Medical Diary for the ensuing Week.

SOCIETIES.

ROYAL SOCIETY OF MEDICINE, 1, Wimpole-street, W.

MEETINGS OF SECTIONS.

Wednesday, July 9th.

NEUROLOGY (Hon. Secretary—O. M. Hinds Howell): at 8.30 P.M.

Paper: Colonel E. Farquhar Buzzard: Encephalitis Lethargica and its Results.

Colonel Buzzard will also demonstrate Cases.

Friday, July 11th.

PSYCHIATRY (Hon. Secretaries—Bernard Hart, G. F. Barham): at 8.30 P.M.

Paper: Dr. C. G. Jung (of Zurich): The Problem of Psychogenesis in Mental Diseases.

NOTICE.

The Society's house will be closed for cleaning during August.

The Royal Society of Medicine keeps open house for medical officers of all the Allied Forces, and invites them to make free use of its library and rooms. The Emergency Post Graduate Scheme, under the charge of the "Fellowship of Medicine," is also open to all medical officers. Particulars of this will be supplied by the Secretary, Fellowship of Medicine, 1, Wimpole-street, London, W. 1.

LECTURES, ADDRESSES, DEMONSTRATIONS, &c.

HOSPITAL FOR CONSUMPTION AND DISEASES OF THE CHEST, Brompton, S.W.

WEDNESDAY, July 9th.—4.30 P.M., Lecture:—Dr. Gosse: Rheumatic Myocarditis.

Communications, Letters, &c., to the Editor have been received from—

A.—Col. J. G. Adami, C.B.E., A.D.M.S.; Major A. Abrahams, O.B.E., R.A.M.C.; Dr. J. L. Aymard, Cape Town; Sir T. Clifford Allbutt, K.C.B., Cambridge.

B.—Miss M. A. Broadhurst, Lond.; Dr. S. G. Billington, Lond.; Dr. J. Brown, Blackpool; British Science Guild, Lond.; Major P. Bahr, D.S.O., R.A.M.C.; Dr. J. F. Briscoe, Bournemouth; Col. R. J. Blackham, C.B., C.M.G., C.I.E.

C.—Dr. H. G. P. Castellain, Lond.; Major W. B. Cosens, R.A.M.C.; Dr. H. P. Cholmeley, Forest Row; Dr. F. G. Crookshank, Lond.; Dr. P. J. Cammidge, Lond.

D.—Mr. H. Dickinson, Lond.; Dr. J. F. H. Dally, Lond.; Mr. G. W. Dorley-Brown, Lond.

E.—Dr. S. Elias, Rotterdam; Mr. D. L. Eadie, Edinburgh; Col. T. B. Elliott, C.B.E., D.S.O., A.M.S., Lond.

F.—Dr. E. R. Fothergill, Hove; Mr. C. Frankau, C.B.E., D.S.O.; Miss Kate Fedarb, Southsea; Capt. J. N. Fergusson, R.A.M.C.

G.—Major W. E. Gallie, R.A.M.C.; Mr. U. Ghilardi, Harrow; Dr. A. G. Gibson, Oxford; Col. G. E. Gask, C.M.G., D.S.O., A.M.S.; Dr. A. K. Gordon, Lond.; Capt. J. Geoghegan, R.A.M.C.; Dr. A. Gresswell, Lond.

H.—Hampstead Medical War Committee.

K.—Dr. W. Kidd, Cheltenham; Mr. H. Kimpton, Lond.

L.—Dr. T. M. Legge, C.B.E., Lond.; Dr. C. E. Lakin, Lond.; London (Royal Free Hospital)

School of Medicine for Women, Warden of; Mr. J. B. Lamb, Lond.; Mr. E. M. Little, Lond.; Dr. R. B. Low, C.B., Lond.

M.—Dr. J. B. Mennell, Lond.; Minister of Health, Lond.; Dr. H. A. Macewen, Lond.; Dr. A. S. MacNalty, Streatham-on-Thames; Dr. D. Macfarlan, Philadelphia; Miss A. R. Martin, Eastbourne.

N.—National League for Health, Maternity and Child Welfare, Lond., Sec. of; National Alliance of Employers and Employed, Lond., Sec. of; National Medical Union, Lond., Asst. Sec. of; Mr. A. E. Newbould, M.P., Lond.; N. E. O.

O.—Dr. S. Otake, Benenden.

P.—Dr. A. S. Percival, Newcastle-on-Tyne; Mr. C. A. Pannett, Lond.; Dr. Bedford Pierce, York.

R.—Royal Society of Medicine, Lond.; Dr. F. Rees, Wigan; Royal Society of Arts, Lond., Sec. of; Dr. J. D. Rolleston, Lond.; Dr. E. H. Ross, Lond.

S.—Col. A. L. Smith, C.A.M.C.; Dr. Samy Sabongi, Abbassieh; Dr. M. B. Shipsey, Erdington; Dr. E. B. Sherlock, Darenth; Prof. W. Stirling, Manchester; Dr. A. G. Shera, Lond.; Messrs. Siemens Bros. and Co., Lond.

T.—Dr. W. W. C. Topley, Lond.; Sir John Tweedy, Lond.

U.—University of Glasgow.

V.—Mr. R. M. Vick, C.B.E., Lond.

W.—Dr. J. V. Watson, Bolton;

Dr. R. T. Williamson, Manchester; Dr. L. A. Weatherly, Bournemouth; Mr. A. C. Wilson, Lond.; Mrs. M. Whyte, Banteer; Dr. E. P. White, Wigan.

Communications relating to editorial business should be addressed exclusively to the Editor of THE LANCET, 423, Strand, London, W.C.2.

THE Hampstead Medical War Committee announce that Lieutenant Colonel J. R. Whait, D.S.O., 124, Finchley-road, N.W. 3; Major H. Meggitt, 180, Belsize-road, N.W. 6; Captain W. S. George, 110, Finchley-road, N.W. 3; Captain A. W. George, "Surrey House," Shootup Hill, N.W. 2; Captain W. E. Hills, 25, Church-row, N.W. 3; Captain H. C. Malleon, 30, Thurlow-road, N.W. 3, are now demobilised and have returned to practice.

Notes, Short Comments, and Answers to Correspondents.

MEDICAL PIONEER AERONAUTS.

BY F. JOHN POYNTON, M.D.

The Airmen of the Eighteenth Century.

THE present seems to me an opportune time to give a few details, even though imperfect ones, of the part taken by our profession in the birth of aeronautics more than a century ago. We shall stray back to those fascinating times when brave pioneers, taking their lives in their hands, struggled to maintain the flickering life of this puling yet long-hoped-for infant, and we shall welcome with pride the men of our profession who helped to lead the way, Tytler and Jeffries, Sheldon and Sakaroff, among them. The reign of Louis XVI. was drawing to a close when his false brother, Egalité, the first royal aeronaut, was a witness of the classical ascents by de Rozier and d'Arlandes. How interesting, too, it is to recall that Garnerin, who first demonstrated to this country the use of the parachute, was aeronautical adviser to the great Napoleon. These early days were not wholly unscientific, for experiments were made with animals before de Rozier's first ascent in 1783, and I have in my possession an interesting little conversation in French dated 1783 and illustrated by a pencil sketch of the Montgolfier balloon with the conversationalists in the car. They were a cock, a duck, and a sheep, and their views on their elevated position are entertaining. A problem for the psycho-analyst is provided by the fact that the Comte d'Arlandes, who shared with de Rozier the glory of the first balloon ascent, was later broken for cowardice in the French army. The collector of medical pictures also will be interested in the first illustration of an injured aeronaut. This represents Arnold, who was pilloried in the *Gentleman's Magazine* in 1785, Vol. II., as "the Unsuccessful Aeronaut." He is seen with his balloon in one corner of the picture, dressed in the costume of the period, stumping on a wooden leg.

The First British Aeronaut.

The first Briton to make an ascent in this island was "ballooning" or "enterprising" Tytler, who raised himself some 300 ft. from the Comeby Gardens, Edinburgh, on August 27th, 1784. He was a Scot born at Fearn, and was a strange and erratic genius whose fate should stir pity in us, if also, at the same time, some amusement. A poor man, the son of a Scotch minister, he earned a little money as a medical assistant on board a vessel plying to Greenland, with which he completed an honourable student's career at Edinburgh. He then made his first mistake, not unknown even in these days, by marrying a lady before he had means to support a family. He failed to establish himself in Edinburgh, and, always ahead of his times, tried next to conduct a laboratory at Newcastle. When that failed he started a chemist's shop at Leith. Meantime his wife left him and the children and retired to the Orkneys. Now Tytler had a literary turn with novel views on religion, and set to work to write some essays, which he printed on a printing machine of his own invention. This effort attracted attention and he commenced to establish a position for himself as a writer and editor. In 1776 he edited the second edition of the *Encyclopædia Britannica*, and apparently he was now on the up line to fortune. However, in 1783 the balloon epoch commenced, and he was badly bitten by the desire to become an aeronaut and took to the making of fire balloons. He snatched at great cost this one laurel leaf, the first ascent from the ground in this island. It was his only successful attempt, and from henceforth Tytler's career was once more downhill. Soon after he joined the cause of the "Friends of the People" and wrote a seditious article, for which he had to fly the country. After writing a treatise on surgery in Ireland he eventually went to America and died at Salem, away from all his relatives and friends.

The First Cross-Channel Flight.

Jeffries was an American physician, but unfortunately at present I have not had the opportunity of discovering whether any biography is extant of his career, and would welcome any information on this point. He was the hero, with Blanchard, of the first crossing of the Channel, though he had previously ascended with the same aeronaut from the Rhedarium, near Grosvenor-square. The account of this Channel flight written by himself is a record of serene bravery, for an undertaking of this kind was a big thing in those days. Strong adverse winds had delayed the departure from Dover, and it was not until Jan. 7th, 1785, that the ascent was made on a still, bright, winter day. The aeronauts made very slow progress in their balloon,

for in 50 minutes they were only one-third of the way across the Channel! Trouble soon commenced and took a simple shape, the balloon insisting on descending into the sea. Ballast was heaved over, and then followed numerous pamphlets, which one would have thought from modern experience of such things would have lightened almost anything. For a while, indeed, there was an improvement but not for long, the precious instruments had to go, the balloon trappings, an empty bottle, their great coats, their lesser coats, their breeches, and so on. But what a man! He climbs up the netting and is enraptured at the lovely view he obtains as the balloon slowly revolves! Underneath a January sea is waiting for him, above is a winter sky, and around his immediate person a deficit of clothing! Fortunately for us all, just as they neared the French shore the balloon swept upward, cleared the cliffs, and carried them over the forest of Guines. Trouble was not over yet, but it was of a slightly different kind now, and the doctor's feelings must have been akin to those of the boy who eyes the volume and character of the birch that awaits him. It will be apparent that as the balloon was again rapidly falling, some importance was to be attached to the nature of the tops of the trees upon which they were landing. Jeffries thought they looked both high and hard, and he does incidentally admit that he and his colleague were cold. Now comes the acme of resource and as great a proof of bravery as ever the world can claim, he remembers that their bladders are full—for the weather was cold and the bottle they threw over was empty and the reflexes in those hardy old days were apparently impervious to fear. He estimated that thus they lightened the balloon by some 4 to 5 lb. and, glorious to tell, they landed softly on those trees and were soon warm and safe in the kindly hands of French hosts.

A Professor in the Air.

Sheldon has the credit of being the first Englishman to make a balloon ascent in England. This event was on Oct. 16th, 1784, although others have maintained that Sadler held this prize, ascending on the 12th from Oxford. There can be no doubt, however, that James Sadler was the first English aeronaut, for he made many successful journeys and had a great career as the first English aerial traveller. Sheldon at this time was professor of anatomy at the Royal Academy, and had been a pupil and assistant of William Hunter in Great Windmill-street. He subsequently became a surgeon to the Westminster Hospital and later to the Devon and Exeter Hospital. Blanchard took him under his wing and made his fourth ascent with him from Chelsea. One enthusiast described their trip as "the most extraordinary voyage ever performed by a sublunary being." Sheldon, too, was apparently satisfied, and returned to his anatomical and surgical studies somewhat humbled in scientific spirit, but not altogether sorry to be once more on the surface of the earth. It is of interest that in the second rapid ascent of the balloon Sheldon complained of pain in the ears.

Remarkable Observations.

Sakaroff was a Russian aurist who accompanied a very remarkable aeronaut, Robertson, in his Russian balloon ascents very early in 1800. Robertson was one of the few balloonists who made a real success of his job, for he died, we are informed, worth a million! He combined with courage enterprise and a bright imagination. He and his comrades were repeatedly making strange discoveries in the air. For example, one gentleman's head bulged so much that his hat would not fit, and on another occasion their voices became inaudible. One very interesting observation was, however, made by Robertson, that the electric spark is lengthened in the rarefied atmosphere, thus anticipating by many years the Geissler tubes. Sakaroff fades into shadow before his remarkable comrade, but doubtless he added to the early stock of knowledge upon ear troubles in aeronautics. These famous old heroes may make us smile over their difficulties, ambitions, and boastings, but it is with pride that one reads that our profession, apart from its purely scientific contributions to the subject, faced also the early practical dangers and brought us great honour.

COLONIAL HEALTH REPORTS.

Leeward Islands.—The total population of the colony at the last Census was 127,193. In the province of Antigua, with an estimated population of 31,782, the births in 1917 numbered 1076, being 33.86 per 1000, the percentage of legitimate and illegitimate births being 24.16 and 75.84 respectively. The death-rate was 29.89 per 1000, and the deaths of children under one year, exclusive of stillbirths, were 19.79 per cent. of the total. In St. Kitts the birth-rate was 34.909 per 1000, in Nevis 34.683, and in Anguilla 43.240, while the death-rate for St. Kitts was 29.245, for Nevis 21.207, and for Anguilla 14.767 per 1000. The illegitimate birth-rate for St. Kitts was 25.832 per 1000, for Nevis, 21.774, and for Anguilla 21.007, as against the legitimate birth-rate of 9.070, 12.908, and 22.254 for St. Kitts, Nevis, and Anguilla respectively. In Dominica the birth-rate was 30.65 and the

death-rate 28.18 per 1000; the illegitimate births exceeded the legitimate by 203. In Montserrat the birth-rate was 37.80 and the death-rate 16.21 per 1000. The general health was satisfactory. During 1917 6174 patients were admitted into the hospitals, and there were 340 deaths therein. The average number of inmates in the central lunatic asylum at Skerrets, Antigua, was 153. There are two leper asylums—one at Rat Island, Antigua, and the other at Fort Charles in St. Kitts. The average daily number of inmates for the two institutions was 60 males and 48 females.

British Honduras.—The estimated mean population in 1917 was 42,732 (21,308 males and 21,424 females). The birth-rate was 40.275 and the death-rate 31.288 per 1000. Illegitimate births were 39.57 per cent. of the total. The health of the Colony during the year was remarkably good, and considerable progress was made in the campaign against the hook-worm disease, especially in the Orange Walk district.

Sierra Leone.—The number of European and American residents in 1917 was 1090, of whom 636 were military and 244 officials. The deaths of Europeans numbered 22, including 12 landed from vessels; nine officials were invalidated during the year. The population of the Colony at the last Census was 75,572 (41,001 males and 34,571 females). The birth-rate in 1917 was 20 and the death-rate 24 per 1000; in Freetown the birth-rate was 23 and the death-rate 33 per 1000. The excess of deaths over births registered in the colony has been apparent in the returns for some years past and suggests that the population is on the decrease. There is, however, a constant influx into the peninsula of natives from the Protectorate, and the figures given must in any case be accepted with caution, as the present system of registration can hardly be described as effective. It is impossible to give any valuable account of the chief causes of death, as medical certification of death is neither compulsory nor usual. The population of the Protectorate at the Census of 1911 was estimated at 1,327,560, of whom 1,323,151 are natives other than those in military barracks, while the remainder, numbering 3426, are non-natives. In both the Colony and the Protectorate, but more especially in the latter, cases of small-pox made their appearance from time to time in 1917, but the infection was prevented from spreading into an epidemic. Thirteen public vaccinators were appointed, and out of a total of 105,988 vaccinations reported as performed 68,763 were returned as successful. The number of patients treated at hospitals and dispensaries throughout the Colony and Protectorate in 1917 was 51,765. At the Leper Asylum there were 4 patients at the beginning of the year and 4 were admitted; 2 died and 4 absconded. To the European Nursing Home there were 138 admissions during the year; of these, 62 were officials and 44 belonged to the mercantile and shipping communities.

Straits Settlements.—The estimated population of the Colony in 1917 was 809,869, the birth-rate was 30.65 per 1000, and the death-rate 36.98. The principal causes of death were malaria (766 cases), infantile mortality (7571), tuberculosis (3084), beri-beri (2075), and dysentery (1064). There were 176 deaths from small-pox, nine from cholera, and 44 from plague.

THE EUROPEAN CORN-BORER.

THE appearance of the European corn-borer (*Pyrausta nubilalis*) in certain parts of the United States has led to the issue of an Order in Council prohibiting the importation of "all corn fodder or corn stalks, whether used for packing or otherwise, green sweet corn, roasting ears, corn in the cob, or corn cobs" from the affected areas into Canada. A circular dealing with this pest, said to be one of the most destructive that has ever reached America, has been issued by the Canadian Department of Agriculture, and can be obtained free from the Dominion entomologist at Ottawa.

LE CARNET DE POLITESSE.

THE number of necessary "carnets"—or booklets entitling the owner to live, move, and have his being—has grown exceedingly in France, especially during the war, for, in spite of murmurings which are almost universal amongst his subjects, Monsieur Lebourau is still the reigning tyrant in French administration. That he should have captured the control of politeness among a people world-famous for the suavity of their manners is, indeed, a notable tribute to his stability and vigour. For many months there have been notices posted in tramcars and in the metro reminding passengers that they should give up their seats to the "mutilés"; now it seems that this has become a legal obligation. Every soldier who is blind or so wounded that standing becomes painful to him is entitled to a carnet, which gives him precedence in the seating accommodation. Even the phlegmatic Britisher needs no encouragement to make him offer his seat to a disabled fellow-countryman, and it is hard to believe that any wounded soldier, French or British, would stoop to enforce so obvious a right. The carnet de politesse is really an official aspersion on the nature of French politeness.