

ments in health and disease. Helmuth Sprinz emphasizes the importance of protein deficiency rather than vitamin deficiency as a primary factor in malnutrition.

The section on heart disease does not record any great advance in treatment or diagnosis, but there are useful reviews of current opinion on cardiac surgery and methods of digitalization. The use of strict bed rest in cardiac failure and in active tuberculosis is also discussed. The 1946 Year Book gives the impression that many workers, particularly in America, are pausing to evaluate a variety of tests and investigations in the hope of simplifying the diagnostician's task, and that the clinician, though more willing to subject his patient to major surgical procedures, is concentrating on early functional recovery.

M. NEWHOUSE.

CHEMICAL IDENTIFICATION

Characterisation of Organic Compounds. By F. Wild, Ph.D., F.R.I.C. (Pp. 306. 18s.) Cambridge: The University Press. 1947.

The amazing development of modern chemistry, especially in relation to biology and medicine, has necessitated a refinement of standards as well as of methods. Although new compounds or factors may be discovered by analogy and elucidated by circumstantial chemical evidence, it is not always realized, as Dr. Wild reminds us, that "in general the tests classify but do not identify the compound." Qualitative reactions, such as empirical colour tests, may be of use in that they guide the bee of research to the flowers; but absolute identification, the only sure basis for chemical knowledge, demands the preparation of pure derivatives with measurable physical characteristics.

In this conscientious and lucid book the author has collected, summarized, and described with full practical details the most convenient methods for the identification of individual members of the chief types of organic compounds. The extent of the area covered is shown by the index, which contains over 2,000 entries; and the text is amply provided with tabulations and formulae. The book will be of great value as a work of reference, and also a useful guide to the individual research student, for it contains much information that is often required and presents it clearly.

W. R. FEARON.

JAUNDICE

The Differential Diagnosis of Jaundice. By Leon Schiff, Ph.D., M.D. (Pp. 313; illustrated. \$5.50 or 30s.) Chicago: The Year Book Publishers, Inc. London: H. K. Lewis and Co. 1946.

A book whose author discusses the differential diagnosis of a single symptom is liable to be a sketchy review of the disorders to which the particular symptom is common. Dr. Schiff has not entirely overcome that defect. In most of his book he gives a conventional account of the morbid processes that cause jaundice; the descriptions are in the main adequate, but since their central theme is necessarily jaundice they sometimes lack proportion—for instance, his account of Weil's disease suggests that jaundice occurs in every case. He neglects the pathology of jaundice and relegates his description of its general characteristics to only 13 pages. Details of laboratory methods are described in an appendix, but we should have welcomed a fuller evaluation of their significance. The section on radiology contains some excellent skiagrams, particularly of ampullary and pancreatic carcinoma. Liver biopsy is well described and some illustrative photomicrographs are included.

While parts of the book are informative it is not sufficiently comprehensive for the physician particularly interested in hepatic disease, and a monograph on a single symptom cannot appeal to the harassed student. The English is at times uncouth—as, for example, when the author writes of cirrhosis of the liver: "the disease is prone to occur in occupational groups in which there is contact with alcoholic beverages."

R. BODLEY SCOTT.

Medical Bookman is published by Harvey and Blythe, 6, Hanover Square, London, S.W.1 (6d. monthly), and edited by Drs. F. Croxon Deller and W. R. Bett. A few monthly issues have already appeared. As the title suggests, books are the chief interest of this enterprising venture. The Editors also hope to find space for reporting learned societies and Stationery Office publications.

BOOKS RECEIVED

[Review is not precluded by notice here of books recently received]

Muscle Testing. By L. Daniels, M.A., M. Williams, M.A., and C. Worthingham, M.A. (Pp. 189. 12s. 6d.) Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders. 1947.

An illustrated survey on manual muscle testing used to assess muscular weakness resulting from disease, injury, or disuse.

Week-Ends for Henry. By Hester Holland. (Pp. 192. 9s. 6d.) London: Hurst and Blackett. 1947.

An adventure story.

Appendicite et Urologie. By L. Strominger. (Pp. 165. 240 francs.) Paris: Masson. 1946.

A clinical study of the relationship between appendicitis and urological affections.

L'Anesthésie Intra-Veineuse au Pentothal-Sodium. By Ernest Kern. (Pp. 92. 100 francs.) Paris: Masson. 1946.

A short account of the uses, technique, and effects of thiopentone anaesthesia.

Blind Intubation and the Signs of Anaesthesia. By J. U. Human, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., L.D.S., D.A. 3rd ed. (Pp. 230. 10s. 6d.) London: H. K. Lewis. 1947.

An account of the physiology and signs of anaesthesia, endotracheal technique, and principles of premedication, intended primarily for the newly qualified.

Surgical Note-Taking. By Charles F. M. Saint, M.D., M.S., F.R.C.S. 4th ed. (Pp. 106. 4s. 6d.) London: H. K. Lewis. 1947.

A summarized account of surgical note-taking for students and dressers.

Nursing and Diseases of Sick Children. Ed. by Alan Moncrieff, M.D., F.R.C.P. 4th ed. (Pp. 744. 30s.) London: H. K. Lewis. 1947.

Intended as a textbook for nurses, this edition includes new material on the sulphonamides, penicillin, and other topics.

Diagnóstico y Terapéutica Quirúrgicos de Urgencia. By Dr. F. Doménech-Alsina. (Pp. 912. No price.) Barcelona and Buenos Aires: Salvat. 1947.

Illustrated textbook of emergency surgery and surgical procedures.

The Dentists Register. Published under the direction of the Dental Board of the United Kingdom. (Pp. 346. 15s.) London: Constable. 1947.

Nutrition in Industry. By the International Labour Office, Montreal. (Pp. 177. 6s.) London: Staples Press. 1946.

An account of wartime measures in Canada, the United States, and Britain to safeguard the nutrition of industrial workers.

Local Anaesthesia: Brachial Plexus. By R. R. Macintosh, M.A., M.D., F.R.C.S., D.A., and William W. Mushin, M.B., B.S., D.A. 2nd ed. (Pp. 56. 10s. 6d.) Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1947.

Local analgesia produced by injection of the brachial plexus, illustrated with many diagrams and photographs.

Anais do Segundo Congresso Médico Paulista. Vols. 1 and 2. By Prof. Dr. C. Gama, Dr. P. A. Netto, and Dr. O. C. Gordinho. (Pp. 653 and 1,035. Cr.\$150,00 and Cr.\$200,00.) Sao Paulo, Brazil: Edigraf. 1945.

A collection of papers presented at the Second Congress of the Sao Paulo Medical and Surgical Association.

Psychological Disorders in Flying Personnel of the Royal Air Force. (Investigated during the war 1939-45.) Air Ministry Publication. (Pp. 344. 7s. 6d.) London: H.M. Stationery Office. 1947.

Experimental Embryology in the Netherlands, 1940-1945. By M. W. Woerdeman, M.D., and Chr. P. Raven, Ph.D. (Pp. 132. Florins 6.50.) New York and Amsterdam: Elsevier Publishing Company. 1946.

Papers by various contributors on experiments on amphibious eggs.

The Mind and Death of a Genius. By David Abrahamsen, M.D. (Pp. 228. 16s. 6d.) London: Geoffrey Cumberlege. 1946.

A biography of Otto Weininger by a psychiatrist.

court for an interlocutory injunction to restrain him from breach of the covenant, and when the motion was heard the parties agreed that it should be treated as the trial of the action.

Competition by a Former Servant

The learned judge said that the original concept of law that all contracts in restraint of trade were obnoxious had been profoundly modified in the last hundred years. Now, although a master cannot ordinarily bind a servant to refrain from competing with him later, yet if the servant has been put in a position to learn trade secrets, or to acquire a special or intimate knowledge of the affairs of his master's customers, clients, or patients, or to acquire means of influence over them, there exists a proprietary interest or goodwill which is entitled to protection. The competition of the former servant would be unfair, for it would grow not so much from his personal skill as from his intimate knowledge of his master's business. A medical assistant necessarily comes into this category. The judge then dealt with the principles on which the various provisions in a covenant may be severed from one another. This may only happen, he said, when there are really two or more separate covenants. The benefit of any doubt goes against the party who wants to sever the clauses, and the interest of the public must be considered as well as that of the parties. The present covenant, his Lordship said, was severable into two parts; the one dealing with private practice and the other dealing with the acceptance of professional appointments. He held that the second part was too wide to be enforceable. It would cover such an appointment as honorary lecturer to the St. John Ambulance, and any medical appointment under a local authority; it could not be justified as reasonable or necessary for the protection of any proprietary interest of the partners. As this part was severable, its failure did not vitiate the first part, but this also his Lordship found unreasonably wide. He thought that the word "assist" could not exclude financial assistance, so that the ex-assistant would, for example, be prohibited from advancing money to a lady to enable her to establish a maternity home within the area. Such a restriction could not be justified, and so unless the restriction on causing or assisting another to practise could be severed from the restriction on personal practice, the whole of the first part must fall. He did not think this severance could be made, nor that the covenant intended to draw a distinction between practising as a principal on the one hand and exercising the profession vicariously or as another's servant on the other.

Even if such severance had been permissible, he gravely doubted whether the covenant could be supported. He would not be prepared to hold that a ten-mile radius was excessive, nor even the time-limit of five years. The difficulty arose from the words "any department of medicine, surgery, or midwifery." This formula would cover specialized branches of surgery such as ophthalmic, orthopaedic, plastic, and even dental and veterinary surgery. In the field of medicine such specialties as radiotherapy and radiology would also be barred. True, if a proprietary interest entitled to protection exists, the terms of the covenant need not necessarily be referable strictly to that interest. Proper and reasonable protection may well justify a general restriction against competition; but it must be competition with the business which is in fact conducted by the employers. It was true that if any of the restrictions of this covenant were unenforceable, the selling value of the practice would be diminished in proportion, but that result was not sufficient justification for the restriction.

His Lordship expressed some regret at his conclusion, for he took the view that a man ought to honour his part of a bargain which he expects the other party to observe, and it is no part of the duty of the court to relieve a man of bad bargains because they are bad. His regret, however, was tempered by two considerations. First, a servant is necessarily at a disadvantage in such contracts, and there is an obligation on masters to see that restrictive covenants are framed with precision and care and do not attempt undue exaction. Secondly, the ex-assistant had stated that he was ready and willing to undertake for eighteen months not to accept as a patient any person who was a patient of the practice at the time when his assistantship ended. His Lordship therefore dismissed the motion with costs, with this undertaking as part of the order.

Universities and Colleges

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

The following medical degrees were conferred on April 26:

M.CHIR.—*In person*: W. W. Wiggins-Davies.
M.B., B.CHIR.—*By proxy*: R. D. Eastham, D. N. Lawson, J. G. Mathewson, J. H. H. Glyn, J. M. Childs, E. Pringle, S. K. K. Sze, R. Hodgkinson.

UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER

The following candidates have been approved at the examinations indicated:

THIRD M.B., CH.B.—*Pharmacology, Pathology, and Bacteriology*: H. de C. Baker, V. Broadhurst, Nancy M. Cosslett, J. L. Cotton, H. G. Fleetwood, Muriel M. Hughes, Freda W. Lunt, C. A. Mays, K. D. Pinson, Maria R. Reif, G. A. Steele, D. B. S. Taylor, H. L. Wolfe. *Pharmacology*: Mary P. Armstrong, I. A. Susman, R. V. Sykes. *Pathology and Bacteriology*: Helen E. Mair.

UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL

The following candidates have been approved at the examination indicated:

D.T.M. AND H.—D. Adler, D. A. Andersen (recommended for Warrington Yorke Medal), T. W. Buckley, J. Cameron, J. C. Chartres, J. M. Clow (recommended for Milne Medal), J. J. Elphinstone, W. M. Holley, Y. Ip, B. M. Kothary, D. T. H. Ling, R. A. McInroy, K. B. Mistry, N. M. Mohammed, A. J. Nicholas, G. Q. Patton, Gladys Rutherford, G. T. Stewart, S. S. Y. To, R. H. Townshend

UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

The University has appointed Drs. W. L. Lloyd and N. G. Marr as Lecturers in Occupational Health in the Department of Social Medicine. The future activities of the University in this field will include undergraduate and postgraduate teaching in occupational health, as well as a research programme centred on the industries of the Midland area.

UNIVERSITY OF DUBLIN

The Montgomery Lecture on Ophthalmology will be delivered by Emeritus Professor Bernard R. Samuels, M.D. (Cornell University) in the Dixon Hall, Trinity College, on Thursday, May 22, at 5 p.m. His subject is "The Problem of Sympathetic Ophthalmia." The lecture is open to the public.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF LONDON

Election of Fellows

At a quarterly Comitia of the Royal College of Physicians of London, held on April 24, with the President, Lord Moran, in the chair, the following were elected Fellows:

Surg. Vice-Admiral H. St. C. Colson, M.B., R.N. (London); G. B. Fleming, M.D. (Glasgow); William Gilliatt, M.D., F.R.C.S., P.R.C.O.G. (London); Geoffrey Jefferson, M.B., F.R.S., F.R.C.S. (Manchester); W. A. Bourne, M.D. (Hove); C. S. D. Don, M.D. (Manchester); H. V. Dicks, M.D. (Leeds); J. M. Twigg, M.D., F.R.A.C.P. (Wellington, New Zealand); Una C. Ledingham, M.D. (London); A. A. McI. Nicol, M.D. (Sunderland); W. E. Chiesman, M.D. (Edinburgh); L. W. Hale, M.D. (Camborne); W. H. Brown, D.M. (Toronto); H. P. Brody, M.R.C.P. (Sheffield); G. A. Ransome, M.R.C.P. (Singapore); M. I. A. Hunter, M.D. (Malaya); G. E. Godber, D.M. (Epsom); N. C. Oswald, M.B. (London); K. M. Robertson, M.D. (Winchester); R. H. Dobbs, M.D. (London); J. W. Litchfield, B.M. (London); L. C. Martin, M.D. (Cambridge); G. D. Hadley, M.D. (London); W. N. Mann, M.D. (London); C. Hardwick, M.D. (London); R. S. Illingworth, M.D. (Sheffield); Isabel G. H. Wilson, M.D. (London); J. H. Hutchison, M.D. (Glasgow); S. R. F. Whittaker, M.D. (Leamington); J. F. Stokes, M.B. (Watford); C. M. Fletcher, M.D. (Penarth); H. L. Sheehan, M.D. (Liverpool); H. S. Banks, M.D. (London); R. Marshall, M.D. (Belfast).

The President announced that he had appointed Dr. R. A. Young to represent the College at the Health and Tuberculosis Conference on July 8, 9, and 10.

Reports were received from the Committee on Cardiology and from the Rheumatic Fever Committee.

Membership

The following candidates, having satisfied the Censors' Board, were elected Members:

G. Ansell, M.B., W. M. Arnott, M.D., D. C. Beatty, M.B., J. R. Bignall, M.B., J. J. Billings, M.D., J. Black, M.D., D. C. Brown, M.B., E. D. Burnard, M.B., J. N. M. Chalmers, M.D., C. F. Cooper, M.B., J. G. K. Dean, M.B., J. P. Donaghy, M.B., S. E. Finlay, M.B., J. Foley, M.B., H. A. W. Forbes, B.M., D. M. I. Freeman, M.B., J. S. Frew, M.B., S. C. Gold, M.B., J. L. Greaves, M.B., M. H. K. Haggie, M.B., B. J. Hilton, M.B., J. C. W. Hopkyns, B.M., L. H. Horwitz, M.B., R. T. Jenkins, M.B., H. B. Kay, M.D., A. C. Kirby, M.B., J. M. S. Knott, M.B., D. Landsborough, M.D., J. R. Lauckner, M.B., R. R. H. Lovell, M.B., B. S. Lush, M.B., I. P. McL. MacDougall, M.B., R. I. Mackay, M.B., R. L. MacMillan, M.D., P. R. A. May, M.B., J. H. D. Millar, M.D., M. D. Milne, M.B., E. S. Monteiro, L.M.S., A. J. Moon, M.B., B. B. Mukheji, M.B., T. Partington, M.B., T. M. Ll. Price, M.B., R. A.

Pyper, M.D., C. E. Quin, M.B., G. Read, M.B., W. Mcl. Rose, M.D., G. M. S. Ryan, M.B., T. Sempole, M.D., A. G. Spencer, M.B., J. S. Stead, M.B., C. J. Stevenson, M.B., P. Stradling, M.B., C. Strang, M.B., C. V. Talwaker, M.D., Vivian M. N. Usborne, M.B., R. H. Vasey, M.D., E. G. Wade, M.B., O. H. Warwick, M.D., S. D. V. Weller, M.B., F. A. Whitlock, M.B., J. T. Wright, B.M.

Licences

Licences to practise were conferred upon the following 136 candidates (including 26 women) who had passed the Final Examination in Medicine, Surgery, and Midwifery of the Conjoint Board, and who have complied with the necessary by-laws:

Elizabeth J. Acton Davis, Uni.y R. Allen, Patricia M. Appleton, J. H. Apted, A. G. Atkinson, A. Bagon, A. Bell, Elizabeth A. Bevan John, J. L. Bleakley, H. J. G. Bloom, J. F. Bolton Carter, P. H. Brasher, Jean F. C. Brown, J. H. S. Buchanan, N. G. P. Butler, Pamela H. Canham, M. T. F. Carpendale, D. L. Chadwick, K. B. Chambers, D. J. Chapman, A. Chopra, Jill C. Clark, J. G. W. Clarke, M. H. F. Coligley, P. D. Collingwood, M. B. Conran, H. G. W. Cooke, J. B. Cowie, J. T. Crean, E. G. W. Cross, M. E. S. Cutts, O. W. Davies, K. R. H. Deane, J. E. R. Dixon, N. H. Dray, J. B. Eades, R. L. Edwards, Angela I. Emerson, E. Evans, L. J. Evered, Sheila Fairclough, Margaret L. Fallon, K. M. Fergusson, J. J. Fingard, H. Forman, R. M. Forrester, A. L. Forster, M. J. Forth, H.-J. B. Galbraith, D. J. Gardner, B. A. Gavourin, Wilhelmina N. Gaye, T. W. A. Glenister, N. G. O. Gourlay, J. C. Graves, J. M. Hall, D. A. Hanson, J. G. Harrison, R. A. Harrison, H. H. Hayes, Daphne M. Haynes, D. G. H. Hollis, Mary C. Holt, J. Hope, P. J. Horsey, Frances S. Huxley, R. N. Jackson, H. Jarvis, E. Jones, R. K. Jones, H. B. Juby, H. M. Kershaw, R. C. King, C. D. Korn, J. B. Lyn-Jones, A. M. McCall, J. M. S. McCoy, Janet L. McKenzie, Jocelyn P. Mandelstan, C. A. Martin, J. Q. Matthias, B. W. Meade, P. H. Merory, I. F. Michie, Rhiannon Morris, J. P. C. Mostyn, R. J. Moylan-Jones, Josephine C. Mulcahy, D. H. Musselwhite, J. Nagington, H. J. V. M. Ormerod, A. Paton, F. A. Pearson, M. H. Pettigrew, T. A. J. Pranker, R. M. McK. Pratt, J. S. Prior, R. L. Pryer, Sonia A. Purdie, Mary M. Rayner, P. Read, R. T. Rennie, A. Rezier, H. Rezier, D. H. Richards, A. H. Rinsler, J. M. D. Roberts, E. Roderic-Evans, C. J. Roux, G. C. Ryan, A. H. Sader, E. K. Scott, Mari R. Simpson, S. Slowick, Esther Smith, G. D. R. Smith, C. J. Snell, J. Stephenson, Winifred A. Sterndale-Bennett, H. Stewart, A. R. Swanton, C. Taylor, J. T. L. Unsworth, H. Ulrich, Helen B. Walker, N. A. Walker, J. R. Watson, Mary B. Watson, J. L. C. Whitcombe, H. M. White, Rose A. J. Whitelaw, E. Williams, K. M. Williams, T. A. Williamson, N. E. Winstone, J. R. R. Wray.

Diplomas

Diplomas in Ophthalmic Medicine and Surgery and in Physical Medicine were granted, jointly with the Royal College of Surgeons of England, to the successful candidates whose names were printed in the report of the meeting of the Royal College of Surgeons of England in the *Journal* of March 29 (p. 434).

Diplomas in Child Health were granted, jointly with the Royal College of Surgeons of England, to V. D. Arora and to the successful candidates whose names were printed in the report of the meeting of the Royal College of Surgeons of England in the *Journal* of May 3 (p. 619); as were the names of the recipients of the Diploma in Tropical Medicine and Hygiene.

A Diploma in Laryngology and Otology was granted, jointly with the Royal College of Surgeons of England, to R. T. Raymond-Jones.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND

The following lectures in ophthalmology will be delivered at the College (Lincoln's Inn Fields, W.C.): June 2, 5 p.m., Mr. J. W. Tudor Thomas, Corneal Transplantation; June 3, 5 p.m., Mrs. A. Pirie, Experimental Aspects of Nutrition and Eye Disease; June 6, 5 p.m., Mr. H. Ridley, Nutrition and Eye Disease; June 9, 5 p.m., Mr. T. Keith Lyle, Squint Surgery; June 10, 5 p.m., Dr. Alice Carleton, Skin Disease in Relation to Ophthalmology; June 11, 5 p.m., Mr. F. A. Williamson-Noble, Glaucoma Surgery; June 13, 5 p.m., Prof. W. J. B. Riddell, Hereditary Eye Disease; June 16, 5 p.m., Mr. Brodie Hughes, Interpretation of Visual Field Defects; June 17 and 18, 5 p.m., Mr. Geoffrey Knight, Neuro-surgery in Relation to Ophthalmology; June 20, 3 p.m., Dr. W. R. Brain, Exophthalmos Apart from Endocrine Disease; 4.30 p.m., Dr. Brain, Exophthalmos of Endocrine Origin. The fee for the whole course is £5 5s. Fellows and Members of the College and Licentiates in Dental Surgery will be admitted for £3 3s. Applications, accompanied by a cheque for £5 5s. or £3 3s., should be sent to the assistant secretary, Royal College of Surgeons of England, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, W.C.2.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF OBSTETRICIANS AND GYNAECOLOGISTS

The following candidates have satisfied the examiners at the examination indicated:

DIPLOMA IN OBSTETRICS.—J. R. Ballantyne, A. C. Barthels, D. C. A. Bevis, G. R. Bourne, Kathleen A. C. Bowen, J. A. Bowen-Jones, L. Boyars, Elizabeth C. M. Burnate, Joyce B. Burke, H. C. Burnell, J. P. Bush, W. E. Chapman, F. J. Cockersole, D. P. Cocks, E. Cope, G. H. R. Curnock, Alice Davies, Margaret E. Davies, J. E. Drabble, Patricia M. Elliott, Geraldine W. Everett, S. C. J. Falkman, M. R. Fell, H. J. Fisher, B. J. Frankenberg, Jean M. Frazer, G. B. Gibson, L. S. Glass, C. J. Griffin, G. N. Grose, Elizabeth M. Harper, D. Hay, J. A. Henderson, G. S. Hopkins, Jean A. Horne, B. G. Isaacs, A. G. Jones, G. D. Kelly, Janet F. Kennedy, N. A. King, D. V. Latham, C. Lewthwaite, G. I. Louissou, C. Mackie, A. T. McNeil, Betty E. A. Magill, D. Mander, Edith M. Metcalfe, R. T. Michael, C. E. Miller, A. Milton, Doreen Mitchell, Annapurna Mukherji, M. R. Neely, G. F. Newbold, D. Nixon, Helen M. Noble, Margaret B. Noble, Barbara D. Oakley, A. D. Parsons, S. D. Perchard, F. C. R. Picton, E. D. Pond, K. I. Price, S. W. Price, Margaret Randall, E. N. Rees, Rachel Richards, L. F. Richards, J. G. Rountree, W. S. Russell, Ruth Sabel, T. J. Scannell, Charlotte Sommer-Hirsch, Kathleen H. Stewart, B. S. Surti, C. W. Sweetnam, Sheila R. Tangey, Mary E. Tighe, St. J. M. A. Tolhurst, E. F. Twiss, M. J. Twomey, W. A. Walker, Winifred I. Watson, Constance M. Watt, C. T. H. Whiteside, Roberta Williams, J. K. Wilson, S. H. Wong, Elizabeth Younger.

Medical Notes in Parliament

Food Situation

LORD WOOLTON, in the House of Lords on May 7, called attention to the growing danger of a serious shortage of food in this country. He said the housewife was weary and alarmed and he doubted whether the heavy workers of the country were getting enough of the right sort of food, and particularly of fats, to enable them to give increased production. The previous day he had read in the medical Press a special article by a Dr. Frank Bicknell which began, "England is dying of starvation." In the Coalition Government the one foundation of the nation's food supplies had been the securing of an adequate amount of fats. Experience convinced him that this job of providing adequate food for the people of the country was not being done. The meat position was very serious. The scheme of bread rationing had broken down and the system of coupons did not work. That was what the bakers told him. The country would continue to have a fuel shortage, but if it also had a food shortage the Government would deserve the censure of the people. The time had come to make an end of this low standard of living.

LORD HENDERSON, replying for the Government, said fresh calamities might be in store as unforeseen as the blizzards and floods of last winter, but the prospects of a fair harvest in the United Kingdom were better than anyone a month ago thought possible. The country could count on a good supply of wheat from Argentina's new crop, and the United States promised to send a large quantity during the three months July-September. The Government expected to provide a balanced and increasing ration for an expanding livestock population. So far as bacon, eggs, butter, margarine, cooking fats, milk, and cheese were concerned there was every reason to expect that the supply would continue during the remainder of this year at least as good as it was now. Although oils and fats were still subject to world shortage the Government expected to maintain the fats and soap rations through 1947 at their present level. The supply and consumption of milk continued to mount and the sale of liquid milk to the public steadily increased. The supply of eggs this year should be maintained at its present level and an increasing proportion of it consisted of eggs in shells. With sugar the country would do at least as well this year as last. Meat was the foodstuff of which the supply was most difficult. The Government was buying every ton of imported meat which it could afford, but it was by no means certain to make good the deficiency in home output and the rations might have to be reduced to the level ruling in May, 1946. The Government looked forward to a large increase in supplies of fish, and the quantities of potatoes available for consumption before the end of the season were likely to be adequate. By mid-June there should again be a reasonably plentiful supply of vegetables. The lateness of the spring increased the chances of a good fruit crop and imports of fruit were likely to exceed those of last year by not far short of 50%. The Government, to the utmost of its powers, would see that the food supplies of the people were maintained, and where possible raised.

LORD BEVERIDGE said the Government was too apt to be content with rationing. They ought not to aim at rationing indefinitely. Rationing was unjust to the individual and checked production.

LORD HARLECH said the bread ration in Britain was much better than in most European countries, and Britain was better off than most countries for potatoes, but worse off for vegetables. The meat supplies of this country were quite inadequate for the heavy workers. It was essential that the protein constituent of the ration should go up.

LORD RUSHOLME said there could be no foundation for a statement that food supplies available to the British people were down to the level of those of the German people. So far as meat, jam, cheese, sugar, and eggs were concerned, consumption per head at present was larger than in 1945, and so far as jam, cheese, and milk were concerned consumption was larger per head than in pre-war days. There was a world-wide shortage of fats and all importing countries were suffering.

Agricultural Difficulties

The debate was resumed on May 8 by Earl DE LA WARR. He said the losses of winter corn on the Continent were a great deal more serious than in Britain.

The Earl of HUNTINGDON said that in the last few months the British agricultural industry had suffered a major disaster which would affect the diet of the people. There was a serious reduction in the acreage of wheat; the acreage in sugar beet