

evidence to support the claim; it ought to have asked whether there was any evidence to negative it, and the learned judge found none.

On the other hand, in considering a claim by the widow of a Capt. Bourne, the Minister had sent his reasons to the medical services division of the Ministry to ask whether it agreed, and the division sent the paper back with an endorsement "Medically agreed" signed by one of its doctors. This constituted authentication by a medical man, and therefore made the Minister's reasons evidence. The tribunal, considering it with the claimant's evidence and being advised by its medical member, decided against the claimant. The learned judge found that the tribunal had sufficient evidence for its conclusion.

ACCIDENT IN A DOCTOR'S HOUSE

A Glasgow radiologist, having advised a patient, asked him to let himself out. Some time later the patient was found lying on the basement stairs with a broken spine; he died two weeks later, and his widow and eight children were awarded £1,641 damages by the Court of Session in Edinburgh. Their Lordships found that the passage through which the patient had had to go was dark or badly lit, and that the nearness of the unlighted basement stairs constituted a danger to a person not acquainted with the house; they therefore held that the doctor had been negligent. The law of England and Scotland alike makes the owner of premises liable to take all reasonable steps to protect a person who comes on to the premises by invitation, and a patient visiting a doctor would fall into this category. The Court's judgment was, however, upset on appeal¹. Lord Cooper, the Lord Justice-Clerk, found on the evidence that the stair light had been lit and the door open. It could not have been foreseen that any normal person seeking to go out would turn away from the lighted portion of the premises in order to explore, unaided, the unlit portions of a strange house. The doctor had no duty to foresee the unaccountable conduct of the deceased, who was himself the author of his fatal misfortune.

The Services

Surg. Vice-Adml. H. St. C. Colson, C.B.E., has been appointed an Honorary Physician to the King in succession to Surg. Vice-Adml. Sir Sheldon Dudley, K.C.B., F.R.S., who has been placed on the retired list; and Surg. Rear-Admls. F. J. D. Twigg and H. R. B. Hull have been appointed Honorary Surgeons to the King in succession to Surg. Rear-Admls. C. V. Griffiths, D.S.O., and W. H. Edgar, C.B., O.B.E., respectively, who have been placed on the retired list.

The King of Norway has conferred the Norwegian War Medal upon Temp. Surg. Lieut. H. H. Kennedy, R.N.V.R. for assistance given to personnel of Norwegian corvettes in difficult circumstances.

The King of the Hellenes has conferred the Greek Distinguished Service Medal upon Temp. Surg. Lieut.-Cmdr. V. O. B. Gartside, R.N.V.R., for services as medical officer in the Greek destroyer *Adrias*.

Major (Acting) P. A. M. Van De Linde and Capt. R. H. S. Lee, M.B.E., R.A.M.C., and Capt. S. P. Jain and Lieut. Nataranjan, I.M.S., have been mentioned in dispatches in recognition of gallant and distinguished services in the field.

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

O.B.E. (Military Division).—Lieut.-Cols. (Temp.) P. C. Dutta and W. J. L. Neal, I.M.S.

M.B.E. (Military Division).—Capt. J. A. Sutherland, R.A.M.C. Majors H. S. Manni, and B. L. Kapur; Major (Acting) L. W. Ashton-Rose; Capt. T. C. Bose, P. V. Ramaniah, and B. D. P. Rao, I.M.S. Subadar C. Dev and Jemadar S. Singh, and Conductors G. E. McDonald and P. Wolfe, I.A.M.C.

Mentioned in Dispatches.—Lieut.-Col. G. D. Malhoutra, O.B.E., Lieut.-Col. (Temp.) B. Chaudhuri, O.B.E., Lieut.-Col. (Acting) K. F. Alford, Majors L. Feinhols and J. O'Neill, Majors (Temp.) A. C. Glendinning, G. A. Graham, M. N. Sardana, and S. A. Hasan, Capt. B. I. Evans, A. M. Best, N. K. Mehra, N. S. Pillay, A. Strachan, B. N. Sudan, and A. K. Thomas, I.M.S. Subadar A. A. Bakhari, Jemadar (now Subadar) A. K. Chanda, Jemadars D. N. Malik, and K. Singh, Cdr. G. McG. Hartley, Sub-Cdrs. R. R. Braganza, M. V. Game, C. H. James, D. A. Plomer, J. J. G. Towers, and T. A. J. Wickham, I.A.M.C.

CASUALTIES IN THE MEDICAL SERVICES

Died.—Surg. Lieut. John Morell Williams, R.N.V.R.

¹ *Scotsman*, Feb. 23, 1946.

Universities and Colleges

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

The E. G. Fearnside Scholarship for clinical research on organic diseases of the nervous system is open to members of the University or of Girton College or Newnham College who are graduates or titular graduates in Medicine, or to graduates or titular graduates in Arts who have passed Part II of the Natural Sciences Tripos. Applications must be sent to the Registry before June 24.

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

Prof. J. R. Learmonth, C.B.E., has been appointed regius professor of clinical surgery. This chair was formerly held by Sir John Fraser and has been vacant since he became Principal of Edinburgh University. Prof. Learmonth will hold the post together with his present chair of systematic surgery. It is the first occasion on which two posts have been combined in this way at Edinburgh. Prof. Learmonth graduated with honours at Glasgow University in 1921, gaining the Brunton Memorial Prize for the most distinguished graduate of medicine for the year. Following the award in 1924 of a Rockefeller Medical Fellowship he spent a year at the Mayo Clinic in the United States, and in 1928 returned to join the surgical staff of the clinic as a neurological surgeon. From 1922 to 1928 he worked as assistant to Prof. Archibald Young, first in the Anderson College of Medicine, Glasgow, and later in Glasgow University. In 1932 he succeeded Sir John Marnoch as regius professor of surgery in the University of Aberdeen, and in 1939 was appointed to the chair in Edinburgh.

SOCIETY OF APOTHECARIES OF LONDON

At a meeting of the Court of Assistants, with the Master, Dr. Hugh F. Powell, in the chair, Drs. N. S. Finzi and Macdonald Critchley were elected to the Court and took their seats. Dr. J. P. Hedley was reappointed as the Society's representative on the Central Midwives Board.

On March 12, Lord Moran, President of the Royal College of Physicians of London, delivered a lecture entitled "Into Battle" to an audience of about 150 guests. The lecture was followed by the first post-war entertainment to the Members of the Society.

A special meeting of the Court was held, under the chairmanship of the Master, in connexion with the National Health Service Bill.

The Diploma in Industrial Health, *honoris causa*, was granted to: Dr. A. J. Amor, Dr. John C. Bridge, Prof. F. A. E. Crew, F.R.S., Dr. Margaret Dobbie-Bateman, Dr. M. W. Goldblatt, and Dr. E. R. A. Merewether.

The Diploma of the Society was granted upon examination to the following candidates: E. T. De Mel, J. S. E. Gilbert, J. J. Maskell, M. Lakner, P. F. Osborne, A. M. Benson, R. Hodgkinson, K. R. Brookes, R. A. Armstrong, E. H. Osborn-Smith.

CONJOINT BOARD IN SCOTLAND

The following candidates, having passed the final examinations, have been granted the diploma of L.R.C.P.Ed., L.R.C.S.Ed., L.R.F.P.&S. Glas.:

Y. Anwar, H. Biggins, M. Bleicher, W. A. Brown, I. S. Bruce, A. M. Buchanan, J. Caldwell, W. Campbell, R. E. Dwork, F. Fleming, N. Katz, S. O. Krause, L. W. Kyrollos, A. McDonald, Catherine McGuigan, R. D. G. MacLennan, I. H. Mathieson, N. Meleca, Edith M. Muggoch, L. R. Orens, G. L. Park, F. R. Roberts, Caroline Y. B. Robertson, D. N. Rosenberg, J. Rusius, Agnes E. Russell, J. Singh, J. W. Tandatnick, T. G. Thomas.

Medical News

The annual general meeting of the British Association of Physical Medicine will be held at the Royal College of Surgeons, Lincoln's Inn Fields, W.C.2, on May 15, 1946, at 5.30 p.m., and will be followed by a dinner in the College.

A meeting of the Tuberculosis Association will be held at 26, Portland Place, W., on Friday, May 17, at 5 p.m., when a paper on "Primary Pleurisy with Effusion—Clinical and Epidemiological Features and After-history of 190 Cases" will be read by Dr. Brian Thompson. At 8 p.m. a discussion on "The Morbidity of Tuberculosis" will be opened by Dr. W. T. Russell and Dr. Norman England.

Dr. Philip Inwald, Dr. Horace Joules, and Dr. Stephen Taylor, M.P., will be the speakers at a meeting arranged by the Socialist Medical Association to be held at Denison House, 296, Vauxhall Bridge Road, S.W., to-day (Saturday, May 11) at 3 p.m. Mr. Somerville Hastings will preside, and the subject will be "The New National Health Service—The Profession and the Public."