

## Obituary

The death occurred at Comber, co. Down, on September 26th of Dr. ROBERT HENRY, J.P., for many years one of the best-known and most greatly loved personalities in Northern Ireland. Born in the heart of the Ards Peninsula in 1861, he was a type of Ulsterman whom Ulster can ill afford to lose. He graduated M.D., M.Ch. of the old Royal University of Ireland in 1881, and in 1883 began practice in Comber as assistant to the late Dr. Frame. About a year later he became medical officer to Comber Dispensary District, and had the unique record of serving in this capacity for fifty years without ever applying for "sick leave." Dr. Henry was an enthusiastic member of the British Medical Association, which he joined in 1884, and in 1931 he was chairman of the Belfast Division. A staunch Unionist, he was chairman of the Mid-Down Unionist Association, and a member of the Ulster Unionist Council; he was affectionately known as the "Father of Orangeism" in the Comber District, having held many high offices in that Order, as well as in Freemasonry. His hobby was horticulture, and he won many prizes for his beautiful exhibits, particularly of flowering shrubs. It has been given to few men to be able to devote so full a lifetime to the service of his fellows, and to have been rewarded with so great a measure of gratitude and affection by his patients, his colleagues, and his friends. Until the day of his death his clinical enthusiasm was unabated and his acumen unclouded. He is succeeded in practice by his son, Dr. Brian R. Henry.

Dr. GEORGE FREDERICK STERICKER, who died on September 14th at Springfield, Illinois, had been in practice in that town for nearly fifty years. Born in 1862 at Pickering in Yorkshire, he received his education at Yorkshire College and the Leeds School of Medicine, obtaining the diploma M.R.C.S. in 1883 and the L.S.A. in the following year. He joined the British Medical Association in 1885. After spending five years in hospital and dispensary work in Leeds, he went to the United States in 1889, and settled at Springfield, where he had practised until his death. He was an organizer of the free infant welfare clinics in that city. During 1917 and 1918 he served as chairman of the District Appeal Board for Central Illinois. He was a member of the medical staffs of the Springfield Hospital and St. John's Hospital, specializing in the sphere of internal medicine. In 1934 he was entertained to dinner by the Springfield Medical Club to celebrate his completion of fifty years spent in the practice of medicine. He is survived by his widow, two daughters, and one son, who at the time of his father's death was in partnership with him in Springfield.

A former colleague writes of the late Lieut.-Colonel W. J. NIBLOCK: I first met Colonel Niblock in Madras in 1909, and our acquaintance slowly ripened in the course of years, as a colleague and as his personal assistant when he acted as surgeon general and finally after his retirement from active practice. Of a singularly modest and unassuming disposition, he did not make friends easily. Under a somewhat brusque exterior he possessed a keen sense of humour, a fund of common sense, and a wealth of kindness. Thorough in all his methods, he became a very skilful and expert surgeon, with the faculty of inspiring his patients with complete confidence. Direct in his methods and scorning all subterfuge, he earned the respect and confidence of all.

The following well-known foreign medical men have recently died: Dr. HERMANN WILBRAND, a Hamburg ophthalmologist, aged 85; Dr. GEORGE HUGHES KIRBY, professor of clinical psychiatry at Cornell University, New York, aged 60; Professor W. ROSENBLATT, director of the medical clinic at Cassel; and Dr. GOLDSCHIEDER, professor of clinical medicine at Berlin.

## Medical Notes in Parliament

[FROM OUR PARLIAMENTARY CORRESPONDENT]

Both Houses of Parliament reassembled on October 22nd and debated foreign affairs. Mr. Baldwin promised a statement on the date of dissolution. This was expected on October 25th, with nominations for a new House of Commons on November 4th and the polls on November 14th. Mr. Ernest Brown announced that the "stand still" order respecting unemployment assistance would be continued until the spring, and that the allowance for a child under Part I of the Unemployment Insurance Scheme would be increased by 1s. to 3s. weekly. The Labour Opposition demanded a debate on unemployment. The Parliamentary Medical Committee did not meet.

On October 22nd Mr. Robert Hudson announced a concession in the payment of allowances to the families of unemployed ex-service men who enter Ministry of Pensions hospitals.

## Universities and Colleges

### ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF LONDON

#### HARVEIAN COMMEMORATION

The annual Harveian Commemoration was held at the Royal College of Physicians of London on St. Luke's Day, October 18th. In the afternoon the annual Harveian Oration was delivered by Sir Henry Dale, F.R.S., Director of the National Institute for Medical Research. This will be found in the opening pages of the *Journal*. The President (Lord Dawson of Penn) afterwards presented the Baly gold medal to Dr. F. H. A. Marshall, for distinguished work in physiology, and the Bisset-Hawkins gold medal to Sir George Newman, in recognition of his work in promoting public health.

At the Harveian Dinner held in the College that evening the company included many distinguished guests, some of whom were there in a twofold capacity—as Fellows of the College and as representatives of other bodies. They were received in the library by the President (Lord Dawson), the Censors (Sir Arthur Hall, Dr. H. L. Tidy, and Dr. C. E. Lakin), the Registrar (Sir Raymond Crawford), the Treasurer (Dr. Sidney Phillips), and the Harveian Librarian (Dr. Arnold Chaplin). After the memory of William Harvey had been toasted in silence "The Health of the Guests" was proposed by the President. Lord Dawson recalled the injunction of Harvey to meet in good-fellowship once a year; but it was not to perpetuate his own name and fame that he ordered this commemoration; he must have had a vision that told him his discovery would go on through the years, and he regarded his beloved College as an instrument for that purpose. Harvey realized the need for contact between medical and other activities; hence the tradition of entertaining eminent guests at the annual banquet. Lord Dawson particularly welcomed Mr. John Drinkwater and Sir William Llewellyn, P.R.A., representing the arts; Lord Atkin and Mr. Justice Charles, representing the law; Sir Cuthbert Wallace, President of the Royal College of Surgeons; Sir George Newman and his successor, Dr. Arthur MacNalty, who came into office at an important moment, when various knowledge had to be rallied for the Minister's guidance; Professor John Ryle, lately appointed to the Regius Chair of Physic at Cambridge in the full vigour of his career; Surgeon Vice-Admiral R. W. B. Hall, Medical Director of the Navy; Sir Frederick Gowland Hopkins, President of the Royal Society; Sir Frederick Menzies, Medical Officer of Health, L.C.C.; and, lastly, the Minister of Health, Sir Kingsley Wood, who had been the best Postmaster-General of modern times, and whom the whole profession wished well in his work for the public health.

Sir Kingsley Wood, in reply, said that he was sorry to leave the G.P.O., but this was a more important job. He welcomed the honour paid that day to Sir George Newman and also the promotion of Dr. MacNalty. Paying a tribute to Harvey's fertilizing influence on medicine, Sir Kingsley Wood said that Harvey's College had always responded to the

calls made upon it in the public interest, and he himself had had constant help and encouragement from the President of to-day. Public health was more and more concerning itself with the future of the race; hence the increasing attention paid to physical training and the campaign to abolish slums and improve housing. In all this the Ministry looked for active co-operation by the medical profession. Lord Atkin, who also replied, said that it was a pleasure in the midst of war and rumours of war to dine again with medical men, whose business it was to relieve and allay troubles, not foment them. He entered one more plea for the establishment of a central medico-legal institute in London, the only great capital city without one. He hoped that the committee set up by the Home Secretary, and of which he was chairman, might by this time next year be within sight of achieving that ideal. Sir Arthur Hall, senior Censor, in proposing the health of the Harveian Orator, said that medical men, unlike their colleagues in the law and the Church, had little chance of cultivating oratory. The wise physician said as little as possible, and "what the doctor said" was seldom what he really said. The College always chose for its annual Orator a man who had risen to the highest rank in his branch of work. They were fortunate this year to find such a man who could also deliver an oration of the first order. The formal proceedings ended with Sir Henry Dale's reply to the toast.

#### UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

At a congregation held on October 17th the degree of B.M. was conferred on R. E. Adam (University College).

#### UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

At a congregation held on October 18th the following medical degrees were conferred:

M.D.—B. F. Longbottom.  
M.B., B.Chir.—E. M. Griffin.  
M.B.—\*J. D. Hay, J. N. Groves, C. G. Parsons.  
B.Chir.—\*T. D. F. Money, \*P. H. L. Playfair, R. I. N. Greaves, L. R. Gardner, E. P. H. Drake, J. H. Patterson, W. F. Walton.  
\* By proxy.

At the congregation of the Senate on November 2nd graces will be submitted sanctioning conferment of the degrees of Doctor of Medicine, *honoris causa*, and Master of Arts upon John Alfred Ryle, M.D.Lond., Regius Professor of Physic; and the degree of Master of Arts upon Graham Patterson McCullagh, M.D.Belf., University Demonstrator in Pathology.

#### UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL

Hubert Horace Stones, M.D., M.D.S., has been appointed to the Louis Cohen Chair of Dental Surgery in the place of Professor W. H. Gilmour, retired.

Professor H. D. Wright will deliver a lecture on "Resistance to Infection" on Friday, November 1st, at 5.30 p.m.

#### UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER

On October 18th Dr. James Davson was appointed Demonstrator in Pathology.

#### UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW

A congregation was held on October 19th, when the following degrees were conferred:

M.B., Ch.B.—\*Margaret D. Green, \*H. L. Campbell, \*P. J. Cantor, †R. M. Calder, †J. Cuthbert, †I. D. Henderson, †J. S. Hall, †D. C. Miln, †H. T. Richmond, †Catherine Richardson, †G. H. G. Hope, †A. D. T. Govan, †A. S. Rogen, †J. Levine, †J. B. Lynch, J. Aitken, May D. Anderson, I. Ashforth, A. Y. Barclay, R. J. W. Barlow, H. Bernstein, J. C. Brash, D. R. Brown, P. M. H. Browning, I. W. Burke, J. F. Cadas, J. H. Chambers, J. H. C. Clarke, J. Cochran, J. Cohen, G. D. Cresswell, Maud G. Dempster, R. I. T. Dunnachie, D. J. Easton, J. C. Eaton, P. F. Fletcher, Audrey M. Forbes, K. Fraser, M. Freedman, W. G. Garrow, G. McL. Gorrie, R. J. Gourlay, R. Gowans, W. Gray, H. Greer, A. W. St. C. Greig, J. F. K. Grieve, G. H. Hall, Mary D. Hardie, G. A. E. Harman, J. W. Henderson, J. Hilferty, W. C. Howie, H. E. Hutchison, C. Kelly, W. McK. S. Kelso, A. S. M. King, G. B. L. Laird, W. Laurie, J. Leckie, W. Leslie, D. S. MacL. MacArthur, P. MacArthur, Elizabeth McC. McCann, W. M. McCutcheon, R. S. McGeorge, G. A. Macgregor, J. S. McGregor, W. McKechnie, W. McKendrick, N. Mackenzie, C. J. Mackinlay, A. Macleod, J. D. McRae, W. Magauran, J. B. Mair, S. L. Mann, R. D. Menzies, J. S. Meredith, H. H. Miller, A. Morrison, H. A. Mullen, E. H. Murchison, D. A. Naismith, F. Ogunro, D. B. Ramsay, W. Richmond, J. Schloss, D. G.

Smith, F. A. Smith, D. Stenhouse, J. E. Struthers, Janet W. Sutherland, G. Swan, J. F. Swan, J. R. Taylor, D. Thomson, J. E. Tillotson, J. Watt, W. J. Weetch, J. H. Werk, T. C. B. Williamson, R. W. Wyse, R. P. Young, W. C. Young.

\* With honours.

† With commendation.

Margaret D. Green gained the Brunton Memorial Prize, awarded to the most distinguished graduate in medicine of the year 1935, and the West of Scotland R.A.M.C. Memorial Prize, awarded to the candidate with the highest aggregate marks in medicine, surgery, and midwifery in the final M.B., Ch.B. examination held during 1935.

The King, on the recommendation of the Secretary of State for Scotland, has approved the appointment of Dr. Edward Hindle to be Regius Professor of Zoology in the University of Glasgow, in place of Professor John Graham Kerr, resigned.

#### ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF EDINBURGH

At a meeting of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, held on October 15th, with Dr. A. H. H. Sinclair, president, in the chair, the following successful candidates were admitted Fellows:

U. P. Sinha, E. W. B. Griffiths, G. N. Barker, E. F. Barnardo, A. G. Bester, D. G. W. Brown, R. C. Burr, H. P. Clark, P. F. S. Court, H. D. Cronyn, J. Durran, T. G. H. Hogg, C. Hotson, D. Hugo, R. J. Kellar, M. N. Khanna, A. L. McFarlane, W. A. Mackey, N. J. L. Margetson, A. G. G. Melville, J. Penn, L. W. Plewes, Aileen M. S. Pollock, T. Purce, T. R. Quinn, A. C. Riley, A. L. Sheild, G. Stephen, D. R. L. Stevenson.

At the annual meeting held on October 16th the following officers were elected: *President*, Mr. Henry Wade; *Vice-President*, Dr. A. H. H. Sinclair; *Secretary and Treasurer*, Mr. J. W. Struthers; *Representative on the General Medical Council*, Mr. Alexander Miles; *Convener of Museum Committee*, Dr. A. Logan Turner; *Librarian*, Mr. D. M. Greig.

#### ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF IRELAND

The annual meeting of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland was held on St. Luke's Day, October 18th.

Dr. J. A. Matson was elected president; Dr. F. J. O'Donnell, vice-president; Professor T. Gillman Moorhead, representative on the General Medical Council; Dr. H. Bewley, treasurer; and Dr. T. P. C. Kirkpatrick, registrar.

## Medico-Legal

### AN EPILEPTIC MOTORIST: FALSE DECLARATION OF FITNESS

At the Northamptonshire assizes on October 17th John Macilwaine Sneath, aged 26, a builder's merchant of Peterborough, was charged with manslaughter and with making a false declaration when applying for a motor-driving licence by stating that he did not suffer from epilepsy. He pleaded "Not guilty" to the manslaughter charge, but "Guilty" to the charge of making a false declaration, and the Crown prosecution accepted these pleas, and a formal verdict of "Not guilty" was entered on the first charge.

For the prosecution it was stated that the accused had been under treatment for several years. On one occasion when he had an attack he fell from a motor cycle, but without ill consequences. When he applied for his licence he answered the question as to epilepsy in the negative. For the defence it was pointed out that the question on the application form was in the present tense. [The question on the application form reads: "Do you suffer from epilepsy, or from sudden attacks of disabling giddiness or fainting?" A note on the subject states that if the applicant is in doubt as to his answer to this question, or to a subsequent question about eyesight, he should obtain professional advice. "If as a result of such advice he is unable to give a satisfactory answer, he is not thereby precluded from making another declaration at a future date, if by reason of a change in the circumstances, he is then able to give a different answer."] Sneath had had epileptic attacks, but they had become less frequent, and he had hoped they had ceased altogether. There had been an absence of attacks for some time before he made his application, and therefore he declared himself not to be suffering from epilepsy.

Mr. Justice du Parc made an order prohibiting Sneath for life from holding a motor-driving licence, and ordered him to pay the costs of the prosecution, not to exceed £50.

## Medical News

The Semon Lecture will be delivered at the Royal Society of Medicine, 1, Wimpole Street, on Thursday, October 31st, at 5 p.m., by Sir StClair Thomson, who has chosen for his subject "The Defences of the Air Passages." The lecture is under the auspices of the University of London, and the chair will be taken by the Vice-Chancellor, Mr. H. L. Eason.

Dr. C. Killick Millard will deliver a Chadwick Public Lecture on "The Vaccination Question To-day" at 26, Portland Place, W., on Friday, November 1st, at 5.30 p.m., when the chair will be taken by Professor Major Greenwood, F.R.S. Admission free, without ticket. Particulars of courses may be obtained from the secretary of the Chadwick Trust, 204, Abbey House, Westminster, S.W.1.

The annual prize distribution at Charing Cross Hospital Medical School will take place in the council room of the hospital to-day (Friday, October 25th) at 4 p.m., when the Minister of Health, Sir Kingsley Wood, will give the inaugural address.

The annual prize distribution at St. George's Hospital Medical School will take place in the board room of the hospital on Wednesday, November 13th, at 3 p.m., when Lord Macmillan, chairman of the Court of the University of London, will give the inaugural address. The annual dinner will be held in the evening at 7.30 for 8 o'clock at Claridge's Hotel.

The annual general meeting of the West Riding Association of Graduates of the University of Edinburgh will be held at the Midland Hotel, Bradford, on Wednesday, November 6th, at 6.45 p.m., followed by the annual dinner at 7.30 p.m., when the guest of the evening will be Mr. Henry Wade. Further information may be obtained from the honorary secretary, Mr. H. A. Rippiner, 4, Clifton Villas, Manningham, Bradford.

A meeting of the Devon and Exeter Medico-Chirurgical Society will be held at the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital, Exeter, on Thursday, October 31st, at 4 p.m., when Dr. H. W. Barber will give an address on "The Aetiology and Treatment of Eczema and Psoriasis." The thirty-second Exeter and South-Western Medical Dinner will be held at the Royal Clarence Hotel, Cathedral Yard, Exeter, at 7.45 p.m., when Dr. Barber will be the guest of the evening.

A course of practical advances in internal medicine during 1935 will be held in the propaedeutic clinic at Paris under the direction of Professor E. Sergent from November 4th to 9th. The fee is 250 francs. Further information can be obtained from the Secrétariat de la Faculté de Médecine, 12, Rue de l'Ecole de Médecine, Paris.

A post-graduate course of free lectures for the general practitioner on practical methods of physical medicine, with demonstrations, will be held at the St. John Clinic and Institute of Physical Medicine, Ranelagh Road, Pimlico, S.W., on alternate Fridays, at 4.30 p.m., from November 1st, 1935, to March 20th, 1936, both dates inclusive.

A lecture on the theory and practice of contraception will be given to medical students and practitioners on Friday, November 15th, at 6 p.m., at the Walworth Women's Welfare Centre, 153A, East Street, S.E.17. Demonstrations will be given on the evenings of November 22nd and 29th.

The Fellowship of Medicine (1, Wimpole Street, W.) announces the following courses: chest diseases at City of London Hospital for Diseases of the Heart and Lungs, Victoria Park, E., October 28th to November 2nd; urology at St. Peter's Hospital, November 4th to 16th; medicine, surgery, and gynaecology at Royal Waterloo Hospital, November 11th to 23rd; venereal diseases at London Lock Hospital, November 18th to December 14th; infants' diseases at Infants Hospital, November 25th to December 7th. Week-end courses include clinical surgery

at Royal Albert Dock Hospital, November 2nd and 3rd; gynaecology at Samaritan Hospital, November 15th and 16th. The lecture on thyroid, postponed from October 17th, will be given on October 29th, at 8.30 p.m., at the National Temperance Hospital. An evening clinical and pathology course for M.R.C.P. candidates will be held at the National Temperance Hospital on Tuesdays and Thursdays, at 8 p.m., from November 26th to December 12th. Courses and lectures are open only to members and associates of the Fellowship of Medicine.

The autumn session of the Swiss Society of Neurology will be held in conjunction with the Swiss Society of Psychiatry at Fribourg on November 9th and 10th, when the subjects for discussion among others will be the importance of humoral changes and avitaminoses in neurology and psychiatry, introduced by Dr. Demole of Basel; nervous symptoms and experimental avitaminosis, introduced by Professor G. Mouriquand of Lyons; neurological and psychiatric problems in the light of humoral pathology, introduced by Professor F. Georgi of Yverdon. Further information can be obtained from the president of the society, Dr. Charles Dubois, 20, Falkenhöheweg, Berne.

One of the first public engagements of the Duke of York upon his return to London was to attend, as President of the Seamen's Hospital Society, a meeting at Trinity House on October 22nd to inaugurate an appeal for £50,000 to build a new Albert Dock Hospital. The existing hospital—one of the six establishments maintained by the Society—was opened only forty-six years ago, but since then more than 350,000 sick and injured seamen have entered its doors for treatment. Owing to the shifting soil on which it is built, the present building has been condemned as perilously unsafe. The Port of London Authority has granted a new site near the present structure—that is to say, in the very midst of the docks and quays—and £25,000 towards the new building.

The issue of the *Wiener medizinische Wochenschrift* for September 21st is dedicated to Paul Ehrlich, on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of his announcement at the Königsberg Medical Society of the discovery of salvarsan.

## 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.**

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## QUERIES AND ANSWERS

### Persistent Lactation

Dr. C. RICHARDSON WHITE (Merthyr Vale) writes: "Perplexed" (Cornwall) should try 1-drachm doses every four hours of pot. acetate in water. I have used this for years. One eight-ounce bottle usually suffices, but a second one is sometimes required. I have never known it fail.