

justified in taking on a man with hernial weakness, even should he wear a truss. Dr. Liddle's two questions are therefore irrelevant from the works medical officer's point of view. I trust that this letter will ease any ill feeling that may arise between two harassed members of the profession, who have to view human material from entirely different angles.—I am, etc.,

London, S.W.16.

THOMAS MORTON.

Obituary

It is with the greatest regret (writes Dr. Percy B. Spurgin) that I read of the death of ARTHUR KEITH GIBSON. I have known him for many years, but it was not until the centenary year 1932 that I came into intimate contact with him and learnt to appreciate and value his outstanding qualities. As chairman of one of the committees preparing for the centenary I asked Gibson to act as my secretary: I had in him a colleague full of ideas and, what is more, the ability to carry those ideas to fruition. His meticulous attention to the smallest detail was wonderful, and I found in him a man after my own heart—not afraid of work, however trying—a splendid collaborator with a clear brain, quick to grasp the trend of any argument, to pick out the weak spots or to augment with useful suggestions. As an organizer he possessed outstanding ability. I have had much to do with him in later years, and his valuable help as honorary secretary during my year as president of the Metropolitan Counties Branch and a little later, when he became a full-time Regional Secretary and I was chairman of the M.C.B. Council, was beyond praise. To the latter post he devoted himself whole-heartedly, and, in spite of having to create a new position for himself in the Association, was steadily increasing the prestige of the M.C.B. by his encouragement of Divisional activities all over the area. An uphill struggle; he never ceased to apply all his efforts to the job, and was meeting with a large measure of success when war broke out. His organizing ability was then diverted to a different end, at which he worked with his usual energy, helping the profession during the change-over from peace to war preparation. A whole-hearted B.M.A. man, a clear-headed and kindly colleague, Gibson will be greatly missed and sincerely mourned by all members of the M.C.B. and others who knew him and valued his work. He died as he would have wished—helping others.

Dr. GEORGE NICHOLSON STATHERS, who died on February 6 at Brackley, Northamptonshire, aged 84, was a member of the British Medical Association for fifty years until he retired from active work on account of failing sight at the end of 1928. He studied medicine at University College, Dublin, took the M.R.C.S.Eng. and L.R.C.P.Ed. diplomas in 1879, and the D.P.H. of Cambridge in 1891. He was for many years surgeon to the Brackley Cottage Hospital, medical officer of health for the first Wycombe Rural District, and for the Brackley Urban and Rural Districts. His son, Dr. Gerald Nicholson Stathers, joined him in partnership at Brackley and continued in practice there after his retirement.

Information has been received of the death of Dr. H. CARRIERE at Berne on December 24, 1941. Dr. Carrière was the late Director of the Federal Service of Public Health, and had represented Switzerland on the Permanent Committee of the International Public Health Office, Paris, for many years; he was president of the Finance Committee, and had been senior delegate since the death of M. Camille Barrère.

The January issue of the *Postgraduate Medical Journal*, which is devoted to Anglo-Soviet medicine, contains a foreword by M. Maisky, the Russian Ambassador; an introduction by Sir Alfred Webb-Johnson, P.R.C.S., who is President of the Anglo-Soviet Medical Committee; and papers on Organization of the Medical Services of the U.S.S.R. by Dr. Joan Macmichael; Public Health, by Sir Cuthbert Sprawson; Doctor and Patient in the Soviet Union, by Dr. Julius Lipetz; Tuberculosis in the U.S.S.R., by Dr. T. F. Jarman; and Gynaecology and Obstetrics in the U.S.S.R., by Mr. V. B. Green-Armytage.

The Services

ROYAL NAVAL VOLUNTEER RESERVE OFFICERS' DECORATION

The King has approved the award of the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve Officers' Decoration to Surgeon Commander Francis Alexander McLaughlin, R.N.V.R.

ARMY AWARDS

The M.C. has been awarded to Captain Leonard Bapty, R.A.M.C. (*corrected announcement*) and to Captain Arthur Dyce Picton, R.A.M.C., in recognition of gallant and distinguished services in the Middle East.

CASUALTIES IN THE MEDICAL SERVICES

ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS

Captain NORMAN ALTHAM, who died after a short illness on December 22, 1941, in his twenty-eighth year, had been a prisoner of war in Germany since June, 1940. He was the elder son of Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Altham of Buxton and formerly of Salford and Prestwich, Manchester, and was educated at the University of Manchester, where he graduated M.B., Ch.B. in 1938. He entered the R.A.M.C. as lieutenant in November, 1938, was promoted captain in April, 1940, soon after being posted to No. 2 Field Ambulance with the B.E.F. in France, and later was attached to the 1st Battalion the Gordon Highlanders. He was a member of the British Medical Association.

Wounded

Temporary Major William Gordon Macfie.
War Substantive Captain Leonard Bapty, M.C.
War Substantive Captain Aidan Robertson Duff.

Universities and Colleges

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND

BUCKSTON BROWNE LUNCHEON

The Buckston Browne luncheon for Fellows and Members was held on February 12 at Claridge's Hotel, with the President, Sir Alfred Webb-Johnson, in the chair, and on his right hand the Princess Royal, who is an Honorary Fellow of the College and wore the robe and cap. Prof. Stanislaw Stronski represented the President and Prime Minister of Poland. The guests were received by Sir Alfred Webb-Johnson and the two vice-presidents, Surgeon Rear-Admiral G. Gordon-Taylor (now returned from America) and Mr. L. R. Braithwaite, and a large muster of members of the Council. For the first time lady Fellows and Members formed part of the company. Before the assembly of 200 sat down a loyal message was sent to the King as Visitor of the College, and afterwards an acknowledgment was received from His Majesty.

The President in his speech of welcome said that this was a domestic occasion when the Council, acting vicariously as hosts, offered hospitality provided in perpetuity by their faithful friend and colleague, Sir Buckston Browne. He knew that all would wish him, besides thanking the Princess Royal for her attendance, to say how greatly they admired all that Her Royal Highness was doing to help the country to-day. In welcoming Prof. Stronski, Polish Minister of Information, he spoke of the Honorary Fellowship for Prof. A. T. Jurasz, Dean of the Polish Faculty of Medicine in the University of Edinburgh, and said it was designed to do honour to a distinguished Polish surgeon and to a gallant Ally. The ceremony was arranged for that day because the Council felt that many Fellows and Members would wish to take part in the tribute. It carried his thoughts to that heroic Polish girl Manyá Skłodowska, who, leaving her native Warsaw, was destined as Marie Curie to put into the hands of the medical profession the most powerful weapon of healing it has ever wielded. Though Sir Earle Page was present "as one of ourselves" the President knew that all would wish to give him a special welcome and to assure him that the people of this country, as well as of Australia, felt stronger and more confident for his inclusion in the War Cabinet. Dr. Daniel P. O'Brien, representative of the Rocke-

feller Foundation, had impressed the Council by his sympathetic understanding and prompt action when the need arose; his help to the College would be a landmark in its history. Welcoming the vice-chairman of the Baron Trustees, the President said that it was Mr. Danbury's decided conviction and broad vision that led to the further gift from the Trust which came at the very next Council meeting after the disastrous bombing. They were glad to see safe and sound the peripatetic and mercurial President of the Royal College of Physicians after his official visits to Russia and to the United States and Canada. They welcomed the President of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, the Master of the Society of Apothecaries, and the President of the Royal Society of Medicine; also the Chief Medical Officer of the Ministry of Health, and the Directors-General of the Royal Naval, the Army, and the Emergency Medical Services, assuring them of help and co-operation in their great responsibilities. Since the last meeting they had to deplore the loss of a very dear and faithful friend in Sir D'Arcy Power, and of two Honorary Fellows, H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught and Sir Frederick Banting. Addressing his immediate predecessor, Sir Alfred said they might well be thankful that Sir Hugh Lett had presided over the destinies of the College at a time when his qualities of wisdom and courage were so greatly needed; it would always be in his debt for his Herculean labours in evacuating and dispersing the thousands of specimens that were saved from the Museum. The loss had been severe, but they were encouraged by messages of sympathy from many sources—from the King to the humblest worker in the biological sciences—and had received offers of help from all parts of the world: "So we have reason for being confident that within a measurable time after the war we shall be able to acquire once more a collection worthy of the headquarters of British Surgery." When planning for the future, progress and tradition had to be reconciled. In order to be worthy of Hunter's teaching and example, two needs stood out clearly: to preserve the broad bases on which the whole edifice of biological knowledge was built, and at the same time provide for pioneer work under men of wide biological outlook. Lastly, in proposing the health of the founder of the feast, the President spoke of Sir Buckston Browne's splendid vigour and vitality, his gift of keeping young in heart and maintaining an active interest in human affairs. Sir Buckston was enthusiastically cheered on rising to acknowledge the toast, and spoke with resonant voice for all his ninety-one years.

Honorary Fellowship for Prof. Jurasz

The ceremony of admission of Prof. Antoni Jurasz to Fellowship of the College *honoris causa* gave the President an occasion to pay tribute to Poland and the unquenchable Polish spirit under calculated brutality and a deliberate plan to destroy its centres of intellectual life. "We offer you this honour," he said, "in recognition of your own work, but it is also a token of our faith in the complete restoration of your country. The first essential step towards restoration is the training of young men and women for the task, and we have been deeply impressed by your remarkable achievement in establishing a Polish Faculty of Medicine in the University of Edinburgh. You have found a spiritual home north of the Tweed, maybe because centuries ago a colony of Scots settled in Poznan and there have since been many cultural links between Edinburgh and Poland. But your English colleagues wish to show their appreciation of your work by offering you the highest honour they have to bestow."

Prof. Jurasz expressed his sense of the great honour conferred upon him and his gratitude to the President for the touching tribute paid by this gracious and sympathetic gesture to the Polish nation and to colleagues in Poland now enduring such terrible tribulation. He interpreted this personal honour as a desire on the part of the Royal College of Surgeons of England to honour his country and in particular her men of medicine and of science. "It is only through this war," he said, "that the great Western democracies have come to realize fully that, in a nation's struggle for life, the decisive factor is not the numbers of inhabitants, their wealth, or the absolute superiority of their armed forces, but that it is—as you, Mr. President, have so rightly mentioned—the spirit inherent in each

individual, and therefore in the nation as a whole, which determines its greatness and its claim to continued existence. Great Britain and Poland—so different geographically and politically—are, however, very similar in respect of their spirit, idealism, and determination. We have to fight together to establish, not only this inner battle line by strengthening our own scientific and professional relations, but we have to make up our minds to use this growing intellectual army to win the peace for which we are striving."

Before the proceedings ended the Princess Royal in a few gracious words said how pleased she was to be present on this occasion and to add her congratulations to Prof. Jurasz on the honour conferred upon him by the College.

The Bradshaw Lecture will be delivered at the College (Lincoln's Inn Fields, W.C.) on Thursday, February 26, at 2.30 p.m., by Surgeon Rear-Admiral G. Gordon-Taylor on "Abdominal Injuries of Modern Warfare." Fellows and Members of the College are invited to attend. Students and others who are not Fellows or Members of the College will be admitted on presenting their private visiting cards.

The above lecture takes the place of the Hunterian Lecture announced in our issue of January 17 (p. 96) to be given by Surgeon Rear-Admiral Gordon-Taylor on February 26.

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

The Raymond Horton-Smith prize for the best M.D. thesis presented in the academical year 1940-1 has been awarded to J. O. Poynton, M.D., of Gonville and Caius College.

At a Congregation held on February 6 the following medical and surgical degrees were conferred:

M.D.—W. H. Valentine, E. T. C. Spooner.

M.B., B.Chir.—*E. V. Hope, *S. L. Melville, *G. C. Franklin, *A. H. Rea, *N. Gillman, G. F. Purves.

* By proxy.

UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD

At a meeting of the University Council, held on February 13, it was decided that because of the close association of the department of pharmacology with clinical teaching and because the professor of pharmacology is responsible for the teaching of therapeutics, the department of pharmacology should in future be given the title of Department of Pharmacology and Therapeutics, and that the professor of pharmacology should be given the title of Professor of Pharmacology and Therapeutics.

Medical Notes in Parliament

The Factories (Notification of Diseases) Regulations, 1942, made under the Factories Act, 1937, was presented to Parliament on February 5. This extends the provisions of Section 66 of the Act to toxic anaemia.

Sir Ernest Graham-Little, Sir Henry Morris-Jones, Dr. Summerskill, Captain Elliston, and Sir John Graham Kerr tabled a motion calling for a Select Committee to inquire into the considerations which obstruct the exclusive provision as a war measure of a national wheatmeal loaf.

Silicosis among Tin-miners

On February 10 Mr. MESSER asked the Secretary for Mines if the one medical inspector in the Mines Department, who was responsible for nearly 1,000,000 workers in mines and quarries, was sufficient medical staff, in view of the possibility of the tin mines being reopened. He also asked if the Minister was aware that silicosis was much more prevalent among tin-miners than among coal-miners, and that the annual report for 1938 showed that out of 1,500 workers 20 died of silicosis.

Mr. D. GRENFELL replied that it was well known that silicosis was present in Cornish tin-miners, and that certain preventive measures were laid down by regulation to protect the workers against the incidence of this disease. He did not think that the men in Cornwall were lacking attention from want of medical knowledge on the subject. The inspectorate of the Mines Department was sufficient for this purpose, but a very extensive investigation had been going on under the Research Board. The Lord President of the Council was in charge of it, and he expected a very comprehensive report from that body within a few weeks.