

ready to help with never-failing patience. His courteous consideration for his assistants and laboratory attendants has resulted in a department of extreme efficiency and smoothness in running. His Dublin house was a Mecca for physiologists, who retain vivid memories of his generous hospitality. In addition to his work, his numerous diverse interests included horses, golf, Persian rugs, antique furniture, and glass. As a connoisseur of antiques his assistance was often sought by his less expert friends, whom he was always ready to help. In later years, against a background of declining health and an overwhelming series of family tragedies, he stood out as a heroic figure with spirit undaunted. To a world-wide circle of friends Dr. Harold Pringle will long be remembered as a physiologist, as an administrator, but, above all, as a man of courage and sympathy.

Dr. ROBERT NESBITT, who died as the result of an accident on November 26th, was a well-known figure in Sutton-in-Ashfield for over half a century. In addition to his large practice he played a prominent part in local affairs, and at the time of his death was the chairman of the Mansfield bench of magistrates. Born at Corglass, Co. Monaghan, Ireland, on September 8th, 1855, and educated at Ballybay, he entered the Ledwich School of Medicine in Dublin, becoming L.R.C.S.I. in 1876 and L.R.C.P.I. in the following year. After serving as house-surgeon in the County Monaghan Infirmary for three years he bought a partnership at Sutton-in-Ashfield. With the growth of the town his practice increased, and at one time he held more medical appointments than any other practitioner in England. Shortly after he went to Sutton he was appointed medical officer of health, an office which he held until he retired from practice in 1927. He was district medical officer and public vaccinator; certifying factory surgeon; surgeon to the Post Office, the railway companies, and various local collieries; and medical referee to the Notts Miners' Association and the Prudential and other insurance companies. Notwithstanding these many appointments he found time to devote to public affairs. A justice since 1894, he was chairman of the local tribunal during the war, and was enrolled as a special constable. He was also a member of the County Standing Joint Committee and of the Panel and Insurance Committees. A member of the B.M.A., he was chosen as chairman of the Nottingham Division in 1924, and he acted as the Division's representative at the Annual Representative Meeting from 1929 to 1934. Dr. Nesbitt is survived by his wife, a son, and three daughters.

We regret to record the death on December 6th of Mr. HENRY WALTER PIGEON, at his home in Bournemouth, where he had resided since his retirement from active practice some sixteen years ago. He was born at Bristol in 1859, and from Clifton College went to Christ's College, Cambridge, where he graduated M.A., M.B., B.Ch. in 1880, after studying medicine at Guy's Hospital. He obtained the diploma of F.R.C.S. in 1885. His interests were always in general surgery, and after resident appointments on the surgical side at Guy's, and later at the Manchester Royal Infirmary, he went into consulting practice at Hull in 1886. For many years before his retirement he was the senior consulting surgeon in the Hull area. He was appointed assistant surgeon to the Royal Infirmary in 1886, becoming full surgeon in 1900, and consulting surgeon on his retirement from the active staff in 1919. Mr. Pigeon had been a member of the British Medical Association for over fifty years, and in 1897 was president of the East Yorkshire and North Lincolnshire Branch. He had many interests apart from his surgical work. Whilst in Hull he was churchwarden at Holy Trinity Church, and was for some years president of the Hull Literary and Philosophical Society. He leaves a daughter who was formerly on the staff of the Children's Hospital, Hull, and is now attached

to a hospital in Palestine. His death will be deeply regretted both in Hull, where he is still remembered, and in Bournemouth, where he had made his home during his years of retirement.

Dr. LAURENCE CRAIGIE MACLAGAN-WEDDERBURN died at North Berwick on December 7th. He was the second surviving son of Dr. A. S. MacLagan-Wedderburn, and was educated at Forfar Academy, University College, St. Andrews, and Edinburgh, where he graduated M.B., Ch.B. in 1899, proceeding M.D. in 1906. His first appointments were those of resident surgeon to the Royal Maternity Hospital, Edinburgh, and resident surgeon and physician consecutively to the Royal Infirmary. He then went out to South Africa, and held a commission as civil surgeon in the South African Field Force. During the late war he served first in the R.A.M.C. with a commission as temporary captain; then he transferred to the Royal Navy with the commission of temporary surgeon, and finally was appointed a squadron leader in the R.A.F. Medical Service, being subsequently promoted to major in the Air Force. He had acted as Admiralty surgeon and agent in North Berwick, to which he returned eventually to continue his private practice. He was parochial medical officer to the parishes of Whitekirk and Tymingham, Stenton and Whittinghame, surgeon to the Post Office at Prestonkirk, and medical referee to the Prudential Assurance Company. His recreations included sailing, golf, and shooting. He had been a member of the British Medical Association since 1911.

The following well-known foreign medical men have recently died: Dr. LUIGI MARIANO PATRIZI, professor of physiology at Bologna, aged 69; Dr. EUGÈNE RICHARD, professor at the medical school and mayor of Rouen; Professor ALBERT MAIRET, formerly dean of the Medical Faculty of Lyons, aged 62; Dr. PAUL EISLER, emeritus professor of anatomy at Halle University, aged 73; Professor HUBERT PROHASKA, director of the Psychiatric and Neurological Institute at Brunn; and Professor C. VON TYSZKA, the Hamburg medical statistician, aged 62.

Universities and Colleges

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

The following medical degrees were conferred at a congregation held on December 14th:

B.M.—R. N. B. Cridland, H. N. Davis, B. B. Hickey, P. E. Cresswell, F. G. Ward, E. C. O. Jewesbury, W. P. Mallinson, H. Fidler.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

A. Meyer has passed in Part I of the examination for the Academic Post-graduate Diploma in Medical Radiology.

The following candidates have been approved at the examination indicated:

THIRD M.B., B.S.—*†S. O. Aylett, *†Joan W. Ellinger, *†Mary F. Lockett, R. M. H. Anning, C. G. Baker, T. L. S. Baynes, E. R. Bennion, Katherine M. Blenkin, C. J. F. Blumen-thal, P. R. Boucher, Muriel G. Boycott, P. E. G. Clements, J. G. Clothier, J. H. Cobb, E. C. Cordeaux, R. Cox, J. V. Dacie, D. V. Davies, D. G. ff. Edward, J. A. C. Franklin, L. D. B. Frost, B. M. Goldsworthy, K. L. Grogono, E. A. Hardy, K. W. Hardy, D. B. Hyslop, J. D. Jenkins, H. S. Joseph, C. Langmaid, K. A. Latter, J. I. Lesh, J. Ll. Lewis, M. J. Lindsey, H. M. McGladdery, W. N. Mann, J. I. C. Mason, W. R. Merrington, T. Miles, R. L. Moody, C. J. B. Murray, H. Nicholson, W. L. Ogle, C. J. S. O'Malley, D. A. O'Reilly, G. H. C. Ovens, W. D. Park, F. D. Paterson, E. Pereira, H. N. Perkins, J. B. Phillips, F. O. Potter, W. A. Pritchard, J. D. Richardson, Jean Ross, Millicent I. Rowland, P. N. Shutte, I. Slome, B. W. Smith, J. G. Stewart, J. M. Stewart, Margaret J. Suttill, J. W. Todd, B. McN. Truscott, C. E. G. Wickham, Helen E. Wight, Sheila M. R. Williams, J. W. Wishart, A. L. Wyman, E. C. Zorab. *Group I*: G. T. Balean, H. L. W. Beach, L. C. Bousfield, F. E. Corea, A. G. Edwards, G. J. Evans, J. E. Giesen, W. H. Hamilton, D. T. K. Harris, Sylvia A. M. Herford, H. G. Howitt, L. M. Kelly, E. A. Knappett, H. A. Leggett, O. G. Lloyd, Queenie I. E. May, Elizabeth M. Morgan, F. J. Napier, S. G. Nardell, R. J. Niven,

E. P. Rigby, R. S. F. Schilling, G. R. Taylor, W. R. Welply, Rowena Woolf. *Group II*: C. Anderson, F. W. Baskerville, H. V. Brown, Kathleen E. Burnell, H. B. C. Carter-Locke, T. Denness, J. E. Elliott, W. D. F. Lytle, J. McA. McArthur, E. G. Murphy, N. W. N. Murray, K. L. G. Nobbs, Dorothy S. Pope, D. A. Prothero, J. C. Roberts, E. ap I. Rosser, H. C. Thomas, Winifred J. Wadge, A. Wardale, E. D. H. Williams.

* Honours.

† Distinguished in medicine.

‡ Distinguished in forensic medicine and hygiene.

UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL

The following candidates have been approved at the examinations indicated:

FINAL M.B., CH.B.—V. T. Baxter, Theodora M. Crabtree, J. G. Field, Irene G. Hamilton, M. A. Nicholson. *Part I, Forensic Medicine and Toxicology*: Daphne V. Dennis, R. L. J. Derham, H. D. T. Gawn, M. E. M. Herford, F. J. W. Hooper, C. R. G. Howard, C. B. Jones, Margaret E. Morgan, G. L. Page, A. N. H. Peach, *P. J. Ryan, Mabel W. N. Tribe. *Part I only*: †J. F. Ackroyd, M. Dworkis, Emily G. Hamlyn, M. M. Lewis, R. H. Owen, J. W. E. Snawdon. *In Pathology completing requirements of Part I*: A. M. Spencer.

* Distinction in materia medica, pharmacy, pharmacology and therapeutics, and forensic medicine and toxicology.

† Distinction in pathology.

UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD

At its meeting on December 13th, with Colonel H. K. Stephenson in the chair, the University Council accepted with regret the resignation of Dr. Harold Leader from the post of lecturer in diseases of children, and accorded him its thanks for his services to the University.

The thanks of the Council have been conveyed to the Rockefeller Foundation, New York, for its grant of £200 in aid of research in the Department of Pharmacology.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND

A Council meeting was held on December 12th, with Mr. Arthur H. Burgess, Senior Vice-President, in the chair.

Appointments

The following were elected to the four vacancies on the Court of Examiners: Mr. E. C. Hughes (Guy's), Mr. L. E. C. Norbury (Royal Free), Mr. R. Milne (London), Mr. P. H. Mitchiner (St. Thomas's).

Sir Holburt Waring was reappointed as the representative of the College on the Court of Governors of the University of Birmingham. It was reported that the President, Sir Cuthbert Wallace, had accepted an invitation to serve as a member of the General Council of King Edward's Hospital Fund for London for the year 1936.

Diplomas

Diplomas of Fellowship were granted to the following fifty-two candidates:

V. C. Snell, T. M. Tyrrell, W. R. S. Hutchinson, S. G. Browne, J. F. Jarvis, L. C. Oliver, A. K. Price, P. P. Sheth, J. Grocott, R. H. R. Belsey, L. E. Jones, V. P. Gupta, I. Magdi, B. H. Page, H. S. Shucksmith, F. A. Rundle, G. Williams, M. A. Falconer, A. S. Kerr, T. Beath, J. I. M. Black, A. N. de Quadros, W. S. Diggle, H. T. Fleming, S. R. Gerstman, L. W. Gleadell, A. O. Green, Muriel B. McIlrath, I. Mehrez, E. W. Peet, M. Z. Siddiqui, J. B. Somerset, H. K. Vernon, Doris E. O'Doherty, M. N. Chatterjee, E. W. T. Morris, W. S. Creer, J. K. Wilson-Pepper, I. W. Matheson, Dorothy A. Sharpe, D. K. Mulvany, P. G. Scott, H. G. E. Arthur, P. B. Moroney, K. J. Gilchrist, O. S. Tubbs, S. E. Birdsall, C. H. Gray, R. F. Winckworth, P. Baron, Doris B. Brown, R. V. Payne.

A diploma of Membership was granted to Dorothy Joan Thompson, and licences in dental surgery were granted to fifty-nine candidates.

Diplomas in Anaesthetics were granted jointly with the Royal College of Physicians to the following forty-six candidates:

H. K. Ashworth, J. H. Attwood, A. Barnsley, C. A. Borland, Lorna Bray, H. J. Brennan, R. J. B. Broad, A. I. P. Brown, F. F. Cartwright, T. H. Chadwick, D. J. Davies, Winifred Dean, H. G. Dodd, N. A. Gillespie, J. Gillies, A. P. Gorham, R. B. Gould, H. F. Griffiths, Gwendolen Harrison, G. Hochschild, Mary J. Hudson, R. Jarman, E. F. Johnson, Alison R. Kerridge, L. H. Lerman, A. Lucas, W. S. McConnell, Jean S. B. McNeil, S. V. Marshall, E. A. Marson, A. G. Miller, J. C. Nicholson, M. D. Nosworthy, E. A. E. Palmer, B. Rait-Smith, E. H. Rink, F. W. Roberts, K. MacD. Ross, Doris M. Sanders, J. D. Scott, E. V. Slaughter, C. E. Sykes, Sheina C. H. Watters, J. H. West, Rose E. Williams, F. C. Wright.

Medico-Legal

DERMATITIS FROM UNDERCLOTHES

Grant v. Australian Knitting Mills, Ltd., and Others

The Judicial Committee of the Privy Council recently delivered judgement in a claim for damages for dermatitis contracted as a result of wearing underpants. The appellant was a doctor practising in Adelaide, South Australia, and the respondents were the retailers of the pants, John Martin and Co., Ltd., and the manufacturers, Australian Knitting Mills, Ltd. The Chief Justice of South Australia, after a trial lasting twenty days, had given judgement for the doctor for £2,450 and costs. On appeal the High Court of Australia had set aside that judgement, and Dr. Grant had appealed again to the Privy Council.

Dr. Grant bought two pairs of underpants and two singlets from the retailers and donned one suit on June 28th, 1931. On that evening he felt itching in the ankles, and next day a redness appeared. He then changed his underwear and put on the other suit which he had purchased. His skin trouble got worse, but he did not associate it with the clothing. A dermatologist advised him to discard the garments, and he returned them to the retailers saying that they had given him dermatitis. The irritation became generalized and very acute, and he was in bed for seventeen weeks. After a holiday he resumed practice, but soon relapsed, and was in hospital for three months in the following year. At times the dermatologist in charge of the case feared that he might die.

Their Lordships considered the Australian courts' meticulous discussion of the medical evidence, and decided that the dermatitis was of external origin and not dermatitis herpetiformis, as the defendants contended. They further held that the appellant's skin was normal, as he had habitually worn woollen undergarments without inconvenience up to the material time. A skin test for wool sensitiveness had proved negative. The manufacturers had admitted that the garments contained sulphur dioxide, which indicated the presence of free sulphites. Sweat combined with the sulphites to form sulphur dioxide, sulphurous acid, and sulphuric acid; the last is an irritant producing dermatitis in a normal skin. An analytical chemist had reported the presence of 0.0201 per cent. of sulphur dioxide by weight in one pair of pants and smaller amounts in the other garments, but all the garments had been washed before being returned, and one scientist had expressed the opinion that the amounts must have been greater before washing. In one of the manufacturing processes a solution of bisulphite of soda is used and subsequently neutralized by bicarbonate of soda. Their Lordships felt that something might have gone wrong during this process, which would be somebody's fault, and concluded that the disease contracted and the damage suffered by the appellant were caused by the defective condition of the garment sold to him which the manufacturers had put forth for retail and indiscriminate sale. The retailers, they said, were liable under the Australian Sale of Goods Act, which contains the phrase that the goods shall be reasonably fit for the purpose for which they are sold and of merchantable quality, and that there shall be no defects which an examination will not reveal.

Their Lordships held that the appellant was substantially relying on the retailers to supply him with a correct article, and that they were not exempted from their duty under the Act because of their conversation with him about prices and different makes. He could not detect, and had no reason to suspect, the presence of sulphites. The garments were saleable in that anyone who did not know of the defect would readily buy them, but they were not merchantable in the statutory sense, because they had a defect which made them unfit to be worn next to the skin. The retailers were therefore liable to Dr. Grant for damages for breach of contract, because by the Sale of Goods Act there is an implied contract between the retailer and the purchaser.

There was, however, no contract between the manufacturer and purchaser, and Dr. Grant had no claim against the Australian Knitting Mills unless it could be shown that they had been negligent and had failed in some duty they owed

Doctors and the Speed Limit

The Minister of Transport was asked a question, on December 16th, about recent cases in which doctors had been summoned for exceeding the speed limit when proceeding to patients dangerously ill or to persons who had met with serious accidents. Mr. DAY suggested that the Minister should issue regulations that would allow medical practitioners in those cases, providing some distinguishing sign was exhibited on the front of their cars, to exceed the speed limit when necessary. Captain HUDSON replied that the Minister of Transport had no power to make regulations on the subject, and agreed with the view expressed by the Home Secretary that the matter could best be left to the courts.

Purity of Vaccine Lymph

On December 16th Sir KINGSLEY WOOD gave an assurance that all practicable steps were taken to ensure the purity of vaccine lymph issued by the Government lymph establishment. He was advised that it was not yet possible to guarantee absolute absence of risk that encephalitis would follow the use of lymph, although the risk was very small. Answering Mr. Broad, on December 13th, Sir KINGSLEY WOOD said notices were posted in the medical press requesting medical practitioners to notify his Department of all cases of post-vaccinal encephalitis. Information was also obtained from the returns made by public vaccinators, and by the examination of all death certificates on which any reference was made to vaccination.

Precautions Against Air Attack.—Replying to Mr. Gardner and Mr. Acland on December 12th, Mr. GEOFFREY LLOYD (Under Secretary for Home Affairs) said the Air Raid Precautions Department was holding a series of conferences with local authorities throughout the country. Local authorities almost universally had shown their willingness to co-operate with the Government in the formulation of precautionary measures for the protection of the public against the effects of air attack. So far there had hardly been time for local authorities to complete detailed schemes for their areas; but a considerable number of schemes were already being discussed between the Department and the local authority concerned. The arrangements to be made for the provision of respirators had been under close examination for some time past. He hoped it would be possible to make a full statement on this subject in the near future.

Variola Major.—Mr. GROVES asked the Minister of Health to what influence his medical officials attributed the almost complete freedom from variola major which this country had enjoyed during the past thirty years, particularly in view of the fact that during the same period approximately only one-half the infants born had been vaccinated. Sir KINGSLEY WOOD replied, on December 12th, that complete knowledge of all the influences affecting the prevalence and spread of variola major was still lacking, but two important factors were: improvement in the supervision of contacts, and a more general appreciation by them of the value of vaccination as a protective measure.

A "Cancer Cure."—Mr. GARRO-JONES asked, on December 12th, for information concerning the treatment of malignant tumours as practised by Dr. Revelis and others in Paris hospitals; and whether the Ministry of Health was co-operating in the tests of this method now being conducted in London. Sir KINGSLEY WOOD said inquiries into whether there was a *prima facie* case for further investigation were proceeding. This treatment had been practised for too short a period to justify any conclusion as to its value. He did not know that any tests of the method were being conducted in London. [See *British Medical Journal*, December 14th, p. 1159.]

Notes in Brief

During the year ended March 31st, 1935, 16,389 applications for enlistment into the Royal Air Force were received. Of these, 7,085 were medically examined; 2,786 were found medically fit and 2,347 were attested.

The committee now considering legislation to consolidate the law relating to local government and public health will in due course take up the question of consolidating food legislation.

Medical News

Courses of instruction arranged by the Fellowship of Medicine will be given as follows: in dermatology, at St. John's Hospital every afternoon, from January 2nd to 30th; cardiology, at the National Hospital for Diseases of the Heart, January 13th to 24th (limited to twenty); urology, at St. Peter's Hospital, from January 20th to February 1st (limited to eight); proctology, at St. Mark's Hospital, February 3rd to 8th; neurology, at the West End Hospital, February 3rd to 8th; gynaecology, at the Chelsea Hospital for Women, February 10th to 22nd. Week-end courses for general practitioners will be given at the Royal Chest Hospital on January 18th and 19th, and at the St. John Clinic and Institute of Physical Medicine on February 8th and 9th. Further particulars may be had from the Fellowship of Medicine, 1, Wimpole Street, W.1.

The next annual meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science will be held at Blackpool from September 9th to 16th, 1936, under the presidency of Sir Josiah Stamp. The sectional presidents include: chemistry, Professor J. C. Philip; zoology, Mr. Julian Huxley; anthropology, Miss D. A. E. Garrod; physiology, Professor R. J. S. McDowall; and psychology, Mr. A. W. Wolters.

The King has granted Dr. Gordon Winstanley Spencer authority to wear the Insignia of the Fourth Class (Civil Division) of the Order of Al Rafidain conferred upon him by the King of Iraq in recognition of valuable services rendered by him as chief ophthalmic specialist in the Iraq Health Service.

The King has appointed Dr. Christopher James Wilson, M.C., to be a Nominated Unofficial Member of the Legislative Council of the Colony of Kenya.

The issue of *Paris Médical* for November 30th is devoted to the inaugural address of Professor Paul Harvier, on "Good Sense in Therapeutics," delivered on his installation in the chair of therapeutics in the Paris Faculty of Medicine.

Dr. Simon Wigoder has been appointed chairman of the health, maternity, and child welfare committees of the Morley (Leeds) Town Council.

The Turkish Government has granted the Red Crescent (the equivalent of the Red Cross in Turkey) the monopoly of importing, preparing, manufacturing, and selling anti-malarial and anti-syphilitic remedies in Turkey. The law giving expression to this decision of the Grand National Assembly came into force on September 1st.

The German Society of the History of Medicine, Natural Sciences, and Technique has awarded Professor Wilhelm Haberling of Düsseldorf, joint editor of *Mitteilungen zur Geschichte der Medizin*, the Sudhoff Medal for his eminent services to the history of medicine.

The fall in maternal mortality in Italy from pregnancy, labour, and the puerperium is shown by the following figures. Out of 10,000 births the combined mortality from these causes was 31.3 in 1924, 27.3 in 1928, 26.6 in 1930, and 26.7 in 1934.

A memorial stone erected by the Germano-Japanese Club at Tokio was recently unveiled at Kusatsu in honour of the German physician Dr. Baelz, who lived in Japan during the last decade of the nineteenth century and was professor of medicine and the Emperor's medical adviser.

Professor Wolf Lorenz, the octogenarian orthopaedic surgeon of Vienna, has been honoured by having had a plaque affixed to his birthplace at Weidenau in the Sudetic Mountains.

The Rockefeller Foundation has awarded the University of Michigan 14,000 dollars for the application of spectroscopic methods to medicine.

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.).