

Obituary

A. A. MONTAGUE, M.B.LOND., F.A.C.S.

Past President, Fiji Branch

All those who have, at any time during the past thirty years, lived in the Colony of Fiji will learn with deep regret of the death, on January 30th, of Dr. Aubrey Montague, formerly chief medical officer of the Colony. Aubrey Alfred Montague, who was 61 years of age, was born at St. Margaret's, Twickenham. He was educated at the City of London School, and then entered St. Thomas's Hospital. He qualified M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. in 1896, and took the London M.B. in 1898. In 1925 he was made a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons. After holding an appointment as house-surgeon at Wolverhampton General Hospital he joined the Colonial Medical Service, and was appointed a Government medical officer in Fiji in 1898. In 1912 he was made senior medical officer, a position which carried with it the positions of resident medical superintendent of the Colonial Hospital and superintendent of the public lunatic asylum. On several occasions he acted as chief medical officer, and in 1922 he was appointed to this post, and made chairman of the Central Board of Health. A few months later he was nominated a member of the Legislative Council. After his retirement in 1930 he resided in Oakham, where he died after a month's illness, borne with great patience and fortitude.

Dr. Montague was for many years the outstanding figure in the medical profession of Fiji. He was president of the Fiji Branch of the British Medical Association from 1922 to 1930. He was devoted to his profession, and was very popular with his patients and with his colleagues. Many of the present staff of native medical practitioners were trained by him during his time at the Colonial Hospital, and during his term of office as chief medical officer the Central Medical School was greatly enlarged and improved. Dr. Montague was a man of sterling worth, and his simple, unassuming manner endeared him to all who knew him. His name will long be remembered in the Colony to which he gave his life's work. He leaves a widow and one son, who is now in the Government Medical Service of Fiji.

THE LATE SIR WILLIAM HARDY

The Regius Professor of Physic, University of Cambridge, writes:

It has been pointed out to me that amid the chorus of praise for the man and his work hardly anything has been said of Sir William Hardy's researches on leucocytes, and that I should repair this omission. I do so the more gladly because I was working under him at the time, and well remember the infectious enthusiasm with which those researches were pursued. He had already worked at the blood of invertebrates when Ehrlich's methods of staining the granular leucocytes appeared. He was quick to appreciate the value of this new aid to research, and, in conjunction with Kanthack, applied it first to working out the details of phagocytosis and then to the role of eosinophilia in bacterial infections and intestinal digestion. As I wrote in 1932, this work passed into undeserved oblivion, though the study of asthma, urticaria, and other allergic states has independently confirmed the accuracy of their views. But I remember that Hardy was rather nettled by Michael Foster's scepticism, though I believe that this scepticism caused him to re-examine the methods, and this led him to suspect that some of the histological appearances were artefacts, and thus, as Sir Gowland Hopkins has said, to his pioneer work on colloids. Kanthack's early death, at the age of 35, deprived pathology of a genius, but his partner was spared to enrich science in many ways, and not least by his magnetic power of inspiring a whole-hearted devotion to research in his pupils. Like his colleague Gaskell, he scattered ideas with a lavish hand for others to reap later, while he went on to fresh fields. To him life was always a great and exciting adventure.

W. LANGDON BROWN.

Medico-Legal

DUSTMAN'S DEATH: WIDOW'S APPEAL FAILS

The appeal by Mrs. Ada Edith Pattenden from a jury's verdict and judgement of Mr. Justice Horridge in the King's Bench Division (reported in the *British Medical Journal* of October 21st, 1933, p. 760) was dismissed by Lords Justices Scrutton and Maugham and Mr. Justice Talbot in the Court of Appeal on January 31st. In her action she claimed damages against Dr. Charles Beney in respect of the death of her husband, Henry Thomas Pattenden, alleged to have been caused by the exploding of a carbon dioxide gas cylinder.

Mr. J. D. Cassels, K.C. (for the widow), in the course of his argument, referred to Murray's Dictionary for a definition of the word "explosion." Mr. Cassels said his case never had been that the container burst. It was that there had been some failure of the article which caused the screw cap to come off with great violence, and so to injure the man holding it that he died.

Lord Justice Scrutton, in his judgement, said the Court could not interfere with the findings of Mr. Justice Horridge that the cylinder was not dangerous, and that there was no danger in handing it over to the dustman. With that finding the whole case for the plaintiff broke down. One had no reason to suppose that extraordinary treatment would be applied to cylinders handed over to dustmen in such circumstances. It rather looked as if the man had been trying to knock the cylinder cap off. "When you get to knocking off a cap, possibly with another cylinder, all sorts of things may happen that do not appear to be the natural result of handing these things over to be taken away by the dustmen." The appeal failed, and would be dismissed with costs. The other members of the Court concurred.

Universities and Colleges

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

At a congregation held on January 18th the degree of B.M. was conferred on J. A. Boycott.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE HOSPITAL MEDICAL SCHOOL

The tenth biennial Sydney Ringer Memorial Lecture will be delivered by Dr. A. S. Parkes, F.R.S., in the lecture theatre of University College Hospital Medical School on Friday, February 23rd, at 5 p.m. His subject will be "The Co-ordination of the Reproductive Processes," and Professor Herbert R. Spencer will be in the chair. The lecture is open to all qualified practitioners and medical students.

UNIVERSITY OF DURHAM COLLEGE OF MEDICINE, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE

With reference to the announcement in the *Journal* of January 27th (p. 176) of the special course of post-graduate instruction, the time of commencement of the course dealing with pulmonary tuberculosis and infectious diseases should be 3.30 p.m., and not 6.30 p.m. as stated.

UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW

The Senate announces that Professor Andrew Hunter, M.A., M.B., B.Sc., has been elected dean of the faculty of medicine for the year 1934.

BRITISH COLLEGE OF OBSTETRICIANS AND GYNAECOLOGISTS

At the quarterly meeting of the council, held on January 29th, with the president, Dr. J. S. Fairbairn, in the chair, the following were elected to the Membership of the College:

Margaret Anderson, G. S. Brown, F. W. Buddee, Charlotte Douglas, G. Griffiths, Kathleen Harding, L. G. Higgins, Gladys Hill, H. Leaver, J. C. H. Leicester, Jocelyn Moore, H. K. Pacey, P. Peltz, J. M. Scott, A. J. Wrigley.

Dr. Lucien de Zilwa (Ceylon) was admitted a Foundation Fellow (*in absentia*) and the following were admitted to the Membership (*in absentia*):

A. B. Nash, D. J. Malan, G. M. White, B. H. Watson.

Noise Offence Prosecutions.—In reply to Mr. McEntee, on February 1st, Sir JOHN GILMOUR stated that preliminary figures showed that, during 1933 in England and Wales, 9,653 noise offences of all classes in connexion with motor vehicles were dealt with by prosecution. The Minister of Transport was taking up the matter with the manufacturers in order to secure an abatement of this nuisance.

Indians and University Courses.—Sir S. HOARE has informed Sir W. Davison that it is for the authorities of the Indian universities and not for the Government to decide whether any limitation shall be imposed on the numbers of Indians taking a university course with the object of obtaining a degree. He doubts whether it will serve any useful purpose to obtain a report from the French Colonial Office, which for some time has limited the output of college-trained men.

Small-pox in British India.—On February 6th Sir SAMUEL HOARE told Mr. Groves that the number of registered deaths from small-pox in British India for the last twenty years for which final figures were available were as follows: 1911, 58,535; 1912, 89,357; 1913, 98,155; 1914, 76,590; 1915, 83,282; 1916, 60,642; 1917, 62,277; 1918, 93,076; 1919, 136,077; 1920, 101,329; 1921, 40,446; 1922, 40,836; 1923, 44,084; 1924, 53,380; 1925, 85,986; 1926, 117,066; 1927, 118,197; 1928, 96,123; 1929, 72,884; and 1930, 72,813.

Housing in Scotland.—Mr. SKELTON states that the recommendations of the Departmental Committee on Scottish Housing, including the proposal to set up a Scottish Housing Corporation, are receiving careful consideration, but the Secretary of State is not yet in a position to make any announcement on the matter.

Notes in Brief

During 1933 a total of 67,246,032 meals were provided by local education authorities in England and Wales for children in schools. The percentage of free meals was 80.6. During December, 1933, 277,918 children were fed.

Since a Select Committee reported in 1930 on the abolition of the death penalty there have been twenty-nine executions in England and Wales, all the offenders being males.

Medical News

At a meeting of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, to be held at 17, Bloomsbury Square, W.C., on Tuesday, February 13th, at 8.30 p.m., a lecture on "The Influence of some Nutritional Factors in Disease" will be given by Dr. Edward Mellanby, F.R.S., secretary of the Medical Research Council and lately professor of pharmacology in the University of Sheffield. Members of the society are invited to bring friends.

A meeting of the Paddington Medical Society will be held at Great Western Royal Hotel, Paddington, W., on Tuesday, February 13th, at 9 p.m., when Dr. Robert Forbes, Deputy Medical Secretary of the British Medical Association, will give an address on "Medical Ethics," followed by a discussion.

At the annual general meeting of the Institute of Heating and Ventilating Engineers, to be held on Wednesday, February 14th, at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Keppel Street, at 2 p.m., Sir Leonard Hill will read a paper on infra-red rays and comfort.

A meeting has been arranged by the National Council for Mental Hygiene for Wednesday, February 14th, at 5 p.m., at 11, Chandos Street, W., when Dr. Doris Odlum will read a paper on mental hygiene in the changing world.

Sir Frederick Hobday will give a lecture, illustrated by lantern slides and films, on "Our Animal Friends as Patients" at the Princess Elizabeth of York Children's Hospital, Glamis Road, Shadwell, E., on Friday, February 16th, at 8.45 p.m., when Brigadier-General Sir Hill Child will be in the chair. Visitors are invited.

A post-graduate course in industrial diseases will be held at the medical faculty of Halle University from February 26th to March 3rd. Further information can be obtained from Professor Clausen, Augenklinik, Halle.

The Fellowship of Medicine and Post-Graduate Medical Association (1, Wimpole Street, W.) announces that the fifth lecture-demonstration at 11, Chandos Street, by Dr. Clark-Kennedy, on February 13th, at 2.30 p.m., will deal with constipation; the subject of the sixth lecture, on February 20th, will be diarrhoea. Four ante-natal demonstrations will be given at the Royal Free Hospital by Dame Louise McIlroy, on Fridays at 5 p.m., from February 16th to March 9th. Six demonstrations on the interpretation of pyelograms will be given by Dr. Mather Cordiner at 8 p.m. on Tuesdays and Fridays, from February 13th to March 2nd. A whole-day course in medicine, surgery, and the specialties will be given at the Prince of Wales's Hospital from February 19th to March 3rd. A demonstration on the treatment of recent and old fractures will be given by Mr. Alan Gairdner at St. George-in-the-East Hospital, on February 27th, at 2.30 p.m. Other forthcoming courses include medicine, surgery, and gynaecology at the Royal Waterloo Hospital, March 5th to 24th; proctology at the Gordon Hospital, March 5th to 10th; week-end course in clinical surgery at the Royal Albert Dock Hospital, March 10th and 11th.

The annual dinner of the Hospital Almoners' Association was held on February 3rd at the Hans Crescent Hotel. Miss C. Morris, chairman of the Association, presided, and the guests included: Miss Lloyd Still (matron, St. Thomas's Hospital, and president, International Council of Nurses); Miss Louisa Martindale (senior honorary surgeon, New Sussex Hospital, Brighton); Mrs. Rendel Wyatt (joint warden, Manchester University Settlement, and late secretary, Institute of Hospital Almoners); Dr. Ian Grant, medical superintendent, Royal Infirmary, Glasgow; and Mr. H. M. Hallsworth, professor of economics, Armstrong College, Durham University.

At the monthly meeting of the Central Midwives Board for England and Wales held on February 1st approval as lecturers was granted to Dr. Percy Vernon Davies, Kingston and District Hospital, Dr. Beatrice Mary Joly, Cheltenham District Nursing Association, and Dr. Robert Watson, F.R.C.S.Ed., Walton Hospital, Liverpool.

Dr. W. J. Turrell, physician in charge of the electrotherapeutic department of the Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford, ex-president of the Electrotherapeutic Section of the Royal Society of Medicine, and honorary Fellow of the American Electrotherapeutic Association, has received at the hands of Dr. Norman E. Titus of New York, who is now visiting London, the "Gold Key" awarded to him at the last annual meeting of the American Congress of Physical Therapy. This distinction is the highest award in the United States for original research and distinguished services in the field of electrotherapy. Among other recipients have been Professor d'Arsonval, the doyen of French specialists in electrotherapy, Professor Harvey Cushing, for electrotherapy in brain surgery, Professor Claudius Regaud of the University of Paris, and Dr. Gustav Bucky of New York. The presentation to Dr. Turrell was made at a dinner offered to Dr. Norman Titus by Dr. Howard Humphris, to whom the award was made by the congress of 1932. Among those present at the dinner were Sir Henry Gauvain, Sir Leonard Hill, Sir William Willcox, Dr. R. King Brown, Dr. J. B. Mennell, and Dr. Franz Nagelschmidt.

The Lord Chancellor has recently added the name of Dr. Louis C. S. Broughton to the Commission of the Peace for the County of Worcester.

The King has granted Major A. G. Biggam, O.B.E., R.A.M.C., authority to wear the Insignia of Commander of the Order of the Nile, conferred on him by the King of Egypt in recognition of valuable services rendered as professor of clinical medicine in the Egyptian University.

The World Congress of Milk will be held in Rome on April 30th, when sixty countries will be represented.

A bronze bust of Professor Einthoven of Leyden, who died in 1927, has recently been unveiled at Bad Nauheim.

Dr. William His, professor of internal medicine at Berlin University, has been awarded the Goethe medal by President von Hindenburg.