

Never was a surgeon more conscientious in the discharge of his hospital duties—he was chairman of the medical board for several years—and especially in the operative treatment and after-care of his patients. It was perhaps because of this devotion that he was apt to be ruffled by the occasional perverse indifference of someone he was trying to help; in such a mood he could be formidable. His crowded clinic at the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital was eloquent testimony to the high regard for his work, and many of his house-surgeons will read of his passing with deep regret and will reflect upon how much they owe to him for guidance in the principles of orthopaedics.

A. W. SHEEN, M.S., F.R.C.S.

Prof. G. GREY TURNER sends the following tribute.

The death of Prof. A. W. Sheen of Cardiff when in full work in his 76th year will be very much regretted by his many friends, for he was a man of striking personality with a great gift for companionship. During the earlier part of his career he was particularly interested in those conditions which are likely to be met with among the population of an industrial area, and, like other surgeons, was trying to evolve the best and most practical technique. With his experience of operating in the homes of the people and in the smaller hospitals, he had a good deal to do with the development of surgery in South Wales. During the 1914-18 war he commanded the 34th (Welsh) General Hospital, first at Netley and later in India. In that capacity his experience with the Imperial Yeomanry Field Hospital in the South African War stood him in good stead. At the end of hostilities Sheen acted as consulting surgeon to the war hospitals of India and did much for the rehabilitation of the wounded. This question continued one of his great interests and afterwards he did much to promote its study in connexion with industrial injuries. After returning to this country Sheen settled for a time in London, where among other activities he worked at the Shepherd's Bush Orthopaedic Hospital. But his most fruitful period began when he was chosen professor of surgery and director of the surgical unit of the Welsh National School of Medicine in Cardiff. His work there lay very largely in the organization of the new venture. As professor he was very active and strove hard to justify the creation of the special surgical unit at the Cardiff Infirmary. The early days were troublous; but, as a result of his clear conception of the course that was in the best interests of the development of such a school and his determination and tenacity, he did a very valuable piece of work. Though in this direction he earned such a creditable record it can only be known to a few that his plans for the future were on the grand scale.

Sheen was never satisfied with anything but a very high standard of endeavour. Some years before the war he inspected the surgery examinations in the University of Durham, and all were impressed by the thoroughness which he brought to that task. In private life he was most hospitable and loved to entertain those associated with the work of the department of surgery, and the outside examiners especially will remember the delightful time when they were guests in his house. He was very systematic and painstaking and master of university routine, though he sometimes inveighed against the restrictions and narrowness of traditional practice. Sheen was fond of travel and was always welcome on the visits of the Moynihan Club and at the congresses of the International Society of Surgery. But above all else he loved companionship, was a good talker, told a story with due emphasis, and always had a ready jest to point a moral. He was very kind to young people and fond of little children. Sometimes a rather brusque dictatorial manner was repellent, or his breezy style gave the impression of flippancy, but these were only poses which disguised sincerity and a generous warm heart.

The following well-known medical men have died abroad: Dr. SOKRATES LAGOURAKIS, the eminent leprologist, at Alexandria, aged 82; and Dr. GRAEME MONROE HAMMOND, who had been a leading New York neurologist, aged 86.

No. 9 of the *Medical Chronicle*, published in Moscow by the U.S.S.R. Society for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries, consists of a number of short articles of professional interest, and makes two announcements. One is that the Saratov Institute "Microbe" recently marked its 25th anniversary. This institution is carrying on scientific work in microbiology and epidemiology in the south-east of the U.S.S.R. With its practical work, which consists in promoting and combating epidemics, the Institute combines extensive scientific research and the training of medical and sanitary officers in the control of malignant infections. The other announcement is of the 70th birthday of Prof. Nikolai Semashko, director of the department for organizing health protection and general hygiene at the 1st Medical Institute in Moscow, and also chief executive officer of the U.S.S.R. Hygiene Society.

Universities and Colleges

UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN

The University Court on April 11 was informed that the King had approved an Order in Council for the establishment of the Crombie Ross Chair of Mental Health in Aberdeen University. Gifts of £10,000 from the Crombie Ross Benevolent Fund and £5,000 by Dr. John A. Ross for the foundation of this Chair were announced in 1944.

At a graduation ceremony on March 29 the following medals and prizes won in the Faculty of Medicine were awarded:

Chancok Gold Medal in Anatomy: James B. Johnston; *proxime accessit*, Alexander J. Watson. *Dyce Davidson Gold Medal in Materia Medica*: Douglass W. Taylor. *Fife Jamieson Memorial Gold Medal in Anatomy*: Gordon L. Ritchie and Alexander J. Watson (equal); *proxime accessit*, James B. Johnston. *Lizars Gold Medal in Anatomy*: James B. Johnston; *proxime accessit*, Gordon L. Ritchie. *Struthers Gold Medal and Prize in Anatomy*: Gilbert F. Hamilton, M.B., Ch.B.

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

At the graduation ceremonial on Jan. 20 the degree of M.D. was conferred, *in absentia*, on Lieut.-Col. J. M. Matheson, R.A.M.C. Through a printer's error the name appeared as J. M. M. Batheson in the *Journal* of Feb. 3 (p. 169).

UNIVERSITY OF WALES

WELSH NATIONAL SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

The following candidates have satisfied the examiners at the examination indicated:

M.B., B.Ch.—*Surgery*: W. H. Beasley, B. L. Crystal, G. K. Davies, Hannah P. Evans, L. A. J. Evans, M. Evans, Joan Guy, P. G. Jagger, Jane W. James, W. J. Jenkins, D. G. Jones, D. R. Lewis, Joy A. MacGregor, Barbara D. S. Marshall, J. Matthews, D. B. Price, Gwladys M. Stewart, Glenny M. Thomas, D. Tooms (with distinction), L. L. R. White, Catrin M. Williams, D. M. Williams, Roberta Williams, W. O. Williams. *Obstetrics and Gynaecology*: A. J. Barry, E. M. L. Evans, W. J. Jenkins, D. O. Lewis, Isobel F. A. Mitchell.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND

At a meeting of the Council of the College held on April 12, with the President, Sir Alfred Webb-Johnson, in the chair, the following were elected Fellows under the Charter which permits the Council to elect annually to the Fellowship, without examination, two Members of 20 years' standing: H. Guy Dain, M.D., Chairman of Council, British Medical Association, and Brig. Harry Stobie, Professor of Dental Surgery in the University of London and Dean of the Royal Dental Hospital.

Mr. R. P. Scott Mason was elected a member of the Court of Examiners for three years from May 10.

The Jacksonian Prize for 1944 was awarded to Lieut.-Col. Kenneth W. Starr, F.R.C.S., for his essay on the causation and treatment of delayed union of fractures of the long bones. The subject for the prize for 1946 will be "Traumatic Aneurysm." Mrs. Lilian Lindsay, L.D.S., Librarian of the British Dental Association, was awarded the John Tomes Prize for 1942-4 for her outstanding research work in the bibliography of dental science. The first award of the Begley Prize was made to Peter Charles Conlon of the London Hospital.

It was decided to institute two courses a year of lectures on surgery, beginning in the autumn of 1945. Lecturers will be selected by invitation. Fellows and Members of the College will be admitted free and there will be an admission fee of two guineas for others for each course of 12 lectures.

The Council confirmed its previous intention to grant a higher diploma in dental surgery, which will be subject to obtaining power to revise the Charters. It is proposed to entitle the diploma "Fellowship in Dental Surgery."

Mr. Eardley Holland was re-elected the representative of the College on the Central Midwives Board, and Air Vice-Marshal Geoffrey L. Keynes was nominated for reappointment as an external examiner in surgery for the Faculty of Radiologists.

Diplomas of Membership were granted to W. McC. Anderson, D. J. Atherton, and R. S. Jones.

Diplomas in Child Health were granted jointly with the Royal College of Physicians of London to the following successful candidates:

Gwladys V. S. Aldridge, Florence H. Auckland, Annie C. Brown, E. A. Cachia, Marjorie E. Claye, Kathleen M. Corbett, P. D. A. Durham, P. G. Finch, J. H. Gibson, H. McC. Giles, D. B. Jelliffe, E. Kost, Josephine M. Lord, Kathleen M. Miller, Dorothea B. I. Montgomerie, Moira K. E. Reaney, D. C. Thursby-Pelham, E. Tuckman.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF OBSTETRICIANS AND GYNAECOLOGISTS

The following have been elected to the Fellowship of the College: G. S. Adam, Caroline A. Elliott, E. A. Gerrard, A. M. Hill, J. J. Kearney, R. J. Kellar, Alice M. Kenny, W. K. McIntyre, B. T. Mayes, H. K. Pacey, F. Stabler, F. R. Stansfield, G. A. Thompson.

The following have been awarded the Diploma of the College: Isabel H. M. Blyth, J. T. Carson, H. J. A. Conte-Mendoza, G. K. Emsley, J. L. Farmer, J. J. Handler, D. Heap, A. Henderson, M. Hutchinson, W. Johnston, E. E. Jones, Kathleen Lawrence, Betty J. Poland, D. B. Stewart.

The Services

Capt. R. McIlwraith and J. A. Tulloch and Lieuts. S. W. Pleasants and D. Train, R.A.M.C., have been awarded the M.C. in recognition of gallant and distinguished services in North-West Europe.

Major (Temp.) P. C. Mitchell, R.A.M.C., has been awarded the M.C. in recognition of gallant and distinguished services in Italy.

The President of the U.S.A. has awarded the Soldier's Medal to Capt. J. McLean, R.A.M.C., in recognition of distinguished services in the cause of the Allies.

The Order of the Star of Nepal, Fourth Class, has been conferred upon Capt. Barnett Freedman, R.A.M.C. (since died), by His Highness the Maharaja in recognition of distinguished services in the cause of the Allies.

The Efficiency Decoration has been conferred upon the following officers of the Territorial Army: Lieut.-Col. (Temp. Col.) A. O. Bekenn, O.B.E., R.A.M.C., T.A.R.O.; Majors (Temp. Lieut.-Cols.) G. A. Kane, C. F. Mayne, O.B.E., J. E. Morrison, and W. Morrison, M.C.; Majors L. J. Beynon, E. S. Kirkhouse, and G. B. Matthews; and Capt. N. W. Kidston, R.A.M.C.

The following appointments have been announced in recognition of meritorious services:

O.B.E. (Military Division).—Lieut.-Cols. (Temp. Cols.) J. Rannie, T.D., and S. J. L. Lindeman, M.C., R.A.M.C.

M.B.E. (Military Division).—Major (Temp. Lieut.-Col.) T. N. Hart, and Capt. (Temp. Major) J. W. Campbell, R.A.M.C., T.A.; Capt. Marguerite E. M. Day, R.A.M.C.

Freed by U.S. Forces.—Capt. A. Farquhar, R.A.M.C.

Repatriated.—Major D. L. Charters, R.A.M.C.

CASUALTIES IN THE MEDICAL SERVICES

Killed in action.—Lieut. Frederick William Marshall Greaves, R.A.M.C.

Accidentally killed in India.—Capt. Christine Mary Edmonds, R.A.M.C.

NAVAL MEDICAL COMPASSIONATE FUND

A meeting of the subscribers to the Naval Medical Compassionate Fund will be held at the Medical Department of the Navy, 64, St. James's Street, S.W.1, on Friday, April 27, at 3 p.m., to elect six directors of the fund.

Medical Notes in Parliament

National Health Service

On April 12 Dr. SUMMERSKILL asked what purpose had been achieved by issuing the White Paper on the health services in view of the fact that Mr. Willink, in response to representations from the B.M.A., proposed an alternative structure fundamentally different from that outlined in the White Paper. She further asked why the proposed salaried medical service operated from health centres and offering a new advance in medical practice had been dropped at the request of the B.M.A. Dr. Summerskill also asked what was the purpose of the experimental health centres contemplated in the alternative proposals to those contained in the White Paper, in view of the fact that they would provide accommodation from which doctors could conduct private practice more conveniently but on the same terms and lines as those practising from their homes. Mr. WILLINK answered these three questions together. He said he welcomed the opportunity to clear up misunderstandings on the matter. The proposals in the White Paper were for discussion before the Government decided on the terms of draft legislation. Discussion was invited with all the major professional and other organizations affected, and this had been and was still taking place. In the course of it various possible modifications of the detailed proposals had been discussed by Mr. Johnston and himself. Soon Mr. Johnston and he would consider with their colleagues some of these alternative methods of achieving the White Paper's objective, which was a comprehensive service of health for the nation. The Government would have then to decide whether these or any of them were

desirable alternatives. Before informing the Government of their views on these possible alternatives, the various organizations—medical, dental, voluntary hospital, local authority—were considering, on reports from their representatives who took part in the talks, the matters which had been discussed. To some of those reports or to varying rumours about those reports recent references had been made. When the views of the different organizations were available the Government would decide upon the content of draft legislation for submission to the House. Discussion of much detail which might not need to be included in the Bill itself would go on. Until then the three stages of the procedure originally laid down—the White Paper, discussion of the White Paper, and final preparation of draft legislation—were being adhered to. The objects of this second stage had been those which were clearly set out in the introductory paragraphs of the White Paper.

Dr. SUMMERSKILL suggested that the B.M.A. and other medical organizations had already thrashed out every question of principle with the Ministry. Did not the report, which had been published and was in the hands of every doctor and of many lay people, alter every principle laid down in the White Paper? Mr. WILLINK said Dr. Summerskill was under a complete misapprehension. The White Paper afforded a new focus for discussion, particularly after it had been discussed in the House of Commons. No report had been published. Every copy was marked "Not for publication." Dr. Summerskill was wrong when she spoke of anything having been dropped. The Government as a whole had not considered the outcome of these negotiations.

Dr. RUSSELL THOMAS suggested that Mr. Willink had changed his mind on realizing that Parliament had no mandate to enslave a free profession. Mr. MCNEIL asked whether the Government had indicated to the B.M.A. that the proposals they were now discussing were acceptable to the Government as a basis for negotiation. Mr. WILLINK repeated that Mr. Johnston and he had not discussed with their colleagues the outcome of these negotiations. His statement did not mean that he himself was dissatisfied with the conclusions reached by Mr. Ernest Brown.

Mr. PETHICK LAWRENCE asked if Mr. Willink had given any indication to the medical authorities that he himself would support these proposals with his colleagues in the Government. Mr. WILLINK said that in discussions of this kind he would not express an attitude to any proposals which might embarrass the Government's ultimate decision on them.

Mr. SHINWELL said members of the B.M.A. had stated that their interpretation of their discussions with the Minister led them to conclude that he had made certain concessions, or had agreed to put modifications before his colleagues in the Government. Mr. WILLINK said he had no knowledge of what statements had been made by members of this large Association.

Dr. SUMMERSKILL gave notice that she would raise the subject on the adjournment at the first opportunity. Later Mr. GREENWOOD asked the Government to arrange for a White Paper to be issued showing the departures made from the White Paper which had been discussed and approved by the House. He also asked for a free and open discussion on the matter before the B.M.A. conference at the beginning of May. Mr. MCENTEE asked why a paper marked "Not for publication," and not made available to the House, had been sent out by the B.M.A.

Mr. EDEN said this last question was not within his jurisdiction. As regards Mr. Greenwood's question, no conclusions whatever had been reached as the result of the conversations since the House debated the White Paper. If conclusions were reached, they would have to be considered by the Cabinet and after that a report made to the House. At this stage they were purely exploratory, and members of the Cabinet were entirely unaware of them. Mr. GREENWOOD, while accepting these assurances, said tentative conclusions had leaked out all over the country and in every hospital. He still thought a White Paper should be issued to the House. Mr. EDEN said no abnormal procedure had been followed. Conversations had been going on not merely with the B.M.A. but with local authorities as well. The first stage was that the Government must be made aware of the situation and must come to its decisions. It would then consider how most fairly to present its conclusions to the House so that the House might have a fair and full opportunity to express itself.

Pure Milk

Lord BLEDISLOE in the House of Lords on April 11 asked what the Government was doing to augment the pure milk output; whether they agreed that mastitis, contagious abortion, sterility, and Johne's disease involved a yearly under-production of 200,000,000 gallons of milk, and whether remedial measures capable of immediate application were contemplated. He said he was pleased that for the first time the