

Local News

ENGLAND AND WALES

Maternity and Child Welfare

The seventh English-speaking Conference on Maternity and Child Welfare, of which Queen Mary is Patron, will be held in the Great Hall of British Medical Association House, Tavistock Square, W.C., on June 1, 2, and 3, under the presidency of the Minister of Health, Sir Kingsley Wood. The conference has been organized on behalf of the National Council for Maternity and Child Welfare and certain of its constituent bodies by the National Association for the Prevention of Infant Mortality, in co-operation with the Maternity and Child Welfare Group of the Society of Medical Officers of Health, which will also hold a clinical course for medical practitioners on May 30 and 31. The subject for discussion throughout the conference will be "The Further Evolution of the Maternity and Child Welfare Movement throughout the British Empire and in the United States of America," and the following aspects, among others, will be included: provision for the care of mothers and children; the future of preventive psychology in relation to maternity and child welfare work; nutritional problems in relation to mother and child; the education of parents in the care of their children; the chief health problems facing the administration of maternity and child welfare work—how they have to be overcome or what attempts are being made to overcome them; the training of health workers; the special problems of rural areas, and of orphans, refugees, and destitute children. The conference is open to all who are interested in maternity and child welfare; the fees for full membership, including the receipt of printed matter, are £1 1s. per member, or in the case of two or of three members representing the same local authority or voluntary organization, 15s. and 14s. each respectively. Application for tickets, with remittance, should be sent to Miss Halford, National Association for the Prevention of Infant Mortality, 117, Piccadilly, W.1.

It has been proposed to hold a maternity and child welfare exhibition at Woburn House, opposite B.M.A. House, and that as part of this exhibition there should be a section devoted to historic exhibits in connexion with maternity and child welfare. It is hoped that members of the medical profession might be able and willing to lend such things as early types of feeding bottles, cradles, charms, or other articles illustrative of the upbringing of little children in early Victorian times or earlier. Any exhibit lent would be fully insured and every care taken while in possession of the committee. Offers of exhibits may be sent to Miss Halford at the above address before the end of April.

Air-raid Precautions in London

A report was presented to the London County Council at its meeting on February 23 on the steps which have been taken to co-operate with the Government in the formulation of a scheme of air-raid precautions. Two officers of the Fire Brigade were trained at the Government civilian anti-gas school in Gloucestershire, and, receiving certificates as first-class instructors, have trained twenty-four other officers as instructors, and these are engaged in training the rest of the personnel of the Brigade. About half the 2,000 officers and men requiring training have been instructed. The question of first-aid posts for the immediate reception of casualties and of casualty clearing stations and base hospitals is being dealt with centrally by the Government for the metropolitan police district. The medical officer of health

has supplied particulars to the Home Office of the bed accommodation and ambulance facilities which the Council has available; draft proposals have also been prepared for the utilization of some of the mental hospitals. The Government has not yet decided, however, how to deal with the problem of base hospital accommodation for London casualties, and further action by the Council must await its decision. Courses of instruction have been arranged by the Home Office at certain of the Council's institutions for the medical staff of the public health and mental hospitals to become acquainted with the measures to be taken to secure protection against gas and to decontaminate personnel and material. The medical staff thus trained will pass on their instruction to the nursing staff. Measures are also being devised on a volunteer basis to deal with the decontamination of the parks from the effect of gases, and, by the chief engineer, for the protection of the Council's pumping stations and other vital parts of the main drainage system. After mentioning other measures, such as the possibility of using sports pavilions as first-aid posts and the establishments of first-aid and decontamination rooms at County Hall, a reference is made in the report to the criticism directed by certain scientists and others against the effectiveness of the measures in which the Government has invited the Council to co-operate, but it is pointed out that the responsibility for the effectiveness or otherwise of the proposed precautions must necessarily rest not with the Council but with the State, and that the Council's duty in the matter is fulfilled by giving, as it has given, the co-operation sought by the Government.

SCOTLAND

Dundee Mental Hospital

Dr. W. Tuach Mackenzie, physician-superintendent of Dundee Mental Hospital, has intimated his resignation from this post, which he has held since 1903. Dr. Mackenzie graduated M.B., Ch.B. at Aberdeen University in 1898, taking the M.D. degree in 1903. After holding resident posts he specialized in mental diseases, and was appointed first deputy medical superintendent, and later physician-superintendent, of Dundee Mental Hospital, and lecturer on mental diseases at University College, Dundee.

Health and School Clinics in Glasgow

Speaking at the annual meeting of the Glasgow Infant Health Visitors Association, Dr. A. S. M. Macgregor, medical officer of health for Glasgow, referred to the valuable work which was being done by public health clinics recently established by the corporation. The Town Council proposed to extend this scheme by building several new clinics in various parts of the city. A recently opened one at Provan had started dental treatment for expectant mothers, and this had proved a great success. At the Cowcaddens clinic the experiment had been tried of conducting classes in mothercraft for schoolgirls, who had shown great keenness in the subject; this work carried on at an impressionable age would undoubtedly produce good results in future. The infant mortality rate of 109 per 1,000 last year in Glasgow had been disappointing, and had been largely due to a widespread and prolonged epidemic of measles in the city.

The benefits that have accrued to the physical condition of Glasgow school children are emphasized by Dr. G. Arbuckle Brown, senior deputy medical officer of health for Glasgow, in the annual report of the education health service. This report deals with the year to July, 1936, and records that the average weights of the children in each of the six main age groups and the average heights in most of the groups were the highest recorded for sixteen years. There was a further fall in the incidence of rickets, and low percentages in the number of children notified to their parents as needing medical attention or

as having to be excluded from school on account of some disease. The medical officers during the year made 2,900 visits and examined 54,882 children in the ordinary schools and 1,903 in the schools for children who are physically and mentally defective. In addition, 14,965 children were examined at the request of teachers on account of some suspected defect, and 27,005 were re-examined as having been found abnormal. The numbers of children treated at the school clinics showed an increase of 12 per cent. over those of the previous year, this increase being due, however, to improved arrangements for examination rather than to any increase in diseases or defects. The total number seen and treated at the clinics was 79,843, and the defects included: diseases of the ear, 4,399; diseases of the eye, 4,324; diseases of the skin, 17,569; defective vision, 11,282; defective teeth, 26,020; operations on tonsils, 1,435; deformities for remedial treatment, 1,621; other minor diseases, 12,646. The housing conditions of school children were investigated, and it was found that the number of inmates in one-apartment houses had diminished from 5.1 in 1924 to 4.9 in 1936, although the average number of inmates was still excessive in the smaller houses of one or two apartments. Comparison of the figures for height and weight of children showed that these bore a direct relation to the sizes of the houses occupied by the families, and that there were increases this year in the average measurements for children in each size of house, the improvement being most marked at the ages of 9 and 13 years.

IRELAND

Gift to Belfast Hospitals

Various Belfast hospitals and charities are to benefit to the extent of £100,000 through the munificence of Sir George E. Clark and his brother, Captain H. Douglas Clark. The gift has been made in memory of their parents, and will be an additional stimulus to the further development of the selected institutions. The late Sir George Clark was one of the founders of the famous shipbuilding firm of Workman and Clark, which, with Harland and Wolff, enjoyed a great reputation among British shipbuilders for the high-class liners and vessels they produced. Outstanding among the numerous gifts is £15,000 to the paying patients block of the Royal Victoria Hospital, and a similar sum to the Belfast Hospital for Sick Children for the building and equipping of a paying patients department for children of all classes. £5,000 has been given to the Pathological Institute of the Royal Victoria Hospital and to the Mater Infirmorum Hospital. Among other recipients are the Benn Eye and Ear Hospital and the Ulster Hospital for Women and Children.

Irish Free State Medical Research Council

The first meeting of the Medical Research Council of Saorstat Eireann was held on February 16, when the following members were present: Professor R. P. Farnan (chairman), Professors J. W. Bigger, J. F. Donegan, W. J. E. Jessop, H. Moore, T. G. Moorhead, and J. M. O'Connor, and Dr. J. McGrath. The thanks of the Council were accorded to the Executive Council of Saorstat Eireann for facilitating the formation of the Council and for putting at its disposal an annual grant; to the Hospitals Commission for advice and assistance; to the Royal Academy of Medicine in Ireland, under the auspices of which the preliminary work was done; and to the directors of Hospitals Trust Ltd., who placed at the disposal of the Preliminary Committee their staff and premises and who bore all the expenses in connexion with the incorporation of the Council. The following officers were appointed: hon. treasurers, Dr. McGrath and Professor O'Connor; hon. secretary, Professor Bigger; solicitor, Mr. P. H. O'Reilly.

Correspondence

Mental Disorder and the Endocrines

SIR.—The relation between mental disorder and the activities of the endocrine glands, so ably presented by the openers, was the subject of discussion at a meeting of the combined Sections of Psychiatry and Medicine at the Royal Society of Medicine on February 9 (*Journal*, February 20, p. 404), but it related chiefly to the gonads. The subject is no new text, for Sir George Savage in 1890 described cases of hypothyroidism in association with mental diseases, as did Kocher in 1883, Ord in 1880, Gull in 1873, and Schiff as far back as 1859. Victor Horsley referred to the influence of the thyroid as a necessary hormone in the physiology of metabolism, and Halliburton referred to a nucleo-albumin filling up the normal thyroid—and containing iodine—which exercised a profound influence on the body.

The general symptoms following removal of the thyroid were fully described by Horsley, who referred to myxoedema in adults and sporadic cretinism in the young, both characterized by slow, clumsy movements of the heavy body with its overgrowth of connective tissue, and the thin and coarse hair, and also mental apathy, listlessness, inactivity, and depression—all of these symptoms improving after the administration of the gland. Cases of this type are not infrequent in asylums (now mental hospitals), and my notes refer to nine marked cases which improved so much that they were discharged from Claybury. One was readmitted owing to privation and inability to purchase the thyroid, but she was again discharged recovered. One, suffering for twenty years from diabetes (as a complication), could not take the thyroid owing to faintness, and it had to be discontinued. There are other notes which need not be detailed.

I should like to refer to the pituitary, one of the mysteries of the human body, inasmuch as 8 grains should be able to exercise such an enormous influence on the tissues of the body, especially the bony structures. I think one of the first cases in an asylum was in Colney Hatch, the institution now so ably presided over by Dr. John Brander.

This was the case of a middle-aged woman admitted in 1884 with the unmistakable symptoms of acromegaly. She was under my care at the time, and was suffering from delusions of persecution, abnormal sensitiveness, irritability, headache, and vague lumbar pains. There was general enlargement of the bones of the limbs (the hands and feet) and of the bony skeleton, and the face was characteristic. Her sight was not affected, and there were no symptoms of subthalamic pressure. She lived for several years, but the case was so unusual that I invited several of the then staff of St. Bartholomew's Hospital to see her, but no diagnosis was reached. After her death a post-mortem examination was conducted by my successor, Dr. Cecil Beadles, afterwards one of the curators of the Royal College of Surgeons. He found a much enlarged sella turcica and a tumour of the pituitary, and he believed it was the first recorded in this country. Shortly afterwards Marie named the disease "acromegaly," and I sorrowfully record that I missed attaining immortality and an imperishable name!

The case of Dr. Leonard Mark, described by himself, is well known, and to-day the literature of the subject is extensive, especially in regard to cases of hypopituitarism and Fröhlich's syndrome, or hyperpituitarism and gigantism. No one has a wider knowledge of the pathology of the ductless glands than Sir Arthur Keith, and he may have among his notes the case I refer to.—I am, etc.,

Universities and Colleges

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

Among the graces approved at a congregation held on February 20 was one abolishing the thesis for the completion of the M.B. degree, in accordance with recommendations made by the Faculty Board of Medicine (see *British Medical Journal*, February 6, 1937, p. 278).

The following medical degrees were conferred on February 20:

M.B., B.CHR.—W. L. Petter, E. B. McDowall, J. F. Goodall, G. S. Steele-Perkins, C. Hardwick.
M.B.—E. E. Pochin, W. F. Richards.
B. CHR.—G. O. Brooks.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

At a meeting of the Senate held on February 17, with the Vice-Chancellor, Mr. H. L. Eason, in the chair, Professor F. A. P. Aveling, D.Sc., Ph.D., was appointed a Fellow of King's College, and Professor Raymond Pearl, LL.D., Sc.D., Ph.D., was appointed Heath Clark Lecturer for 1937.

UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

Dr. H. P. Newsholme, medical officer of health to the city of Birmingham, has been appointed professor of hygiene and public health in the University in place of the late Sir John Robertson.

UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

At its meeting on February 18 the University Council appointed Dr. R. E. Tunbridge, at present medical tutor and registrar, to the new post of Reader in Medicine, and Mr. A. J. C. Latchmore as second surgical tutor.

UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW

The Secretary of State for Scotland announces that the Regius Chair of Materia Medica in the University of Glasgow is vacant owing to the resignation of Professor Ralph Stockman, and that it is proposed to take steps to fill the vacancy. The professor will in future retire at the end of the academical year in which he attains the age of 65. Applications for the chair, accompanied by two copies of recent testimonials, should reach the private secretary, Scottish Office, Whitehall, London, S.W.1, not later than March 31. Particulars of duties, salary, etc., may be obtained from the same address.

The Services

LANGLEY MEMORIAL PRIZE

The Langley Memorial Prize, value £21, is open to competition among officers of the Colonial Medical Service who are serving, or who have served, in West Africa.

The prize will be awarded for the best paper submitted on a topic falling within one of the following subjects (special consideration being given to original work): (a) tropical medicine or surgery; (b) tropical hygiene and sanitation; (c) tropical entomology and parasitology.

Papers, which may consist of either published or unpublished work, must be delivered to the Secretary, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Keppel Street, Gower Street, W.C.1, on or before October 1, 1937.

DEATHS IN THE SERVICES

Inspector-General JAMES HAMILTON MARTIN, D.S.O., R.N. (ret.), died at Ealing on February 14 at the great age of 95. He was born at Truro on August 8, 1841, the son of Hamilton Duckworth Martin, was educated at Truro Grammar School and at University College, London, and took the M.R.C.S. and L.S.A. in 1864. Entering the Navy soon after qualifying, he became inspector-general on January 1, 1900, and retired on January 1, 1902. He had a long record of war service. He was surgeon of H.M.S. *Nassau* during encounters with Sulu pirates, and was present at the destruction of Carang in 1872; staff surgeon in charge of transports during the Zulu War, 1879, mentioned in dispatches (medal and clasp); staff surgeon of H.M.S. *Thalia* during the Egyptian War of 1882, was senior medical officer in charge of transports, and received

the thanks of the Admiralty (Egyptian medal and Khedive's bronze star); principal medical officer to the Royal Marine Battalion in Eastern Sudan in 1884, present at the battles of El Teb and Tamai, wounded, mentioned in dispatches, and specially promoted to fleet surgeon (two clasps); fleet surgeon of H.M.S. *Boadicea*, the flagship, and served as principal medical officer of the Naval Brigade landed under the command of Vice-Admiral the Hon. Sir E. R. Fremantle, K.C.B., commander-in-chief of the East India Station, for the punitive expedition against the Sultan of Vitu, East Africa, in October, 1890, mentioned in dispatches (general Africa medal, with clasp, and D.S.O.). He had received a Greenwich Hospital pension.

Major CHARLES EDWARD GREY STALKARTT, R.A.M.C. (ret.), died at Bury Hall, Alverstoke, Hants, on February 18, aged 71. He was born on August 31, 1865, the son of the late John Stalkartt of Chopra, Bihar, and was educated at Edinburgh University, where he graduated M.B., C.M. in 1886, and M.D. in 1890, also taking the M.R.C.S. and L.R.C.P. Lond. in 1889. While at Edinburgh he filled the post of prosecutor in the University dissecting rooms. Entering the Army as surgeon on July 28, 1891, after a period in general practice, he became major after twelve years' service, and retired on July 28, 1911. He served in the South African War in 1900, taking part in operations in the Orange Free State, including the actions of Paardeberg and Kree Side, receiving the Queen's medal with two clasps. In September, 1900, he was invalided home in consequence of enteric fever. When the war of 1914-18 began he was recalled from the Reserve of Officers, and served as officer in charge of the base depot of medical stores in France, finally relinquishing duty in October, 1919.

Major JOHN MILO RYAN, R.A.M.C., died at Lahore on December 4, 1936, aged 44. He was born on June 7, 1892, and was educated at Trinity College, Dublin, where he graduated M.B., B.Chr., and B.A.O. in 1915. He took a temporary commission as lieutenant in the R.A.M.C. on November 8, 1915, became temporary captain after a year's service, and took a permanent commission as captain on July 1, 1919, becoming major on November 8, 1927. He served in the war of 1914-18. He had been a member of the British Medical Association since 1925.

Medical Notes in Parliament

In the House of Lords on February 22 Viscount Gage presented a Bill to amend the description of the persons with whom arrangements may be made under the National Health Insurance Act, 1936, for the dispensing of medicines, and it was read a first time.

In the House of Lords on February 23 the Regency Bill was read the third time and passed.

The Coal Mines (Employment of Boys) Bill was reported to the House of Commons from a Standing Committee on February 17.

The Geneva Convention Bill, which has already passed the House of Lords, was reported from a Standing Committee of the House of Commons without amendment on February 18.

The report of the Select Committee on Medicine Stamp Duties was presented to the House of Commons, with minutes of evidence, on February 18.

In the House of Lords on February 19 the Royal Assent was given to the Firearms Act, the Unemployment Assistance (Temporary Provisions Amendment) Act, and to other Acts.

In the House of Commons on February 23 Mr. D. Grenfell moved a resolution viewing with concern the conditions revealed by the inquiry into the Gresford colliery explosion, in which 265 lives were lost, and expressing the opinion that grave responsibility rested on the country and Parliament to prevent such disasters by adopting immediate and effective measures for ensuring