

Lord Justice Somervell and Lord Justice Morris in *Cassidy v. Ministry of Health*.^{3,4} He impliedly rejected the judgment in *Cassidy's* case of Lord Justice Denning, which was based upon broader grounds than those of Lords Justices Somervell and Morris. Lord Justice Denning had decided that, since the hospital authority is under a duty of care towards the patient, it cannot escape liability by delegating the performance of the duty to a consultant employed under a "contract for services" any more than by delegating it to a house-surgeon employed under a "contract of service."

In his judgment in the Court of Appeal in *Roe and Woolley's* case Lord Justice Somervell decided that Mr. Justice McNair had been wrong in holding that Dr. Graham was in a position similar to a consultant. In his view the anaesthetists were in the same position as the house-surgeon in *Cassidy's* case. The Lord Justice did not deal with the matter on the wider ground on which Lord Justice Denning had based his judgment in *Cassidy's* case. Lord Justice Denning, consistently with his previous judgment in *Cassidy's* case, held that Mr. Justice McNair was wrong because the hospital authority was vicariously responsible for the negligence of the whole of its staff. Lord Justice Somervell added that the position of hospitals in this respect under the National Health Service Act might be different from that of voluntary or municipal hospitals and would have to be decided when it arose.

By the decision of this appeal the law in England is left where it was left by *Cassidy's* case, and it remains to be seen whether, if the hospital authority's vicarious responsibility for consultants were litigated to the House of Lords, the House would adopt the wider principle as exemplified in the judgments of Lord Justice Denning.

The law as applied in Scotland is the very reverse, and is still based on Lord President Clyde's judgment in *Reidford v. Magistrates of Aberdeen* in 1933, that—

"All the managers undertake is to provide an efficient, heated, clean, wholesome sick-house, equipped with the necessary furniture and fittings for the reception of patients; to employ a competent staff; and to provide the necessary medicine and food. But they do not, as I understand any conceivable view of their functions, undertake to treat or to dose or to operate upon any of those who come into their institution."

This sturdy view is broadly the same as had been taken in *Hillyer's* case⁵ in England. Although attractive, it leads to the sort of logical difficulties expressed by Lord Goddard in *Gold's* case, where he said: "I cannot understand on what principle a hospital authority is to be exempt from liability if a nurse carelessly administers a dose of poison to a patient instead of medicine, and yet is liable if the cook mixes some deleterious substance in the patient's food."

Although in many fields the law of England and the law of Scotland are wholly different, negligence is not in theory one of those fields. It is evidently high time some gallant litigant on one side of the Border or the other appealed to the House of Lords to give that august tribunal the opportunity to resolve the conflict.

REFERENCES

- ¹ *British Medical Journal*, April 17, 1954, p. 940.
- ² [1942], 2 K.B. 293.
- ³ [1951], 2 K.B. 343.
- ⁴ *British Medical Journal*, March 3, 1951, p. 480.
- ⁵ [1909], 2 K.B. 820.

The Services

Major-General A. G. Harsant, C.B., O.B.E., late R.A.M.C., has relinquished his appointment as Director of Surgery and Consulting Surgeon to the Army.

Lieutenant-Colonel J. D. Galloway, R.C.A.M.C., has been appointed O.B.E. (Military Division) in recognition of gallant and distinguished services in Korea.

Colonel F. R. Langmaid, O.B.E., T.D., R.A.M.C., T.A., has been appointed Honorary Physician to the Queen in succession to Colonel F. R. Sandford, C.B.E., M.C., T.D., who has been transferred to the T.A.R.O.

Medical Notes in Parliament

Welfare Foods

Sir GUY LLOYD (Renfrew, East, Con.) asked the Minister of Food what were the proportions of welfare foods available through his department for children and expectant mothers that were being taken up. Major LLOYD GEORGE stated on April 12 that about 97% of those entitled to obtain milk or national dried milk under the welfare foods service did so. The quantities of the vitamin supplements taken up in 1953 expressed as a proportion of the full entitlement were as follows: orange juice 29.4%; cod-liver oil 23.8%; vitamin tablets 32.6%. The percentage of persons who obtained the vitamin supplements was higher than these figures suggested, because many did not take up their full entitlement.

Clean Food Rules

Lieut.-Col. M. LIPTON (Brixton, Lab.) asked the Minister of Food on April 14 what representations he had received from the National Caterers' Federation relating to the Food and Drugs (Amendment) Bill, and what reply he had sent. Dr. CHARLES HILL, the Parliamentary Secretary, said that the department received a letter and memorandum from the Federation on March 16 expressing certain views about the new legislation and suggesting further consultation with trade interests about the form of public food hygiene regulations. They attended a conference on April 5 and made a number of points, which would be carefully considered.

Iodized Salt

Mr. J. B. HYND (Sheffield, Attercliffe, Lab.) asked the Minister of Food whether he had considered, in connexion with the proposed legislation for the compulsory use of iodized salt, the number of people who were allergic to iodine, and whether he would give the House assurances on their behalf. Dr. CHARLES HILL, the Parliamentary Secretary, replied on April 14 that no decision had yet been taken to add iodine to salt. Before any such decision was taken full consideration would be given to the point raised.

Tuberculosis Among Kikuyu

Mr. SOMERVILLE HASTINGS (Barking, Lab.) asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies on April 14 what percentage of Kikuyu prisoners were suffering from tuberculosis, and what precautions were being taken to prevent the spread of this disease among the prisoners. Mr. H. L. HOPKINSON, the Minister of State, said that he would obtain the figure from Kenya. The following precautions were taken against the spread of the disease: regular inspection by medical officers of hygiene conditions in all prisons; medical examination of all convicts on admission to prison; special diets and medicine for all convicts in low physical condition; isolation of all tuberculosis suspects; and evacuation of all infected cases to tuberculosis wards in the prison hospital in Nairobi.

Diphtheria Inoculations in Scotland

Mr. JAMES STUART, Secretary of State for Scotland, supplied Mr. S. P. VIAN (Willesden, West, Lab.) with figures showing the estimated percentages of children under 15 years and under 5 years of age in each Scottish county who had been inoculated against diphtheria. Those under 15 ranged from 96% in Peebles to 45% in Orkney, and those under 5 from 99% in Midlothian to 34% in Orkney.

Cancer Experiments on Mice

Sir DAVID MAXWELL FYFE, Home Secretary, informed Mr. PETER FREEMAN (Newport, Lab.) on April 15 that since 1907, when records were first kept, to the end of 1952, a total of 1,367,820 experiments had been made on animals—almost all of them on mice—for cancer research. He gave the list of annual totals, which (apart from war years) varied

between 8,083 in 1924 to 95,991 in 1952. In the early years 1907-11 the numbers were between 40,000 and 49,000, then fell to 24,000 and continued falling until 1928, spurted to 43,000 and 50,000 in 1933 and 1934, fell again until 1947, and since 1948 have been 56,585, 75,343, 78,192, 91,410, and 95,991 respectively.

Dental Technicians

Mr. R. E. WINTERBOTTOM (Sheffield, Brightside, Lab.) drew attention on April 15 to unemployment among dental technicians, and the loss of highly skilled craftsmen to the Health Service, which he attributed to the cuts in the Service.

Miss PAT HORNSBY-SMITH, Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Health, disputed this, and suggested that the cause was that there had been too many entrants. In 1950, owing to the immediate and high demand, 5,000,000 dentures were supplied under the Health Service. Even without the imposition of the charges for dental treatment the level of 5,000,000 could not possibly have been maintained. In 1953 the number of dentures supplied was 2,000,000, and she thought this figure would represent the average annual demand for some years, and she hoped that it would gradually get less as the effect of greater emphasis on conservation work became apparent.

Myxomatosis Outbreaks

Mr. G. R. H. NUGENT, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, informed Mr. A. HURD (Newbury, Con.) on April 15 that there were 17 established centres of myxomatosis infection among rabbits, five of which had been confirmed in the past month. The Minister would report from time to time on the spread of the disease into new areas, but weekly statements for which Mr. Hurd had asked did not seem justified at present. The advisory committee would continue to watch closely the extent and character of the outbreaks.

Coroners Bill.—The Coroners Bill was given a third reading in the House of Commons on April 9 and has been sent to the House of Lords.

Universities and Colleges

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

The following elections are announced: To the War Memorial Medical Scholarship at University College, I. G. McGill (Bablake School, Coventry); to a Nuffield Scholarship in Medicine at Pembroke College, D. C. E. Speller (Caterham School); to a Nuffield Medical Scholarship at Worcester College, W. R. A. Muntz (Oundle School); to a Nuffield Scholarship in Medicine at Somerville College, S. N. Clayton (St. Felix, Southwold); to an Exhibition in Medicine at St. Hugh's College, G. M. Roberts (North London Collegiate School).

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

The following candidates have been approved at the examinations indicated:

ACADEMIC POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN MEDICAL RADIOLOGY (DIAGNOSIS).—P. L. Brangwin, Edwina R. Goodall.

ACADEMIC POSTGRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN PUBLIC HEALTH.—*London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine:* G. A. Ademola, Doreen P. Allan, N. K. Bharucha, D. W. Boatman, S. C. Bose, H. H. S. Brown, J. Chatterjee, H. J. S. Coldham, C. P. Collins, L. P. Darmanin, C. B. Drew, Y. G. Farran, E. R. Gauld, G. S. Godiwalla, G. McL. Gorrie, Catriona M. Gourlay, A. Grut, K. L. Gupta, T. B. Harrison, M. A. Heasman, F. M. James, H. James, B. Lall, R. J. Lande, I. Laufer, W. S. Millar, S. L. Morrison, B. J. L. Moss, H.-H. Mueller, K. W. Newell, Joycelyn H. W. Newman, R. G. Nichols, S. Ogen, T. A. Plumley, D. W. Quanttrill, C. J. Radway, D. H. Shennan, Rachel E. W. Sillett, C. Slome, C. I. Somaya, R. J. K. Tallack, Pin Hui Teng, A. E. P. Twort, K. L. Vasa, R. B. Walker, F. A. Wickremasinghe, F. Zangen.

ACADEMIC POSTGRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN TROPICAL MEDICINE AND HYGIENE.—*London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine:* L. Noronha.

J. M. Ledingham, M.D., M.R.C.P., Lecturer in Medicine at the London Hospital Medical College, has been appointed to the University Readership in Medicine tenable at that College.

The following candidates have been approved at the examinations indicated:

M.D.—*Part I:* C. P. T. Alexander, J. A. S. Amos, P. B. Cook, P. W. Darby, Katharine M. Dormandy, J. H. Evans, J. T. Groves, C. P. Handforth, P. M. Higgins, Margaret A. Holroyde, E. T. Hughes, A. R. Kagan, C. S. Livingstone, Eunice Lockey, C. J. Lucas, R. P. Michael, G. R. J. Moodie, R. Moore, J. D. Pollit, F. C. Rose, A. L. Slater, C. K. M. Thacker.

M.S.—*Part I:* P. J. W. Monks.

Professor Charles Singer has been appointed to represent the University at the XIVth International Congress of History of Medicine, to be held at Rome and Salerno from September 13 to 20, 1954.

Professor J. M. Mackintosh has been re-nominated for appointment as a representative of the University on the governing body of the London School of Economics and Political Science.

The following have been appointed representatives of the University on the committees of management of the federated and associated institutes of the British Postgraduate Medical Federation, indicated in parentheses, for the three years ending December 31, 1956: Dr. C. F. Harris and Dame Lillian Penson (Institute of Basic Medical Sciences); Mr. W. P. Cleland (Institute of Cardiology); Professor W. E. Herbert (Institute of Dental Surgery); Sir Archibald Gray (Institute of Dermatology); Dr. E. Bonham Carter (Institute of Diseases of the Chest); Mr. V. E. Negus (Institute of Laryngology and Otolaryngology); Professor R. W. Russell (Institute of Neurology); Professor W. C. W. Nixon (Institute of Obstetrics and Gynaecology); Professor J. Z. Young, F.R.S. (Institute of Orthopaedics); Professor F. R. Winton (Institute of Psychiatry); Mr. D. F. Ellison Nash (Institute of Urology).

Professor J. E. Roberts and Professor J. Whillis will be the representatives of the Board of Pre-clinical Studies on the Board of Advanced Medical Studies for 1954.

The following have been recognized as teachers of the University in the subjects indicated in parentheses: *London Hospital Medical College*, Mr. Geoffrey Flavell (Surgery). *Charing Cross Hospital Medical School*, Dr. H. I. Winner (Pathology); Dr. J. B. E. Baker (Pharmacology). *University College*, Dr. M. de B. Daly (Physiology). *Guy's Hospital Medical School*, Dr. J. A. Nissim (Pharmacology).

Mr. J. B. Kinmonth has been appointed a representative of the Board of Advanced Medical Studies on the Special Advisory Board in Veterinary Medicine, in place of Sir James Paterson Ross, who has resigned.

The following have been recognized as teachers of the University in the subjects indicated in parentheses: *St. George's Hospital Medical School*, Dr. J. A. Dudgeon (Pathology). *Institute of Psychiatry*, Dr. A. D. Leigh, Dr. D. A. Pond, Dr. P. D. Scott, and Dr. F. K. Taylor (Psychiatry). *University College Hospital Medical School*, Dr. E. N. Rowlands (Medicine).

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

At a Graduation Ceremonial held on December 18, 1953, the following degrees and diplomas were conferred:

M.D.—R. C. Humphreys, J. D. Kerr, T. W. Lees, R. G. Mitchell, C. F. Rolland.

Ch.M.—A. I. S. Macpherson.

Ph.D.—*In the Faculty of Medicine:* W. St. C. Bauld, D. S. Chowdhary, M. Ishaq. *In the Faculty of Science:* A. B. Monro. M.B., Ch.B.—A. McL. Anderson, B. R. Bayne, A. T. Burnet, G. Gilray, I. B. Grant, Christine F. Hannah, J. L. Leadbitter, W. D. W. Miller, Jadwiga M. Weyndling.

DIPLOMA IN MEDICAL RADIODIAGNOSIS.—G. M. Ashurst, A. A. Donaldson, H. Gardner, H. Levon, Margaret C. Macleod, A. M. Stewart.

DIPLOMA IN MEDICAL RADIOTHERAPY.—N. R. Mackay, J. McLelland, J. Newall, J. G. Pearson.

The following scholarships, etc., in the Faculty of Medicine were awarded: *Wilkie Surgical Research Scholarship*, H. A. F. Dudley. *Andrew Graham Ritchie Bursaries*, C. J. W. Huston and Rosemary McCredie. *Mackie Bursaries*, J. B. Rae and J. T. Wilson. *E. B. Jamieson Prizes in Anatomy*, Joan E. G. Caves, I. D. Heath, C. J. W. Huston, Joan L. Young. *Russell-Crichton Prize*, D. Dow.

¹Highly commended for thesis. ²Commended for thesis. ³In absentia.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF EDINBURGH

At the annual meeting of the College held on December 3, 1953, Dr. L. S. P. Davidson was elected President, Dr. Ian G. W. Hill, C.B.E., T.D., was elected Vice-President, and the following were elected Members of Council: Dr. Edward R. C. Walker, Dr. W.

Lindsay Lamb, Dr. I. Simson Hall, Dr. R. M. Murray-Lyon, and Dr. Thomas Anderson. Dr. J. Halliday Croom was reappointed Secretary, and Dr. J. Alastair Bruce was reappointed Treasurer.

At a quarterly meeting of the College held on February 2, with the President, Professor L. S. P. Davidson, in the chair, the following were elected Members of the College: J. H. Bowie, B. Ghosh, M. E. Mahdi, S. S. Manchanda, J. C. Simson, C. W. Marsden, J. B. Mackay, K. P. N. Pai, K. Parameswaran, H. Klevansky, G. Larkins, S. N. Sengupta, W. B. Muston, A. Hordern, M. K. El Shawarby, I. C. Brannen, N. Radhakrishnan, J. A. Clark, J. Hampson, C. R. R. Pillay, S. A. R. Ali, V. P. Datta, M. H. M. Gaber, P. N. Mathur, R. G. Willison.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF EDINBURGH

At a meeting of the College held on December 16, 1953, with Professor Walter Mercer, President, in the chair, the following were admitted Fellows after having passed the requisite examinations: S. Ansari, G. O. Clark, A. K. Das, R. A. Daws, D. C. D'Netto, F. H. Gamali, A. Ghani, P. Goldstein, I. M. Grant, W. McI. S. Ironside, F. D. Johnston, R. N. Katariya, G. Kerridge, P. Kilburn, J. S. Lekias, I. Opekin, M. G. Pearson, M. Q. K. Raja, J. R. Salas, G. R. T. Serpell, R. P. Sharma, P. R. Shroff, A. M. Shukri, E. H. J. Smyth, M. J. Twohig, W. B. Young.

Vital Statistics

Some Vital Statistics of 1953

The estimated home population of England and Wales at December 31, 1953, was 44,166,000 (21,249,000 males, 22,917,000 females).¹ This is an increase of about 420,000 since the 1951 census. Projections of the population show that, on certain assumptions, the total population will increase to 45,378,000 in 1963, 46,175,000 in 1973, and 46,617,000 in 1983, declining to 46,382,000 in 1993. On the basis of the death rates for the year 1952 the expectation of life of a boy at birth is 67.06 years and of a girl 72.35. This compares with 48.53 and 52.38 respectively on the basis of the death rates for the years 1901-10.

Deaths from accidental poisoning rose, reaching 659 in the first three quarters of 1953 compared with 586 during the corresponding nine months of 1952, while deaths from accidental burns dropped from 593 to 522. The number of suicides increased in the same period from 3,299 to 3,541.

In the December quarter the death rate per 1,000 population in Greater London was 9.8. This compared with 10.1 in New York and Copenhagen, 9.0 in Stockholm, 8.7 in Oslo, and 8.2 in Rome. A comparison of death rates of children under 1 year of age in September quarter, 1953, shows that the England and Wales rate of 22 per 1,000 related live births compared with Netherlands 19, Australia 25, U.S.A. 26, Scotland 28, France 33, and Italy 64.

Venereal Diseases

In England and Wales during the quarter ending September 30, 1953, 1,446 new cases of syphilis were reported as attending the clinics. Of these, 256 were classified as primary, secondary, or latent in first year of infection. 23 cases of congenital syphilis in children aged under 1 year were reported, and 172 cases in people over that age. New cases of gonorrhoea numbered 5,588, of chancroid 84, and of non-gonococcal urethritis (males only) 3,682.

Northern Ireland in 1952

Live births numbered 28,760 in Northern Ireland in 1952, giving a rate of 20.9 per 1,000 population. This was 0.2 above that for 1951 but 0.8 below the average rate for 1947-51. The infant mortality rate was 39 per 1,000 live births, the lowest so far recorded in Northern Ireland. The total number of deaths registered was 14,812, giving a rate of 10.8 per 1,000 population. This was 2.0 below the rate for 1951, and 1.1 below the average rate for 1947-51. The

¹ Registrar-General's Quarterly Return No. 420. H.M.S.O., 2s.

death rate from tuberculosis continued to fall, being 0.3 per 1,000 population as compared with the average rate of 0.39 for 1947-51.

England and Wales in First Quarter

The incidence of infectious diseases was generally below the average of the first quarter, the only exceptions being dysentery and enteric fever. The number of notifications of dysentery has steadily increased throughout the quarter from 322 in the first week to 1,642 in the thirteenth. The high level of enteric fever was due to the recent outbreak of paratyphoid fever in South Wales; 170 of the 244 cases of enteric fever were notified in Wales. The fall in the number of notifications of diphtheria was quite small, and it seems that an irreducible hard core of infection is being reached.

A comparison of the number of notifications for the last five first quarters is given below:

Disease	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
Scarlet fever	24,802	12,088	18,013	20,550	15,868
Whooping-cough	23,619	66,865	35,042	34,207	28,985
Diphtheria	955	572	456	264	246
Measles	54,568	311,709	64,596	350,836	23,340
Acute pneumonia	13,720	26,536	12,960	20,005	10,507
Meningococcal infections	536	662	562	595	515
Acute poliomyelitis	512	339	288	345	332
Dysentery	3,938	13,995	6,936	4,449	10,808
Enteric fever	154	149	126	123	244

Infectious Diseases

The largest fluctuations in the trends of the notifications of infectious diseases in England and Wales during the week ending April 3 were increases of 327 for dysentery, from 1,315 to 1,642, and 263 for measles, from 2,067 to 2,330, and a decrease of 132 for acute pneumonia, from 661 to 529.

The largest increases in the notifications of measles were 91 in Cumberland, from 58 to 149, and 90 in Lancashire, from 339 to 429, and the largest decrease was 56 in Staffordshire, from 264 to 208. 1,474 cases of scarlet fever, 18 fewer than in the preceding week, were notified, and only small fluctuations were reported in the local trends. The number of notifications of whooping-cough were 2,546, being 7 fewer than in the preceding week, and the only large variation in the returns was an increase of 59 in Yorkshire West Riding, from 143 to 202. 22 cases of diphtheria were notified, being 8 more than in the preceding week. The chief features of the returns for diphtheria were a rise in Lancashire from 3 to 6 and in Durham from 0 to 3.

The number of notifications of paratyphoid fever declined from 20 to 11 and in Wales from 17 to 7. The chief centre of infection was Glamorganshire 5 (Cardiff C.B. 4).

21 cases of acute poliomyelitis were notified. These were 1 fewer for paralytic and 2 fewer for non-paralytic than in the preceding week. The largest returns were Warwickshire 4 (Birmingham C.B. 3), Somersetshire 3, and Nottinghamshire 3 (Beeston and Stapleford U.D. 2).

The notifications of dysentery were the largest since this disease was made notifiable in 1919, except for the week ending March 17, 1951, when 1,672 cases were notified, 30 more than in the week reviewed here. The largest returns were London 266 (Islington 84, Lewisham 36, Chelsea 29, Hackney 19, Hampstead 12, Shoreditch 10), Lancashire 226 (Salford C.B. 57, Bolton C.B. 30, Manchester C.B. 20, Eccles M.B. 20, Preston C.B. 13, Liverpool C.B. 10, Worsley U.D. 10), Yorkshire West Riding 198 (Brighouse M.B. 47, Bradford C.B. 26, Leeds C.B. 26, Hebden Royal U.D. 22, Dewsbury C.B. 21, Sheffield C.B. 19, Keighley M.B. 13), Leicestershire 121 (Leicester C.B. 115), Middlesex 107 (Hornsey M.B. 28, Southall M.B. 18, Willesden M.B. 18, Ealing M.B. 10), Carmarthenshire 86 (Carmarthen M.B. 81), Berkshire 78 (Maidenhead M.B. 69), Essex 64 (West Ham C.B. 16, Walthamstow M.B. 12), Norfolk 52 (Norwich C.B. 51), Surrey 47 (Epsom and Ewell M.B. 37), Kent 45 (Margate M.B. 28), Warwickshire 45 (Birmingham C.B. 35), Oxfordshire 41 (Oxford C.B. 36), Devonshire 40 (Exeter C.B. 34).

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, April 26

ASSOCIATION OF PSYCHIATRISTS: SOUTH-WEST METROPOLITAN REGION.—At B.M.A. House, 5.30 p.m., general meeting.

● HUNTERIAN SOCIETY.—At Talbot Restaurant, 64, London Wall, E.C., 7 for 7.30 p.m., annual general (dinner) meeting. Mr. W. R. Le Fanu: Hunter-Baillie MSS. in the Library of the Royal College of Surgeons.

ROYAL EYE HOSPITAL.—5.15 p.m., Dr. T. H. Whittington: The Hypermetropic Patient. Astigmatism. Bifocals.

Tuesday, April 27

ROYAL STATISTICAL SOCIETY: STUDY CIRCLE ON MEDICAL STATISTICS.—At Westminster Medical School, 6 p.m., Discussion of the Report of the Working Party set up to examine the Assessment of the Need for Clinical Services.

SOCIETY FOR ENDOCRINOLOGY.—At Royal Society of Medicine, 5.15 p.m., special lecture by Dr. G. Pincus: Pathways of Steroid Synthesis in the Animal Organism.

WEST END HOSPITAL FOR NERVOUS DISEASES.—5.30 p.m., neurological demonstration by Dr. T. Rowland Hill.

Wednesday, April 28

BIRMINGHAM MEDICAL INSTITUTE: SECTION OF PSYCHIATRY.—At Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham, 8 p.m., clinical meeting.

INSTITUTE OF DENTAL SURGERY.—5.30 p.m., Dr. R. W. G. Wyckoff: Significance of the Electron Microscope in Biology and Medicine.

RENAL ASSOCIATION.—At Ciba Foundation, 4.30 p.m., annual general meeting. Mr. I. H. Griffiths: Renal Arteriography; Dr. R. M. Gaunt: Studies on the Experimental "Eclampsia-like" Syndrome.

ROYAL EYE HOSPITAL.—5.30 p.m., Mr. L. H. Savin: Ophthalmic Neurology (4).

ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL MEDICAL SCHOOL.—At Wright-Fleming Theatre, 5 p.m., Dr. T. A. H. Munro: lecture-demonstration in psychiatry.

Thursday, April 29

BRITISH INSTITUTE OF RADIOLOGY.—8 p.m., 33rd Silvanus Thompson Memorial Lecture by Professor J. K. Robertson: An Experiment in Medical Education.

INSTITUTE OF LARYNGOLOGY AND OTOTOLOGY.—5.30 p.m., Professor F. C. Ormerod: Some Aspects of Otitis.

● INSTITUTE OF OBSTETRICS AND GYNAECOLOGY.—At Hammersmith Hospital, 2 p.m., Professor A. Duncan: Histamine and Histamine in Pregnancy.

INSTITUTE OF PSYCHIATRY.—5.30 p.m., Dr. Gregory Pincus (Massachusetts): Steroids in Ageing.

LONDON JEWISH HOSPITAL MEDICAL SOCIETY.—At Medical Society of London, 8.30 p.m., debate: That Quackery Plays a Useful Part in Medicine To-day. Proposed by Dr. M. Marcus and Dr. S. H. Chazen; opposed by Dr. D. Preiskel and Mr. I. Preiskel.

LONDON UNIVERSITY.—At London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, 5 p.m., special university lecture in hygiene and public health by Dr. E. L. French (Melbourne): Epidemiological Aspects of Murray Valley Encephalitis.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.—5 p.m., Hunterian Lecture by Professor I. P. Todd: Role of Elective Surgery in the Management of Diverticulitis of the Colon.

ROYAL EYE HOSPITAL.—5.15 p.m., Dr. T. H. Whittington: Non-paralytic Squint—The Aim of Modern Methods of Treatment.

ST. ANDREWS UNIVERSITY.—At Physiology Department, Dundee, 5 p.m., Mr. W. M. Dennison: Advances in Surgery of Infancy and Childhood.

ST. GEORGE'S HOSPITAL MEDICAL SCHOOL.—5 p.m., neurology demonstration by Dr. J. H. Paterson.

Friday, April 30

BRITISH INSTITUTE OF RADIOLOGY.—5 p.m., meeting of medical members.

FACULTY OF RADIOLOGISTS.—At Royal College of Surgeons of England, 4 p.m., Radiotherapy Section meeting. Professor D. W. Smithers: Rotation Therapy.

INSTITUTE OF LARYNGOLOGY AND OTOTOLOGY.—3.30 p.m., clinical meeting for general practitioners. Mr. W. D. Doey: Indications for Tonsillectomy.

MEDICAL SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF VENEREAL DISEASES.—7.30 p.m., general meeting. Presidential Address: Personal Reflections regarding the Trichomonas Vaginalis.

POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL SCHOOL OF LONDON.—2 p.m., Professor A. G. R. Lowdon: Surgical Management of Intestinal Obstruction; 4 p.m., Dr. J. E. Caughey (New Zealand): Hypopituitarism.

ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL MEDICAL SCHOOL.—At Wright-Fleming Theatre, 5 p.m., Professor J. C. Moir: Obstetric/Gynaecological Conference.

● SOCIETY OF CHEMICAL INDUSTRY: FINE CHEMICALS GROUP.—At National Institute for Medical Research, 6.15 p.m., Dr. R. K. Callow: Medical Research and Fine Chemicals.

Saturday, May 1

ASSOCIATION OF CLINICAL BIOCHEMISTS: SOUTHERN REGION.—At Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford, 2 p.m., meeting. Scientific papers.

● INSTITUTE OF OBSTETRICS AND GYNAECOLOGY.—At Queen Charlotte's Hospital, 11 a.m., Mr. J. Hamilton: Breech Presentation.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS

BIRTHS

Ball.—On April 9, 1954, at the Central Middlesex Hospital, London, N.W., to Francesca, wife of Dr. Keith Ball, a daughter—Philida Jane.

Chalmers.—On April 16, 1954, at St. David's Hospital, Cardiff, to Doreen, wife of Dr. T. M. Chalmers, a son.

Gibson.—On April 11, 1954, at The Shiel, Elgin Road, Weybridge, to Graeme (formerly Galbraith), wife of Dr. Eric Gibson, a son.

Helsby.—On April 12, 1954, at Liverpool Maternity Hospital, to Joyce, wife of Raymond Helsby, F.R.C.S., a daughter.

McCarthy.—On April 6, 1954, at Stamford, Lines, to Agnes (formerly Baker), M.B., B.S., D.A., wife of Cedric McCarthy, a son—James Whyte.

Richardson.—On March 5, 1954, at the Phyllis Memorial Home, Melton, Woodbridge, Suffolk, to Pamela, wife of Dr. J. Derek Richardson, a daughter—Jennifer Anne.

West.—On April 15, 1954, at the Plummer Hospital, Saulte-Ste.-Marie, Ontario, Canada, to Kathleen (formerly Stanhope), wife of Michael H. West, M.D., M.R.C.P., of Thessalon, Ontario, a daughter.

Any Questions?

Correspondents should give their names and addresses (not for publication) and include all relevant details in their questions, which should be typed. We publish here a selection of those questions and answers which seem to be of general interest.

Bags Under the Eyes

Q.—Is there any treatment—surgical or medical—for "bags" under the eyes?

A.—If the puffiness which occurs in the lower lids with advancing age is due to atony of the muscles of the lower lid allowing the peri-orbital fat to project forwards, fatigue increases the bagginess and this accounts for the variation in degree which is constantly noted.

The treatment is surgical, and consists in removing the herniated fat and tightening up the eyelid by a lateral pull. Very rarely should eyelid skin be removed from the lash edge. The operation is attended by good results, but should be carried out only by a competent plastic surgeon.

The Reticuloses

Q.—What diseases are included in the "reticuloses"? What criteria are required for diseases to be included in this group?

A.—Reticulosis is one of those generic terms like neuritis or gastritis which can have a definite connotation but is more often used to mean anything or nothing.

The term was introduced by Letterer¹ in 1924 to describe the histopathology in the organs of a child aged 6 months who died following an acute illness characterized by pyrexia, purpura, aural discharge, and generalized lymph node enlargement with hepato-splenomegaly; there was found to be a widespread proliferation of primitive histiocytes or reticulum cells in the lymph nodes, liver, spleen, bone marrow, and skin. The case is the first clearly described account of the condition known as Letterer-Siwe disease.

Subsequent to this case report, a number of other cases showing generalized proliferations of histiocytes were described, and classifications relating these cases to the leukoses, storage disorders such as Gaucher's disease, and the lymphosarcomata were propounded. Pullinger,² in a detailed study of the histology of Hodgkin's disease, suggested that a group of diseases of the reticular tissue exists in which differentiation is possible into one or several of the possible cell progeny, and following this Ross³ and Robb-Smith⁴ put forward detailed classifications based on anatomico-histological divisions which included both definite disease entities such as Hodgkin's disease, the leukaemias, and storage disorders, as well as reactive change of lymphoreticular tissue; there have been numerous modifications of these classifications such as those of Symmers⁵ and Israels.⁶ On the Continent there has of recent years been a tendency, as shown by van der Meer and Zeldenrust⁷ or Cazal,⁸ to restrict the term reticulosis to those conditions in which there is a proliferation of histiocytes or their precursors rather than to use it in the broad sense of English writers. In America the term reticulosis is little used, as they have adopted an all-embracing term "lymphoma" (Custer and Bernhard⁹) which includes the progressive hyperplasias and the sarcomata, whereas in England and on the Continent there is a clear distinction made between these two types of tissue reaction, although in certain instances the progressive hyperplasia may alter so as to become sarcomatous.

If we follow English usage of the term "reticulosis" we can define it as a generic histological term to describe all the hyperplasias of the reticular tissue. These can be divided into two large groups, the reactive or reversible