

Local News

ENGLAND AND WALES

Blood Transfusion Service

The report for 1938 of the Blood Transfusion Service states that the number of calls—6,628—during the year broke all previous records. Volunteer donors offered themselves in increasing numbers, so that it has been possible to raise the standard of recruits, discarding applicants with veins of only moderate calibre or difficulty of access. The report records the arrangements made at the time of the September crisis, when emergency measures were necessary to cope with the possibility of "a sudden and huge demand for blood, far surpassing any peace-time requirements." Steps were taken to establish a large blood supply depot within convenient distance of London, and to arrange for the collection, storage, and distribution of blood on a large scale. The measures taken have not been allowed to lapse, and the scheme evolved remains available for use in any future emergency. It is stated that the problem of finding sufficient donors is not likely to arise, so many offers having been received during the crisis that it seems certain that the supply will only be limited by the accommodation and staff available to utilize their services. With regard to the question of blood storage, the service awaits an authoritative pronouncement as to the most suitable technique and methods for general use. Meanwhile storage is already established on a small scale at four London County Council hospitals, each of which stocks two pints of blood for emergency maternity requirements. It is suggested that hospitals contemplating extension or rebuilding might be prepared to consider the provision of a blood storage unit under similar conditions.

Medical Students' Conference

The Medical Students' Committee of the National Union of Students, in co-operation with the Irish Students' Association and the Scottish N.U.S., has arranged the third annual conference of representatives of medical student societies, to be held in Leeds next month. Delegates will be accommodated and meetings of the conference will be held at Devonshire Hall, Headingley, the men's hostel of the University of Leeds. The general subject for discussion is "The Prospect for the Newly Qualified Doctor," under five heads—general practice, consultative practice, public health, the Services, research. The principal speakers will be Dr. W. MacAdam, Dr. W. S. MacDonald, Professor E. J. Wayne, Dr. R. Sutherland, and Lieutenant-Colonel R. B. Price, R.A.M.C. The conference will open with a formal dinner at Devonshire Hall on the evening of Tuesday, July 11, and close at tea-time on Friday, July 14. In addition to the business meetings clinical demonstrations will be arranged at the Leeds General Infirmary. The conference fee, which includes the cost of meals and accommodation from dinner on Tuesday evening until tea on Friday afternoon, is £2 10s. There will be free garage accommodation at Devonshire Hall and facilities for lawn tennis and squash rackets. Inquiries should be addressed to the National Union of Students, 3, Endsleigh Street, London, W.C.1, or to the honorary secretary, Mr. James Butler, Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, Dublin.

Private Wards at the Hospital for Sick Children

The whole of the top floor—the seventh—of the new building of the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, has been equipped for the reception of private patients. Accommodation is provided for eighteen children on the medical side and eighteen on the surgical.

There are twenty single rooms, and four wards each with four cots. The whole floor, like the principal frontage of the hospital, faces south, and each room or ward opens on to a pleasant railed balcony. The equipment comprises every facility for treatment and nursing and for the amusement of the small patients. There is a separate entrance for private patients, also reception and consulting rooms, an operating theatre with anaesthetic room, and kitchens, but, of course, the private section shares in the use of the modern installations for diagnosis and treatment possessed by the hospital as a whole. The operating theatre is furnished in the most modern fashion, with a photographic dark-room and an illuminated panel in which newly developed x-ray films can be exhibited. Quiet rooms are provided for waiting parents and quarters for nursing mothers. Each cot is provided with its electric lamp, its oxygen tap, its wash-basin, and other accessories. There is a small incinerator for each ward unit for the immediate burning of used dressings and the like, and the facilities for cleansing and service could hardly be improved. Patients up to 14 years of age are admitted on the recommendation of and for treatment by a member of the honorary medical or surgical staff, and, with the approval of such member, the patient's own doctor may be given facilities for visiting and collaborating in treatment.

SCOTLAND

New Glasgow Professor

On the recommendation of the Secretary of State for Scotland the King has appointed Professor James Wilfred Cook, D.Sc., to the Regius Chair of Chemistry in Glasgow University. Professor Cook, who thus succeeds the late Professor George Barger, is at present professor of chemistry in the University of London and research chemist at the Royal Cancer Hospital. From 1932 to 1935 he was reader in pathological chemistry in that university. He is the author of numerous publications dealing with chemistry, and in 1936 was awarded jointly with Professor E. J. Kennaway the prize for cancer research of the Union Internationale contre le Cancer.

University Chair for Edinburgh Doctor

Dr. Edwin Moody Robertson, F.R.C.S.Ed., M.R.C.O.G., assistant obstetrician in the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh, has been appointed professor of obstetrics and gynaecology in Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario, and head of the obstetric and gynaecological services of Kingston General Hospital. Dr. Robertson, who is 36, was educated at George Watson's College, Edinburgh, and at the University of Edinburgh, where he graduated M.B., Ch.B. in 1926. He has acted as assistant to Professor R. W. Johnstone in the chair of midwifery at Edinburgh University, and has been assistant gynaecologist and obstetrician in the Western General Hospital, Edinburgh.

The Society for Cultural Relations with the U.S.S.R. announces a medical tour leaving London on September 9 and arriving back in London on September 29. The party will travel by Soviet boat to Leningrad and will visit Moscow, Kharkov, and Kiev, returning via Warsaw, Berlin, and Flushing. The actual medical institutions to be visited will be arranged according to the special interests of members of the party. An alternative return route via Scandinavia, or extra time in the U.S.S.R., can also be arranged. The cost is: 1st class, £68 10s.; 2nd class, £44 10s.; 3rd class, £27 10s., inclusive until departure from Kiev, after which only rail and boat fares are covered. A Soviet tourist visa and Polish and German transit visas are needed. Application should be made to the Society for Cultural Relations with the U.S.S.R., 98, Gower Street, W.C.1.

Potency of Vitamin Concentrates

SIR,—While the excellent leader in your issue of June 3, summarizing the results of clinical studies on vitamin A, is a subject on which you should be complimented, it contains one statement which we think cannot reasonably be upheld and which calls for correction.

It is stated that 1 c.cm. of the concentrate used contained 72,000 international units of vitamin A and was equivalent to 2 drachms of average cod-liver oil. On the basis of 1 drachm being equivalent to 3.55 c.cm., your average cod-liver oil is thus endowed with a potency of 10,000 international units of vitamin A per c.cm.—a potency which, in fact, is exaggerated some ten times. Unfortunate though it may be, it is nevertheless a fact that since the discovery of vitamin A in fish-liver oils the cod has been relegated to a considerably lower position in the nutritional hierarchy than it formerly held, and your statement may have the effect of misleading investigators who are led to substitute an average cod-liver oil for a concentrate such as you mention.—I am, etc.,

J. I. M. JONES,

June 13.

Technical Manager, British Colloids Ltd.

** We regret the error. The actual statement in the paper referred to is as follows: "Each cubic centimetre of this concentrate, which contains no added vitamin D, contains 72,000 I.U. of vitamin A, or each minim (containing 4,000 I.U. of vitamin A) is equivalent in vitamin A to 2 drachms of standard cod-liver oil."—ED., *B.M.J.*

Chemotherapy of Gonorrhoea

SIR,—I was interested to read Dr. M. Absé's comments (*Journal*, June 17, p. 1260), for his views coincide with my own experience. I also am amazed at the specific claims made of rapid cures obtained with the sulphonamide drugs. Undoubtedly in some cases a dramatic cessation of discharge occurs; in others repeated courses of the drug are necessary; but in the majority no benefit accrues. Patients who have not responded favourably to the drugs seem to take longer to cure than those who have had none; this may be explained by diminished phagocytic activity due to a leucopenia, and probably this accounts for the lessening of the discharge. Of course, I am not referring to cases with "closed" pockets of pus, which require mechanical treatment, for in these chemotherapy is useless.—I am, etc.,

London, W.1, June 17.

M. W. BROWDY.

The Services

INDIAN MEDICAL SERVICE

ANNUAL DINNER

The annual dinner of the Indian Medical Service was held on June 14, with Major-General C. W. F. Melville in the chair. The guests present were Sir Frank Brown, Mr. D. M. Cleary, Dr. H. A. Clegg, Sir Wilson Jameson, Dr. E. C. Morland, and Professor James Young. After the loyal toast had been honoured the chairman said that he had received letters from about fifty officers regretting that they were not able to be present, and he then read a telegram that had been received from the Director-General of the Service. He extended a warm welcome to the guests, remarking that a Service dinner was of its nature a somewhat self-centred affair, and therefore for one evening he would like each guest to look upon himself as being one of themselves. Recruiting to the Service had

been excellent, and he had it from Sir John Megaw that the recent recruits had been as good as any before. This was the thirty-ninth dinner, and 110 of them had managed to be present. After a humorous description of the various types of Indian civil servant, Major-General Melville went on to discuss more seriously some aspects of administration. "The moment you have one man under your command," he said, "you are an administrator." Maladministration made for discontent, and it was the slight that made the assassin.

The health of the chairman was proposed in a brief and gracious speech by Colonel A. H. Proctor, who said that throughout his life he had heard the name of Charles Melville mentioned with affection. There was no officer in the Service who had such a reputation of popularity, friendship, and esteem.

It was then announced that Sir Thomas Carey-Evans was relinquishing the honorary secretaryship of the dinner after holding this post for fifteen years.

The officers present at the dinner were:

Major-Generals: Sir Frank Connor, A. W. M. Harvey, Sir John Megaw, H. R. Nutt, Sir Leonard Rogers, and G. Tate.

Colonels: H. Ainsworth, Sir Rickard Christophers, H. M. Cruddas, H. R. Dutton, A. B. Fry, J. Fuller-Good, C. A. Gill, T. A. Granger, C. R. M. Green, W. H. Leonard, H. M. Mackenzie, F. P. Mackie, A. J. Macnab, Sir Richard Needham, A. H. Proctor, C. H. Reinhold, H. E. Stanger-Leathes, Ashton Street, F. F. Strother-Smith, R. G. Turner, W. L. Watson, C. N. C. Wimberley.

Lieutenant-Colonels: W. G. P. Alpin, F. J. Anderson, R. S. Aspinall, C. H. Barber, F. A. Barker, A. N. Bose, G. T. Burke, H. P. Cook, H. S. Cormack, D. G. Crawford, J. M. Crawford, S. C. Evans, J. K. S. Fleming, B. Gale, E. S. Goss, P. Fleming Gow, V. B. Green-Armytage, F. Griffith, A. E. Grisewood, W. L. Harnett, S. N. Hayes, H. Hingston, E. H. V. Hodge, J. M. Holmes, E. V. Hugo, J. B. Dalzell Hunter, M. L. C. Irvine, J. Davenport Jones, R. Kennedy, H. H. King, E. W. O'G. Kirwan, J. B. Lapsley, J. C. H. Leicester, A. V. Lopes, G. Rigby Lynn, C. McIver, A. C. Macrae, G. E. Malcolmson, W. A. Mearns, C. Newcomb, C. Newton-Davis, D. V. O'Malley, H. Ross, H. K. Rowntree, R. B. Seymour Sewell, H. A. S. Short, H. E. Shortt, J. A. Sinton, H. B. Steen, R. Steen, W. D. H. Stevenson, H. Stott, C. Thomson, E. Owen Thurston, A. G. Tresider, E. L. Ward.

Majors: H. C. Brown, J. A. Cruickshank, Sir T. Carey Evans, V. E. M. Lee, V. B. Nesfield, C. G. Seymour, and M. R. Sinclair.

Captains: Dev. Dutt, R. L. Raymond, and Man Singh.

Lieutenants: D. H. Harrison, G. T. M. Hayes, P. Kent, W. M. McCutcheon, G. S. Michelson, and S. G. Nardell.

MEDICAL DEPARTMENT, ADMIRALTY

The Medical Department of the Admiralty will remove from its present address to Queen's House, 64, St. James's Street, London, S.W.1, during the week beginning June 26. During the period of removal it is desired that correspondence may be reduced to a minimum, letters on urgent matters only being sent to the Department. The new telephone number will be Regent 7481.

ALEXANDER MEMORIAL PRIZE

Major H. J. Bensted, M.C., R.A.M.C., has been awarded the Alexander Memorial Prize for 1938, consisting of a gold medal and a sum of £40. The prize is awarded annually to an officer of the Royal Army Medical Corps for professional work of outstanding merit.

NORTH PERSIAN FORCES MEMORIAL MEDAL

Thomas Simpson, L.R.C.P. and S.I., D.T.M. and H., D.M.R.E., medical officer, Nigeria, has been awarded the North Persian Forces Memorial Medal for 1938, for his paper on "Yaws and its Treatment in Bamanda Division of the Cameroons under British Mandate," published in the *West African Medical Journal*, volume x, No. 1, October, 1938, page 10. The medal is awarded annually for the best paper on tropical medicine or hygiene published in any journal during the preceding twelve months by a medical officer, of under twelve years' service, of the Royal Navy, Royal Army Medical Corps, Royal Air Force, Indian Medical Service, or of the Colonial Medical Service.

LEISHMAN MEMORIAL PRIZE

Major D. Fettes, O.B.E., R.A.M.C., has been awarded the Leishman Memorial Prize for 1938, consisting of a silver medal and a sum of £30. The prize is awarded annually to an officer of the Royal Army Medical Corps or the Army Dental Corps for work of outstanding merit.

especially devoted to the medical work of the Church Army. She became a member of the British Medical Association in 1908. Among the other social undertakings which attracted her sympathy and support were the British Federation of University Women at Crosby Hall, where she interested herself particularly in promoting the work for refugees, and the National Society of Day Nurseries. She also worked for the Chelsea Committee for Spanish Relief, and helped to support one of the adopted Basque children.

The Isle of Man has sustained a severe loss through the death of Mr. HAROLD EDMUND EMMETT of Douglas, who died on June 11 at the age of 41. He received his medical education at Manchester University, and interrupting his clinical studies to act as surgeon sub-lieutenant R.N.V.R. during the latter part of the war, he graduated M.B., Ch.B. in 1921, and acted as house-surgeon to Professor Telford and house-physician to Dr. Bosdin Leech. Thereafter he was assistant medical officer at Crumpsall Hospital, and Hope Hospital, Salford. In 1923 he succeeded the late Dr. Malim in practice in Rochdale, and built up a large general and surgical practice. In 1926 he was appointed an honorary assistant surgeon to the Rochdale Infirmary, a post which he held until he gave up practice in that district. In 1931 he took the Fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh. In 1935 he left Rochdale to take up practice in Douglas, Isle of Man, where he was appointed at first an assistant surgeon and later a full surgeon to the Noble's Hospital, Douglas. He rapidly built up a large surgical and general practice. His untimely death has cut short a career full of brightest promise, and is a great loss both to the medical profession and to the island as a whole. A colleague writes: Mr. Emmett was a man of great talent, with a wide knowledge of almost every branch of medical work. He was a very able surgeon, and it was in this work that his real interest lay. He was unwearied in his attention to his patients, and their well-being was always his first consideration. He was a delightful colleague, good friend, and in every respect a worthy member of the profession, whose loss is greatly deplored.

Dr. FRANCIS RICHARD CASSIDI, M.B.E., died on June 13 at Magherafelt, County Derry, where he went to live after retiring from practice. A native of Youghal, County Cork, he was born in 1858 the son of Colonel Francis P. Cassidi, and from Rugby School entered Trinity College, Dublin, in 1877. He graduated B.A. in 1880, afterwards taking the M.A., and obtained his medical degrees in 1882; also the L.M. of Coombe Hospital and the Diploma in State Medicine, proceeding to the M.D. of Dublin University in 1884. Dr. Cassidi was for many years physician to the Derby Royal Infirmary, and at the Annual Meeting of the British Medical Association at Leicester in 1905 held office as vice-president of the Section of Obstetrics and Gynaecology. He was a justice of the peace and an Associate of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem.

Dr. ROBERT STEPHEN HUBBERSTY, who died on June 13, had been a member of the Sunderland Division of the British Medical Association for fifty-four years. He was born at Cartmel, Lancs, in December, 1861, the son of the Rev. R. C. Hubbersty, and was a direct descendant of the Rev. William Paley, D.D. (1743-1805), Archdeacon of Carlisle and author of the *Evidences of Christianity*, on which a paper used to be set in the Little-go examination at Cambridge. From Hurstpierpoint School Dr. Hubbersty went to study medicine at the University of Edinburgh, graduated M.B., C.M. in 1884, took the M.R.C.S.Eng. diploma in 1885, and proceeded to the M.D., with commendation, in 1888. His early work included house-surgeons at the Peterborough Infirmary and the Wolverhampton Eye Infirmary. Dr. Hubbersty was for many

years anaesthetist to the Eye Infirmary, Sunderland, and to the Royal Infirmary, and honorary ophthalmic surgeon to the Monkwearmouth Hospital.

The death took place on June 15 at Blairgowrie of Dr. CHARLES SMITH LUNAN. He was born in 1854 at Blairgowrie, where his father practised for fifty-eight years. After education at the Royal High School, Edinburgh, and a medical course at Edinburgh University, he graduated M.B., C.M.Ed. in 1875. After a year spent as an assistant in Carlisle, he returned to Blairgowrie to assist his father, and there he practised for thirty-seven years, retiring in 1913. He held numerous public appointments, including that of medical officer of health for Blairgowrie. He had also numerous social interests; for many years he was president of the local choral society.

On May 26 another name was added to the distinguished and melancholy roll of medical martyrs. Dr. RALPH AUGUSTINE McDONNELL, for many years clinical professor of dermatology at Yale University Medical School, in 1903 suffered severe x-ray burns, which were given as the indirect cause of his death at the age of 71.

The following well-known foreign medical men have recently died: Dr. LOUIS BAR of Nice, formerly president of the French Society of Oto-rhino-laryngology, and Dr. NICOLAS, a former professor of the universities of Paris and Nancy and member of the Académie de Médecine.

Universities and Colleges

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

The Regius Professor of Physic gives notice that a course in therapeutics at Addenbrooke's Hospital, to run concurrently with the course for the examination in pharmacology, will be given in the Long Vacation, from July 13 to August 18. This course is confined to students who have passed Part I of the Natural Sciences Tripos, and are proceeding immediately to clinical work or have already started clinical work in London or elsewhere. Students wishing to attend should send their names to Dr. L. B. Cole, Addenbrooke's Hospital, at the beginning of the period of Long Vacation residence.

At a Congregation held on June 17 the following medical degrees were conferred:

M.D.—E. B. Z. Masterman.
M.B., B.CHIR.—W. J. B. de Gruchy.
M.B.—W. O. M. Ede, *B. Wright.

* By proxy.

At a Congregation held on June 20 the following medical degrees were conferred:

M.B., B.CHIR.—H. A. Wallace, M. H. Harmer.

The following candidates have been approved at the examinations indicated:

FINAL M.B.—*Part I (Surgery, Midwifery, and Gynaecology)*: P. T. Anderson, L. B. G. Bennett, J. B. Bramwell, M. M. Bull, J. A. Campbell, B. E. Camus, J. L. Cardwell, J. A. Cosh, P. J. R. Davis, H. P. Dick, J. E. G. Earle, W. J. G. Evans, I. S. Eve, G. R. Faber, E. L. Fawcett, P. G. H. Gell, G. S. Gladstone, G. D. Graham, B. G. Gretton-Watson, L. N. Grunbaum, A. Hargreaves, S. L. Hetherington, B. L. F. Heydon, J. M. Holford, K. G. Irving, P. W. Isaac, G. H. P. John, H. Kalmanoff, N. S. Kenchington, E. J. C. Kendall, R. D. Kennedy, W. N. Kenrick, W. H. Kirkaldy Willis, J. A. Lorimer, A. C. Mackay, P. D. MacLellan, T. K. Maurice, J. M. Mennell, K. J. Merris, E. P. Morley, J. Murray, G. Oppenheimer, B. F. H. Parker-Wood, H. G. Percy, T. J. A. Phillips, M. R. Pollock, A. M. Stevens, R. C. Tufton, F. H. Tyrer, C. H. C. Upjohn, J. S. H. Wade, R. J. T. Woodland. *Women*: G. M. Allen-Williams, K. M. Cossens, M. Feachem, R. M. Howitt, L. C. Petersen, J. F. Thompson.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

Sir Henry Hallett Dale, F.R.S., has been appointed by His Majesty in Council as a Member of the Court in the place of the late Sir Cooper Perry.

Dr. A. M. H. Gray and Sir Girling Ball have been appointed Governors of the British Postgraduate Medical School, and Mr. L. V. Cargill Governor of King's College School, Wimbledon.

Dr. R. A. Young has been appointed to represent the University at the twenty-fifth annual conference of the National Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis at Belfast from June 29 to July 1, and Professor Major Greenwood, F.R.S., representative of the University at the ninth Imperial Social Hygiene Congress in London from July 10 to 14.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

At an Assembly of the College Faculties on Thursday, July 6, at 3 p.m., Sir Henry Dale, M.D., F.R.S., will receive the chief scholars, medallists, and prizemen, and will give an address.

UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL

The Council of the University has decided to confer on July 1 the honorary degree of M.Ch.Orth. on Mr. H. A. T. Fairbank, M.S., F.R.C.S., consulting orthopaedic surgeon and emeritus lecturer in orthopaedic surgery at King's College Hospital, London.

The Council of the University has appointed Mr. Owen Herbert Williams, F.R.C.S., to the Chair of Surgery as from October 1, in succession to Sir Robert E. Kelly, who retires at the end of the present session on reaching the age limit.

UNIVERSITY OF WALES

WELSH NATIONAL SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

The following candidates for the degrees of M.B., B.Ch. have satisfied the examiners in the examinations indicated:

MEDICINE.—J. M. Bowen, Mary W. Bowen, Marjorie E. Bright, C. Davies, G. R. Davies, D. B. E. Foster, W. H. Harris, J. C. Herapath, G. E. Hosking, D. G. Jarman, Elizabeth G. Jenkins, H. V. Jones, G. O. Lewis, M. Lewis, Mair Llewelyn, C. J. Morgan, Margaret Morgan, Josephine Parnell, Margaret Parry, J. L. Rees, W. Williams.

SURGERY.—O. D. Beresford, J. M. Bowen, Mary W. Bowen, Marjorie E. Bright, D. C. Brown, C. Davies, G. R. Davies, D. B. E. Foster, W. H. Harris, J. C. Herapath, G. E. Hosking, Elizabeth G. Jenkins, H. V. Jones, C. W. D. Lewis, G. O. Lewis, C. J. Morgan, Margaret Morgan, Josephine Parnell, Margaret Parry, Enid M. Powell, C. Thomas, Margaret R. Wade, Lary M. Williams, W. Williams.

PHARMACOLOGY.—G. B. Downs, A. A. Edwards, W. H. M. Evans, Vera Harris, W. M. Jones, J. Lewis, R. T. Nicholas, Monica Parry Morton, H. I. Rees (with distinction), Barbara C. Roberts, Eirian Spickett, J. Williams, R. W. Williams.

UNIVERSITY OF ST. ANDREWS

The Senatus Academicus of the University has resolved to confer the honorary degree of LL.D. on Mr. William Graham Campbell, M.B., C.M., L.D.S., D.D.S., Lecturer in Orthodontics in the Dental School of the University, at a graduation ceremonial to be held in Dundee during the visit of the British Association.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND

Primary Fellowship Examination

The following have been successful at the First Professional Examination for the Diploma of Fellow:

L. H. Aitken, M.B., Ch.B., Gwladys V. S. Aldridge, M. Arnold, M.B., B.Ch., M. Bates, W. M. Beattie, M.B., B.Ch., M.R.C.S., B. E. Blair, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., R. V. Blaubaum, M.B., B.S., K. E. Bond, M.B., B.Chir., M.R.C.S., R. N. Briggs, D. B. Brown, M.B., Ch.B., Annette G. Cade, H. L. Catchlove, M.B., B.S., S. Chatterjee, M.B., R. A. Christianson, M.D., A. F. Clift, M.R.C.S., D. D. Cranna, M. B., Ch. B., M.R.C.S., H. A. Daniels, M.B., B.Ch., O. B. Dickinson, M.D., H. D. Drury, M.B., B.S., J. A. C. Edwards, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., M. R. Ewing, M.B., Ch.B., Nora F. M. Falk, R. M. Fawzi, M.B., B.Ch., P. A. M. FitzGerald, M.B., B.Ch., H. B. Gatenby, M.B., B.S., A. Gild, M.B., B.S., J. E. Gray, M.B., B.S., S. G. Griffin, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., G. J. Hanly, M.B., B.Ch., H. A. Haxton, M.B., Ch.B., W. G. Hendry, M.B., Ch.B., L. Henry, M.D., I. M. Hill, C. Hollenberg, M.D., N. C. Hughes, M.B., B.Ch., K. F. Hulbert, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., I. Jacobson, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., G. B. Jones, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., F. L. Kennedy, P. H. Lenton, M.B., B.Ch., M.R.C.S., H. R. W. Lunt, M.B., Ch.B., R. J. B. McEwen, M.B., Ch.M., A. M. Mair, M.B., Ch.B., M. A. Margo, M.R.C.S., J. P. Mitchell, C. T. Moller, M.B., B.Ch., D. L. Mollin, D. Narayan, M.B., B.S., J. D. Ogilvie, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., H. Petty, F. P. Raper, M.B., Ch.B., H. Rees, B.M., B.Ch., D. J. Robertson, T. F. Rose, M.B., B.S., P. B. Ryan, M.B., Ch.B., N. C. Shah, M.B., B.S., D. C. Sinclair, M.B., Ch.B., M. R. Sinclair, M.B., B.Ch., M.R.C.S., J. W. Spence, M.B., B.S., W. E. Springford, M.B., B.S., M. J. L. Stening, M.B., B.S., H. D. Sutherland, M.B., B.S., C. H. Tanner, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., I. J. Thomas, E. Troensegaard-Hansen, M.R.C.S., A. A. Wearn, M.B., B.S., R. W. White, R. Wilson, M.D., C.M.

Medical Notes in Parliament

Business for the House of Lords this week included the Civil Defence Bill and a motion by Lord Samuel on the prospective decline of the population.

The House of Commons was asked to begin the Committee stage of the Finance Bill on June 22, when it was hoped to reach Clause 7, which proposes to abolish the Medicine Stamp Duties. The signatures of 197 supporters of the Government appeared in support of an amendment the effect of which would be to postpone the repeal of the Duties for five years and thus allow time for their revision on the lines recommended by a Select Committee of the House of Commons in 1937 or on some other basis. The amendment was also supported by members of the Opposition Parties, though it was understood that the Labour Party would give general support to the Government on this question.

During the week the House of Commons also considered the Ministry of Supply Bill, and draft Orders under the Military Training Act.

In the House of Commons on June 19 the Lords amendments to the Adoption of Children (Regulation) Bill were agreed to.

Medicine Stamp Duties

On June 13 Sir JOHN SIMON told Mr. Keeling that before deciding to propose the repeal of the Medicine Stamp Duties he had before him the evidence given by the B.M.A. to a Select Committee. Mr. HANNAH asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he proposed to allay the apprehension among pharmacists at the proposed repeal of the Medicine Stamp duties as depriving them of a right to be the only retailers of their own preparations unstamped, with a due sense of responsibility. Sir JOHN SIMON said he did not consider that the repeal of the Medicine Stamp Duties need have the effect which Mr. Hannah feared. It would be open to pharmacists who were at present the only retailers of their own preparations unstamped to continue this practice if they desired to restrict the channels of sale in this way; but repeal of the duties would remove the anomaly by which at present the same preparation might be sold unstamped by chemists but must be stamped when sold by traders who were not chemists.

Sir WILLIAM DAVISON asked if it would not be a safeguard for the public that these patent medicines should be sold through chemists who knew the ingredients, and would not sell them if they were actively detrimental. Sir JOHN SIMON remarked that in some cases a chemist knew the ingredients and in some cases he did not. Mr. R. MORRISON asked if the Chancellor of the Exchequer was aware that the shares of Beecham's pills went up on the repeal of the duty.

On a further question by Mr. Hannah, Mr. J. DAVIDSON asked if steps were being taken to prevent the postal services in this country being used by outside sellers to break regulations which were imposed on sellers in this country. Sir WILLIAM DAVISON also urged that in future legislation the Chancellor of the Exchequer should ensure that the prescription was clearly stated on the bottle, so that the public might know what they were taking.

No replies were given to these questions.

A statement issued to M.P.s by Sir Arnold Wilson, Sir Francis Fremantle, and Captain G. S. Elliston says:

The amendment is being backed by members for one or more of the following reasons:

"The Stamp Duties and Licence Fees have annually yielded from £1,400,000 to £750,000, the latter in the year of maximum evasion. There is a strong feeling that this is not the moment to