his review of the incidence of these disturbances in the following words: "Any instructed person viewing this situation from a humane standpoint can scarcely escape the conclusion that sterilisation is indicated in these cases." He ends his paper with a plea for more intimate cooperation between geneticists and medical men. Only thus, he holds, can the necessary information be accumulated and the problem adequately to supplement, by genetic methods of prophylaxis, the activities of those who seek to prevent mental illness by applying to the individual the principles of mental hygiene. The application of sterilisation as a preventive eugenic measure is apparently as much hindered in Germany as in England by uncertainties as to the state of the law.

**OBSERVATIONS ON POST-VACCINAL ENCEPHALITIS.**

The investigation of cases of post-vaccinal encephalitis has usually led to the opinion that although vaccination is the exciting cause, and a certain stage in the development of the vaccinal infection has determined the time of onset of the nervous symptoms, nevertheless some added factor is needed to set up encephalitis. That this adjuvant is not purely accidental is shown by the irregular distribution of the cases in time and place, especially the preference for certain years or periods and for the smaller communities as opposed to large towns, and by the occasional appearance of groups of cases in small rural areas. There is still a wide divergence of opinion as to whether infection with vaccinia virus itself is the actual cause of the changes in the central nervous system. It has frequently been suggested that the activities of those who seek to prevent mental illness by applying to the individual the principles of mental hygiene. The application of sterilisation as a preventive eugenic measure is apparently as much hindered in Germany as in England by uncertainties as to the state of the law.

**SHORTAGE OF MEDICAL OFFICERS AND NURSES IN THE SERVICES.**

The Prime Minister has appointed a committee to investigate the causes of the shortage of officers and nurses in the medical and dental branches of the three defence services, and to recommend means whereby it may be overcome. Sir Warren Fisher is the chairman and the medical members are Sir Harold Fawcett, director-general, Army Medical Services; Prof. G. E. Gask, director of the surgical unit at St. Bartholomew's Hospital; Sir Arthur Gaskin, medical director-general of the Navy; Dr. A. M. H. Gray, dean of University College Hospital Medical School; and Air Commodore J. C. McIntyre, director of medical services, Royal Air Force. The secretary is Mr. M. Lindsay Scott, of the Air Ministry.

**OSTEOPATH AND ANÆSTHETIST.**

**Parliament** in 1858 declared the object of the Medical Act to be to enable persons requiring medical aid "to distinguish qualified from unqualified practitioners." For this purpose the Act created a system of registration and instituted the General Medical Council (not necessarily an exclusively medical body) to maintain the Medical Register and to supervise medical education under the control of the Privy Council. If persons requiring medical aid are to be enabled by means of the Register to distinguish the qualified from the unqualified, it follows that any form of partnership or alliance between a qualified and an unqualified practitioner must be ruled out; otherwise the distinction would inevitably be confused. The General Medical Council did no more than faithfully interpret the expressed intention of Parliament when its Warning Notice reminded registered medical practitioners that, if by their presence, countenance, advice, assistance, or cooperation they knowingly enabled an unqualified or unregistered person to engage in medical practice as if such person were duly qualified and registered, they would be liable to have their names erased from the Register. An advertisement by an unregistered osteopath requiring the part-time cooperation of an anæsthetist who must be a registered practitioner was sent to us recently for insertion. It being no part of the policy of The Lancet to facilitate evasion of the Medical Act, the advertisement was not inserted. Any disadvantage caused by its rejection, however, has since been mitigated by an access of publicity. A daily newspaper, not so angry perhaps with medical journals which have rejected such advertisements as with the General Medical Council for the latent threat of removing the prospective cooperator's name from the Register, has used hard words of this "monstrous tale of medical obscurantism" and "benighted opposition of the medical hierarchy." Thus a generous-minded public is invited again to look upon osteopathy as a profession persecuted by the vindictive tyranny of a medical trade-union which cannot forgive the osteopath his successes.