

pared for responsibility, if it is thrust upon him, and equally ready to take a humble position as a junior colleague of Chinese, Indian, or African, if circumstances so direct. The mission field has no use for second-rate men or women.—I am, etc.,

Cambridge.

T. HOWARD SOMERVELL, F.R.C.S.

Housing the Returned Consultant

SIR,—Major H. B. Stallard (June 2, p. 787) correctly draws attention to some of the present difficulties in London for housing the consultant. This state of affairs has engaged my attention since the early part of the present year, and official figures I have obtained from a reliable source disclosed the facts that in the area between Oxford Street and Marylebone Road the Army have requisitioned at least 3 houses (one empty for the past two months), the Air Force 8 houses, and the Ministry of Works no fewer than 45 houses. In the House of Commons on May 10 Sir Ernest Graham-Little, on a question to the Minister of War, received the reply: "I regret that I am at present unable to release any of these houses." To a further question asked by Sir Ernest on May 31 Mr. Churchill replied: "The majority of the houses in the Harley Street area requisitioned by Government Departments are used to house American officers, so as to reduce the pressure upon the limited hotel accommodation of London; as offices for French Missions and branches of the French Embassy; and as hostels. The possibility of reducing the number retained is being examined with the occupying authorities and any houses which can be vacated will be released. Five requisitioned houses now vacant are being released immediately."

The present difficulties are, however, further complicated by the sale of property in this area, and tenants who might have considered themselves reasonably secure find that they may be under notice to seek other accommodation which at the moment does not exist.

This unfortunate state of affairs could be greatly eased if the 56 houses presently occupied were all released and returned for their original purpose as professional premises. The present occupants of these houses, such as the Merchant Navy Club, Canadian Y.M.C.A. Club, and various branches of our Allies, could be equally and comfortably housed in a number of the many empty houses in Regent's Park. The same suggestion applies to the professional area in Mayfair.—I am, etc.,

London, W.1.

NORMAN P. HENDERSON.

An Examination Paper for Nurses

SIR,—The current practice of adding to the nurse's curriculum studies on a par with those of a medical student has already evoked much protest from the profession. Apparently more is needed, and a signal addition is that of your correspondents (May 26, p. 751) who cite a recent examination paper. The corollary is obvious. One who studies enough to ensure passing such tests in medical subjects deprives her patients of proficiency in nursing.

Which is it to be? Nurses or pseudo-doctors? Let us insist that the General Nursing Council redresses the balance and gives pre-eminence to ward training in the practical part of nursing. If a girl has any wits a good sister will soon sharpen them: if she has not, then she may be ornamental but she is certainly useless to patients and should go. We are confronted with a deplorable dearth of nurses, and over-weighting the syllabus with medical science is calculated to aggravate the shortage. Let them get their simple studies over in a preliminary course and then get down undistractedly to what is their dominant interest—practical work in the wards. The sister will have a greater responsibility, and she must be chosen not only for outstanding quality as a nurse but after a year's postgraduate training to fit her for her duties as teacher also.

There is only one essential prerequisite for an entrant to the nursing profession, and when one is a patient one becomes painfully aware of it: not, Has she got the school certificate? but, Does she care? If she cares, she will soon master the technical side of her work.—I am, etc.,

Bristol.

A. WILFRID ADAMS.

Medical Students and Belsen Concentration Camp

SIR,—As the medical students from the London teaching hospitals are to-day leaving Belsen concentration camp I should like to take this opportunity of paying a tribute to the work that they have carried out during their stay. They arrived at a time when conditions in this horror camp were still indescribable; the first and only problem was the production of order and supervision of feeding in the huts to save the lives of those that had to wait their turn and to ensure the speediest evacuation of those that could be saved. The work of this type that they carried out is beyond praise, and entirely by their initiative a hospital area was formed in the original camp in which the worst cases that had to wait to the last were nursed and undoubtedly saved. Working, too, under the worst possible conditions, individual supervision of all the other huts was carried out and treatment where possible commenced. Later, when the whole camp had been evacuated, they were able to take full advantage of the wealth of clinical material available, and to carry out work of an entirely medical nature. This they did with equal zeal and enthusiasm.

The experience, apart from its medical side, has, I feel, given them a unique opportunity in that they were given the heaviest of responsibilities and their initial efforts depended entirely on their own initiative. One and all they threw themselves into the task with unbounded enthusiasm; they worked long hours in the worst possible conditions and never spared themselves. The results speak for themselves, and the fall in the death rate was, I am sure, largely due to their magnificent work. Thousands have cause to be grateful to them that their lives have been saved. The units of the R.A.M.C. in Second Army are no less grateful for the help that was so generously given.—I am, etc.,

GLYN HUGHES, Brig.,
D.D.M.S., Second Army.

Universities and Colleges

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

Dr. W. L. H. Duckworth will retire from the position of Master of Jesus College on Sept. 30 under the age limit. After gaining first-class honours in Parts I and II of the Natural Sciences Tripos he was elected a Fellow of Jesus College in 1893 and in 1905 graduated M.D. and Sc.D. Dr. Duckworth was University Lecturer in Physical Anthropology 1898-1920 and Reader in Human Anatomy from 1920 until his election as Master of Jesus College in 1940. He represented the University for three years on the General Medical Council.

In Congregation on June 8 Prof. E. D. Adrian, M.D., F.R.S., was appointed to represent the University at the 220th anniversary of the Academy of Sciences of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics in Moscow and Leningrad, June 15-28.

On the recommendation of the Faculty Board of Medicine additional qualifying examinations in anatomy and physiology will be held in December next, on dates to be fixed by the Board of Examinations.

During the month of May the titles of the degrees of M.B., B.Chir were conferred by diploma on Mrs. R. C. A. Hunter, of Newnham College.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF OBSTETRICIANS AND GYNAECOLOGISTS

At a meeting of Council, held on May 26, with the President, Mr. Eardley Holland, in the chair, the following were admitted to the Fellowship:

Caroline A. Elliott, E. A. Gerrard, R. J. Kellar, Meave Kenny, F. R. Stansfield. *In absentia*: G. S. Adam, A. M. Hill, J. J. Kearney, W. K. McIntyre, B. T. Mayes, H. K. Pacey, F. Stabler, G. A. Thompson.

The following were admitted to the Membership:

Amelia E. Burch, E. G. Collins, Jadwiga Karnicki, Gladys E. Keith, Dorothea M. Kerslake, Dorothy M. Shotton, B. G. G. Spiers. *In absentia*: J. P. O. Erskine, A. B. Hay, Sybil G. Mocatta, Dorothy J. Thompson.

At the annual general meeting of the College, held on May 26, with the President, Mr. Eardley Holland, in the chair, the following were elected to Council in place of those retiring by statutory rotation: *Representative of the Fellows*: Malcolm Donaldson. *Representative of the Members*: D. B. Fraser.

nected with the Highlands. Lachlan Grant was not only a "good doctor" for them and their wives and children, he was also interested, they recognized, in Highland problems. And so it was that during his fifty years' service in Ballachulish, Glencoe, Kinlochleven, and Glen Etive, and the rest of that wonderful and historic piece of country, Lachlan Grant was the man to whom the people turned in adversity, for he was not only a skilful physician but a sympathetic friend and adviser. Ballachulish mourns his loss. To his devoted wife and family we offer our sympathy.—J. B. S.

The death has occurred at Middlesbrough of JAMES RONALD McCURDIE at the early age of 57 and after a long and painful illness bravely borne. Qualifying M.B., Ch.B. at Glasgow University in 1912 he spent two years as house-surgeon at Middlesbrough before joining the R.A.M.C. at the outbreak of the last war. He served throughout and was awarded the Military Cross, retiring with the rank of major. Returning to Middlesbrough he started in private practice and was soon appointed honorary surgeon to North Ormesby Hospital. Right up to the time of his death his hospital was the centre of his professional life, and he gave largely of his time and talents to its clinical and administrative affairs. He served on the governing council for many years as a representative of the honorary staff. He was largely responsible for the raising of the Home Guard in his district and was appointed its colonel. McCurdie had served for a period as chairman of the Cleveland Division of the British Medical Association, and was on its Executive for a number of years. For four years he was chairman of the Cleveland Local Medical War Committee, and brought to the conduct of its deliberations that care and grasp of its business which characterized everything he did. The funeral took place at St. John's Church, Middlesbrough, and was attended by many of his professional colleagues, by whom, as well as by a large circle of friends and patients, he is much missed. He is survived by his widow, to whom much sympathy is extended.

We regret to announce that Dr. HAROLD JAMES PHILLIPS, medical officer of health for Worthing, died suddenly at Southlands Hospital, Shoreham, on June 3 after a short illness. He studied medicine at University College, Dublin, graduating B.Sc., M.B., B.Ch. in 1920 at the National University of Ireland, and proceeding M.D. in 1927; he took the D.P.H. with honours in 1931. Dr. Phillips entered the public health service as assistant medical officer under the Kent County Council, was then deputy M.O.H. and school medical officer, for the county borough of Hastings, and after that M.O.H., school medical officer, and medical superintendent of the isolation hospital of the borough of Ashton-under-Lyne. In 1938 he succeeded Dr. R. H. Wilshaw as M.O.H., school medical officer, and medical superintendent of the isolation hospital of the borough of Worthing. He was the author of a report on endocrine disturbances in school-children in Kent, and published in the *Medical Officer* a paper on faucial conditions as contributory factors in rheumatism. A memorial service at St. Paul's Church, Worthing, on June 8, was attended by the mayor, aldermen, and councillors, with the chief officers and staff of the Worthing Corporation.

The following well-known medical men have died abroad: Dr. SALLES GUERVAN, a leading surgeon in Rio de Janeiro during the first quarter of the present century, aged 75; Dr. ASTROGILDO MACHAD, head of the division of bacteriology of the Oswaldo Cruz Institute, aged 61; Dr. ALEXANDER ACHILLE SOUQUES, a leading Parisian neurologist, aged 89; Dr. BERNARD CUNEO, professor of surgical anatomy and surgeon to the Paris hospitals, aged 71; and Dr. MAURICE PÉHU, honorary physician to the Lyons hospitals and an eminent paediatrician.

The Services

Lieut.-Col. (Temp.) N. J. P. Hewlings, R.A.M.C., has been awarded the D.S.O. in recognition of gallant and distinguished services in North-West Europe.

Repatriated.—Capts. J. Graham Jones, R. P. Lawson, M.C., J. G. McGavin, G. B. D. Scott, and C. J. P. Seccombe, R.A.M.C.

CASUALTIES IN THE MEDICAL SERVICES

Capt. WILLIAM DONALD WILSON, R.A.M.C., who was killed in action in Western Europe on April 24, went from Wigan Grammar School to Liverpool University, where he won the gold medal for surgery, the A. C. Rich prize, and the Lord Derby prize. After graduating M.B., Ch.B. and serving as house-surgeon at the Liverpool Royal Infirmary he joined the R.A.M.C. in 1943.

Medical Notes in Parliament

Wheat Germ in Flour

Sir E. GRAHAM-LITTLE asked the Minister of Food on May 15 what proportion of the flour used in this country was derived from wheat imported from abroad in the form of grain, not flour; what was the proportion of the whole stock of wheat germ distributed by the Ministry which was allotted to making bread; and whether flour which was supplied for biscuit and self-raising flour was deprived of wheat germ before that allocation was made.

Col. LLEWELIN: The proportion of imported wheat used for flour milling varies from time to time in accordance with the supply position. The present proportion of imported wheat in all flour produced in this country is 47%. It is estimated that about 70% of the total available germ is in the flour supplied to the bakery trade for bread-making purposes, but a further considerable percentage is included in the flour used by confectioners and in flour used in the home for bread, confectionery, and other food purposes. The flour supplied specifically for the manufacture of biscuits and self-raising flour is "M" flour from which the germ has been removed.

Medical Demobilization

Sir JAMES GRIGG on May 29 told Major C. Taylor that the ordinary release regulations would apply to the R.A.M.C. as to the rest of the Army. He did not anticipate that the "military necessity" clause would be frequently applied to other ranks and general duty officers. It would probably have to be applied to specialist officers much more freely in view of the overall shortage of such officers and of the difficulty of obtaining from civil life replacements which were likely to be necessary. A number of doctors were due to be released under the ordinary working of the scheme. His difficulty was not of releasing doctors under Class B but of releasing those whose turn came under Class A. The need of the civil population for doctors was more likely to be met under Class B. It was a new idea to him that it would be necessary to have recourse to Class B for doctors.

Dr. HADEN GUEST suggested that where medical officers were to be released under Class B as essential for civilian needs, Sir James Grigg should ensure that their rights as regards 56 days' leave were safeguarded.

Food of German P.O.W.s

Sir JAMES GRIGG on May 29 repeated that non-working German prisoners of war had never received more of the nationally rationed items of food than civilians in this country. In view of the world-wide shortage of food it had been decided that the normal scale for these prisoners held by His Majesty's Government must be further reduced. Instructions had been issued for a new scale providing approximately 2,000 calories of all items, irrespective of whether these were rationed for civilians in this country or not. He said 2,000 calories was substantially less than the average civilian consumption in this country. Suitable additions of non-rationed foods, mainly bread and potatoes, would be made to cover the minimum extra needs of working prisoners. Otherwise they would receive the same scale as non-working prisoners.

Pneumoconiosis

Replying to a debate on May 29 (reported in these columns on June 9, p. 826) Major LLOYD GEORGE said he had been keenly interested in medical services since he went to the Ministry. On that subject the Government had laid down its policy in the White Paper, and the Ministry had, despite the shortage of medical men, made a start. It had another doctor at headquarters and another in each region. They would study local conditions, the local incidence of disease, and problems of that sort which they had been asked to investigate. The Ministry of Fuel was co-operating with the Medical Research Council on the arrears of examinations of men for pneumoconiosis and silicosis. They had been able, with the help of Sir William Jowitt, to double the panels working on pneumoconiosis. At the head of the panel was a man experienced in these diseases who trained the new man under him. He had a loan of a radiological unit, which would help in the matter.

Treatment after Discharge from Forces

Mr. STOKES opened on May 31 a discussion about the discharge of men from the Services before they had left hospital but when it had been decided that they were no longer of use to the armed Forces. He said this practice was particularly