

that a considerable proportion of the population were getting only from 2,000 to 2,500. One common result of the deficiency was night-blindness. Butter, eggs, and cream gave by no means large amounts. With cows on grass pasture both carotene and vitamin A values in butter rose in summer, but they fell in winter. Margarine was fortified with vitamins A and D, but the present weekly ration of 2 oz. butter and 6 oz. margarine provided rather less than one day's supply of vitamin A, so that the ration was not really a substantial contribution to the estimated total requirement of 5,000 units. One pint of milk a day was needed to provide 1,000 units of vitamin A, or one-fifth of the requisite amount. Vegetables being the chief sources of vitamin A, it would be necessary in wartime to rely more on green vegetables and vegetables such as carrots than on dairy products for increasing the vitamin A intake.

At a recent meeting of the discussion group of the West Ham Medical Practitioners Co-ordinating Committee Mr. RUSCOE CLARK gave a lecture on "Soviet Medicine." He dealt with the historical, economic, and cultural background on which the present system of Soviet medicine was superimposed; the medical education of the future doctor and of the layman (which in Russia seem to be interdependent); the district or factory health centre as the unit of medical service; research, which is centrally controlled and co-ordinated; and the opportunities for postgraduate medical study. In summing up Mr. Clark made the following points: (1) in Russia there is an efficient salaried medical service which is free to the nation; (2) all branches of this medical service are under unified control and planning, which allows for local elasticity; (3) special attention is paid to the welfare of women and children; (4) the basis of this service is the local or factory health centre.

## Local News

### ENGLAND AND WALES

#### Hospital Policy and Finance

The Duke of Kent presided over the meeting of the Distribution Committee of King Edward's Hospital Fund for London on December 12, when he announced that the Fund was again distributing £300,000. At the outset he read a message of congratulation and encouragement from the King. His Royal Highness said that since they met in June the Minister of Health had made an important pronouncement on hospital policy, and the Fund's offer to collaborate in the Ministry's survey of hospital provision in London and the Home Counties had been accepted. A joint body composed of representatives of the Fund and of the Voluntary Hospitals Committee was also to be formed to consider matters arising out of the Minister's statement on the creation of a comprehensive hospital service for London. The Duke went on to speak of the creation of the Nursing Recruitment Centre a year ago when it became apparent that a very serious threat to the future standards of hospital service was developing because of the increasing shortage of nurses in training. Through this central agency in London over 1,000 girls had been recruited to the nursing profession. Lord Luke's report on this subject was of a most encouraging achievement. "We are now proposing," he said, "with the help of the Nuffield Trust, to extend the service so that it will not be limited only to London hospitals." Another development was the progress made by the Contributory Schemes Committee, which had been set up to straighten out knotty problems continually arising in contributory schemes matters, and to smooth the way for a large and general increase in the proportion of the population covered by contributory schemes. Sir Edward Peacock, Treasurer of the Fund, said that £130,000 a year was needed from subscriptions, donations, and legacies to maintain distribution at its present level. Sir Ernest Pooley, who submitted

the report on the list of grants, said that in addition to ordinary maintenance grants the Distribution Committee had so adjusted its system that considerable allocations were possible towards deficiencies on general funds and to building funds. In every way the Committee was doing all it could to enable voluntary hospitals of London to be in a position to play their part as full partners in the comprehensive hospital system which was looked forward to. The following announcement was made by the Minister of Health, Mr. Ernest Brown:

"I know very well that the mobilization of women, which is vital to our war effort, is a matter of great concern to all interested in the efficient working of hospitals. The hospital services stand much in our minds in the plans which are being made. You will be aware that during the campaign for recruitment of women much has been carried out since registration began. Nursing and domestic work in hospitals have been included among the short list of services which women were encouraged to join at their interviews with officers of the Ministry of Labour and National Service. The position which these services occupy in the arrangements for recruitment will be maintained. Nursing and domestic work in hospitals are recognized as vital war work; those who serve in this way will not be called up, and women will be encouraged to volunteer for such work and if necessary directed to take it."

#### Joint Tuberculosis Council

A meeting of the Joint Tuberculosis Council was held at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine on November 22, with Dr. D. A. Powell in the chair. A welcome to the Council was given to Dr. J. Ferguson, representing the Society of Medical Officers of Health, and to Dr. G. B. Dixon, the new representative from the National Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis. The following were nominated as officers for 1942: Chairman, Dr. D. A. Powell (Wales); vice-chairmen, Dr. James Watt (Godalming) and Dr. Edward Ward (Devon); hon. treasurer, Dr. G. Jessel (Lancashire); hon. auditor, Dr. D. P. Sutherland (Manchester); hon. secretary, Dr. J. B. McDougall (Preston Hall, Kent). Dr. F. R. G. Heaf gave an account of the recent course of postgraduate study held at Harefield Sanatorium with permission of the Middlesex County Council. A further course will probably be held in the North of England in 1942. It was reported by the conveners of the Rehabilitation Committee (Drs. McDougall and Heaf) that the committee had agreed that for purposes of publication the report should be divided into two parts, the first dealing with rehabilitation and the second with care committees, and the Council agreed that publication of Part 1 be proceeded with at the earliest possible moment. It is hoped that Part 2 will be published early this year. Arising out of the discussion of this report the question was asked whether the recent circular from the Ministry of Labour outlining "An Interim Scheme for the Training and Resettlement of Disabled Persons" was in keeping with the general views of the Rehabilitation Committee. The hon. secretary pointed out that the scheme could not apply to persons suffering from tuberculosis unless there was the closest co-operation between tuberculosis physicians and the Ministry of Labour visitor to the hospitals concerned. The possible repercussions from arranging for the entrance into the Labour Ministry Training Centres of relatively advanced patients with open tuberculous disease might be grave. There was apparently some misunderstanding on this subject by representatives of the Ministry of Labour in districts. The Council agreed that the Ministries of Health, Labour, and Pensions should have this matter brought to their notice. A list of seven different committees or councils at present undertaking research and investigations into problems affecting tuberculosis in this country was given, and a discussion took place on the multiplicity of committees on one and the same subject. It was generally agreed that this represented a waste of effort and ought to be avoided by the closer co-operation between existing organizations, and the secretary was instructed to draw the attention of the Ministry of Health to the desirability of centralizing investigations around existing organizations dealing with this subject. Mr. J. E. H. Roberts reported that the Society of Thoracic Surgeons had been invited by the Ministry of Health to prepare a memorandum on thoracic surgery. It was agreed that this report might at a later date be considered by the Joint Tuberculosis Council for criticism and suggestions before submitting it to the Ministry.

both callous and brutal in his attitude to them and was chiefly concerned to get them out of hospital as soon as possible. He, . . . if Miss B—'s [one of the patients] account is correct, succeeded in his harsh manner in reducing all the patients to tears. Apart from this they seem to have been discharged from hospital with no thought for their nervous and psychological condition. . . . The second daughter was sent home on her own on Saturday, and arrived in a state of appalling hysteria at my house. As a ratepayer at Hampstead I must protest against this kind of treatment of air-raid victims. . . . Firstly, if the surgeon in charge is incapable of treating his patients with ordinary humanity he should not be allowed to practise in the hospital whatever his reputation. Secondly, these women should not have been discharged without a thought for their nervous condition to cause anxiety and alarm amongst the people with whom they have to live. Since they speak very highly of the kindness of the ordinary doctors and nurses and of the food, my complaint must be against the general policy and attitude of those in authority. . . ."

In a subsequent letter Mr. Sargent stated that the surgeon mentioned was Mr. Lawson Whale. The surgeon's evidence showed that he had been appointed by the Ministry of Health to deal with air-raid casualties at the hospital under the Emergency Medical Scheme. On September 7, 1940, there was an air raid and the patients attended at the hospital. One of them had a haematoma near her mouth, and a colleague consulted Mr. Whale on whether a tracheotomy should be performed. Mr. Whale examined the patient and concluded that no operation was necessary. He denied that the women were his patients, that he had anything to do with their discharge from hospital, or that there was any atmosphere at the hospital of "get out as quick as you can." He thought the letter most unreasonable, as the writer had not verified his information. He had always found it easy to keep patients at the hospital as long as he would have kept them in peacetime. Mr. Sargent explained in evidence why he had written the letter.

Mr. Whale, through his counsel, then stated that he was satisfied Mr. Sargent had acted responsibly and throughout in good faith; accordingly he felt that his only honest and proper course was to withdraw the action and pay Mr. Sargent's costs. His only object in bringing it had been to clear his reputation. Mr. Sargent, for his part, desired to say that the letter he wrote was too strong in its terms and he was sorry. The learned judge welcomed the settlement, and remarked that Mr. Sargent had never pleaded justification (that is, that the words complained of were true), and that the course Mr. Whale had taken did not imply an admission that there was any cause for complaint against him. He would not like it to be thought that this ending to the case reflected on Mr. Whale in any way.

## Medical Notes in Parliament

### Vitamin B and White Flour

Major LLOYD GEORGE, answering questions on January 8, said it had been decided that two new factories should be acquired, equipped, and financed by the Ministry of Food for the manufacture of aneurin for fortifying white flour. Arrangements were proceeding for production of synthetic vitamin B at these two factories, but it was expected they would not be in production for eighteen months. In the meantime supplies were being received from the United States and from a company which was manufacturing in this country. Fortification of white flour with vitamin B would be extended in a week to the North-West area. Fifty per cent. of the white flour consumed in the United Kingdom would then be fortified.

### Rehabilitation Schemes

Mr. ERNEST BROWN stated, in reply to a question on January 8 about the steps being taken to ensure the rehabilitation of injured persons in addition to their surgical treatment, that one of the first considerations of the Emergency Hospital Scheme was to ensure that the injured person was as fully restored to normal function as his injury allowed before discharge from hospital. To that end the scheme included a widespread organization of special treatment centres for fracture and orthopaedic cases, providing as part of remedial treatment up-to-date methods of rehabilitation—including massage and physiotherapy, exercises, games and recreations, light workshop handicrafts, and other forms of occupational therapy. This

organization worked mainly through twenty-one special orthopaedic centres and fifty-six special fracture departments, apart from special centres for other types of injury and arrangements at numerous hospitals and clinics for short-stay cases and outpatient treatment. It had as its purpose general rehabilitation up to the point at which the patient was ready to resume his normal life or to undergo vocational training or any other special preparation for employment. It had been arranged for a local officer of the Ministry of Labour to interview the patient while still in hospital, and to advise, in consultation with his medical attendant, on the course best suited to his case after discharge.

### Co-ordination of Child Welfare

To co-ordinate and develop the nursery- and after-care of young children in time of war, Mr. Ernest Brown and Mr. Butler have appointed an executive committee of officers of the Health and Education Departments, under the chairmanship of Sir Wilson Jameson, Chief Medical Officer. Consultation with the Ministry of Labour and the Supply Departments has been maintained by regular meetings of officials of the Department. A contact circle between officers of the Ministry and the Board and women experienced in the problems of child care was established at the outset of this work. Regular meetings have been held.

### Declining Birth Rate

Mr. ERNEST BROWN stated on January 8 that, in England and Wales, in the years 1939 and 1940 respectively, the birth rates per 1,000 of the population were 14.9 and 14.6, while the death rates were 12.1 and 14.0. Maternal mortality was 2.82 and 2.61 per 1,000 total live births; infant mortality was 50 and 56 per 1,000 births. Mr. Brown added that for 1940 the birth and death rates (with the exception of infant and maternal mortality) had been calculated on an estimated population which excluded non-civilians. This information would be expanded in the summarized report on the work of his Department which he hoped to publish shortly. Serious attention was given to the decline in the birth rate and to resultant problems.

## Universities and Colleges

### ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND

#### Honorary Fellowship for Sir Earle Page

At a Council meeting on January 8 the Right Hon. Sir Earle Page, G.C.M.G., Ch.M., Minister representing the Commonwealth Government in London, and lately Prime Minister of Australia, was admitted to the Honorary Fellowship of the College. The ceremony, which was presided over by Sir Alfred Webb-Johnson, took place in the anatomical room at Lincoln's Inn Fields, and among the company were a number of surgeons serving in the Navy, Army, and Air Force, including visitors from Australia and Canada, and also a representative of the American Hospital in Britain.

The PRESIDENT said that from the time of Aristotle to the present day the hazardous path of politics had attracted many members of the medical profession, several of whom had achieved distinction, as was only to be expected from their training. In the history of the British Empire medical men had risen to be proud of the record of many of their colleagues who had followed a political career. William Petty was the founder of the science of political economy, and Sir Walter Foster, Lord Addison, Sir Auckland Geddes, and Mr. Walter Elliot were examples of medical men who had held high ministerial office at home. In the Empire abroad Sir Charles Tupper had been Prime Minister of Canada, Dr. Starr Jameson had held the same office in South Africa, while the Hon. G. N. Huggins was at the present time Prime Minister of Southern Rhodesia. Of their new Honorary Fellow he said that Sir Earle Page had given up active practice some years ago, but his colleagues had not forgotten his services to surgery and had watched his political career with interest and pride. They recalled that in the last war he had given splendid service in a casualty clearing station on the western front.

Sir EARLE PAGE, after thanking the President and expressing his appreciation of the honour, said that the most interesting

and happy period of his life was the time he spent in a casualty clearing station on the western front during the last war, when he had so many opportunities of working in close collaboration with British and American surgeons. A surgical training was invaluable in the political field because what was so much needed there, and so seldom took place, was diagnosis before treatment. In his experience, as a rule, "treatment" in politics was empirical. The tendency was to put the largest possible poultice on to the cancer, hoping to hide it from the public, rather than to perform a radical excision. Next to diagnosis before treatment, the two most important factors in politics were quick decision and immediate action following decision, and in that connexion also a surgical training was of great value. He believed that, with the combination of diagnosis before treatment, quick decision, and immediate action, many of the national and probably all the international ills would never arise at all.

He added that during the last three months in this country, to which he had come as a special envoy from his own people, his work had been particularly associated with his professional training. His first duty had been to try to impress on the British Government that the British Empire, which was a living organism, had a body as well as a head. He had always regarded the British Isles as the head of the Empire, the Atlantic and Mediterranean as its neck, where the great arteries of communication lay, and the Pacific and Indian Oceans as the body of the Empire. In that body was the heart, and he had tried to impress upon the British Government the anatomical fact that the body must have a heart and that it was as important to defend the heart as the head. During the last two months he had had the second task of trying to find some means of better representation, in the War Cabinet or in the direction of the war, for Australia and the other Dominions, and he had had an opportunity of applying the methods of the Royal College of Surgeons in that connexion, by performing an experiment on the Empire War Cabinet and its associated bodies while they were actually working. He had been able, by a process of trial and error, to see where the obstacles lay and how they could be removed. Perhaps the surgical research he had carried out on that problem, which might have very important implications, was held to entitle him to the honour conferred upon him, which he very highly esteemed and regarded as one of the crowning marks of appreciation of his life's work.

#### Lectures

Hunterian and Arris and Gale Lectures for 1942 have been arranged as follows: January 20, Lieut.-Colonel A. E. Hamerton, Primary degeneration of the spinal cord in monkeys: a study in comparative pathology; January 21 and 22, Mr. W. Turner Warwick, Observations on the constitution and growth of long bones; January 28, Surgeon Commander E. R. P. Williams, Blast effects in warfare; January 30, Mr. A. Sorsby, Aetiology of phlyctenular ophthalmia; February 3, Mr. J. T. Chesterton, Evaluation and treatment of factors involved in post-lobectomy collapse of the lung; February 5, Dr. N. Asherson, Otogenic cerebellar abscess, with special reference to the posterior fossa cerebrospinal fluid syndrome and the operative treatment; February 9, Prof. F. Davies, Conducting system of the vertebrate heart; February 17, Squadron Leader D. N. Matthews, Value of local chemotherapy in the treatment of wounds and burns; February 18, Dr. D. P. Cuthbertson, Certain aspects of the physiological reaction to injury: the post-shock metabolic response; February 23 and 24, Prof. J. Beattie, Physical and chemical changes in the blood associated with shock and haemorrhage; February 26, Surgeon Rear-Admiral G. Gordon-Taylor, Surgical anatomy of the lower end of the common bile duct and the adjacent head of the pancreas. The lectures will be given at the College (Lincoln's Inn Fields, W.C.), all at 2.30 p.m.

#### UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

The following candidates have been approved at the examinations indicated:

M.D.—*Branch I (Medicine)*: Stella M. Instone, R. D. C. Johnstone, A. A. G. Lewis, C. D. Needham, A. Sakula. *Branch III (Psychological Medicine)*: W. L. Neustatter. *Branch IV (Midwifery and Diseases of Women)*: Elsie M. Terry. *Branch V (Hygiene)*: C. N. Faith.

#### Appointments

Mr. H. L. Eason, M.S., F.R.C.S., who retired from the office of Principal of the University on September 30, 1941, has been reappointed to the General Medical Council.

Sir Girling Ball, F.R.C.S., has been re-elected Dean of the Faculty of Medicine; Sir Ernest Graham-Little, M.D., Dr. A. M. H. Gray, and Prof. M. Greenwood, D.Sc., F.R.S., have been elected chairmen of the Council for External Students, the Professoriate Committee, and the Scholarships Committee respectively.

The title of Professor of Physics as applied to Medicine in the University has been conferred on Dr. W. V. Mayneord in respect of the post held by him at the Royal Cancer Hospital.

#### Grants in Aid of Research

The following grants have been made from the Central Research Fund for 1941-2: R. H. R. Belsey, F.R.C.S., £100; Prof. W. J. Hamilton, M.D., and D. M. Samuel, M.B., £95; J. D. Macleod, M.B., £250; Prof. F. R. Winton, M.D., £100.

The Paul Philip Reitlinger Prize has been awarded to G. N. C. Crawford (St. Thomas's Hospital Medical School) for his essay on the evolution of the Haversian pattern in bone.

#### ROYAL FACULTY OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS OF GLASGOW

At a meeting of the Royal Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow held on January 5, Mr. Roy F. Young, President, in the chair, I. S. McGregor, M.B., Ch.B., was admitted a Fellow of Faculty.

## Medical News

Colonel Leonard Colebrook will deliver a lecture on "Infection of War Wounds" at the Weston Hotel, Bath, on Thursday, January 22, at 5.30 p.m. All Service medical officers and civilian practitioners will be welcome.

The British Institute of Philosophy has arranged a lecture entitled "Social Relations of Science" to be given by Prof. A. D. Ritchie at University Hall, 14, Gordon Square, W.C.1, on Friday, January 23, at 3 p.m. The lecture is free to the public.

A meeting of the Medico-Legal Society will be held at 26, Portland Place, W., on Thursday, January 22, at 4.30 p.m., when a paper will be read by Mr. Julius Grant, M.Sc., Ph.D., on "Paper as Evidence."

The Council of Epsom College will shortly proceed to award St. Anne's Scholarships to girls attending Church of England schools. Candidates must be fully 9 and under 16 years of age, and must be orphan daughters of medical men who have been in independent practice in England or Wales for not less than five years. The value of each scholarship is dependent upon the means of the applicant and the locality and fees of the school selected. The Conjoint Committee of the College will in May award a Christie Pension of £89 a year to a necessitous medical man, fully 55 years of age, who has been registered for five years, and who is in need of help. Forms of application for the scholarships and the pension can be had from the Secretary's Office, Epsom College, Surrey, and must be completed and returned by April 24.

The Medical Research Council invites applications from medically qualified women for a studentship for training in methods of experimental psychology; preference will be given to candidates who have had some special training in physiology or neurology, or who have already had some experience in the use of research methods. The studentship will be tenable for six months, during which the holder will receive training under the direction of Prof. F. C. Bartlett at Cambridge. Payment will be at the rate of £350 per annum, and the student will be expected to give her whole time to the work. The award will be made with a view to possible opportunities for research into problems arising during the war, either in the Services or in industry, but no definite promise of employment after the expiry of the studentship can be given. Applications should be lodged with the Secretary, Medical Research Council, c/o London School of Hygiene, Keppel Street, W.C.1, by February 9. Forms for the purpose will be supplied on request.

The Right Hon. Walter E. Elliot, F.R.S., F.R.C.P., has been elected chairman of the British-American Parliamentary Committee.