

Election to Membership

The following having satisfied the board of censors, have been elected by Council to membership of the College:—

DR. L. G. ABBOTT, M.B., B.S., 33, Constitution Road, Dulwich Hill, New South Wales, Australia; DR. J. M. BANKS, M.B., B.S., Marsden Street, Parramatta, New South Wales, Australia; DR. R. E. BOSANQUET, M.B., CH.B., Pambula, C.7, New South Wales, Australia; DR. J. H. CARMAN, M.B., B.S., 826, Victoria Road, Ryde, New South Wales, Australia; DR. D. C. CLARK, M.B., CH.B., Dishland House, Arbroath, Forfar, Angus; DR. M. M. CRANNA, M.B., B.S., Bong Bong Street, Kiama, New South Wales, Australia; PROFESSOR L. F. DODS, M.D., D.C.H., 8, Albert Street, Edgecliff, New South Wales, Australia; DR. H. EMDUR, M.B., B.S., 1, King Street, Newtown, New South Wales, Australia; DR. G. R. FREEDMAN, M.B., B.CHIR., Roseworth Tower, Gosforth, Newcastle-on-Tyne 3 (former Associate); DR. J. P. GALLAGHER, M.B., B.S., 1, Robert Street, Willoughby, New South Wales, Australia; DR. E. J. GAZZARD, M.B., B.S., Old Northern Road, Castle Hill, New South Wales, Australia; DR. T. M. GREENAWAY, M.B., CH.M., M.R.C.P., 143, Macquarie Street, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia; DR. N. JOSEPH, M.B., B.S., 118, Albury Street, Harden, New South Wales, Australia; DR. N. A. D. KEIRLE, M.B., CH.M., 16, Park Crescent, Pymble, New South Wales, Australia; DR. J. E. KNIGHT, M.B., B.S., 14, Gaskill Street, Canowindra, New South Wales, Australia; DR. H. R. MACCOURT, M.B., B.S., 37, Rawson Street, Epping, New South Wales, Australia; PROFESSOR B. T. MAYES, M.B., B.S., F.R.C.S., F.R.A.C.S., M.R.C.O.G., Obstetrics Department, University of Sydney, New South Wales, Australia; DR. H. N. MERRINGTON, M.B., CH.B., 49, Belmore Road, Randwick, New South Wales, Australia; DR. F. P. OPITZ, M.B., B.S., 122, Tudor Street, Hamilton, New South Wales, Australia; DR. K. G. OUTHRED, M.B., B.S., Joint Coal Board Cottage, Prince's Highway, Corrimal, New South Wales, Australia; DR. L. T. ROBEY, M.B., B.S., Oberon Street, Oberon, New South Wales, Australia; DR. H. W. RUNDLE, M.B., B.S., 67, Chatham Street, Hamilton, New South Wales, Australia; DR. J. STANNERS, M.B., CH.B., 7, North Road, Wingate, Co. Durham; DR. B. A. STEPHEN, M.B., CH.M., Waratah House, Kiama, New South Wales, Australia; DR. G. A. THOMPSON, M.B., B.S., Pine Street, Hay, New South Wales, Australia; DR. J. A. WALL, M.B., B.S., 12, Sycamore Street, Leeton, New South Wales, Australia; DR. W. P. YATES, M.B., B.S., Box 4, P.O., Busselton, Western Australia.

Book Review

Personality Changes Following Frontal Leucotomy

BY P. MACDONALD TOW, PH.D. (MED.), M.B., B.S., (London),
M.R.C.S. (ENG.): Oxford University Press (London: Geoffrey
Cumberlege) pp. xv, 262. Price 35/.

The number of books that are constantly displayed before the general practitioner, in advertisements and revues, as indispensable companions to his practice, can do no more than remind him of his scientific illiteracy. The book under review, however, is not one of these; it is not recommended by the publisher as a work suitable for the general practitioner; its title, moreover, is calculated to repel the non-specialist reader. In spite of these defects, doctors with even a passing interest in psychology and psychiatry, will find in it a quite enthralling study of the function of the frontal lobe in health and disease.

The first 61 pages trace the development of our knowledge of the frontal lobe from the earliest time. The remainder of the work

is concerned with an exhaustive study of 36 patients who had suffered frontal leucotomy for various conditions, but who were capable of undergoing rigid psychological examination and who, for experimental purposes, could be regarded as normal subjects.

Dr. Tow is to be congratulated on the way he has presented this study. Each test to which the subjects were submitted is lucidly described, so that even the reader untrained in psychology may understand the method and purpose behind it. From the evidence of these 36 patients the conclusion is drawn "that after loss of the pre-frontal area there is a generalized impairment of mental activity, and that this impairment is greater in the higher and more peculiarly human function than in others."

Correspondence

Asthma in Childhood

SIR,—Having read the report of Conference of the Asthma study group in your research letter No. 8, I was extremely interested and felt I might have something to contribute.

I started in general practice at Woodbridge, Suffolk, from 1921 to '30. From 1930-38 I had an undergraduate and small general practice at Cambridge; and from 1938-54 I was resident medical officer to Haileybury College (about 550 boys). I myself had infantile exzema and asthma as a child, one of my sons has inherited this diathesis, as has also a grandchild. All my sons, but not my daughter, suffered from the early morning sneezing that seems to go with that diathesis. At Haileybury, where I found myself in a good position to observe these cases away from home influences, I would say at a rough guess that the incidence was about 2%. I would know of about 11 cases among the 550 boys, so that during the 16 years about 42 cases have passed through my hands. It must be remembered that they came to me at 13, an age at which they were growing out of the disease, but they made an interesting study to one who had himself been an asthmatic and could understand their outlook. I cannot recall any of the boys being still much troubled by asthma by the time he reached 17—18 and left school; though at Cambridge I did see a few undergraduates still uncomfortable between 18 and 21.

Causes:—The precipitating, or trigger, factor is psychogenic; the other four—hereditary, allergy, stress and possibly metabolic are contributory. Other manifestations of the same train of events, but in different organs of the body, may well be eczema, spasmodic rhinorrhoea, migraine and spasmodic colon. The psychogenic factor is similar and one or more combinations may be found in the same individuals or in the same family. The psychosomatic explanation of asthma can be summed up in the one word "Exasperation." The body is expressing very vividly the mental outlook that the patient has had his breath taken away, feels suffocated, his vitality