

Dr. EDITH SUMMERSKILL (Warrington, Lab.) asked whether the substitute was as effective as and much cheaper than heroin. Mr. MACLEOD said that was in dispute, but most people would agree with her. Mr. MACPHERSON asked whether supplies could not be made available to practitioners in those cases where it could be shown there was no adequate substitute, and whether, if he produced evidence of such cases, the Minister would consider it. Mr. MACLEOD said "Yes." The Home Secretary was going to receive a deputation from the British Medical Association, and these matters could be examined then.

Mr. WALTER ELLIOT (Glasgow, Kelvingrove, Con.) said that the drug was of great use in certain cases and could not be dispensed with. He urged the Minister to bend his utmost efforts to see that supplies were made available to reputable practitioners, as had been done before with many drugs as dangerous as this one. Mr. MACLEOD said that he would take that into account. All he could do was to take the best advice available: that was from his Medical Advisory Committee, which included the Presidents of the Royal Colleges, the Chairman of the Council of the B.M.A., and the President of the General Medical Council. Their view was one to which the greatest attention had to be given.

#### Deputation to Home Secretary

Sir ROBERT BOOTHBY (Aberdeenshire, East, Con.) asked the Home Secretary whether, in view of the protests of the British Medical Association and of the medical profession throughout the country against the threatened withdrawal of heroin, he would permit the manufacture of the drug in limited quantities for use by medical practitioners, and subject to a ban on its export. Sir HUGH LUCAS-TOOTH, Under Secretary, stated that the Council of the B.M.A. had asked the Home Secretary to receive a deputation on this subject, and he had agreed to do so.

Sir ROBERT BOOTHBY asked that the Home Secretary should bear in mind that, in the opinion of the majority of the medical profession, this drug alone could bring relief to certain types of pain, particularly connected with inoperable cancer. As there were only 40 heroin addicts known in this country, would he bear in mind that it was most undesirable that avoidable suffering should be inflicted on thousands of cases if adequate control of the drug could be devised? Sir HUGH LUCAS-TOOTH said the Home Secretary would prefer to discuss the matter with the deputation first.

#### Poliomyelitis Vaccine

Dr. BARNET STROSS (Stoke-on-Trent, Central, Lab.) asked the Minister of Health when it was proposed to vaccinate groups of children in Britain against poliomyelitis; and what type of vaccine was to be used. Mr. MACLEOD replied that a member of the staff of the Medical Research Council had just returned from a visit to the United States, where he had been studying the latest developments. His report was at present being considered. He expected to make a fuller statement to the House at an early opportunity. Dr. STROSS asked whether some of the tragic results of the use of the Salk vaccine in the United States had been due to the fact that the virus had not been completely killed. If it was used here, would the greatest care be taken to ensure that no such accident occurred? Mr. MACLEOD replied that it seemed probable that the explanation of the Cutter vaccine incident had been that it contained live virus. The Ministry of Health would be content only with the highest standards before they went ahead here.

#### Cost of Drugs Inquiry

Mr. A. BLENKINSOP (Newcastle-upon-Tyne, East, Lab.) asked the Minister what further progress had been made in discussions with the pharmaceutical industry regarding the cost of drugs and appliances prescribed through the Health Service. Mr. MACLEOD stated that the manufacturers both of standard drugs and of the main types of surgical dressings had been informed that the results of

the cost investigations did not suggest there was any call at present for intervention by the Government, subject in the latter case to certain assurances. As regards the prices of proprietary preparations, since the special provisional reductions which were mentioned on January 31 discussions had been continuing with the industry on the general principles to be followed. Basic drugs, which could not be dealt with separately, were still under investigation, and meantime the firms themselves had continued to reduce the prices of some important drugs. Mr. BLENKINSOP asked if the Minister could give any indication when the discussions would end. Mr. MACLEOD said that he did not particularly envisage them coming to an end at all. It seemed to be a continuing pressure that ought to be kept up over a long period. He added that he thought it would be possible to keep effective and reasonable control over the costs, but there were very considerable problems to reconcile with the need for economy.

#### Antibiotics

Dr. BARNET STROSS asked the Minister of Health what was the extent of the emergence of strains of diseases now resistant to the common antibiotics such as penicillin, and what was the extent to which uncontrollable allergies to penicillin were appearing. Miss PAT HORNSBY-SMITH, the Parliamentary Secretary, said the Minister was advised that it had been established that strains resistant to penicillin, and in varying degree to certain other antibiotics, were emerging, and that allergies to penicillin were appearing, although it was not yet certain how far any of these was uncontrollable. The Minister was not at present competent to give any more detailed figures or particulars in these matters.

*Regional Board Audit Staff.*—In answer to a question the Minister of Health said that the staff employed in the audit of the accounts of all National Health Service hospital authorities, executive councils, and certain other authorities conforms with comparable audit services in the Civil Service, where a professional accountancy qualification is not required.

## Universities and Colleges

### ROYAL COLLEGE OF OBSTETRICIANS AND GYNAECOLOGISTS

The following candidates were successful at the April examination for the Diploma in Obstetrics:

Jessamine M. Akhurst, J. Alexander, H. C. Allen, Anne J. Anderson, M. J. Barnard, C. T. H. Barrett, Renuka Basu, A. G. Blyth, J. G. Blyth, Beryl M. Bromham, J. W. Brown, Jane Buchanan, C. D. Campbell, Margaret E. Chitty, A. R. Chrispin, Elinor B. Clark, Priscilla A. Clark-Maxwell, J. S. Clayton, Elinor M. Cleland, W. M. D. Clements, Mary Clothier, W. G. Cooke, R. L. Coppock, D. C. Cornish, Florence M. Cousley, P. H. Crosskey, Lois R. Davidson, D. W. Davis, D. A. De Renzy-Martin, G. W. Donaldson, D. M. du Toit, C. E. Elliott, Constance H. Ellis, Lucy M. Ellis, E. W. Evans, Joan M. Evans, J. R. Eve, H. T. Fay, Helena M. Fehily, G. Findlay, Kathleen T. Flanagan, J. McC. Forrester, R. W. Galloway, W. F. P. Gammie, R. E. M. Geldart, J. A. Gibson, R. M. Goddard, H. R. Gompertz, J. R. Gough, Sheila M. Gough, J. L. Graham, F. V. Griffiths, A. B. Guest, A. T. G. Gunn, E. A. Haddock, H. N. Hardy, Adeline Kwee-Hong Heah, J. Heffernan, R. M. Hodges, W. S. Hossack, D. S. Iles, Katherine I. Jack, Elizabeth M. Jennings, A. H. John, Isabel D. Johnson, Vivian K. Jones, A. R. Jordan, K. Kelly, A. S. L. Kennedy, Esther S. Kerr, B. Kirsch, W. Lang, L. A. Lees, C. S. Leithead, H. C. Leslie, E. R. Lester, N. H. Logan, P. Los, R. H. Mackay, B. N. McAdam, Kathleen M. McArtie, Doreen E. McConnell, W. E. H. Maeckelberghe, J. M. Manners, Muriel J. Martin, J. F. A. Maskell, H. McL. Morgan, Eleanor Morrison, Mary J. Mossman, K. A. Naylor, Margaret A. Norman, Jean M. North, J. W. Parkin, Rena E. Partridge, W. F. Paveley, J. A. Payne, Mary Phillips, H. R. Playfair, T. A. Plumley, J. G. Powell, Elizabeth M. Price, M. N. Prichard, Margaret J. Purser, Olga M. Rampersaud, Amla Rama Rao, A. M. Reader, D. M. Reader, E. G. Rees, H. F. Reichenfeld, Rosalind M. Rewcastle, D. P. W. Roberts, Margaret J. L. Robinson, R. S. B. Rogers, J. N. Roper, A. D. Rowlands, Hilary M. Rowson, Margaret C. Russell, Dorothy Sanderson, T. A. Sanderson, K. Scott, R. W. Scott, Jane M. Scott-Brown, Jean M. Shields, M. J. Sill, H. R. Simpson, W. S. Sinton, G. H. Smerdon, R. I. Smith, J. H. Spurway, R. M. Stanford, Hilary K. R. Steen, Phyllis A. Stevens, Audrey B. Stevenson, D. Stewart, J. Stewart, T. F. Stoyke, Heather B. Thompson, J. Thompson, D. Tingle, Annemarie D. Tupper, J. Walker, Patricia G. Wallis, W. W. Watson, J. W. S. Webb, J. R. Welsh, B. F. Whiteley, Sheila Wightman, Gladys M. H. Williams, J. R. Wood, W. J. Wright, W. O. C. Young.

people visiting British West Africa from November, 1955, to January, 1956. The tour is under the auspices of the Prime Minister's committee on overseas travel parties for youth, which administers moneys allocated from the South African Aid to Britain Fund. Those interested should apply immediately to the tour organizer at 37, Bedford Square, London, W.C.1.

### COMING EVENTS

**N.A.P.T. Commonwealth Health and Tuberculosis Conference.**—The fourth conference will be opened on June 21 at 10 a.m. by the Minister of Health at the Royal Festival Hall, London. After the conference there will be visits to sanatoria, hospitals, and clinics.

**Hospitals' Symphony Orchestra.**—Concert in the Great Hall of B.M.A. House, Tavistock Square, London, W.C.1, on June 25 at 7.30 p.m. Works by Haydn, Brahms, Dvorak, Sibelius, and Berlioz. Tickets (10s. to 3s. 6d.) from Miss M. A. WHIPP, Almoners' Department, St. Thomas's Hospital, London, S.E.1.

**Oxford Graduates' Medical Club.**—The Summer Dinner will be held in Oriel College, Oxford, on Friday, July 1, at 7 p.m. with Dr. F. G. HOBSON, D.S.O., F.R.C.P., in the chair. Members may bring medically qualified guests of either sex. Tickets (price 35s.) from RONALD MACBETH, F.R.C.S., Department of Otolaryngology, Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford.

**Irish Medical Association.**—Members of the B.M.A. will be welcome at the annual meeting of the I.M.A. at Trinity College, Dublin, July 4-8. Details of the clinical sessions from the secretary of the I.M.A., 10, Fitzwilliam Place, Dublin.

**Collegium Internationale Allergologicum.**—Symposium on migraine and vascular allergy at Basle, July 3-8.

**Royal Medical Benevolent Fund.**—Annual general meeting on July 28 at 5 p.m. at 11, Chandos Street, London, W.1.

### NEW ISSUES

**Journal of Neurology, Neurosurgery and Psychiatry.**—The next issue (Vol. 18 (New Series), No. 2) is now available. The contents include:

- STUDIES IN TRAUMATIC EPILEPSY, PART 3: VISUAL FITS. W. Ritchie Russell and C. W. M. Whitty.  
THE ARTERIAL SUPPLY OF THE SPINAL CORD AND ITS SIGNIFICANCE. D. H. M. Woollam and J. W. Millen.  
ENCEPHALITIS IN LOA-LOA FILARIASIS. L. van Bogaert, A. Dubois, P. G. Janssens, J. Radermecker, G. Tverdy, and M. Wanson.  
OBSERVATIONS ON THE REACTION TIME TO CUTANEOUS THERMAL STIMULI. P. P. Lele and D. C. Sinclair.  
CHRONIC PROLIFERATIVE OSTEITIS OF THE SKULL. J. E. M. Dutton and G. L. Alexander.  
THE ASSOCIATION OF DEMENTIA WITH RADIOLOGICALLY DEMONSTRATED CEREBRAL ATROPHY. R. H. Gosling.  
CHOROID PLEXUS PAPILLOMA CAUSING SPONTANEOUS SUBARACHNOID HAEMORRHAGE. J. Ernstung.  
THE USE OF DEHYDROISOANDROSTERONE IN PSYCHIATRIC PRACTICE. E. B. Strauss and W. A. H. Stevenson.  
ISCHAEMIC SENSORY LOSS IN PATIENTS WITH SPINAL AND CEREBRAL LESIONS. R. W. Gilliat.  
ANXIETY AND AN AUTONOMIC REACTION TO PAIN. Malcolm Piercy, Alick Elithorn, R. T. C. Pratt, and Margaret Crosskey.

Issued quarterly; annual subscription £2 2s.; single copy 12s. 6d.; obtainable from the Publishing Manager, B.M.A. House, Tavistock Square, London, W.C.1.

**British Journal of Pharmacology and Chemotherapy.**—The new issue (Vol. 10, No. 2) is now available. The contents include:

- THE ACTION OF HYPNOTIC DRUGS ON FROG SKELETAL MUSCLE. J. P. Quilliam.  
THE ACTION OF THIOPENTONE SODIUM ON SKELETAL MUSCLE. J. P. Quilliam.  
ACTION OF PROGUANIL AND ITS METABOLITE ON NEUROMUSCULAR AND SYNAPTIC TRANSMISSION. Marcel J. Dallemagne and E. Philippot.  
EXPERIMENTAL CHOLERA IN INFANT RABBITS: A METHOD FOR CHEMOTHERAPEUTIC INVESTIGATION. N. K. Dutta and M. K. Habbu.  
PROTECTION AGAINST ANAPHYLACTIC SHOCK BY VARIOUS SUBSTANCES. H. Herxheimer.  
A POSSIBLE MECHANISM OF ADRENALINE STABILIZATION IN THE ADRENAL GLAND. Douglas G. Humm, Martin Roeder, Miriam Landew, and Eloise E. Clark.  
A SERIES OF POLYMETHYLENE BIS-ACETOXYETHYLDIMETHYLAMMONIUM SALTS. R. B. Barlow.  
THE ANTICHOLINESTERASE ACTIVITY OF POLYMETHYLENE BIS-QUINOLINIUM SALTS. R. B. Barlow and Jean M. Himmis.  
THE PHARMACOLOGICAL ACTIONS OF CAPSAICIN AND ANALOGUES. C. C. Toh, T. S. Lee, and A. K. Kiang.  
OBSERVATIONS ON HISTAMINE-INDUCED PRURITUS AND PAIN. J. L. Broadbent.

- MODIFICATION BY DRUGS OF THE RESPONSE OF THE RAT'S UTERUS TO ADRENALINE. Margarethe Holzbauer and Marthe Vogt.  
THE SCHISTOSOMICIDAL ACTIVITY OF SYMMETRICAL DIAMINODIPHENOXYALKANES. C. G. Raison and O. D. Standen.  
A SLOW CONTRACTING SUBSTANCE IN NORMAL HUMAN URINE. Fernando P. Gomes.  
THE MODE OF ACTION OF SULPHONAMIDES, PROGUANIL, AND PYRIMETHAMINE ON PLASMODIUM GALLINACEUM. I. M. Rollo.  
THE RELEASE OF HISTAMINE BY POLYMYXIN B AND POLYMYXIN E. S. R. M. Bushby and A. F. Green.  
PHASE-BOUNDARY POTENTIALS AND GANGLION-STIMULANT ACTIVITY. K. A. Exley and P. Hey.  
ACTION OF THE HISTAMINE-RELEASER POLYVINYLPIRROLIDONE ON CAPILLARY PERMEABILITY IN DOGS. B. N. Halpern, E. Musso, and Th. Neveu.  
BRONCHOCONSTRICTOR AND BRONCHODILATOR ACTIONS OF ANTIHISTAMINE DRUGS. D. F. Hawkins.  
A STUDY OF TWO METHODS FOR TESTING LOCAL ANAESTHETICS IN MAN. J. L. Mongar.  
PRESENCE OF ACETYLCHOLINE IN THE MALAYAN JACK-FRUIT, ARTOCARPUS INTEGRA. Robert Chun Yu Lin.  
RELEASE OF HISTAMINE BY A SUBSTITUTED BUTYLAMINE (L 1935): COMPARISON WITH COMPOUND 48/80. W. Feldberg and J. Lecomte.  
STUDIES ON THE MECHANISM OF PITUITARY-ADRENAL ACTIVATION BY MORPHINE. Robert George and E. Leong Way.

Issued quarterly; annual subscription £4 4s.; single copy 25s.; obtainable from the Publishing Manager, B.M.A. House, Tavistock Square, London, W.C.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.

#### Monday, June 20

BIRMINGHAM MEDICAL INSTITUTE: SECTION OF PSYCHIATRY.—At Central Hospital, near Warwick, 2.30 p.m., clinical meeting.  
POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL SCHOOL OF LONDON.—4 p.m., Dr. Lewis Dexter (Boston): Cor Pulmonale.  
ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.—5 p.m., ophthalmology lecture by Dr. R. Lucas: Retinal Dystrophy.

#### Tuesday, June 21

INSTITUTE OF DERMATOLOGY.—5.30 p.m., Dr. O. L. S. Scott: Hypostatic Ulcers.  
ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF LONDON.—5 p.m., Ernestine Henry Lecture by Dr. K. M. A. Perry: Pulmonary Disease Associated with Metallic Oxides.  
ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.—3.45 p.m., Arnott Demonstration by Dr. S. Engel: Post-natal Development of the Child's Lung.  
SOUTH-WEST LONDON MEDICAL SOCIETY.—At Bellingbroke Hospital, 8.30 p.m., annual general meeting.

#### Wednesday, June 22

INSTITUTE OF DERMATOLOGY.—5.30 p.m., Dr. R. W. Riddell: Subcutaneous Mycotic Infections.  
ROYAL SANITARY INSTITUTE.—2.30 p.m., Mr. P. G. Shute: Role of Mosquitoes in the Spread of Myxomatosis and Some Suggestions for their Control.

#### Thursday, June 23

INSTITUTE OF DERMATOLOGY.—5.30 p.m., Dr. H. Haber: The Reticuloses.  
POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL SCHOOL OF LONDON.—4 p.m., Dr. J. C. Gilson: Rheumatism and Lung Disease.  
ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.—5 p.m., Hunterian Lecture by Professor A. C. Bingold: Benign Fibrous Tumours of Single Bones.  
ST. GEORGE'S HOSPITAL MEDICAL SCHOOL.—5 p.m., postgraduate demonstration in psychiatry.  
● WEST LONDON MEDICO-CHIRURGICAL SOCIETY.—At New Hall, Royal College of Surgeons of England, 7.30 for 8 p.m., annual banquet.

#### Friday, June 24

CAMBRIDGE MEDICAL SOCIETY.—At Addenbrooke's Hospital, 3 p.m., Mr. S. G. Clayton: Post-maturity.  
● INSTITUTE OF DERMATOLOGY.—5.30 p.m., clinical demonstration by Dr. P. F. Borrie: Leg Ulcers.  
INSTITUTE OF DISEASES OF THE CHEST.—5 p.m., clinical demonstration by Dr. J. G. Scadding.  
POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL SCHOOL OF LONDON.—(1) 2 p.m., Mr. J. Bruce: Regional Enteritis (2) 4 p.m., Mr. P. McG. Moffatt: Use of the Ophthalmoscope in Medicine (II).

#### Saturday, June 25

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY MEDICAL SCHOOL.—10.30 a.m., symposium: Laboratory Aids to Diagnosis and Treatment.

### BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS

#### BIRTHS

Clarke-Williams.—On June 8, 1955, at the General Hospital, Rochford, Essex, to Shirley (formerly Hinton), wife of Michael Clarke-Williams, M.B., M.R.C.S., a brother for Marion—Adam Richard.  
Dobson.—On June 1, 1955, to Dr. Margaret J. Dobson (formerly Barker), wife of Sydney F. Dobson, Stockport Road, Marple, Cheshire, a second son.

#### MARRIAGES

Torley—Hausmann.—On December 21, 1954, at The Cathedral, Minden, John Torley, M.B., Ch.B., to Marlies Hausmann, of Minden, Westfalen, Germany.

#### DEATHS

Gribbell.—On April 13, 1955, at his home, "Torridon," Yelverton, Devon, William Ernest Gribbell, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., Surgeon Captain, R.N., retired, aged 78.  
Griffiths.—On May 6, 1955, at Ruthin Castle, John Tudor Griffiths, L.R.C.P.&S.Ed., L.R.F.P.S., J.P., of Leaton, Grontan Road, Prestatyn, Flint.  
Kilgour.—On April 25, 1955, at 37, Abercon Place, London, N.W., William Robert Kilgour, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., aged 71.  
Marsh.—On May 4, 1955, at 85, Appleby Lodge, Manchester, Lancs, Frank Needham Marsh, M.B., Ch.B.