

Medical Notes in Parliament

Pneumoconiosis in Miners

Mr. JOYNSON-HICKS, Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Fuel and Power, stated in reply to Miss Jennie Lee on March 26 that about 80 coal-miners in 1950, and 101 and 112 in the two following years, were advised to leave the industry or were suspended on account of having pneumoconiosis with tuberculosis.

Home Equipment or Hospital Bed

Sir GUY LLOYD, on March 26, asked the Minister of Health whether a local authority or a hospital board was expected to pay for equipment which, if provided to a disabled person, could permit him to be discharged from hospital, thus freeing a bed for another patient.

Mr. IAIN MACLEOD replied that local health authorities had power under Section 28 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, to provide home-nursing equipment and to make such charges, if any, as they considered reasonable having regard to the person's means. Individually fitted surgical and medical appliances for permanent or semi-permanent use were provided through the hospital and specialist service, and hospitals might lend certain other equipment for domiciliary treatment under specialist direction.

Control of Cortisone

Mr. C. R. BENCE, on March 26, asked the President of the Board of Trade what limitations were placed on the importation of cortisone.

Mr. PETER THORNECROFT replied that licences permitting private commercial imports of finished cortisone were not at present being issued. Supplies were purchased by the Ministry of Health for continuing clinical research and for use in selected hospitals where treatment could be strictly supervised.

Mr. BENCE asked what was the use of using cortisone in hospital if it was to be denied to the patient after leaving hospital.

Mr. THORNECROFT said he understood that the Ministry of Health still considered it necessary to control the use of the drug very carefully, and it could be adequately supervised only if done in this way.

Pricing Prescriptions

Miss PAT HORNSBY-SMITH, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Health, informed Mr. Hugh Linstead on March 26 that the total number of staff employed in prescription-pricing offices in January, 1952, was 1,089, and in January this year 1,302. The number of National Health Service prescriptions dispensed during the year 1952 and priced to date was approximately 139 million.

Registration Service Bill.—A Bill entitled the Registration Service Bill was introduced on March 24 in the House of Lords. It is a consolidating measure dealing with the central and local organization of the service which, under the Registrar-General, administers the law on registration of births, marriages, and deaths and many aspects of solemnization of marriages in England and Wales. This body of law has been contained in a large number of scattered enactments, some of them old and not easy to read together.

The Services

Colonel W. R. Ward, T.D., R.A.M.C., T.A., has been appointed Honorary Surgeon to the Queen, in succession to the late Major-General P. H. Mitchiner, C.B., C.B.E., T.D.

AUXILIARY R.A.M.C. FUNDS

The annual general meeting of the members of the Auxiliary Royal Army Medical Corps Funds will be held at 11, Chandos Street, London, W.1, on Monday, April 13, at 5 p.m., to receive the annual report and accounts for the year 1952 and to appoint officers and elect auditors for the year 1953.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND VITAL STATISTICS

Summary for British Isles for week ending March 14 (No. 10) and corresponding week 1952.

Figures of cases are for the countries shown and London administrative county. Figures of deaths and births are for the 160 great towns in England and Wales (London included), London administrative county, the 17 principal towns in Scotland, the 10 principal towns in Northern Ireland, and the 14 principal towns in Eire.

A blank space denotes disease not notifiable or no return available.

The table is based on information supplied by the Registrars-General of England and Wales, Scotland, N. Ireland, and Eire, the Ministry of Health and Local Government of N. Ireland, and the Department of Health of Eire.

CASES in Countries and London	1953					1952				
	Eng. & Wales	Land.	Scot.	N. Ire.	Eire	Eng. & Wales	Land.	Scot.	N. Ire.	Eire
Diphtheria	31	3	7	0		38	4	14	1	
Dysentery	362	28	111	1		639	62	71	4	4
Encephalitis, acute..	5	0	0	0		6	1	0	0	
Enteric fever:										
Typhoid	1	0	0	1	2	0	0	1	0	
Paratyphoid ..	6	0	1(B)	0		6	0	2(B)	0	
Food-poisoning ..	94	3		0		94	14		2	
Infective enteritis or diarrhoea under 2 years				14	15				11	22
Measles*	26,924	1371	381	119	248	6,883	218	561	239	222
Meningococcal infection	45	2	11	0	4	57	7	25	0	6
Ophthalmia neonatorum	35	7	6	0		46	5	17	0	
Pneumonia†	1,099	52	372	37	9	1,143	60	579	16	5
Poliomyelitis, acute:										
Paralytic	15	2		3	0	13	0		2	4
Non-paralytic ..	2	0				6	0			
Puerperal fever‡ ..	220	24	12	1	1	232	37	10	0	3
Scarlet fever	1,675	89	233	54	50	1,581	149	221	29	80
Tuberculosis:										
Respiratory			150	28				148	42	
Non-respiratory..			27	3				44	15	
Whooping-cough ..	3,072	178	298	27	159	2,918	114	341	112	45

DEATHS in Great Towns	1953					1952				
	Eng. & Wales	Land.	Scot.	N. Ire.	Eire	Eng. & Wales	Land.	Scot.	N. Ire.	Eire
Diphtheria	1	0	0	0	0	9	0		0	0
Dysentery	0	0		0		0	0		0	
Encephalitis, acute..		0			0		0			0
Enteric fever	0	0	0	0		0	0		0	
Infective enteritis or diarrhoea under 2 years	13	0	1	1	3	11		1	1	0
Influenza	139	9	10	0	2	45	5	29	0	0
Measles		0	0	0	1		0	1	0	1
Meningococcal infection		0	0				3	1		
Pneumonia	389	50	31	8	13	349	55		8	10
Poliomyelitis, acute	0	0			0	2	0			0
Scarlet fever		0	0	0	0		0		0	0
Tuberculosis:										
Respiratory	124	{ 19	15	4	11	160	{ 19	17	3	12
Non-respiratory..										
Whooping-cough ..	1	1	0	0	3	3	0		2	1
Deaths 0-1 year ..	311	29	34	9	20	275	28	37	10	19
Deaths (excluding stillbirths)	6,605	928	687	144	224	6,399	907	776	140	217
LIVE BIRTHS	8,149	1126	891	237	428	7,954	1208	884	223	427
STILLBIRTHS	217	25	27			204	17	30		

* Measles not notifiable in Scotland, whence returns are approximate.

† Includes primary and influenza pneumonia.

‡ Includes puerperal pyrexia.

Meeting on Vitamins.—The National Research Council of Italy is holding a meeting on vitamins at the National Museum for Science and Technicolgy, Milan, from April 12 to 16. Applications to attend the meeting should be made to: Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche, Segreteria della Giornata della Scienza, Piazzale delle Scienze, 7, Rome, Italy.

British Medical Students' Association.—The annual conference of the British Medical Students' Association (Midland Region) will be held in Oxford from April 15 to 17, at the invitation of the Oxford University Medical Society. The inclusive fee for the conference is £5, and those wishing to attend are asked to communicate with the Conference Secretary, Oxford University Medical Society, c/o Medical School Office, University Museum, Oxford.

The Family.—The Second British National Conference on Social Work is to be held at Bedford College for Women, Regent's Park, London, N.W.1, from April 15 to 18. The subject of the Conference, which is under the chairmanship of Sir Wilson Jameson, will be "The Family." The fee for the Conference is two guineas. Further information and registration forms may be obtained from the Secretary, British National Conference on Social Work, 26, Bedford Square, London, W.C.1.

Congress of Oto-neuro-ophthalmology.—The Eighteenth International Congress of Oto-neuro-ophthalmology will be held in Bologna, Italy, from May 3 to 7. The chairman will be Professor Q. Di Marzio, and the two main subjects for discussion are "Dysraphia in Oto-neuro-ophthalmology" and "Ménière's Disease." Those wishing to submit a paper or take part in the discussions are asked to apply to the Congress Secretary, Dr. Giuseppe Cristini, Clinica Oculistica-Policlinico, Bologna.

European Society of Haematology.—The Fourth Congress of the European Society of Haematology will be held in Amsterdam in September. Full particulars will be available later on, but those interested are asked to communicate with Dr. A. Piney, 152, Harley Street, London, W.C.1.

World Federation for Mental Health.—The Sixth Annual Meeting of the World Federation for Mental Health will take place at the University, Vienna, from August 16 to 22. The theme of the meeting will be "Social Provisions for Mental Health." Further information may be obtained from the secretary, National Association for Mental Health, 39, Queen Anne Street, London, W.1.

SOCIETIES AND LECTURES

A fee is charged or a ticket is required for attending lectures marked ●. Application should be made first to the institution concerned.

Wednesday, April 8

INSTITUTE OF UROLOGY.—At St. Paul's Hospital, W.C., 4.30 for 5 p.m.

Dr. J. J. Stevenson: X-rays.

MIDLAND MEDICAL SOCIETY.—At Dudley Road Hospital, Birmingham, 8.15 p.m., clinical meeting.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.—3.45 p.m., Arnott Demonstration by Professor Lambert Rogers: Tumours of the Central Nervous System.

ROYAL EYE HOSPITAL.—5.30 p.m., Dr. A. A. Guild: Mechanism and Appearances of Papilloedema.

ROYAL INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND HYGIENE.—3.30 p.m., Dr. Guy W. J. Bousfield: The Case for Combined Diphtheria-Pertussis Prophylaxis in Young Infants (Illustrated).

Thursday, April 9

ALFRED ADLER MEDICAL SOCIETY.—At 11, Chandos Street, W., 8 p.m., Dr. Walter Schindler: Group Psychology.

FACULTY OF HOMOEOPATHY.—5 p.m., Dr. Pierre Vannier: Humans and Homoeopathy.

ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL COLLEGE.—5 p.m., Brigadier J. S. K. Boyd, F.R.S.: Some Aspects of Chemotherapy in Tropical Medicine.

Friday, April 10

ROYAL EYE HOSPITAL.—4.30 p.m., Mr. A. J. Cameron: Ophthalmic Aspects of Hypertension and its Treatment.

WHIPPS CROSS HOSPITAL MEDICAL SOCIETY.—8.30 p.m., Professor S. P. Bedson, F.R.S.: Recent Trends in Virus Research.

Saturday, April 11

SOUTH-EAST METROPOLITAN REGIONAL TUBERCULOSIS SOCIETY.—At Benenden Sanatorium, 10.30 for 11 a.m., clinical meeting.

SOUTH WEST LARYNGOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION.—At Portsmouth and Southern Counties Eye and Ear Hospital, Southsea, 2.30 p.m., meeting.

APPOINTMENTS

AIRD, PATRICK JOSEPH, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H., D.P.M., Resident Medical Superintendent, District Mental Hospital, Ennis, Co. Clare.

BACKHOUSE, KENNETH MORLEY, M.B., B.S., Lecturer in Anatomy, St. Bartholomew's Hospital Medical College, London, E.C.

BARCLAY, R. F., M.B., B.S., D.P.H., Medical Officer of Health for Borough of Newbury and Rural Districts of Newbury, Hungerford, and Bradfield; Assistant Medical Officer, Berkshire County Council.

CASELLS, NULECE, M.B., Ch.B., C.P.H., Assistant County Medical Officer and Schools Medical Officer in the County of the Isle of Ely.

COTTON, JOHN L., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., Deputy Medical Officer of Health and Deputy School Medical Officer, County Borough of Bury.

GRAHAM, ANDREW, N., M.B., B.S., D.P.M., Physician-Superintendent (Consultant), St. Crispin Hospital, Northampton, Oxford Regional Hospital Board.

HOSPITAL FOR SICK CHILDREN, Great Ormond Street, London, W.C.—Daphne S. A. Anderson, M.D., D.C.H., Part-time Clinical Assistant (Radiotherapy); Pauline I. M. Winn, M.B., Ch.B., House-physician to Neurological and Neurosurgical Unit; Dorothy F. M. Burnett, M.B., Ch.B., and S. G. F. Wilson, M.B., Ch.B., House-physicians; G. G. Wylie, F.R.C.S., House-surgeon.

MCFARLAN, ALLAN M., M.B., Ch.B., Epidemiologist for Tuberculosis, Department of Public Health, City and County of Bristol.

MURPHY, PHILIP KEVIN, L.R.C.P.&S.I., D.P.H., T.D.D., Assistant Medical Officer of Health in Guernsey, Channel Islands.

RUSSELL, ALAN PETER, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.M., Physician-Superintendent and Consultant Psychiatrist, Bellisdyke Mental Hospital, Larbert, Scotland.

SHEARER, CHARLES WILLIAM, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., Deputy Medical Officer of Health, Swindon.

SKONE, J. F., M.D., D.P.H., D.C.H., D.I.H., Deputy Medical Officer of Health and Deputy School Medical Officer, City of Oxford.

WELSH REGIONAL HOSPITAL BOARD.—J. M. Marchant, M.B., B.Chir., D.A., Consultant Anaesthetist, Wrexham, Powys and Mawddach H.M.C.;

A. W. Fowler, M.B., F.R.C.S., Assistant Traumatic Surgeon (S.H.M.O.); Mid-Glamorgan H.M.C.; J. M. Lewis, M.B., B.Ch., D.A., Consultant Anaesthetist, Gt. Glamorgan H.M.C.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS

BIRTHS

Matthews.—On March 16, 1953, at St. Helier Hospital, Carshalton, Surrey, to Diana, wife of Dr. Harold W. Matthews, a sister for Rohan—Fiona Elizabeth Marguerite.

Rafferty.—On March 7, 1953, at the Trevalyn Manor Nursing Home, Wrexham, Denbighshire, to Julia (formerly MacHale), wife of John Pearce Rafferty, M.B., B.Ch., a son—John Roger.

Summers.—On March 22, 1953, at Brixworth, Northants, to Mary, wife of Dr. H. A. Hamilton Summers, a son and a daughter.

DEATHS

Bartlett.—On March 13, 1953, Frank Whinfield Bartlett, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., of The Haven, Brixham, Devon, formerly of Romsey, Hants, aged 83.

Bennett.—On March 11, 1953, at his home, Chakrata, Werneth Road, Woodley, Cheshire, John George Bennett, M.C., M.D., aged 63.

Brennan.—On March 2, 1953, at his home, Anacloon, Oughterard, Galway, Eire, Joseph Roland Brennan, M.B., B.Ch., Surgeon Captain, R.N., retired.

Briscoe.—On March 13, 1953, at Axminster, Devon, Ralph Cay Briscoe, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Burt.—On March 18, 1953, at 5, Springfield Place, Bath, Joseph Barnes Burt, M.D., aged 72.

Crossley.—On March 13, 1953, at 12, Passmonds Crescent, Rochdale, Lancs, Harry Newbold Crossley, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Cunningham.—On March 8, 1953, at 41, Lyndhurst Road, Barnchurch, Kent, David Muir Cunningham, M.B., Ch.B., aged 50.

Eves.—On March 13, 1953, at 10, Stanford Avenue, Brighton, Sussex, Percy Stanhope Eves, M.D.

Johnson.—On March 8, 1953, in a London nursing-home, Marcus Beauchamp Johnson, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

MacDougall.—On March 13, 1953, at his home, Dunollie House, Oban, Argyll, Alexander James MacDougall, C.M.G., M.B., C.M., J.P., Colonel, R.A.M.C., retired, aged 81.

McMillan.—On March 16, 1953, at St. John's, Melrose, Roxburgh, John James McMillan, M.D.

Mason.—On March 12, 1953, at his home, 79, Willes Road, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire, Harold Mason, M.B., J.P., aged 87.

Murray.—On March 9, 1953, at 225, Sussex Gardens, London, W., Richard Galway Murray, M.D., D.P.H., D.M.R.E.

Roberts.—On March 17, 1953, in the National Hospital, London, W.C., David Reid Eccles Roberts, Ch.M., of 107, Stanhope Road, Darlington, Co. Durham.

Roxburgh.—On March 17, 1953, at "Oaksleigh," Locks Heath, Hants, Alexander Bruce Roxburgh, M.B., F.R.C.S.

Ryrie.—On March 9, 1953, at Berford, Milton Terrace, Kirkcaldy, Fife, Gordon Alexander Ryrie, M.B., Ch.B., late of Sungei Buloh, Malaya.

Shields.—On March 17, 1953, at The Rectory, Lound, near Lowestoft, Charlotte Annie Shields, M.B., B.S., formerly of Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex, aged 81.

Spon.—On March 11, 1953, in St. George's Hospital, London, S.W., the result of an accident, Harry James Spon, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., of West Lodge, Leigh, Kent.

Stedman.—On March 9, 1953, at the West Hertfordshire Hospital, Hemel Hempstead, Herman Stedman, M.D., F.R.C.S.Ed., formerly of Temple Fortune, Golders Green, London, N.W., late of The Rosery, Hartsbourne Avenue, Bushey Heath, Herts.

Sutton.—On March 3, 1953, at 24, Northcourt Avenue, Reading, Berks, Henry Martyn Sutton, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., formerly of Bagdad and Truro, aged 93.

Vincent.—On March 15, 1953, at 37, Westbourne Road, Sheffield, William James Nathaniel Vincent, C.B.E., M.D.

Watkin.—On March 11, 1953, at Grassendale, Shrewsbury, Salop, Arthur Christopher Watkin, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Wheeldon.—On March 3, 1953, at Woodlands Cottage, Ashford, Ludlow, Salop, Frederick John Wheeldon, M.R.C.S., L.S.A., aged 88.