

syphilis and was so marked and horrible a symptom in the case of the Russian Ivan the Terrible. In judging the 'bluff king,' it should be borne in mind that he was not the only man who has been similarly ruined, physically and mentally, by a foul disease."

Of the children who survived, the portrait of Mary, daughter of Katherine of Aragon, "is obviously that of a congenital syphilitic," and Edward VI, son of Jane Seymour, died of consumption and congenital syphilis.

The accounts of the deaths of several of the kings are gruesome reading, but the words with which Mr. Yearsley concludes this remarkable book can be thoroughly endorsed.

"Possibly the survey just completed may influence those whose knowledge of English history is vague, or possibly biased by what they have read, to look more kindly upon some of our Rulers and to view their personalities and actions as often due to forces of disease over which they could have no control."

"L'INCONNUE."

"One Unknown" (*L'Inconnue*), by Reinhold Conrad Muschler, translated from the German by M. A. and E. V. Barker, and published by Putnam, 24, Bedford Street, Covent Garden, W.C., price 3s. 6d., is a book which should not be missed. It is inspired by the famous death mask of *L'Inconnue de la Seine*, and is the story of a girl of twenty-one whose life has been cold and grey and monotonous since babyhood. When she found herself free on the death of an aunt with some small savings in the bank, she arranged to fulfil her great desire to go to Paris. "She felt that Paris would be home while the little town of Pertuis was a soul-destroying prison."

The story of her brief, ecstatic idyll is simply and exquisitely told, compressed into 80 short pages, but the picture is complete. When it ended she wandered to the Seine with sleeping powders in her handkerchief. "She emptied the powders one by one into her hand. Then she knelt in the grass and drank of the waters of Lethe.

"Everything was fading from her mind. . . Her spirit floated in high solitude. Paris was forgotten. The gentle lapping of the river was in her ears."

MEDAL AND PRIZES.

During an interval in the festivities on Boxing Day in the nurses beautiful Recreation Room at the Croydon General Hospital the Medal and prizes won by nurses during the past year were presented.

The fortunate winners were as follows:—

Heath Clark Medal, Nurse B. Taylor; *3rd year prize*, Nurse E. Jenkin; *2nd year prize*, Nurse D. Deavin; *1st year prize*, Nurse M. O'Brien, Nurse A. Drew (tie).

Medical Examination prize, presented by Dr. T. W. Preston, Nurse E. Jenkin.

Surgical Examination prize, presented by Mr. E. Cowell, Nurse E. Deavin.

The results of the State Examinations for 1935 were most successful, and all concerned are hoping to maintain our high standard in 1936.

WELCOME GIFTS.

We have to thank Miss Swaby Smith, R.B.N.A., for kindly sending 10s. to be expended on a free copy of the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, for an old subscriber who is unable to continue taking the Journal, and 3s. for the F.N. Thanksgiving Box.

Also 7s. from the R.B.N.A. for a year's subscription of the B.J.N. for a friend.

THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION.

Many interesting questions were discussed at the recent meeting of the British Association at Norwich.

Farming and Health.

In the Sections of Economics and Physiology, which combined to discuss economic aspects of diet, proposals were put forward that there should be State planning in the joint interests of agriculture and public health.

Diet a Question of Education.

These proposals were supported by Professor E. P. Cathcart, of Glasgow University, who said that the majority of those they were anxious to serve did not care about such things as the balance of protein. What they were interested in was that they had enough really tasty food to eat. The question of diet was, he said, one of education. People had to be taught how to cook, how to spend money, how to carry on the work of the house. Girls married, knowing nothing of cookery. The problem to be solved was that of getting information across. Lectures and leaflets were no good; the only thing was practical demonstrations carried out with the utensils people were in the habit of using.

The Energy Output of a Coal-miner.

Dealing with the question from the special aspect of the energy output of a coal-miner during work, Professor K. Neville Moss, of Birmingham University, urged the need for a higher energy input by way of food than some experts unfamiliar with the work of the miner had hitherto thought necessary. If a miner's wages fell too low either he had to do with less food, and in consequence reduce his work output, or maintain his work output and dietary standard at the expense of his family. The importance of wages in relation to an adequate dietary standard must therefore be fully grasped by those responsible for the welfare and employment of the miner.

The Limitation Imposed by Poverty.

Professor P. Sargent Florence expressed the view that the limitations imposed by poverty were not sufficiently realized. In the slums the co-operative societies had, he said, been a failure; the very poor were frightened of them. These people wanted "tick," and they bought in the most minute quantities, which meant that, on the basis of weight, they paid excessive prices, and the quality of food obtained was usually poor. He urged that the Ministry of Labour should undertake an entirely new investigation on which to base their cost-of-living figures. The present basis was 31 years out of date.

The Master Gland.

Probably the address which aroused most interest was that of Professor P. T. Herring in the Section of Physiology on the pituitary gland.

The pituitary is, said the Professor, a peculiar gland in two ways. First, it arises in development from two separate origins; and secondly, it enters into intimate functional contact with part of the brain. A dual origin it shares with the adrenal; intimate contact with the brain it shares with the pineal. But in the combination of the two peculiarities it is unique.

The list of functions, said Professor Herring, as reported in *The Times*, exercised by the pituitary by means of its secretions has grown formidably in the last few years. One is responsible for the regulation of growth, a shortage producing dwarfs, an excess giants. Another controls the growth and ripening of the sex-organs: even very young animals treated with this, rapidly exhibit sexual maturity while remaining quite small and otherwise undeveloped.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)