

**Medico-Legal.****THE COVENTRY CASE.**

*Pratt and Others v. the British Medical Association  
and Others.*

THIS case was mentioned to Mr. Justice McCardie on October 25th, on an application to enter formal judgement. A report of the learned judge's judgement appeared in the SUPPLEMENT to the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL for last week. The damages awarded to the various plaintiffs amounted in all to the sum of £3,810.

On an application that judgement be entered, Mr. Schwabe, K.C. (who appeared with Sir Hugh Fraser), for the plaintiffs, asked that judgement might be entered for the amounts awarded. They were not quite agreed as to the figures, but his learned friend (Mr. Hollis Walker) and the Association had worked them out at £3,810. As to his Lordship's ruling that the defendants were to have the costs of issues on which they succeeded, this he understood to refer to certain of the alleged libels and slanders upon which the plaintiffs had failed. As to these, he desired to point out that since all the libels and slanders were relied on as part of the conspiracy, there ought to be no separate costs.

Mr. Justice McCardie: Do you say there was only one cause of action?

Mr. Schwabe: No. I allege a series of independent torts. I do not desire to abandon any cause of action.

Mr. Justice McCardie: In so far as any charge of libel or slander has failed the defendants are entitled to the costs of it. As I have already intimated, they are entitled to the costs of certain issues.

Mr. Schwabe then applied for the costs of the shorthand notes.

Mr. Justice McCardie: Was it agreed that they should be costs in the cause?

Mr. McCall: No, my lord. The plaintiffs were asked to agree, but refused to do so. The note was prepared and transcribed at our expense.

Mr. Schwabe said that he only asked for the costs of the shorthand note of the interlocutory proceedings and of so much of the transcript of the evidence as they had found it necessary to take up. They were bound to get a copy of some of the evidence, because it was referred to by counsel for the defendants.

Mr. Justice McCardie: You have lost nothing by the courtesy of your opponents in supplying you with a copy of the shorthand note. There is no precedent for this application. Although the case was long and complicated the evidence was not intricate.

Mr. Schwabe was then about to refer to the proposed injunction.

Mr. McCall: I admit that the plaintiffs are entitled to have their undertaking which was given before the Lord Chief Justice extended for any reasonable time after the declaration of peace, or until an appeal has been heard, whichever shall last happen.

Mr. Schwabe: The plaintiffs would prefer an injunction.

Mr. Justice McCardie: This case has given me great pain. I should prefer that the plaintiffs gain their object by an undertaking rather than by the stern formality of an injunction. If there is an appeal and the plaintiffs succeed and the Court of Appeal see fit, it may grant an injunction. I am very reluctant to submit these members of a great profession to an injunction. The whole future of the medical profession depends on the loyalty with which its members now serve the national interests.

At this point his Lordship intimated that as he had urgent business elsewhere the further hearing of the application would have to be adjourned.

**The Services.****AUXILIARY ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS FUNDS.**

THE annual general meeting was held on October 25th. Sir Alfred H. Keogh, G.C.B., G.C.V.O., was re-elected president; Lieut.-General T. H. J. C. Goodwin, C.B., D.G.A.M.S., was elected as the new vice-president; and Major W. F. Brook, Colonel Sir Thomas Crisp English, A.M.S., Colonel J. E. Gemmell, and Lieut.-Colonel S. F. Irvine were elected to the vacancies on the committee.

The report of the recommendation of the Committee for Grants up to September 30th, 1918, was adopted. Grants amounting to £396 had been made in the Benevolent Branch to the orphans of eleven officers, and in the Relief Branch amounting to £38 15s. to the widows and orphans of one corporal and five privates.

At a committee meeting held previously grants were made to orphans of seven officers amounting to £240, and to the widow and orphans of six members of the rank and file amounting to £234. These funds are for the education of the children of officers of the Auxiliary Royal Army Medical Corps who have lost their lives during the present war, or have been severely

disabled by it; also for the widows and children of similar members of the rank and file.

Requests for help as well as subscriptions should be addressed to the Honorary Secretary, 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, London, W.1.

**Universities and Colleges.****UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE.**

AT a congregation held on October 25th the degree of Bachelor of Surgery was conferred by proxy on C. H. Crawshaw.

**Obituary.****R. BRUDENELL CARTER, F.R.C.S.,**

Consulting Ophthalmic Surgeon to St. George's Hospital.

MR. BRUDENELL CARTER died at his residence at Clapham Common on October 2nd, a few weeks after completing his 90th year. He was an ophthalmic surgeon of distinction, but the influential position he held in London for many years was due to his long association with the *Times*. By his connexion with that paper he was in a position to place the views of the medical profession on subjects of the day before the general public, and the lucidity of his style always enabled him to do so with effect.

He was the son of Major Carter of the Royal Marines, and was born at Little Wittenham, in Berkshire, of which his grandfather was vicar. He received his medical education at the London Hospital, became M.R.C.S. in 1851, and L.S.A. in the following year. After practising in the neighbourhood of London for a couple of years he went out to the Crimea as staff surgeon in Turkey, and received the English and Turkish medals. There he made the acquaintance of Sir W. H. Russell, the famous correspondent of the *Times*, through whom he contributed a series of letters to that paper. After the war he again practised in the neighbourhood of London, and afterwards in Nottingham, where in 1859 he took part in the foundation of the Nottingham and Midland Eye Infirmary. In 1862 he went into partnership in Stroud, where he had a large share in the establishment of the Gloucestershire Eye Institution. He took the F.R.C.S. in 1864, and when his partnership terminated in 1868 settled in London as ophthalmic surgeon, renewed his connexion with the *Times*, and became a regular contributor to the *Lancet*. In the following year he became surgeon to the Royal Eye Hospital, Southwark, a post he retained until 1877. He was elected ophthalmic surgeon to St. George's Hospital in 1870, and on his retirement in 1893 was appointed consulting ophthalmic surgeon. He represented the Apothecaries' Society on the General Medical Council from 1887 to 1900. During this period he was mainly instrumental in introducing a change in the methods of the General Medical Council, which made it possible to deal in a suitable manner with comparatively trivial offences, by the expedient of postponing decision until the next session, making the interval a period of probation. The point cannot be better stated than in the following passage, which we are allowed to quote from a letter Carter addressed to the Editor of the *Lancet* in 1915: "When I joined the Council there were many cases in which there was no choice but to inflict the penalty of erasure from the *Register* for quite trivial offences, or else to condone them altogether, even if they came within definitions of 'infamous conduct' which the Council had already laid down. Cases of 'covering an unqualified practitioner,' for example, differed immensely as to degree of turpitude; and I more than once saw a boy, who had but just entered the profession, expelled from it for what was little more than foolish good-nature, and which only needed an admonition. . . . I may add that, since I succeeded in introducing the change, there has scarcely been a session in which it has not been brought into useful operation." Another piece of work of which Carter was justly proud was the part he played in the establishment of Hospital Sunday in London. When he joined the *Lancet* staff in 1868 Dr. James Wakley, the Editor, was anxious to start such a movement, and Carter wrote many articles on the subject which, by his influence, were quoted in the *Times*. Eventually the fund was established at

a meeting at the Mansion House, and Carter became a member of the first council. All this time he was busy with his pen, not only as a contributor to the *Times* and *Lancet*, but as an author of books and lectures on ophthalmology. He published a medical treatise on diseases of the eye in 1875, and in 1887 produced a manual on ophthalmic surgery, written jointly with his colleague, Dr. Adams Frost. In 1896 was published as a Parliamentary Paper his report on vision of children at London elementary schools—an important piece of pioneering work. His book, *Eyesight Good and Bad*, a treatise on the exercise and preservation of vision, was published in 1880. He pleaded that a large portion of the time of every ophthalmic consultant was occupied day after day in repeating to successive patients precepts and injunctions which ought to be universally known and understood. In his treatise he sought to state these precepts and injunctions and the reasons for them, and to make them plainly intelligible to those who are most concerned in their observance. Fluent in debate, Brudenell Carter loved to attend society meetings, and he was especially distinguished among the Fellows of the Medical Society of London not only for the active part which he took in the discussions, but also as orator (1874) and Lettsomian lecturer (1884); in the year 1886 he became its president.

Brudenell Carter was a Knight of Justice and Honorary Commander of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem. He was twice married and had four sons.

GEORGE SELBY BROCK, M.B., CH.B. EDIN.,  
CAPTAIN I.M.S.

News has been received of the sudden death from influenza on October 12th at Rawal Pindi of Captain G. Selby Brock of the Indian Medical Service. The only son of Dr. George Brock of Rome, he was born in the Orange Free State thirty-two years ago, and educated at Uppingham School and at the Universities of St. Andrews and Edinburgh, from which last he graduated in 1910. He joined the Indian Medical Service one year later, and at the outbreak of the war he came to France with the first Indian contingent and served in Flanders, thus earning the 1914 star. In the following year he returned to India to regimental duty at various stations—for the last two years at Kohat on the North-Western Frontier. Thence he was transferred in June last to Rawal Pindi on his appointment as adjutant of the newly instituted School of Instruction for Temporary I.M.S. Officers which he had helped to organize there.

Captain Brock was a fine athlete, having at Uppingham captained the school fifteen, and while at Edinburgh won the inter-university hurdles championship. He was also a good linguist, speaking French, German, and Italian, and shortly before his death he was engaged on, and had nearly completed, the compilation of a manual on the Pushtu language and Afridi dialect. His personal qualities made him a general favourite, and his loss will be much felt in the service, especially at the new School of Instruction, to the success of which his attractive personality, his good influence with the young Indian officers, and his enthusiastic and excellent work were greatly contributing. He leaves a widow and two children.

THE death is announced of Dr. F. F. WESBROOK, President of the University of British Columbia, formerly professor of pathology in the University of Manitoba, and professor of public health and bacteriology in the University of Minnesota.

*La Riforma Medica* has just published a special number dedicated to the memory of its founder, Professor Gaetano Rummo, who died on May 11th, 1917. The first number of the periodical was published on January 1st, 1885; at first it appeared daily, but very soon it became a weekly periodical. Rummo was a man of abounding energy and held in succession the chair of medicine in Siena, Pisa, Palermo, and Naples. He took a special interest in neurology, but the long list of his scientific contributions shows that he was a general physician of wide scope. It may be interesting to add at this time that Rummo served for two periods as deputy in the Italian Parliament, where he represented his native town of Benevento.

## Medical News.

THE arrangements for the autumn lectures before the Royal College of Physicians of London are as follows: Dr. F. H. Teale, honorary medical officer in charge of the vaccine department of University College Hospital, London, gives the Horace Dobell lecture on bacterial toxins on Tuesday, November 5th. The Bradshaw lecture by Colonel W. Aldren Turner, C.B., M.D., on neuroses and psychoses of war, will be given on November 7th. On November 12th and 14th Dr. Arnold Chaplin will give his FitzPatrick lectures on medicine in England during the reign of George III. The first course, which he gave last year, was reported in our columns at the time. The lectures will be given each day at 5 o'clock.

A REPORT on the administration of oxygen in irritant gas poisoning has been prepared by the Chemical Warfare Medical Committee. It contains a discussion of the indications for oxygen and a description of the best method of administering it, which will be of general and permanent interest. We regret that pressure on our space compels us to postpone a notice of this important report.

SIR ALFRED KEOGH, G.C.B., has been elected an honorary Fellow of the Royal Society of Medicine, and the diploma will be presented to him at a special general meeting to be held on Wednesday, November 13th, at 4.30.

IN Poplar, on the recommendation of Dr. F. W. Alexander, M.O.H., the council's electrolytic disinfecting fluid is supplied free for use as a mouth-wash and gargle as a preventive of influenza. It is also to be sniffed up the nose. It is used in the strength of two or three teaspoonfuls to a tumbler of cold water.

AT a meeting of the Medico-Legal Society on November 14th the president, Dr. F. J. Smith, will deliver an address on pensions and their allotment, to be followed by a discussion. The meeting will be held at the rooms of the Medical Society of London at 8.30 p.m.

THE National Association for the Prevention of Infant Mortality has been informed by the Controller of Coal Mines that a claim could certainly be submitted for an additional allowance under the Household Fuel and Lighting Order, on the ground of illness in the case of childbirth, and would be allowed for a reasonable period thereafter. The quantity of fuel granted must depend on the circumstances of each case.

AT a meeting of the Medical Society of London on October 28th papers on rheumatoid arthritis were read by Dr. T. S. P. Strangeways, who dealt with the morbid anatomy and histology, and by Dr. A. P. Beddard, who discussed the treatment of this condition. A discussion followed. We hope to print Dr. Strangeways's paper and to report the discussion in an early issue of the JOURNAL.

THE College of Nursing is enabled, through the Nation's Fund for Nurses, to offer to its members three studentships, tenable at King's College for Women, London, to qualify trained nurses, after a year's course of study, for the posts of sister-tutor, or instructress of nursing methods in the training schools.

AT the meeting of the London Insurance Committee on October 24th it was agreed by 33 votes to 4, after a prolonged debate, to protest emphatically against the intention of the Government to incorporate into the Ministry of Health the functions of the Local Government Board relating to the administration of the non-medical side of the Poor Law. The General Purposes Subcommittee reported that in its judgement the new Ministry of Health would be condemned from the outset in the eyes of practically all that part of the population which was most concerned if all the great new health activities which it should inaugurate were associated with Poor Law odium.

THE council of the Royal Sanitary Institute recently adopted a resolution in which, after stating the great satisfaction with which it noted the progress made and the valuable work done during the past fifty years for the public health, it expressed the opinion that, for the effective continuance and development of the work, all matters relating to public health should, as far as possible, be co-ordinated in one department as a Ministry of Health. It concluded by urging that the matter was one of pressing public importance which should receive the early attention of the Government.