number of surgeons of experience who could correctly interpret the reasons for my adopting the procedures advocated without my treating my audience to a discourse on elementary anatomy. I have, consequently, suggested that Mr. Paramore should publish his own figures and methods, if he has any worthy of publication. In regard to figures there is a general idea that Mr. Paramore has himself done comparatively few operations for prolapse, and this is supported by his statement that he has performed only twice the interposition operation, although he approves of it. If this idea be erroneous it would be well for him to dispel it. As to methods, if Mr. Paramore has any new procedure why is he so secretive about it? I must leave your readers to draw their own conclusions. Meanwhile, it is surely a little presumptuous of Mr. Paramore to attempt to interpret procedures thought out and introduced by others, some of which he has never seen and concerning the object of which he has not even troubled to inquire.

I am afraid I have written plainly: it is time someone did. Critics who adopt the methods to which I have referred must be checked. Even abuse is much preferable to perversions of one's views and statements.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

Liverpool, June 13th, 1920.

W. BLAIR BELL.

THE IMPORTANCE OF IMMEDIATE SELF-DISINFECTION.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Neither Lord Willoughby de Broke nor the society over which he presides believes that the establishment of disinfectant centres would be of much value in reducing venereal disease, and during his speech on June 3rd Lord Willoughby de Broke brought forward powerful arguments against the practicability of ablution centres. By inference the report in your issue of June 12th suggests that Lord Willoughby de Broke is in favour of the establishment of disinfectant centres, which is not the case, and I write lest a misunderstanding may arise as to the aims and objects of this society, which are to instruct the public as to (a) the vital importance of self-disinfection at the time of exposure to risk as a preventive of venereal disease, and (b) the methods of application.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

H. WANSEY BAYLY,

Hon. Sec., Society for the Prevention of Venereal Disease.
143, Harley-street, W.1, June 12th, 1920.

AGE AND VENEREAL INFECTION.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—At the instigation of Colonel L. W. Harrison last year I made a private inquiry into the sex-history of 600 consecutive V.D. cases, chiefly with a view to determining the infection exposure ratio; this worked out at 1:15.6. Dr. G. G. Johnstone observes in THE LANCET of June 12th that there is a sharply defined maximum at the age of 18, when illicit coitus begins. I found that 469 out of the above series of 600 stated that their first sexual intercourse took place between the ages of 17 and 21. It is an important sociological fact, hardly needing to be proved by statistics, that normal sexual man is most prone to indulge in pseudo-romance during the latter period of exuberant adolescence, when ideals may be in a transition phase.

My predecessor, Captain W. Craik, in statistics carefully kept over a series of several thousand cases, found that 86 per cent. (I quote his figures from memory) were infected by "amateurs." Also, that 24 per cent. of the men were teetotallers and few claimed to be drunk at the time.—I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

JOHN DONALD, M.D., B.Sc., D.P.H.,

Major.

De Montfort-square, Leicester, June 13th, 1920.

PERIOD OF SERVICE FOR GRATUITY TO R.A.M.C. CAPTAINS.—A Royal Warrant states that captains of the R.A.M.C. who receive a permanent commission in this corps subsequent to May 25th, 1920, must complete eight and a half years total commissioned service in order to qualify for the gratuity of £1000 payable to retiring officers.

Medical News.

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE.—The dates for the next examination for the Diploma of Psychological Medicine have been fixed as follows: for Part I., Oct. 13th, 14th, and 15th; for Part II., Dec. 1st, 2nd, and 3rd. The examination for Part I. will be held in Cambridge, that for Part II. in London. Courses of instruction for both parts will be held in Cambridge from July 19th to August 21st, and will include lectures and demonstrations. For Part I.: Dr. C. R. A. Thacker, Anatomy and Physiology of the Nervous System; Dr. J. P. Lowson, Psychology. For Part II.: Dr. E. Prideaux, Psychopathology; Dr. M. A. Archdale, Diagnosis, Prognosis, and Treatment of Mental Disorders. The fee for the full course is 10 guineas; the course for either part may be taken separately at a fee of 5 guineas. Entries should be sent to Dr. E. D. Adrian, Trinity College, Cambridge, from whom further information may be obtained.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.—An ordinary meeting of the Council was held on June 10th at the College, Sir George Makins presiding. A report was read from the Board of Examiners in Anatomy and Physiology for the Fellowship stating that at the examination concluded on May 15th 168 candidates were examined, including 52 admitted under the special war conditions, of whom 38 were successful, and 116 admitted under the ordinary conditions, of whom 36 were successful.—A report was read from the Court of Examiners respecting candidates found qualified for the Diploma of Fellow, and diplomas were granted to 39 candidates mentioned in this report. The names will be published next week, as well as those of the candidates found qualified for the Licence in Dental Surgery.

The following were elected Members of the Board of Examiners in Anatomy and Physiology for the Fellowship for the ensuing year:—

Anatomy.—J. Ernest Frazer, F.R.C.S., W. F. Haslam, F.R.C.S., Gordon Taylor, O.B.E., F.R.C.S., A. Ralph Thompson, F.R.C.S.

Physiology.—F. A. Bainbridge, M.D., J. B. Leathes, M.D., H. W. Lyle, M.D., A. Rendle Short, M.D.

The following were elected Examiners under the Conjoint Examining Board in England for the ensuing year:—

Elementary Biology.—J. P. Hill, D.Sc., T. W. Shore, M.D.

Anatomy.—D. Hepburn, C.M.G., C.M. Edin., F. G. Parsons, F.R.C.S., Arthur Thomson, F.R.C.S.

Physiology.—G. A. Buckmaster, M.D., H. E. Roaf, M.D.

Midwifery.—J. S. Fairbairn, F.R.C.S., Cuthbert Lockyer, F.R.C.S., C. D. Robinson, M.D., G. F. Darwall Smith, F.R.C.S.

Public Health.—Sir F. W. Andrewes, M.D., F. N. Kay Menzies, M.D.

Tropical Medicine and Hygiene.—G. C. Lowe, M.D., H. B. G. Newham, M.D.

The President reported that the five surgeons who were elected honorary Fellows of the College on Feb. 12th last would attend to receive their diplomas on Thursday, July 8th next, and that it was proposed that the diplomas should be presented to them at 7.30 P.M. on the same day, and that they should afterwards be entertained to dinner in the College by the Council.

ROYAL FACULTY OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS OF GLASGOW.—At the monthly meeting of the Faculty, held on June 7th, the following were admitted (after examination) as Fellows:—

Norman Stewart Bruce, James Alphonsus Conway, John Norman Cruickshank, John Gracie, Stuart Spence Meighan, Joseph Hume Patterson, Daniel M'Kinlay Reid, William Robertson Snodgrass, Ian Dishart Suttie, and Gavin Young.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS IN IRELAND.—The annual election of President and Vice-President and Council of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, held last week, resulted in the election of Mr. Edward H. Taylor, the outgoing Vice-President as President, and of Sir William I. de C. Wheeler as Vice-President. The latter was opposed by Mr. R. C. B. Maunsell, and considerable interest was taken in the contest. The new president, Mr. Edward Taylor, has been since 1916 Regius Professor of Surgery in the University of Dublin and has been for many years surgeon to Sir Patrick Dun's Hospital. Prior to his appointment as Regius professor he was for some ten years professor of surgery in Trinity College. He is the author of well-known text-books on Applied Anatomy and on Operative Surgery. Sir William Wheeler, who succeeds Mr. Taylor as vice-president, is surgeon to Mercer's Hospital and to the Orthopaedic Centre for Pensioners. He was a consulting surgeon to H.M. Forces in Ireland during the war, and was recently awarded a knighthood in recognition of his services. He has contributed many surgical articles to the current literature, and he is a regular contributor to the *Medical Annual*.