

but let us recognise the fact that whatever may be due to errors of refraction, inefficient accommodation, disturbance of muscle balance and their inter-relations, there is behind all this a background of susceptibility, a varying quantity that is probably something more than temperamental.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

The Lord Derby War Hospital, Warrington,  
March 3rd, 1918.

J. A. WILSON.

## THE VALUE OF ENDOSCOPY.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In reference to Mr. Herbert Tilley's interesting article in THE LANCET of Feb. 23rd, I desire to state that a few years ago I narrated before the Laryngological Section of the Royal Society of Medicine a case of death from rupture of oesophagus and subsequent septic mediastinitis due to an attempt to remove an impacted coin with the coin-catcher. I proposed that a letter bearing the imprimatur of the section be addressed to the boards of management of general hospitals suggesting that house surgeons be forbidden to use such antiquated and dangerous instruments as coin-catchers, bougies, &c., in the treatment of foreign bodies impacted in the oesophagus. Although agreed to in principle, no action was or has since been taken. That such warning is required is amply borne out by Mr. Tilley's paper and also by my own experience of many such cases.

At the Manchester Royal Infirmary it has for many years been the custom to refer all cases of foreign bodies impacted in the food- or air-passages seen in the out-patient clinic to the throat and ear department for a thorough endoscopic examination under general anaesthesia. The results have been most gratifying, many lives having thus undoubtedly been saved. It is, in my opinion, still not too late for the issue of such a circular letter.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

Manchester, Feb. 26th, 1918.

WILLIAM MILLIGAN.

## A COMMON ORIGIN FOR SHINGLES AND CHICKEN-POX.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—A case which has just occurred in my practice further confirms Dr. Le Feuvre's theory.

On Feb. 6th I saw a nursemaid who was suffering from shingles and assured her mistress that it was not infectious, but on Feb. 20th I was called to see a little girl in the house who undoubtedly has chicken-pox. She has not been exposed to the infection elsewhere.

An interesting point is that the little girl's father had read THE LANCET, and reminded me of the case of shingles in the house.—I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

A. CHARPENTIER, M.D.

Uxbridge, Middlesex, March 3rd, 1918.

## AMBULATORY APPARATUS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—It has been pointed out to me that the description in THE LANCET, Feb. 23rd, 1918, p. 292, of the apparatus made by Ernst may give rise to a misconception. The cup arrangement whereby the weight of the body is transferred on to the tuber ischii and surrounding gluteal muscles, leaving the perineum and pubic bone free from pressure, is the special feature of Hoefftcke's ambulatory appliance for fractures and joint diseases, and has been described by me in THE LANCET, Nov. 4th, 1911.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

March 4th, 1918.

W. ARBUTHNOT LANE.

**LOCUM TENENS MEDICAL OFFICERS.**—The ordinary rate of remuneration of locum tenens medical officers at the L.C.C. mental hospitals is six guineas a week, with board, lodging, and washing. Now the Asylums Committee propose that where at any of the hospitals a locum tenens medical officer is specially recommended by the medical superintendent on the ground of efficient service, and where the hospital sub-committee are satisfied that a higher remuneration than £6 6s. a week should be paid, a rate not exceeding £7 7s. a week may be allowed by a hospital sub-committee.

## The War.

### THE CASUALTY LIST.

THE following medical officers appear among the casualties announced since our last issue :—

*Drowned through Torpedoing of H.M. Hospital Ship  
"Glenart Castle."*

Capt. A. E. Kelsey, R.A.M.C., was a student at Guy's Hospital, London, and qualified in 1889. He thereupon joined the Royal Navy, retiring with the rank of Fleet-Surgeon in 1910. Soon after the outbreak of war he obtained a commission in the R.A.M.C.

Capt. L. Moysey, R.A.M.C., received his medical education at St. George's Hospital, London, and at Cambridge, and qualified in 1895. He held the appointment of house surgeon at the Paddington Green Children's Hospital, London, and prior to joining the R.A.M.C. was in practice at Radford, Notts.

### Wounded.

Capt. F. W. Tidmarsh, Canadian A.M.C.

Capt. J. T. Hefferman, R.A.M.C., attached R.F.A.

Capt. H. C. Trumble, Australian A.M.C.

### THE HONOURS LIST.

The following awards to medical officers are announced. The acts of gallantry for which the awards were made are not yet published.

*Bar to the Military Cross.*

Temp. Capt. G. L. Thornton, R.A.M.C. (M.C. recorded in THE LANCET, Jan. 12th, 1918, p. 79).

*The Military Cross.*

Temp. Capt. R. D. Bell, R.A.M.C.

The following appointment is also announced :—

*Companion of Honour.*

Surg.-Gen. Sir A. Keogh, G.C.B.

### MENTIONED IN DESPATCHES.

The name of the following medical officer is to be added to the list given in THE LANCET of Jan. 5th, 1918, p. 37 :—

Temp. Capt. H. D. Field, R.A.M.C. (died of wounds).

### THE MEDICAL SERVICE OF THE AIR FORCE: THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.

The Medical Administrative Committee referred to by Major Baird, Under Secretary to the Air Ministry, in his statement on the introduction of the Air Force Estimates (see THE LANCET, March 2nd, p. 356) has now been appointed. It is constituted exactly as Major Baird promised. Having the Director-General of the Naval Medical Service as chairman, the other members are the Director-General of the Army Medical Service, Fleet-Surgeon R. C. Munday (Medical Administrator); Major C. B. Heald (Assistant Medical Administrator); Surgeon-General Rolleston, Dr. Henry Head, Mr. Raymond Johnson, Dr. Leonard Hill, and Sir Walter Fletcher, the Secretary of the Medical Research Committee.

**A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF THE WAR CRIPPLE.**—The Red Cross Institute for Crippled and Disabled Men (311, Fourth-avenue, New York City) proposes to issue a series of scientific publications aiming at the rehabilitation of crippled soldiers, and the first of these is entitled "A Bibliography of the War Cripple," and compiled by Douglas C. McMurtrie. The list contains more than 1000 separate books, reports, and articles which have appeared since August, 1914. The entries refer only to physical cripples, and not to blindness, deafness, and mental derangement. They are largely drawn from French and German sources, the compiler remarking: "Of the entries in English more have been published in America than in England, in spite of the comparatively recent entrance of the United States into the war." The discrepancy would, we believe, not be so marked if the English entries were as complete as the compiler claims. We have noticed one important omission at least. Supplementary lists are, however, promised, and both these and the present brochure are supplied gratis on application to the institute.