

morning. His passing is a tragic loss to the profession in Belfast, and he is mourned by all his colleagues, but more particularly by those of us who were privileged to know him as a friend. R. G. V. writes: While convalescent after a severe illness, which developed when stationed in India during the war, Dr. Jefferson took up the study and practice of anaesthetics and quickly became a skilful practitioner in this specialty and was a much-loved figure in the hospital world in Belfast. "Jeff" was possessed of an inimitable sense of humour and comradeship, and many an operating session or surgical emergency ran the smoother for his mere presence in the theatre, to say nothing of his completely unruffled calmness and sure technique. A host of friends in all walks of life delighted in his charm and wit and marvelled at his surpassing courage in the face of serious illness. At the time of his death he was consultant anaesthetist to the Belfast City Hospital, where his gallant and debonair figure will ever be sadly missed by all his colleagues and associates. Deep sympathy will be felt for his widow and three children in their great and untimely loss.

Dr. HENRY ADAMS, who died on May 26 at his home at Bournemouth, where he had been living in retirement, was formerly in practice for many years at North Shields, where he was held in high esteem by all his colleagues. He was 80 years of age. Born on December 3, 1873, Henry Adams was educated at Gordon's College, Aberdeen, and at Aberdeen University, where he took a degree in arts in 1894, graduating in medicine four years later. He then held the appointment of house-surgeon at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary. In 1901 he settled in practice at North Shields, where he remained until 1943, except during the first world war. He then served as a captain in the R.A.M.C. from 1915 to 1918, first in the Mediterranean theatre of war and later in France, where he was a surgical specialist with a casualty clearing station attached to the 59th Division. After demobilization he returned to North Shields, and from 1918 to 1928 was a member of the honorary surgical staff of the Tynemouth Jubilee Infirmary. On his retirement he was elected a life governor of the Infirmary. During the last war, in addition to conducting a busy general practice, he served on medical boards and as medical officer at a first-aid post at Preston Hospital, North Shields, during the air raids. These additional duties, however, served to undermine his strength, with the result that in 1943, at the age of 69, he was forced to retire from practice. Five years later he moved to Bournemouth, but never really recovered his normal health. A member of the British Medical Association for fifty-five years, Dr. Adams was chairman of the Tyneside Division from 1927 to 1936. For many years he was also chairman of the Tynemouth local medical committee and vice-chairman of the Tynemouth local insurance committee. He was a past president of the Newcastle-upon-Tyne and Northern Counties Medical Society. Throughout the forty-two years he worked on Tyneside Dr. Adams gave of his best to his patients. His attention to their needs, provided as it was conscientiously and without stint, earned him their high regard and trust. His colleagues in the medical profession, too, had complete faith in his integrity, a faith they clearly demonstrated by repeatedly re-electing him to the chairs of the local Division and medical committee.

Lieutenant-Colonel H. G. ALEXANDER, I.M.S. (ret.), writes: As late medical superintendent of Mount Vernon Hospital, Northwood, might I be permitted to pay my tribute of great admiration and affection to the memory of one of the most courageous and gallant gentlemen that I have been privileged to know, my friend the late Mr. W. E. SPRINGFORD, whose obituary was printed in the *Journal* of May 29 (p. 1270)? In the face of two of the greatest disabilities to which humans are subjected this gallant gentleman met life and his great responsibilities as a surgeon with the utmost fortitude and resolution. He was a brilliant surgeon who in his short life lived up to the highest traditions of British surgery, and his high ideals remain an inspiration to all of

us who knew, loved, and respected him. He was full of human kindness, humour, and great courage, and his memory will ever remain dear to all of us at Mount Vernon. We extend our deepest sympathy to his widow.

## Medico-Legal

### THIOUREA ON ORANGES

Six Spanish oranges bought during April at a shop in Nottinghamshire and found to contain thiourea as a preservative were the subject of a hearing at Newark County Magistrates Court on June 2. A firm of wholesale fruit importers were charged under the Food and Drugs Act. They pleaded not guilty. It was the second case of its kind, the first, in Derbyshire, having been dismissed.

The prosecution explained that the only preservative allowed in oranges was sulphur dioxide. Thiourea was a toxic substance used by the medical profession for the treatment of abnormality of the thyroid gland. It was first used as a preservative in America in 1946, but experiments showed that in small concentration the substance was lethal to small animals such as rats, and the public health authorities in America prohibited its use. Thiourea was a poison, but it was because of its use as a preservative that this case was brought.

Mr. Hugh Childs, a public analyst, said that although thiourea had dangerous properties he did not think the amount used for preserving oranges would have any effect on normal human beings.

The manager and secretary of the defendant firm claimed that they had acted as brokers for a Spanish firm. They had no reason to suspect that the oranges contained the preservative. There was no danger of a repetition of this offence, because the Spanish Government had now prohibited the use of thiourea.

The magistrate found the case proved. A fine of £5 was imposed and defendants were ordered to pay £10 towards costs.

## Universities and Colleges

### UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

On April 29 the degree of B.M. was conferred on D. R. Wright, M. P. Wright, and E. S. N. Hazel.

The Board of the Faculty of Medicine has re-coopted Dr. A. H. T. Robb-Smith for the statutory period of two years from the first day of Trinity Term, 1954.

Dr. Janet M. Vaughan, Principal of Somerville College, has been reappointed as a delegate of the University Museum for three years from the first day of Michaelmas Term, 1954.

### UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

On May 1 Professor H. R. Dean, Master of Trinity Hall, was appointed a manager of the Benn W. Levy Fund until December 31, 1957.

The following medical degrees were conferred on May 1:

M.D.—E. K. Westlake.  
M.B., B.CHIR.—\*P. O. Jones.  
M.B.—\*J. C. Newell Price, R. J. Blow, J. P. Dickson, Betty Holt, Evelyn J. Mitchell.

The following degrees were conferred on May 15:

M.D.—P. A. Emerson, D. V. Bates, R. J. R. Cureton, A. P. Waterson.  
M.CHIR.—J. S. W. Whitehead.  
M.B.—D. G. Dingle.

\*By proxy.

### UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

On March 24 the degree of M.D. (Internal) was awarded by the Senate to B. W. Lacey.

The following candidates at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine have been approved at the examination indicated:

ACADEMIC POSTGRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN PUBLIC HEALTH.—N. J. Al-Chokhachi, M. A. Hamdi, G. H. K. Niazi, A. M. Nur, I. Suliman, Gladys M. Vanniasingham.

The following scholarships at the Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine have been awarded for 1954-5: *A. M. Bird Entrance Scholarship*, Miss M. Wharf (Chesterfield St. Helena School). *Sir Owen Roberts Memorial Scholarship for Women*, Miss S. M. V. Jeffery (Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine). *Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Scholarship for Women*, Miss V. J. Everett (Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine). *Elizabeth Bolton Scholarship*, Miss M. R. Chaplin (Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine). *Florence Hughes Scholarship for Women*, Miss N. Bogdan (Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine).

The degree of M.D. was awarded to S. G. Browne and E. C. Turton on April 6.

The following candidates at the Institute of Psychiatry have been approved at the examinations indicated:

ACADEMIC POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN PSYCHOLOGICAL MEDICINE.—J. E. A. Bartlett, J. L. J. Lumey, Mary M. McQuade, M. J. Rosenhall. *Part I*: R. W. A. C. Barton, P. H. Connell, P. S. Cook, R. de Alarcon, R. Emery, P. Haden, S. N. R. Pestonjee, B. A. Samaraweera, T. A. C. Siriwardena, A. Sittampalam, A. C. R. Skynner, Nancy I. Swift, J. D. Waldman, J. S. Whiteley, J. K. Wing.

#### UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

At the annual meeting of the Court of Governors of the University held on February 18, the title of emeritus professor was conferred on Humphrey F. Humphreys, Vice-Chancellor of the University in 1952-3, and Professor of Dental Surgery from 1935 to 1952. At a reception in his honour on February 8, Professor Humphreys was presented with a portrait of himself, painted by Waldron Wells.

The title of honorary part-time lecturer in the Department of Experimental Pathology has been given to Dr. W. Weiner, director of the Regional Blood Transfusion Service, and that of University Research Fellow to Dr. Sylvia M. Saddington during the tenure of her present post in the same department.

The following appointments are announced: Dr. F. P. Lisowski, Lecturer in Anatomy; Dr. H. E. Robson, Lecturer in Anatomy; and Mr. A. Gourevitch, Clinical Lecturer in Surgery, as part-time Lecturer in Surgery, in place of Mr. Fauset Welsh, who has resigned.

Professor S. Zuckerman, F.R.S., and Professor T. McKeown will represent the University at the World Population Conference to be held in Rome in September, 1954.

Representatives of the University have been appointed as follows: Professor McKeown on the United Kingdom Committee for World Health Organization of the United Nations; Professor C. F. V. Smout on the Birmingham Regional Medical Recruitment Committee; Professor W. Melville Arnott, Professor E. Brodie C. Hughes, and Emeritus Professor W. H. Wynn on the Standing Joint Committee of the University, the United Birmingham Hospitals, and the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board; Dr. C. G. Parsons on the Regional Advisory Committee on Infectious Diseases; Professor J. W. Orr and Professor J. R. Squire on the Regional Advisory Committee on Pathological Services. Dr. J. W. T. Patterson has been reappointed representative of the University on the governing body of Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School, Hartlebury.

Dr. Margaret Jefferson resigns her appointment as part-time Lecturer in Medical Statistics on July 31, 1954.

#### UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD

Dr. Joseph Magri has been appointed full-time demonstrator in anatomy.

The following resignations are announced: Dr. R. Wheeler Haines, senior lecturer in anatomy, on his appointment to the Chair of Anatomy in the Royal College of Medicine, Bagdad; and Dr. J. L. A. Grout, honorary lecturer in radiology.

#### ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF LONDON

At a quarterly comitia of the College held on April 29, with the President, Sir Russell Brain, in the chair, Dr. E. R. Boland, Dr. T. C. Hunt, and Dr. J. B. Harman were re-appointed representatives of the College on the Central Medical Recruitment Committee, and Sir Alun Rowlands on the Central Council for District Nursing. Sir Charles Dodds was appointed the College representative on the National Committee on Cancer.

The following, having satisfied the Censor's Board, were elected Members of the College:

K. D. Bagshawe, M.B., Katharine M. Baker, M.B., F. H. Burns, M.B., S. I. Cohen, M.D., J. Colvin, M.B., P. B. Cook, M.B., J. J. Daly, M.B., Lieutenant, R.A.M.C., J. R. Edsall, M.B., I. E. Evans, M.B., Yvette A. P. Franklin, M.B., R. G. Gibbs, M.B., A. J. Goble, M.D., J. D. S. Hammond, M.B., P. J. D. Heat, M.D., Cherry D. Heath, M.D., J. B. Hickie, M.B., Alison Hunter, M.B., J. D. Hunter, M.B., J. Knox, M.B., P. J. Lawther, M.B., D. G. Le Roux, M.B., D. Y. Mackenzie, M.D., J. McE. Neilson, M.B., Patience Proby, B.M., A. J. Proust, M.B., P. M. Rooze, L.R.C.P., J. F. Soothill, M.B., M. D. Turner, M.B., H. E. Webb, B.M., E. Wilkes, M.B., M. M. Zion, M.B.

Licences to practise were conferred upon 129 candidates (including 36 women) who have passed the final examination in medicine, surgery, and midwifery of the Conjoint Board, and who have complied with the by-laws of the College, as follows:

S. L. Adesuyi, L. N. Allen, T. D. Annear, Diana Austin, Jacqueline E. Banbury, L. Barsey, D. G. Bennett, A. Berry, H. R. Bissoon Dath, A. S. Blake, Gwyneth, J. D. Botherway, Angela I. Brooks, Jean Brown, D. C. L'E. Burges, Patricia Burne, P. M. C. Camm, Jean Carberry, June M. Cheetham, Brenda A. P. Clark, R. M. Clark, D. Constat, I. J. Cope, I. C. Cree, M. R. Crompton, R. N. Davis, B. Dawson, Jean E. Drake, P. Dromgoole, D. P. Duffield, Lise L. Einerl, R. A. Ellis, P. A. S. Evans, C. D. Farrier, A. S. E. Fowle, J. K. Frost, P. Garmon-Jones, Grace M. Gee, Mary H. Godwin, P. Gortvai, R. A. Grande, Brenda Grant, W. B. Hanley, L. Harbin, L. M. Hart, D. Hide, G. M. R. Holliday, P. E. Hoogewerf, A. B. Hugo, L. H. Hurrell, W. M. Huse, I. Inglicby, Barbara M. Isles, D. C. Jackson, P. D. C. Jarman, P. Jenkins, A. R. Jones, Erica J. Jones, F. W. Jones, H. D. Jones, J. A. Kay, P. Kellett, C. E. Langham, Diana E. Lathbury, N. A. G. Leadbeater, J. E. Leaney, J. J. Lewis, D. C. Linahan, Patricia J. Lindop, B. A. Lowe, C. Lowson, J. A. McMillan, W. M. Mee, Margaret S. Meyer, H. N. Middleton, K. F. Mole, A. A. D. Moore, Janet E. Morgan, O. Morton, Patricia E. Moul, Sheila M. Mullally, D. D. Munro, T. W. Nicholson, Wendy E. Noble, Patricia Painter, M. S. K. Palmer, A. Pearce, K. I. Pearce, Valerie J. Perkins, J. M. Phillips, C. W. Pook, D. Pownall, J. A. Puerell, J. R. Rawstorn, Dorothy S. Read, Kathleen M. Reid, J. E. S. Relton, Corinne J. Richardson, D. F. Rideout, G. D. Ripley, D. Roberts, Margaret Russell, J. G. Sanderson, Count Andrew C. Skarbeck, J. C. Smith, R. W. Smith, D. L. Smithson, B. K. Sood, G. P. St. C. Starck, L. Stimmler, Jane Sweatman, Eileen N. Thompson, T. M. Tibbets, W. R. Tidy, E. E. D. Tomlin, Annie M. N. Tustin, Heather F. A. Vickery, D. Vuckovic, J. G. Wall, D. R. Whitehouse, D. H. Williams, H. R. Willings, J. H. P. Willis, A. J. Winterton, Joan M. Woodley, Celia B. M. Wookey, Enid M. Wozencroft, R. T. Yip-Choy, C. F. A. Younger, A. Youatt.

Diplomas were conferred, jointly with the Royal College of Surgeons of England, as follows:

DIPLOMA IN ANAESTHETICS.—A. J. Sims.

DIPLOMA IN CHILD HEALTH.—Susanne M. Salvisberg, and to the other successful candidates whose names are printed in the report of the meeting of the Royal College of Surgeons of England on April 8 (see below).

DIPLOMA IN TROPICAL MEDICINE AND HYGIENE.—R. M. Ajina, Evelyn C. Cummings, J. S. Dodge, N. D. Gosavi, A. E. Gunders, V. G. Nivsaraker, Hia Kyaaw Pe, C. E. P. Samarasinghe, S. Sen Gupta, T. K. Sweeney, S. A. Taib, and to the other successful candidates whose names are printed in the report of the meeting of the Royal College of Surgeons of England on April 8 (see below).

Diplomas in Physical Medicine and in Ophthalmology were also conferred, jointly with the Royal College of Surgeons of England, on the successful candidates whose names are printed in the report of the meeting of the Royal College of Surgeons of England on April 8 (see below).

#### ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND

At a meeting of the Council of the College, held on March 11, with Sir Cecil Wakeley, President, in the chair, it was reported that Mr. J. Johnson Abraham had been elected a Hunterian Trustee. A Hunterian Lectureship was awarded to Dr. Howard C. Naffziger (San Francisco).

Mr. R. R. Simpson (Hull) was elected to the Fellowship *ad eundem*.

J. E. Gardiner, Ph.D. (Leeds), was appointed Junior Lecturer in the Department of Pharmacology.

Dr. I. K. R. McMillan (St. Thomas's) was reappointed Mackenzie Mackinnon Research Fellow for the year ending June 30, 1955. The Hallett Prize was presented to A. Mitra (Calcutta). The Hancock Prize was presented to Sheila C. Hay (Sheffield) and Margaret S. Meyer (Royal Free).

The Council of the College met on April 8 for the last time in the old council room of the College, in which for over a hundred years their predecessors had held their meetings. The next meeting will be held in the new room in the rebuilt College.

The death of Sir Frank Colyer (Honorary Curator of the Odontological Collection and Hunterian Trustee) was reported and the Council unanimously adopted a resolution of condolence.

The Honorary Fellowship of the College was conferred on Dr. G. Gavin Miller, of Montreal.

The following were elected Fellows of the College without examination as being medical practitioners of at least 20 years' standing: Mr. J. W. H. Grice (Tunbridge Wells), Mr. D. M. E. Thomas (Sully, Glam), Professor G. Hadfield (London), Mr. J. Trueta (Oxford), Mrs. Dorothy R. Campbell (Coventry).

Mr. W. A. Jackman (Bristol) was elected to the Fellowship *ad eundem*, and Mr. R. R. Simpson (Hull) was admitted to the Fellowship *ad eundem*.

Dr. W. D. M. Paton (University College Hospital Medical School) was admitted as the first Professor of Pharmacology at the College.

The Jacksonian Prize for 1953 was awarded to Mr. J. H. Peacock (Bristol) for his essay on the pathology and surgery of peripheral vascular occlusion.

The first Mitchiner Medal was awarded to Brevet Colonel H. D. Chalke, and the first Lady Cade Medal to Squadron Leader R. R. L. Pryer. Professor Martin A. Rushton (Guy's) was awarded the John Tomes Prize.

A Hunterian Lectureship was awarded to Professor Milroy A. Paul (Ceylon).

The Council selected diaphragmatic hernia as the subject for the Jacksonian Prize for 1955.

It was decided to institute a badge of office to be affixed to the Fellow's gown to distinguish the Members of Council.

Diplomas in Child Health, in Physical Medicine, in Ophthalmology, and in Tropical Medicine and Hygiene were granted, jointly with the Royal College of Physicians of London, as follows:

**DIPLOMA IN CHILD HEALTH.**—Dierdre Airey, Enid Atkins, H. Aufrichtig, Doris M. Beaton, Elaine M. Belton, Elizabeth F. Bennett, J. R. Bhatia, Flora M. Bisset-Smith, Audrey M. Bolton, E. M. Broadfoot, J. A. Browne, D. W. Bull, June M. Burger, A. P. Camilleri, Kai Hang Chau, J. A. Cheese, Omana A. Cheriyan, E. Chigier, J. H. Clyde, G. J. Cousins, Mary Crawford, Joan M. St. V. Dawkins, S. R. Deenadayalu, J. M. Doyle, Catherine M. Durkin, J. G. Edgar, C. P. E. Elliott-Binns, J. W. Fisk, D. M. Fraser, S. P. Ghosal, Sheila M. Gough, Margaret L. Gladstone, Isobel H. Grant, S. T. Gunewardene, Anne M. Haines, Margaret E. Hall, Mary Hollowell, M. J. T. Hewetson, Sai Kong Ho, Kathleen A. Hockey, K. S. Holt, Megan D. M. Johnson, Jocelyn Johnston, P. Kapur, Pathmarani Kathiravelu, R. E. Kottler, Sylvia Lath, J. B. Lewis, M. Lewis, Sicw Whye Loh, G. C. Love, Margaret Luing, M. F. McDowall, T. McKendrick, Sheila L. McKinlay, S. S. Manchanda, Cicely J. Millbank, Rhona E. Morgan, Marion E. Morris, Marion B. Morton, Chitra Mukherjee, B. K. A. Muller, N. V. O'Donohoe, R. M. Oliver, Ida S. Paranjoti, Hawa Patel, G. N. St. J. Penney, Jean Poole, Frances E. Powell, Edith I. Proctor, S. D. Roche, Sonia Rollin, Carol J. Rubidge, H. H. Shawdon, Isabel G. Smith, M. H. Southall, Joyce K. Starkie, Joan V. Stavert, K. Stewart, Mary Sugden, Majuree Sundaravej, C. G. W. Sykes, I. G. Thomson, J. N. Ure, D. Vardy, Claudine M. R. Vesey, I. S. Wallman, Ruth M. Walters, M. A. Warley, S. M. Don, G. R. Wijegunaratne, P. S. W. Wilkins.

**DIPLOMA IN PHYSICAL MEDICINE.**—D. J. E. Cheshire, P. R. Travers.

**DIPLOMA IN OPHTHALMOLOGY.**—J. A. Akingbehin, M. R. Ashbridge, M. H. Ashruff, D. J. Bowerman, G. Davidson, M. S. Faridi, K. C. Garg, H. Hardy, B. A. E. Harley, S. U. Joshi, A. bin A. Kadir, R. C. K. Loh, Marguerite C. Macdonald, Laurel J. Macintosh, M. H. Malik, D. L. E. Paine, R. A. Quesada-Guardia, J. N. Rohatgi, S. Roy, G. S. Sandhu, G. Singh, K. S. Subramaniam, A. A. Tye, J. H. W. Wessels.

**DIPLOMA IN TROPICAL MEDICINE AND HYGIENE.**—J. C. Aickin, F. L. Ashworth, A. S. Beare, C. Bhamarasuta, N. K. Bharucha, Z. M. A. Cader, A. T. Cook, T. M. Desai, J. K. Gajjar, G. H. K. Gente, J. E. J. Hurman, S. Jatinandana, A. C. Kail, A. M. Khatib, Y. J. Kiladjan, A. G. Leishman, W. S. Millar, H. R. Miller, K. P. Milne, A. Muir, I. G. Murray, L. Noronha, Magdelen K. E. Oberhoffer, M. K. Panikkar, K. H. Patel, H. N. Ray, W. Rollinghoff, P. D. Scheffel, E. K. Tagboto, P. Yates, P. Yogarnathan.

**ROYAL COLLEGE OF OBSTETRICIANS AND GYNAECOLOGISTS**

At a meeting of the Council of the College held on March 27, with the President, Mr. Arthur A. Gemmell, in the chair, Edward Solomons was admitted to the Fellowship.

At a meeting of the Council of the College held on May 22, with the President, Mr. Arthur A. Gemmell, in the chair, the following were admitted to the Fellowship:

H. Agar, A. F. Anderson, A. J. S. L. Boyd, J. C. McC. Browne, J. A. Chalmers, Mary P. John, W. Kearney, O. Lloyd, D. J. Malan, Patricia J. H. Massey, G. P. Milne, R. B. K. Rickford, C. S. Russell, J. M. Scott, Ruby G. Sharp, A. M. Sutherland.

The following were admitted to the Membership:

G. T. D. Barr, E. R. Broadberry, Vivienne A. Croxford, H. F. Daghstany, P. J. Dwyer, A. L. T. Easton, J. R. Elliott, D. W. S. Gordon, T. P. Grant, J. Greenwell, K. Greig, R. W. Hughes, G. A. Humphreys, F. D. C. Jackson, K. B. Layton, C. V. Love, A. C. McInnis, P. Manolis, M. Mukerji, F. A. Murray, R. F. O'Donoghue, G. D. Pinker, D. E. Savage, S. G. Singh, H. J. Tighe, J. R. D. Tomlinson, A. C. Turnbull, R. Vaish, P. S. Watson, V. T. White.

The Council received a further grant of £3,000 from the Leverhulme Trust Fund for research purposes.

**CONJOINT BOARD OF IRELAND**

The following candidates were duly admitted Licentiate in Medicine and Midwifery on April 2, having passed the final examination in medicine, surgery, and midwifery of the Conjoint Board of Ireland: Una E. Batt, A. I. Booth, S. A. A. Carson, D. R. Chinoy, Margaret T. Coyle, Laura Cullen, Veronica O. Egbuna, Bridget Finnegan, Patricia J. Finnegan, P. D. N. MacAllister, Grainne McCarthy, P. J. H. Ward.

**The Services**

Major-General J. M. Macfie, C.B., C.B.E., M.C., late R.A.M.C., has been appointed Honorary Colonel of a Territorial Army unit.

Captain A. M. Ferrie, R.A.M.C., has been mentioned in dispatches in recognition of gallant and distinguished services whilst a prisoner of war in Korea.

Flight Lieutenant R. R. Macdonald, R.A.F., has been mentioned in dispatches in recognition of gallant and distinguished service in Malaya.

**INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND VITAL STATISTICS**

Summary for British Isles for week ending May 22 (No. 20) and corresponding week 1953.

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	1954					1953				
	Eng. & Wales	Lond.	Scot.	N. Ire.	Eire	Eng. & Wales	Lond.	Scot.	N. Ire.	Eire
Diphtheria .. ..	22	0	4	0	0	19	2	5	1	2
Dysentery .. ..	1,104	144	324	6	4	754	123	93	2	2
Encephalitis, acute ..	5	1	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	
Enteric fever: Typhoid .. ..	3	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	1
Paratyphoid .. ..	4	0	2	0	0	4	0	0	0	0
Food-poisoning .. ..	195	20			0	155	15			5
Infective enteritis or diarrhoea under 2 years .. ..					16					15
Measles* .. ..	1,940	61	187	124	329	10,277	345	403	319	331
Meningococcal infection .. ..	27	1	10	1	3	31	1	12	1	
Ophthalmia neonatorum .. ..	37	3	7	0		46	1	6	0	
Pneumonia† .. ..	520	32	180	8	4	505	34	155	9	5
Poliomyelitis, acute: Paralytic .. ..	17	0				22	1			
Non-paralytic .. ..	9	0				7	0			
Puerperal fever‡ .. ..	208	27	14	2		267	30	10	0	
Scarlet fever .. ..	832	42	115	41	32	1,306	88	149	44	66
Tuberculosis: Respiratory .. ..	933	114	155	35				161	41	
Non-respiratory .. ..	150	14	33	4				39	10	
Whooping-cough .. ..	2,419	104	352	29	25	3,103	213	454	53	145

DEATHS in Great Towns	1954					1953				
	Eng. & Wales	Lond.	Scot.	N. Ire.	Eire	Eng. & Wales	Lond.	Scot.	N. Ire.	Eire
Diphtheria .. ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dysentery .. ..	0	0				0	0			
Encephalitis, acute ..										0
Enteric fever .. ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Infective enteritis or diarrhoea under 2 years .. ..	9	0	1	0	1	4	0	3	3	1
Influenza .. ..	16	3	0	0	1	4	0	0	0	2
Measles .. ..			0	0	0			0	0	0
Meningococcal infection .. ..		0	0				0	0		
Pneumonia .. ..	179	21	17	13	4	187	24	14	8	5
Poliomyelitis, acute ..	0	0				4	0			0
Scarlet fever .. ..		0	0	0	0		0	0		0
Tuberculosis: Respiratory .. ..	83	13	12	2	7	103	12	14	1	6
Non-respiratory .. ..										
Whooping-cough .. ..	1	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0
Deaths 0-1 year .. ..	223	28	29	9	13	228	26	31	7	16
Deaths (excluding stillbirths) .. ..	4,734	653	591	123	155	4,935	711	569	111	172
LIVE BIRTHS .. ..	8,243	1,290	954	202	427	8,349	1,237	948	246	462
STILLBIRTHS .. ..	200	28	31			211	15	25		

\* Measles not notifiable in Scotland, whence returns are approximate.  
† Includes primary and influenza pneumonia.  
‡ Includes puerperal pyrexia.

McNamara, L.R.C.P.&S.I., Anaesthetic Registrar, Newmarket General Hospital; Lucy T. Lee, M.B., B.Ch., Anaesthetic Registrar, United Norwich Hospitals; Marion B. Morton, M.B., B.S., D.C.H., Paediatric Registrar in Peterborough Area.

HARDING, H. E., F.R.C.S., Orthopaedic Surgeon, Hospital of St. John and St. Elizabeth, London, N.W.

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JAMIESON, JOHN G., B.M., B.Ch., D.C.H., Senior School Medical Officer, Leeds.

MACTAGGART, DOUGLAS K., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., Assistant County Medical Officer, Devon County Council, and Medical Officer of Health to the Borough of Dartmouth, the Urban Districts of Brixham and Paignton, and Brixham Port Health Authority.

MANCHESTER REGIONAL HOSPITAL BOARD.—A. Glass, M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.S., Consultant Orthopaedic and Accident Surgeon to North Manchester Hospital Centre and Booth Hall Children's Hospital. J. D. Heppleston, M.B., Ch.B., D.C.P., Consultant Group Pathologist to South Cheshire Hospitals.

MENZIES, ALEXANDER, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., Medical Superintendent, Inverness Group of Hospitals.

MILLIGAN, H. C., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., Deputy Medical Officer of Health, Walsall County Borough.

NEWMAN, NOEL, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H., Deputy Medical Officer of Health and Deputy Principal School Medical Officer, City of Bath.

NORTH-EAST METROPOLITAN REGIONAL HOSPITAL BOARD.—J. B. Enticknap, M.D., D.C.P., Full-time Consultant Pathologist, East Ham Memorial Hospital. H. W. Balme, M.D., M.R.C.P., full or maximum Part-time Consultant Physician, Whipps Cross Hospital. A. Russell, M.D., M.R.C.P., D.P.H., D.C.H., Part-time Consultant Paediatrician, Harold Wood Hospital, Ilford Maternity Hospital, Ilford Public Health Offices Clinic. R. N. G. Atherstone, M.B., B.Chir., D.A., F.F.A. R.C.S., Part-time Consultant Anaesthetist, King George Hospital, Ilford. Ilford Isolation Hospital. G. C. Thick, M.B., B.S., D.A., F.F.A. R.C.S., Part-time Consultant Anaesthetist, Herford Group of Hospitals.

PRESTON, FRANK S., M.B., Ch.B., D.A., Regional Medical Officer (Eastern), British European Airways.

REYNOLDS, G. MORTON, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H., Deputy Medical Officer of Health, School Medical Officer, and Deputy Port Medical Officer, County Borough of Great Yarmouth.

WILSON, JOHN GREENWOOD, M.D., F.R.C.P., D.P.H., Medical Officer of Health, Port of London (the appointment will subsequently be amalgamated with that of the City of London).

## BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS

### BIRTHS

Harris.—On May 15, 1954, to Juliette, wife of L. H. Harris, M.B., B.S., of 2, Durrisdge House, Lyndale, London, N.W., a sister for Adrian and Darrell—Yulanie Chérie.

Henry.—On May 19, 1954, at British Military Hospital, Klagenfurt, Austria, to Hilda (formerly Loble), wife of Captain E. R. Henry, R.A.M.C., a daughter—Alison Claire.

### DEATHS

Aldridge.—On May 15, 1954, Arthur William Aldridge, M.B., B.S., of Batsford Avenue Road, Great Malvern, Worcs, late of Thickethorn, Northfield, Worcs, aged 79.

Beesly.—On May 9, 1954, at his home, Newbury, Berks, Lewis Beesly, F.R.C.S.Ed.

Blake.—On May 15, 1954, at Orchard Cottage, Nailsworth, Glos, Anthony Fewster Blake, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., formerly of Grays, Essex, aged 84.

Brown.—On May 9, 1954, at Ardeer House, Shankhouse, Cramlington, Northumberland, William Brown, M.B., Ch.B., aged 53.

Butler.—On May 17, 1954, at 53, Charlotte Street, Leith, Edinburgh, James Butler, M.B., C.M.

Chambers.—On May 13, 1954, at 51, Bushey Hall Road, Bushey, Herts, Elsie Blair Chambers, M.B., Ch.B.

Corbett.—On May 19, 1954, at Fairwinds, Kingswear, South Devon, George Holmes Uvedale Corbett, M.B., B.C., aged 75.

Ellis.—On May 5, 1954, John Stanley Ellis, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., of 32, Combe Park, Bath.

Fraser.—On May 7, 1954, at Swansea General Hospital, George John Fraser, M.B., Ch.B., of Brynheulog, Mayals, Swansea, late of Glen Urquhart, Inverness-shire.

Garson.—On May 15, 1954, John Ross Garson, M.B., B.S., of 3, Daleham Avenue, Egham, Surrey.

Hardcastle.—On May 17, 1954, in hospital, Douglas Noël Hardcastle, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.M., F.B.P.S., of 48, Warwick Road, Bishop's Stortford, Herts, aged 62.

Higgins.—On May 11, 1954, at the Royal Infirmary, Lancaster, James Basil Higgins, M.B., Ch.B., D.M.R.E., aged 62.

Hirson.—On May 18, 1954, Bernard Hirson, L.R.C.P.&S.I. & L.M., of 409, Cheetham Hill Road, Manchester.

MacQuistan.—On April 15, 1954, John Archibald MacQuistan, M.B., Ch.B., of Upper Oldfield Park, Bath, Somerset, formerly of Glasgow.

Pilcher.—On May 4, 1954, at Cleveland, Ohio, U.S.A., J. Douglas Pilcher, M.D., husband of Jean Lorraine Pilcher (formerly Smith), M.B., Ch.B.

Sheedy.—On May 4, 1954, at Yelverton, Devon, Thomas Sheedy, O.B.E., L.R.C.P.&S.I. & L.M.

Sidebotham.—On May 11, 1954, at St. Thomas's Hospital, London, S.E., Francis Nasmyth Sidebotham, M.D., of Bendarroch, Ottery St. Mary, Devon.

Smith.—On May 11, 1954, at Stroud, Glos, Charles Charnock Smith, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., J.P., late of Woburn, Beds, and Hastings, Sussex, aged 82.

Wilshere.—On May 16, 1954, at University College Hospital, London, W.C., Basil Hamilton Wilshere, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.A., L.D.S. R.C.S., of Purley, Surrey.

Yarrow.—On May 14, 1954, at Stamford Hill, London, N., Philip Yarrow, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

## 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.

### Decompression of the Bladder

**Q.**—What are the rules about decompressing bladders? Chronic retention should be decompressed slowly—how slowly, and what is a fool-proof method? Acute retention can be decompressed rapidly—but what actually constitutes a safe definition of acute retention?

**A.**—The safest clinical distinction between acute and chronic retention is that the former is painful, the latter relatively or absolutely painless. The pain of acute retention may be relieved by catheterization while arrangements are made for the patient to be admitted to hospital. In chronic retention there is no pain to relieve, and it is wrong to empty the bladder either quickly or slowly until the patient is in hospital, where the obstruction can be removed or drainage continued until the operation is considered safe. In advanced cases of chronic retention where preliminary drainage is thought to be necessary the safest method is the small suprapubic catheter; the initial decompression should take 12 hours.

### An Epileptic Relative and Marriage

**Q.**—What advice should be given to a young couple who want to marry, but there is a history of epilepsy in a near relative on one side (in this instance a brother)? Will an electroencephalographic examination of both partners definitely exclude increased risk of epileptic children if the tracings are normal in both? What should be said if one or both of the tracings are abnormal?

**A.**—It is assumed that the only history of epilepsy in the family of either partner is the case of the brother mentioned in the question and that neither partner has had any fits. In these circumstances the likelihood of children of the marriage developing idiopathic epilepsy is very small, and this would be strengthened if both partners have normal E.E.G. records. If both partners should have typical epileptic records it is probable that the chance of a child developing epilepsy is considerably increased. Complete dogmatism in answering this question is impossible, as there are still considerable gaps in our knowledge about the inheritance of epilepsy. An important contribution to the subject was published by W. G. Lennox.<sup>1</sup>

### REFERENCE

<sup>1</sup> J. Amer. med. Ass., 1951, 146, 529.

### Dangers of Liquor Arsenicalis

**Q.**—Is there any evidence that very small doses of arsenic, such as a minim (0.6 ml.) of liquor arsenicalis daily, taken over long periods give rise to cirrhosis of the liver? Doses of this order are sometimes included in sedative mixtures.

**A.**—There are numerous reports of hepatic damage occurring during prolonged administration of liquor arsenicalis in therapeutic amounts in the treatment of leukaemia, etc.<sup>1</sup> However, there is little information in the literature about the maximum daily dose of inorganic arsenic which may be given without causing toxic effects. I know of no positive evidence that the daily taking of 1 minim of liquor arsenicalis over long periods has given rise to cirrhosis of the liver. Gowers is quoted by Stockman<sup>2</sup> as saying that the smallest amount of arsenic which he had ever known to give rise to pronounced arsenical pigmentation was equivalent to about 11,000 minims (7.3 g. of arsenic) of liquor arsenicalis during two years. This implies an average daily