

Universities and Colleges

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND

THE DUKE OF GLOUCESTER AN HONORARY FELLOW

On March 8 the King and the Duke of Gloucester lunched with the Council of the Royal College of Surgeons at the College in Lincoln's Inn Fields. The occasion was the admission of the Duke of Gloucester to the Honorary Fellowship, and His Majesty attended in his capacity as Visitor of the College. Mr. S. M. Bruce, High Commissioner for Australia, was also among those present. After luncheon the King and the Duke of Gloucester inspected the damage done to the College by enemy action and the steps now being taken towards restoration.

The President, Sir Alfred Webb-Johnson, recalled the names of members of the Royal Family who had honoured the College by accepting Honorary Fellowship; their association with the College was greatly prized and appreciated by all its Fellows and Members. Addressing the Duke of Gloucester he said that they were particularly pleased that he should visit the College before departing for Australia because they had very close associations with the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons. Its ceremonial mace was a gift from the Council of the English College, and the portrait of Lister hanging in its hall was also a present from this country; its buildings were opened in 1935 by Sir Holburt Waring, at that time P.R.C.S. Its Immediate Past President, Sir Hugh Devine, was made an Honorary F.R.C.S. in 1939, but had not been able to visit this country since his election, and the President asked His Royal Highness to hand him the diploma.

The senior Vice-President, Mr. H. S. Souttar, presented the Duke for admission as an Honorary Fellow, and the Duke in reply to the President's welcome expressed his sense of the honour paid him by the Council in enrolling him in the presence of the King. He would carry his new title proudly to Australia, and looked forward to an early opportunity there of presenting his diploma, on behalf of the Council, to Sir Hugh Devine. Conferment of the Honorary Fellowship gave him, he said, "an association with this distinguished College which I am proud to possess, and when I eventually return from the office to which His Majesty has been pleased to appoint me I shall hope for another opportunity of meeting you all again."

COUNCIL MEETING

An ordinary meeting of the Council of the College was held on March 9, with Sir Alfred Webb-Johnson, President, in the chair. Prof. W. E. Gye, F.R.S., was appointed Imperial Cancer Research Fund Lecturer for the year 1944. A legacy of £1,000 from the late T. P. Legg was reported. The Council expressed thanks to the President for a number of gifts, including a portrait of H.M. the King, and also to Lady Webb-Johnson for her gift of a portrait of the President.

Diplomas were granted, jointly with the Royal College of Physicians, as follows:

DIPLOMA IN OPHTHALMIC MEDICINE AND SURGERY.—H. F. Chard, P. J. Devlin, C. J. Evans, J. C. Greenwood, A. Hirstenstein, A. Hollingsworth, Lettice M. Hughes, P. Jardine, R. L. Kerr, Monica Low, H. F. Melhuish, F. R. Neubert, R. E. Packer, C. L. D. J. Schepens, A. S. Scott, Elizabeth D. L. Simpson, H. Treisman.

DIPLOMA IN MEDICAL RADIOLOGY.—D. T. Burke, O. Englander, Karel Mendi, M. Sheehan, E. W. Spencer.

The Services

Surg. Lieut.-Cmdr. J. D. Lendrum and Temp. Surg. Lieut. J. P. W. Grant, R.N.V.R., have been mentioned in dispatches for services during the action in which the *Scharnhorst* was engaged and sunk.

CASUALTIES IN THE MEDICAL SERVICES

Prisoners of war.—War Subs. Capt. M. H. Churchill, Capt. J. Hendry, War Subs. Capt. P. MacArthur, R.A.M.C.

Missing, presumed killed.—Prob. Temp. Surg. Lieut. M. C. Cross, R.N.V.R.

Killed in action.—Lieut. A. Pearlman, R.A.M.C.

DEATHS IN THE SERVICES

Col. EDGAR HUNT CONDON, A.M.S.(ret.), who died at his home in Exmouth on Feb. 13, was born in India in 1868, educated at Westward Ho! and Aberdeen University, and joined the R.A.M.C. in 1893, going out to India the following year. He was on active service for the greater part of the South African War and then served in India for many years, being A.D.M.S. Northern Command during the last war. On retiring in 1921 he was for 10 years in private practice at Ivybridge, Devon, and finally settled in Exmouth, where he gave valuable service as honorary M.O. to the

Exmouth Dispensary, and took charge of the gas section at the first-aid post when war broke out. Col. Condon was an excellent all-round sportsman, having won many medals for swimming in his youth, played rugby for his university, and later played tennis, golf, badminton, and billiards with marked success both in India and England. He played tennis for Wales while stationed there from 1908 to 1913. His loss is deplored by a wide circle of friends.

Medical Notes in Parliament

On March 7 Dr. Charles Hill addressed the Parliamentary Medical Group on the National Health Service scheme proposed by the Government. On March 9 Mr. Eden announced that two days during the next series of sittings of the House of Commons would be allotted to a debate on this scheme.

Mental Hospital Accommodation

On Feb. 24 Mr. JOSEPH HENDERSON asked the Minister of Health whether, with a view to reducing the high death rate from tuberculosis in mental hospitals, he would consider the desirability of securing high priority for building work in connexion with mental hospitals.

Mr. WILLINK regretted that it was impracticable under present conditions to give priority to the construction of new accommodation at mental hospitals. It was also impracticable to release during the war the accommodation taken over for the Emergency Hospital Scheme or for the use of the Forces. General conditions in mental hospitals, including ventilation and dietaries, were kept constantly under review in the interests of the health of the patients. The death rate in these hospitals, though it rose at the beginning of the war, had fallen considerably. The Ministry hoped for a fall in the tuberculosis rate.

A National Water Plan

When Mr. Willink, on Feb. 24, moved the second reading of the Anglesey County Council Water Bill, Mr. LEVY proposed that the House should decline to do so until legislation had been passed dealing with the national water resources. He said no local authority or combination of local authorities could provide the country with an adequate water supply and drainage system unless the subject were dealt with by the Government in a national water plan. There should be a national water board and also a regional control over each watershed area. Of all commodities the nation used, two had no standard of purity. One was water and the other was milk. Thousands of dairy farmers could not get a Grade A certificate for their milk because there was no water to wash the utensils or the cattle. The Government dared not have a purity standard for water, because then nearly all the service wells would be condemned and a number of urban supplies.

Mr. WILLINK, in reply, said he would study in detail what had been said. From his first day at the Ministry of Health he had applied his mind to water supply. He had promised to introduce a Bill covering sewage in addition to rural water supplies, and he would lay a White Paper. The Government was not content with the local or with the general arrangements for water supply. Let it not go out that the water supplies in this country were a disgrace. Ninety-five per cent. of the people had a piped supply. Typhoid deaths were the lowest in the world. He hoped to put the rural water proposals before the House before Easter.

Mr. Levy withdrew his opposition and the Anglesey Bill was read a second time.

Compulsory Notification of V.D.

On Feb. 29 Dr. SUMMERSKILL asked the Secretary of State for Scotland whether his attention had been drawn to the resolution passed by the conference of local health authorities in Scotland urging the Government to introduce legislation to provide for the compulsory notification and treatment of venereal disease; and what action he intended to take. Mr. JOHNSTON: Yes; I have also received a report from my Medical Advisory Committee, whom I asked last year to consider certain aspects of the problem of the control and treatment of venereal diseases. That report will shortly be published as a Command Paper. I am not in a position to indicate what consequential steps will be taken.

National Health in Tanganyika

A debate on conditions in Tanganyika Territory took place in the House of Lords on Feb. 29. Lord CHESHAM asked the Government what steps they proposed to implement the recommendations in the report made to the Governor of the Territory in May, 1940, and pointed out that millions of natives were now existing at a very low standard of subsistence. The soil, he said, was losing fertility through lack of knowledge of good