

## Universities and Colleges

### ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF LONDON

#### Election of Fellows

At a meeting of the College held on April 27, with Lord Moran, President, in the chair, the following were elected Fellows:

Norman Kletts, M.B. (Manchester); D. W. Winnicott, M.R.C.S. (London); S. E. Tanner, M.D. (Leicester); T. C. St. C. Morton, O.B.E., M.D. (R.A.F.); William Gunn, M.B. (London); A. Wilson Gill, M.D. (Newcastle, Staffs); C. N. Armstrong, M.D. (Newcastle-upon-Tyne); P. H. O'Donovan, M.D. (Nottingham); A. S. Wesson, M.D., F.R.C.S. (London); R. W. Brookfield, M.D. (Liverpool); H. A. Clegg, M.B. (London); W. E. Rees, M.D. (Swansea); P. E. T. Hancock, M.B. (London); A. B. Taylor, M.D. (Birmingham); T. F. Hewer, M.D. (Bristol); I. J. Wood, M.B.E., M.D., F.R.A.C.P. (Australia); G. B. Mitchell-Heggs, M.D. (London); R. E. Tunbridge, M.D. (Leeds); W. I. Card, M.D. (London); C. H. Stuart-Harris, M.D. (London); F. Graham Lescher, M.C., M.D. (Derby); C. T. Potter, M.D. (London); Sir Rupert Briercliffe, C.M.G., O.B.E., M.D. (Barbados); C. G. Barnes, M.D. (London); J. R. Rees, M.D. (London); A. R. Gilchrist, M.D. (Edinburgh); G. L. Taylor, M.D. (Cambridge); Alexander Fleming, F.R.S., F.R.C.S. (London); D. K. Henderson, M.D., F.R.C.P.Ed. (Edinburgh); Lieut.-Gen. Sir Alexander Hood, K.C.B., C.B.E., M.D.; Col. W. S. Middleton, M.D., F.A.C.P. (America).

Dr. G. E. S. Ward was appointed external examiner in medicine for the Fellowship Examination of the Faculty of Radiologists. L. A. Clark, Dr. H. A. Dunlop, Dr. R. V. Christie, and Sir Robert Stanton-Woods were appointed examiners for the Diploma in Physical Medicine. Dr. Leonard Parsons and Dr. Donald Paterson were appointed representatives to attend the conference of the National Association of Maternity and Child Welfare Centres.

The following candidates, having satisfied the Censors' Board, were admitted members:

I. Ansell, M.B., Sheila T. E. Callender, M.D., Joyce A. Keeping, M.D., K. H. Lim, M.B., Fl. Lieut. D. S. Munroe, R.C.A.F., Y. H. Ng, M.B., Capt. C. G. Phillips, R.A.M.C., Flying Officer O. L. S. Scott, R.A.F., Capt. P. J. Sweeney, R.A.M.C., G. T. G. Thomas, M.B., Col. J. R. D. Webb, O.B.E., I.M.S.

Licences to practise were conferred upon the following 146 candidates (including 21 women) who had passed the Final Examination in Medicine, Surgery, and Midwifery of the Conjoint Board, and have complied with the necessary by-laws:

C. C. A. Adeniyi-Jones, T. B. Anderson, W. A. Ashford Hodges, C. G. Attenborough, D. B. Austin, J. P. Barham, J. A. Barlas, D. V. Bates, R. L. Batten, M. A. Bazett, M. Bendit, Jean G. Brabner, D. L. Broadhead, Jean A. Broughton-Alcock, A. Brown, G. L. Bunton, E. Burman, R. Cannon, I. McC. Carmichael, Frances N. Carr, A. P. Chaudhuri, Peggy J. Clark, D. M. Clement, S. Coffey, W. R. Cole, M. D. M. Collins, A. Comfort, H. A. Condon, G. N. Cooke, W. E. Craddock, J. A. Daff, J. E. Davies, C. C. Dawson, C. E. Dent, A. B. Dickie, Mary P. Douglas, J. A. Dudgeon, N. A. Duncan, W. J. D. Eberlie, D. A. W. Edwards, G. K. Emsley, H. L. English, A. M. Evans, E. A. Fairburn, Mary Farquharson, T. R. Farrimond, R. L. M. Ferrari, C. G. Fox, S. Freedman, J. Fry, J. H. Gibson, H. McC. Giles, M. T. Gillies, M. L. Græme, B. Green, B. V. I. Greenish, Cecilie Greig, S. C. Harper, H. L. Harris, W. R. Harrison, C. J. V. Helliwell, J. M. Hill, C. B. Holmes, H. Howell-Jones, Rachael C. A. Hunter, L. G. Jackson, D. M. M. Jones, J. G. P. Jones, V. H. Jones, H. Kaufman, M. D. Keates, J. V. Kent, A. C. de C. Kerr, Eileen Keverter, June M. Kingan, Elizabeth M. Kingsley Pillers, Joyce E. Landau, F. W. Lapage, L. G. H. Le Clercq, J. C. S. Levertton, L. N. Lightstone, D. W. R. Lyle, J. D. M. Lytle, P. F. M. MacDonagh, P. N. MacGinnis, I. L. McKelvie, J. L. F. Maine, Sheila M. Martin, M. B. Matthews, E. V. M. Medill, J. L. Middlemiss, R. Milton, Stella M. Murray, Constance B. S. Napier, R. W. Nash, H. M. Noorooya, K. W. Oldham, K. Owen, C. R. Oyler, D. B. L. Pailthorpe, K. E. Pembrey, P. B. Philip-Smith, T. L. C. Pratt, Kathleen L. Prendergast, J. R. Prentice, C. F. G. Prideaux, D. H. Rees, R. E. Rees, T. H. Richards, G. F. Roberts, J. Roche, R. C. Roxburgh, D. Ryan, J. R. T. Selby, W. S. Sellars, E. S. Shalom, Patricia E. Sichel, O. A. Sills, P. H. Smith, W. H. R. Smith, H. P. Speed, S. J. Steel, T. R. Steen, J. W. Stewart, Catherine Storr, L. W. Sulciman, J. L. Taylor, G. H. Tee, Barbara K. Thompson, D. A. Tilsley, I. P. Todd, W. G. Toole, F. I. Tovey, P. M. Tow, D. R. D. Vanstone, M. H. D. Veale, J. L. Wakelin, Jean M. Watson, B. L. Whitehead, J. D. A. Whitelaw, Marjorie J. Williams, J. L. Winkler, M. P. Winstanley, A. B. Wood, G. J. E. Wood, G. S., Yeoh.

Diplomas in Ophthalmic Medicine and Surgery (17), and Medical Radiology (5) were granted, jointly with the Royal College of Surgeons of England to the persons whose names were published in a report of the Royal College of Surgeons of England in the *Journal* of March 18 (p. 409). Diplomas in Child Health were granted to the 16 persons whose names were published in the report of the meeting of the Royal College of Surgeons of England in the *Journal* of April 29 (p. 605).

### UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

In Congregation on April 3 the following medical degrees were conferred:

B.M., B.Ch.—J. B. Jeffries, W. S. Hamilton, W. E. Ormerod, G. R. Venning, R. G. Harrison, T. Bell, P. P. H. Schmidt, Margaret M. Shattock, Joan M. Levitt; and V. W. Zetlin and J. M. K. Marsh (in absence).

### UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

The Linacre Lecture will be delivered by Col. Elliott C. Cutler, M.D., Chief Consultant in Surgery, U.S. Army, European Theatre of Operations, Moseley Professor of Surgery in Harvard University, to-day (Saturday, May 6) at 5 p.m., in the Lecture Room of the Anatomy School. The title of the lecture is "A Surgeon Looks at Two Wars."

The following have been approved for the degree of M.D. in absence: T. B. L. Bryan, A. J. Daly, S. T. Anning.

## Medical Notes in Parliament

### Penicillin Clinical Trials Committee

Answering Major Lyons on April 19 Mr. ATTLEE said the only change in membership of the Penicillin Clinical Trials Committee (set up by the Medical Research Council) since a previous answer on June 10, 1943, had been the appointment of six additional members. A report on the use of penicillin in treating war wounds was published on March 24 as Medical Research Council War Memorandum No. 12. A full account of work done at one of the main centres where trials were being made was published in the *British Medical Journal* on April 15. Further reports were being prepared. There was close contact between the Council and the firms manufacturing penicillin, who were represented on it.

Mr. LEVY: Is my right hon. friend aware that the *British Medical Journal* is a very illuminating journal, which ought to be circulated much more widely than it has been in the past?

Mr. ATTLEE later named the present members of the Committee, as follows: Prof. H. R. Dean (chairman), Prof. J. H. Burn, Dr. A. N. Drury, Surg. Vice-Admiral Sir Sheldon Dudley, Prof. A. Fleming, Prof. H. W. Florey, Dr. A. M. H. Gray, Dr. P. Hartley, Mr. R. Vaughan-Hudson, Air Vice-Marshal G. L. Keynes, Prof. J. R. Learmonth, Major-Gen. L. T. Poole, Dr. C. M. Scott, Dr. J. W. Trevan, Prof. R. V. Christie (secretary), and Prof. L. P. Garrod (assistant secretary).

### Gold Treatment of Arthritis

On April 20 Major LYONS inquired what was being done by the Ministry of Health in the development of the gold treatment for arthritis. Mr. WILLINK said clinical research into the value and correct dosage of gold salts in this form of rheumatic disease had been continued by the Empire Rheumatism Council, whose latest report said that no definite conclusions could yet be announced. The results reported as having been obtained by this form of treatment up to the present by no means justified any claim that it was uniformly successful.

### Increase in Short-term Sickness

Mr. WILLINK, answering Sir Henry Morris-Jones on April 20, said sickness benefit claims of approved societies showed a material increase in 1942 and a further rise in 1943, as compared with the pre-war average, in short-term sickness among insured persons, both men and women. It was not possible to state the precise extent of the increase. There was no statistical information available on sickness among domestic housewives. Detailed information on mortality rates was not yet available, but a provisional count indicated that the death rate in 1943 was slightly higher, at 11.1 per 1,000 population, than the figure of 10.5 recorded for 1942.

### Mental Health Services

In reply on April 27 to Mr. Ritson Mr. WILLINK said it would not be feasible to undertake a full restatement of the law of lunacy before the introduction of the National Health Service. At this stage, therefore, it was proposed only to make such amendments as were needed to enable the administration of the mental health services to be included in the one comprehensive service. These would be discussed with the local authorities and others concerned. No general survey of the mental health services was contemplated, but a special survey of certain important aspects, with particular regard to the provision for neurosis, was in progress.

*Tuberculous Ex-Service Men.*—Mr. MCNEIL on April 4 asked the Secretary of State for Scotland whether there was any priority of medical treatment for ex-Service men afflicted with tuberculosis in any of its forms, or whether medical officers of health, in granting priorities of treatment, had regard solely to the medical needs of the patient. Mr. JOHNSTON replied that local authorities gave the necessary treatment as quickly as possible to ex-Service men suffering from any form of tuberculosis. Where sanatorium treatment was not required this usually presented no difficulty. Most local authorities, however, had a waiting list of tuberculous patients who required

## The Services

Air Vice-Marshal A. F. Rook, O.B.E., has been appointed an Honorary Physician to the King in succession to Group Capt. G. S. Marshall, O.B.E., who has vacated the appointment on retirement from the R.A.F.

Capt. G. H. A. Simmons, R.A.M.C., has been mentioned in dispatches in recognition of gallant and distinguished services in the field and Brig. (Temp.) H. G. Furnell, C.B.E., D.S.O., has been mentioned in recognition of gallant and distinguished services in the South-West Pacific.

## Medical News

The *Practitioner* announces with regret that, owing to age, Sir Humphry Rolleston has had to resign from the position of editor, which he has so successfully held since 1928. Until further notice Dr. Alan Moncrieff, associate editor since 1934, will act as editor.

At the annual general meeting of the Section of Psychiatry of the Royal Society of Medicine to be held at 1, Wimpole Street, W., on Tuesday, May 9, at 5 p.m. a discussion on morale will be opened by Surg. Lieut. G. Garmany, Lieut.-Col. G. R. Hargreaves, Wing Cmdr. J. H. Hunt, and Dr. A. B. Stokes.

A meeting of the Tuberculosis Association will be held at Manson House, 26, Portland Place, W., on Friday, May 19, when Surg. Capt. W. D. W. Brooks and Dr. A. K. Miller will open a discussion on treatment of the minimal lesion as found by mass radiography. Dr. Joseph Smart will give a short paper on two unusual cases of asthma.

The summer meeting of the Association of Industrial Medical Officers will be held in Birmingham on Friday, May 19, and Saturday, May 20, under the chairmanship of Dr. J. C. Bridge. On Friday there will be a business meeting at the Queen's Hotel, New Street Station, at 4.30 (tea at 4 p.m.), followed by dinner at 6.30 for 7 p.m. at the White Horse Hotel, Congreve Street. On Saturday, at the Tatler News Theatre, Station Street, Mr. E. A. Nicoll will show the new British Council film "Accident Service," at 9.45 a.m. At the Birmingham Accident Hospital, Bath Row, at 11 a.m., a discussion on "Rehabilitation and Industry" will be opened by Prof. Seymour Barling, Mr. William Gissane, Dr. N. T. Glynn, and Mr. G. M. Farrer. Luncheon will be provided at the hospital at 1 o'clock. In the afternoon a tour of the new departments of the hospital has been arranged, followed at 3.15 p.m. by demonstrations and clinical cases. Arrangements for this meeting are in the hands of the local secretary—Dr. W. Jeaffreson Lloyd, Guest, Keen and Nettlefolds Ltd., Heath Street, Birmingham, 18.

A whole-day conference of the Nutrition Society will be held on Saturday, May 20, beginning at 10.50 a.m., at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Keppel Street, W.C.1, with the following programme: "Budgetary and Dietary Surveys of Families and Individuals, Part II," papers by Miss E. M. Widdowson and Dr. R. A. McCance ("Dietary Surveys by the Individual Method"); Dr. Gertrude Wagner ("Surveys of Methods used in Preparing and Cooking Food"); Dr. G. N. Jenkins, Dr. L. W. Mapson, and Miss M. Oliver ("Laboratory Assessment of Nutritive Value of Meals as Eaten"). Papers on Food Consumption: Data Obtained from Analyses of Institutional Diets will be read by (a) Miss E. M. Langley ("School Diets"); (b) Dr. M. Pyke ("Industrial Canteens"); (c) Dr. A. Lyall ("Hospital Diets"). The openers of the discussion will be Prof. V. H. Mottram, Mrs. Barbara Callow, Dr. C. P. Stewart, and Miss M. C. Broatch. Further details of the Nutrition Society can be obtained from the hon. secretary, Dr. Leslie J. Harris, Nutritional Laboratory, University Field Laboratories, Milton Road, Cambridge.

On May 2 representatives of the Royal College of Nursing discussed with the Minister of Health modern trends in the development of the nursing profession, especially in relation to a comprehensive health service. Lord Horder, who, as chairman of the College's Nursing Reconstruction Committee, accompanied the deputation, said that his committee had been greatly heartened at the speed with which the main recommendations on the committee's first report—that on the assistant nurse—had reached the Statute Book. He briefly outlined the committee's recommendations for a wider and more elastic basic training for the nurses of the future, to include an insight into preventive and social medicine, and experience in certain special branches of nursing not hitherto covered. In this way the young nurse would view the whole nursing field in better perspective, and her interest would be aroused to the scope and opportunity for service in branches at present sadly understaffed. Recognition of real student status for the nurse in training would have a far greater influence on recruitment than any other single measure.

## Letters, Notes, and Answers

All communications with regard to editorial business should be addressed to THE EDITOR, BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, B.M.A. HOUSE, TAVISTOCK SQUARE, LONDON, W.C.1. TELEPHONE: EUSTON 2111. TELEGRAMS: *Aitiology Westcent, London*. ORIGINAL ARTICLES AND LETTERS forwarded for publication are understood to be offered to the *British Medical Journal* alone unless the contrary be stated.

Authors desiring REPRINTS should communicate with the Publishing Manager, B.M.A. House, Tavistock Square, W.C.1, on receipt of proofs. Authors over-seas should indicate on MSS. if reprints are required, as proofs are not sent abroad.

ADVERTISEMENTS should be addressed to the Advertisement Manager, B.M.A. House, Tavistock Square, London, W.C.1 (hours 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.). TELEPHONE: EUSTON 3353. TELEGRAMS: *Articulate Westcent, London*.

MEMBERS' SUBSCRIPTIONS should be sent to the SECRETARY of the Association. TELEPHONE: EUSTON 2111. TELEGRAMS: *Medisecra Westcent, London*.

B.M.A. SCOTTISH OFFICE: 7, Drumsheugh Gardens, Edinburgh.

### ANY QUESTIONS?

#### Frequency of Defaecation

**Q.**—*I have come across two patients who state that they are in better health when they defaecate only on alternate days than when they try to do so daily. In one patient a type of vagus nerve hyperactivity appeared to occur when daily defaecation was attempted. Can this be explained, and how should it be treated?*

**A.**—No satisfactory definition of constipation has ever been made and it would be difficult to construct a distribution curve of the normal frequency of evacuation of the bowel in this country, owing to excessive bowel consciousness and the advertisement of purgatives on the one hand, and the inhibitions produced by gearing humanity to modern industrial and transport conditions on the other. There is little reason to doubt, however, that there is a range of variation in the frequency of normal evacuation of the bowels, as in other rhythmic functions such as the pulse rate or menstruation. Some people defaecate twice daily, others are upset if they worry their intestines into a daily action and are much better if their bowels are opened only twice a week. The chief physical ill effects of constipation are hardening of the faeces, which may then cause fissures on expulsion, and distension of the bowel, which may bring about reflex disturbances or actual obstruction. None of these is likely to happen when defaecation occurs on alternate days. The psychological effects of constipation are much more subtle, inasmuch as training in bowel habit forms so large a part of the early education of the child. The normal bowel habit of an individual may be the resultant of several physiological and psychological forces, and the attempt to disturb it may well arouse unconscious anxiety. The patient should be assured that an action of the bowels on alternate days is perfectly normal, and that attempts at interference are undesirable.

#### Marital Difficulties and Service Life

**Q.**—*I am concerned about a delicate problem, which has grown from one or two isolated cases to a number which is assuming proportions I feel need consideration. The patients are married men and all have the same complaint—namely, the inability to obtain an erection when desiring intercourse. In each case the facts are materially as follows: (1) They are healthy, vigorous, active types, performing their Service duties efficiently and without undue fatigue. (2) There is no evidence of constitutional or other organic disability. (3) All claim to be fond of their wives and affirm that it is no lack of love or desire on their part (a frequent cause of this disability in other cases). (4) All look forward with keen anticipation to intercourse on their periods of leave or time off. (5) In each case the lack of ability to obtain an erection has caused considerable mental upset to the man, frustration for the woman, and bids fair to upset marital happiness, which in any case, in wartime, is in none too stable a state. In some cases charges of unfaithfulness and lack of love have been made by the wives, which are quite understandable. Men return home or go on leave, possibly pre-occupied with Service problems, or concerned with matters other than domestic. I feel that the basis is a mental one rather than physical, and should be glad of any help.*

**A.**—The problem of partial or complete impotence in men long separated from their wives, especially on military service, can best be understood in terms of the psycho-analytic libido theory. It is commonly observed that the good soldier "invests" much of his available emotional energy in an all-male group—i.e., in the questioner's words, he is preoccupied with Service matters. This often means a reanimation of an adolescent pattern of interests and loyalties: without such bonds morale and *esprit de corps* could not exist. To the extent of this change in "libido economy," the wife and home become more remote, the man's attitude divided. Like the adolescent, he nourishes a great fantasy of sexual potency, when in reality there is every gradation between this condition and com-