

THE Council of Epsom College will shortly award "France" pensions of £30 a year to medical men. Candidates must not be less than 55 years of age, and their yearly income, independent of any allowance from the College, must not exceed £100. Application should be made to the Secretary, Mr. J. Bernard Lamb, 49, Bedford Square, W.C.1.

A CIRCULAR (366) has been issued by the chief medical officer of the Ministry of Health, stating that it has been decided to discontinue the practice of forwarding special forms of inquiry when cases of encephalitis lethargica are reported. The facts obtained by these forms have recently been summarized in a report (noticed in the JOURNAL of October 7th, 1922, p. 654), and it is considered improbable that the collection of further details by means of these forms will provide much additional information. It is pointed out that encephalitis lethargica remains on the list of diseases which are compulsorily notifiable, and that the Ministry of Health undertakes the examination of cerebro-spinal fluid in cases of suspected cerebro-spinal fever. The work of Dr. E. G. D. Murray for the Medical Research Council on the subject of the production of an immune serum for therapeutic use in cerebro-spinal fever has been retarded, it is stated, by scarcity of material, and pathologists are asked to send cultures of freshly isolated strains of meningococci from the cerebro-spinal fluid of cases of meningitis direct to Dr. Murray, at the Field Laboratories, Milton Road, Cambridge; special outfits for this purpose may be obtained free of cost at the offices of the Medical Research Council, 15, York Buildings, Adelphi, London, W.C.2.

Letters, Notes, and Answers.

As, owing to printing difficulties, the JOURNAL must be sent to press earlier than hitherto, it is essential that communications intended for the current issue should be received by the first post on Tuesday, and lengthy documents on Monday.

In order to avoid delay, it is particularly requested that ALL letters on the editorial business of the JOURNAL be addressed to the Editor at the Office of the JOURNAL.

THE postal address of the BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION and BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL is 429, Strand, London, W.C.2. The telegraphic addresses are:

1. EDITOR of the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, *Aitology*, Westrand, London; telephone, 2630, Gerrard.
2. FINANCIAL SECRETARY AND BUSINESS MANAGER (Advertisements, etc.), *Articulate*, Westrand, London; telephone, 2630, Gerrard.
3. MEDICAL SECRETARY, *Medisecra*, Westrand, London; telephone, 2630, Gerrard. The address of the Irish Office of the British Medical Association is 16, South Frederick Street, Dublin (telegrams: *Bacillus, Dublin*; telephone, 4737, Dublin), and of the Scottish Office, 6, Rutland Square, Edinburgh (telegrams: *Associate, Edinburgh*; telephone, 4361, Central).

QUERIES AND ANSWERS.

DR. MAUDE K. HOSAIN (110, King's Gate, Aberdeen) writes: If any of your readers could spare their quarterly copy of *Brain* after they have finished with it, to send to one of the German universities, will they kindly communicate with me?

DISTEMPER IN DOGS.

DR. J. S. MANSON (Warrington) writes with reference to the proposal for research into the etiology of distemper (BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, February 10th, p. 249): I have been under the impression for some years that the bacillary origin of distemper was discovered by McGowan of Edinburgh, and that this discovery had been corroborated by American workers. Reference is made to McGowan's researches into canine distemper and other diseases of domestic animals in the book entitled *Edinburgh's Place in Scientific Progress*, issued to the members of the British Association attending the annual meeting in 1921. The great interest shown at the Glasgow meeting of the British Medical Association in the papers and discussion on animal and plant pathology, to which Sir Clifford Allbutt made a notable contribution, induces me to express the hope that someone familiar with these topics will say whether we are as ignorant of the cause of canine distemper as is implied in the statements of the lay press.

* * Dr. McGowan has done a great deal of work with regard to distemper, and has described an organism, *B. bronchi-septicus*, the only cultivable micro-organism which he found to be present with uniformity and in great numbers in the tissues and organs of cases of canine distemper. He has stated also that typical distemper may be induced by infection with pure cultures of this micro-organism, and that dogs which have recovered from attacks so induced are protected on exposure to natural distemper. Dr. McGowan's experiments have led him also to the conclusion that distemper occurs in many other animals besides dogs, and he has described an outbreak, among pigs, of a destructive infection which he believed to be distemper. We gather, however, that Dr. McGowan's results have not so far

been generally accepted by the veterinary profession, and we must assume that the Medical Research Council is of opinion that further inquiry is needed. We hope to recur to the subject on a subsequent occasion.

LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.

RITTER'S DISEASE.

DR. D. WALSH (London) writes: The rare condition described by Dr. Ronald Cairns in your issue of February 3rd (p. 186) suggests an origin in local anaphylaxis. A similar explanation possibly or probably applies to those rare cases in which bullae persistently follow slight traumatism. The precise nature of the antigen in either instance would still have to be ascertained, and naturally one would investigate food idiosyncrasies, at any rate in elder children or adults.

EARLY HUMAN OVA.

DR. R. H. BOTHAM (Skelton-in-Cleveland) writes: Some time ago an embryologist was inquiring through the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL for early fertilized ova. I have a good specimen of seven weeks, which I shall be pleased to send anyone interested. Also a foetus of ten weeks.

A MISQUOTATION.

DR. C. F. CLARKE (Woolwich) has put his finger on a misquotation in our issue of February 3rd. He says: "The writer of the obituary notice of Dr. Dickson of Marlow introduced a verse from Tennyson at the end. But

"The peaceful stream glides on
Through the vale and under the hill"

should be

"And the stately ships go on
To their haven under the hill."

The lines are from "Break, break, break"—a tiny classic—which will not bear a word of alteration."

We submitted this to the author of the memoir—"J. A. P. P."—who pleads guilty, and asks to be allowed to set himself right with our readers.

"I was rash and presumptuous," he says, "in daring to alter the beautiful words of the great Victorian poet to suit the changed locale from Severn Sea to Father Thames; in a footnote in the obituary notice I ought perhaps to have apologized for so doing, but such a note appeared to me inappropriate. I am therefore all the more grateful to you for giving me this opportunity of explaining and apologizing to your readers."

This handsome admission impels us to add a word of apology on our own account for the lapse from editorial vigilance.

DETERMINATION OF SEX.

DR. REGINALD MAPLES (Kingsclere) writes: Dr. B. A. Parker's letter (January 27th, p. 174) is most interesting to me, but exactly opposite to my own experience. For the past thirty-five years I, together with many friends, have systematically bred from our small herds calves of the sex we wished by simply following the following rule: If a cow has a bull calf and you wish to continue bull calves you must send her to stock on the second, fourth, or sixth period of coming "on use." If, on the contrary, you desire heifer calves you must send her on the first, third, or fifth period, and so on, till she is stopped. This rule is infallible if you have a reliable cowman to keep observation. This does not apply to a heifer with her first calf, because you have no record how many times already she has been "on use." I have helped many a farmer to breed to sex by giving him this advice. I have some extraordinary reliable records.

ERRATUM.

IN Dr. Mary Gordon's letter on penal discipline (BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, February 3rd, p. 212) the sixth line of paragraph 5 should read "superior surroundings and education," etc., not, as printed, "inferior."

VACANCIES.

NOTIFICATIONS of offices vacant in universities, medical colleges, and of vacant resident and other appointments at hospitals, will be found at pages 30, 31, 34, and 35 of our advertisement columns, and advertisements as to partnerships, assistantships, and locum tenencies at pages 32 and 33.

A short summary of vacant posts notified in the advertisement columns appears in the *Supplement* at page 55.

SCALE OF CHARGES FOR ADVERTISEMENTS IN THE BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL.

	£	s.	d.
Six lines and under	0	9	0
Each additional line	0	1	6
Whole single column (three columns to page) ...	7	10	0
Half single column	3	15	0
Half page	10	0	0
Whole page	20	0	0

An average line contains six words.

All remittances by Post Office Orders must be made payable to the British Medical Association at the General Post Office, London. No responsibility will be accepted for any such remittance not so safeguarded.

Advertisements should be delivered, addressed to the Manager, 429, Strand, London, not later than the first post on Tuesday morning preceding publication, and, if not paid for at the time, should be accompanied by a reference.

NOTE.—It is against the rules of the Post Office to receive *poste restante* letters addressed either in initials or numbers.