

Obituary

W. E. THOMAS, M.D., J.P.

We have to announce with much regret the death of William Evans Thomas, of Ystrad Rhondda, Glamorganshire, a veteran member of the British Medical Association who did fine work for his colleagues in Wales and had been a member of the Central Council from 1923 to 1944 and before then regularly attended meetings of the Representative Body for eighteen years. He joined the B.M.A. in 1891 and served on many committees and subcommittees at headquarters, his longest periods of service being on the Welsh Committee and the Insurance Acts Committee from 1919 to 1944. When the Association met at Cardiff in 1928 he held office as president of the Section of Medical Sociology, and no Annual Meeting seemed complete without his genial presence. Dr. Thomas graduated M.B., C.M. at the University of Edinburgh in 1885 and took his M.D. in 1892. He was a Justice of the Peace for the county of Glamorgan and served as High Sheriff of Merioneth in 1927-8.

Dr. A. T. JONES, past-president of the South Wales and Monmouthshire Branch, sends the following tribute:

This country, and Wales in particular, has lost a great leader in the medical fraternity by the death of Dr. W. E. Thomas, J.P., of the Rhondda, South Wales. He was known and referred to by nearly everybody as "W.E." He came to the Rhondda as an assistant to Dr. James nearly sixty years ago, and succeeded to the practice at his death. He married one of Dr. James's daughters. The practice grew very extensively, and Dr. Thomas had to engage three, and sometimes four, assistants. His main surgery was at Llysgrraig and he had two or three branch surgeries. He was an indefatigable worker and gave personal attention to all his patients. He loved his profession and was kind, sympathetic, and considerate to those who suffered. He was keenly interested in any advancement and development in the art of medicine. He held several appointments, such as district medical officer, public vaccinator, and visiting medical officer and surgeon to the Llwynypia Hospital, which latter post he held until the County Council appointed a resident surgeon to the hospital, Dr. Melbourne Thomas, who is still resident medical officer of the institution. Outside his profession he took a keen interest in social and political activities. He was a member of the Rhondda District Council, a County Councillor, and Alderman of the Glamorgan County Council. He held these posts for many years until he decided to retire and give up public work.

Dr. Thomas was a good, sound, practical medical practitioner. He was a member of the Insurance Committee for Glamorgan from its inception and chairman of the Panel and Local Medical Committee from the start. He was a true leader of the profession, reliable and solid in his advice and leadership, especially at the time when the Insurance Act of 1912 came into force. He took an active part in affairs of the British Medical Association, being for many years the representative of the North Glamorgan and Brecknock Division. He was also a member of the Central Council and was re-elected annually for a number of years; he attended the meetings regularly and was active in their deliberations. He was a member of the Insurance Acts Committee, to which he was elected annually as one of two representatives for Wales. He was of course elected president of the South Wales and Monmouthshire Branch, which office he filled with dignity and ability. After the completion of fifty years in practice he was elected president of the Branch for a second time in 1935. This proves the esteem in which Dr. Thomas was held by the members of the Branch.

"W.E." was a most loyal man and was truly sympathetic to his colleagues and friends. He was ever ready to help anyone in difficulty. Mrs. Thomas, his first wife, died in about 1932. He married for the second time and his wife has proved herself a devoted helpmeet. He lost his two daughters, one a girl of 19 and the other a girl of 14. These, as I know personally, were severe blows to him. He is survived by one son. Dr. Thomas had reached the mature age of 82. He had

suffered physically for the last few months, but he was mentally alert, and as a friend and admirer of his, I say his death is a grievous loss when our profession is passing through a critical period in its history.

Dr. EDWARD ANGEL GAYNES DOYLE, who died in retirement at Watford Heath, Herts, on Jan. 21, had been a member of the British Medical Association for 62 years. Born in 1860, he studied medicine in London at the Westminster Hospital and took the M.R.C.S. and L.R.C.P. diplomas in 1883. Dr. Doyle practised for many years at San Fernando, in the Island of Trinidad, and had held the posts of medical officer for South Naparima and San Fernando, and resident surgeon to the Trinidad Colonial Hospitals. He was president of the Trinidad Branch of the B.M.A. in 1922-5.

Universities and Colleges

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

The Board of Management invites candidates for the Francis Gotch Memorial Prize, the examination for which will take place on Saturday, March 2, at 2.30 p.m., in the University Department of Physiology, Oxford. Candidates are requested to send in their names and qualifications to the Board of Management, University Department of Physiology, Oxford, by Saturday, Feb. 23.

In a Congregation held on Dec. 15, 1945, the degree of D.M. was conferred on G. R. Girdlestone.

In a Congregation held on Dec. 22 the following degrees were conferred:

M.Ch.—B. B. Hickey.
B.M., B.Ch.—R. Ruddock-West, L. D. Hamilton, R. Gillett, H. A. K. Rowland, M. Paneth, J. Towers, G. M. Woodman, Aleida E. M. M. R. Bisschop, Pamela F. M. Causer, Barbara J. Nathan, E. H. Hadfield, Hilary J. E. Allen, Elizabeth Radovitch, Leila M. Taylor, Helen M. Wagstaffe.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

D. V. Glass, Ph.D.(Econ.), has been appointed to the University Readership in Demography tenable at the London School of Economics and Political Science. He has worked in the Social Biology Department of the School, and in 1936-40 was research secretary to the Population Investigation Committee.

The following candidates have been approved at the examinations indicated:

M.D.—Branch I (Medicine): F. L. Dysan, I. M. Hill, A. E. Jones, M. Roth, C. J. Stewart, W. M. L. Turner, H. Wolfsohn. Branch II (Pathology): J. H. H. Keall, R. F. Welch. Branch IV (Midwifery and Diseases of Women): L. W. Hefferman. Branch V (Hygiene): W. N. Taylor.

UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW

Intensive postgraduate courses in medicine and in surgery, consisting of clinical meetings and lectures, will be conducted from March 11 to April 13. As numbers will be restricted those wishing to attend should make early application to the Convener, Committee on Post-graduate Medical Education, the University, Glasgow, W.2, from whom copies of the syllabus for the courses may be obtained. The fee for either course is fifteen guineas.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND

The following anatomy lectures will be delivered at the College (Lincoln's Inn Fields, W.C.) at 5 p.m. on each day: Feb. 4, 6, 7, 11, 13, and 14, Prof. F. Wood Jones, F.R.S., six lectures on osteology. Feb. 18, 20, 21, 25, 27, and 28, Prof. A. J. E. Cave, six lectures on the anatomy of the head and neck. Fellows and Members of the College will be admitted free of charge on signing the attendance register. The fee for others is as follows: Anatomy course (Feb.) £2 2s.; applied physiology course (March) £2 2s.; pathology course (March) £2 2s. A composition fee of £5 5s. may be paid for all three courses. Tickets may be obtained on application to the secretary of the College.

ROYAL FACULTY OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS OF GLASGOW

Prof. F. A. E. Crew, M.D., F.R.S., will deliver the Finlayson Memorial Lecture on "Medico-sociological Problems of an Ageing Population" in the hall of the Royal Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons, 242, St. Vincent Street, Glasgow, on Wednesday next, Feb. 6, at 4 p.m.

SOCIETY OF APOTHECARIES OF LONDON

At a meeting of the Court of Assistants, held recently with the Master, Dr. Hugh F. Powell, in the chair, the death of Sir Farquhar

Buzzard, Honorary Freeman of the Society, was received with great regret.

Dr. J. P. Hedley was appointed representative of the society on the General Medical Council, and Mr. L. Vernon Cargill on the Chelsea Physic Garden Committee.

A handsome bronze rhinoceros (as depicted on the society's crest) was presented by Dr. C. R. Box, and medical books and instruments were received from the estate of the late Dr. E. S. White, Liveryman.

The Diploma of Mastery of Midwifery was granted *honoris causa* to Mr. Arthur C. H. Bell, late Examiner.

The following were appointed Examiners to the society in the subjects named: *Midwifery*, Dr. W. N. Searle; *Mastery of Midwifery (Paediatrics)*, Dr. R. W. B. Ellis; *Materia Medica and Pharmacology*, Dr. C. A. Keele; *Diploma in Industrial Health*, Dr. A. J. Amor, Dr. J. C. Bridge, Prof. F. A. E. Crew, Dr. Margaret Dobbie-Bateman, Dr. M. W. Goldblatt, Dr. E. R. A. Merewether.

The Diploma was granted after examination to the following candidates: G. C. Mayer, B. Dawes, C. J. W. Soutar, T. J. Thompson, M. W. Johnston, D. Wimborne, J. C. Matthews, R. G. G. Jones, I. H. Mercer, F. J. Offord, R. A. Wilkinson, R. C. Jennings, D. D. Forbes, B. H. Pickard, P. J. Roden, J. Flinter, R. J. C. Hutchinson, R. Clitherow.

The Services

The American Bronze Star for meritorious service has been awarded to Major William Robert Henderson, late R.A.M.C., for saving American lives while he was a prisoner of war in Germany from May, 1940, to May, 1945.

Temp. Surg. Lieut. R. A. de K. Glover, R.N.V.R., has been mentioned in dispatches for good service, efficiency, and zeal while serving in H.M.S. *Easton* during operations in the Aegean from Sept. to Dec., 1944, including the landing of Royal Marine Commandos at Cape Psalis and the bombardment, in the Athens-Piraeus area.

The following have been awarded the R.N.V.R. Officers' Decoration: Surg. Cmdr. M. Godwin, and Surg. Lieut.-Cmdrs. R. F. B. Bennett, E. E. Henderson, R. D. Jenkins, D. R. Hughes, P. M. Coats, and A. I. L. Maitland, R.N.V.R.

Col. R. W. Richardson, E.D., R.C.A.M.C., has been appointed O.B.E. (Military Division), and Major (Acting) T. A. Gander and Capt. E. C. Vandervoort, R.C.A.M.C., have been appointed M.B.E. (Military Division), in recognition of gallant and distinguished services in Italy.

Capt. (Temp. Major) G. C. K. Reid, R.A.M.C., has been granted a King's Commendation for brave conduct.

Capt. J. R. S. Third, R.A.M.C., has been mentioned in dispatches in recognition of gallant and distinguished services while a prisoner of war.

The Order of the Star of Nepal, Fourth Class Honorary (with the title of Manya Nepal Tara), has been conferred upon Capt. H. N. Roy, I.M.S., and Capt. N. Uddin.

The following appointments and awards have been announced in recognition of gallant and distinguished services in North-West Europe:

K.B.E. (Military Division).—Major-Gen. E. Phillips, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., late R.A.M.C.

C.B.E. (Military Division).—Brig. (Local) R. K. Debenham, O.B.E., and Brig. (Acting) G. K. Fulton, M.B.E., R.A.M.C.

O.B.E. (Military Division).—Cols. (Acting) W. D. Jackson, M.C., and F. C. Miller, M.C., Col. (Temp.) A. R. Oram, M.C., Lieut.-Col. R. Rutherford, T.D., Lieut.-Col. (Acting) H. V. Brennan, and Lieut.-Cols. (Temp.) C. Bainbridge, J. C. Caird, R. S. Handley, S. Heatley, F. F. Heiler, G. H. G. Hope, M.C., D. F. Hutchinson, G. A. Kane, T.D., A. G. R. Lowdon, R. L. Mackay, G. A. G. Mitchell, J. Neill, K. G. W. Saunders, H. Sissons, J. M. Tait, and F. W. A. Warren, T.D., R.A.M.C. Cols. W. A. Jones and G. E. Wight, Col. (Acting) C. C. Ross, Lieut.-Cols. J. A. Dauphinee, M. R. Elliott, R. B. Kerr, and F. L. Shipp, and Lieut.-Col. (Acting) J. B. Bundock, R.C.A.M.C.

M.B.E. (Military Division).—Lieut.-Cols. (Acting) K. E. A. Hughes and R. Paul, Lieut.-Col. (Temp.) R. J. Phillips, Majors W. H. Scriven and A. P. D. Thomson; Majors (Temp.) I. Aubrey, M.C., S. O. Ayett, R. Barraclough, J. Bleakley, P. W. H. Bleasdale, J. A. C. Burridge, G. B. Carter, W. N. Chisholm, C. H. Davies, M. H. A. Davison, P. F. Dedow, C. M. Elliott, G. W. Hearn, G. A. Hodgson, A. E. Loden, H. I. Pearson, H. G. Percy, S. F. Raistrick, W. D. Richardson, G. M. Ross, C. I. Tuckett, R. H. Webber, C. J. Wells, and K. S. Wilson; Capts. R. W. Clarke, P. J. Hardie, R. B. McGrigor, D. D. Muir, and Agnes D. Murray; Lieuts. R. J. Hughes, W. Mills, and J. C. E. Sundell, R.A.M.C. Majors N. J. England, D. K. Grant, H. I. Palmer, W. S. Keith, F. J. McLean, J. B. Neilson, and A. F. W. Peart; Majors (Acting)

W. F. Bie, W. F. H. O'Neill, and R. L. Reeves; Capts. F. A. Jennings, H. A. Roberts, N. Kaufman, G. C. Sweet, and J. C. G. Young, R.C.A.M.C.

First Bar to the D.S.O..—Col. (Temp.) M. MacEwan, D.S.O., O.B.E., D.F.C., T.D., R.A.M.C.

D.S.O..—Lieut.-Col. M. H. Summers, T.D., and Lieut.-Cols. (Temp.) W. M. E. Anderson, A. Cowie, and E. H. P. Lassen, R.A.M.C.

M.C..—Major (Temp.) J. C. Watts and Capts. K. W. Beetham, L. S. Cooper, J. H. Haldane, H. M. Kershaw, G. H. McPherson, H. E. S. Marshall, J. G. Mott, C. T. H. Whiteside, and W. J. W. Wolfe; Lieut. W. J. Gallagher, R.A.M.C. Capts. B. L. P. Brosseau and W. M. Byers, R.C.A.M.C.

Medical Notes in Parliament

Nursing Shortage

THE EARL OF MANSFIELD in the House of Lords on Jan. 24 asked if the Government knew that a number of hospitals had been compelled to close one or more wards owing to shortage of nursing staff, and even so were unable to avoid the nurses having to work such long hours that their health suffered. He asked what the Government was doing to remedy this, and whether it was prepared at once to close redundant military hospitals and to transfer sufficient nurses to ease the situation in civil hospitals.

THE EARL OF LISTOWEL said the Government had taken certain measures to increase the supply of nurses, including the adoption from Jan. 1 of improved scales of salaries and the issue of a circular to hospital authorities urging increased employment of male nurses with special reference to those returned from the Forces and the establishment of more training schools for men. He said the powers of direction and control of engagement of nurses and other persons who had more than a year's recent nursing experience, and of midwives, were being retained for six months beyond Dec. 20, 1945, but no longer, to ensure that nurses and midwives were distributed between the health services according to need. He understood from Mr. Lawson that military hospitals were being reduced in size as quickly as equipped beds became surplus to establishment. Nursing officers were being released from the Army according to a programme based on a bare sufficiency being retained for the nursing requirements of the Army. Over 3,100 nursing officers of the Q.A.I.M.N.S. and some 2,000 V.A.D.s had been released or discharged up to the end of Nov., 1945.

Refresher Courses

SIR ERNEST GRAHAM-LITTLE asked on Jan. 22 whether the Secretary for War was aware that medical officers about to be released from the Services required to spend some considerable time in refresher courses to fit them for undertaking civil practice; and whether he would arrange with the Minister of Health that these courses should be provided and followed by such officers before being admitted to civil practice. Mr. LAWSON answered that all medical officers released from the Army were informed of the facilities available under the Government's scheme for postgraduate training and refresher courses. This scheme, common to all three Services, was drawn up by the Ministry of Health and the Department of Health for Scotland, in conjunction with the universities and other interested bodies. Every encouragement was given to medical officers to avail themselves of these facilities before entering civil practice.

Specialists in the R.A.F.

MR. STRACHEY told Sir E. Graham-Little on Jan. 23 that in the R.A.F. Medical Branch specialists were recognized as such when they acquired a higher medical qualification in their specialty and had been recognized as competent by the consultant concerned. Specialists had been employed since the formation of the R.A.F. in 1918, though the general use of the title grew up only during the recent war. It was now used when officers so qualified were appointed to established posts for specialists. Specialist pay did not follow recognition as a specialist in the R.A.F., but specialists normally received higher rank than non-specialist medical officers. This accorded with the recommendation of the report made in 1933 by the Committee on the Medical Branches of the Defence Services. Two specialists, one oto-rhino-laryngologist and one anatomist, each employed in this respective specialty, had been appointed to the R.A.F. Medical Branch since VJ-Day. They were both replacing specialists released in Class B. Specialists had been demobilized in their age-and-service groups up to Dec. 31, 1945, but since then no doctors had been allotted to the Royal Air Force, and the Force had to retain seven specialist officers who