

house-physician at the General Infirmary at Leeds became casualty house-surgeon at the Hull Royal Infirmary. During the war of 1914-18 he held the temporary rank of captain, R.A.M.C., and acted as radiologist to the 4th Northern General Hospital, Lincoln, and went over-seas to join the 69th General Hospital. After the war he took the Oxford D.P.H. and became M.O.H. and school medical officer for the borough of Oldbury, Worcestershire, and published a series of annual reports on his work.

Dr. ROBERT GEORGE KEVIN, of Belfast, who died on Feb. 16 after an operation for a serious abdominal condition, graduated in medicine in 1908 and took the M.D. of Queen's University, Belfast, and the D.P.H. in 1911. Before settling in practice he had been house-surgeon at the Royal Victoria Hospital and R.M.O. at Purdysburn Fever Hospital. His wide popularity is reflected in the two tributes that follow. W. D. writes: Dr. R. G. Kevin is mourned by a multitude of patients and friends. He was a man of high intelligence, wide knowledge, supreme kindness and skill, unflinching cheerfulness, and tireless energy. His friends could always be sure of obtaining light from him on any medical problem which puzzled them. He was an enthusiastic and skilful fisherman, and his skill with the shotgun was as great as with the fishing rod. The delight of these excursions with him was not only the sport, but his extraordinary knowledge of birds, beasts, and plants, of castle and dolmen which converted the landscape into a fairyland. He knew the serious ordeal that awaited him, but retained his stout-hearted cheerfulness to the last. G. F. C. writes: By the death of George Kevin Belfast has lost one of its outstanding medical practitioners, one who will long be remembered by all who had the privilege of knowing him. A clinician of the highest order, he combined a sound knowledge of the main branches of medicine with a clear and sympathetic understanding of his patient, thereby making his opinion of the highest value. Endowed with a keen zest for life, whatever he did he did with all his might, be it work, for which he had a remarkable capacity, or play, in many branches of which he excelled—he was a good golfer and a keen sportsman; indeed he was never happier than on those days when he could slip away with rod and gun from the din and bustle of the city to the quiet countryside which he loved so much. Gifted with a sense of humour, he had a well-stocked storehouse of anecdotes drawn from the experiences of his daily life. His genial presence and hearty laugh will be greatly missed by all those with whom he worked at the Board for the medical examination of recruits for His Majesty's Forces. He leaves behind him a record of work well done and a heritage of happy memories. To his widow and sisters sincerest sympathy goes out in their irreparable loss.

The Services

Capt. S. Sankaran, I.A.M.C., has been awarded the M.C. in recognition of gallant and distinguished services in Burma.

The following appointments and mentions have been announced in recognition of gallant and distinguished services while prisoners of war:

M.B.E. (Military Division).—Major (Temp.) W. M. MacLeod, and Capt. T. C. N. Gibbens, W. Milburn, A. P. Norman, J. E. Readman, N. S. Seaford, A. F. Stallard, H. T. Tate, and H. W. Wykes, R.A.M.C.

Mentioned in Despatches.—Lieut.-Col. F. J. O'Meara, Majors W. L. Kinnear, M.B.E., and G. G. E. Smyth, Majors (Temp.) J. M. Fosbrooke and E. Moore, and Capt. J. A. Learner, D. J. MacRae, J. A. S. Mulligan, and T. M. Park, R.A.M.C.

The following appointments, awards, and mentions have been announced in recognition of gallant and distinguished services in the field:

O.B.E. (Military Division).—Lieut.-Col. (Temp.) E. M. Hennessy, R.A.M.C.

M.B.E. (Military Division).—Major (Acting) H. McP. Kilgour, R.A.M.C. (since died).

M.C.—Capt. A. Crook and A. Gourevitch, R.A.M.C.

Mentioned in Despatches.—Lieut.-Col. T. A. S. Samuel, M.C., T.D., Major (Temp.) S. W. Barber, M.B.E., and Lieut. S. T. Williamson, R.A.M.C.

The Queen of the Netherlands has conferred on Lieut.-Col. J. R. Lochead, E.D., and Major A. G. Minnes, R.C.A.M.C., the decoration of Officer of the Order of Orange Nassau, and on Capt. N. N. Levine and M. Victor, R.C.A.M.C., the decoration of Knight of the same Order, in recognition of distinguished services in the cause of the Allies.

CASUALTIES IN THE MEDICAL SERVICES

Officially presumed to have lost his life in action at sea on September 13, 1944.—Capt. George Ferguson Allan, M.B., Ch.B., R.A.M.C.

Medical Notes in Parliament

Rickets

Dr. STEPHEN TAYLOR raised, on Feb. 11, the subject of rickets. He said it differed from most human ailments in that medical knowledge of it was practically complete. Its cause was known, as also how to prevent it. The Ministry of Health Survey on Rickets, published in March, 1944, covered the whole country and had been made for the Ministry by the British Paediatric Association. By x-ray tests it was found that about 4% of the children under 18 months had or had had rickets. By ordinary direct medical examination the figure was about 12%, varying from 0% in St. Albans to 60% in Sheffield. From the x-ray figure the House must conclude that about 24,000 children suffered from rickets each year, though the figure might have changed a little since the issue by the Ministry of Food of whole-cream dried milk with vitamin D added to it. During the war the policy of the Ministry of Food had been to make vitamin D₂ cheap or free. Orange juice containing vitamin C and cod-liver oil containing vitamins A and D₂ had been chosen media, but had not been entirely successful. In a wartime social survey in April, 1944, the Ministry of Food found that among 900 mothers with young children about 70% collected orange juice and only 40% cod-liver oil. Cod-liver oil was relatively unpopular. Its consumption among children over 1 year in age fell off rapidly, while babies were liable to spit it out. Cod-liver oil and malt would not prevent rickets unless it had vitamin D added to it. He urged the Government to test a real alternative in one or two Northern towns—1/10 milligramme of calciferol dissolved in about 15 milligrammes of bland arachis oil. That mixed perfectly and tastelessly with cocoa butter. A small penny bar of chocolate taken once a week would then contain all that was needed to prevent rickets. It might be able to add to the chocolate pro-vitamin A (carotene).

Mr. KEY, replying for the Ministry of Health, said findings differed widely when, during the investigations of 1944, the same group of children were examined by several clinical observers and radiologists. Evidence of mild rickets was found in 2½% of children under 6 months and about 4% of children under 12 months, with a negligible number above that age. There had been no increase of rickets during the war. The Medical Subcommittee of the Ministry's Advisory Committee on Mothers and Young Children made recommendations arising out of the 1944 report. Those recommendations were accepted by the Minister and acted upon. National cod-liver oil with its 700 or 800 units of vitamin D per teaspoonful had received publicity. Vitamin D was being added to national dried milk. There had not been a substantial increase in the uptake of cod-liver oil. Some 25% of mothers with children under the age of 5 were taking their share. Consumption seemed to be smaller in summer than in winter. Investigation showed that palatability was largely due to the way in which cod-liver oil was given to the child. Difficulty in getting the necessary quantities of vitamin A prevented the use of vitaminized chocolate. Infants would not be properly treated if this chocolate was used. Experiment in co-operation with the Ministry of Food was proceeding on the problem.

Social Research

Dr. STEPHEN TAYLOR asked on Feb. 14 if the Government would establish a Social Research Council on similar lines to the Medical Research Council. Mr. HERBERT MORRISON said the committee under the chairmanship of Sir John Clapham which, at the request of Mr. Dalton and himself, was examining the adequacy of the existing provision for research into economic and social questions, had given attention to this point. He preferred to await any observations on it that might be made in their report before reaching any conclusion.

Infectious Disease in Pregnancy

Mr. HERBERT MORRISON announced on Feb. 13 that the Medical Research Council had received reports from Australia suggesting that certain congenital defects in children, including deafness, may be causally connected with infectious disease in the mother during pregnancy. The council was investigating the subject, and the question of the effect on the child's hearing was receiving special attention.

Duty on X-ray Apparatus

Replying for the Board of Trade on Feb. 14 Mr. BELCHER told Col. Stoddart-Scott that there was a shortage of deep x-ray therapy apparatus in this country, particularly of certain components. If an application for exemption from duty in a particular case was made to the Board of Trade it would

consider carefully whether it could recommend the Chancellor of the Exchequer to grant the exemption.

Release from the R.A.F.

Answering on Feb. 20 inquiries by Col. Stoddart-Scott and Mr. Garry Allighan Mr. JOHN STRACHEY said medical officers in the R.A.F. in Groups 28 and 29 would be released in March. General duty medical officers in the Army were now being released up to Group 38 and their colleagues in the Naval medical service would be released up to Group 47 by the end of March. Distribution of recruits to the three medical services was still under consideration, but the Air Ministry hoped to receive an allocation which would help to even up the release rate.

Colonial Medical Service in West Africa

Mr. LIPSON asked on Feb. 20 what steps were being taken to recruit and train doctors for the Colonial Medical Service in West Africa and to maintain it at its present level. Mr. GEORGE HALL said applications received from qualified men for appointment to the Colonial Medical Service now nearly equalled the total number of vacancies. Applications continue to come in at a steady rate. He was concerned at the disinclination of many candidates to serve in West Africa. He had under consideration proposals designed to make the service more attractive, particularly to candidates with higher qualifications. For training the fullest use was made of the courses in tropical medicine at the Universities of London, Edinburgh, and Liverpool.

Supply of Medical Textbooks

Mr. PALMER on Feb. 21 asked the Minister of Education if she would take steps to improve the supply of textbooks for medical students. Miss WILKINSON said production of textbooks was in the hands of the publishers, but supplies were affected by shortages of labour and materials. Recent increases in the quota of paper allowed for books and the release of printers under the Class B scheme would result in better supplies becoming available soon. Where shortage of paper held up production the publishers of textbooks had an additional source of supply from the reserve held by the Moberly Committee, who were ready to give sympathetic consideration to applications for important books which the publishers could not produce from their ordinary quota.

D.D.T. in Common Use

Mr. BEVAN on Feb. 21 told Mr. Austin that according to present knowledge there was little risk attaching to the use of D.D.T. in the form in which it was commonly used—namely, as a powder or a watery suspension. Further investigations were proceeding into the toxicity of D.D.T. in oily solution. In any form D.D.T. should be kept away from food, since taken internally it was harmful.

Tuberculosis Treatment in Switzerland

Mr. E. BEVIN announced on Feb. 20 that possible arrangements for the treatment in Switzerland of a certain number of tuberculosis cases were under consideration by the Minister of Health and the Minister of Pensions as a result of a generous offer recently made to the Minister of Health through the Swiss Minister. A proposal to take over in Switzerland two sanatoria owned by the German Government would require careful consideration from many points of view.

Psychiatric Treatment of the Prisoner.—Mr. EDE stated on Feb. 7 that arrangements existed under which any prisoner, man or woman, at any establishment could receive psychiatric treatment if the medical officer considered it desirable. He said that not all sexual offenders were suitable subjects for psychiatric treatment, but all were specially examined with a view to such treatment if the examination showed they were likely to benefit thereby.

Priority Telephone Calls for Doctors.—Mrs. MIDDLETON on Feb. 21 asked the Assistant Postmaster-General to introduce priority telephone calls for the medical profession to obviate delays in securing hospital beds for patients. She recalled that a similar system operated formerly under the National Telephone Company. Mr. BURKE replied that when a member of the medical profession had to make a vitally urgent call the operator would give the call priority if the urgency was explained at the time.

Notes in Brief

Mr. Isaacs told Sir Henry Morris-Jones on Jan. 24 that it was no longer possible to direct women to fill domestic vacancies in hospitals. He hoped that as a result of acceptance by hospital authorities of the new code of conditions relating to hospital domestic workers unemployed women would show increasing willingness to enter this field.

The Government has taken no decision to advance the next census, which is due in 1951.

Mr. Barnes repeated on Jan. 28 a previous refusal to add doctors to the list of priority categories for the purchase of Service reconditioned motor cars.

Universities and Colleges

McGILL UNIVERSITY, MONTREAL

New Department of Anaesthesia

Recently at McGill University there has been created a Department of Anaesthesia, with Dr. Wesley Bourne as its head. The chief objects are: (1) The improvement of the teaching of anaesthesia to the undergraduate student in medicine. (2) The enhancement of opportunities for learning anaesthesia by the internes of the hospitals connected with the university. (3) The maintaining of a three-year diploma course in anaesthesia for those graduates in medicine who desire to become specialists in a complete manner. (4) The development of investigation in anaesthesia, in the way of interrelationship, in the clinic and in the laboratory, and, also, in an interdependent fashion with McGill University's other departments. Dr. Wesley Bourne and his associates feel, with good reason, that the founding of their department celebrates the centenary of anaesthesia in a most practical way.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

Prof. Wilson Smith, M.D., has been appointed to the university chair of bacteriology tenable at University College Hospital Medical School. Since 1939 he has been professor of bacteriology in the University of Sheffield.

The degree of D.Sc. has been conferred on N. F. MacLagan, an internal student at Middlesex Hospital Medical School.

LONDON HOSPITAL MEDICAL COLLEGE

The following entrance scholarships for 1946 are announced: *Two open scholarships* (value £100 each), in two or more of the following subjects—human morphology and embryology, physiology and pharmacology, biochemistry, and pathology, bacteriology, and morbid anatomy. The examination will be held on April 16 and 17. *Price Scholarship (Medical)* (value £100), and *Francis Farmer Scholarship (Dental)* (value £50), in biology, chemistry, and physics. The examination will be held on April 17. *Price University Scholarship* (value £100) in anatomy and physiology (limited to students of the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge). The examination will be held on July 5. Applications for admission should be sent to the Dean, Dr. A. E. Clark-Kennedy, London Hospital Medical College, Turner Street, E.1.

The *Glanfield Harris Prize in Anaesthetics* (value £60) is provided out of interest on a sum of money subscribed by relatives and friends in memory of Dr. John Richard Glanfield Harris, formerly assistant anaesthetist and assistant instructor in anaesthetics to the London Hospital, and will be awarded triennially to the author of the best essay on "Recent Advances in Anaesthesia." Candidates must be students of the London Hospital within ten years of obtaining a registrable medical qualification. No person will be eligible for the prize on more than one occasion. Essays for the prize will be received up to Dec. 31, 1947, and should be addressed to the Dean of the Medical College, from whom further particulars may be obtained.

Medical News

A clinical meeting of the Medical Society of the L.C.C. Service will be held on Wednesday, March 6, at 2.30 p.m., at Bethnal Green Hospital, Cambridge Road, E., when the staffs of Bethnal Green and Hackney Hospitals will demonstrate cases.

The 166th anniversary dinner of the Medical Society of London will be held at Claridge's Hotel on Friday, March 8, at 7 for 7.30 p.m. Applications should be sent to the Registrar of the Society, 11, Chandos Street, W.1.

It is hoped to institute a course of lectures and demonstrations in applied anatomy, physiology, and physics, suitable for medical men intending to take Part I of the Diploma of Physical Medicine, beginning on Monday, March 18. Prospective candidates should communicate with the Dean of the Medical School, Guy's Hospital, S.E.

The Ophthalmological Society of the United Kingdom will hold its annual congress on Thursday and Friday, May 30 and 31, and Saturday, June 1, at the house of the Royal Society of Medicine, 1, Wimpole Street, W. The subject for discussion is ocular disturbances associated with malnutrition. The president's address bears the title "Johannes Evangelista Purkinje." The Bowman Lecture will be given by Dr. Arnold Knapp, on intracapsular extraction of cataract. Part of the Friday afternoon session will be devoted to a joint clinical meeting with the Ophthalmological Section of the R.S.M. Members who intend to take part in the discussion or to read papers should write before the end of March to the honorary secretary, Mr. Frank W. Law, 36, Devonshire Place, W.1.