

reaction). The same medium in Petri plates is also of service for the subculture by means of parallel stroke inoculations of all Gram-negative cocci which may be found in the primary culture. In these subcultures there is usually such a marked differentiation of the species that the meningococcus, if present, can be selected at once for further diagnostic tests by means of four serum tubes, each containing one of the four sugars recommended by Gordon—namely, glucose, galactose, maltose, saccharose. With 18 hours' incubation the meningococcus shows an acid reaction in glucose, maltose, and galactose. The reaction in the glucose tube is further distinguished in the case of the meningococcus by the production of fluorescence in the water of condensation and by the formation of a yellow deposit of the growth which, as seen through the glass, has often the appearance of pus. This reaction has not been observed in connexion with any other Gram-negative diplococcus. In the galactose tube the reaction is not nearly so pronounced, the growth never appearing more than faintly acid, while in the saccharose tube growth takes place without any apparent change in the medium.

This method, together with the temperature tests (i.e., failure of the meningococcus to grow at 23° to 25° C.) affords a very rapid means of isolating the meningococcus. It has the further advantage also that the same medium is suitable for all the tests, for it has been found that a considerable loss of vitality is apt to be incurred in transferring the growth from one kind of medium to another. It may be added that the organism retains its vitality on this medium in capped tubes for at least a fortnight when kept in the incubator.

Public Health Laboratory, Glasgow.

Looking Back.

FROM

THE LANCET, SATURDAY, June 6th, 1829.

FOREIGN DEPARTMENT.

LITHOTRITIC OPERATION.

M. DUBOIS, the Nestor of French surgery, was lately in a very precarious state of health, so that for a long time his recovery, and even his life, was despaired of. The disease under which he laboured, was stone in the bladder, and we are happy to inform our readers, that it has ultimately been successfully removed by M. Civiale's method, in justice to whom we subjoin the following letter of M. Dubois to the editor of the *Gazette de Santé* :—

"Sir, allow me to acknowledge, by the channel of your journal, the obligations which I feel to my colleagues, for the lively interest they have shown towards me, during my late illness, from which, by the skill of my friend M. Civiale, I have eventually been freed, so that my health is rapidly recovering. I feel proud to be able to add something to the recommendation of M. Civiale's method, which is an effectual substitute for one of the most painful and dangerous operations in surgery, and the invention of which renders his name worthy of a place in the list of the benefactors of mankind.

"I have the honour to be, &c.

"A. DUBOIS."

"4th of May, 1829."

ITALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY.—The *Official Gazette* of Italy contains a report of the annual meeting of the Italian Red Cross Society held at Rome on May 20th. In his presidential address Count Taverna referred to the society's work in the anti-malarial campaign in the Roman agro and pontine marshes districts and to its exceptional work in dealing with accidents caused by the eruptions, &c., in Calabria and the surroundings of Vesuvius. Special votes of thanks were passed to Professor Postempski for his administration of the anti-malarial campaign and to the president. The new council was elected as follows: Professor Commendatore Gaetano Mazzoni, Professor Bonaldo Stringher (Grand Cordon Cross of Italy), General Doctor Francesco Randone, Commendatore Filippo Genevesi, and Avvocato Giovanni Ciracolo.

THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF MEDICAL EDUCATION AND REGISTRATION.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 29TH.

THE sittings of the Council were resumed at their offices in Oxford-street on Wednesday afternoon, May 29th. Dr. DONALD MACALISTER, the President, again occupied the chair.

Penal Cases.

The Council took up the consideration of penal cases.

The first case was that of George Covey, registered as of 1, Heathcote-street, Mecklenburgh-square, London, W.C., Mem. R. Coll. Surg. Eng. 1864, Lic. Soc. Apoth. Lond. 1865, who had been summoned to appear before the Council on the charge that he was, on April 23rd, 1907, convicted of the following misdemeanours at the North London sessions—namely, of obtaining money by false pretences and of obtaining money by fraud while being an undischarged bankrupt.

The SOLICITOR (Mr. Winterbotham) read the charge and put in a certificate of the conviction.

Mr. Covey did not appear, nor was he represented. However, a letter was read from him expressing his sincere regret for the position in which he stood. He stated that he had been 40 years in the profession and no professional complaint had ever been brought against him.

After consideration of the case *in camera*.

The PRESIDENT said: I have to announce that the decision of the Council is that George Covey, having been proved to have been convicted of various misdemeanours, the Registrar has been directed to erase his name from the Medical Register.

The Council then considered the case of Andrew Dunn Turner, registered as of 71, Marina, St. Leonards-on-Sea, M.B., Mast. Surg., 1882, Univ. Glasg., who had been summoned to appear before the Council on the charge that he was on Nov. 21st, 1906, convicted of the following misdemeanour at Lewes assizes—namely, of unlawfully, maliciously, and scandalously writing and publishing an obscene letter at Hastings on June 25th, 1906.

The SOLICITOR handed in the certificate of conviction. Mr. TURNER appeared in person but did not address the Council. A letter, however, was read from him in which he expressed the hope that the Council would be lenient with him for his wife's sake.

The Council having considered the case *in camera*,

The PRESIDENT announced its decision. He said: Mr. Turner, I have to inform you that, having been proved to be guilty of a misdemeanour, the Registrar has been directed to erase your name from the Medical Register.

The next case that came up for consideration was that of Edward John Havens, registered as of East Donyland, Colchester, Mem. R. Coll. Surg. Eng. 1879, Lic. Soc. Apoth. Lond. 1879, who had been summoned to appear before the Council on the charge that he was on Nov. 5th, 1906, convicted of the following misdemeanour at Thorpe petty session, Thorpe-le-Soken, Essex—namely, of obstructing the highway; also that he was on Dec. 17th, 1906, convicted at the like session of disorderly behaviour whilst drunk; and also that he was on April 8th, 1907, convicted of the following misdemeanour at Mistley petty session—namely, of common assault.

Mr. HAVENS appeared in person. After the charge had been read and various reports with regard to it submitted Mr. Havens shortly addressed the Council. He mentioned that he had not practised for ten or 12 years.

The PRESIDENT, after the Council had deliberated *in camera*, announced its decision in the following terms: Mr. Havens, the Council having considered the case proved against you, adjourn the further consideration of the question until the November session, when you will be asked to appear again before the Council to hear the final result of their deliberation.

The Council then considered the case of James Marston. It was reported to the Council by the Dental Committee that the following facts were established by the evidence:—

(a) The said James Marston is on the Dentists' Register as in practice before July 22nd, 1878, and of the address: The Shrubbery, East Howe, Kinson, Bournemouth.

(b) The said James Marston was convicted of bigamy on Jan. 16th,