

popular teacher, with a gift for imparting the practical side of his subject. Throughout his working life he combined general practice with the specialties of midwifery and gynaecology. As a colleague has written in the *Scotsman*: "He represented the type of practitioner who in some ways is characteristic of one of the most attractive aspects of Scottish medicine—the family doctor who plays a multitude of parts." He was a kind and generous man, devoted to his patients, and in turn they looked upon him as their friend. He had been a member of the British Medical Association for nearly fifty years.

SIR D'ARCY POWER

Dr. J. D. ROLLESTON writes:

The excellent survey of Sir D'Arcy Power's life and work in the *Journal* of May 31 (p. 836) contains one slight error and two omissions. The International Congress held in London in 1913 was an International Congress of Medicine and not an International Historical Congress as stated by the writer of the obituary, though its Section XXIII, to which Sir D'Arcy contributed a paper on the lesser writings of John Arderne, was devoted to the history of medicine. The International Congress of the History of Medicine held in London, of which Sir D'Arcy was vice-president of honour and I was general secretary, did not take place until 1921. The omissions, which are not unimportant, as they are concerned with Sir D'Arcy's interest in public health, are as follows. First, there is no mention of his having been a nominee of the Ministry of Health on the Metropolitan Asylums Board from 1921 to 1927, during which period he served as chairman of the Pinewood Sanatorium, Medical and Nursing Subcommittee, and member of the Tuberculosis Subcommittee, Infectious Hospitals Committee, and North-Western Hospitals Subcommittee. Secondly, some mention should surely have been made of his interest in venereal disease, on which he gave evidence before a Royal Commission as representative of the Royal College of Surgeons and the Royal Society of Medicine in 1914, and contributed many articles to periodical literature, as well as being co-editor with J. Keogh Murphy of a *System of Syphilis*.

We regret to announce the death by enemy action of Dr. R. EDMUND SYMES-THOMPSON at the early age of 28. The son of Dr. H. E. Symes-Thompson, consulting physician to the Royal Chest Hospital, and grandson of the late Edmund Symes-Thompson, M.D., F.R.C.P., Richard Edmund studied medicine at Cambridge and at St. George's Hospital, graduating B.A. in 1934 and taking the M.R.C.S. and L.R.C.P. diplomas last year. At St. George's he won the Sir Charles Clarke prize and the Thompson medal, and since qualification he had been resident anaesthetist there and house-physician at St. Luke's Hospital, Chelsea.

Universities and Colleges

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

The Committee for Medical Radiology and Electrology has fixed dates for the D.M.R. and E. examinations in 1942 as follows: Part I, February 10 and July 8; Part II, July 7 and October 6.

At a Congregation held on May 24 the following medical degrees were conferred:

M.B., B.CHR.—(By proxy) I. B. Mackay, A. R. P. Ellis.

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

The University Court has approved the following recommendations of the Faculty of Medicine:

(1) That psychiatry be added as a subject in the final professional examination in medicine in the fourth year: a written paper and an oral examination, conducted by the professor and lecturer, with an external examiner.

(2) That candidates for the Diploma in Medical Radiology be required to have had at least two years' postgraduate experience: six months as resident surgeon in a hospital and eighteen months' general clinical experience; and that it is desirable that they should have had postgraduate experience in morbid anatomy and morbid histology.

OBITUARY

The Services

CASUALTIES IN THE MEDICAL SERVICES

ROYAL NAVY

Surgeon Lieut. IVOR MCNEIL DRYSDALE, R.N., was killed on active service in March. He was the youngest son of the late Mr. Drysdale and Mrs. Drysdale of Glasgow, was educated at the University of Glasgow, where he graduated M.B., B.Ch. in 1935, and entered the Royal Navy in 1936. He leaves a widow.

Surgeon Lieut. JAMES OXENHAM FIELDING, R.N., was killed when H.M.S. *Hood* was sunk last month. He was the only son of Dr. and Mrs. S. J. Fielding of Norwich, and was educated at Queens' College, Cambridge, and St. Thomas's Hospital, qualifying M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. in 1938. He had held the posts of clinical assistant in the ophthalmic, psychological medicine, and ear, nose, and throat departments, and senior ophthalmic house-surgeon, at St. Thomas's Hospital before entering the Royal Navy in 1938. He leaves a widow. He was a member of the British Medical Association.

Wounded

Temporary Surgeon Lieut. Alexander Watt, R.N.V.R.

ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS

The death is reported on active service in the Middle East in May of Captain DONALD STARR. He was the only son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Starr of Wigan and graduated M.B., Ch.B. of the University of Manchester in 1926. He had held the posts of house-surgeon at the Manchester Royal Infirmary and medical officer at the Kent County Mental Hospital, Chatham Down. He leaves a widow. He joined the British Medical Association in 1928.

Lieut. ALASTAIR HAIR died in April of wounds received in action. He was the elder son of the Rev. James and Mrs. Hair of Edinburgh, and was educated at the University of Glasgow, where he graduated M.B., Ch.B. in 1931. He resided in Edinburgh for a time after graduation and then moved to Presteigne in Radnorshire until 1935, when he was appointed medical officer of health for Llandrindod Wells.

Medical Notes in Parliament

Diphtheria Immunization

In a reply on May 29 to Prof. Hill, Mr. BROWN said it was estimated that if three-quarters of the number of children at each year of age below 15 were immune against diphtheria and this level were maintained year by year the disease would be practically abolished. It would be premature to forecast the result of the steps now being taken to promote immunization. He trusted the good sense of parents would in the great majority of cases lead them to secure for their children this vital protection.

Answering Mr. Leach on the same date, Mr. BROWN said the number of deaths from diphtheria in the 126 great towns during the first quarter of 1941 was greater than in the corresponding periods of 1939 and 1940. The number of notifications in the same period was greater than in the first quarter of 1940, but less than in the first quarter of 1939. He had no figures, as yet, to show the increase in the number of children immunized during the first three months of 1941. This could not be related to the total of deaths from diphtheria in persons of all ages. Nor could the effects of the disease over a short period be related to the number of inoculations carried out in that same period, immunization being essentially a prospective and long-term safeguard. He was not aware of any facts which suggested that immunization caused outbreaks of diphtheria, but there was ample evidence that in places where it had been widely applied to children under 15 the disease had been practically eliminated.

Hospital Physiotherapy Departments

General Sir GEORGE JEFFREYS asserted that there were hospitals staffed with one or more masseuses acting under the direction of surgeons who had no specialized training in this branch of medicine, and that physiotherapists were appointed to the staffs of hospitals only in the event of an application being made for such an appointment by the medical superintendent of the hospital. He asked Mr. Brown to direct that physiotherapists be appointed whether the medical super-