

thorough survey of methods of direct and indirect calorimetry, Dr. Poulton advocated the theory of the constant combustion ratio: that carbohydrate and fat are always burnt in the body in a fixed proportion, and the respiratory quotient, when it is high, measures the amount of conversion of carbohydrate into some less oxygenated material such as fat, and, when it is low, measures the reverse change. Such a theory was far from unreasonable, for other quantities associated with the human system—for example, body temperature and hydrogen in concentration of the blood—varied only within comparatively small limits. As an illustration, the story of Cain and Abel suggested that the diet of primitive man was variable in its carbohydrate and fat content, the choice of food being influenced by the exigencies of hunting and cultivation. It was not reasonable to suppose that the complicated processes of human metabolism should be at the mercy of such extraneous circumstances. It was more logical to assume that such processes normally followed well-defined lines of chemical and physical action, while any foodstuff taken in unusual quantity was converted into a form suitable for storage for future use. With regard to standards of metabolism, growth, and general nutrition in children, Dr. Poulton suggested that there was some factor in modern life that tended to promote growth in the children of the wealthier classes. This factor was lacking in all classes fifty years ago, and was still absent among the poorer classes to-day. Since heredity could scarcely be a predominant influence, the cause might be attributed to alteration in the food supply, involving an increase in minerals and vitamins.

#### Hypnosis and Suggestibility

Before the Section of Psychology Dr. WILLIAM BROWN read a paper on hypnosis, suggestibility, and progressive relaxation. Dr. Brown affirmed that recent experimental and clinical work had established hypnosis on a firm scientific basis. In the treatment of patients the employment of hypnosis resulted in a more rapid and more pronounced induction of relaxation. It was important that any suggestions made to patients in the hypnotized and relaxed state should be positive in character, tending to increase normal vitality and vigour. By this means concentration, memory, and mental powers could be improved, and inhibitions and the fear of failure removed. With regard to variation in susceptibility to hypnosis, Dr. Brown stated that cases of idiopathic epilepsy and *petit mal* were not responsive, and that induction was difficult in persons suffering from extreme fatigue. Alcoholism and scopolamine increased susceptibility, while cases of so-called hysterical epilepsy were especially amenable to hypnotic treatment. Recent work in the United States had shown that new conditioned reflexes could be built up more rapidly and thoroughly under hypnosis than in a normal state. This opened up the possibility of improving the digestive and excretory functions, by extending the power of the will to influence involuntary actions. The therapeutic hypnotist must not be regarded as dominating his patient, but rather as using his influence to inspire confidence and faith. Dr. Brown compared this relationship with that of people and leaders in political affairs.

"Whatever opinions may be held with regard to the political aims of the Fascist countries, there can be no doubt that the methods adopted in Germany and Italy of attaining efficiency as a nation under individual leadership find a great deal of support in modern psychology. It is a mistake to suppose that the followers in these countries are slaves, copying their leader from a motive of fear or in cringing submission; rather do their own self-assertive and aggressive tendencies become liberated in the process, and their heightened enthusiasm and confidence in their leader and his resources make what might have been a timid, panic-stricken crowd into a powerful army, race, or nation."

## Local News

### ENGLAND AND WALES

#### Pharmaceutical Society's New Home

Plans for the new home of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain have been passed by the London County Council, building operations will start shortly, and the Society expects to enter into occupation in 1939. The site is the north side of Brunswick Square, overlooking the Foundling grounds, and within five minutes' walk of Upper Woburn Place and the British Medical Association House. The architect's perspective shows that a spacious and dignified building is in contemplation. It will have six floors, and will embody an assembly hall, library, lecture theatres, laboratory accommodation and class rooms, council chamber and committee rooms, and full provision for the administration and publication departments, which are at present rather scattered in Bloomsbury Square. Chiefly with a view to harmonizing with the Victorian character of the new locality, the façades will be of brick, with an unusual and pleasing treatment of the principal frontage. To the right of the vestibule on entering will be the assembly hall, extending to the height of two floors and seating from 350 to 400 persons; to the left will be the library, also two stories in height, with embayments in which small tables for readers will be placed. Directly facing the vestibule will be a lecture theatre, accommodating 250, with provision for up-to-date cinematograph and other demonstrations. This will be flanked on each side by an open court, permitting cross-lighting of the assembly hall and library. A members' lounge and writing room are also to be provided, and on an upper floor council and committee accommodation. The Pharmaceutical Society is more than a professional body: it incorporates a college, which is a school of the University of London in the Faculty of Medicine, with 100 students, and to this college will be devoted the whole of the third and fourth floors in the new building. There will be a large dispensary, departments for advanced and physical chemistry, bacteriology, and research, a small-scale manufactory, and a galenic department. Tutorial and service rooms, a second lecture theatre, a curator's room, staff rooms, and workshops will complete the provision for the school. Examination rooms are to be placed against the respective departments throughout. The top floor is to be devoted to pharmacological research, with a nutrition department, various animal rooms, and histological and chemical laboratories. Another department for which provision is to be made is pharmacognosy, or the science of crude drugs. Altogether the building will form another conspicuous addition to the collegiate and research centres which are multiplying in Bloomsbury within a half-mile radius of the central tower of the University now approaching completion.

#### L.C.C. Hospitals and Health Services

A year ago the London County Council approved a proposal to engage, for an experimental period of twelve months, two part-time obstetricians and gynaecologists for duty at four selected hospitals. The experiment has proved satisfactory, and the scheme is to be extended to certain other hospitals with large and growing maternity and gynaecological units. The hospitals participating are Dulwich, St. James, Lewisham, St. Giles, St. Alfege's, St. Mary Islington, Archway, and Highgate. The capital expenditure on hospital services under the London County Council for the year 1937-8 is estimated at £650,000, the same amount as last year, but greater than any other previous year. The many important schemes of extension

and development authorized by the Council and in process of being carried out include several for the provision of additional accommodation for patients, new nurses' homes and extensions of existing homes, and various other plans for improving present conditions. A sum is included for preliminary expenses in connexion with the new general hospital of about 500 beds to be erected on part of the site of St. Benedict's Hospital, Tooting, to meet the demand for additional accommodation in the south of London. The estimated cost of the maintenance of L.C.C. hospitals for 1937-8 is £5,395,820, some £200,000 more than the estimated expenditure for 1936-7. The after-histories of tuberculous patients five years after they have been discharged from L.C.C. institutions are published from time to time. The latest survey deals with patients who were discharged in 1931. The number of adult patients discharged from residential institutions in that year was 4,368. In 554 cases the diagnosis of tuberculosis was not confirmed, 344 cases could not be traced, and so the number of cases investigated was 3,470. Of the early cases of pulmonary tuberculosis 77.3 per cent. were alive after five years; of the moderately advanced cases, 44.1 per cent.; of the advanced cases, 7.8 per cent.; and of the cases of surgical tuberculosis, 74.1 per cent. During the same year 884 children were discharged, and a report is available as to 595 of these (170 pulmonary and 425 non-pulmonary cases). Of the early pulmonary cases 10.3 per cent. had died; of the moderately advanced 66.7 per cent., and of the advanced all had died; of the non-pulmonary cases 8.5 per cent. had died. The number of patients under reception orders in the L.C.C. mental hospitals at the end of the last six-months period (March, 1937) was 21,013. During the six months 443 were discharged recovered, 334 relieved, and 81 not improved, while 669 had died. The number of voluntary patients in residence was 877, and the number of temporary patients 37.

#### Food Investigation

The Report of the Food Investigation Board for 1936 states that the year has been one of great activity, marked especially by the meeting of the British Commonwealth Scientific Conference and by the Seventh International Congress on Refrigeration. An investigation of the identity and properties of the proteins of muscles has resulted in the isolation of a new fraction, myoalbumen, which is interesting on account of its low iso-electric point (3.0 to 3.5). Myoalbumen constitutes 1 per cent. of the soluble proteins of rabbit's muscle. The report for 1935 referred to the high electrical resistance of the carcasses of pigs which had been overheated before slaughter (*Journal*, October 31, 1936, p. 877). It has since been found, in the course of experiments carried out for the Pigs Marketing Board of Northern Ireland, that the hams made from such carcasses show an unusually high incidence of taint. Conversely, low electrical resistance of the muscular tissue before curing is generally associated with a low incidence of taint. Thus it appears probable that measurements of the electrical resistance of the uncured carcass may be of use in forecasting the incidence of taint in hams. It has been established that herrings cured with much less salt than is now employed in the trade keep well for six months at the usual storage temperature of  $-3^{\circ}\text{C}$ . Experiments in progress point to the possibility of small amounts of formaldehyde being present in bound form in the flesh of fresh marine fish, and, to a greater extent, in salt-cured and dried fish. The origin of the formaldehyde is being investigated. The rancidity which develops in herrings' fat during cold storage is due to certain enzymes, which are activated by common salt. In the case of fresh herrings, brine-frozen and subsequently well washed, only slight oxidation of the fat was observed after six months' storage in boxes at  $-28^{\circ}\text{C}$ .; with smoke-cured fish lowering the accepted storage temperature ( $-8^{\circ}$  to  $-14^{\circ}\text{C}$ .) to  $-20^{\circ}$  to  $-28^{\circ}\text{C}$ . has been followed by an improvement in the quality of the fish, due

to a retardation of deterioration. The report also records a special method, introduced in Belgium, applicable to the commercial cold storage of hot-house grapes, whereby water is supplied to the bunches during storage. Laboratory trials of this technique have shown promising results in the case of English muscats. A comprehensive series of experiments has proved that Victoria plums may be stored for three to four weeks at a temperature of  $32^{\circ}$  to  $34^{\circ}\text{F}$ . If the fruit is sufficiently mature when picked it ripens well after cold storage at any temperature from  $50^{\circ}\text{F}$ . If picked too green a really good quality cannot be attained, but an improvement in both colour and quality may be produced by ripening at  $70^{\circ}\text{F}$ . The report also mentions the possibility of increasing the home production of pears, which respond even more favourably than apples to gas storage. The value of pears eaten annually in the United Kingdom is roughly £2,000,000. The proportion of home-grown pears was 29 per cent. in 1934 and 13 per cent. in 1935, good and poor years respectively from the growers' point of view. It is thus apparent that there is scope for a large increase in home production.

#### N.S.P.C.C. Annual Report

The annual report (1936-7) of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children records a slight increase in the number of cases reported to the society during the year. This increase was largely due to cases in which the parents of the children concerned came voluntarily to ask the advice of the society with regard to their domestic problems. The report comments on the tendency of the general public to express dissatisfaction with the adequacy of the sentences imposed in cases prosecuted by the society. It is pointed out, however, that such penalties as heavy fines or terms of imprisonment, unless accompanied by the transfer of the legal custody of the children, bear as heavily upon the children as upon the parents. Also it must be remembered that the really severe part of the sentence is contained in a decision to deprive parents of the custody of their children. The report states that the society is deeply sensible of the care and thought given to these cases by the justices, and of the wisdom and helpfulness of their decisions. An unsatisfactory feature of the year's work is the decrease in the number of cases reported by the general public. Many of the worst cases could have been brought to the society's notice by neighbours at an earlier date, a course of action which would have shortened the unnecessary sufferings of a large number of children. During the year the medical department dealt with 2,573 cases, of which 463 required orthopaedic treatment for various deformities.

## SCOTLAND

#### Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh

The annual report (1936) of the Laboratory of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh records the publication of nine papers during the year under review. Work on the toxic effects on animals of substances in common industrial use has been carried out in collaboration with Dr. T. Ferguson and Dr. B. Wylam of the Department of Health for Scotland. The results of a study of the effect of trichlorethylene on rats appear to show that this substance exerts a deleterious effect at least upon the liver and the bone marrow. Whether this effect upon rats is of significance for man depends entirely upon the concentration of the substance in the air breathed by those exposed to it. It is hoped, following improvements envisaged in the special apparatus employed, to discover an answer to the question whether trichlorethylene and other substances may effect the health of workers. Mention is also made of epidemiological statistical researches, a review of the results of anti-rabic treatment,

a study of the pathology of the breast, and an investigation of calcium deposits. The report records with regret the death of Mr. T. D. Hamilton, who was associated with the laboratory for many years. Mr. Hamilton's work was chiefly concerned with section technique, the morphological aspects of cancer, and the establishment of standards in blood examination.

#### New Glasgow Professor

Professor George Barger, who at present occupies the chair of chemistry in relation to medicine at Edinburgh University, has been appointed regius professor of chemistry at the University of Glasgow in place of Professor George Gerald Henderson, who has resigned as from September 30. Professor Barger, who was born in 1878, was a Fellow of King's College, Cambridge, from 1904 to 1910, and head of the chemical department, Goldsmith's College, from 1909 to 1913. In the latter year he became professor of chemistry at the Royal Holloway College, University of London, and a year later chemist on the staff of the Medical Research Committee. In 1919 he was appointed to the newly instituted chair of chemistry in relation to medicine at the University of Edinburgh. Professor Barger has carried out much research in organic chemistry, and is the author of several books dealing with this subject, including one on *Organic Chemistry for Medical Students*, published in 1932, and a work on *Ergot and Ergotism*. In 1928 he delivered the course of Baker Lectures at Cornell University, and of Dohme Lectures at the Johns Hopkins University in the United States. He was awarded the Hanbury medal of the Pharmaceutical Society in 1934 and the Longstaff medal of the Chemical Society in 1936.

## IRELAND

### Health of Belfast

Four principal subjects are dealt with in the report on the health of the county borough of Belfast for 1936 by Dr. C. S. Thomson, medical superintendent officer of health. An account is first given of the work of mosquito control in the three prolific breeding grounds in the area. Dr. Thomson says that mosquitos are not only a serious annoyance but a danger to health in view of the possibility of sepsis following upon bites. The salt marsh mosquito (*Aedes detritus*) is chiefly responsible. A staff of five men is kept continually at work oiling the breeding places with waste motor oil collected from city garages. Another new health enterprise is immunization against diphtheria, a work which started in October last, but has been so vigorously undertaken that within little more than six months 4,215 children completed the immunization course. The annual notifications of diphtheria in Belfast in the last seven years have varied from some 400 to 1,200, and the deaths from thirteen to fifty-five. Dr. Thomson looks forward to an immunization rate during the next five years of about 27,000 a year. On the subject of housing he points out that Belfast is comparatively a modern city, without the large areas of wretched housing to be seen elsewhere; nevertheless there are some 2,000 houses which should be demolished, and it is hoped to accomplish this clearance by degrees. An encouraging report is given on maternity and child welfare. In the hospitals and municipal clinics 5,165 first ante-natal examinations were made, and there were 17,885 subsequent visits, plus an unascertained amount of private ante-natal supervision by medical men. The birth rate was 21.2 per 1,000, and the death rate 14.2, the one slightly below and the other slightly above the average of the last ten years. The infant mortality rate was 101 per 1,000 births.

## INDIA

### Research at the Calcutta School of Tropical Medicine

In 1936 the research investigations at the Calcutta School of Tropical Medicine were on malaria transmission, indigenous drugs, drug addiction, medical mycology, helminthology, anaemia of women, kala-azar, cholera, and special studies of epidemic dropsy, leprosy, and filaria. A case of agranulocytosis was discovered in Calcutta, one of the first to be reported in India. The patient had been in the habit of taking an amyldopyrine derivative, and succumbed before nucleotide therapy could be tried. In the annual report of this institution for 1936 it is mentioned that the bacteriophage-therapy investigation as regards cholera has now been completed, 1,748 patients having been watched. Analysis of the results indicated that this procedure in cholera has a definite therapeutic value. Attempts are in progress to determine the mode of action of quinine and atebirin on *Plasmodium knowlesi*. It has been shown that a 1 in 50,000 atebirin solution can destroy the parasites even when the infection is very heavy. The smears of blood kept in contact with atebirin for twenty-four hours showed degenerative changes in them, and a susceptible host (*Silenus rhesus*) inoculated with this mixture was not infected. But a much stronger solution of quinine (1 in 10,000) failed to kill the parasites. In the pharmacological department work was continued on the pharmacology of snake venoms and camphor compounds, chemotherapeutic studies were performed with regard to the action of atebirin in monkey malaria and the atebirin-plasmoquine combination in human malaria, and new and efficient methods were elaborated for the estimation of atebirin and lecithin in the blood. A number of inorganic compounds used in Hindu medicine were investigated, as well as many medicinal plants. The data on hemp drug additions are now being analysed. Important research work has been conducted on the distribution of blood groups in the Indian Army, and a technique has been evolved for the determination of blood groups from stains. A clinical trial of a special vaccine prepared from virulent cultures of two types of pneumococcus isolated in Assam gave encouraging results clinically; in a series of twenty-three cases there was only one death. It has been shown also that there is a type of severe macrocytic anaemia prevalent on the east side of India, which, unlike the microcytic anaemia, can be cured by the giving of a rich well-balanced diet. The previous work of Professor L. E. Napier had shown that the microcytic anaemia common among coolies was uninfluenced by the introduction of a good diet, and was cured only when iron was given. In collaboration with Dr. Wilson an investigation is being continued to ascertain which particular dietetic factor is responsible for improvement in the macrocytic cases. Leprolin and diathermy have been tried for the relief of neuritis in leprosy, as well as the injection of colloidal copper, cobra venoms, and hydriocarpus preparations around the nerves and into the affected areas. A careful study of the tuberculoid type of leprosy has been made, and its recognition and differentiation from ordinary leprous infiltration in the skin has been found to be very important from the point of view of prognosis. No evidence has yet been obtained of the growth of lepra bacilli in tissue cultures. It has been shown that there are patients suffering from cholera and passing typical rice-water stools in whom, despite very extensive research, only non-agglutinable vibrios can be found. In diabetic subjects it has been found that the degree of hypercholesterolaemia is a much more satisfactory index of the severity of the disease than is any one of the other single factors, including hyperglycaemia. It was only cases with marked hypercholesterolaemia that had complications such as arteriosclerosis and retinitis. Sexual immaturity seemed to be very closely associated with diabetes.

### Madras Government Ophthalmic Hospital

During 1936 treatment was given to 31,609 out-patients at the Madras Ophthalmic Hospital and there were 4,391 new in-patients. The surplus sick were as usual accommodated in the verandas. Twenty-four beds are available for European and Anglo-Indian patients, and 146 for Indians, so that the accommodation is at times very strained. In the twelve months under review 2,954 patients were discharged as cured and 1,197 as relieved; there were eight deaths. The commonest pathological conditions were senile cataract; chronic, angular, and acute conjunctivitis; glaucoma; errors of refraction; corneal opacities and ulcerations; pterygium; diseases of the eyelids; and presbyopia. The large range of eye disorders dealt with renders this institution a particularly valuable centre for the training of medical students and postgraduates, of whom there were 231 and twenty-three respectively. The daily average attendance of patients was rather smaller than in 1935, and there were consequent reductions in the expenditure on drugs and dietaries. Establishment costs increased slightly but less was spent on the buildings. The number of surgical operations performed in 1936 was 8,162. Lens extractions were common, and other procedures included operations on the lachrymal sac and nasal duct and on the eyeball and ocular conjunctiva. Cauterization of the cornea was another frequent procedure, as was also the treatment of prolapsed iris. Radium treatment was given for certain ophthalmic new growths with considerable success.

## FRANCE

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT IN PARIS]

### International Medical Meetings

The summer of 1937 stands out as remarkable for the number and importance of the international medical meetings held in Paris in connexion with the Exhibition. There must have been scores of such meetings, and some of the doctors who attempted to attend several may well be excused if the orgy they indulged in has left them a trifle confused although enlightened. Some overlapping was, of course, inevitable, but on the whole the organization of these meetings has given satisfaction and also the impression that the Gallic taste for orderliness is as keen as ever. At the cost of making what may seem invidious distinctions, reference will be made here to only a few of these meetings.

Under the presidency of Professor Laignel-Lavastine, the first International Congress of Neo-Hippocratic Medicine enjoyed the patronage of the Paris faculty of medicine and was attended by many of the most distinguished members of the medical profession, the President of the Academy of Sciences, the President of the Academy of Medicine, the deans of the faculties of medicine and pharmacy of Paris, and many others. The sixteenth annual International Neurological Congress was opened on July 8 under the auspices of the faculty of medicine and the presidency of Professor Barré of Strasbourg. Altogether nine main reports were presented whose principal theme was pain as a neurological problem.

### QUACKERY AND PUBLIC HEALTH

Les Journées Internationales de la Santé Publique occupied half a score of days and embraced a wide range of subjects grouped under ten different sections. Special mention may here be made of the sixth section, which dealt with the merchant service and to which the League of Red Cross Societies gave its patronage on account of its interest in the health of the merchant seaman. A most interesting communication was made to this section by

Dr. Bernard of Belgium, who discussed the problem of wireless communications between doctors on shore and ships not carrying a doctor. These Journées included a discussion on quackery, which was held on July 7 under the auspices of the International Committee for Combating Charlatanism. Many of the speakers followed conventional lines, but there was a touch of both unconventionality and audacity in the suggestion of one speaker that the out-and-out quack might be less of a danger to the community than the fully qualified doctor with the "soul of a charlatan." When such a man "covered" unqualified medical practice the public was sore put to it to escape fleeing. Another speaker advocated the complete prohibition of written and wireless publicity in favour of quack treatment, this prohibition to be extended to the cinema and luminous advertisements. Publications not exclusively devoted to medicine or pharmacy were not to advertise prophylactic or therapeutic devices, and touting through the mail was to be forbidden. It was also proposed that a quackery commission should be appointed, and that on it should be represented the Conseil Supérieur d'Hygiène and other important bodies. Yet another suggestion concerned the supervision and regulation of titles and claims to special knowledge of certain subjects, the term "specialist" to be earned, not just self-bestowed. The most reassuring feature of this discussion was the tribute paid to the sickness insurance scheme—Assurances Sociales.

From July 19 to 25, and in the presence of a distinguished gathering, the International Congress of Mental Hygiene was held at the Centre Marcellin-Berthelot. The president was Dr. Toulouse, and a well-known figure was Mr. Clifford Beers, who has done so much to promote the cause of mental hygiene throughout the world. The fact that the President of the Republic was represented at this congress was only one of many signs indicative of its importance.

### The New Minister of Public Health

M. Henri Sellier, Minister of Public Health in the Blum Cabinet, has been succeeded by M. Marc Rucart, whose recent public utterances have inevitably reflected the sombre condition of French finance at the present time. Sellier may have been an expensive Minister of Public Health, but what a driving and enterprising force he proved himself to be! It is to be feared that in many fields he may have put his hand to the plough in vain because the Blum Government had not taken Micawber's law of balanced accounts sufficiently to heart. It is to be hoped, however, that the reforms connected with prostitution and venereal disease will yet materialize, at any rate in so far as they do not drain the public purse too openly. Rucart's future achievements must be judged with a leniency inspired by knowledge of the limited financial means at his disposal.

G. S. Hall (*J. Neurol. Psychopath.*, January, 1937, p. 262) points out that chronic subdural haematoma is not a rare clinical entity, and should be distinguished from the acute type. He records four cases which he encountered in one year. Increased intracranial pressure did not occur in all the cases, but it was found that the symptoms depended on the degree of increase in the intracranial pressure present. This in turn depended on the age of the patient, the younger patients having the highest pressure. A review of the literature supports the view that the clinical picture of the condition and the occurrence of raised intracranial pressure are both determined by the age period in which the lesion develops. In infancy the pressure is so high that the condition mimics "idiopathic" hydrocephalus. In middle life the picture is one of increased intracranial pressure, while in later life the condition is difficult to recognize, as the pressure is not raised at all.

possessed both these qualities. During his long term of office there was great development in the social services of the borough. The public health department, when his term of office expired in April last, embraced clinics for minor ailments and for the eye, ear, teeth, orthopaedics, and anti-diphtheria inoculation. The maternity and child welfare work was very well organized, extensive, and successful. Dr. Kirkhope was keen on his work and a friend to the members of his staff, medical and clerical. Because he was capable and straight he won their confidence and inspired their loyalty. He could make a good speech, and he wrote clear and good English, as can be seen from his annual reports. He was also a skilled musician. He will be missed especially by the older members of the community. Those of us who were regularly in touch with him will look back with gratitude to him for good advice, ready help, and friendliness.

**MELVILLE MORTIMER ADAMS, M.B., B.S.,**  
Pretoria

The death on August 6 of Dr. M. M. Adams came as a great shock to his many friends. Dr. Adams was a Transvaaler by birth, being born in Lydenburg on November 26, 1884. He was at school in Pretoria, subsequently joining the King Edward Grammar School, Chelmsford, where he remained until he matriculated at London University. His medical studies were at Guy's Hospital, where he remained until he qualified with the English Conjoint diplomas M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. In 1912, having taken the degrees of M.B., B.S.Lond., he returned to Pretoria and became house-surgeon to the Pretoria Hospital. At the outbreak of the great war he was with the South African Forces in South-West Africa. On the completion of that campaign in 1915 he returned to Pretoria for a short time, but in the same year he went to England and joined the R.A.M.C. as a lieutenant. He was sent to Gallipoli, and later was attached to Lovat's Scouts in Egypt. At the end of 1916 he was attached to the 2nd South African Infantry with the rank of captain. He was in France in June, 1918, and was present at the actions at Beaurevoir and Le Cateau. He was demobilized in Capetown in October, 1919, and returning to Pretoria went into general practice, which he continued to his death.

Dr. Adams was for many years on the honorary visiting staff of the Pretoria General Hospital and was honorary lecturer to the nurses there until his death. He was at one time president, and previously secretary, of the Pretoria Division of the S.A.M.A. (B.M.A.). He was a prominent Freemason and a Past Master of the Transvaal Lodge E.C. He was an enthusiastic golfer, and belonged to nearly all the golf clubs in Pretoria. His funeral was attended by a large contingent of the hospital nurses in uniform, by his colleagues of the visiting staff, and by representatives of all sections of the community.

H. P. V.

We announce with regret the death, at the age of 40, of Dr. William Melrose Cumming. Dr. Cumming took the M.B., Ch.B. at St. Andrews in 1922, and since his interests were even at that time in public health, and particularly in the treatment of tuberculosis, he went on to take the D.P.H. in 1925, the Ph.D. in 1926, and finally the M.D. with a gold medal in 1927. He was for a short time assistant to the Professor of Bacteriology at University College, Dundee, and later became assistant medical superintendent of the Fife and Kinross Joint Sanatorium. After that he was for a short time senior assistant medical officer to the Grove Park Hospital, Lee. He was appointed medical superintendent of the Grassington Sanatorium in

May, 1926, and was succeeded by Dr. R. S. Donaldson in June, 1935. His publications included an article on the serology of the bovine type of tubercle bacillus, published in 1925, the results of some work done two years later on the pseudo-haemolytic streptococci isolated from the sputum in pulmonary tuberculosis, and more recently he contributed to a symposium on the infectivity of tuberculosis, which appeared in the *British Journal of Tuberculosis* in 1932.

The death of Dr. ANTOINE BÉCLÈRE robs France of one of her most gifted and versatile radiologists. As a young man he was already beginning to make his mark in bacteriology when Röntgen's discovery of the x rays induced him to throw all his energies into this field in which he played so distinguished a part that he became president of the Société de Radiologie de France. He was also at one time president of the French Academy of Medicine. Only a few years before his death Béclère took up with much enthusiasm the work of his younger days and published bacteriological studies, several of which were concerned with influenza.

## The Services

### DIRECTOR-GENERAL, A.M.S.

The War Office announces that Major-General W. P. MacArthur, D.S.O., O.B.E., M.D., D.Sc., F.R.C.P., F.R.C.P.I., Honorary Physician to the King, has been selected to succeed Lieutenant-General Sir James A. Hartigan, K.C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., M.B., D.Ch., Honorary Physician to the King, as Director-General of Army Medical Services when the latter completes his tenure of office on March 1, 1938.

General MacArthur graduated in the Royal University of Ireland from Queen's College, Belfast, in 1908 and was commissioned in the R.A.M.C. in 1909. For his services in the great war he was awarded the D.S.O. in 1916 and the O.B.E. in 1919. Since then he has held the appointments of Professor of Tropical Medicine at the Royal Army Medical College, Consulting Physician to the Army, Deputy Director-General at the War Office, and Commandant and Director of Studies at the Royal Army Medical College, which appointment he now holds. He was appointed Honorary Physician to the King in 1930. He was elected Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland in 1913 and of the London College this year. He is an honorary D.Sc. of Queen's University, Belfast. He was Thomas Vicary Lecturer before the Royal College of Surgeons of England in 1931, and Chadwick Medallist in 1935.

### DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL, I.M.S.

Lieut.-Colonel E. G. Kennedy has been appointed Deputy Director-General, Indian Medical Service.

### ARMY DENTAL SERVICES

The War Office announces that Colonel D. Clewer, Inspector of Army Dental Services in India, has been selected for appointment as Director, Army Dental Services, The War Office, in succession to the late Colonel J. V. M. Byrne.

### DEATHS IN THE SERVICES

Colonel THOMAS EVELYN FIELDING, D.S.O., late R.A.M.C., died at Hindhead on August 9, aged 65. He was born on July 27, 1872, and educated at Trinity College, Dublin, where he graduated B.A., M.B., B.Ch., and B.A.O. in 1897. Entering the R.A.M.C. as lieutenant on April 25, 1900, he became lieutenant-colonel on December 26, 1917, and retired as colonel in 1930. He served in the South African War of 1900-2, when he took part in operations in the Transvaal, the Orange River Colony, and Cape Colony, served in the defence of Fort Itaka, on the Zululand border of Natal, in October, 1901, was mentioned in dispatches in the *London Gazette* of September 10, 1901, and January 17, 1902, and received the Queen's medal with three clasps and the King's medal with two clasps. In the war of 1914-18 he served as A.D.M.S. of the 28th

Division in the Salonika Force in the army of the Black Sea and in Constantinople, was mentioned in dispatches in the *London Gazette* of October 19, 1914, and June 25, 1915, and received the D.S.O.

Surgeon Captain WILLIAM BASTIAN, R.N. (retired), died in University College Hospital, after five weeks' illness, on August 2, aged 62. He was the third son of the late Dr. H. Charlton Bastian, F.R.S., and was educated at University College School, Hampstead, and at University College Hospital, and qualified M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. in 1900. After qualifying he joined the Navy, became surgeon commander on August 2, 1914, and retired as surgeon captain on June 8, 1925. Captain Bastian was particularly interested in the problem of prevention of venereal disease in the Navy. He served during the war of 1914-18. He had been a member of the British Medical Association since 1907, and served on the Naval Medical Service Subcommittee in 1919-20. Since his retirement he had resided at Loughborough. He leaves a widow, one son, and two daughters.

## Universities and Colleges

### UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

Titles of medical degrees were conferred by diploma on the following members of Girton and Newnham Colleges during July:

M.B., B.CHIR.—M. B. Billington, G. M. S. Caldwell.  
M.B.—E. M. Wright.

### UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

A course of lectures and clinical instruction for medical practitioners on problems connected with retarded and difficult children has been arranged by the University Extension and Tutorial Classes Council, in co-operation with the Central Association for Mental Welfare, and will be held from Monday, November 1, to Saturday, November 6. The course is open to those medical practitioners who have already attended the course on mental deficiency and allied conditions, or who have specialized experience approved for the purpose of the course. The lectures will be delivered at the University of London, Senate House, Montague Place, W.C., unless otherwise stated on the students' time-tables, and will be given from 10 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. each day. Detailed time-tables will be sent by October 26 to each person proposing to attend the course, and in order that the practical work may be satisfactorily arranged it is important that forms of application should be filled in and returned not later than October 9. The University will grant certificates of attendance to those who attend regularly taking both theoretical and practical work. The registration fee is 10s. 6d. and the fee for the course £3 3s. All communications should be addressed to Miss Evelyn Fox, c/o University Extension Department, University of London, W.C.1.

### SOCIETY OF APOTHECARIES OF LONDON

The following candidates have passed in the subjects indicated:

**SURGERY.**—J. B. Alexander, F. Bastawros, J. D. Buckner, I. W. Claiman, T. Gadian, J. B. Good, W. A. Groom, E. de C. Kite, B. W. S. Spurgin, A. T. Rogers, W. E. Young.

**MEDICINE.**—A. A. Beazeley, T. Gadian, O. D. Gilmore, H. W. John, K. G. Pascall, T. van der Walt.

**FORENSIC MEDICINE.**—A. A. Beazeley, T. Gadian, O. D. Gilmore, B. T. Jones, K. G. Pascall, T. van der Walt.

**MIDWIFERY.**—H. P. Anderson, A. Backman, J. A. W. Berryman, H. B. O. Cardew, D. H. Fowler, M. W. Hemans, D. C. Light, G. MacBain, T. van der Walt.

The diploma of the Society has been granted to A. A. Beazeley, I. W. Claiman, O. D. Gilmore, H. W. John, E. de C. Kite, K. G. Pascall, and T. van der Walt.

### ROYAL FACULTY OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS OF GLASGOW

At a meeting of the Royal Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow, held on September 6, with Professor Archibald Young, the president, in the chair, the following were admitted Fellows of Faculty: Paresch Nath Baruah, M.B., Alfred Finlay Brown, M.B., Ch.B., Enrique Eduardo Krapf, M.D., Edwin Stewart Lawrie, M.B., Ch.B.

## Medical News

The eleventh Congress of the Société Internationale de Chirurgie will be held in Vienna from September 19 to September 22, 1938, under the presidency of Professor Rudolph Matas of New Orleans.

All qualified medical practitioners interested in plastic surgery are invited to attend the second European Congress of Stricture (Plastic) Surgery, which is to be held at the Royal Society of Medicine, London, on October 6 and 7. The office of the congress is at 149, Harley Street, W.1, to which acceptances of the invitation, accompanied by the congress subscription of £1 and requests to join in the discussions, should be forwarded not later than September 25.

The first world congress on the human voice will be held during the Paris Exhibition from September 19 to 28 in the Health of Jena and the Marcelin Berthelot centre. The programme will consist of two parts—namely, the production, accomplishments, and education of the direct voice, and the microphone voice.

An International Congress of Anaesthetics will be held at Chicago from October 25 to 28, and will be followed by a supplementary congress at the University of Wisconsin. Further information can be obtained from the general secretary, Dr. D. F. McMechan, 318, Hotel Westlake, Rocky River, Ohio.

The annual dinner of the old students of the Medical College of St. Bartholomew's Hospital will be held on Friday, October 1, in the College Hall, Charterhouse Square, at 7.30 p.m., with Dr. C. M. Hinds Howell in the chair.

The annual dinner of the Middlesex Hospital Medical School will be held at the Savoy Hotel on Friday, October 1, at 7.30 p.m.

The annual prize distribution of St. George's Hospital Medical School will be held in the board room of the hospital on Saturday, October 2, at 3 p.m., when Dr. W. R. Halliday, principal of King's College, London, will deliver the inaugural address.

The William Gibson Research Scholarship for Medical Women of the Royal Society of Medicine has been awarded to Dr. Nancy E. G. Richardson of London. Dr. Richardson proposes to carry out research on carbohydrate metabolism in pregnant and lactating women in relation to the principles secreted by the anterior lobe of the pituitary.

The *Proceedings* of the Staff Meetings of the Mayo Clinic of July 28 contains an announcement that the residence of Dr. and Mrs. W. J. Mayo is to be converted into an establishment to assist the educational aims of the Mayo Foundation and of the University of Minnesota. The residence and the east half of the block on which it stands will be transferred by deed for the Foundation to a board of trustees, and Dr. Mayo intends to endow the property sufficiently to prevent taxes and general maintenance becoming a burden on the Foundation.

A serious outbreak of infantile paralysis in Melbourne (Australia) is reported in the *Times* of August 30. Up to August 29 the total number of cases was 185, with thirteen deaths, including four adults. Over 100 schools have been closed, and special education broadcasts have been arranged for children kept at home by their parents. Country areas are demanding that children arriving from Melbourne shall be isolated, and Tasmania is making a similar stipulation. A police force has been sent from Sydney to patrol the Victorian border to prevent the entry into New South Wales of children without medical certificates of twenty-one days' isolation.