

Dr. ALFRED PROBUS TRINDER died in a nursing home on August 2nd at the age of 78. Dr. Trinder, who had been retired for some years, took the M.R.C.S. and L.R.C.P. diplomas in 1883 after studying at St. Bartholomew's, where he became house-surgeon for a short time before going out to Africa. There he had been civil medical officer to the South African Field Force, and district surgeon in Boshof, Orange Colony, and Volksrust, Transvaal, before returning to this country. Since his retirement Dr. Trinder lived at Parkstone, Dorset, and he had been an active member of the Reading Pathological Society. His membership of the British Medical Association extended over nearly fifty years, and he acted as the representative of the East Cornwall Division of the Association at the Annual Representative Meetings held at Aberdeen in 1914 and in London during the war years 1915-17.

Dr. STEPHEN EDWARD BAXTER died on August 6th very suddenly while on holiday at Eastbourne. After qualifying M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. from St. Thomas's Hospital, he practised at Wollaston, Northamptonshire, for thirty-seven years, and during that time was closely identified with the medical and public life of the county. He was chairman of the Northamptonshire Panel and Medical Committee from its inception in July, 1912, up to his death. For some time he was a member of the Northamptonshire Insurance Committee, and for twenty-five years a member of the Medical Service Subcommittee. Dr. Baxter joined the British Medical Association in 1900, and in 1924-5 was President of the Branch comprising Northants, Beds, and Bucks. He had also been a member of the Representative Body of the Association on six occasions. In 1918 he was elected a member of the County Council, and was returned unopposed until his retirement from the Council in 1928. During his term of office he was Conservative Whip for eight years, and served on the Public Health, Berrywood Mental Hospital, Mental Defectives, Blind, and Selection Committees. He was also the first chairman of the committee of the Rushden House Tuberculosis Sanatorium. In addition to his services to the county in the spheres of medicine and local government, he acted as vice-chairman of the Ruridecanal Conference, and as a member of the Peterborough Diocesan Conference. In the political sphere he was a vice-president of the Wellingborough Divisional Conservative Association and Ruling Councillor of the Wollaston Habitation of the Primrose League.

We announce with regret the death on August 3rd of Dr. HOWARD BARCLAY BILLUPS. Dr. Billups was a student at Oxford and St. Thomas's Hospital, and graduated M.B., B.Ch. in 1907, taking in the same year the English conjoint diplomas. At St. Thomas's he was clinical assistant in the electrical and x-ray department, and later in the department for diseases of the skin. During the war he served with the French Red Cross in 1915, and from 1916 to 1919 was a captain in the Royal Army Medical Corps. He contributed a note on defective nipples to this *Journal* in 1910, and had done some work on the relation of the English to metric systems of measurement. After the war Dr. Billups practised in Sandown, Isle of Wight, and was chairman of the local Division of the British Medical Association in the year 1925-6. He was the last surviving son of the late Christopher Smith Billups of Chatteris.

The following well-known foreign medical men have recently died: Professor EMILIO RESPIGHI, an eminent dermatologist of Milan, who described porokeratosis mibelli independently under the name of a hitherto undescribed hyperkeratosis in 1893; Dr. WILHELM VON VOSS, director of the ear and throat clinic at Karlsruhe; Professor LUDOMIL KORCZYŃSKI of Cracow, president of the Polish Balneological Society; and Professor HUGO SCHOTTMÜLLER of Hamburg, at the age of 69.

Medico-Legal

A MURDER CONVICTION QUASHED

APPEAL FROM CEYLON SUPREME COURT

The Judicial Committee of the Privy Council gave, on July 29th, an important judgement, which illustrated the principles which govern the "Board" (as the committee is called) in reviewing the decision of a judge and jury.

On June 14th, 1934, in the Supreme Court of Ceylon, Mr. Stephen Seneviratne, after a trial lasting twenty-one days, was sentenced to death for the murder of his wife, the jury having found him guilty by a majority of five to two. This sentence was commuted to rigorous imprisonment for life. He appealed to the Council on several grounds: that a very large amount of hearsay evidence was admitted; that the judge directed the jury wrongly on the burden of proof and put undue pressure on them in his summing-up; and that after the evidence was concluded the hearing was reopened at his house, where his wife died, in an entirely irregular and illegal manner.

Summary of Evidence

Mr. Seneviratne is a barrister and a graduate of Cambridge. He married his cousin in 1923. They had one child called Terence, who was 9 years old at the time of the wife's death on Sunday, October 15th, 1933. For some years the couple had lived unhappily, and during the previous year the wife had more than once threatened to kill herself. During quarrels she would shut herself in her room and refuse food. Some six weeks before her death she had discussed suicide by chloroform. The husband, though he not infrequently quarrelled with his wife and was not attentive to her wishes, had never been seen to threaten her with physical violence. On the day before her death a quarrel took place, and the husband said afterwards that his wife had told him that he would repent his action.

Duff House, where the couple lived, was one-storied; the wife slept in one room with her personal servant Alpina, and in an adjoining room Terence slept with his nurse Mabel. These rooms made a self-contained suite, and at night were locked off from the rest of the house. The husband slept on the other side of the bungalow, and his most direct way to his wife's room was by the back veranda. Banda, a male servant, said that on the day of the death he rose at 6 a.m., and found the doors closed as he had left them the night before. Alpina said that the wife awakened her twice in the night, and that when she finally woke at six o'clock she saw the wife asleep, and a little later that she had turned over on her side and was awake. Fifteen or twenty minutes afterwards Seelas, a servant boy, and Perera, the chauffeur, came and told her that her mistress wanted her. She and Seelas then found the wife lying across the bed with her head towards the wall at one side and her feet and legs hanging out over the other; as she entered the room she saw the husband coming in from the child's nursery, and noticed a "poisonous and oily" smell. The husband, she said, went to the bed and started to fan his wife with a book; he sent Alpina for brandy and hot-water bottles and attempted artificial respiration. She saw a small green smelling-salts bottle, empty with the stopper out, on a teapoy where the wife kept her books. She also saw a large handkerchief on the bed near the wife's right hand, and put it on the dressing-table with some soiled linen. The nurse Mabel said that she got up at six and went to church about 6.30, after seeing the wife lying in bed with her hand to her head. Seelas said that he got up at six, and saw the husband and another servant boy, Martin, feeding the fowls on the back veranda. A little later he heard some noise, not very loud, coming from the direction of the wife's room, and thereupon went and told Alpina. It was not possible for the husband to go to the wife's room without being seen by him. Banda said that he was sweeping the veranda when the husband came out and told him to take two Sunday papers that morning, and if the husband had gone to his wife's room he must have seen him go. Martin said that he was feeding the fowls when the husband came from his room along the back veranda and found fault with him just before Alpina

Universities and Colleges

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

KING'S COLLEGE

The following medical appointments have been made at King's College:

Lecturer in Pharmacology: Dr. H. A. Dunlop; *Honorary Lecturer in Physiology*: Dr. N. S. Plummer; *Assistant Lecturer in Physiology*: Dr. O. G. Edholm; *Demonstrator in Anatomy*: Dr. A. M. Murray; *Honorary Demonstrator in Anatomy*: Dr. F. McLellan.

Medical News

The Fellowship of Medicine announces the following courses: plastic surgery, September 16th and 17th; infants' diseases at Infants Hospital, September 21st to 28th; proctology at the Gordon Hospital, September 28th to October 3rd; chest diseases at Brompton Hospital, September 21st to 28th. Week-end courses, specially suitable for the general practitioner, will be given in surgery at Miller General Hospital, September 19th and 20th, and in ophthalmology at Royal Westminster Ophthalmic Hospital, September 26th and 27th. A special course on anatomy and physiology, in preparation for the Primary F.R.C.S. examination, will be given on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, at 8 p.m., from September 14th to October 22nd; candidates may attend either anatomy or physiology, or both. The following courses have been arranged in preparation for the M.R.C.P. examination: clinical and pathological evening course at National Temperance Hospital at 8 p.m., September 8th to 24th; chest diseases at Brompton Hospital, Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, at 5 p.m., September 14th to October 9th; heart and lung diseases at Royal Chest Hospital, Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, at 8 p.m., September 21st to October 9th. Detailed syllabus of all courses can be obtained from the Fellowship of Medicine, 1, Wimpole Street, W.1.

The annual congress of the Chartered Society of Massage and Medical Gymnastics will be held this year at the Bedford College for Women, Regent's Park, N.W.1, from September 21st to 25th, and the lectures and demonstrations are free to medical practitioners, to whom cards of admission will be forwarded on request. Mr. R. C. Elmslie, F.R.C.S., will deliver the Founders' Lecture on the restoration of function; Dr. J. B. Mennell will demonstrate his film on manipulations of the joints of the upper extremity; Dr. Emanuel Miller will speak on the psychoneuroses of childhood, with special reference to postural defects; and Professor Samson Wright will give a lantern lecture on posture and movement. A detailed programme of these and the other lecture-demonstrations of special medical interest may be obtained free from the secretary of the society at its offices in Tavistock House (North), Tavistock Square, W.C.1. Various practical classes will be held. The annual dinner of the society will take place at the Café Royal, Regent Street, on September 23rd, and excursions for members and delegates have been arranged to the Peckham Pioneer Health Centre, the new physiotherapy department at the Middlesex Hospital, and the fracture clinics at St. Stephen's Hospital, Fulham Road, and the Dulwich Hospital. In view of the increased interest now taken in physical development and training, special attention will be paid during the congress to problems of posture, prophylactic and remedial breathing (including asthma), and the more recent advances in short-wave therapy, massage, and therapeutic gymnastics.

The thirteenth Congress of the German Pharmacological Association will be held at the Physiological Institute, Friedrichstrasse 24, Giessen, from September 1st to 5th. For details of the discussions and information about the special arrangements made for excursions and the accommodation available for those attending the meetings and the ladies accompanying them, application

may be made to the congress office, which is situated in the Pharmacological Institute, Gaffkystrasse 7, Giessen.

The Dutch Congress of Public Health will be held at the Hague on October 2nd and 3rd, under the presidency of Dr. N. M. Josephus Jutta. Further information can be obtained from the general secretary, Professor C. F. van Oyen, Biltstraat, 166, Utrecht.

The main subject of debate at the meeting of the German Pathological Society on September 27th to 29th in Breslau will be spontaneous haemorrhages in the brains of human beings.

The King has confirmed the appointment of Dr. Adam Rankine, M.C., to be a nominated official member of the Legislative Council of Trinidad and Tobago.

With the approval of the Minister of Health, the Board of Control has appointed Mr. J. C. Rawlinson and Mr. H. R. Green (barristers-at-law) to be Commissioners.

The *Morning Post*, on August 1st, published an article by Sir John Lynn-Thomas, F.R.C.S., on Edward Williams (1745-1826), who became known as "the Welsh Shakespeare" in the nineteenth century. "Iolo," as he was called, was a great walker, and carried a wallet filled with rare manuscripts relating to ethnology of the Kymry and the secret writing of the bards.

The issue of *Gazette des Hôpitaux* for July 29th is devoted to radiology in 1935.

The issue of *Deutsche medizinische Wochenschrift* for August 7th contains five papers on the bacteriology and prophylaxis of diphtheria.

The twenty-fourth annual report of the *Journal of the American Medical Association* on typhoid fever in the ninety-three cities of the United States with a population of more than 100,000 shows that the total of typhoid deaths was notably less in 1935 than in 1934 (385 as compared with 470). In six of the eight geographic divisions of the country there were fewer deaths in 1935 than in 1934, slight increases occurring in the South Atlantic and the Mountain and Pacific groups. The rates ranged from 0.49 for the New England States to 3.89 for the East South Central States. For the first time four of the eight groups registered rates below 1.

The draft of a new law, which is endorsed by some twenty-five deputies to the French Chamber of Deputies, and is expected to come up for discussion in the new Chamber, provides for the compulsory retirement of various classes of intellectual workers, including doctors, at the age of 65 without any State compensation or pension.

The French Academy of Medicine has passed a resolution urging the new French Government to resume the campaign against alcoholism, to limit the number of licences for the sale of alcoholic beverages, and to promote garden cities.

Dr. Etienne Burnet, who is well known to public health workers in this country for his valuable studies on undulant fever, leprosy, tuberculosis, and other work in connexion with the Health Section of the League of Nations, has been nominated director of the Tunis Pasteur Institute in succession to the late Dr. Charles Nicolle.

Research work into heredity and the causes of mental deficiency has received an impetus through a donation of £2,200 from the Hon. Alexandrina Peckover for the building of a laboratory and research offices at the Royal Eastern Counties Institution at Colchester. For the last five years an important inquiry has been carried on there by Dr. Lionel Penrose and his assistants, and has been jointly financed by the Medical Research Council, the Darwin Trustees, and the institution. It is felt that far-reaching results should accrue from this work, and as the research department had outgrown its previous temporary quarters a new laboratory was urgently needed. Some thirty-six years ago the late Lord Peckover presented to the institution the Peckover Schools and Workshops, which have had such a beneficial and lasting influence on the success of the training carried on therein.