I have only twice had to give an anæsthetic to nervous primiparous patients, and the babies have not given any trouble except in the case already described. Sixteen of the mothers had one or more stillbirths and most of them had a history of prolonged labours. Forceps were only used three times in the series.

Yours, etc.,

137 Faulkner Street, Armidale, New South Wales. December 27, 1948.

ELLEN M. KENT HUGHES.

SPIRITS AS A DISINFECTANT.

SIR: *Re* the article of "Lister" in the journal of December 25, 1948, regarding live organisms in museum specimens kept in spirits and condemning the use of methylated spirit or rectified spirit as a disinfectant for surgical ware, especially syringes, I would reply by saying: "By their fruits ye shall know them." In the last twenty-six years I have always kept my syringes in methylated spirit, and during that time I have used the hypodermic needle twice daily for insulin injections (18,980 times) without a single reaction of any kind. Surely a good test of its efficacy.

Yours, etc.,

Melbourne, December 28, 1948.

"METHYLATED SPIRIT".

A NATIONAL MEDICAL SERVICE.

SIR: Dr. L. J. A. Parr in his recent letter admirably draws attention to many problems which the Government should consider are of vital importance to the community.

Tuberculosis particularly calls for immediate survey. Most general medical practitioners from time to time diagnose early and well-established cases of this disease, only to see the former's chance of arrest completely lost and the latter at times die in their homes whilst awaiting hospital admission.

The Government could convince both the public and the medical profession that it is really sincere in its proposals to improve the medical service of the community by dealing in some practical way with the sufferers from chronic ailments who at present receive little or no attention at all.

Yours, etc.,

30 Belmore Street, Burwood, New South Wales. January 7, 1949.

A. W. METCALF.

Research.

THE ELLA SACHS PLOTZ FOUNDATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENTIFIC INVESTIGATION.

DURING the twenty-fifth year of the Ella Sachs Plotz Foundation for the Advancement of Scientific Investigation, twenty-six applications for grants were received by the trustees, fifteen of which came from the United States, the other eleven from seven different countries in Europe and Asia. Fifteen grants were made. In the twenty-five years of its existence the Foundation has made six hundred and two grants which have been distributed to scientists throughout the world.

In their first statement regarding the purposes for which the fund would be used, the trustees expressed themselves as follows:

1. For the present, researches will be favoured that are directed towards the solution of problems in medicine and surgery or in branches of science bearing on medicine and surgery.
2. As a rule, preference will be given to researches on a single problem or on closely allied problems; it is hoped that investigators in this and in other countries may be found, whose work on similar or related problems may be assisted so that more rapid progress may be made possible.
3. Grants may be used for the purchase of apparatus and supplies that are needed for special investigations, and for the payment of unusual expenses incident to such investigations, including technical assistance, but not for providing apparatus or materials which are ordinarily a part of laboratory equipment. Stipends for the support of investigators will be granted only under exceptional circumstances.

In the past few years the policy outlined in paragraph 2 has been neglected and grants will be given in the sciences closely related to medicine without reference to special fields. Usually grants will not exceed $500, but in special instances grants may be up to $1000.

Applications for grants to be held during the year 1949-1950 must be in the hands of the Executive Committee before April 15, 1949. There are no formal application blanks, but letters asking for aid must state definitely the qualifications of the investigator, an accurate description of the research, the size of the grant requested and the specific use of the money to be expended. In their requests for aid, applicants should state whether or not they have approached other foundations for financial assistance and what other sources of support are relied on for research. It is highly desirable to include letters of recommendation from the directors of the departments in which the work is to be done. Only applicants complying with the above conditions will be considered.

Applications should be sent to Dr. Joseph C. Aub, Massachusetts General Hospital, Fruit Street, Boston 14, Massachusetts, United States of America.

Post-Graduate Work.

THE POST-GRADUATE COMMITTEE IN MEDICINE IN THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY.

Course for Diploma in Diagnostic Radiology.

THE Post-Graduate Committee in Medicine in the University of Sydney announces that a course suitable for candidates for the diploma in diagnostic radiology will begin on March 21, 1949, for a period of twelve months. Unless candidates hold positions in the X-ray departments of hospitals approved under the diploma regulations, attendance at this course will be full time and post-graduates will be allocated to recognized metropolitan hospitals over the twelve months' period. Applications should be addressed to the Course Secretary, the Post-Graduate Committee in Medicine, 131 Macquarie Street, Sydney, from whom details of the course and copies of the diploma by-laws and regulations may be obtained. Telephones: BU 5238-BW 7483.

Obituary.

ELSIE JEAN DALYELL.

WE are indebted to Dr. Marjorie Little and Dr. Marie Hamilton for the following appreciation of the late Dr. Elsie Jean Dalyell.

Elsie Jean Dalyell graduated in medicine at the University of Sydney with first class honours in 1910 and was one of the first women appointed as a resident medical officer at the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital. In 1912 at the invitation of the late Professor Welsh she joined the staff of the department of pathology—the first woman to hold a teaching appointment in the faculty of medicine.

In 1913 she was awarded a Beit Research Fellowship and proceeded to the Lister Institute, which was to be her scientific home for many years. Shortly after the outbreak of the first World War she joined a voluntary hospital unit for work in Serbia, and later saw service in France, Malta, Greece and Constantinople. She was the first woman to be in charge of a laboratory with the Royal Army Medical Corps on active service and was awarded an O.B.E. for her work in this field. The organiatizon of a laboratory service under the almost impossible conditions which existed in the mountains of Greece and in Constantinople was a challenge which could only be accepted by one of Dr. Dalyell's skill, courage and resourcefulness, and her vivid descriptions of her experiences in these fields made a fascinating story when told in her inimitable style.

After the war Dr. Dalyell was invited to join a small group of scientific women selected by the Lister Insitute and the

Medical Research Council to study post-war nutritional diseases in Vienna, and from 1919 to 1922 she took part in the research which contributed so greatly to our knowledge of rickets and other deficiency diseases. She returned to Australia in 1923 and became attached to the microbiological laboratory at the Department of Health in Sydney in charge of serology. Convinced that close cooperation between laboratory and clinic was particularly important in the diagnosis and treatment of venereal disease, she accepted an invitation to develop the venereal diseases clinic at the Rachel Forster Hospital, and for six years devoted much of her characteristic thoroughness and enthusiasm to making this clinic the success it became. Many children of syphilitic parents in New South Wales owe their healthy lives to her skill and unfailing interest in their problems. She was also a member of the board of directors of the Rachel Forster Hospital for a period, and though her words were few at meetings they usually presented a judicial summing up of the problem under discussion.

Dr. Dalyell became a "centre" to which anxious and ambitious young graduates flocked for advice and guidance which were never withheld. Her constructive criticism was available to all who sought it, for in all her full and busy life she could always find time to be of service to others. The standard she set herself in all she undertook was perfection, and the quality of her laboratory work and her careful choice of the spoken and written word bore testimony to the successful application of such a standard. On the outbreak of the second World War Dr. Dalyell became one of the most regular bleeders of donors at the Red Cross Transfusion Service, giving her evenings and week-ends to serve in this field. This with the dispatching of countless food parcels to her many friends in England she undertook as her regular war effort.

These are the bare facts concerning the career of one of Australia's most brilliant medical graduates, but they tell little of the personal qualities which endeared her to a large circle of friends. The enthusiasm and untiring energy of her younger years were only equalled by the courage with which she endured many months of progressive ill health before the end. Elsie Dalyell was an inspiration to those privileged to call her friend and all so privileged realize how greatly her friendship enriched their lives.

Dr. Harriette Chick (London) writes: The news of the death of Dr. Elsie Jean Dalyell has been received with deep regret by the group of research workers at the Lister Institute with whom she was closely connected some years ago. The association began in 1913, during her tenure of a Beit Research Fellowship at that institute, but shortly after the outbreak of the first World War she temporarily abandoned research to join a voluntary unit organized for relief work in Serbia. In that country, in collaboration with Professor Hans Zinsser, of Harvard, she gave distinguished service in the fight, under almost impossible hospital conditions, against the great typhus epidemic. Later she worked in Greece as a pathologist in the Royal Army Medical Corps.

After the war Dr. Dalyell joined the small band of women who, on behalf of the Lister Institute and Medical Research Council, went to Vienna to study nutritional diseases. This small mission, armed with the new knowledge of the part played by vitamins in the experimental production and cure of deficiency diseases in animals, set out to investigate the ætiology of the rickets and other human nutritional disorders then prevalent in Central Europe as a consequence of wartime deprivations. For three years, from 1919 to 1922, Dr. Dalyell worked as the senior clinician in this unit, which succeeded in making a substantial contribution to our knowledge of the cause of these disorders, knowledge which has now become a commonplace. In the following year she returned to Australia.

Dr. Dalyell's former colleagues and other friends in England would wish to pay further tribute to her for her generous care of them during and following the recent war. A stream of parcels has arrived regularly to a large circle, and not only to her own contemporaries, but also to their children and grandchildren. These parcels, too numerous to be counted, bore evidence of much discrimination in the choice of contents: for the younger recipients a special emphasis on sweetmeats and for their elders a selection of nourishing foods to bring welcome variety into their family diet. Every ounce was considered on its own merit and a ball of precious knitting wool or a handful of almonds would be added to bring the weight up to the last fraction permitted by the postal authority. The packing of the parcels by Dr. Dalyell and her sister was in itself a work of art and, at the time of our greatest shortages, the fabrics in which the packages were meticulously sewn often provided welcome dusters and household cloths. These parcels were prized not only for their material benefit, great though this was, but also for the spiritual comfort they brought to us as messengers of love and friendship from the other side of the world in times of great anxiety.

The Royal Australasian College of Physicians.

Course in Advanced Medicine.

THE Victorian State Committee of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians has arranged a course in advanced medicine to be held at Prince Henry's Hospital, Melbourne, from February 22 to April 1, 1949, on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. On Tuesdays and Thursdays it is hoped to have patients available for examination from 1.30 p.m. to 2.15 p.m. This will be followed by a round of these patients from 2.15 p.m. to 3.30 p.m. From 4 p.m. to 4.50 p.m. there will be a lecture on a listed subject, and from 5 p.m. to 5.30 p.m. a demonstration of specimens, films *et cetera*. On Fridays there will be ward rounds commencing at 2.30 p.m. A detailed programme is available.

The course will be limited to sixteen students and a fee of £12 12s. will be charged. Applications to attend and inquiries should be addressed to Dr. J. Eric Clarke, c.o. The Royal Australasian College of Surgeons, Spring Street, Melbourne, C.1.

Sims Commonwealth Travelling Professor, 1949.

PROFESSOR G. W. PICKERING, Sims Commonwealth Travelling Professor for 1949, will deliver the following lectures in the Stawell Hall of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians, 145 Macquarie Street, Sydney, at 8.30 p.m.: Thursday, January 27, 1949: "Angina Pectoris and Intermittent Claudication"; Monday, March 7, 1949: "Headache"; Friday, March 11, 1949: "Peptic Ulcer". The lectures will be open to all members of the medical profession.

Australian Medical Board Proceedings.

TASMANIA.

THE undermentioned have been registered, pursuant to the provisions of the *Medical Act*, 1918, of Tasmania, as duly qualified medical practitioners:

Melick, Roger Aziz, M.B., 1947 (Univ. Sydney), Royal Hobart Hospital.