

until he falls ill again. A careful follow-up in association with all the social welfare organizations is demanded in the interests of the patient and the community. It is thus evident that not only patients but hospitals need rehabilitation.

The widely prevalent idea that by centralizing hospital work in large institutions one will achieve the best medical results is fallacious, tending to stultify local effort and lessen the interest of the community in the hospital and so reduce the hospital's educative value. It seems to me that in reorganizing medical services the first consideration, contrary to the general opinion, should be improvement of the general practitioner service, which forms the first line of defence against illness. The more efficient this is the less need there will be for hospital treatment, and such cases as eventually do need such treatment will reach the hospital at a stage where they are likely to receive maximum benefit. There are many things that should and can be done to improve the general practitioner service, but probably the most important is that the G.P. should be more closely connected with the work of the hospital in his area. This could be achieved by offering clinical assistantships to G.P.s willing to serve, these to be held for a limited period by men selected from a rota.

Dr. S. Goldwater, in an article on "The Hospital, the Family Doctor, and the Patient" in *The Hospital in Modern Society*, writes:

"The physician who enjoys a proper institutional association avoids the danger of becoming careless and superficial in his clinical methods. Nothing is more indispensable to the success of any effort to restore the general practitioner to a central place in medical practice than the creation of right relations between the family doctor and the hospital. Recognition of the need of a hospital connexion for every practitioner should be a controlling factor in all community hospital organizations, for a practitioner cannot do his job competently unless he enjoys the advantages of a healthy stimulating environment."

The cry is now for centralization of cases in large institutions, where every means of diagnosis and treatment is available, but a little thought should convince one that along with certain advantages there are definite disadvantages—physical and psychological—in such plans. The influence of the psychological factor is such that treatment demanding distant separation from relatives and friends may, and often does, yield less satisfactory results than less perfect, but nevertheless good, treatment nearer home. Moreover, centralized treatment in large institutions tends to deaden the communities' altruistic efforts, which will always be necessary for the development of a really satisfactory national medical service.

Bringing the general practitioner into closer association with the hospital not only will benefit him more than any of the projected refresher courses but will in turn benefit the consultant by giving him a wider outlook, and—a not unimportant consideration—lead to a more frequent call for his services in the home to the benefit of the patient. This association will be difficult to effect if there is over-centralization of hospitals whereby the latter are removed too far from the areas in which large numbers of G.P.s practise. For their education and that of the community a good case can be made out for the retention of the smaller hospitals.—I am, etc.,

London, W.8.

HAROLD SANGUINETTI.

Chartered Society of Physiotherapy

SIR.—The plea put forward by the Chairman of Council of the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy (March 2, p. 335) for a closer co-operation between physiotherapists and the medical profession is deserving of strong support. The maintenance of the present acknowledged high ethical standard of the members of the Chartered Society is likely to become more difficult unless that co-operation be improved.

On the medical side it is to be regretted that many practising doctors and most medical students are not well informed as to modern physiotherapeutic techniques; this should be corrected by including some demonstrations and lectures on the subject in the medical curriculum.

Physiotherapists on their side should take every opportunity of showing doctors the scope and value of their methods, and multiply their points of contact with the medical profession. The Council of the B.M.A. recently had to deplore the severance

of one important link when the Chartered Society voluntarily withdrew from the Board of Registration of Medical Auxiliaries. It is to be hoped that the new medical service will provide closer links between doctors and physiotherapists.—I am, etc.,

London, W.1.

V. ZACHARY COPE.

Anaesthesia

SIR,—Dr. W. A. Bellamy's letter (Feb. 16, p. 252) betrays an attitude of mind not uncommon to many who find it easy to preface their remarks by the phrase "twenty years ago." One begins to suspect a reluctance on their part to admit the inevitability of progress. Surely our students are taught according to the ideas of their teachers, and they by virtue of their knowledge and experience are best fitted to advise as to the curriculum.

The plain fact is that the "good enough" in anaesthetics or any other branch of medicine will not satisfy those who seek to reach higher standards. The soldier to-day is not asked to become proficient in the use of bow and arrow ere he is taught the intricacies of the machine-gun. Let us treble the trappings, tubes, taps, and turncocks if by doing so we may reduce the mortality by the merest fraction. Might we not greatly improve the morbidity rate in our efforts? The death rate is surely not the only criterion. Avertin, originally introduced as a general anaesthetic, proved too deadly an agent but found a useful place as a basal anaesthetic. If the pundits now seek to prove its undesirability as such we must be broad-minded enough to entertain opinions, though these may run contrary to our own. Let professional conscience be our guide.

Who, for one moment, would suggest that the art of anaesthesia is a "mysterious cult," etc.? To practise the art, however, requires effort and a willingness to learn and understand how difficulties may be avoided and overcome, also an obligation to admit one's faults in any technique, no matter how cherished that may be, should other and more observant eyes detect such faults. Twenty years after or forty years after, let us never be too old to learn.—I am, etc.,

Salisbury.

A. D. H. SIMPSON.

The Services

I.M.S. Dinner

The annual dinner of the Indian Medical Service is being revived this year. It will be held at the Connaught Rooms, Great-Queen Street, W.C., on June 19. Major-Gen. Sir E. W. C. Bradfield will preside, and applications for tickets may be sent to Major-Gen. R. H. Candy, c/o Grindlay and Co., Ltd., 54, Parliament Street, S.W.1.

Col. (Local Brig.) D. Fettes, O.B.E., late R.A.M.C., has been appointed Honorary Surgeon to the King in succession to Major-Gen. D. C. Monro, C.B., C.B.E., late R.A.M.C., retired.

Surg. Cmdr. R. W. H. Tinker, R.N.V.R., has been awarded the R.N.V.R. Officers' decoration.

Surg. Lieut.-Cmdr. H. G. Singer, R.N., has been mentioned in dispatches for good services while a prisoner of war.

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

C.B.E. (Military Division).—Brig. (Temp.) W. M. Cameron, O.B.E., R.A.M.C.

M.B.E. (Military Division).—Capt. G. Forrest-Hay, R.A.M.C.

Mentioned in Dispatches.—Major (Temp.) D. E. O'Connor-Cuffey and Capt. G. F. A. Caldwell, R.A.M.C.

CASUALTIES IN THE MEDICAL SERVICES

Killed.—Capts. Patrick James O'Flynn and Bernard Sidman, R.A.M.C.

Died.—Major A. P. Barnard, R.A.M.C.; Major W. Bornshin, I.M.S.

Previously reported missing, now reported killed.—Lieut. A. E. Lewis, I.A.M.C.

Previously reported missing, now reported died of wounds.—Capt. S. S. Kirtane, I.M.S.

Previously reported missing, now reported died while a prisoner of war.—Capt. Godwin Lionel Robbins Tapsall, I.M.S.

Wounded.—Capt. S. Bradshaw, Lieut. A. R. Brailsford, Capt. Marguerite E. M. Day, Capt. H. W. Holland, R.A.M.C.; Capt. I. S. Dalson, I.A.M.C.

prescribed by the Dental Benefit Regulations. Mr. James Griffiths hopes that in the result a solution will be found of the difficulties arising out of the refusal of certain dentists to undertake work on the basis of the present scale of fees. The question of resuming regular meetings of the council will also be considered.

Hospital Domestic Labour.—When asked on Feb. 21 about a shortage of domestic workers at Colindale Hospital, Mr. ISAACS said the British Hospitals Association and other hospital associations had contributed to building up standards for this work which should encourage further recruitment. An understanding about wages and working conditions had been put into force. Until the Ministry saw how a publicity scheme for encouraging people to take up these duties was working he was not going to arrange wholesale importation of domestic workers from the Continent.

Tuberculosis Invalids from the Navy.—Between September, 1939, and January, 1946, 8,144 officers and ratings, including Royal Marines, were finally invalided out of the Royal Navy on account of pulmonary tuberculosis.

Hot-water Bottles.—Sir STAFFORD CRIPPS said on Feb. 18 that retailers had no authority to demand medical certificates before supplying hot-water bottles. But if, in the opinion of the patient's doctor, a rubber hot-water bottle was necessary for purposes of treatment, it was desirable that a medical certificate should be given some priority. Certificates should be issued only on that ground.

The Aged and Extra Milk.—Sir Ben Smith will not authorize doctors to issue certificates for extra milk for old people not suffering from specific illnesses. The Special Diets Advisory Committee of the Medical Research Council advises him that there are no nutritional grounds for allowing extra milk to old people. He has arranged for repatriated civilian prisoners of war who were suffering from malnutrition to be allowed extra milk.

Notes in Brief

Up to the end of December last pensions had been granted in about 3,000 cases of psychosis and 1,000 of epilepsy accepted as attributable to or aggravated by service in the war. In addition awards had been made in about 27,000 cases of psychoneurosis and other nervous disorders.

Calcium in the form of creta praeparata is added to flour at the rate of 7 oz. of calcium to 280 lb. of flour.

The Minister of Food states that he has made arrangements for people suffering from coeliac disease to be able to get ample and regular supplies of dried bananas. His medical advisers inform him that these are as suitable for such patients as fresh bananas. He does not propose to make any special arrangements for them to get fresh bananas. It would not in any case be possible to guarantee regular supplies.

The report of the Electro-acoustics Committee on Hearing Aids is being prepared. It is hoped to publish it in the near future.

The Minister of Supply, Mr. Wilmot, is doing all he can to help manufacturers to secure skilled labour for manufacture of surgical apparatus such as spinal jackets.

There is no prospect of soap rationing ending at an early date.

Universities and Colleges

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

At a Congregation on March 1 the Senate resolved to confer the degree of Master of Arts, *honoris causa*, upon Arthur Leslie Banks, M.D.Lond., Principal Regional Medical Officer of the Ministry of Health. The recommendations of the Council of the Senate for the establishment of a professorship of radiotherapeutics were approved, and also for an additional payment to the Regius Professor of Physic for work in connexion with the organization of the School of Clinical Medicine.

The Board of Management of the Frank Edward Elmore Fund will shortly award a studentship for research, open to male graduates of any university in any country, who were born at any place within the British Empire, other than Scotland. The student appointed will work in the Department of Medicine at Cambridge, under the direction of the Regius Professor of Physic, commencing salary £400 a year, the appointment being for two years in the first instance. Further information may be had from the Regius Professor of Physic, Department of Medicine, University of Cambridge, to whom applications, with three testimonials, a statement of previous appointments, and copies of published papers, should be sent so as to reach him by March 22.

The following candidates have been examined and approved for the degree of M.Chir.: A. G. Leacock, G. C. Martin, B. H. Page.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

The following candidates have been approved at the examination indicated:

THIRD M.B., B.S.—J. G. Millichap (with honours and distinguished in surgery), Daphne S. A. Anderson, H. Annamunthodo, E. R. Arnold, R. J. Aspinall, P. T. Ballantyne, J. C. Batten, A. J. Beale, D. W. Beynon, Margaret J. Blair, L. W. Bland, Pattie E. Bradfield, Catherine M. P. Bradstreet, P. E. Brown,

G. H. Carrick, H. E. A. Carson, P. T. Chopping, C. I. Cooling, B. S. Cooper, W. D. Corfield, J. C. Crook, Naomi Datta, E. T. De Mel, H. G. Dixon, C. J. Don, F. R. Ellis, Norah C. Elphinstone, Rosemary F. Evans, Elizabeth P. E. Everard, A. Feldman, H. Fishbone, A. Folkson, S. L. Gauntlett, Jean M. Gilbert, Beryl M. Goetzee, L. S. Goodhardt, W. P. D. Green, W. P. Gurassa, D. O. Haines, Audrey Hanson, Elizabeth J. Harman, P. C. Harris, T. A. Harrison, A. Hollman, T. G. Hooson, Edith C. C. Hörburger, J. R. F. Innes, H. C. W. James, B. W. Jaslowitz, R. C. Jennings, K. S. Jones, J. W. Jordan, P. K. S. Joynson, D. L. Kerr, I. W. Kerr, Catherine M. R. Kirkpatrick, J. M. Kodicek, T. Koonvisal, E. Kupfer, E. T. Lay, Elizabeth J. Lee, B. Lewis, S. Lewis, O. C. J. Lippold, Anne Maguire, L. V. Martin, D. T. Methuen, J. B. Musgrove, Rosemarie D. Newhouse, J. K. Oates, D. J. O'Brien, H. Parkes, Liliane Parkinson, T. D. Parsons, I. C. L. Patch, I. A. W. Peck, G. F. Penny, J. H. S. Pettit, G. D. Powell, D. E. Pugh, S. S. Raphael, Rosalind B. Reiss, A. T. Richardson, L. Roodyn, M. L. Sacks, A. H. Saddler, M. E. Samrah, T. A. L. Scott, G. C. W. Sharpe, C. S. Shaw, L. Silverstone, E. R. Simpson, S. R. Sims, Mary E. Smith, K. A. Sowden, D. G. H. Sylvester, B. E. R. Symonds, Edith Taylor, E. H. Taylor, Mary J. L. Taylor, G. I. Tewfik, Vivian M. N. Usborne, Brenda D. van Leuven, J. D. Wallace, J. G. Watt, P. Westcombe, M. J. Whelan, J. B. Wild, J. M. Wilks, N. A. F. Young, D. M. Zausmer.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE HOSPITAL MEDICAL SCHOOL

The Sydney Ringer Memorial Lecture will be delivered by Prof. J. Z. Young, F.R.S., in the Lecture Theatre of the University College Hospital Medical School (University Street, Gower Street, W.C.) on Tuesday, March 12, at 4.30 p.m. His subject is "Effects of Use and Disuse on Nerve and Muscle." The lecture is open to all qualified practitioners and medical students.

UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER

The following appointments are announced: *Lecturer in Medical Neurology*, G. G. E. Smyth, M.D. *Lecturer in Neurosurgery*, R. T. Johnson, M.B., F.R.C.S. *Lecturer in Surgery*, R. L. Holt, M.D., F.R.C.S. *Demonstrator in Experimental Physiology*, M. G. Saunders, M.B., Ch.B. *Lecturers in Preventive Medicine*, C. Metcalfe Brown, M.D., D.P.H., and F. R. Marshall, M.D., D.P.H. *Lecturers in Industrial Health*, F. H. King, M.D., A. T. Jones, M.D., D.P.H., M. W. Goldblatt, M.D. *Assistant Director of the Routine Section in the Department of Bacteriology*, H. W. Clegg, M.D., D.P.H.

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

At the February meeting of the University Court, with the Principal, Sir John Fraser, presiding, it was announced that the Cameron Prize in Therapeutics for 1946 had been awarded to Prof. A. Szent-Györgyi, of the University of Szeged, Hungary, in recognition of his eminent contributions to knowledge of vitamin C.

Robert James Kellar, M.B.E., M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.S.Ed., F.R.C.O.G., has been appointed to the Chair of Midwifery.

UNIVERSITY OF DUBLIN

The Senate of Dublin University has announced its intention to confer a number of honorary degrees, including the Sc.D. on Sir Alexander Fleming, F.R.S., professor of bacteriology at St. Mary's Hospital Medical School, and Prof. Eric K. Rideal, D.Sc., F.R.S., of the chair of colloid science at Cambridge University; and the M.D. on Sir Herbert Eason, F.R.C.S., President of the General Medical Council.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND

The following letter dated Feb. 14 (John Hunter's birthday) has been received by the President of the Royal College of Surgeons from Sir William H. Collins:

"I have been disturbed for some time because it seemed to me that possibly financial considerations were preventing the Royal College of Physicians transferring their headquarters to Lincoln's Inn Fields. In order to help to remove any such difficulty which may be standing in the way of the establishment of a Medical Academic Centre in London, I am making a further gift of £100,000 to the Royal College of Surgeons to provide increased endowment for the Scientific Departments. The gift is made on condition that the Council offers all the sites and property which they own to the east of the College and which are not required for the extension of the Royal College of Surgeons as a free gift to the Royal College of Physicians. The offer by the Royal College of Surgeons must be conditional on the site being used for a new building for the Royal College of Physicians and must be kept open for at least twelve months."

The Council of the College has accepted with extreme gratitude the conditions laid down and has made a formal offer of the site to the Royal College of Physicians in accordance with Sir William Collins's wish.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF EDINBURGH

At a quarterly meeting of the College held on Feb. 5, with the President, Dr. D. M. Lyon, in the chair, Dr. D. M. F. Batty (Edinburgh), Dr. J. Halliday Groom (Edinburgh), Dr. G. A. G. Peterkin (Edinburgh), Dr. James Innes (Edinburgh), Dr. Angus MacNiven (Glasgow), and Dr. J. S. Fulton (Glasgow) were introduced and took their seats as Fellows of the College.

Dr. B. S. Bindra (Karachi, India) and Dr. O. Olbrich (Edinburgh) were elected Fellows of the College.