There is one fact that should be noted, however—that is, that stretching or compressing a nerve draws out this neurokeratin support into cone-shaped form, leaving the point finely drawn out along the axis cylinder, which it enables to slide. In the base towards the sheath of Schwann, each cone being from 10 to 40 μ long, depending on the amount of stretch. The base appears more deeply stained—not so; it is merely that, being at the wider attachment, there is a greater amount of it stained at the point viewed; this makes the pigment.

There are a number of interesting points that one can explain, and work is now in progress to put a correct interpretation on many long and acrimoniously discussed questions.

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THREE CASES OF MELAENA NEONATORUM SUCCESSFULLY TREATED BY THE INJECTION OF WHOLE BLOOD OR BLOOD SERUM.

By ROBERT HUTCHISON, M.D., F.R.C.P.

There is, of course, nothing new in the treatment of the haemorrhagic disease of the newly born by the injection of human blood or blood serum. It was introduced, I believe, by J. E. Wedell in the year 1910, and many successful cases have been recorded since, especially in America. In this country, however, it does not appear to be very generally known yet, so it seems worth while to record the three cases described below, which occurred consecutively.

CASE I.

A female child, aged 2 days. The day after birth began to pass black stools from the bowel; no haematemesis nor bleeding elsewhere.

On admission the child was blanched and profuse melaena was present from the same evening. 5 c.c.m. of human serum obtained from the blood of a patient with erythema was injected sub cutaneum. Next day there was a small attack of epigastric pain and further bleeding from the rectum, and the child was discharged a week later apparently well.

CASE II.

A male child, aged 4 days. Two days after birth several haemorrhages from the bowel took place, the last just before admission. The child was well nourished but pale and slightly icteric. Two hours after admission 5 c.c.m. of serum, obtained from the same patient with erythema as in the first case, was injected under the skin of the back. Six hours later the child looked much better and only one further slight attack of bleeding had occurred. Next day the stools were normal and three days later the child was discharged.

CASE III.

A male child, aged 30 hours, a healthy-looking well-developed child of normal colour. Blood was noticed in the first stool, but the stool and four tarry stools had been passed since. There had been no previous illness. The nappkins showed typical melaena of considerable amount. On the afternoon of admission 5 c.c.m. of whole blood furnished by the ward sister was injected into the umbilical region. In the next twenty-four hours there were four more small tarry stools, after which the haemorrhage ceased, and the child was sent home well three days later.

How the serum acts it is impossible to say with certainty; but it seems probable that it supplies some constituent which is lacking in the infant's blood and which is essential for clotting. I used human blood or blood serum in all the cases described, but normal horse serum or antituberculin serum would probably do as well.

Memoranda:

MEDICAL, SURGICAL, OBSTETRICAL.

THE TECHNIQUE OF NERVE SUTURE.

The device here described may be strongly recommended for revivifying the neumonatus ends of divided nerves. It is simple, cheap, and effective. The idea is the use of a safety razor blade, held in a pair of Halstedian artery forceps, for division of the nerve. The blade—supplied for a Guillete or other brand of safety razor—must be gripped quite firmly by the forceps, when it will be found more satisfactory than sharp-milled scissors. This device is used exclusively at the orthopaedic centre, Blackrock, by Colonel Wheeler, who now prefers it to any other type of instrument for this purpose. The technique is as follows: The nerve ends to be freshened is grasped by its fibrous sheath by two artery forceps, a pair opposite one another, and the end of the nerve is divided by the razor blade until the brush-like ends of the healthy funiculi appear. A catgut suture is then inserted, and the two ends are approximated by sharp-milled scalpel.

An official statement has been published denouncing the bad treatment of Italian prisoners by the Austrians. This food is altogether injurious for prisoners who are already weakened after a long imprisonment. The conditions in concentration camps with regard to the accumulation of prisoners and the exhausting labour demanded are extremely bad, and the amount of sickness and the mortality extremely high.

J. McCullagh, M.D., Temporary Capt. R.A.M.C.; Assistant Surgeon, Blackrock Centre.
sense, and the keen critical spirit with which he was so amply endowed.

He received the honour of knighthood in recognition of his work in 1910. He is survived by Lady McVail, by a son, who is a member of the medical profession, and a daughter.

T. T. WHIPHAM, M.D., F.R.C.P.,
CONSULTING PHYSICIAN TO ST. GEORGE’S HOSPITAL, LONDON.

Dr. Thomas Tilliver Whipham died on November 3rd at the age of 78, at Hathersleigh, in Devonshire, to which he had retired some years ago. He was the son of Mr. T. H. Whipham of the Inn, and was educated at Rugby, and Oriel College, Oxford. He graduated M.B. in 1867, and M.D. in 1868. During his whole professional life he was associated with St. George’s Hospital, holding in succession the appointments of demonstrator in anatomy, curator of the museum, and lecturer on botany, pathology, and medicine. He was first assistant physician and afterwards physician to the hospital, and on his retirement was appointed consulting physician. He became a member of the Royal College of Physicians in 1866 and a Fellow in 1873; he was censor in 1894 and senior censor in 1901. He had been physician to the Atkinson Morley Convalescent Hospital and examiner in medicine to the University of Oxford and to the Conjoint Board of the Royal Colleges in England.

Dr. Whipham was for many years an active worker, especially in the post-mortem room, and frequently took an effective part in the proceedings of the Pathological Society, the fortnightly meetings of which used to be so largely attended. After his retirement he was seldom seen in London, and devoted himself to country pursuits. He was a J.P. for the county of Devon.

The death occurred at Eton, on November 1st, of Lieut.-Colonel William Augustine Ellison, Surgeon Superintendent of His Majesty’s Household at Windsor Castle, and Consulting Physician to King Edward VII Hospital, Windsor. He was born in 1855, and was the eldest son of the late Dr. James Ellison of Windsor. He was educated at Eton, University College, Oxford, and St. George’s Hospital. After taking the diploma of M.R.C.S. Eng. in 1882 he graduated M.B.Oxon. in 1884, and proceeded M.D. in 1895. Dr. Ellison was a remarkable athlete in his younger days. Besides winning distinction as a footballer and as he rowed twice in the Eton eight, he was thrice in the head of the river crew at Oxford, rowed against Cambridge in 1878, and won many rowing and sculling prizes at Oxford and at Henley. His career as an oarsman culminated in 1890, when he stroked the Leander eight for the Grand Challenge Cup. After serving as assistant medical registrar at St. George’s Hospital he was appointed surgeon apothecary to Queen Victoria’s household at Windsor Castle in 1888, and was reappointed by King Edward and by King George. In the Nineties he was acting resident physician to Queen Victoria at Balmoral. He was a member of the Eton College Medical Board, vice-president of the Medical Officers of Schools Association, and vice-president and member of council of the National League for Physical Education. For many years he was associated with the volunteers, and commanded the first volunteer battalion of the Royal Berkshire Regiment, later known as the 4th battalion (3rd line) Royal Berkshire Regiment, Territorial Force. The funeral took place at Eton Cemetery, on November 5th, when Colonel Sir Evelyn Wood, K.B.E., F.R.S., of the Chapels Royal, officiated, assisted by the Vicar of Eton.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.

The annual meeting of the Fellows and Members is summoned to meet at the College on Thursday next at 3 p.m., when the annual report will be presented. We mentioned on October 20th that the Society of Members had suggested that, in view of the present great pressure of work and money of medical men at home and the absence of so many members abroad on His Majesty’s Service, the meeting should not be held. The Council of the College decided otherwise, but during the meeting of the society on October 30th the action of its council was confirmed. Consequently no resolution will be submitted on behalf of the society at the meeting and no attempt made to attend or obtain a quorum.

CONJUNCT BOARD IN ENGLAND.

REVISED REGULATIONS FOR THE PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION.

The revised regulations of the Royal Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons in England relating to the Preliminary Examinations required for the diplomas of the Royal Colleges come into force at once. Latin is now an optional subject, and a larger range of optional subjects has been adopted. A candidate must pass in: (a) English; (b) mathematics; (c) one of the following languages: Latin, French, Russian, German, Italian, or Spanish; (d) a second language selected from the following list or one of the following subjects: higher mathematics, experimental mechanics, chemistry, physical geography, physics, botany, biology, geology.

The Services.

EXCHANGE.

CAPTAIN R.A.M.C., who has served a year in France at a base hospital, is on an exchange for the winter months with a medical officer in England. Address, No. 3600, British Medical Journal Office, 429 Strand, W.C.2.

Medical News.

MR. O. F. N. TREADWELL, F.R.C.S., assistant medical inspector of prisons, has been appointed one of the Commissioners under the Prison Act, 1877.

PROFESSOR S. D. ADSETH, F.R.I.B.A., will lecture at University College, London, on November 15th, at 5.30 p.m., on “Some general aspects of town-planning after the war,” under the presidency of Sir William Collins, M.D., M.P., chairman of the Chadwick Trustees.

Through the generosity of Miss Chalmers, a block for incurables has been opened in the beautiful grounds of the Christchurch Hospital, New Zealand. The block consists of three stories, and from its roof there is a magnificent view of the plains and surrounding mountains.

DR. CHRISTOPHER ADDISON, M.P., Minister of Reconstruction, will give an address on “Health problems and reconstruction” at a meeting which the Faculty of Insurers was arranged at the Central Hall, Westminster, on Saturday, November 24th, at noon. Mr. Kingsley Wood, L.C.C., will preside.

A service was held on November 2nd, in the chapel of the National Hospital for the Paralysed and Epileptic, Queen Square, Bloomsbury, in commemoration of founders’ day. The service was conducted by Canon Edgar Sheppard, and among those attending were Lord Beauchamp, president of the hospital, Sir Frederick Macmillan, Dr. James Taylor, and Sir James Crichton-Browne.

The following are among those recommended for election into the Council of the Royal Society on November 30th: Dr. Hugh Kerr Anderson (Cambridge); Professor H. C. Bourne, Lister Professor of Anatomy, Oxford; Dr. A. R. Cushing, Professor of Pharmacology, University College, London; Dr. W. H. Lang, Barker Professor of Cryptogamic Botany, University of Cambridge; Dr. W. H. N. Bents (Cambridge), and Professor C. S. Sherrington (Oxford).

The American Red Cross in France has arranged to publish a small monthly journal, The Medical Bulletin, containing abstracts of articles appearing in British, French, and American periodicals. This journal will be distributed free to American medical officers, and to officers of other armies on request. The arrangements are in the hands of Dr. Kenneth Taylor, director of the Robert Walton Goeler Research Fund, 6, Rue Picciotto, Paris.

Recently published official statistics show that in 1911 the number of death-mates in Italy was 27,608, and of blind

UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES.

UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS.

The University of Leeds has received with great regret the resignation by Professor A. S. Leyton of the Chair of Pathology and Surgery in the University. In accepting this resignation, the University Council has taken the opportunity of recording its high appreciation of the valuable services which Professor Leyton rendered to the university during his tenure of the chair. The question of the appointment of a successor is at present occupying the attention of the university authorities.

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Recently published official statistics show that in 1911 the number of death-mates in Italy was 27,608, and of blind
persons 28,357. As regards the regional distribution of deaf-mutism, Lombardy headed the list with 5,363, Piedmont coming next with 3,496. The largest number of Insane was in Sicily, where the number was 3,462, Tuscany coming next with 2,705.

A series of seven drawings of the London Hospital, by Mr. Hanslip Fletcher, have been reproduced in gravure by Messrs. W., D. Bayon and Co., Cheltenham. They include sketches of the view from the Hall, a view from the garden, and a view of the medical college. There are four drawings of interiors—the waiting-rooms, the out-patients' department, receiving room, the lapus light room, and the library of the medical college. The drawings are excellent examples of Mr. Fletcher's skill in interpreting architectural features, and will be equally studied by students of the building. The subscription price for artist's signed proofs on India paper, with plate paper mounts, is 4s. 6d. the set. In this form they can be sent abroad. The publishers will supply them in oak frames at an extra charge of 3s. 6d. the set.

Dr. T. Brailsford Robertson, professor of biochemistry and pharmacology in the University of California, has executed a deed, giving to the university all his patent rights in tethelin. This substance, extracted from the anterior lobe of the pituitary body, is, as was noted in the Journal of September 29th, p. 430, to have an remarkable influence in accelerating the granulation tissue. It is stated to be of value in curing wounds and in causing old-standing wounds to heal promptly. The profits resulting from the sale of tethelin are to be consigned, vested in the name of the University of California, who will apply the income to medical research. The researches will be supervised by a board of directors. The University of California believe that the establishment of this foundation may serve as a pattern of procedure by which others may dedicate the results of their scientific discoveries to the benefit of mankind in general.

A MEETING of the West London Medico-Chirurgical Society was held under the presidency of Dr. A. J. C. OsselROY at the West London Hospital on November 2nd, when several cases of interest were shown. Major McDermott Eccles demonstrated by means of photomicrographs and microscopic slides an unusual case of hermaphroditism. The subject had the external sexual characteristics of a female, but testes in a low state of development were present and a uterus was absent. Drs. Garnet Stewart and Reginald Morton showed a case of oesophageal diverticulum, in which some of the symptoms in this condition, unusual, were present. The diverticulum was excellently seen in the skigram. Dr. Morton also showed a skigram of a stomach distended with a large haem, which the diagnosis was made by means of X-rays and afterwards confirmed at operation. Mr. Baldwin showed a man who had been operated on for the removal of calculi in both kidneys and the left ureter and bilateral protrusions from all three upper abdominal wounds; he had, moreover, quite recently submitted to operation for radical cure of left inguinal hernia. Drs. A. E. Saunders, Souttar, Owen, Pernet, and Quezada exhibited other cases, the latter in conjunction with Dr. Morton. Discussion followed.

An annotation in the current number of the British Journal of Ophthalmology makes out a strong case for reform in the regulations for eyesight tests laid down by various departments of State. It is stated that while visual acuity, for instance, is gauged by Snellen's test types, nothing is done to ensure that the conditions under which the tests are applied shall be comparable to the standard. No authorities could estimate the illumination of the standard. This is unfair to the candidates for Civil Service appointments. If an appeal from the decision of the ordinary examiners is allowed the candidate may have to pay a fee for a further examination, yet the conditions under which such appeal examinations are carried out often, it is stated, leave much to be desired. Their remedy proposed for contemporary is that the many regulations relating to eyesight now in force should be revised by a committee of experts appointed by the Government after consultation with the Ophthalmological Society and the Ophthalmological Section of the Royal Society of Medicine, and that this committee should act as a standing committee of reference for all departments should be required to consult. It is proposed also that one central properly equipped examination hall, provided with dark rooms, laboratories, and so forth, should be available for the use of all departments.

Glycerine in the Treatment of Wounds

Major W. A. Duggan, R.A.M.C., O.C. Military Hospital, Lincoln, writes: In 1916 I used liquid paraffin as a substitute for glycerine in the treatment of gunshot wounds, but I found that healing was delayed by its not proving a satisfactory application for osmotic action. The various pastes recommended have the same drawback. Proved novocain, foreign bodies, etc., are removed from a wound, and one of the many much advertised antisepsics is used, suppuration occupies a very delayed period, in the event of a hanging gunshot wound. It is in the second stage that glycerine with olive oil is so useful, and for it there is in my opinion no substitute. Many observers omit all reference to osmosis in the healing of wounds.

German 'Scientific' Warfare

Some time ago Dr. Georg Friedrich Nicolai, formerly physician to the Imperial Family and now Professor of Physiology in the University of Berlin, was condemned to reduction in military rank, detention in a fortress, and confiscation of his and, if not paid for at the time, should be publication of a book on the biology of war. In it he described the degradation of the German military character caused by the war. In illustration he quoted that a military officer of the highest rank had asked him whether it would be possible to throw behind the enemy's lines bombs containing cholera germs or plague bacilli. On the professor's reply that such a procedure would be inhuman, the officer contemptuously retorted: ‘This war immaturity has no place and it is lawful for Germany to do everything that may be to her advantage.' Nicolai adds that millions of Germans were asking: 'Where is the danger of war?' A doctor on the General Staff asked him whether it would not be possible to inoculate Russians with bacteria, adding, 'With such cattle, everything is lawful.'

SCALE OF CHARGES FOR ADVERTISEMENTS IN THE BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL

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