

National Health Insurance.—Answering Sir Henry Cautley, Mr. Neville Chamberlain said that in accordance with a decision of the National Health Insurance Joint Committee, approved societies had been recommended not to allot out of their surpluses on valuation extra cash benefits in excess of 5s. a week for sickness benefit unless they were also making reasonably adequate provision for treatment benefits. In reply to Colonel England, Mr. Chamberlain said that the proposal that maternity benefit should be administered by local public health authorities was within the purview of the Royal Commission on National Health Insurance, whose report he proposed to await.—In reply to Colonel Day, Mr. Neville Chamberlain said that an approved society under the National Health Insurance Act was entitled to devote part of its disposable surplus on valuation to making payments towards the cost of providing nursing for its members, and might also make subscriptions or donations from its benefit fund for the support of district nurses. There was not, however, any provision in the Act for making payments for the specific purpose of securing the attendance of midwives on insured women at confinement, and before considering the desirability of amending legislation in this direction he must await the report of the Royal Commission on National Health Insurance.—On July 20th, Sir Kingsley Wood (Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Health) informed Mr. T. Williams that for the purposes of the second valuation approved societies and branches were divided into two groups, to be valued respectively at December 31st, 1922, and December 31st, 1923. These arrangements were agreed to by the Consultative Council, and were found to be necessary to avoid either a considerable increase in the number of the valuers and their staffs, or alternatively a prolongation of the period between the date of valuation and the commencement of the additional benefits.

Ophthalmic Benefit.—Asked to explain the difference between the optical treatment previously allowed as an additional benefit under the Health Insurance Acts and the ophthalmic treatment now allowed, Mr. Neville Chamberlain said an insured person was now able to obtain the advice of an ophthalmic specialist when his medical practitioner thought it was required. Previously there was a doubt whether this could be done.

Doctors and the Telephone.—During the debate on the Post Office Estimates, on July 20th, references were made to the desirability of better telephonic facilities for summoning doctors. Sir Robert Hamilton said it would be of inestimable advantage if the inhabitants of such islands as Papa Westray, with over 150 inhabitants but no doctor, were able to communicate by telephone with a doctor, not necessarily that he should cross, but that he should send by telephone instructions as to how the patient should be treated. Major Price said that in a village in North Pembrokeshire two accidents occurred when the telephone wire was down. The nearest doctor was eight miles away, and there was a lapse of eleven or twelve hours before the doctor could get to the county hospital to which the patients had been taken. Mr. Buchanan suggested that telephone kiosks in the working-class districts of towns would be of value for getting into touch with the doctor, say, in maternity cases. Colonel Heneage said that in many Lincolnshire villages the only way of summoning a doctor was by sending a cyclist for him, and a great deal of unnecessary suffering was caused. The Postmaster-General, Sir William Mitchell-Thomson, said new rural telephone exchanges were being opened at the rate of twenty a month. It might later be possible to provide communication by wireless telephony between the islands in the Orkneys and Shetlands.

University of London.—On July 20th, Mr. Guinness told Dr. Little that the Senate of the University of London had declined the offer of April, 1920, made by the then President of the Board of Education, of the Bloomsbury site. The Treasury had already informed the Senate of its willingness to consider any practicable alternative proposal for an increase, without undue cost, of the accommodation for the central offices of the University which the Senate felt able to suggest.

Notes in Brief.

No precise information is available of the number of employed persons in Great Britain who are not insured under the National Health Insurance Acts, but 1,300,000 is suggested as a rough approximation.

The Royal Commission on National Health Insurance is considering whether dental benefit should be made statutory under the Health Insurance Act.

At an early date the Home Secretary intends to introduce legislation to remedy defects in coroners' inquiries in murder cases.

Universities and Colleges.

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE.

THE following medical degrees have been conferred:

M.CHIR.—W. D. Doherty.
M.B., B.CHIR.—A. C. Ainsley, C. G. Ainsworth, W. S. C. Copeman, E. J. Crisp, C. H. C. Dalton, N. M. Goodman, M. H. Webb Peplow, S. Vatcher.
M.B.—E. G. Morris.
B.CHIR.—H. V. Coverdale, J. E. D. Crozier, J. L. Edwards, P. M. D. Hart, K. F. T. Mills.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.

CONVOCACTION.

WE published on July 11th (p. 94) particulars of an amendment of the statute by which persons holding a bachelor's degree would be entitled to be registered as members of Convocation on attaining the age of 21 years. Dr. Charles A. H. Franklin (Blackheath) writes to point out that while under the old statute a bachelor in certain faculties might enter Convocation six years after matriculation, graduates in the medical faculty were compelled to wait eight and a half to nine years.

GUY'S HOSPITAL MEDICAL SCHOOL.

The following scholarships in arts and science have been awarded:

Entrance Scholarship in Arts (value £100).—H. A. Constable.
Entrance Scholarship in Science (value £100).—Divided between W. H. Allen and F. H. Stevenson.
Confined Scholarship in Science (value £100).—W. J. Ferguson.

LONDON SCHOOL OF HYGIENE AND TROPICAL MEDICINE.

The following students have successfully passed the school examination at the termination of the seventy-eighth session (April-July, 1925):

*A. McKenzie (winner of "Duncan" medal), *H. E. Meleney, *K. A. T. Martin, *E. A. Seagar, *W. E. Corner, *T. F. Sheehan, *G. S. P. Noble, *C. R. Philip, *G. W. Scott, *A. M. Said, W. Wilkinson, H. D. C. Rice, Hans-Raj, J. C. R. Buchanan, J. W. Field, C. Sturton, Miss C. A. Stuart, A. Ramakrishnan, F. M. Halley, M. L. Chang, Miss G. Lowe, D. Drysdale-Anderson, M. Burn, R. Comty, J. S. Armstrong, L. Blake, F. H. King, R. Mackay, I. M. R. Pilot, S. W. Evesson, Miss I. Keess, E. G. H. Payne, Y. Y. Ying, W. Nelson, C. Wilson, D. M. McSwan, M. S. Mahmood, B. O. Wilkin, J. H. Pasqua, C. F. Maclean, A. Malchi, L. A. Wilmott, W. K. McCandless, H. J. O'D. Burke-Gaffney, J. H. Owen-Flood, S. R. P. Montgomery, G. W. Harley, W. J. Moir, J. R. Davies, Miss D. Durance, J. A. Ahlquist, Miss M. E. Bennet, C. S. Wilson, Miss W. D. Cargill, M. J. Marren, Hanna Khouri, S. M. Ali, M. Chandra, H. T. Chiang, C. B. Macleod, H. A. Rahmeh, A. F. R. Dove, M. Rodriguez, I. G. Soliman.

* With distinction.

The following have been recognized teachers of the University in the subjects and at the institutions indicated:

St. Bartholomew's Hospital Medical School.—Dr. G. Graham (medicine), Mr. H. E. G. Boyle (anaesthetics).

Westminster Medical School.—Mr. Donald H. Paterson (diseases of children), Mr. Stanley Dodd (obstetrics and gynaecology), Mr. Stanford Cole (surgery).

Bethlem Royal Hospital.—Dr. James S. Collier (neurology), Dr. Robert H. Cole (psychological medicine), Dr. William H. B. Stoddart (psychiatry).

The annual report of the Superintendent of the Brown Animal Sanatory Institution for 1924 showed that the number of animals brought to the institution was 4,866. Five lectures on modern bacteriological technique had been delivered by the Superintendent at the Royal College of Surgeons in December, 1924, as required under the will of the late Mr. Brown. During the year Dr. Rav used the laboratories to carry out a histological investigation on tuberculous tissues and Dr. Shaw did some experimental work on immunizing a sheep to cancer. Mr. Twort, who has been reappointed superintendent of the institution for one year from June 1st, 1925, had continued his work on ultramicroscopic viruses and had carried out a number of pathological investigations on material obtained from the hospital.

Professor A. E. Boycott, F.R.S., has been reappointed Director of the Graham Medical Research Laboratory.

Sir Wilmot Herringham, K.C.M.G., C.B., has been elected chairman of the Committee of Medical Members of the Senate for 1925-26.

Applications for the William Julius Mickle Fellowship must be sent to the Principal Officer by October 1st. It is of the value of at least £200, and is awarded annually by the Senate to a graduate of the University who, in its opinion, has done most to advance medical art and science within the preceding five years and therein shown conspicuous merit.

UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL.

THE following candidates have been approved at the examination indicated:

SECOND M.B., CH.B. (PART I).—J. S. Adamson, A. C. Price, N. L. Price.

MANCHESTER.

THE Dickinson Travelling Research Scholarship in Medicine has been awarded by the trustees of the Manchester Royal Infirmary to Dr. Raymond Williamson and Dr. Leslie J. Wits of Manchester.

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF IRELAND.

At a meeting of the Senate on July 10th resolutions of condolence with the relatives were passed on the deaths of Professors Edmund J. McWeeny and Henry Corby.

The results of the recent summer examinations were considered, and passes, honours, etc., were awarded in connexion therewith.

A report from Dr. Denis J. Coffey, as Representative of the University on the General Medical Council, upon the proceedings of the session of the Council (summer, 1925) was considered and approved.

A new statute (Stat. XXX, N.U.I.) was made instituting a lectureship in obstetrics and a lectureship in gynaecology.

Medical News.

THE Fellowship of Medicine announces that a vacation post-graduate course will be given at the Prince of Wales's General Hospital, Tottenham, from August 3rd to 15th. Sessions will be held each day from 10.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m., including morning and afternoon demonstrations, and at 4.30 p.m. daily a clinical lecture. On Saturday mornings demonstrations will be given at the North-Eastern Fever Hospital and the L.C.C. Mental Hospital, respectively. A similar intensive course has been arranged at the Queen Mary's Hospital, Stratford, from August 24th to September 5th, a special feature being gynaecology and obstetrics. Courses have also been arranged at the West End Hospital for Nervous Diseases from July 27th to August 15th, with special lectures and clinical demonstrations daily at 5 p.m., and in urology at the All Saints' Hospital throughout August. Further information may be obtained from the Secretary at No. 1, Wimpole Street, W.1.

ARRANGEMENTS are being made to hold an international medical congress of industrial accidents and trade diseases at Amsterdam, from September 7th to 12th. The subjects introduced by British delegates include the legal aspects of accidents and sickness, pneumoconiosis, and work in hot and damp atmospheres. Visits will be paid to Rotterdam, Scheveningen, and Leyden, and excursions are being arranged. The honorary president of the British Executive Committee is Jhr. R. De Marees Van Swinderen, Netherlands Minister to Great Britain; the president is Sir Thomas Oliver, who is contributing a paper on the achievements of industrial legislation and hygiene; and the honorary secretary is Dr. H. Menko, 2, Grosvenor Gardens, Cricklewood, N.W.2, from whom a fully detailed programme may be obtained.

HIS MAJESTY THE KING has graciously consented to accept a copy of the *Iconography of Andreas Vesalius*, by Mr. M. H. Spielmann, F.S.A., which, written to celebrate the quatercentenary of the great Belgian anatomist, at the invitation of the great academic institutions of Belgium, is dedicated by permission to the King of the Belgians, and is published from the Wellcome Historical Medical Museum as No. 3 of the Research Studies in Medical History.

THE report of the Shantung Christian University Medical School for the year ending June 30th, 1924, includes an account of the amalgamation with it of the North China Union Medical College for Women; co-education is resulting in economy of administration and in increased teaching efficiency. Twelve missions now co-operate in the school, and more Chinese proportionately than foreigners have been added to the teaching staff since 1916. It is hoped to increase soon the size of the hospital from 110 beds to 200 or more, and to erect a special building for lepers.

THE annual report of the Council of the Royal Society of Medicine states that the number of members is now 4,000, or 400 more than in the first year of the war. Some 20,000 readers made use of the library during the year, and 13,000 books were borrowed. About 3,000 books are added to the library yearly. The financial position is stated to be satisfactory, and a committee has been appointed to study the printing and publishing of the *Proceedings*.

THE Council of the Chartered Society of Massage and Medical Gymnastics has decided that after the examination for certificates in June to July, 1927, examination in massage as a separate subject shall cease, exception being made in the case of blind candidates and candidates from the services; the present conjoint examination, including medical gymnastics, will be substituted. A new register of members of the society, containing over 5,400 names, has been published (price 4s. 6d.) and may be obtained from the Secretary, at 157, Great Portland Street, W.1. The certificate of the society is only awarded after the candidates have received definite courses of instruction, and have passed an examination of which part is always conducted by registered medical practitioners. Members of the society are pledged to work only under medical direction.

THE house and library of the Royal Society of Medicine will be closed during the month of August for cleaning and repairs.

FIVE fellowships in neuro-psychiatry, each of the approximate value of £440 per annum, are available in the graduate school of medicine of the University of Pennsylvania, tenable for the period of three years, from October 12th. The first year will be devoted to laboratory studies and instruction in clinics, the second to practical work, and the third to research. Further information may be obtained from the Dean of the Graduate School of Medicine, the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia.

ON July 9th the President of the French Republic opened an institute founded by Emile and Louise Deutsch de la Meurthe, which will provide furnished apartments at reduced prices to a large number of men and women students in the University of Paris.

AN account of the proceedings of the National Conference of Mental Hospital Authorities, which was held on April 21st, and was reported in our issue of April 25th, 1925 (p. 807), has been published in a pamphlet entitled *The Nursing Service in Mental Hospitals*; it may be obtained from H.M. Stationery Office, price 9d.

AFTER forty-seven years' uninterrupted work Professor Charles Richet of Paris recently delivered his last lecture in the presence of the dean of the faculty of medicine and a large audience of professors and students.

THE American Red Cross has presented 10,000 dollars to the French Red Cross for the assistance of the wounded in Morocco.

The first international congress on malaria will be held at Rome from October 4th to 6th under the presidency of Professor Marchiafava. The subjects to be discussed are: anopheles and malaria; the biology of the malarial parasites; the alkaloids of quinine and the treatment of malaria; and the epidemiology and statistics of malaria. Further information can be obtained from the general secretary, Professor Bastianelli, Via XXIV Maggio 14, Rome.

A CONGRESS on infant welfare will be held at Geneva from August 25th to 28th. It will consist of three sections, the first concerned with hygiene and medicine, under the presidency of Professor Clemens Pirquet, of Vienna; the second concerned with social and preventive work, under the presidency of Georges Selle, professor of international law at Dijon; and the third section, under the presidency of the Marchioness of Aberdeen, will consider education and propaganda work.

A RÖNTGEN society for South-West Germany has recently been formed at Heidelberg, consisting of members from Bavaria, Württemberg, Baden, Hesse, Hesse-Nassau, the Saar, Rhineland, and Westphalia. The first meeting of the society will be held at Heidelberg in the beginning of October under the presidency of Professor Werner, Medical Superintendent of the Samariter-Haus, Heidelberg.

DR. EUGENIO MESONERO ROMANOS, director of the *Vida Medica* of Madrid, is organizing a salon in which Spanish medical men can exhibit their paintings, sculptures, and other works of art.

THE Arusha Hospital in Northern Tanganyika has received through Sir Milsom Rees a gift of £2,000.

THE annual meeting of the German Pediatric Society will be held at Carlsbad from September 20th to 23rd, when the following subjects will be discussed: (1) Orthopaedics and pediatrics, by Dr. Spitzky of Vienna; (2) transfusion of blood in pediatrics, by Drs. Opitz of Berlin and Morawitz of Würzburg.

THE fee for the identity card which must be obtained by foreigners staying in France for a period exceeding two months has been fixed at 68 francs; it will be valid for two years. The fee is reduced to 10 francs for students and workers.

THE June issue of the *Wiener Archiv für innere Medizin* consists of a *Festschrift* in honour of Professor Jaksch-Wartenhorst, formerly known as von Jaksch, of the German Medical Faculty of Prague, on the occasion of his seventieth birthday and his imminent retirement.

THE eighteenth international post-graduate course at Vienna will be held from September 14th to 27th, and be followed by a week of special clinical instruction. The course deals with therapeutics in all branches of medical practice. Medical practitioners wishing to attend should communicate in writing with the Secretary of the international course, Schlösselgasse 22, Vienna VIII, from whom a detailed syllabus may be obtained. The fee for the course is 600,000 kronen.

A COURSE in dermatology and venereology will be held at Strasbourg from September 12th to November 7th, under the direction of Professor Pautrier. The fee is 200 francs, and application should be made to him (2, quai Saint-Nicolas, Strasbourg). Arrangements are being made for the reception of foreign students, and pension accommodation will be available at about 30 francs a day.

AN Italian Psycho-analytic Society has been founded with the *Archivio Generale di Neurologia, Psichiatria e Psicoanalisi* as its organ. All communications should be addressed to Professor M. Levi-Bianchini, Direttore del Manicomio Provinciale, Teramo, Abruzzi.