particular case did any other organism show the same peculiarity. I should have mentioned that, like Captain Fletcher, the medium I used was Endo's.

The term "mucoid" would appear to be a better one than the one I used—viz., "gelatinoid," as it more accurately describes the appearance of the colonies, but it is just a question whether "zoogloeic" would not more accurately describe this form of growth and I would suggest that it is an indication of attenuation. I am sorry I am unable at present to refer to my notes for more accurate details.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

J. C. KENNEDY.
Lieutenant-Colonel, R.A.M.C.

Mesopotamian Expeditionary Force, Dec. 28th, 1918.

## CAUSES AND INCIDENCE OF DENTAL CARIES.

*To the Editor of* THE LANCET.

SIR,—As Dr. James Wheatley's figures with regard to the prevalence of dental caries among children have been cited and admittedly confirmed, it may be well to take note of his figures with regard to dental caries in adults. In a recent lecture he said: "Among 83 women, mostly between 25 and 30 years of age, examined by me for nursing scholarships, the average number of teeth decayed or lost was 17·6." Now, unless these figures are regarded as quite unreliable, it would appear that Dr. Harry Campbell's estimate is not "very excessive," but quite the contrary, and I trust we may not be debarred from further inquiry such as Major Nickolls Dunn urges, by anyone attempting to belittle the seriousness of the state of the teeth, or in any way seeking to hinder research for the truth. When those in authoritative positions know and teach the truth, the diet in the nursery at least will soon be changed; but, to quote from a recent editorial article in a dental journal, "until teachers of physiology in our medical schools recant the erroneous doctrines of diet and nutrition that have been the source of so much misplaced confidence during the last half-century on the part of the anxious-to-learn public, little can be done." I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

Harley-street, W., Feb 1st, 1919. J. SIM WALLACE.

## WAR DEAFNESS.

*To the Editor of* THE LANCET.

SIR,—Dr. P. McBride seems determined to deprive men suffering from war deafness of the chance of being cured by psychotherapy, as his letter to you of Jan. 25th is, I believe, the third communication to the medical journals attempting to prove that hysterical deafness rarely, if ever, occurs, whereas all who are familiar with the war neuroses know that the vast majority of cases of so-called shell-shock deafness are hysterical and therefore curable, even if complicated by some slight organic lesion, such as a perforated drum. I therefore welcome Captain E. Prideaux's letter of Feb. 1st, confirming what Lieutenant-Colonel C. S. Myers wrote on the subject on Jan. 18th. In the majority of our cases we have not investigated whether the hysterical deafness persisted in sleep, but this was proved quite clearly in two cases which I published with Captain E. A. Peters in THE LANCET on Oct. 6th, 1917. It cannot be too widely known that the old tests which were supposed to distinguish organic from hysterical deafness have proved most fallacious, and that every man suffering from "shell-shock deafness" ought to be given a chance of recovering under psychotherapy.

I was surprised to read Captain Prideaux's statement that there was a disposition for other symptoms to develop after recovery from hysterical conditions. This must clearly depend upon the method of treatment employed. If the simple method of psychotherapy, by means of explanation, persuasion, and re-education, which we have adopted in preference to all methods of gross suggestion, is used, such substituted symptoms hardly ever occur. Among several hundred cases which have been treated in this hospital new symptoms have not followed recovery in more than three or four instances, and in every case the secondary symptom was rapidly cured. On the other hand, it is a daily occurrence for the removal of one hysterical symptom to be immediately followed by the disappearance of other nervous symptoms, whether hysterical or not. For example, the cure of hysterical tremor or stammer, which may have lasted for many months or even for a year or two, at a single sitting is often followed by the immediate disappearance of insomnia, war dreams, and headache, with which they have been associated during the whole period. In the same way the cure of hysterical paralysis of a leg will often be accompanied by recovery of power in the arm in hemiplegia without any treatment being directed to the latter. In the case of a man who had been totally blind for four and a half years after being blown up constant headache and extreme depression, as well as almost complete bilateral deafness, which had previously been regarded as organic, completely disappeared in 24 hours without any direct treatment, as a result of the cure of his blindness by explanation, persuasion, and re-education. I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

ARTHUR F. HURST,
Lieutenant-Colonel, R.A.M.C.

Seale Hayne Military Hospital, Newton Abbot,
Feb. 1st, 1919.

# The War and After.

## AUXILIARY ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS FUNDS.

THE usual quarterly meeting of the committee was held on Jan. 31st at 11, Chandos-street, W. Colonel Ewen Maclean was in the chair. Grants were made to the widows and orphans of four officers and to the widows and orphans of seven men of the rank and file. Widows or orphans of officers or men of the Auxiliary Royal Army Medical Corps requiring help should apply to the Honorary Secretary of the Funds at 11, Chandos-street, Cavendish-square, W. 1.

IT is now officially announced that Colonel A. Webb, A.M.S., at present Assistant Director of Medical Services at the War Office, has been appointed Director-General of the Medical Branch of the Ministry of Pensions.

## OBITUARY OF THE WAR.

### SAMUEL WAUCHOPE MATTHEWS, M.B., B.CH. N.U.I.,

CAPTAIN, ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS.

Captain S. W. Matthews, who died at Lindi, East Africa, on Nov. 15th, 1918, at the age of 31 years, was fourth son of the Rev. S. Matthews, of Belgrave-square, Dublin. Educated at the Wicklow Academy, where he was awarded several first places and composition prizes by the Irish Intermediate Education Board, he went on to University College, Galway. He held junior scholarships as an undergraduate and a senior scholarship in his final year, was chairman of the College Debating Society, captain of the cricket and hockey teams, and in 1910 was awarded the President's Medal for oratory. In 1913 he graduated in medicine at the National University of Ireland and was appointed resident at the Children's Hospital, Temple-street, Dublin. He volunteered for service with the R.A.M.C. on the outbreak of war and was sent to German East Africa, where fellow officers testify to his efficient work. Weakened by several attacks of malaria and jaundice he fell a victim to an attack of enteric fever. Captain Matthews was unmarried.



Captain ROBERT PERCY YOUNG, A.A.M.C., who was killed on Sept. 18th, was educated at Caulfield Grammar School, where he played in the cricket and tennis teams, and at Ormond College, Melbourne University, where he was a medical student from 1909 to 1913, and graduated M.B., B.S. in March, 1914. After a short period as resident