

St. Helens Hospital will be affectionately remembered. He was a keen athlete, and took a considerable interest in the local cricket, tennis, and golf clubs. In 1903 he was made a borough magistrate, and served on the Bench for a number of years. He leaves two sons, one a medical man, and two daughters.

The Services

COMMISSIONS IN THE ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS

The War Office announces that applications are invited from medical men for appointment to commissions in the Royal Army Medical Corps. Candidates will be selected for commissions without competitive examination, and will be required to present themselves in London for interview and physical examination on or about October 23rd, 1935. They must be registered under the Medical Acts, and normally must not be over the age of 28 years. Successful candidates will in the first instance be given short service commissions for five years, at the end of which period they may either retire with a gratuity of £1,000 or apply for a permanent commission. Permanent commissions will be given to officers selected from among those who wish to make the Army their career. Full particulars of the conditions of service and emoluments, also forms of application, may be obtained by applying, either by letter or in person, to the Assistant Director-General, Army Medical Services, War Office, London, S.W.1.

OXYGEN TENT APPARATUS

A PROPOSED SERVICE FOR LONDON

We have received a copy of the following letter which has been sent to London teaching hospitals by Sir Arthur Stanley, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the British Red Cross Society. An article by Dr. E. P. Poulton on the oxygen tent appeared in the *Lancet* of February 4th, 1933, and Dr. Poulton demonstrated the apparatus to the Section of Medicine at the Annual Meeting of the B.M.A. at Bournemouth in 1934. The value of the oxygen tent in a severe case of bronchopneumonia following whooping-cough was the subject of an article in the *Journal* of August 17th, 1935 (p. 292).

Sir,—The British Red Cross Society has received the following memorandum:

"We who have signed this letter are convinced that the oxygen tent provides the most efficient means of administering oxygen so far devised, and is of great value in a number of medical and surgical conditions. We should welcome any steps to make the method more readily available in hospitals and in the patient's own home. We believe that any help the British Red Cross Society can give in this connexion will be for the public welfare."

The signatories and the teaching hospitals to which they are attached are:

Lord Dawson (London), Lord Horder (St. Bartholomew's), Sir Thomas Dunhill (St. Bartholomew's), Dr. G. E. Beaumont (Middlesex), Mr. A. Tudor Edwards (Westminster), Dr. Douglas Firth (King's), Professor Francis R. Fraser (Post-Graduate Medical School, Hammersmith), Dr. Reginald Hilton (St. Thomas's), Dr. Gordon Holmes (Charing Cross), Dr. Arthur F. Hurst (Guy's), Mr. Cecil A. Joll (Royal Free), Dr. Reginald Miller (St. Mary's), Dr. Wilfred J. Pearson (University College Hospital), Dr. E. P. Poulton (Guy's), Dr. James Torrens (St. George's), Dr. R. A. Young (Middlesex).

In response to these representations the British Red Cross Society has decided to co-operate in the establishment of a National Oxygen Tent Service should it be found that there is need for such a service. It is clear, however, that more definite data than practical experience has so far rendered available are necessary for the consideration of a scheme which would involve considerable expense. This evidence can only be secured by actual hospital experience over a reasonable period of time, and, in pursuance of our desire to obtain this evidence, we have placed an order for the construction of twelve sets of apparatus. When these are completed—which we hope will be before the end of October—we propose to place one at the disposal of each of the hospitals to which the

several signatories are attached. The initial cost of these will be met out of the funds of this Society.

Will you kindly inform me if your hospital would be willing to accept one of these tents for a trial, which we suggest should be carried out for a period of not less than two months. If you will assist us in this way by keeping comprehensive records of cases we should much appreciate a report from you at the end of the period on the value and desirability of a National Service. If at the end of the trial your hospital wishes to acquire the apparatus we would ask you to refund the actual cost of the tent to the Society.

As some instruction is desirable as to the operation of the apparatus, a demonstration model will be at this address, and available to your staff, by appointment, from October 1st. In the meantime we would appreciate any suggestions which may occur to you, and also should be glad if you would afford information to other hospitals, nursing homes, and similar institutions. It is possible that some inquiries with regard to the tent may reach you with which you do not feel competent to deal. In such cases we should be glad if you would send or refer such inquiries to this office.—I am, Yours faithfully,

British Red Cross Society,
14, Grosvenor Crescent, London, S.W.1.

ARTHUR STANLEY.

Medical News

The Chesterfield Lectures, constituting a systematic course in dermatology, will be given at the London School of Dermatology (St. John's Hospital for Diseases of the Skin, Leicester Square, W.C.) during October and November, 1935, and January and February, 1936. An examination will be held in March, when the Chesterfield Medal will be awarded to the best candidate, provided the required standard is reached, and an intensive course will be held in May. Clinics will be held daily in the out-patient department at 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. (Mondays to Fridays) and 2 p.m. (Saturdays). The fee for hospital practice, including lectures, is £1 1s. a month. Medical practitioners will be welcome as occasional visitors on presentation of their cards. Further particulars may be obtained from the dean or the secretary at the hospital.

The Fellowship of Medicine (1, Wimpole Street, W.) announces the following courses: chest diseases, at Brompton Hospital, September 23rd to 28th; dermatology, at St. John's Hospital, September 30th to October 31st, afternoons; proctology, at Gordon Hospital, September 30th to October 5th; cardiology, at National Hospital for Diseases of the Heart, October 7th to 18th; medicine and surgery, at Metropolitan Hospital, October 7th to 19th; anatomy and physiology course for the Primary F.R.C.S., in Infants Hospital lecture hall, Monday, Wednesday, and Friday evenings, October 7th to November 29th. Special concentrated week-end courses, especially suitable for general practitioners, will be given as follows: ophthalmology, at Royal Westminster Ophthalmic Hospital, all day Saturday and Sunday, September 28th and 29th; fevers, at Park Hospital, all day Saturday and Sunday, October 5th and 6th (also suitable for M.R.C.P. candidates); heart and lung diseases, at Royal Chest Hospital, all day Saturday and Sunday, October 12th and 13th; obstetrics, at City of London Maternity Hospital, all day Saturday and Sunday, October 19th and 20th. Lectures and lecture-demonstrations will be given as follows: x-ray interpretation, at Medical Society of London, Chandos Street, W., September 30th to October 4th, at 5 p.m.; endocrinology, at National Temperance Hospital, Tuesdays and Thursdays, October 8th to 24th, at 8.30 p.m.; gynaecology, at Medical Society of London, Thursdays, October 10th to November 7th, at 4 p.m. Courses, etc., are open only to members.

St. Mary's Hospital, W., announces a post-graduate course to be held in the library of the new medical school and in the lecture theatre of the Pathological Institute from Friday, September 27th, to Sunday, September 29th, inclusive, at 10.15 a.m. daily. The course is open to all medical practitioners without fee.

Two courses of lectures and demonstrations on anti-gas precautions and first aid for air-raid casualties will be held at the County of London Red Cross Headquarters (9, Chesham Street, S.W.) on Fridays at 2.30 and 8 p.m., commencing on October 4th. The lectures are open to the public, so far as accommodation will permit, and the fee for the course is 7s. 6d. Permits to attend the lectures will be issued to those who send in their names and addresses, together with the fee, not later than September 28th, to the county secretary at the above address.

An international post-graduate course on gout and rheumatism will be held at Radiumbad Brambrach from October 4th to 7th, under the direction of Professor Gudzent of Berlin.

The Duke of York, having agreed to accept the Presidency of King's College Hospital, S.E., the Duke of Connaught, who has held the post of President for nearly thirty-two years, is resigning in his favour.

Letters, Notes, and Answers

All communications in regard to editorial business should be addressed to **The EDITOR, British Medical Journal, B.M.A. House, Tavistock Square, W.C.1.**

ORIGINAL ARTICLES and LETTERS forwarded for publication are understood to be offered to the *British Medical Journal* alone, unless the contrary be stated. Correspondents who wish notice to be taken of their communications should authenticate them with their names, not necessarily for publication.

Authors desiring REPRINTS of their articles published in the *British Medical Journal* must communicate with the Financial Secretary and Business Manager, British Medical Association House, Tavistock Square, W.C.1, on receipt of proofs. Authors over-seas should indicate on MSS. if reprints are required, as proofs are not sent abroad.

All communications with reference to ADVERTISEMENTS, as well as orders for copies of the *Journal*, should be addressed to the Financial Secretary and Business Manager.

The TELEPHONE NUMBER of the British Medical Association and the *British Medical Journal* is EUSTON 2111 (internal exchange, five lines).

The TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESSES are
EDITOR OF THE BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, *Aitology Westcent, London.*

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(Advertisements, etc.), *Articulate Westcent, London.*

MEDICAL SECRETARY, *Medisecra Westcent, London.*

The address of the Irish Office of the British Medical Association is 18, Kildare Street, Dublin (telegrams: *Bacillus, Dublin*; telephone: 62550 Dublin), and of the Scottish Office, 7, Drumsheugh Gardens, Edinburgh (telegrams: *Associate, Edinburgh*; telephone: 24361 Edinburgh).

QUERIES AND ANSWERS

Wintering in the Channel Islands

"E. F. D." requires information *re* suitability, accommodation, cost, etc., for a case of chronic pulmonary tuberculosis wintering in Jersey or Guernsey. The patient is a male, in fair condition, ambulant, but with very slowly progressive disease.

** We are indebted to Dr. R. FORTESCUE FOX for the following answer to our correspondent's inquiry. "The Channel Islands, with many English seaside resorts in the south-west and north-west, possess a similar type of climate, with important variations both in the localities and in the wintry months taken separately. This type of winter climate may be recommended for middle-aged and elderly patients, especially those showing bronchial irritation. In the choice of locality special regard should be had to aspect, subsoil, freedom from fogs, and especially shelter from strong winds. For this reason the Channel Islands, which make a good winter retreat, are not to be recommended for tuberculous cases in the spring months. A useful criterion for these cases is the character of the 'invalids' day'—that is, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (see *Handbook of the British Health Resorts Association, 1935*). In places—and they are not uncommon on the south-west and north-west coast—where a large proportion of this daylight period can be spent pleasantly and safely in the open air, cases can be expected to do well. Only private accommodation for patients is available in Guernsey and Jersey. Inquiries may, however, be addressed to the Victoria Hospital, Guernsey, and the Jersey Dispensary and Infirmary."

Frequency of Micturition

"A. B." (Pietermaritzburg, Natal), in reply to "N. B. S." (*Journal*, July 27th, p. 194), who inquired for a successful remedy for this condition in an elderly lady apparently free from organic disease, writes: I have had repeated success in my own family from the use of freshly prepared linseed tea, a cupful being taken three or four times a day. It was recommended by friends in an obstinate case in one of my children, and gave marked results. The incontinence ceased in a few days, but recurred several times if the child had a cold bath or sea-bathed. The treatment then caused it to cease, and it has not recurred now for some years. The treatment is simple, harmless, and surely worthy of extended trial.

Income Tax

Payment for Guaranteeing a Loan

"H. A. L." asks whether it is customary for such payments to be allowed.

** We know of no case where such payments are allowed where the loan in question was obtained to purchase a practice or share in one. It seems analogous to guarantee premiums paid to secure debentures, and the accepted practice appears to be to refuse the deduction of such premiums.

LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.

Extrasystoles

Dr. C. S. FOSTER (London, S.W.1) writes: Having seen several cases of this complaint, I think it might help my fellow medical men to know of my experience. In all the cases the cause has apparently been due to mental strain. In one instance the attack came on only when the patient was shaving in the morning, preventing him shaving, and lasting until after breakfast. His age was 64, and he was a healthy man, though he had a great deal of worry in business, which produced considerable flatulence. He had no hobbies. Another case was that of a very keen business man, aged 65, who always exaggerated any trouble, and could not get it off his mind. He had attacks just before going to sleep, generally half an hour after getting into bed. He, too, had no hobby. Another case was that of a man who had had indigestion all his life (chief symptom flatulence), and who, after reaching the age of 60, had attacks when excessively worried, or when going longer without food than usual. The severity of the attack varied with the amount of fatigue. The final case was that of a keen business woman who, at the menopause, suddenly developed attacks about 3 a.m., with marked depression. All these cases responded to treatment, and none have had a return of the attacks. Gastric and nerve remedies were given, with strict attention to diet, but no remedies to produce sleep.

Too Many Doctors in the Argentine

Dr. Rafael Bullrich, dean of the Medical Faculty of Buenos Aires, in his address at the inauguration of the new session (*Semana Médica*, April 11th) states that the Argentine Republic, with a population of 12,000,000, has a yearly output from her medical schools of 600 new doctors, while Belgium, whose population is but slightly less, thinks that her output of 300 is too great. He calls for united action of the medical faculties of the Republic with the idea of limiting the number of entrants and raising and equalizing the standard of knowledge demanded from candidates for degrees in medicine and dentistry. Soviet Russia, he declares, in endeavouring to recruit the medical profession from the ranks of the manual worker, and in doing all in its power to prevent the doctor's son from following in his father's footsteps, is shamefully lowering the cultural level of the new race of doctor and is destroying tradition, which is one of the greatest forces in a nation's historical unity.

Vacancies

Notifications of offices vacant in universities, medical colleges, and of vacant resident and other appointments at hospitals, will be found at pages 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 48, and 49 of our advertisement columns, and advertisements as to partnerships, assistantships, and locumtenencies at pages 46 and 47.

A short summary of vacant posts notified in the advertisement columns appears in the *Supplement* at page 148.