

GENERAL NOTES

THE attention of members is drawn to the *EXCERPTA MEDICA* Section XI which is a most valuable international abstracting service as it gives each month abstracts of all the important papers in Oto-Rhino-Laryngology. The subscription is £4 8s. od. a year and the agents for Great Britain, the Dominions and the Commonwealth (excluding Canada) are E. and S. Livingstone Ltd., 16 and 17 Teviot Place, Edinburgh. We regret that in previous issues the price was incorrectly stated as five dollars or the equivalent.

BRITISH ASSOCIATION OF OTOLARYNGOLOGISTS

ANTERIOR POLIOMYELITIS AND EAR, NOSE AND THROAT OPERATIONS

THE attention of members is drawn to the Medical Memorandum on Poliomyelitis, No. 93222/7/63, dated July, 1954, issued by the Ministry of Health and Department of Health for Scotland. The relevant passages in this report, which are of interest to Otolaryngologists, are as follows :

I. EPIDEMIOLOGY.

(a) The present evidence suggests that the portal of entry is usually the mouth and that the primary site of infection is in the mucosa of the oropharynx or the small intestine.

(b) In bulbar poliomyelitis following tonsillectomy it seems that the virus most probably travels to the medulla along the cranial nerves supplying the pharynx.

(c) It is fairly generally accepted that specific trauma, especially tonsillectomy, may precipitate paralysis.

2. CONTROL MEASURES : AVOIDANCE OF CERTAIN TRAUMA.

(a) *Tonsillectomy.* The postponement of tonsillectomy when poliomyelitis reaches unusual proportions in a locality is strongly advised, particularly because when poliomyelitis follows recent tonsillectomy, serious illness, with bulbar involvement, appears to be more frequent. The Medical Officer of Health can assist by informing local hospital authorities when and where the incidence of the disease is unusually high, so that the surgeon may then take this hazard into account before deciding to operate.

(b) *Tooth Extractions.* There is very little evidence that tooth extractions may predispose to bulbar poliomyelitis. Nevertheless as with ear, nose and throat surgery the possibility should be kept in mind by dentists undertaking non-urgent extractions in areas of epidemic prevalence.

General Notes

OTOLARYNGOLOGY LECTURES 1956

THE following lectures, arranged jointly by the Royal College of Surgeons of England and the Institute of Laryngology and Otology will be delivered in the Lecture Hall of the College at 5.30 p.m.

1956

May 3rd. Dr. Hans Engström, Göteborg, Sweden. "Electron-microscopic studies of the olfactory membrane."

July 5th. Professor W. V. Mayneord. Recent scientific development in radio-therapy.

The lecture arranged for May 3rd by Mr. E. J. Radley Smith on the Physiology and Pathology of the Pituitary Gland has unavoidably been postponed until the next session. His place has been taken by Dr. Engström.

WE are pleased to record that Mr. C. S. Hallpike has been elected a Fellow of the Royal Society and we offer him our congratulations. Mr. Hallpike is the Director of the Otological Research Unit of the Medical Research Council and is a valued contributor to this Journal.

THE INSTITUTE OF LARYNGOLOGY & OTOLOGY

The Academic Board announces that the Short Course in Pathology will be repeated on 18th & 19th May, 1956, and that a Short Course on the Deaf Child for Consultant Otologists will be given on 1st, 2nd & 3rd May, 1956. A similar course for Senior Registrars has been arranged for 16th to 19th October, 1956.

The Trustees of the Nuffield Foundation have made a grant of £3,000 to the associated Royal National Throat, Nose & Ear Hospital to finance four scholarships in connection with a year's pilot scheme of teaching selected personnel the methods of auditory assessment and training of the deaf child. It is hoped to put this scheme into operation shortly.

ROYAL SOCIETY OF MEDICINE

CLINICAL MEETINGS OF THE SECTIONS OF LARYNGOLOGY AND OTOLOGY

Arrangements have been made to hold Clinical Meetings at:

- (1) Charing Cross Hospital, London, W.C.2.
- (2) Royal National Throat, Nose and Ear Hospital, Gray's Inn Road, London, W.C.1.

Both these Meetings will be held at 10 a.m. on Saturday, 5th May, 1956.

As accommodation is limited, applications to attend either Meeting will be dealt with in the order in which they are received. These should be made on the subjoined form, and returned to Mr. W. D. Doey at the above address not later than Monday, April 30th.

Members for whom accommodation is available will be informed and a list will also be posted on the notice board at the Society's House on Friday morning, May 4th, 1956.

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*Official organ for the American Laryngological,
Rhinological and Otological Society*

Price \$14.00 per year

Canada \$13.00 per year

MAX A. GOLDSTEIN, M.D.
FOUNDER

THEODORE E. WALSH, M.D.
EDITOR

640 SOUTH KINGSHIGHWAY
SAINT LOUIS 10, MO.

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