

she did not think that any cases that appeared to require investigation were being missed. The regional officers had visited 468 doctors and written to 1,277, so they had covered a fair field.

Proprietary Drugs

Mr. BLENKINSOP asked for a statement on the progress of discussions with the manufacturers of proprietary drugs prescribed in the National Health Service. Miss HORNSBY-SMITH said that, following detailed criticisms put to them by the Health Departments of their proposals for fixing the prices of these preparations, the industry was now reviewing these proposals. The Minister had instructed that the industry should be given full opportunity of justifying or amending the proposals which had been put forward, in view of the risk that precipitate and unwise action might involve for exports or for fundamental research.

Bogus Cures for Speech Defects

Mr. KENNETH ROBINSON (St. Pancras, North, Lab.) asked if the Minister would take steps to protect the public from exploitation by unqualified persons claiming to cure speech defects; and if he would publicize the fact that the services of qualified speech therapists were available to adults and children within the Health Service. Miss HORNSBY-SMITH said the Minister was considering the views of the bodies concerned on the statutory registration of these and other medical auxiliaries. He did not consider that special publicity was called for. Mr. ROBINSON said there had been a serious increase in advertisements on hoardings and in the press for quack cures for stammering and other defects, which was causing serious concern among professional people. Miss HORNSBY-SMITH said the final answer would be when they could get general agreement on the registration of auxiliaries.

Guarantee Against Economies

Mr. BLENKINSOP asked the Minister of Health whether he would make a statement regarding economies in the Health Service, in view of the proposal for total reductions in Government expenditure of £100m. in the current financial year. Miss HORNSBY-SMITH told him that the Minister had no statement to make. Mr. BLENKINSOP declared that it was high time a statement was made, and a clear guarantee given to the House that no economies at all would be made in this Service, especially in view of the strong recommendation by the Guillebaud Committee for an increase in capital expenditure. Miss HORNSBY-SMITH commented that if it was taken literally it would mean that even if they found any extravagances they would not be able to economize. Mr. BLENKINSOP insisted that there had been a statement that economies might be made in the Service, and they ought to be told in what form. Miss HORNSBY-SMITH repeated her first answer, that the Minister had no statement to make.

Safety Pamphlet.—It is expected that a revised edition of safety pamphlet No. 16, "Weight-lifting by Industrial Workers," will be published later this year.

The Services

Surgeon Captain H. M. Willoughby, V.R.D., R.N.V.R., has been appointed an Honorary Physician to the Queen, in succession to Surgeon Captain J. B. Oldham, V.R.D., R.N.V.R.

Brigadier P. F. Palmer, O.B.E., late R.A.M.C., has been appointed Director Medical Services, G.H.Q., Middle East Land Forces, and has been granted the temporary rank of Major-General.

NAVAL MEDICAL COMPASSIONATE FUND

A meeting of the subscribers of the Naval Medical Compassionate Fund will be held at the Medical Department of the Navy, Queen Anne's Mansions, St. James's Park, London, S.W., on Friday, May 4, at 2.30 p.m., to elect six directors of the fund.

Medico-Legal

ALLEGED ATTACK BY PATIENT

[FROM OUR MEDICO-LEGAL CORRESPONDENT]

An action for damages against the Warlingham Park Hospital Management Committee resulting from an alleged attack by one patient upon another in the Warlingham Park Mental Hospital was withdrawn by the plaintiff on the second day of the hearing¹ after evidence had been given on both sides of the circumstances in which the injuries were received.

Frederick James Silk, the injured man, was a patient at Warlingham Park in February, 1952. On February 13 he was directed to go from ward G.1 to sleep in ward J.1 and was escorted to that ward by a male nurse, who pointed out to him the bed he was to occupy at the far end of the room. There were about fifty patients in the ward, and the beds were so close together that there was no room for lockers between them; as the patients had retired for the night there was only partial illumination.

Mr. Silk sat down and took his boots off. There was then a thud and a cry, and he was found lying between his bed and the bed next door, which was occupied by a patient who, according to the evidence of the junior medical officer and the staff nurse, was a quiet, kindly man who kept himself to himself and became aggressive only if interfered with.

Mr. Silk brought an action against the Committee but died before it came on for trial, and his widow continued it for the benefit of his estate. His case was that he ought not to have been moved to a ward beside a patient known to be violent, and that, as a result of being attacked by that patient, he suffered injury which speeded his total incapacity.

Dr. Rossiter Lewis, called as expert witness for the plaintiff, said that, having studied the case history of the patient alleged to have assaulted Mr. Silk, he thought he was an "aggressive epileptic," and would object if any relative of his were put next to such a man. He thought it undesirable to put a stranger like Mr. Silk next to him at night and without an introduction.

After the evidence of the former junior medical officer, Mr. Justice Hilbery commented that he could not see that in a mental hospital, unless every patient was in a separate ward, it was possible to escape a certain degree of risk in housing together people any of whom might occasionally be violent.

On withdrawal of the action judgment was entered for the Committee, which did not ask for costs.

¹ *Manchester Guardian*, January 17 and 18, 1956.

Universities and Colleges

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

In Congregation on November 26, 1955, the degree of M.A. was conferred on Dr. D'Almero Kok, University Lecturer in the Department of Medicine, and Dr. J. A. Hislop, Assistant Director of Research in the Department of Human Ecology.

In Congregation on February 25 the following degrees were conferred:

M.D.—R. Marshall, D. N. Phear A. Pines.
M.B., B.CHIR.—J. F. Garner.
M.B.—J. A. Eddington (by proxy) and J. F. MacC. Newman.

In Congregation on March 10 the following degrees were conferred:

M.CHIR.—*W. F. W. Southwood, D. W. T. Roberts, T. M. Robinson.
M.B., B.CHIR.—*F. E. Loeffler.
M.B.—*Mrs. Katrine M. Parry.

*By proxy.

UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL

In Congregation on March 27 Cynthia J. Discombe was admitted to the degree of M.D., and I. K. Sharp to the degree of M.Ch.Orth.

UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER

The following candidates have been approved at the examinations indicated :

DIPLOMA IN PSYCHOLOGICAL MEDICINE.—Part I: J. C. Denmark, Constance M. Duddle. Part II: W. E. Robinson.

UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

Professor A. P. Thomson has been reappointed representative of the University on the General Medical Council until the expiration of his term of office as Dean of the Faculty of Medicine.

The title of University Research Fellow has been given to Dr. Georg Hubscher, of the Department of Pharmacology, during the tenure of his present post in the University.

Dr. Jean Langlands has been appointed Research Fellow in the Department of Medicine from February 1, 1956.

Dr. Charmian Elkes resigned her appointment as University Research Fellow in Experimental Psychiatry on January 31, 1956.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND

At a meeting of the Council of the College held on March 8, with Sir Harry Platt, President, in the chair, a resolution of condolence was passed on the death of Professor L. P. Gamgee, past Member of Council.

It was reported that Dr. J. M. French (Birmingham) had been reappointed Mackenzie Mackinnon Research Fellow.

It was agreed that the College should join the proposed United Kingdom Committee on Poliomyelitis.

It was agreed that recognition of the qualifying degrees of the Egyptian universities at Cairo and Alexandria for the individual postgraduate examinations of the College be resumed forthwith, and that this recognition be made retrospective to August 1, 1952.

A Diploma of Fellowship was granted to J. Sunderman, of Perth.

ROYAL AUSTRALASIAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS

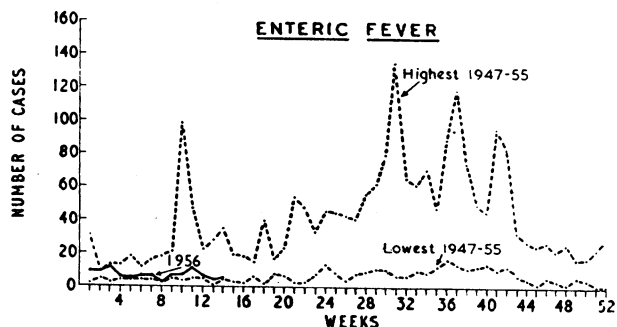
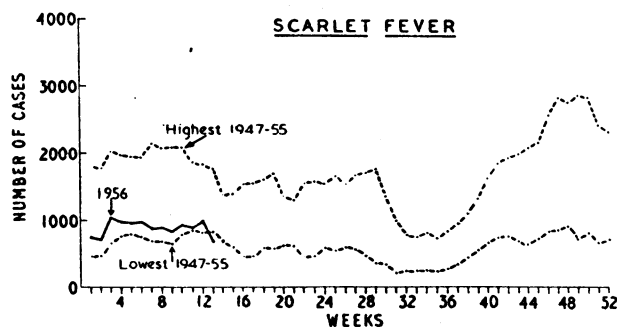
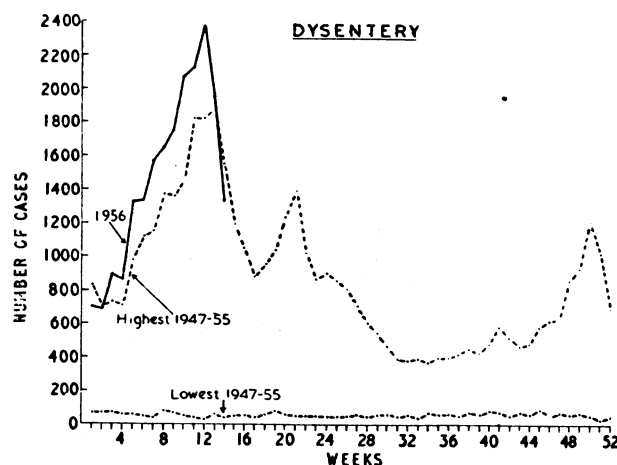
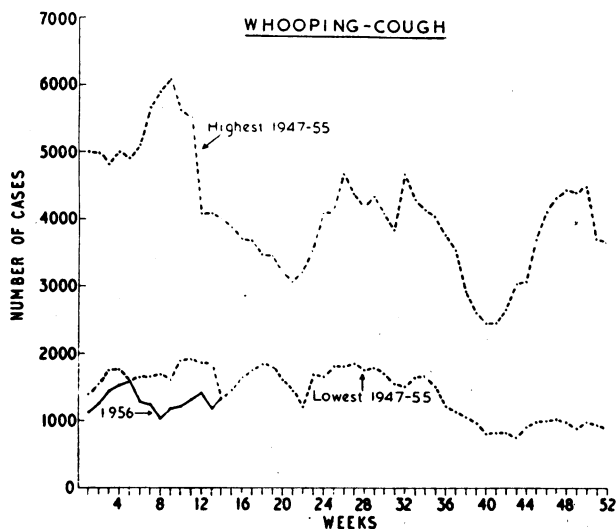
The following, having satisfied the Court of Examiners, were admitted to Fellowship of the College by the Council on January 30:

A. B. Alder, R. A. Craven, G. J. Douglas, J. K. Francis, A. F. Grant, N. F. Greenslade, N. T. Hamilton, A. B. Holmes, G. Kerridge, J. P. O'Neill.

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 1947-55 are shown thus -----, the figures for 1956 thus ———. Except for the curves showing notifications in 1956, the graphs were prepared at the Department of Medical Statistics and Epidemiology, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.



Infectious Diseases

The largest rises in the number of notifications of infectious diseases in England and Wales during the week ending April 7 were 651 for measles, from 2,666 to 3,317, 167 for whooping-cough, from 1,719 to 1,346, and 137 for acute pneumonia, from 560 to 697; the only large fall was 612 for dysentery, from 1,948 to 1,336.

The largest increases in the incidence of measles were 129 in Suffolk, from 119 to 248, 59 in Caernarvonshire, from 14 to 73, and 52 in Northamptonshire, from 71 to 123. The number of notifications of scarlet fever were 681, 5 fewer than in the preceding week, and no large variations occurred in the local trends. A small rise in the incidence of whooping-cough occurred in every region except the northern and Yorkshire. 4 cases of diphtheria were notified, being 2 fewer than in the preceding week; 2 of these cases were notified in Birmingham C.B.

10 cases of acute poliomyelitis were notified, and these cases were 3 fewer for paralytic and 1 fewer for non-paralytic than in the preceding week. Two cases were notified in Birmingham C.B. and in Heston and Isleworth M.B.

For the tenth consecutive week the number of notifications of dysentery have exceeded 1,300. A decline was reported in the number of notifications in most outbreaks, and the largest falls were 205 in London and 91 in Yorkshire West Riding. The largest centres of infection during the week were Lancashire 205 (Bolton C.B. 41, Manchester

COMING EVENTS

Central Council for the Care of Cripples.—Annual meeting, May 3 at 3 p.m., at County Hall, Westminster Bridge, London, S.E.1. Details from the council, 34, Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1.

Institute of Hospital Administrators.—Annual conference, which will be opened by the Minister of Health, Mr. R. H. TURTON, at Southsea, May 3-5. Details from the Institute, 75, Portland Place, London, W.1.

French Society of Ophthalmology.—The 63rd Congress will be held in Paris, May 6-10. Details from Dr. M. KALT, 81, Rue St. Lazare, Paris, 9.

Polish Medical Association in Exile.—Annual meeting on May 19 and 20 at 18, Queen's Gate Terrace, London, S.W.7. Dr. H. DŁUGOSZ will speak on "Hypertension—Calamity of our Times." Full details of programme from the hon. secretary of the association, 14, Collingham Gardens, London, S.W.5.

Conference on Cancer of Liver.—International congress of French-speaking morbid anatomists, Strasbourg, May 25-27. Details from Dr. A. OPPERMAN, Institut d'Anatomie Pathologique, Hospices Civils, Strasbourg.

Association of Sea and Air Port Health Authorities.—Annual conference at Liverpool, June 7-8. Details from Dr. H. C. M. WILLIAMS, Health Department, Civic Centre, Southampton.

World Confederation for Physical Therapy.—Second international congress in New York, June 17-23. Details from the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy, Tavistock House (South), Tavistock Square, London, W.C.1.

NEW ISSUES

Thorax.—The new issue (Vol. 11, No. 1) is now available. The contents include:

A REVIEW OF 138 CASES OF CLOSURE OF TUBERCULOUS LUNG CAVITIES UNDER CHEMOTHERAPY. J. D. ROSS and D. T. KAY.

A THEORY OF THE ORIGIN OF INTRALOBAR SEQUESTRATION OF LUNG. R. Abbey Smith.

CONTROLLED HYPOTENSION DURING OPERATION FOR COARCTATION OF THE AORTA. Ole Secher, Erik Husfeldt, and Frederik Therkelsen.

ACQUIRED PORTAL-PULMONARY VENOUS ANASTOMOSIS COMPLICATING PARTIAL OESOPHAGO-GASTRECTOMY IN A PATIENT WITH PORTAL HYPERTENSION. C. R. B. Blackburn.

A CASE OF BRONCHIAL ADENOMA WITH LIVER METASTASIS. Priscilla Kincaid-Smith and Jean-Jacques Brossy.

MEIGS SYNDROME WITH BLOOD-STAINED EFFUSION. Christopher S. Darke and C. J. Dewhurst.

HAEMANGIOMA OF THE MEDIASTINUM. W. M. Dixon and R. Laird.

AIR EMBOLISM DURING PNEUMOPERITONEUM TREATMENT. David Burman.

CHEMOTOMY (NON-CHROMAFFIN PARANGLIOMA) OF THE NINTH INTERCOSTAL SPACE. K. M. Shaw and J. D. Kennedy.

AMINO-ACID LEVELS IN PLEURAL EXUDATES. M. Sandler.

THE COMBINED DIAGNOSTIC PROCEDURE OF BRONCHOGRAPHY AND BRONCHOSCOPY. S. Kalinowski and T. W. Lloyd.

Published quarterly; annual subscription £2 2s.; single copy 12s. 6d.; 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, April 30

EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY.—At West Lecture Theatre, University New Buildings, Teviot Place, 5 p.m., Dr. D. J. Guthrie: Avicenna and Mediaeval Medicine.

● HUNTERIAN SOCIETY.—At Talbot Restaurant, E.C., 7 for 7.30 p.m., Annual General (Dinner) Meeting: 8.30 p.m., address by Mr. T. Byam Shaw: Dürer's Study of Human and Animal Form in Health and Disease.

INSTITUTE OF PSYCHIATRY.—5.30 p.m., Dr. E. Stengel: lecture-demonstration. POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL SCHOOL OF LONDON.—4 p.m., Dr. I. C. Gilliland: Exophthalmos.

Tuesday, May 1

● BRITISH PSYCHO-ANALYTICAL SOCIETY.—At Friends House, Euston Road, N.W., 8.30 p.m., Dr. E. J. M. Bowlby: Psycho-Analysis and Child Care. CHELSEA CLINICAL SOCIETY.—At Rembrandt Hotel, S.W., 7.30 p.m., annual dinner.

INSTITUTE OF CHILD HEALTH.—5 p.m., Dr. J. Harry Ebbs (Toronto): Changes in the Stature of School Children in the Last Half-century.

LONDON UNIVERSITY.—At London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, 5.30 p.m., special university lecture in pathology by Professor L. Kreyberg (Oslo): Etiology and the Occurrence of Lung Cancer in the Light of Pathological Anatomy.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF LONDON.—5 p.m., Croonian Lecture by Dr. A. H. Douthwaite: Pitfalls in Medicine.

WEST END HOSPITAL FOR NEUROLOGY AND NEUROSURGERY.—5.30 p.m., Dr. C. C. Edwards: neurological demonstration.

Wednesday, May 2

INSTITUTE OF DISEASES OF THE CHEST.—5 p.m., Dr. P. H. Wood: Physiological Classification of Pulmonary Hypertension.

LONDON UNIVERSITY.—At St. Thomas's Hospital Medical School, 5 p.m., special university lecture in pharmacology by Dr. S. W. Kuffler (Baltimore, U.S.A.): Patterns of Innervation and Contraction in Striated Muscle.

POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL SCHOOL OF LONDON.—2 p.m., Dr. Henry Haber: Clefts, Vesicles and Bullae.

Thursday, May 3

EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY.—At West Lecture Theatre, University New Buildings, Teviot Place, 5 p.m., Dr. D. J. Guthrie: Vesalius and the New Anatomy.

FACULTY OF HOMOEOPATHY.—5 p.m., Dr. W. J. S. Cameron: Homoeopathy in Diseases of Women.

GLASGOW UNIVERSITY MEDICO-CHIRURGICAL SOCIETY.—7.30 p.m., annual general meeting.

HONYMAN GILLESPIE LECTURE.—At Anatomy Theatre, University New Buildings, Edinburgh 5 p.m., Dr. J. H. Ebbs: An Illustrated Account of Medical Services in the Canadian Arctic.

INSTITUTE OF LARYNGOLOGY AND OTOTOLOGY.—11.30 a.m., Dr. H. C. Andersen (Denmark): Diagnosis and Screening of Deaf Children in Denmark; 12.15 p.m., Dr. Ole Bentzen (Denmark): Auditory Training in Denmark.

QUEEN CHARLOTTE'S MATERNITY HOSPITAL.—2.15 p.m., meeting to commemorate 25th anniversary of opening of Bernhard Baron Memorial Research Laboratories and Isolation Block. Speakers, Mr. L. Colebrook and Mr. G. F. Gibberd.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF LONDON.—5 p.m., Croonian Lecture by Dr. A. H. Douthwaite: Pitfalls in Medicine.

ST. ANDREWS UNIVERSITY.—At Physiology Department, Dundee, 5 p.m., Dr. A. A. Douglas: Birth Injuries of the Eye, with Particular Reference to Congenital Squint.

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

ST. JOHN'S HOSPITAL DERMATOLOGICAL SOCIETY.—5 p.m., Professor W. Montagna (Rhode Island U.S.A.): Reappraisal of the Phenomenon of Hair Growth.

SURREY INTER-HOSPITAL PSYCHIATRIC ASSOCIATION.—At St. Ebba's Hospital, Epsom, Surrey, 7.30 p.m., papers by (1) the late Dr. D. E. Sands to be read by Dr. J. C. Batt: Recent Developments in Psychoneuroendocrinology; Dr. W. Lindsey Neustatter: Depression and Murder.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON: DEPARTMENT OF BIOCHEMISTRY.—At Physiology Theatre, Gower Street, W.C., 5 p.m., Professor N. L. Edson (New Zealand): Intermediate Metabolism of Carbohydrate in the Mycobacteria.

Friday, May 4

BRITISH INSTITUTE OF RADIOLOGY.—8 p.m., meeting of medical members. INSTITUTE OF DISEASES OF THE CHEST.—5 p.m., Dr. F. P. Lee Lander: clinical demonstration.

LONDON UNIVERSITY.—At St. Bartholomew's Hospital Medical College, 5 p.m., special university lecture in medicine by Professor F. A. Simeone (U.S.A.): Post-denervation Supersensitivity.

POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL SCHOOL OF LONDON.—10 a.m., Dr. Edward Hamlin, jun.: Thyroid Biopsies.

ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL MEDICAL SCHOOL.—At Wright-Fleming Institute Theatre, 5 p.m., Mr. G. Wynn-Williams: Uterine Abnormalities and their Clinical Significance.

APPOINTMENTS

EAST ANGLIAN REGIONAL HOSPITAL BOARD.—Margaret M. Downes, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.O.G., Senior Registrar in Obstetrics and Gynaecology, United Norwich Hospitals; B. Alam, M.B., B.S., Registrar in Ear, Nose, and Throat Surgery, Ipswich and East Suffolk Hospital; Eileen P. Kane, M.B., B.Ch., D.C.H., Registrar in Psychiatry, East Suffolk Mental Hospitals; E. Fischer, Ph.D., L.R.C.P.&S.I., D.P.M., Consultant Psychiatrist and Deputy Medical Superintendent, Little Plumstead Mental Deficiency Group of Hospitals; W. de M. Kellock, F.R.C.S., Senior Orthopaedic Registrar, United Norwich Hospitals; J. T. Bergin, M.B., B.Ch., Registrar in Mental Deficiency and Child Psychiatry, Little Plumstead Group of Hospitals; T. J. G. Brown, M.B., B.S., Surgical Registrar, North Cambridgeshire Hospital; W. J. Naunton, M.B., B.Chir., D.O.M.S., and S. W. N. Gibson, M.B., B.Chir., F.R.C.S., D.O., Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeons, Norfolk and Norwich Hospital Group; M. D. Kay, M.B., Ch.B., Medical Registrar, Ipswich and East Suffolk Hospital; J. H. Simpson, M.D., M.R.C.P., Assistant Physician in Geriatrics, Norfolk and Norwich Area; D. J. Thornton, F.B.O.A., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., Registrar in Ophthalmology, Norfolk and Norwich Hospital.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS

BIRTHS

Ball.—On April 10, 1956, to Dr. Doreen Sheila (formerly Ryan), wife of Geoffrey L. Ball, of 4, Bethune Avenue, Friern Barnet, London, N., a son.

Blackadder.—On April 18, 1956, at the Western General Hospital, Edinburgh, to Jean, wife of Eric S. Blackadder, M.B., Ch.B., of South Lodge, Lydgait, Haddington, East Lothian, a son.

Derlien.—On March 30, 1956, at Altrincham Maternity Hospital, to Joan, wife of Dr. J. A. L. Derlien, a daughter.

Ostlere.—On April 19, 1956, at King's College Hospital, London, S.E., to Mary (formerly Patten), and Gordon Ostlere, a son.

Paul.—On April 16, 1956, at the Garrett Anderson Maternity Home, to Jack, M.B., Ch.B., D.C.H., and Joyce (formerly Blum), formerly of South Africa, a daughter.

DEATHS

Aubrey.—On February 11, 1956, Sydney Ernest Aubrey, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., of 24, Old Mill Way, Durban North, Natal, South Africa, aged 80.

Browne.—On March 3, 1956, at Greyburns, Lancaster Avenue, Farnham, Surrey, William Walker Browne, O.B.E., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., Colonel, late R.A.M.C., retired, aged 76.

Crowther-Smith.—On March 4, 1956, Stanley Francis Crowther-Smith, M.B., of Standford House, Bordon, Hants, aged 84.

Mansell.—On March 5, 1956, at his home, 23, Millington Road, Cambridge, Reginald Anson Mansell, O.B.E., M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H., D.T.M.&H., Colonel, late R.A.M.C., retired.