

others speaking presumably for the whole body. I may quote the following: "the Association is recognised as the mouthpiece of the profession"; "there is only one organisation in the medical profession—namely, the Association"; "the Association could, if loyally supported by the whole profession, do all that the Federation aims at doing." On Dec. 15th, 1920, the Central Council of the Association rejected the recommendation of the Ministry of Health Subcommittee, which body advised coöperation with the Federation.

*The view of the Federation.*—Desiring to meet the needs of the community and the allied professions, the Federation has adopted a policy of neutrality and conciliation. It claims that by no other means than those it provides can the collective voice of a great profession and its allies in the public service be made available in the councils of the nation. Amongst the 45 organisations coöperating at the present time may be mentioned the Royal Society of Medicine, the British Science Guild, the Medical Women's Federation, Medico-Psychological Association, Association of M.O.H., British Dental Association, Pharmaceutical Society, College of Nursing, Royal British Nurses Association, and Midwives Institute—mentioning larger bodies only. And as all the allied professions are fully represented it requires only the coöperation of the British Medical Association and the Medico-Political Union to make adequate representation of medicine possible. Is not this a goal worth some personal sacrifice?

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

N. HOWARD MUMMERY.

The Federation of Medical and Allied Societies,  
5, Vere-street, W. 1., Dec. 21st, 1920.

## SPIRITUALISM AND THE NEW PSYCHOLOGY.

*To the Editor of THE LANCET.*

SIR,—May I congratulate you on having secured for your Christmas Day number a review of Dr. M. Culpin's book on spiritualism by a whole-hogger believer in telepathy? Next Christmas I shall look forward to a number devoted entirely to ghost stories, spirit-rapping, *ouija* boards, &c.—an annual relief from the sobriety of your weekly review of British medicine.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

Loughton, Essex, Dec. 29th, 1920.

LEONARD HILL.

## THE X RAY TREATMENT OF RINGWORM: A WARNING.

*To the Editor of THE LANCET.*

SIR,—The increasing number of claims against medical practitioners in respect of permanent alopecia following upon the treatment of ringworm of the scalp by X rays renders it desirable that those who may have occasion to use that method of treatment should warn the patient's parents of the possible after-effects.

The violent reaction which occasionally follows even minimum doses of X rays, in spite of all precautions, is otherwise apt to create a suspicion of overdosage or negligent technique, and give rise to claims which might have been avoided by a preliminary word of caution.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

JAMES NEAL,

General Secretary.

Medical Defence Union, Ltd., 4, Trafalgar-square,  
London, W.C. 2, Dec. 23rd, 1920.

## MEDICAL OFFICERS OF SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION.—

The annual general meeting of the Medical Officers of Schools Association was held at 2, Savoy-hill, Victoria Embankment, London, W.C., on Dec. 17th, when Mr. R. C. Elmslie was elected president, and thanks were accorded to Dr. James Kerr, the retiring president. Having regard to the important position occupied by the journal, *School Hygiene*, it was agreed to continue its publication, and Dr. James Kerr and Dr. C. W. Hutt were elected editors. It was announced that Dr. E. H. Nash would read a paper on School Punishments.

## Parliamentary Intelligence.

### NOTES ON CURRENT TOPICS.

PARLIAMENT was prorogued on Thursday, Dec. 23rd, until Tuesday, Feb. 15th, 1921. The Royal Assent was given to a number of Acts, including the Women and Young Persons (Employment in Lead Processes) Act and the Employment of Women, Young Persons, and Children Act.

### HOUSE OF COMMONS.

MONDAY, DEC. 20TH.

*Substitutes for Salvarsan.*

Mr. WATERSON asked the Minister of Health if he would furnish the names of the various substitutes for salvarsan and neo-salvarsan the use of which had been approved by his department; and if he would state whether his department guaranteed that the substitutes were exactly similar to the German salvarsan and neo-salvarsan.—Dr. ADDISON replied: The following substitutes for salvarsan and neo-salvarsan have been approved: Kharsivan, neo-kharsivan, arsenobillon, novarsenobillon, diarsenol, neo-diarsenol, galyll, and salvarsan (manufactured by an English firm of chemists). No guarantee of the kind suggested can be given, but there is good reason to believe that all these drugs, with the exception of galyll, correspond in general chemical constitution to the respective German preparations. They are all officially tested for toxicity before being placed on sale.

*Dental Bill.*

Dr. ADDISON introduced a Bill "to amend the Dentists Act, 1878, and the provisions of the Medical Act, 1886, amending that Act." The Bill was read a first time.

[On Tuesday, Dec. 21st, the order of the second reading of this Bill was discharged and the Bill withdrawn. It is understood that it has been introduced for the purpose of discussion and that it will be re-introduced at the beginning of next session.]

TUESDAY DEC. 21ST.

*Ex-Service Men in Asylums.*

Mr. LEONARD LYLE asked the Minister of Pensions if his department made any payments in connexion with ex-Service men who were in any asylums whatever in the country for the treatment of mental disease; why, if this was the case, both his department and the Ministry of Health abstained from giving figures; whether the number of such men had been stated officially to be inconsiderable; and whether it was possible, in view of payments made by his department, to give the public reliable information on the matter.—Mr. IAN MACPHERSON replied: I would draw my honourable friend's attention to the replies given to the honourable Member for Frome on June 28th, and to the honourable and gallant Member for Gateshead on July 30th, last. From these it will be seen that ex-Service men, confined in asylums and suffering from certifiable insanity due to war service, are by special arrangements treated as service patients with all the privileges of private patients. Their number on Dec. 9th was, I regret to say, 5634. The entire cost of their maintenance and treatment is borne by my department and, in addition, treatment allowances are made on substantially the same basis as in other cases of in-patient treatment.

*Medical Appeal Tribunal for Wales.*

Lieutenant-Colonel PARRY asked the Minister of Pensions whether he was aware that the medical appeal tribunal for Wales had been removed from Wales to hear appeal cases in England, and that consequently the hearing of appeal cases in Wales had been suspended, and what was the reason for such action.—Sir G. HEWART (Attorney-General for England) replied: I assume that this question refers to the Pension Appeal Tribunals set up under the War Pensions (Administrative Provisions) Act, 1919. The sitting of the tribunals in various large centres in England and Wales are arranged in accordance with the number of cases received in each district. The tribunal which sits almost continuously in Wales was temporarily removed to London for the fortnight commencing Dec. 6th. It returned to Wales yesterday. The arrangement was the result of (a) a diminution in the number of cases received from Wales, and (b) an increase in the number of London cases received.

*Calves Used for Lymph Production.*

Mr. LUNN asked the Minister of Health if he would state how the carcasses of the calves used for the production of vaccine lymph at the Government lymph establishment were disposed of after the lymph had been taken from them and the animals had been slaughtered.—Dr. ADDISON replied: The calves used for the production of lymph at the Government lymph establishment are hired, and after slaughter are examined by the veterinary surgeon of the