thomson, M.D., aged 68.

Young.—On Nov. 20, 1947, John Miller Young, M.C., M.B., D.P.H., aged 56.

Any Questions?

Diet in Pre-eclampsia

Q.—*What are the essential features of the diet in cases of albuminuria of pregnancy?*

A.—It is assumed that the term "albuminuria of pregnancy" is used to mean pre-eclampsia. Although it is possible to make some general observations on diet in this disease, each case deserves individual consideration. Starvation should be avoided, except perhaps for short periods in severe cases when eclampsia is threatening. Overeating also should be discouraged and the total intake should be average, bearing in mind that the patient is confined to bed—say 2,000 calories a day. Carbohydrate foodstuffs should be given freely, in the form of glucose if necessary. Fats should be taken in moderate amounts only. The traditional low-protein diet is fast losing favour. There is, perhaps, something to be said for limiting the intake of red meat, but other protein foods—milk, eggs, etc.—should be encouraged. Indeed in some cases in which oedema is associated with hypoproteinaemia large amounts of protein are required. Vitamins A, B complex, C, D, and possibly E are important, and if the diet is not rich in these they can be given in the form of supplementary concentrates. A good supply of calcium is also desirable. Table salt should be excluded from the diet so far as possible, and this means excluding food cooked or preserved in salt. The harmful ion is sodium, and care is necessary to see that the patient does not take this in any other form—for example, mixtures given for indigestion. The intake of fluid is also important, particularly if it is impossible to exclude sodium from the diet completely and if oedema is a prominent feature of the case. In such cases the amount of fluid permissible can be gauged roughly by the output of urine during the previous twenty-four hours, and should not exceed this.

Dietetic restrictions (except in respect of fluid and salt) present play a relatively unimportant part in the treatment of pre-eclampsia, and the emphasis is on rest in bed. With the present system of rationing in force there is little danger of overeating, and most patients can safely be told to eat their full allowance of all foodstuffs.

Prevention of Venereal Disease

Q.—*Is the application of penicillin ointment to the glans penis and meatus after sexual intercourse a certain preventive of venereal disease?*

A.—The answer is in the negative. Penicillin cream applied immediately after sexual intercourse would probably destroy all or most of any spirochaetes or gonococci on the surface, but might not reach organisms which had penetrated into the tissues; naturally it would not protect against those forms of V.D. the organisms of which are not susceptible to penicillin. It seems doubtful whether penicillin applied locally would be any more effective in preventing the development of V.D. than other ordinary hygienic measures, such as thorough washing with soap and water or bathing with mild antiseptics. In a probability gonococci penetrate some distance into the male urethra during sexual intercourse and so would be out of reach of local applications other than irrigating fluids. There is no certain preventive of venereal disease except the avoidance of any possible contact with the various causal organisms.

"Privileged Communications"

Q.—*(a) In the middle of 1946 two women came to blow One of them retired to bed, and was examined by her own doctor the next day. In view of the possible legal proceedings the uninjured person called in a second doctor, who, at the request of the first doctor and with the patient's consent examined the latter and was paid a fee. Twelve months later the solicitor for the defendant (uninjured person) applied to the second doctor for a detailed report of his examination of the plaintiff ("injured" party). Should a report be forwarded to the solicitor?*

(b) After the death of a patient from urogenital tuberculosis an insurance agent asked for a report on the patient's medical

Br Med J: first published as 10.1136/bmj.1.3619.984 on 13 December 1947. Downloaded from http://www.bmj.com/ on 20 April 2016 by guest. Protected by copyright.