

The Services

A Supplement to the *London Gazette* dated February 24, 1942, announces that the King has approved the appointment of H.M. The Queen to be Colonel-in-Chief of the Royal Army Medical Corps.

R.N.V.R. OFFICERS' DECORATION

The King has approved the award of the R.N.V.R. Officers' Decoration to Surgeon Commanders Basil William Crowhurst Archer and Albert Stanley Bradlaw, and Acting Surgeon Commander Hugh Mason Willoughby, R.N.V.R.

ARMY AWARDS

The King has conferred the Efficiency Decoration of the Territorial Army on Colonel A. McK. Reid, M.C., and on Lieut.-Colonel (Acting Colonel) A. MacG. Duff and Lieut.-Colonels A. Bremner, M.C., and W. J. McIntosh, R.A.M.C. (T.A.).

The King has awarded the M.C. to Captains Charles Douglas Anderson, Niels Pedersen, and John Stobo Pritchard, R.A.M.C., and Captain Gerald Francis Adye-Curran, I.M.S., in recognition of gallant and distinguished services in the Middle East.

CASUALTIES IN THE MEDICAL SERVICES

CAPTAIN T. V. SOMERVILLE, O.B.E., D.S.O., M.C. with Bar

Great regret will be felt at the death of Captain Thomas Victor Somerville, R.A.M.C., medical officer of the 3rd Hussars, while on active service in the Middle East. On June 1 last he was reported missing, though believed to be alive and well "in enemy territory"; this report was repeated in September. Now he is stated to have died on November 23. Somerville was 54. He was born of Scottish parents in Ceylon, where his father was a planter. His mother was a sister of the late Sir James Yuill. Somerville was sent home to be educated at Framlingham. Thereafter he trained and qualified M.R.C.V.S. Lond.,

proceeding immediately to study medicine at the London Hospital in order to obtain the double qualification—in medicine as well as in veterinary surgery—to prepare himself the better for future work abroad. He obtained the M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. in 1914. After taking a course at the London School of Tropical Medicine, Somerville was appointed house-physician and house-surgeon at the Royal Sussex Hospital, Hastings. When there were rumours of war in 1914 he resigned his appointment and joined the Army—the day before the outbreak of war—proceeding to France with the



Expeditionary Force. At first he was attached to the Field Artillery, being transferred later to the 2nd Battalion the Highland Light Infantry. After the armistice Somerville went to Russia with the 1918 Expeditionary Force, returning home with this Force after nine months' service there. In 1916 he was awarded the M.C. for an act of conspicuous gallantry near Ypres, and in 1918 a bar to the M.C. for many acts of courage and bravery while he stayed behind during the March retreat to tend the wounded. In November, 1919, he was awarded the O.B.E. (Military Division). For a year he held the appointment as civil surgeon at Baghdad, then came back to England, settling in general practice at Monkseaton, near Newcastle. About fifteen years ago he came to Bournemouth, continuing in general practice in the Winton area there. Soon after the outbreak of the present war Somerville, although over 50, volunteered again, and saw active service in Libya. On May 6 last he was gazetted as having been mentioned in dispatches for distinguished services in the Middle East. In the same number of the *London Gazette* (dated May 6) was the notification of the award to him of the D.S.O. "in recognition of gallant and distinguished services in the Middle East." In the *Listener* of May 1, 1941, is the record of a broadcast, which many will remember having heard, made by a B.B.C. observer in the

Middle East, in which he described incidents of astonishing bravery on the part of Captain Somerville. One of these he narrates thus: "After Sidi Barrani, during the advance towards Sollum, Somerville was to be seen driving about, under intense fire, sitting on the top of his 'dingo' with shells bursting all round and machine-gun bullets whistling past. Why he wasn't killed I don't know. Backwards and forwards he went fetching and tending his wounded men till all had been seen to." Thomas Somerville was of a quiet, retiring disposition, never strong physically, and of gentle temperament; a man of deeds rather than words; brave as a lion; there was none braver or more gallant. Much sympathy will be felt by a large circle of friends with his wife and married daughter, who, after waiting in dreadful suspense for so many months, have now to mourn his loss.

S. W. S.

War Substantive Captain GUTHRIE MORGAN WADSWORTH is included as "Died" in an Army Council Casualty List published on February 21. He was born on December 17, 1899, and was educated at the University of Leeds, graduating M.B., Ch.B. in 1923, and at University College, London, taking the diplomas of M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. in 1924. He had held the post of first house-physician at the General Infirmary at Leeds, and had practised in Durham, Merionethshire, Lincolnshire, Surrey, and Kent, and at the outbreak of war was living at Blackheath, London. He entered the R.A.M.C. as temporary lieutenant in September, 1939, and was promoted captain a year later. He had been a member of the British Medical Association for fifteen years.

Lieut. RICHARD HUGH SMITH died at Enniskillen, Ireland, on February 18. He was educated at the University of Cambridge and St. Thomas's Hospital, and qualified M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. in 1932. He held the post of casualty officer and house-surgeon at the Royal Berkshire Hospital, Reading, before settling in practice at Aldershot. In 1935 he moved to Poole, where he resided until he joined the R.A.M.C. as temporary lieutenant in December last year.

DEATHS IN THE SERVICES

SURGEON REAR-ADMIRAL F. L. SMITH, O.B.E., R.N.

The sudden death on February 18 at the age of 60 of Surgeon Rear-Admiral Frank Lewis Smith has come as a great shock to his many friends and acquaintances both in and outside the Services. His general disposition and cheery manner had endeared him to many, while his extensive knowledge of Service matters and of affairs in general was always at the disposal of those who cared to ask; nothing was too much trouble for him, and if he did not know the answer he could always suggest a way to find it. His organizing ability was of a high order, and his energy in carrying out his duties was unremitting: that he died on his way to work in "the Department" which he loved is probably what he himself would have wished, though both the Navy and the Medical Branch are the poorer for it.

Born in 1881, the son of Ralph Smith of Whitby, he was educated at Dulwich and underwent his medical training at St. Thomas's Hospital. He entered the Royal Navy in November, 1909, and after service in China returned to England shortly before the outbreak of the last war, and served in the Royal Naval Hospital and Dockyard at Pembroke Dock till 1916. Thence he joined H.M.S. *Caroline* in the Grand Fleet, and later he was appointed to the Royal Naval Hospital, Chatham, where he served as specialist in x rays. After further sea service as senior medical officer of the aircraft-carriers *Hermes* and *Furious*, he came to the Admiralty in 1926 as assistant to the Medical Director-General, and remained until promoted to surgeon captain in 1931. After promotion he went as principal medical officer of the Royal Naval Barracks, Portsmouth, and in 1934-8 was in medical charge of the Royal Marine Infirmary and Depot at Deal. In 1938 he was advanced to the rank of surgeon rear-admiral and placed on the retired list.

On the outbreak of war he was recalled to the Medical Department to take up his war appointment as principal medical transport officer for the Navy, a post for which his previous experience and organizing ability made him eminently suitable, and which he filled with such success that his place will indeed be hard to fill. His liaison with the other fighting Services, as well as the Ministry of Health and various Admiralty depots, was invaluable. He also acted as the link between the Medical Departments of the Navies of this country and the U.S.A. His

kindly personality and practical mind maintained a close and harmonious bond between the Services. During his long service at the Admiralty he had the unusual privilege of serving under five Medical Directors-General.

Lieut.-Colonel KENNETH MONTAGUE NELSON, M.C., R.A.M.C., died at Camberley on February 18. He was born on June 23, 1890, and received his medical education at St. Mary's Hospital, qualifying M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. in 1915. He immediately entered the R.A.M.C. as temporary lieutenant, took a permanent commission in 1917, and was promoted captain in 1921, major in 1927, and lieutenant-colonel in 1940. He served in the war of 1914-18, was mentioned in dispatches in 1917, and received the Military Cross. He leaves a widow.

Universities and Colleges

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

W. W. C. Topley, M.D., F.R.S., F.R.C.P., Secretary of the Agricultural Research Council and formerly Professor of Bacteriology and Immunology, University of London, and Director of the Division of Bacteriology and Immunology, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, has been elected to an Honorary Fellowship of St. John's College.

At a Congregation held on February 28 a Grace was approved for conferment of a degree of M.A. upon Clarence Reginald Rapp, M.D. Toronto, University Demonstrator in Anatomy.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

At a meeting of the Senate on February 25 the degree of D.Sc. was conferred on F. R. Winton, M.D., professor of pharmacology at University College, and on C. L. Hewett, an internal student of the Royal Cancer Hospital.

The William Julius Mickle Fellowship was awarded to Alexander Fleming, M.B., F.R.C.S., professor of bacteriology at St. Mary's Hospital Medical School.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE HOSPITAL MEDICAL SCHOOL

Lecture

The fourteenth biennial Sydney Ringer Memorial Lecture will be delivered by Prof. F. R. Winton, M.D., D.Sc., in the lecture theatre of the school (University Street, Gower Street, W.C.) on Tuesday, March 17, at 4 p.m. His subject is "The Physical Factors Controlling the Formation of Urine." The lecture is open to all qualified practitioners and medical students.

Scholarships and Exhibition

The University College Hospital Medical School announces that two Goldsmid Entrance Scholarships, entitling the holder to the final course of medical study, will be offered for competition in July. They are open to students who are preparing for the degrees of the Universities of London, Oxford, Cambridge, Durham, or other British universities, or for the diplomas of the Royal Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons; also one Goldsmid Entrance Exhibition and one Filliter Entrance Scholarship in Pathology entitling holders to a reduction by £80 and £52 10s. respectively of the fees due for the full course of final medical study. Notice of intention to compete must reach the secretary of the school (from whom full particulars can be obtained), University Street, Gower Street, W.C.1, by July 4.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND

Council Election

The Council has decided not to send out this year the circular generally known as the "first notice of the Council Election." It was felt that there would be no justification for the use of some 2,000 leaflets and envelopes merely to announce the date of the election and the date by which intending candidates must send in their nomination forms, especially as it has been found in the past that the majority of candidates send in their nominations before the issue of this circular.

Candidates for election must send in their applications to the Secretary at the College by Monday, March 16, as stated in the advertisement in this issue of the *British Medical Journal*.

The voting papers will be sent out to all Fellows in the usual manner on Friday, March 27, and the election is on July 2.

Medical Notes in Parliament

Ministry of Health Report

A summary report by the Ministry of Health for the period from April 1, 1939, to March 31, 1941, was presented to Parliament on February 26. For some time members had pressed for such a summary to be issued in lieu of the annual reports, which are in abeyance.

Medical Boards

Answering questions on February 12 about the grading of Army recruits, Mr. BEVIN said the decision as to grading was taken by the medical board and not by an individual doctor. There had, however, been eight cases in which appointments of chairmen or members of medical boards were terminated on account of unsuitability or inefficiency. In some other cases in which appointments were not continued relative inefficiency or unsuitability was one of the reasons. He could not give any precise figures under this head. The Medical Advisory Committee under the chairmanship of Lord Horder, which assisted the Department in making the arrangements for medical examination, had given it as their opinion that the proportion of men passed by the boards as fit for service and found later to be unfit was small.

Compensation for Injured Civilians

On February 17 Sir WALTER WOMERSLEY said that the Personal Injuries (Emergency Provisions) Act, 1939, provided for the grant of injury allowances in respect of war injuries and war service injuries, both of which were defined in the Act as physical injuries. Injuries to the brain as the direct result of concussion, and cases of shock originating from direct exposure to bomb explosion or blast in which the resulting incapacity for work started from the time of the incident, might be accepted as physical injuries for the purposes of compensation under the Personal Injuries (Civilians) Scheme. Compensation was not payable under the scheme for neurasthenia and similar sickness induced merely by apprehension and fears occasioned by enemy activity in which there was no physical injury.

Milk

Lord WOOLTON, in reply on February 18 to a debate on the distribution of milk, said he had encouraged the men engaged in the milk trade to eliminate by consent wasteful methods of distribution. There had been increased efficiency as a result. The Ministry of Food had diverted milk to areas where the national interest required it. In the northern half of England in December, 1941, 1,250,000 more gallons of milk were provided than in December, 1940. In the South of England production was up, but consumption was forced down. Only by such means could the Government be certain that children and invalids would have milk in the winter. The Government had used this vital food to preserve the national health. He proposed to maintain throughout the year this control over the distribution of milk, but hoped about the middle of March to increase the allowance of non-priority adults from the present 2 pints to 2½ pints weekly. A further increase would be made as soon as possible, but we should not, during the war, go back to unlimited supplies of milk. During the summer milk-powder, condensed milk, and cheese would be made for next winter, but it would be impossible to keep up the supplies of milk to the children of this country without the aid of the United States of America. He could not encourage the hope of any grandiose scheme of rationalizing milk retailing.

The Soap Ration

Major LLOYD GEORGE said on February 18 that Lord Woolton would carefully consider the soap requirements of infants and babies and of families unable to make use of the service of laundries, but had no evidence that the prescribed ration would not prove to be sufficient for every class of domestic consumer. He could not arrange to increase the soap ration in the area of the Metropolitan Water Board on account of the hardness of the water. At collieries where there were pit-head baths provision