

came forward voluntarily when persuaded. Two names of contacts were required if action was taken compulsorily under 33B, but not otherwise. Difficulty had been experienced by medical officers who were uncertain about the legal aspect. There was an idea that if they interviewed people and asked them whether they were aware they had this disease, there might be subsequent actions for slander or defamation of character. Local authorities had been told that if they instructed the medical officer of health to take such action he was protected.

Advisory Committee on Domestic Labour

Mrs. CAZALET KEIR on Jan. 20 asked the Minister of Labour about the progress of his plans for supplying domestic labour to hospitals and other similar services. Mr. ERNEST BEVIN said he found it necessary to give first priority to domestic work in connexion with the care of the sick and wounded, the old and infirm, and young children. He was instructing local offices to pay special attention to the filling of vacancies in this work. An advisory committee had now been formed, under the chairmanship of Mr. McCorquodale, and had held its first meeting.

[This Standing Advisory Committee on Institutional Domestic Employment includes one medical member—Dr. F. Hall, County Medical Officer of Health, Lancashire.]

Availability of Quinine in Bengal

Sir ARCHIBALD SOUTHBY inquired on Dec. 20 whether adequate stocks of quinine existed in Bengal, and whether it was possible for the public to buy quinine.

Mr. AMERY replied that large quantities of quinine had throughout been available to the Government of Bengal, but until the middle of November the arrangements for its distribution inside the Province were unsatisfactory. These had been improved. Distribution in the famine areas was mainly free through hospitals, doctors, and the military relief organization. Sale to the public was controlled at Rs. 37 per lb., but local shortages had driven trade stocks underground and black market prices were much higher.

Decisions of Medical Boards

On Jan. 25 Mr. TOMLINSON, replying to Mr. Kirby, said that there was no provision for appeals against the decisions of medical boards. If, however, medical evidence was produced which suggested that there was some room for doubt regarding the correctness of a man's grading, the case was considered by a medical officer of the Ministry of Labour, and where appropriate the man was re-examined. Moreover, men directed to enrol in the Home Guard had a statutory right to appeal against the direction to a local appeal board, which, if of opinion that the man should be medically re-examined, must recommend withdrawal of the direction with a view to such re-examination.

Typhus in Naples

Sir JAMES GRIGG on Jan. 25 informed Mr. G. Strauss that the typhus epidemic in Naples was confined to the civilian population, among whom the incidence had steadily increased since the summer. Control of the epidemic was in the hands of the Deputy Chief Civil Affairs Officer and the United States Typhus Commission. Mass disinfection and the inoculation of key personnel had been organized.

The Nation's Milk Distribution

In the House of Commons on Jan. 25 Colonel LLEWELLIN made an explanatory statement on the new Defence Regulation 55G, which imposes restrictions on the sale of raw milk in certain areas. He said that the policy of the Government on measures to improve the quality of the nation's milk supply was set out in a White Paper published last July. This regulation carried out that policy in so far as it was concerned with the control of the classes of milk sold in certain areas. The need for this control was fully explained in the White Paper. The regulation prohibited the sale of milk by retail in areas to be specified in Orders to be made by him unless it was T.T. milk and, in Scotland, certified milk; accredited milk and, in Scotland, standard milk, so long as in both these cases they were derived from a single herd; or heat-treated, pasteurized, or sterilized milk. The areas which would be specified were those in which a rationalization scheme was in force for economizing the use of men and vehicles, and thereby having the effect of restricting consumers in the choice of their dairymen. No area would be specified until he was satisfied that facilities existed for supplying adequate quantities of heat-treated milk to meet the requirements of the area.

Mental Hospitals in Scotland.—On Jan. 18 Major LLOYD asked the Secretary of State for Scotland whether he was aware that the status and administration of the Royal mental hospitals were not considered by the Hetherington Committee, although these hospitals

were an integral part of the health services in Scotland. Mr. JOHNSTON said he was informed that, in refraining from making recommendations based on the evidence which they received on the subject of the Royal mental hospitals, the committee had in mind that the mental hospital service rested on a special code of law which was at present being reviewed by the Russell Committee on the Lunacy and Mental Deficiency Laws of Scotland. The position of the Royal mental hospitals in relation to the proposed new health service was not being overlooked.

Diet of Miners.—Sir E. GRAHAM-LITTLE on Jan. 18 asked the Minister of Food whether he would institute an inquiry into the diet of miners and other sections of the community engaged in hard physical labour, as there was evidence that a deficiency in energy-producing items of diet accounted for much of the absenteeism now impeding the production of coal and other vital war efforts. Mr. MABANE replied that the nutritional requirements of every class of consumer were under constant review by his Department, and special attention was now being given to the needs of the types of workers referred to.

The Services

The *London Gazette* has announced the award of the M.C. to Fl. Lieut. R. J. L. Ferris, R.A.F. The announcement reads as follows:

Fl. Lieut. Ferris, the medical officer of No. 74 Squadron, has displayed outstanding gallantry and devotion to duty. During a period in October, 1943, his headquarters was subjected to severe enemy air attacks. On one occasion four men were killed and two others were buried under the debris. Fl. Lieut. Ferris immediately set to work removing the bodies and releasing the buried men. His medical equipment had been destroyed and he was compelled to work with a pair of scissors and a small wood-saw, with which he succeeded in releasing one man after amputating his leg. Fl. Lieut. Ferris accomplished this while the air attack was in progress and worked with very little light and while held upside down by his legs. During an engagement between British and enemy ground forces he treated military and civilian casualties alike. Fl. Lieut. Ferris worked incessantly under most rigorous conditions. His coolness and courage proved a source of inspiration to all.

The Efficiency Decoration has been conferred upon the following officers of the Territorial Army: Col. H. A. B. Whitelocke, late R.A.M.C.; Lieut.-Col. (temp. Col.) W. H. Marston; Lieut.-Cols. T. F. Arnott, O.B.E., and S. J. Hartfall; Majors (temp. Lieut.-Cols.) J. A. Bruce and F. Heywood-Jones; and Majors H. W. Davies, L. F. Jeffcoat (T.A.R.O.), C. R. L'E. Orme, and L. F. Richmond, R.A.M.C.

The following have been mentioned in dispatches by Air Officers Commanding-in-Chief:

Gp. Capt. J. K. R. Landells; Gp. Capt. (Acting) A. Harvey, C. J. S. O'Malley; Wing Cmdrs. T. J. X. Canton, L. E. A. Dearberg, G. A. M. Knight, J. W. Patrick, C. E. G. Wickham; Wing Cmdrs. (Acting) H. H. S. Brown, R. C. Jackson, J. H. L. Newnham; Wing Cmdr. (Acting) E. B. Harvey, R.A.F.O.; Squad. Ldrs. W. Hargrave-Wilson, A. L. Knipe, M. L. Maley, S. Rogers, A. S. Simpson, D. Turner, J. L. W. Walls, R.A.F.V.R.; Squad. Ldrs. (Acting) B. J. Bickford, E. R. Brown, I. W. H. R. Cran, C. F. Hamilton-Turner, W. L. Hector, R. N. Houlding, D. A. Ker, H. J. Lillie, P. J. O'Connor, J. E. Smith, D. Stafford-Clark, M. W. L. White, R.A.F.V.R.; Fl. Lieuts. T. G. Band, A. J. Chiappa-Sinclair, P. J. Bryce-Curtis, R. C. Dickson, R. E. Glennie, C. M. Liddell, A. D. MacLean, A. F. Pearson, T. Primrose, O. H. Sennett, J. A. Sutton, H. M. Urquhart, R.A.F.V.R.; Squad. Officer (Acting) A. L. J. Dovey, W.A.A.F.

CASUALTIES IN THE MEDICAL SERVICES

Killed in action.—Capt. J. F. V. Lart, R.A.M.C.

Reported missing.—Surg. Cmdr. H. de B. Kempthorne, R.N.

Killed.—War Subs. Capt. D. W. Forgan, R.A.M.C.

Universities and Colleges

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

At a graduation ceremonial on Jan. 22 the following medical degrees were conferred:

M.D.—T. G. Brown, Christing M.D. M'Taggart.
Ph.D.—(In the Faculty of Medicine): F. Alexander.
M.B., Ch.B.—P. Aitken, C. A. Barrett, E. Bindman, T. F. Boyle, D. Cameron, J. A. Campbell, T. I. Crichton, T. G. Crombie, A. W. B. Cunningham, J. N. Dobson, T. E. Donaldson, K. Drummond, W. A. Egging, J. Elkin, W. H. Elliott, S. J. Evans, J. W. Farquhar, D. H. Forster, G. F. Hawkins, A. G. Henderson, D. W. D. Hendry, J. M. Herd, J. M. Kerr, D. K. Kouyoumdjian, C. E. Lim, J. W. F. Lumsden, H. F. Lyon, *R. J. M. McCormack, G. D. McDonald, A. H. McKerrow, R. S. McNeil, J. H. Macpherson, D. MacVicar, J. D. Malloch, J. S. Milne, J. F. O. Mitchell, R. G. Mitchell, T. R. Nelson, J. A. Paterson, R. M.C. Paterson, *P. Pinkerton, R. R. Pratt, K. Rhaney, *I. M. Richardson, Jessie R. Robinson (née McLaren), G. J. Romanes, R. S. Ross, J. T. R. Russell, Isabella M. Scott, J. H. Scott, B. M. L. Shiels, E. S. Shoucair, Catherine M. G. Smith, Margaret S. Stevenson, R. C. F. Todman, S. P. T. Walbaum, J. H. Walmsley, I. Wang, Elizabeth Whalley, W. E. J. Wilson, G. D. Wright.

*With honours.