NOTES AND QUERIES.

A Function of the Tonsils.

Bacteria in the blood are derived from various sources. Eccles, in commenting on the power of the body cells to resist bacterial invasion, calls attention to the fact that such resistance is a response to the action of bacteria that are early introduced into the blood stream, and that an early introduction of bacteria, such as occurs in some instances through the tonsils, is essential to the development of this defence. If this is true the tonsils and kindred organs may on occasion assume the *rôle* of immunisers, permitting just a sufficient number of bacteria to enter the circulation at an early stage of the infection to develop resistance to the specific organism.—W. J. Mayo (Rochester), *The Lancet*, November 25, 1916.

Edinburgh Scheme for Deaf Soldiers.

Hitherto the cause of the soldier deafened in his country's service has scarcely received the sympathy and public attention which it deserves. In this matter Scotland has given a lead. The Edinburgh Lip-Reading Association, finding that little was being done for the thousand soldiers discharged up to a year ago with damaged powers of hearing, took up the matter and raised funds. The Edinburgh School Board agreed to supply class-rooms and teachers, while the association undertook the care of the men during their period of training. The first session of six weeks' instruction organised by the association lately came to a close, when the class was inspected by the Marquis of Graham. It is to be hoped that this valuable work will be undertaken in other centres without delay, so that the deaf soldier may no longer feel that he is "nobody's child."—*Brit. Med. Journ.*, June 16, 1917.

Training of Deaf Discharged Soldiers.

Sir A. Griffith Boscawen, replying to Mr. Holmes, said:—The Statutory Committee have made thorough inquiries into the best methods of treating and training the deaf, and, with the assistance of the Board of Education in England and of the Education Offices in Scotland and Ireland, are arranging for the establishment of centres of instruction in lip-reading. Very few deaf disabled men have, however, applied for instruction or have accepted it when offered, and it is now proposed to establish a special aural board, who will get into touch with the men at the time of discharge or renewal of pension, with a view to their advising and getting the men to take the treatment or training most suitable for them.—*The Times*, Tuesday, July 3, 1917.

Medical Society of London.

We note with satisfaction that our *confrère* Sir StClair Thomson has been elected President of the Medical Society of London for the Session commencing in October next.

On looking back through the list of presidents since its foundation in 1773 we see that the presidency has never before been awarded to one of our specialists, with the exception of the year 1894, when Sir William Dalby occupied the chair. It also appears to have been once filled by an ophthalmologist, viz. Mr. Brudenell Carter in 1886.

Mr. Charles J. Heath, F.R.C.S., has been appointed Consulting Aurist to the Metropolitan Asylums Board Infirmary for Children, London, W. 1.

BOOK RECEIVED.

Contribución a la Cirurgià de la Hipofisis. By *Dr. E. V. Segura*, Buenos Ayres, 1916.

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