

Universities and Colleges

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

At a meeting of the Senate, held on November 20th, the regulations relating to exemption from the First Examination for Medical Degrees (*Red Book*, 1935-6, p. 262, para 2 (iii); *Blue Book*, September, 1935, p. 246, para. 2 (i)) were amended by the addition of the following:

Students who have passed the Intermediate Examination in Household and Social Science will be exempted from the First Examination for Medical Degrees.

The regulations relating to exemption by thesis at the M.D. Examination were amended by the omission of the fifth paragraph of the section headed Thesis (*Red Book*, 1935-6, p. 287; *Blue Book*, September, 1935, p. 271), and by the substitution of the following paragraph:

In Branches I (Medicine), III (Psychological Medicine), IV (Midwifery and Diseases of Women), V (Hygiene), and VI (Tropical Medicine), if the thesis be judged of sufficient merit by the Examiners the candidate may be exempted from a part or the whole of the written examination; in Branch II (Pathology) if the thesis be judged of sufficient merit by the Examiners he may be exempted from a part or the whole of the written and practical examinations.

It was resolved that the regulations for the Academic Post-graduate Diploma in Psychological Medicine be similar to those for the present Post-graduate Diploma in Psychological Medicine (*Green Book*, 1935-6, p. 122) with the exception of para. 3, and that para. 3 read as follows:

(The words in italics have been added and Section I has been redrafted to suit Internal Students.)

The Examination for the Diploma is open to any candidate whose name is on the Medical Register, and who has registered, at least six months before the date of the Examination, as an Internal Student at a School of the University recognized for the purpose provided that, before being admitted to Part B of the Examination, the candidate shall be required to produce evidence that he has had the clinical experience and attendance specified under headings I and II below.

I

The candidate shall either (a) have taken a full-time course of study extending over not less than six months at a School of the University recognized for the purpose, or (b) shall have taken a half-time course of study at such School extending over not less than twelve months.

II

In addition, the candidate shall have attended for not less than twenty-six full mornings or afternoons the clinical practice of approved institutions, hospitals, clinics, or other establishments in each of the following subjects (a total of 104 attendances), namely:

(a) Mental Disorders (in the case of a candidate whose experience under I has been in an institution for mental defectives); (b) Mental Deficiency (in the case of a candidate whose experience under I has been in an institution for mental disorders); (c) Neurology; (d) Psychoneuroses and early Psychoses; (e) Mental Retardation and Delinquency.

The conferment of Degrees on Doctors of Science (Economics), Science, and Medicine took place at the University on November 21st. In the course of his address the Chancellor referred to the fact that the University would celebrate its centenary in November, 1936. He welcomed Mr. Herbert L. Eason's first public appearance at a University function, and congratulated him on assuming the office of Vice-Chancellor. The Chancellor also said that he would be more than disappointed if November of next year did not find the University in its new building.

UNIVERSITY OF DUBLIN

SCHOOL OF PHYSIC, TRINITY COLLEGE

The following candidates have been approved at the examinations indicated:

FINAL MEDICAL EXAMINATION, PART II.—*Medicine*: B. Lapedus, S. J. H. Douglas, B. Rogol, G. S. Caithness, H. B. Sutton, R. C. O'Grady, W. S. M'Bride, E. S. Dorman, G. H. B. Roberts, D. P. Harris, D. H. T. Duggan. Old regulations: L. W. M'Caughyev. *Surgery*: S. J. H. Douglas, D. H. T. Duggan, B. E. W. Aldwell, J. C. Gaffney, A. F. H. Keatinge, E. Cowan, H. C. Bourke, B. M. O'Sullivan, H. B. Sutton, G. W. M. Elliott, S. B. Sachs, D. P. Harris, J. A. Hamilton, J. T. Wellwood, E. S. Dorman, J. R. Shapiro, P. Citron, R. C. O'Grady, P. St. G. Robinson. *Midwifery*: *H. S. Boyce, *W. A. Gillespie, G. W. Patterson, M. Friedman, W. D. Chesney, M. Levy.

DIPLOMA IN GYNAECOLOGY AND OBSTETRICS.—B. E. Wurm.

* Passed with high marks.

UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL

N. J. England has been approved at the examination for the degree of M.D.

ROYAL FACULTY OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS OF GLASGOW

At a meeting of the Royal Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow, held on December 2nd, with the president, Professor Archibald Young, in the chair, the following were admitted Fellows of Faculty: John Charles Alexander, M.B., Ch.B., William Herbert Brown, M.D., James Gibson Graham, M.D., Andrew Fergus Hewat, M.D., F.R.C.P.Ed., Isaac Chesar Michaelson, L.R.C.P. and S.Ed.

The president intimated that £600 had been received in payment of a legacy to the Faculty by the late Dr. Freeland Fergus, who was its president during the years 1919-22.

The Services

HONORARY PHYSICIANS TO THE KING

The following have been appointed Honorary Physicians to the King: Major-General T. S. Coates, O.B.E., late R.A.M.C. (vice Major-General R. B. Ainsworth, C.B., D.S.O., O.B.E., late R.A.M.C., retired pay); Colonel J. Heatly-Spencer, O.B.E., late R.A.M.C. (vice Major-General P. H. Henderson, C.B., D.S.O., late R.A.M.C., retired pay); and Lieut.-Colonel R. N. Chopra, C.I.E., I.M.S., promoted Brevet Colonel (vice Major-General Sir Robert McCarrison, C.I.E., I.M.S., retired pay).

HONORARY SURGEONS TO THE KING

The following have been appointed Honorary Surgeons to the King: Major-General O. Ievers, D.S.O., late R.A.M.C. (vice Major-General J. F. Martin, C.B., C.M.G., C.B.E., late R.A.M.C., retired pay); Colonel E. W. C. Bradfield, C.I.E., O.B.E., I.M.S., V.H.S. (vice Major-General H. R. Nutt, I.M.S., retired pay); and Lieut.-Colonel A. A. C. McNeill, I.M.S., promoted Brevet Colonel (vice Colonel H. E. Stanger-Leathes, I.M.S., retired pay).

PARKES MEMORIAL PRIZE

The Parkes Memorial Prize for 1935 has been awarded to Surgeon Lieutenant J. L. S. Coulter, R.N., for his essay entitled "Preparation for Tropical Service in the Royal Navy." This prize is awarded annually to the writer of the best essay on a subject connected with naval or military hygiene.

R.A.F. DENTAL BRANCH

An Air Ministry Order (A.304/35) has been issued introducing revised conditions of service for officers of the Dental Branch of the Royal Air Force.

The scales of pay of officers of the rank of flight lieutenant and squadron leader have been increased as from October 1st. A number of appointments will be upgraded, thus enhancing the promotion prospects of officers holding permanent commissions. The rates of gratuity for officers holding non-permanent commissions have been increased, and are now £350 for three years', £1,000 for six years', and £1,500 for ten years' service. Provision has been made for further improving the career of dental officers by raising the compulsory retiring ages for group captains and for wing commanders and below to 57 and 55 respectively. Provision is also made, for the first time, for the retired pay of a group captain, the maximum rate being £724 per annum.

Applications for appointment should be addressed to the Secretary (D.M.S.), Air Ministry, London, W.C.2.

THE ARMY DENTAL CORPS

New conditions under which commissions in the Army Dental Corps will in future be granted to dental surgeons have been promulgated by a Royal Warrant published in an Army Order.

Entry will be by short service commissions for six years, at the end of which time officers will be eligible for a gratuity of £1,000, unless selected for permanent commissions. Officers will enter the Service as lieutenants. Promotion to the rank of captain will be after one year's service, and to the rank of major after ten years' service instead of after three and a half years and twelve years respectively, as at present. The increments in pay, which have hitherto been given after eight,

The Bill would give the Charity Commissioners power in suitable cases to remove these anomalies by enabling such hospitals to provide pay-beds so long as it was not done at the expense or the detriment of the primary work which they were doing of providing for the sick poor. The Bill contained ample precautions against any risk that trusts for the direct benefit of the sick poor would be disregarded. In addition to the control given to the Charity Commissioners, there were special safeguards introduced in the Bill last session by the Government to ensure that funds and property acquired under the original trusts could not be diverted to any other purpose. In actual practice experience showed that the provision of pay-beds benefited the whole community, including the sick poor. There could be no fear that anything in the Bill would enable hospitals to diminish their work for the sick poor even if they wanted to do so. The safeguards would prevent them from reducing their ordinary work, but the powers given by the Bill would assist them to increase it.

Viscount GAGE said that when the Bill was first introduced the Government considered that, provided certain precautions were put in with the object of maintaining the existing trusts it could thoroughly support the measure. Those amendments to secure that the objects of the original trusts were maintained and the rights of the poorer patients safeguarded were agreed between the promoters and the Government, and appeared in this Bill. In these circumstances the Government was fully in support of the Bill.

The Bill was read a second time.

Insulin for Unemployed

On December 10th, in reply to Mr. G. Griffiths, who asked if the Minister of Health was prepared to make arrangements for all diabetics who had run out of insurance benefit to be given insulin free without any means test, Sir KINGSLEY WOOD said he had no powers to make such arrangements. Local authorities were empowered to provide insulin for persons in need of it who were unable to purchase it out of their own resources.

Survey of Overcrowding

Sir KINGSLEY WOOD, replying on December 10th to Mr. H. Williams, said he had fixed April 1st, 1936, as the date by which the survey by local authorities under the Housing Act, 1935, to determine the extent of overcrowding in their respective areas, should be completed. He had every reason to believe that local authorities generally would complete the task in the allotted time. In most areas the survey had already started, or would be begun at an early date.

Sterilization of Hairdressers' Equipment.—Mr. HICKS, on December 5th, asked the Minister of Health to make an order to compel hairdressers and barbers to sterilize brushes, combs, razors, and other implements used in the course of their trade, with a view to preventing the dissemination of vermin and skin and other diseases. In reply Sir KINGSLEY WOOD said that as a general rule there was little risk of such a state of uncleanness in a hairdresser's establishment as to cause or promote the spread of disease. It was not necessary to make such an order as Mr. Hicks suggested. He had no information of cases where disease had been spread because the tools used in barbering had not been thoroughly sterilized.

Fish Furunculosis Report.—On December 9th Dr. ELLIOT informed Captain Cunningham-Reid that he had considered the report of the Furunculosis Committee. The Secretary of State for Scotland and he were discussing the problem with fish farmers and other interested parties, with a view to reintroduction of legislation on the subject.

Foot-and-Mouth Disease.—Outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease in Cheshire and East Sussex, confirmed on November 26th and 27th respectively, have been confined to the single case.

Medical News

The Birmingham Civic Society recently awarded its gold medal to Sir Gilbert Barling, Bt., consulting surgeon to the Birmingham General Hospital, who was Pro-Chancellor of Birmingham University for twenty years, and at one time dean of the Faculty of Medicine. The Lord Mayor, in presenting the medal, said that it was in recognition of Sir Gilbert's great services to the intellectual and aesthetic life of the city.

The House of the British Medical Association, including the Library, will be closed for the Christmas holiday from 6 p.m. on Tuesday, December 24th, to 9 a.m. on Friday, December 27th (Library 10 a.m.).

The seventeenth annual dinner of the Royaumont and Villers Cotterets unit of the Scottish Women's Hospitals took place at the Forum Club on St. Andrew's Day, November 30th, the twenty-first anniversary of the arrival of the first members of the unit in France. Mrs. Ivens-Knowles, C.B.E., M.S., presided, and among the sixty members of the unit present were Miss Ruth Nicholson, M.S., and Drs. Agnes Savill, Courtauld, Estcourt-Oswald, Martland Nalters, and Buckley. Mrs. Robichaud of Canada was the guest of honour.

A meeting of the Society of Medical Officers of Health will be held at 1, Thornhaugh Street, Russell Square, W.C., on Friday, December 20th, at 5 p.m., when there will be a discussion on "Psychology in Relation to Public Health," to be opened by Dr. Henry Wilson and Dr. S. W. Savage.

The British Red Cross Society (14, Grosvenor Crescent, S.W.1) has arranged a course of instruction in first-aid in chemical warfare for doctors and trained nurses, on Mondays and Wednesdays, at 8 p.m., from January 27th. The course includes eight lectures and practical work, followed by an examination for the society's certificate on February 24th. Applications (on the specified form) must be received by the matron-in-chief at the above address by January 8th.

The Fellowship of Medicine announces that special courses during the early part of 1936 will include dermatology at St. John's Hospital, January 2nd to 30th; cardiology at National Hospital for Diseases of the Heart, January 13th to 24th; urology at St. Peter's Hospital, January 20th to February 1st; proctology at St. Mark's Hospital, February 3rd to 8th; neurology at West End Hospital for Nervous Diseases, February 3rd to 8th; gynaecology at Chelsea Hospital for Women, February 10th to 22nd. Week-end courses (especially suitable for general practitioners) will be given as follows: heart and lung diseases at Royal Chest Hospital, January 18th and 19th; physical medicine at St. John Clinic and Institute of Physical Medicine, February 8th and 9th. An evening course of surgical tutorial lectures, intended for Final F.R.C.S. candidates, will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 8.30 p.m. at National Temperance Hospital, from January 14th to March 5th. The full list of special courses for the year may be obtained on application to the Fellowship of Medicine, 1, Wimpole Street, W.

Under the auspices of the Dutch Red Cross an ambulance is to be sent to Abyssinia directed by Dr. Winkel, a specialist in hygiene.

King Edward's Hospital Fund for London has published a further issue of the time-table, prepared by its out-patient arrangements committee, to minimize the waiting, with possible hardship, which results from patients attending hospital out-patient departments at the wrong hour or even sometimes on the wrong day. Copies of the present issue, revised to November, 1935, may be obtained free on request from the publishers, Messrs. Geo. Barber and Son, Ltd., Farnival Street, E.C.4.

Colonel H. F. Humphreys, O.B.E., M.C., T.D., Honorary Physician to the King, and honorary surgeon to the Birmingham Dental Hospital, has been appointed Deputy Lieutenant for the County of Warwick.

The October issue of the *Journal Médical Français* is devoted to the physiological work of Professor Pavlov. The November issue of the *Revue d'Hygiène et de Médecine Préventive* is devoted to streptococcal infections. The issue of the *Revista di Chirurgia* for October contains the proceedings of the forty-second congress of the Italian Society of Surgery recently held at Bologna.

The Nobel Prize in Chemistry has been awarded to Monsieur and Madame Joliot, the son-in-law and daughter of Pierre and Marie Curie, for their work on the synthesis of radioactive elements; and the Nobel Prize in Physics has been awarded to Professor James Chadwick, F.R.S., of Liverpool, for his discovery of neutron.

Professor Archibald Young, who has held the Regius Chair of Surgery at Glasgow University since 1924, was recently made a doctor *honoris causa* of Strasbourg University. Professor René Leriche, who occupies the chair of surgery at Strasbourg, and is himself an honorary LL.D. of Glasgow University, delivered an address on the occasion, in which he gave a short sketch of the history of the Glasgow Medical School.

With the exception of Louvain, all the Belgian universities now have a medical man as their rector, Professor A. Dustin of Brussels having been the last to be elected.

Dr. P. Manteufel, professor of hygiene at Düsseldorf, Dr. Fritz Specht, professor of laryngology at Erlangen, and Dr. H. v. Haberer, professor of surgery at Cologne, have been nominated rectors of their respective universities.

Dr. Georges Duhamel, who was recently appointed editor of the *Mercure de France*, was elected a member of the Académie Française on November 28th, in succession to the late historian G. Lenôtre.

Professor Weinberg of the Institut Pasteur, Paris, and Dr. Crouzon, the neurologist, have been elected members of the Académie de Médecine.

Dr. H. S. Gasser, professor of physiology at Cornell University, New York, has been nominated director of the Rockefeller Institute, in succession to Dr. Simon Flexner.

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.

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

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QUERIES AND ANSWERS

Pruritus Vulvae et Ani

"P. A." writes in answer to the query published on November 23rd (p. 1029): "Perplexed" should search for the cause of the itching. Is it due to diabetes, Bright's

disease, jaundice, pregnancy, gastric and intestinal toxins, rheumatism, blood dyscrasias, or metabolic products affecting nerve endings (acidosis, etc.), or the dye or material of underwear, or, and this is by no means unlikely, some sexual maladjustment or douching with an irritant? If the pruritus is truly "idiopathic" some or all of the following may give a measure of relief: (1) Two or three exposures to ultra-violet light at three- to four-day intervals with the parts well retracted in the lithotomy position. Cold bathing and an antiseptic dusting powder gives relief in the intervals. (2) Intramuscular injections of collosol calcium with ostelin—2 c.cm. daily for a week. (3) Halmagon given intramuscularly in acute stage and then orally. A maintenance dose should be taken to prevent relapse. I should be interested to hear whether "Perplexed" finds any of these suggestions efficacious.

"F. W. M." writes: I would suggest injections of A.B.A. (Allen and Hanburys). I have used this method successfully in several cases of pruritus and in only one case did it fail, and then an ointment gave relief for two years. It was as follows: ung. menthol 3 j, zinci oxidi 3 ij, aq. rosae 3 iv, ung. picis liq. 3 iv, lanolin 3 j. The injections of A.B.A. should be given fanwise at the site of election. I believe Allen and Hanburys give full directions.

"J. P. B." asks us to state that in the second paragraph under "Pruritus Vulvae et Ani," on page 1138 of last week's issue, the dose of parathyroid gland given in tablet form with calcium lactate should have read "1/40 to 1/10 grain," not 1 grain.

Climate for Asthma

"M. U." writes: A patient who suffers from asthma has found that the climate of Copenhagen gives her almost complete relief from attacks. As she cannot go there now I would like to know of any place in England approaching the climatic conditions found in Copenhagen.

** We referred this inquiry to Dr. R. Fortescue Fox, who replies: A number of health resorts on the British coast have reported good results in asthma. The choice of place depends on the season of the year, where the patient lives (for example, a dweller in the east often does well in the west), the time of life, and if there are signs of hypertonia (arterial tension, etc.) or bronchial catarrh. In the colder months of the year many cases have lost their symptoms in the north-west, in places with special shelter, like Colwyn Bay and Grange-over-Sands. For others, especially older patients with bronchial liabilities, Torquay, Dartmouth, or Teignmouth may be preferred. There is also in the south-east Hastings, where breathing is often immediately relieved, not to mention Forres in N.E. Scotland. The winters in Copenhagen are much colder than all parts of the British coast. (For details see *Handbook of the British Health Resorts Association*: edition, 1935.)

Income Tax

Purchase and Sale of a Practice

"TAX" bought a practice in 1932 and sold it again in 1935 at a profit, buying a share in another practice with the proceeds. Can the inspector of taxes demand to know the sale price, and can the profit on sale be taken into the income tax liability?

** The profit on sale is certainly not liable to income tax, and therefore there seems to be no justification for the inspector's inquiry as to the amount of the sale price.

Partnership Arrangement

"X. X." states that it is proposed to make the following arrangement with a view to giving the incoming partner, "C.," sufficient share of the profits to ensure he receives the maximum income tax allowances. Instead of receiving one-seventh share he is to have one-third, but he is to pay additional consideration each year in the form of a sum equal to the difference between one-third and one-seventh of the year's profit. He can make further capital payments, in which case the yearly payments will be reduced.

** The arrangement can certainly be made in a manner which would be legally binding, but we doubt whether it will effect the intended purpose. We are of opinion that the sums payable yearly by "C." to the benefit of the