

dermatitis, and may be described by the patient in dramatic and colourful words and phrases.

When discussing neurodermatitis one must consider whether the psychiatric features of a particular case are primary or secondary to the dermatosis. Almost any eczema or dermatitis rash especially if it is of long duration and readily visible and accompanied by much itching, is liable to produce psychiatric symptoms. These will naturally be more frequent and marked if the patient has a tendency to depression, emotional disorders or anxiety neuroses. The symptoms of the dermatosis and the psychiatric disorder readily become intermingled. Only if one can be suddenly divorced from the other may the symptoms be separated. Many of these widespread cases of eczematous dermatitis can be rapidly suppressed by the use of ACTH. In such a case, the associated rapid disappearance of depression and other anxiety state symptoms is most remarkable. This is without producing symptoms of euphoria, as sometimes occurs with high dosage.

How is one to regard eczema-dermatitis as a disease process? It is a functional disorder, similar to effort syndrome in the chest, and functional dyspepsia or spastic colon in the abdomen. The normal function of the skin is to grow up from the basal cell layer in stages to form the stratum corneum, in a regular even fashion, so as to carry out its protective action over the whole body. Eczema-dermatitis is a disorder of this function, so that the growth in layers of the various cells is all awry and abnormal. But as with effort syndrome and spastic colon, no permanent damage is caused to the organ and at any time it can usually return entirely to normal, leaving no trace that anything has ever gone wrong.

C. D. CALNAN.

Tuberculosis Specialist to Lecture in Turkey and Greece.

PROFESSOR FREDERICK HEAF, DAVID DAVIES Professor of Tuberculosis in the University of Wales, Cardiff, left London by air on November 15th for Turkey, where he is lecturing, under British Council auspices, on Tuberculosis and discussing preventive measures with Turkish specialists in Ankara and Istanbul. His visit was at the request of the Turkish Ministry of Health, and he was there for three weeks. He is then visiting Greece from December 6th to 12th and lecturing to medical societies in Athens and Salonica.

In Istanbul he will lecture to a Congress of Doctors, arranged by the World Health Organisation, which begins in the first week of December. Medical men from 16 countries will attend and the Congress includes special courses on tuberculosis.

Professor Heaf will also visit the new rehabilitation centre which is being set up in Istanbul, and in Ankara he will meet Dr. Zeki Arsan, a former student of his, who is now Chief Doctor at the Ankara Tuberculosis Dispensary.

His lectures will cover the prevention, diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation of tuberculosis and anti-tuberculosis vaccination.

In Turkey and Greece, British films on tuberculosis will be shown in connection with the lectures.

Professor Heaf is Adviser in tuberculosis to the Ministry of Health and the Colonial Secretary and Adviser in B.C.G. to the Department of Health for Scotland. He holds a number of appointments as Consulting Physician and is Chairman of the British Tuberculosis Association Research Committee.

He has visited many Colonial countries as Consultant Adviser and on his way back from Greece will spend a few days in Cyprus.

Some years ago Professor Heaf lectured at the British College of Nurses.

British Medical Association

Prizes for Nurses.

THE COUNCIL of the British Medical Association is prepared to consider the award in 1954 of Prizes to the value of 20 guineas for the best essay, and 10 guineas for the second best essay submitted in open competition by each of the following categories of nurses:

- (i) Student Nurses.
 - (ii) State Registered Nurses working in a hospital.
 - (iii) State Registered Nurses not working in a hospital.
- The subjects of the essays for 1954 are:

Category

- (i) "Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of living in or out of the hospital."
- (ii) "In what way can the Nurse help in preparing a hospital patient for return to family life?"
- (iii) "In what ways can the home nursing and nursing aftercare services relieve the burden on the hospital?"

The purpose of these Prizes is the promotion of systematic observation among nurses. In awarding the Prizes *due regard will be given to evidence of personal observation*. No essay that has previously appeared in the medical Press or elsewhere will be considered eligible for a Prize. Previous Prizewinners are now eligible to compete for further awards.

Nurses who are undergoing a course of training at a hospital are eligible to compete under Category (i); Nurses registered by the General Nursing Council are eligible to compete under Categories (ii) or (iii), whichever is appropriate. The competition is open to both male and female Nurses.

If any question arises in reference to the eligibility of a candidate or the admissibility of his or her essay, the decision of the Council of the British Medical Association shall be final.

Should the Council decide that no essay entered is of sufficient merit, no award shall be made.

The essay should be typewritten if possible, but a legibly written manuscript will receive equal consideration. It must be written in the English language, unsigned, and have attached to it a note containing the name and address of the candidate and the category into which he or she falls. Essays which, it is suggested, should consist of 2,000 to 5,000 words, must be forwarded so as to reach the Secretary of the British Medical Association not later than March 31st, 1954.

Preliminary notice of entry for this competition is required, and a special form for this purpose is obtainable from the Secretary, British Medical Association, B.M.A. House, Tavistock Square, London, W.C.1.

A. MACRAE,
Secretary.

British Medical Association House,
Tavistock Square,
London, W.C.1.
November, 1953.

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