

off, *i.e.*, detached in front of it. To save the patient's life it is necessary to excise the eye as soon as this growth is recognised, so treatment of the detachment as such has not to be considered.

(c) Thirdly.—The retina floats off.

Ever since it has been possible to examine the interior of the eye with an ophthalmoscope it has been recognised that in the great majority of cases of detachment the retina could not be considered as either pushed off or pulled off, these were known as "simple" detachments. One interesting feature was noted in these cases, a hole or tear was nearly always seen in the retina. The significance of this hole was never appreciated until Gonin, a Swiss surgeon, soon after the war, claimed that the hole was the essential cause of simple retinal detachment and that if it could be closed the retina would become reattached; subsequent work has shown that this brilliant observation was entirely correct. I will not bother you with the reason for the appearance of these holes, which is often ill understood; in some cases injury and in others a focus of inflammation in the retina is responsible. Once established this hole allows fluid from the vitreous to percolate between the layers of the retina, which in consequence becomes detached.

With regard to treatment, the problem is to seal the hole and to evacuate the fluid which has collected beneath the retina. The method employed is this. The position of the hole in the retina is carefully observed with an ophthalmoscope and an estimate made of that area of the sclera, *i.e.*, the white of the eye, which is lying immediately over it. The particular area of the sclera outside the eye is exposed at operation, and to it is applied some agent which is capable of exciting inflammation in the choroid beneath—caustic potash was used in the past, and to-day usually an electrical diathermy current. Finally a hole is made through the sclera and choroid, and the fluid beneath the retina is allowed to run out. It follows that the detached retina sinks back on the choroid, and the hole in the retina comes to rest on that area of the choroid where inflammation has been excited. As this inflammation subsides the edges of the hole become adherent to the choroid, and so the hole is occluded.

This operation cures about one half of all cases of simple detachment of the retina; when it is remembered that previously every eye in which this condition occurred became blind it will be appreciated that this is a very notable advance in the surgery of the eye.

NATIONAL RADIUM TRUST.

The National Radium Trust met on June 28th, at the Privy Council Office. The Right Hon. Viscount Halifax, K.G., G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E. (Lord President of the Council), presided.

Plans were reviewed for making available a further substantial amount of radium.

The Right Hon. the Earl of Donoughmore, K.P., was re-appointed Chairman of the Radium Commission for a further period. The Radium Commission is an expert body, set up under the Charter, which allocates the Trust's radium and supervises it in use.

The Trust welcomes gifts and bequests of all kinds in furtherance of its objects, including trusts subject to special conditions; and it is expressly authorised to accept them under the Royal Charter granted by His late Majesty King George V, in 1929.

One hundred and fifty thousand pounds of the Trust's funds was contributed by public subscription in 1929 (thank-offering for recovery of His late Majesty King George V).

Mr. R. Stanton was appointed Secretary of the Trust (in place of Mr. George North, M.C., LL.B., resigned).

THE ELEVENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSES.

The Eleventh Annual General Meeting of Fellows and Members of the British College of Nurses was held at 39, Portland Place, London, W.1., on July 3rd, 1937, at 3 p.m.

The President, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, was in the Chair, supported by Dr. Bedford Fenwick, Treasurer and Trustee, and the Councillors in their robes of office, and there was a very large attendance of Fellows and Members, who showed keen interest in the work of the College.

The Notice convening the Meeting having been read by Miss A. Stewart Bryson, and prayers having been read, the Minutes of the last Meeting were read, confirmed and signed.

The President then presented the very comprehensive Eleventh Annual Report 1936-1937, which was discussed.

Miss Allbutt considered that the Report was so long because so much had been done during the past year, and congratulated the Council that as a result of its initiative a Registered Nurse had been appointed as Registrar by the General Nursing Council for Scotland, which was indeed a triumph.

In referring to the publication in the Press of the successful Examinees of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, the President reminded the meeting that Scotland as well as the Irish Free State had adopted this means of publicity, and advised the nurses of England and Wales not to take the refusal of their Governing Body, of their request for an equal privilege as final. In November the Election of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales would take place and the nurses should make this demand a prominent plank of their policy in supporting candidates.

The adoption of the Report was then moved by Miss Johns, seconded by Mrs. Lampard and carried unanimously.

THE TREASURER'S REPORT.

Dr. Bedford Fenwick on rising said that he had much pleasure in presenting the Audited Accounts for the past year, explained them and moved the Resolution "That the Audited Accounts to June 30th be received and adopted and a printed copy entered on the Minutes."

The Treasurer felt sure all would be interested to know that it would appear that the interest on investments was rising. He hoped we had weathered the storm of the past years of depression, and was happy to report a very satisfactory financial position. The recovery of £1,185 5s. 5d. income tax refunded was an unusual item of good news.

The Report was seconded and carried unanimously.

Miss M. S. Cochrane, R.R.C., in expressing a warm vote of thanks to Dr. Fenwick for his almost superhuman work on behalf of the College finances, considered the members could not be too grateful for his skill and foresight.

APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS.

The Treasurer moved "That Mr. H. Rendall Gothard be appointed Auditor for the College for the ensuing year." This was agreed.

WELCOME TO COUNCILLORS.

The President expressed great pleasure in welcoming the new members to the Council, and asked Miss Dorothy M. Dickinson, Member, Matron, St. Mary's Hospital for Women, Plaistow, and a Nightingale Scholarship student, to accept a bouquet of roses and carnations, and proposed that congratulations be sent by post to Miss E. Brodie and Miss D. Tilby, the two newly appointed Fellows to the Council, as they were unable to be present.

The President then drew the attention of the Meeting to the great International Congress which would be held in London during the month, in which some 3,000 members were expected to take part.

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