

opponent's costs is an effective deterrent to the bringing of frivolous and ill-founded claims by people of substance, it has never effectively deterred those who have no property upon which an order for costs could be executed, and who have nothing to lose by being made bankrupt. In this respect the Legal Aid and Advice Act, 1949, has not affected the position, because, although it alters the liability of the assisted litigant for his opponent's costs, it does so by providing that he shall have to pay only what the trial judge thinks reasonable in all the circumstances, including the means of all the parties. The result in practice is that anyone who has anything to pay will be ordered to pay, and the man who has nothing will not be ordered to pay, and the successful litigant will have no better and no worse prospect of getting his costs paid than he had before.

The real sanction operating on the impecunious plaintiff before the Legal Aid and Advice Act used to be that his own professional advisers would generally not act for him unless the prospect of success was such that it was likely that he would be left at the end of the day with something out of which to pay their bill. Since the 1949 Act their bill—it is true on an "austerity" scale—is met out of the Legal Aid Fund irrespective of the result of the litigation.

But although the 1949 Act has thus removed this sanction it has not left the matter purely to the conscience of the impecunious litigant's professional advisers. Anyone who applies under the Act for a State subsidy to bring his case, which is the form which legal aid under the Act assumes, has first to satisfy the Assistance Board that his means are within the limits laid down under the Act and be assessed according to his means for his contribution towards the costs of the litigation, which has to be paid into the Legal Aid Fund. But he has also to satisfy a Certifying Committee of practising solicitors and barristers appointed under the Act, and not in any way concerned in the impending litigation, that he has a good *prima facie* case on the information which he puts before them, and that the case is a reasonable "business risk." Not only would it be the Committee's duty to refuse a certificate for legal aid if the applicant did not appear to have a case on which he was likely to get judgment, it would equally be its duty to refuse it if any judgment the applicant got would obviously be barren because the prospective defendant could have no means of satisfying it.

This machinery cannot prevent the launching of the case in which there is no real prospect of success and in which allegations of negligence have to be withdrawn at the trial. The Certifying Committee can hear only one side of the story, and, even if everything told to it is true, truth may assume a wholly different aspect when the other side of the story is told. The Committee cannot and ought not to usurp the function of the court. However, it is difficult to see how, once the principle of State-subsidized litigation for the poor man is accepted in the interest of justice, a better filter could be arranged. It is probably a lesser evil for the community that someone who is not so impecunious as to be able to get legal aid to defend himself should have to pay for his own defence in an action which ought not to have been brought than that a man who has an action which ought to be brought should be prevented by poverty from bringing it.

Universities and Colleges

UNIVERSITY OF DUBLIN

SCHOOL OF PHYSIC, TRINITY COLLEGE

The following medical degrees were conferred on December 3, 1953:

M.D.—E. W. Lillie.

M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O.—S. Allen, I. C. Bailey, Anne Bewley, A. W. Browne, W. Brownlee, Barbara M. Cooke, W. Dobson, F. Fine, Dorothy A. Foster, J. B. Gill, H. Hardman, N. L. Harris, C. A. Isola, A. Kahunta, J. E. Latham, G. R. L. Lyons,

D. McCaughan, S. W. McVicker, J. R. Noble, J. O'Carroll, W. G. Speer, J. D. Tate, E. C. Tees, E. G. Weyhausen.

LICENCE IN MEDICINE, SURGERY, AND IN OBSTETRIC SCIENCE.—L. A. H. Oulton.

CONJOINT BOARD OF IRELAND

The following candidates were duly admitted Licentiates in Medicine and Midwifery on December 4, 1953, having passed the final examination in medicine, surgery, and midwifery of the Conjoint Board of Ireland: A. M. van Bergen, Constance M. Coogan, B. C. F. Dalton, J. T. Devlin, G. G. Dibue, Eileen M. Dodd, Kathleen M. N. Gibney, T. S. Gilpin, M. Jeffries, Wee Soon Lee, D. M. McCarthy, P. B. McKenna, Monica M. McLoughlin, Priscilla R. K. Nicol, A. N. Obonna, A. R. G. H. Peermohamed, N. B. Smyth, E. H. Wells, R. J. Whitty, W. J. Wilmot, M. Wright, Maria E. T. Wyanowska.

The following candidates have been approved at the examinations indicated:

D.C.H.—N. Adhya, Margaret Bell, Muriel Bannister, Rosaline Power.

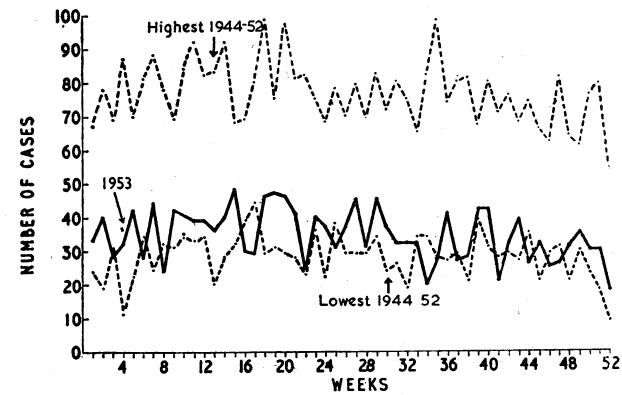
D.A.—R. E. Bourke, Una B. Byrne, Mary M. Gordon, J. Levin, L. C. Luck, D. O'Leary, M. R. Porter, P. J. Boyle, J. G. Goodbody, R. C. Gray, J. Lomaz, R. W. Milner, E. F. O'Riordan.

Vital Statistics

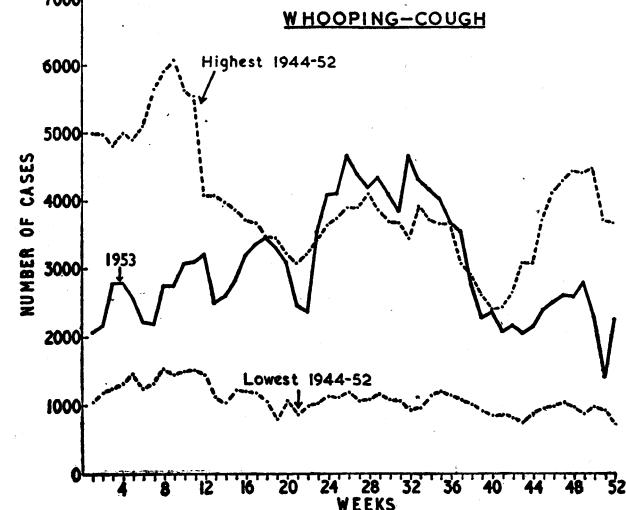
Graphs of Infectious Diseases

The graphs below show the uncorrected numbers of cases of certain diseases notified weekly in England and Wales. Highest and lowest figures reported in each week during the nine years 1944-52 are shown thus -----, the figures for 1953 thus ———. Except for the curves showing notifications in 1953, the graphs were prepared at the Department of Medical Statistics and Epidemiology, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM



WHOOPING-COUGH



January and February to carry out a survey of chronic sick hospitals. He will be lecturing in Athens and Rome on behalf of the British Council.

Professor R. H. Parry, M.O.H., Bristol, has become the first president of the Bristol Branch of the Catering Managers Association of Great Britain.

25th Birthday.—*The Listener*, which is edited by Mr. Alan Thomas, celebrated its twenty-fifth birthday last week with a party at the Dorchester Hotel and a special number which included a selection of talks given over the wireless since 1929, beginning with H. G. Wells on "World Peace," and subtly ending with "The Uncertainty Principle," by Professor E. N. Da C. Andrade. *The Listener* is always packed with good things, and this birthday number is one to buy for keeps.

COMING EVENTS

Art Exhibition for Doctors.—Contributions from British doctors, pharmacists, dentists, and veterinary surgeons are invited for the twenty-sixth *Salon des Médecins, Pharmaciens, Dentistes et Vétérinaires* which will be held in Paris from March 7 to 21. There will be sections for paintings, sculpture, photographs, and applied decorative art. Those intending to exhibit should send their name, address, professional qualifications, and title of exhibit to Dr. Malet, 67, Avenue Pierre Larousse, Malakoff (Seine), France, and their exhibits (properly labelled) to Messrs. Davies Turner Ltd., 4, Lower Belgrave Street, London, S.W.1, not later than February 10.

Third International Congress on Diseases of the Chest.—The congress, held every second year by the American College of Chest Physicians, will take place from October 4 to 8 in Barcelona. The official languages will be Spanish, English, and French. Further information may be obtained from the general secretary of the congress, Córcega, 393, 4^o, 1^a, Barcelona, Spain.

SOCIETIES AND LECTURES

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

Monday, January 25

●**INSTITUTE OF CARDIOLOGY.**—9.30 a.m., Mr. P. R. Allison: Bronchoscopic Measurements of Left Auricular Pressure.
●**INSTITUTE OF PSYCHIATRY.**—5.30 p.m., lecture-demonstration by Dr. E. Stengel.
MANCHESTER MEDICAL SOCIETY: SECTION OF ODONTOLOGY.—At Manchester Dental Hospital 5 p.m., Professor A. D. Hitchin: Post-operative Sequelae.
MANCHESTER MEDICAL SOCIETY: SECTION OF GENERAL PRACTICE.—At Large Anatomy Theatre, Manchester University, 9 p.m., Dr. C. S. D. Don: Treatment of Some Chronic Chest Conditions.
MEDICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.—8.30 p.m., Meeting of Fellows; discussion to be introduced by Mr. J. Hamilton Doggart and Dr. S. Pinder Meadows: Ophthalmic Evidence of General Disease.
ROYAL EYE HOSPITAL.—5.15 p.m., Dr. T. H. Whittington: Refraction Work in the Young and the Old. Aphakia.

Tuesday, January 26

BRITISH POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL FEDERATION.—At London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, 5.30 p.m., Professor J. B. S. Haldane, F.R.S.: Genetics of Some Biochemical Abnormalities.
●**INSTITUTE OF DERMATOLOGY.**—5.30 p.m., Dr. P. F. Borrie: Vascular Disorders.
MANCHESTER MEDICAL SOCIETY.—At Physiology Theatre, Manchester University, 4.30 p.m., discussion by Dr. Lennox M. Johnston and Professor J. Crighton Bramwell: Tobacco Smoking and Health.
ROYAL STATISTICAL SOCIETY: STUDY CIRCLE ON MEDICAL STATISTICS.—At Westminster Medical School, 6 p.m., Dr. D. J. Finney: Bio-assay.
ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL MEDICAL SCHOOL.—5 p.m., Professor J. C. McClure Browne: Dysmenorrhoea.

Wednesday, January 27

●**INSTITUTE OF DERMATOLOGY.**—5.30 p.m., Dr. H. Haber: Parapsoriasis, Poikiloderma, and Mycosis Fungoides.
●**INSTITUTE OF UROLOGY.**—4.30 for 5 p.m., Dr. R. Thomson: Laboratory Aids to Diagnosis.
●**LONDON UNIVERSITY: DEPARTMENT OF EXTRA-MURAL STUDIES AND ATOMIC SCIENTISTS' ASSOCIATION.**—At Beveridge Hall, Senate House, 7 p.m., Professor O. R. Frisch, F.R.S.: Atomic Weapons.
PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN.—7.30 p.m., Mr. A. G. Fishburn, F.P.S., F.R.I.C.: Formulary of the British Veterinary Codex; Dr. D. C. Garratt, Ph.D., F.R.I.C.: Standardization of the Drugs and Galenicals of the British Veterinary Codex.
ROYAL EYE HOSPITAL.—5.30 p.m., Mr. L. H. Savin: Ophthalmic Operations and Their Indications (5).
ROYAL FACULTY OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS OF GLASGOW.—5 p.m., Dr. John Burns Lecture by Sir Ernest Finch: The Forerunner: Leonardo Da Vinci's Contribution to Anatomy and Physiology.
ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL MEDICAL SCHOOL.—5 p.m., Professor T. F. Rodger: Lecture-demonstration in Psychiatry.
SOCIETY OF CHEMICAL INDUSTRY: FOOD GROUP—NUTRITION PANEL.—At Chemical Society, Burlington House, 6.30 p.m., Dr. L. J. Harris: Vitamins and Newer Concepts.

Thursday, January 28

BRITISH POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL FEDERATION.—At London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, 5.30 p.m., Professor E. Boyland: Chemotherapy of Cancer.

●**INSTITUTE OF CHILD HEALTH.**—5.30 p.m., Dr. P. H. Sandifer: Cerebral Deterioration in Childhood.
●**INSTITUTE OF DERMATOLOGY.**—5.30 p.m., Dr. J. O. Oliver: Disinfection and Sterilization.

LIVERPOOL MEDICAL INSTITUTION.—8 p.m., Mr. John C. McFarland: Bilateral Abductor Paralysis (with film); Dr. D. M. Zauner: Some Cases of Tics in Childhood and Their Treatment.

NUFFIELD ORTHOPAEDIC CENTRE.—At Wingfield-Morris Orthopaedic Hospital, Headington, Oxford, 8.30 p.m., Professor J. Trueta: Michael Servetus and the Development of Modern Science.

RENAL ASSOCIATION.—Ciba Foundation, 41, Portland Place, W.1.—4.30 p.m., Dr. R. V. Fellwock: Factors in the Excretion of Sodium.

ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS.—5 p.m., Dr. C. H. Andrewes: Recent Research on the Common Cold and Influenza.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.—5 p.m., Hunterian Lecture by Professor R. H. C. Robins: Primary Reconstruction of the Injured Hand.

ROYAL EYE HOSPITAL.—5.30 p.m., Miss M. Savory: Demonstration of Instruments.

ROYAL SOCIETY.—2.30 p.m., discussion to be opened by Sir Bryan Matthews, F.R.S.: Physiology of Man at High Altitudes.

ST. ANDREWS UNIVERSITY.—At Physiology Department, Dundee, 5 p.m., Professor N. M. Dott: Intracranial Aneurysms—Their Management.

ST. GEORGE'S HOSPITAL MEDICAL SCHOOL.—5 p.m., neurology demonstration by Dr. D. Williams.

●**SOCIETY FOR CULTURAL RELATIONS WITH THE U.S.S.R.: MEDICAL SECTION.**—8.15 p.m., Dr. Phyllis Dobbs: Care of Women and Children in the Soviet Union.

●**WEST LONDON MEDICO-CHIRURGICAL SOCIETY.**—At South Kensington Hotel, 41, Queen's Gate Terrace, S.W.1, 7.30 for 7.45 p.m., dinner meeting; 8.30 p.m., Sir Harold Gillies: Surgical Aspects of Plastic Surgery.

Friday, January 29

GLASGOW UNIVERSITY MEDICO-CHIRURGICAL SOCIETY.—At Edinburgh, 7.45 p.m., debate with Royal Medical Society.

INSTITUTE OF DERMATOLOGY.—5.30 p.m., clinical demonstration by Dr. P. F. Borrie: Vascular Disorders.

INSTITUTE OF LARYNGOLOGY AND OTOLGY.—3.30 p.m., clinical meeting for general practitioners. Mr. A. R. Dingley: Hoarseness—Differential Diagnosis and Treatment.

LONDON ASSOCIATION OF THE MEDICAL WOMEN'S FEDERATION.—At Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine, 8.30 p.m., Dr. Mary J. Wilmers: Children and Streptococci.

●**ROYAL INSTITUTION.**—9 p.m., Sir Lawrence Bragg, D.Sc., F.R.S.: X-ray Studies of Biological Molecules.

ROYAL MEDICAL SOCIETY, EDINBURGH.—8 p.m., debate with Glasgow University Medico-Chirurgical Society. Motion: This House Deplores the Lack of Culture in the Present-day Doctor.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS

BIRTHS

Crook.—On January 13, 1954, at the Military Hospital, Tidworth, Hants, to Ruth (formerly Bellamy), wife of Major J. C. Crook, M.D., D.T.M.&H., R.A.M.C., a son—Philip Laurence Cooper.

Evans.—On January 13, 1954, at Nuffield House, Guy's Hospital, London, S.E., to Winifred (formerly Groom), wife of Dr. M. L. Hudson Evans, Lewisham, London, S.E., a brother for Timothy, Sara, and Jonathon—Simeon.

Habibis.—On January 12, 1954, at Queen Charlotte's Hospital, London, W., to Stella M. Murray, M.B., B.S., D.C.H., wife of Dr. Homer S. Habibis, 1a, Porchester Terrace, London, W., their fourth child—a daughter.

Lyall.—On December 30, 1953, at the Rubislaw Nursing Home, Aberdeen, to Beulah, wife of Dr. Douglas J. Lyall, of 56, Station Road, Sedgefield, Co. Durham, a sister for Joan.

Nicholson.—On January 14, 1954, to Dorothy Christine (formerly Clarke), S.R.N., wife of Nigel Geoffrey Nicholson, M.B., B.S., a brother for Susan Penelope—Alan Fraser.

Stowers.—On December 17, 1953, at Maryfield Hospital, Dundee, to Mary (formerly Alabaster), M.B., B.S., wife of John M. Stowers, M.D., M.R.C.P., a second daughter.

Tucker.—On January 2, 1954, at the Rubislaw Nursing Home, Aberdeen, to Helen (formerly Rennie), wife of Dr. Hugh M. Tucker, Urquhart Villa, Lossiemouth, Moray, a sister for Malcolm and Gillian—Amanda Dawn.

Waing.—On January 7, 1954, at Riedale Maternity Hospital, Barrow-in-Furness, Lancs., to Catherine (formerly Rycroft), M.B., Ch.B., wife of Philip Waing, D.S.C., M.D., M.R.C.P., a brother for John and Sarah—David Philip.

MARRIAGES

Neill—King.—On January 9, 1954, at St. Michael and All Angels, Wimborne, Kent, Alexander Edward Neill, M.B., B.Chr., to Sheila King, M.B., B.Chr., B.A.O.

DEATHS

Ashford.—On January 1, 1954, at Clynt Cottage, Topsham, Devon, William Ashford, O.B.E., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., J.P., aged 82.

Blackstone.—On December 29, 1953, at Woking, Surrey, Leonard Christophe Blackstone, O.B.E., M.B., B.S.

Burn.—On December 23, 1953, Ronald Edgar Russell Burn, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., of The White Cottage, North Petherton, Somerset.

Hosford.—On December 20, 1953, at 63, Heathfield Road, Handsworth, Birmingham, Alfred Stroud Hosford, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Lyon.—On December 26, 1953, at Old Court Clinic, Ealing, London, W., Elmira, beloved wife of Dr. L. Carlyle Lyon, of 42, Corringway, Ealing.

Scott.—On December 16, 1953, at Sidmouth, Devon, William Thurnburn Scott, M.B., B.Chr., late of Bancroft, Kincardineshire, aged 77.

Tellet.—On December 17, 1953, at West Winds, Grange-over-Sands, Lancs., William Edward Tellet, M.D., aged 77.

Walker.—On December 22, 1953, at Nailsea, near Bristol, Somerset, James Alexander Walker, M.B., B.S., D.O.B.S., R.C.O.G., late of Cheddar, Somerset, and Parkstone, Dorset, aged 52.

Wilkie.—On December 20, 1953, at 109, Princess Road, Leicester, Charles Hamilton Wilkie, M.D.