

profession, by having in the House of Commons a distinguished scientific representative like Sir Robert Woods. It must be obvious to the medical graduates of Dublin University that the legal profession has had more than its share in the Parliamentary representation of the University, and a splendid opportunity is now offered whereby a change may be effected in this direction.

Owing, however, to the large number of medical graduates who are serving their king and country in the various theatres of the present war it will be extremely difficult to get into direct communication with many of the voters. We would, therefore, appeal to your readers, as this is a matter of urgency, to forward immediately to the appended address the addresses of any doctors of medicine of Dublin University who are known to them to be absent from their usual home addresses, so that proxies may be sent to such voters.

We are, Sir, yours faithfully,

A. FRANCIS DIXON,

Professor of Anatomy;

JAMES CRAIG,

King's Professor of Practice of Medicine;

24, Trinity College, Dublin, Dec. 30th, 1916.

Honorary
Secretaries.

"SHELL SHOCK."

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—It is interesting, and to me gratifying, to find that Captain E. Farquhar Buzzard has quite independently come to exactly the same conclusions as I expressed in my paper on the psychology of malingering and the functional neuroses published in your issue of Nov. 18th last. I hope those conclusions may now be generally recognised as indisputably correct.

"Shell shock" is a misleading and bungling term, covering several different disorders which were familiar before the war, viz.: (1) neurasthenia, due to lack of "ergogen" in the brain cells; (2) hysteria, or subconscious malingering following on emotional shock; (3) malingering of a purely conscious nature; and, lastly, (4) various combinations of the above.

It is, as Captain Buzzard points out, essential that such an analysis of "shell shock" cases should be made if they are to be satisfactorily treated, and it is well that the patients should recognise that they are not suffering from some new and wonderful disorder, but from common and curable diseases with which every physician has long been familiar. Appreciation of this fact will *per se* accelerate recovery.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

South Eaton-place, S.W., Jan. 1st, 1917.

THOMAS LUMSDEN.

LORD ROBERTS'S FIELD GLASSES: A RETROSPECT OF TWO YEARS' WORK.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Soon after the outbreak of the war, my father, Lord Roberts, asked the public to lend their glasses for the use of the Army. After two years I think your readers may be glad to have some particulars of the result of his request.

Upwards of 26,000 glasses have been received, without reckoning those which, in pursuance of my father's suggestion, have been collected in Australia, the Malay States, and elsewhere, and issued forthwith to the local forces on their way to the seat of war. The instruments sent comprise every type, and have been classified and issued according to the needs of different units. Particularly useful have been the fine prismatic glasses sent which have been allocated to artillery and machine-gun units, according to their power; large mounted telescopes for batteries; deer-stalking telescopes for gunners and snipers, and good old-fashioned non-prismatic racing glasses for detection of the nationality of aircraft, locating snipers, signalling by disc, collecting wounded, and musketry instruction. I am indeed grateful for the way in which my father's appeal has been met. British people all over the world have given their best, recognising that, in spite of the fact that their glasses are on loan and that the organisation for their return has been arranged, the chances of loss are many, and that they may never get their glasses back.

When I think of the enormous numbers of good glasses sent it may seem ungracious to ask for more, but the demand

is still great. I am told that at watering places, and on race-courses and elsewhere, large numbers of glasses are still to be seen in private hands, and to the owners of these I would once more appeal. I should add that we have been entrusted by the Ministry of Munitions with the purchase of individual glasses from those who cannot afford to lend them, and that the address for sending glasses for either purpose is the same. Every good glass (except opera-glasses) and every telescope (except toys) is wanted for the service of the country.

Glasses should be addressed to the Manager of Lady Roberts' Field Glass Fund, National Service League, 72, Victoria-street, S.W.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

December, 1916.

ROBERTS.

THE RESULTS OF FEEDING MICE WITH MOUSE CANCER.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—We are gratified to see in the report of the meeting of the Section of Pathology of the Royal Society of Medicine in your issue of Dec. 16th, 1916, that Professor S. G. Shattock and Mr. L. S. Dudgeon, as the result of experiments on feeding mice with tumours, suggest virtually the same hypothesis as that we published in THE LANCET of March 4th, 1916, as a deduction from the results of injecting sarcoma filtrate or feeding on streptothrix isolated from rat sarcoma. We there put forward the suggestion that the parasite is very small and enters into the cell, possibly the nucleus, from which it is set free by the mincing process. The streptothrix appears to be a parasite present in tumours, and in one cycle of its growth it may be really ultra-microscopic, but at present this is unproved. Certainly we have not, so far, succeeded in obtaining a differential stain to demonstrate the parasite in the tissues, in spite of its comparatively easy cultivation from them. We experienced the same difficulty again recently in a case of streptotrichosis in a cow. The streptothrix isolated from the tissues proved fatal to a guinea-pig in three weeks and it was recovered by cultivation from the guinea-pig tissues, but it could not be shown in the sections or films prepared from the tissues of either the cow or the guinea-pig.

Of course, the successful production of tumours in mice, by feeding with malignant material, has been observed and recorded at least once before, by Ford Robertson, in 1909.

We are, Sir, yours faithfully,

A. S. LEYTON.

University of Leeds, Dec. 28th, 1916.

H. G. LEYTON.

SUPRARENAL HÆMORRHAGE IN CEREBRO-SPINAL FEVER.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In THE LANCET of Dec. 23rd, 1916, Captain P. W. MacLagan and Captain W. E. Cooke describe some cases of cerebro-spinal fever characterised by rapid death and suprarenal hæmorrhage. I should like to point out that Karakaschaff in 1904¹ described the case of a child who died from some other cause, and who had the medulla of both suprarenals calcified from old hæmorrhage. While in hospital there were no signs of suprarenal disease. I myself have seen a specimen from a child whose symptoms were typical of suprarenal hæmorrhage, yet here the damage was purely cortical. So also in Addison's disease. The rare cases of that condition which depend on "simple atrophy" show, if the atrophy has not gone too far, medulla surviving and cortex gone. It therefore appears, as I pointed out at the Pathological Society in January, 1914², that suprarenal hæmorrhage and Addison's disease are fundamentally the same.

If I am asked why the blood pressure drops, I can only say that I do not know, but I can also ask if we are justified in assuming that loss of blood pressure always depends on loss of adrenalin.—I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

S. G. SCOTT,

Netley, Hants, Dec. 31st, 1916.

Temporary Lieutenant, R.A.M.C.

¹ Ziegler's Beiträge, xxxvi., 401.

² Jour. of Path. and Bact., xviii., 419.