

Local News

ENGLAND AND WALES

Public Health Congress at Hastings

The Congress of the Royal Institute of Public Health and Hygiene will be held at Hastings from Tuesday, May 23, to Saturday, May 27. The Minister of Health, Dr. Walter Elliot, will deliver his presidential address in the White Rock Pavilion immediately after the official welcome to delegates by the Mayor of Hastings at 3 p.m. on May 23. Discussions have been arranged for the three days May 24, 25, and 26, and each day has been divided into five sections. The following are the principal subjects for discussion: May 24, Section I, nursing reform, miners' health and welfare, and the cancer problem. Section II, puerperal sepsis. Section III, tuberculosis. Section IV, rheumatism and allied diseases. Section V, nutrition and general training. May 25, Section I, Would a General Medical Service benefit the nation? and medical air raid precautions. Section II, infantile paralysis. Section III, tuberculosis. Section IV, the fight against rheumatism: the role of the various authorities. Section V, nutrition in pregnancy. May 26, Section I, cleansing of oysters, foot clinics, report of Abortion Committee, and lead poisoning. Section II, deafness and ear diseases. Section III, tuberculosis. Section IV, rheumatism and allied diseases. Section V, national fitness. Sections I to IV will meet in the White Rock Pavilion and Section V in the Town Hall. Full particulars as to membership fee for the Congress, etc., can be obtained from the secretary, Royal Institute of Public Health and Hygiene, 28, Portland Place, W.1.

The Heritage Craft Schools at Chailey

The annual festival dinner of the Heritage Craft Schools at Chailey in Sussex was held at the Savoy Hotel on May 9. The proceeds of the occasion were devoted to the completion of the appeal for £50,000, which was launched in 1937 and of which exactly one-half has been raised and spent. Of the remainder £13,000 is in the bank and £12,000 is still to be obtained. It is required for the provision at the Boys' Heritage of post-operative and observation and isolation wards, nurses' hostel, out-patient department, and doctors' room. The Bishop of London, the president of the schools, who announced that although he was giving up the bishopric he intended to keep the presidency until the end of his life, proposed, for the twentieth time at these annual gatherings, the health of "The Heritage." He said that he and Mrs. Kimmins, the founder, had seen the project grow from seven little boys housed in a condemned school to a beautiful home of 400 children, with 160 nurses to look after them. He declared that from every point of view Chailey was one of the finest things in the country, turning ailing and helpless children into independent and skilful artisans, assets to the country instead of liabilities. Sir Cyril Norwood voiced the general affection for the Bishop of London, who had been guide, philosopher, and friend to the schools from the beginning. He described Chailey as "the public school of crippleddom," where handicapped children were taught never to be beaten but to conquer by enduring and by steady and continued practice. Some of the things which they did seemed to him to be miracles. Sir Edward Villiers spoke of impressions he had gained on paying a visit to the schools. He had gone rather dreading the sight of crippled and tortured little bodies, but instead of that he found the children playing happily in the sun or, with equal happiness, busy at different handicrafts in the workshops, forgetting entirely that they were not normal beings, and,

after all, the real normality lay in the spirit rather than in the body. He mentioned the well-equipped therapeutic gymnasium and the peace and humanity of the residential quarters, looking out on some of the most beautiful scenery in England. It was announced that the King had agreed to lend his old home at 145, Piccadilly, for an exhibition of royal treasures, to be opened by Princess Alice in June, for the benefit of the Heritage funds.

Shock Treatment of Schizophrenia

The treatment of schizophrenia by insulin shock is to be extended to three London county mental hospitals and to the Maudsley Hospital for an experimental period of nine months, at the end of which time the position will be reviewed. The treatment was introduced at St. Bernard's Hospital, Southall, in February, 1938, for an experimental period, and it is proposed that it be continued at that hospital as well as at the others mentioned. The total cost of the proposal to the London County Council is £600 for the training of staff and the employment of locumtenents for the medical staff.

First-aid Posts in Essex

General approval has been given by the Minister of Health to the scheme for first-aid posts submitted by the Essex County Council, which as a scheme-making authority under the Air Raid Precautions Act is responsible for proposals embracing over forty constituent districts. Some 105 fixed aid posts and thirty mobile units are included in the scheme as well as a number of first-aid points in rural areas. Full use is to be made of existing medical buildings and facilities. Forty-one of the fixed posts will be at hospitals or public assistance institutions and twenty-three at clinics, health centres, or combined treatment centres. Other posts are to be at suitable halls or public buildings. Only in a few cases have schools been chosen, as the large area of Essex which is in the receiving area under the evacuation scheme has made it essential for schools to be retained for their normal function. At Walthamstow a series of Nissen huts have already been erected as first-aid posts, and it has been decided that adequate first-aid facilities, which could not readily be given in existing buildings, will be provided in these posts. The mobile aid posts are to be stationed at various centres so that immediate help can be given to the rural areas. The first-aid personnel has been allocated generally on a basis of sixty per post in the congested areas and forty per post in the remainder.

IRELAND

Typhoid Fever in Eire

The report for 1937-8 of the Department of Local Government and Public Health, Eire, records a general death rate of 15.29 per thousand. The total number of deaths in 1937 was 45,086, the highest figure since 1924. This is chiefly attributable to the mortality from influenza, which has not been exceeded since the epidemics at the end of the great war. With regard to infectious diseases the incidence of diphtheria continued to decrease, the number of cases reported, 2,511, being the lowest recorded since compulsory notification became operative in all districts. An increase in the incidence of typhoid fever was mainly due to a serious outbreak in a mental hospital. Of the total of 413 cases, the great majority from rural areas, nearly one-third occurred in these institutions. Infection in the mental hospital outbreaks is attributed to "carriers," and the report discusses the problem of their elimination. Prophylactic inoculation, though neither practicable nor necessary as a general measure, is advocated for mental hospitals and for the staffs of fever

hospitals as a valuable preventive measure. In addition it is suggested that all known "carriers" might with advantage be registered by county medical officers and excluded from food-handling occupations. Typhus fever has not yet been completely eradicated, and eight cases with four deaths are recorded. These figures, however, form a striking contrast to those of comparatively recent date. During the decade 1901-10 the annual average number of deaths was sixty; in 1887 the deaths were 309. The cases cited in the report all came from a sparsely populated district in the Caherciveen area of County Kerry. Only four families were affected, and vermin was found in all the infected houses. The source was traced from the first recognized case. The patient's father, aged 80, had died shortly before, following a brief illness, and a near neighbour, aged 75, died about the same time. Neither of these men had been attended by a doctor, and the fatal disease had been labelled "influenza." In all the reported cases, ranging in age from 16 to 75, the Weil-Felix test was positive.

FRANCE

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT IN PARIS]

Pity the Private Medical Practitioner!

A member of the French Chamber of Deputies and of the Paris Municipal Council, M. Frédéric Dupont, in an address which is nothing if not outspoken, has taken up the cudgels on behalf of the private medical practitioner. In his opinion the real, if not actually the avowed, enemy of the independent and in many ways most unhappily isolated private practitioner is the Assistance Publique—the body responsible for the administration of huge public sums devoted to the cost of the public hospitals and allied institutions. The Assistance Publique has now, always according to M. Frédéric Dupont, become a State within a State, so self-sufficient that it manufactures its own fittings and furniture and supplies its own food. The medical officers of this body have wished to make their services models of efficiency if not of luxury, and in pursuing this policy they have—unwittingly, it is to be hoped—driven out of existence many a private surgery and private nursing home. For with every step in the upward progress of the public hospitals there has been a new influx of patients who formerly would have considered themselves financially and socially superior to the available public hospital accommodation. The Assistance Publique, in the eyes of M. Dupont, is a monopolistic ogre out to ruin all possible competitors. Hard luck, certainly, on the private practitioner. But those of us who remember what the public hospitals of Paris were like only a generation ago may experience a certain reluctance in deprecating their evolution towards greater comfort and privacy.

Medical Certificates for School Children

Recent discussions between representatives of the medical and teaching professions promise to produce a system of school medical inspection which will meet most, if not all, the objections hitherto raised to it. The family doctor has been concerned over the prospect of a whole-time school medical officer invading what he considers his own province, and doctors in general have been anxious lest the information they put on paper concerning the findings of their examinations of school children should violate that professional secrecy which they so jealously observe. These two snags may be avoided by making the family doctor examine and report on the school children, and by limiting the recorded medical information to data concerning height, weight, girth, etc. There is, however, no enthusiasm among the representatives of the organized medical profession in Paris and the neighbourhood for a health passport destined to follow the school child into adult life and to serve as a disquieting health conscience.

For, as the executive committee of the Medical Society of the Seine put it in a resolution adopted early this year, the health passport does not respect professional secrecy, and the records made in it may perpetuate indefinitely diagnostic mistakes.

Blood Transfusion in War-time

The problems of blood transfusion in war have for a considerable time been the subject of discussions within the French Academy of Medicine. When the Academy met last March it adopted the following resolution: "The Academy of Medicine recommends the organization in peace-time of centres entrusted with the preparation of material necessary for the transfusion of conserved human blood. In the event of, and at the time of, mobilization, and in order to avoid all disturbances in the working of this service, these centres should in principle be staffed by a personnel entirely exempt from compulsory military service. The Academy attaches such importance to this organization that it calls for the appointment of a permanent commission charged with the duty of supervising its activities in practice in liaison with the competent authorities."

Correspondence

Chemotherapy of Gas Gangrene

SIR,—In describing the treatment of gas gangrene in your issue of May 13 (p. 989) Mr. Claude Frankau omits any reference to chemotherapy. It is apparently not yet widely enough known that infection by *Cl. welchii* is amenable to treatment with sulphanilamide. Experimental evidence of this is furnished by the work of Long and Bliss (*J. Amer. med. Ass.*, 1937, **109**, 1524; *Canad. med. Ass. J.*, 1937, **37**, 457), and clinical confirmation in a report by Bohlman (*J. Amer. med. Ass.*, 1937, **109**, 254), which describes the successful treatment of three cases of gas gangrene. These patients had severe injuries, due in two to car smashes and in the third to a lift accident; they developed gas gangrene in spite of a prophylactic injection of antitoxic serum, and they recovered during treatment with sulphanilamide, unaided either by further serum treatment or by amputation. Two cases recently treated in this hospital, an account of which will shortly be published, have responded similarly; surgical treatment in both was limited to incision of the affected areas. While much more extensive clinical experience is clearly necessary before the value of this treatment can be truly assessed, I submit that it deserves further trial. In so rapidly progressive an infection the heaviest possible initial doses are indicated.—I am, etc.,

LAWRENCE P. GARROD.

Pathological Department, St. Bartholomew's
Hospital, E.C., May 15.

Prevention and Treatment of Shock

SIR,—In Colonel E. M. Cowell's most excellent article on the prevention and treatment of shock (*Journal*, April 29, p. 883) there is, I believe, one notable omission—spinal anaesthesia. Among the references given no mention is made of the epoch-making investigations of O'Shaughnessy and Slome, working at the Buckston Browne Research Farm under the direction of Sir Arthur Keith. Full details of this investigation are given in the *British Journal of Surgery* (1935, **22**, 589), and the previous investigations of Blalock, Cannon, Holt, and

We regret to record the death of Dr. HENRY LESLIE BATES of St. Albans in his ninety-first year. Born in Streatham, he received his medical education at Guy's Hospital, qualifying M.R.C.S. in 1880 and obtaining the diploma of L.R.C.P. in the next year. He soon joined a medical partnership in St. Albans, and was on the medical staff of St. Albans Hospital from 1884 to 1919; he was consultant surgeon to that institution from 1919 to 1936, police surgeon to the St. Albans City Force from 1885 to 1931, and medical officer of the "Loyal Alban" Lodge of Oddfellows from its inception in 1889 to 1912, when the National Insurance Act came into force, stopping the medical examination of members of the Lodge. In 1931 he was presented with a silver inkstand in recognition of his long connexion with the St. Albans Police Force. Dr. Bates had been a member of the British Medical Association for thirty-eight years. He came of a musical family, and his great-grandfather had conducted the first oratorio performed at the Crystal Palace. Soon after beginning to practise in St. Albans Dr. Bates became a member of the Abbey choir, and retained his membership until a few years ago, being joined in the choir by his son, Dr. Kenneth Bates. In 1886 he had married a daughter of Rear-Admiral Winnington Ingram; she predeceased him in 1932, their only son, Dr. Kenneth Bates, dying in the next year. Dr. Leslie Bates had passed the Chair of the Halsey Lodge of Freemasons in 1895 and of the Royal Arch Chapter in 1900; he subsequently attained Provincial Grand Rank. He was one of the founder members of the Verulam Golf Club, and continued to play long after his eightieth birthday; he captained the club in 1907. He was a keen yachtsman, and was well known at Burnham-on-Crouch. He is survived by two granddaughters.

Dr. THOMAS GREGORY of Holly Mount, Bury Old Road, Manchester, whose death is announced, was one of the best-known practitioners in the northern part of that city. He obtained his medical education at Owens College and obtained the diplomas M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. in 1896. He later held resident appointments at the Monsall Fever, the Crumpsall, and the St. Mary's Hospitals, and then became surgical registrar at the Manchester Royal Infirmary and at the Christie Hospital for Cancer. He built up a large private practice in the city. During the war he was medical officer to the Heaton Park Hall camp, and he was also honorary medical officer to the East Lancashire Masonic Benevolent Institution. Dr. Gregory was a member of the Manchester Pathological, Clinical, and Medical Societies. He joined the B.M.A. in 1912. A memorial service for him was held in Manchester Cathedral on May 4. He leaves his widow, three sons, and one daughter, who is studying medicine in Manchester University.

Dr. FRANCIS HARRY KELLY, medical officer to Hurstpierpoint College, Sussex, died on May 7, aged 51. Son of the late Major H. C. Kelly, R.M.L.I., he was born at Plymouth and educated at Kelly College, Tavistock, and the Middlesex Hospital, where he served as house-physician after taking the M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., and the M.B., B.S.Lond. in 1913. He was then senior house-physician at the National Hospital, Queen Square, and during the war held the posts of resident medical officer at King George Red Cross Hospital and surgeon to the Nigress Abbey Memorial Hospital. Dr. Kelly was a member of the Medical Officers of Schools Association and the Brighton and Sussex Medico-Chirurgical Society, and had belonged to the Brighton Division of the British Medical Association since 1930. He was an international rifle shot and a member of the English Eight Club, and deeply interested in the experimental side of shooting. In 1926 he had the distinction of tying for the King's Prize at Bisley, and reached the final stage of that competition on ten occasions. He won the bronze medal in the first stage in 1922, and in 1924 was again in a leading position in the aggregates, but could not remain at Bisley for the latter part of the meeting.

Universities and Colleges

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

At the Congregation held on May 12 Professor E. D. Adrian, M.D., F.R.S., was appointed to represent the University at the bicentenary ceremonies of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences in Stockholm from September 23 to 25.

The degree of Master of Arts was conferred on Omond McKillop Solandt of Trinity Hall, M.D.Toronto, University Lecturer in Mammalian Physiology.

The following medical degrees were conferred:

M.D.—D. P. King.

M.B., B.Chir.—R. H. Winfield.

The second of two public lectures on the psychopathology of fear emotions and reactions will be given on Monday next, May 22, at 5 p.m., in the Lecture Theatre of the Physiological Laboratory, by Dr. E. L. Mira, late director of the Institute of Physiology in the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Barcelona. He will discuss actual methods of treatment of the pathological forms of fear reactions with special reference to results obtained in this field by the psychiatric services of the Spanish Republican Army in the recent war in Spain. The lecture is open to all members of the University and of Girton and Newnham Colleges.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

The report of the Principal on the work of the University during the year 1938-9 has now been published over the signature of Mr. Herbert L. Eason, M.D., M.S., F.R.C.S. In the introductory paragraph he records that "for the greater part of the year the work of the University has been carried on, as has been the work of the nation at large, under the shadow of the European crisis. The aim of the University has been to carry on its work as if such a crisis did not exist, and at the same time to make in advance such arrangements as may be necessary for the continuance of university teaching in time of war, should such arise." During the year the first series of grants from the Central Research Fund was made, together with amounts distributed from the Dixon and Hughes Funds; and of the fifty-eight research workers who received awards nine were candidates carrying out research in the Faculty of Medicine. Dr. J. D. Boyd's appointment to the chair of anatomy at the London Hospital Medical College is recorded, also Professor T. R. Elliott's resignation from the chair of medicine at University College Hospital Medical School and his succession by Dr. H. P. Himsforth. At St. Mary's Hospital Medical School Professor F. S. Langmead will retire from the chair of medicine at the end of the present session. New chairs have been instituted, but not yet filled, in dental surgery and pathology at the Royal Dental Hospital of London, and in the pathology of mental disease at the Maudsley Hospital. The first chair is a new institution to strengthen the teaching staff; the second has been instituted on the resignation of Professor F. L. Golla. The Senate has decided to take no steps at present to fill the chair of radiology at the Royal Cancer Hospital, from which Professor J. M. Woodburn Morison resigned at the end of last session. Dr. R. S. Aitken, on his appointment as regius professor of medicine in the University of Aberdeen, has resigned from the readership in medicine at the British Postgraduate Medical School; and Dr. John McMichael has been appointed to succeed him. In his obituary section Mr. Eason writes: "A great figure in the University has also passed away in the person of Sir Cooper Perry. Sir Cooper's association with the administration of the University began nearly forty years ago when he became a member of the Senate, and, with a break of ten years from 1905 to 1915, it continued till his death. He was Vice-Chancellor for two years and Principal Officer for six. He was a member of the Commission which drew up the present Statutes of the University and was a Crown member of the Court from its inception. In every way he rendered services of the rarest quality, derived from his wide knowledge of men and affairs, his natural wisdom, and his scholarship. His name will always be held in high honour throughout the University."

At the meeting of Convocation held on May 9 elections took place for representatives of Convocation on the Senate, when all the sitting members were re-elected. These include Sir Ernest Graham-Little, M.D., F.R.C.P., M.P. (Medicine), and Professor M. Greenwood, D.Sc., F.R.C.P., F.R.S. (Science).

UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER

Dr. Walter Schlapp has been appointed Assistant Director of the Physiological Laboratories; and Dr. A. A. Harper Lecturer in Human Physiology.

Degrees in the Faculty of Medicine will be conferred on Saturday, July 8.

The Council of the University have approved the following changes in the staffing of the Department of Surgery. Professor John Morley will continue as professor and director of the Department; Mr. Harry Platt has been appointed Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery; and Mr. Geoffrey Jefferson Professor of Neurological Surgery. Both these appointments will take effect at the end of September.

UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD

At its meeting on May 12 the University Council received with regret the resignation of Mr. J. Hughes of the post of Honorary Demonstrator in Anatomy, and accorded him its thanks for his services to the University.

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

The third Sharpey Schafer Memorial Lecture, on "The Metabolism of the Heart," will be delivered by Professor C. A. Lovatt Evans, F.R.S., director of the Department of Physiology, Biochemistry, and Pharmacology at University College, in the anatomy classroom, University New Buildings, Teviot Place, Edinburgh, on Friday, June 9, at 5 p.m. All interested are invited to attend.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND

An ordinary meeting of the Council was held on May 11, with the President, Mr. Hugh Lett, in the chair.

Sir Arthur MacNalty and Mr. H. Muir Evans were admitted to the Fellowship. Mr. Seymour Barling was elected a member of the Court of Examiners. Professors E. B. Stibbe and Samson Wright were appointed to examine for the Primary Examination for the Fellowship to be held in India and Egypt in 1939-40.

It was reported that a Mackenzie Mackinnon Research Fellowship had been awarded to G. W. Hayward, M.D., M.R.C.P., of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, for research on "The Relationship between Pulmonary Congestion and Dyspnoea," and that the Gilbert Blane Medal for 1939 had been awarded to Surgeon Lieutenant-Commander J. Mansel Reese, M.R.C.S., D.P.H., R.N.

Diplomas

A diploma of Fellowship was granted to Henry Meredith Martin of Trinity College, Dublin.

Diplomas of Membership were granted to John Charles Alexander Innes of London Hospital and Fakirbhai Hirabhai Patel of Edinburgh, and to the 220 candidates whose names were published in the report of the meeting of the Royal College of Physicians of London in the *Journal* of May 6 (p. 957).

Diplomas in Tropical Medicine and Hygiene were granted to the twenty-seven candidates whose names were published in the report of the meeting of the Royal College of Physicians of London in the *Journal* of May 6 (p. 958).

Medical Notes in Parliament

In the House of Lords this week the Camps Bill was considered and minor Bills were advanced.

The House of Commons completed the committee stage of the Military Training Bill, in which amendments were made. The pay of militiamen was discussed, and an increase in this was announced. A White Paper was issued which set out Government proposals for the future of Palestine and for the regulation of immigration into that country.

Military Training Bill

During the debate on May 8 on the motion for the second reading of the Military Training Bill Mr. HORE-BELISHA said that the principle to which the Government asked assent was that every man starting his militia service should start level with his fellows, his progress thereafter being determined solely by his own qualities. The War Office had

provisionally apportioned to the several arms of the Service their quotas of the total of the militiamen likely to be available. The Ministry of Labour offices throughout the country would call up enough men for examination in each area. Each man, having been medically examined, would be interviewed by a representative of the Army, who would check information as to his education and trade and report the arm for which he was most suited, and consider any preference he might have for any particular unit. It was intended that recruits for the infantry on joining should be graded into a more or less advanced squad according to their special knowledge and intelligence, so that the more capable should not be held back by the less apt. Men above the average would be pushed on more rapidly, and the pick of the batches who had gone ahead of the others would spend their last two months of training in a section and platoon-leading school attached to the Small Arms School at Netheravon. From these would be selected those who, if they desired, would be available as officers for the Territorial Army, for the Reserve Militia, or for further training in officer-producing units. Merit and not adventitious recommendation would be the claim to advancement under the scheme.

The second reading was carried by 387 votes to 145.

The House afterwards considered the financial resolution of the Military Training Bill in committee. Sir VICTOR WARRENDER said it was estimated that out of the total capital expenditure of £30,000,000, £25,000,000 would be the cost of erecting huddled accommodation around barracks and depots and in camps for the militia. Money would also be required for expenses in connexion with the hardship committees, local and other tribunals, and medical boards. There would be 120 medical boards, and probably rather more hardship committees. They would cover roughly the same areas as the courts of referees. After a sitting which lasted until 5.15 a.m. on May 9 the financial resolution was carried by 159 votes to 65.

POSITION OF UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

The Bill was considered in Committee on May 10, when Mr. GARRO-JONES moved to insert that the Bill should not apply until a youth attained the age of 18 years. Mr. HORE-BELISHA said that the Bill provided that the military training normally to be taken between the ages of 20 and 21 years might be postponed or ante-dated. Nothing in it, however, fixed the age down to which this service might be ante-dated. He understood it was to meet this that Mr. Garro-Jones proposed the limit of 18 years. He himself would be ready to accept the limit of 17½ years to suit the convenience of these young men. Mr. ALAN HERBERT cited a letter from the Registrar of Oxford University, which declared that of 1,000 boys who would come up in 1940, 500 would come up under the age of 18½. If these boys were not given the option to postpone training they would begin it under the age of 18. This was regarded with anxiety by many headmasters and by the universities because of the risk that at that age a six-months break might be followed by reluctance to resume academic work as well as by loss of habits of intellectual application. Those objections diminished as the boys grew older. Mr. HORE-BELISHA said that the cases referred to by Mr. Herbert could be met under the Bill as it stood. The Minister might ante-date or post-date the liability to suit the convenience of the applicant, and naturally the Minister wished not to damage the careers of these young men. He would fix the date according to the best interests of the student.

The amendment was rejected.

Mr. GREENWOOD then proposed to insert a provision permitting the Minister to allow any person registered for service to postpone his liability to be called up if he was undergoing a term of apprenticeship or engaged in full-time education or otherwise studying for a professional examination or university degree. He said his amendment would make such action compulsory on the Minister. The Opposition would like a university student to be entitled to postpone his period of service until after the end of his university career. Mr. LENNOX BOYD said he could not accept the amendment, as the Government felt the matter must be left to the discretion