

platysma or infrathyroid muscles. In every case in this series a one-stage subtotal resection had been done, and it was his belief that the less thyroid left behind the less the likelihood of a post-operative crisis or residual symptoms. He had found that he was draining fewer and fewer cases, and that the most perfect scar was given by interrupted eversion sutures of silkworm gut removed on the second or third day after operation. Mr. Oldham admitted that he followed the usual habit of giving iodine after operation, though he failed to see the logic of this provided full iodination had been produced before operation and a sufficient amount of the gland had been removed.

Carbohydrate Metabolism

Dr. ROBERT COOPE discussed the association of hyperthyroidism with disturbances of the pancreatic function. In 1912 Cohn and Peiser recorded five cases of inflammation of the pancreas accompanied by hyperthyroidism, while Holst, Garrod, and several other writers had described cases of hyperthyroidism in which at necropsy atrophy and other lesions of the pancreas were revealed. The association of glycosuria with hyperthyroidism was moderately common, but when looked for over a large series of cases was by no means as frequent as was sometimes assumed. John (1928) found hyperglycaemia in less than 10 per cent. of his cases of hyperthyroidism, and noted that the loss of sugar tolerance did not run at all parallel with the severity of the hyperthyroidism. In his experience true diabetes mellitus accompanied by hyperthyroidism was very rare. In the last few years he had seen only three diabetics, all under 35, in whom careful examination revealed a real but quite mild hyperthyroidism. They were given x-ray therapy to the thyroid gland; two of them who previously needed 12 to 15 units of insulin daily to keep them "standardized" were afterwards able to take the same controlled diet without any insulin, while the third was enabled to reduce his daily dose from 50 to 17 units. They were "cured" of their hyperthyroidism, but they still remained diabetics.

Mr. PHILIP HAWE, Professor JOHN HAY, Dr. T. F. HEWER, and Dr. G. F. RAWDON SMITH also contributed to the discussion, which was concluded by Dr. ROBERT KEMP. Dr. Kemp said that in a group of ninety cases followed up after operation it was found that in 70 to 80 per cent. of the "nodular toxic group" a "complete cure" had resulted, whereas there were residual symptoms in all but 30 to 40 per cent. of the "diffuse toxic group." The toxicosis of a nodular goitre seemed mainly thyrogenic, so that thyroidectomy was fairly rational and gave good results. On the other hand, the picture of diffuse toxic goitre resembled the experimentally produced "pituitary thyrotoxicosis." Here, where the principal mechanism was untouched, operation was not so likely to be successful, and it was in such cases that Loeser's anti-thyrotropic substance would probably be of great value. At the same meeting Dr. J. M. H. SMELLIE described in detail a most interesting case of acute myelogenous leukaemia.

The Berliner Akademie für ärztliche Fortbildung has arranged a number of international medical postgraduate courses for the spring of 1938, beginning on February 21. Most of these courses are held in German, but special courses will be given also in foreign languages. Programmes and further information may be had from the administrative headquarters of the Akademie für ärztliche Fortbildung, Robert-Koch-Platz 7 (Kaiserin Friedrich-Haus), Berlin, N.W.7. Foreign practitioners and German doctors resident abroad are granted a reduction of fare of 60 per cent. on the German railway company's lines; a foreign doctor can reduce the cost of his stay considerably by utilizing "registered marks"; it is advisable to arrange matters with the local bank before starting.

Local News

ENGLAND AND WALES

Inquiry into Croydon Typhoid Epidemic

The Ministry of Health states that the inquiry to examine the causes leading up to the outbreak of typhoid fever in Croydon, and the steps taken to deal with it, will open at the Town Hall, Croydon, on Monday, December 6, at 11 a.m. As already announced, it will be held by Mr. H. L. Murphy, K.C., who will have as assessors Sir Humphry Rolleston, Bt., M.D., and Mr. H. J. F. Gourley, M.Inst.C.E. The inquiry will be a public one, and Mr. Murphy will be prepared to receive the evidence of any persons interested in the subject-matter of the inquiry.

Voluntary Blood Donors

The fifth annual dinner of the Voluntary Blood Donors Association took place on November 25, with the chairman, Mr. A. J. Carpenter, presiding. More than 200 people were present, of whom 122 were members of the service, accounting for 4 per cent. of the blood donors in the country. It was mentioned that these 122 members had between them given 1,726 transfusions, an average of 15 per donor. A message was read from the King, assuring the members of his deep interest in their splendid and self-sacrificing service. The toast of "The Visitors" was proposed by Mr. A. M. A. Moore, F.R.C.S., and responded to by Sir Kaye Le Fleming, M.D., Chairman of Council of the British Medical Association, who referred to the common bond of interest between the medical profession and the blood donors in their solicitude for the patient. The medical profession, he said, was a little apt to give service freely without expecting much acknowledgement, and that was their only excuse for not more generously acknowledging in a public way the splendid service rendered by blood donors. Sir Kaye Le Fleming went on to suggest that the service given by members of the Voluntary Blood Donors Association was likely to develop in ways which up to now had not been realized. After recovery from a disease the blood was, so to speak, "educated" for the particular complaint. Perhaps it might prove desirable to arrange for a further grouping of donors in relation to the diseases from which they had successfully recovered. Results obtained in the treatment of measles showed that serum from a person recently recovered from the disease was of more value than serum from one who had had measles at some earlier time. Mr. P. L. Oliver, secretary of the Blood Transfusion Service of the British Red Cross Society, said that he had recently attended the International Blood Transfusion Congress in Paris (of which a report appeared in the *Journal* of November 6, p. 923), and after learning of the practice in other countries, he could only say that his belief in the voluntary service obtaining here had in no way diminished. In their own service it had been decided that four transfusions a year was the maximum which a male donor should be allowed to give, and that females should only serve after four-monthly intervals. He added, in view of what Sir Kaye Le Fleming had said, that it had been possible to prepare a short list of adults who had had measles and whose blood was available for prophylaxis in connexion with that complaint. Mr. A. J. Carpenter said that the association was representative mostly of the London service, and had been formed to safeguard the interests of blood donors and to co-operate in making the service as efficient as possible. It had been suggested that the sphere of usefulness of blood donors was likely to be widened. There was certainly much more research to be done, and the association was proud to have the services of Dr. Brewer, Mr. Moore, and Dr. Riddell as members of a technical subcommittee to inquire into future possibilities. Dr. H. F. Brewer, medical

officer to the association, said that a point of interest noted at the Paris Congress was that the delegates were unanimously agreed that blood groups, once established, remained constant. In the matter of storage of blood the service in this country was backward. Citrated blood could be given with safety to a patient two or three days after removal from a donor, but there was little first-hand knowledge or experience of the use of blood kept for a fortnight or so. Citrated blood was being used in France and Spain up to fifteen days after collection.

Sheffield Medical Dinner

The annual dinner of the medical profession in Sheffield was held at the Royal Victoria Hotel on November 25, when Professor A. E. Barnes presided over a gathering of about one hundred and sixty. This year for the first time the wives of members and other lay guests were invited. The chief guests were to have been Dr. Halliday Sutherland and Dr. Gilbert Forbes, the recently appointed police surgeon of Sheffield, but Dr. Forbes was prevented from attending. Dr. A. Gurney Yates, in proposing the toast of "Our Guests," welcomed Dr. Sutherland as his contemporary and fellow graduate at Edinburgh University. He had done pioneer work in the branch of medicine that he had made his own. He had won fame, too, in other fields, having led a life of adventure, and written some delightful books—that were never dry—which many of them had read. He had the faculty of keen observation, and "a wonderful facility for manipulating with the hand of an artist the light and shade of human affairs." Referring to Dr. Gilbert Forbes, Dr. Yates said that he too was a Scot, for whom he prophesied a distinguished career and who could be assured of the support of his colleagues in Sheffield. Dr. Halliday Sutherland, replying to the toast, thanked them for the honour done him and said that these dinners were of real value in bringing the members of the profession into personal contact. One of the biggest of our troubles in the present day was the future of general practice. It was a modern heresy that every change meant progress. It would be a very bad thing if the general practitioner ceased to practise and became a mere cipher. So many things were being taken over by the municipal health services or by the State, and less and less was getting left for the general practitioner to do. Speaking of hospitals, Dr. Sutherland said that in London most of the old hospitals were antiquated buildings, built on highly expensive sites, and in the midst of petrol-laden air. "It is time, and more than time, that the old sites were sold and the hospitals were rebuilt in the green belt amidst the comparatively open country around London." At the same time it would be well if the plurality of appointments held by some members of their staffs were given up, so as to make room for others. The toast of "The Chairman" was proposed by Dr. A. Bremner, and in replying Professor Barnes referred to the debt which the profession in Sheffield owed to the secretaries of their various organizations—the Sheffield Division of the B.M.A., the Panel Committee, and the Yorkshire Branch of the B.M.A.—and particularly on this occasion to Dr. T. E. Gumpert, the secretary of the medical dinner committee.

Society of Apothecaries

A Yeomanry Dinner of the Society of Apothecaries was held at the hall of the society on November 23. After the loyal toasts had been drunk, Mr. H. L. Eason, Principal of the University of London, proposed "The Society of Apothecaries." Mr. Eason said that the society had been founded about 1617, and he quoted several authors whose writings bore upon the traditions which it had maintained from that time up to the present day, the authors he referred to ranging from John Earle in 1628 to Robert Louis Stevenson and Earl Baldwin. In responding to this toast the Master, Mr. Hugh Lett, said that the last twelve months in the society's history had been made remarkable by the conferment of the freedom of the society upon

Lord Nuffield and Sir Farquhar Buzzard, on whose shoulders had fallen the onerous responsibilities involved in the administration of Lord Nuffield's munificent gift to Oxford. He traced the history of the Apothecaries' Society, particularly so far as it concerned the gradual advancement of medical education. It was the society that had initiated the process of "signing up" which had so often taxed the ingenuity of students and the credulity of deans of medical faculties. The present curriculum he thought overloaded, so much so that it was becoming questionable as to how far cramming was being encouraged at the expense of the culture of thought and reason. The Senior Warden, Dr. Reginald H. Hayes, proposed "The Guests," and delighted his listeners with the story of the lozenge which Mr. Justice Hawkins gave to Professor Pepper, and which did so much to enhance the reputation of the old pharmacy of the apothecaries in Water Lane. Among the many distinguished guests were Professor R. J. Johnstone, President of the British Medical Association, Sir John Megaw, Surgeon Vice-Admiral P. T. Nicholls, Sir Arthur MacNalty, Lieut.-General Sir James Hartigan, Sir George Chrystal, Sir Francis Fremantle, Sir Buckston Browne, and Air Vice-Marshal Sir Alfred Iredell, with the deans of sixteen medical schools, and the presidents of the Medical Society of London, the Harveian Society, the Society of Medical Officers of Health, and the Pharmaceutical Society. On their behalf Mr. Justice Humphreys, president of the Medico-Legal Society, and Mr. E. A. Crook, dean of the Charing Cross Hospital Medical School, replied to the Senior Warden's toast.

Radium Beam Therapy Department in Birmingham

On November 26 a department of radium beam therapy research was opened at the General Hospital, Birmingham, by Sir Cuthbert Wallace, P.R.C.S. This is the latest development in a programme of extension and modernization of the department of radiation therapy begun in 1934. The unit at present contains two grammes of radium, of which one gramme has been presented to the hospital by Lord Austin, while the second gramme has been lent by the National Radium Commission, who have also promised to lend a further gramme in six months' time. The apparatus has been designed in collaboration with Radium Beam Therapy Research, and incorporates the results of their experiences, together with such improvements, particularly in methods of distance control, as make it one of the best in the country. Special attention has been given to safeguarding the patients and the staff from injury by unnecessary radiation, and allowance has been made in this respect for a possible increase to twenty grammes in two units at a later date. This part of the design was made considerably easier by the fact that a "bungalow" type of ward, separate from the main hospital, was made available for the installation of the unit. The radium itself when not in use is housed in a lead safe, with walls ten inches thick, and is conveyed to the container, after it has been suitably adjusted to the patient, by air pressure, and is returned to the safe automatically, by vacuum, on the completion of the treatment period. The "beam" is produced by means of an opening in the lead container, to which is fitted an applicator made from special tungsten alloy developed as a result of research by the General Electric Company in their laboratories at Wembley. This alloy, while possessing a very high protective value, has considerable advantages in price over both platinum and gold (a pound of it costs roughly twenty shillings), and is far superior to lead in toughness and density, so that it provides an admirable material at a reasonable price where protection without bulk is required, as, for example, in approaching any concave surface, such as the root of the neck or the submental region. It would appear, therefore, that this alloy, by providing for more strict localization of the beam, with less bulk than has hitherto been possible, may present a distinct advance in the design of beam therapy apparatus. Three movements of the beam are available, as in the

Stockholm and Radium Beam Therapy Research units. The amount of radium available will make it possible to work with a radium-surface distance of eight and a half centimetres. It is, of course, important to make this distance as great as is compatible with a treatment time which the patient can tolerate, so as to improve the relationship between the surface and deep intensities (that is, to improve the tumour dose, as compared with the dose to overlying skin).

Manchester Joint Hospitals Board

The second annual report of the Manchester Joint Hospitals Advisory Board gives evidence of the valuable work which is being done by a board so constituted as to include representatives of the City Council of Manchester, the Voluntary Hospitals Council, the University, and the local Division of the British Medical Association. Statistics are being compiled and questionnaires are being sent out which, when collected, will give all the information necessary for the consideration of the problem of reducing hospital waiting lists. The possibility of overlapping in the waiting lists of the various hospitals has been gone into, and, surprisingly enough, it appears that no more than eight patients have their names on the waiting lists of two or more hospitals in Manchester. A point that will be of importance in the compilation of future statistics is the need for a system of nomenclature in the classification of diseases which will be used by all the hospitals with which the Board is concerned. The Board has further considered the question of the unification of orthopaedic services, and an account of the working of the fracture service of the Royal Infirmary has received consideration. There were approximately 5,400 new fracture cases dealt with in Manchester during 1935, and from an analysis prepared by Mr. Harry Platt it is estimated that in each future year there will be at least 5,000 new fracture cases. Figures taken from the records of the fracture clinic at the Infirmary reveal that approximately 18 per cent. of the fractures dealt with follow street accidents in which a moving vehicle is concerned; 12 per cent. are industrial; and 20 per cent. arise as a result of domestic accidents or accidents in the course of sports or games. A question which has been referred to the executive committee of the Board is the reduction of working hours of nurses. Apart from the financial considerations affecting the various hospitals, the whole problem is a difficult one and is inevitably bound up with the larger question of recruitment. No major decision on matters of policy has been arrived at during the year under review, owing to the complexity of the various problems, but it is clear from the report that valuable work is being done, the results of which will become apparent in a few years' time. Copies of the report can be obtained free of charge from the joint honorary secretaries, the Town Clerk, Town Hall, Manchester 2, and Mr. R. L. Newell, M.D., F.R.C.S., 2, St. John Street, Manchester.

Tuberculosis in Lancashire

Dr. G. Lissant Cox, central tuberculosis officer to the administrative county of Lancashire, states that in 1936 the death rate from pulmonary tuberculosis (0.46 per 1,000) was the same as in 1934 and 1935, the lowest on record, and that the number of new cases reported had again dropped. In regard to non-pulmonary forms the death rate (0.1 per 1,000) was the same as in 1935, the lowest on record, but the number of new cases reported had risen slightly. Diagnosis and treatment of tuberculosis is provided free in the administrative county, and the net expenditure on the tuberculosis services for the year 1936-7 was £195,075, equal to a rate of 4.75d. in the £. Dr. Cox reports the results of an investigation bearing on the diagnosis of tuberculous patients in the early stages of the disease. The records of two groups of patients were analysed (a consecutive number of deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis in the county occur-

ring in 1920, and a corresponding series of deaths in 1935) in regard to: (1) the average duration of illness up to the time of consulting a medical attendant; (2) the average period under the care of the medical attendant before being first examined by the tuberculosis officer; and (3) the average duration of life after examination by the tuberculosis officer. The respective figures found under these three heads were 11.7, 5, and 18.3 months in 1920, and 9.5, 3, and 27.4 months in 1935. The good relations existing between the administrators of the tuberculosis scheme in the county and the general practitioners are illustrated by the fact that 92 per cent. of the new cases (excluding contacts) were sent before notification to the tuberculosis officers for an opinion as to diagnosis and treatment. The excellent work carried out by the dispensaries is shown in the following table, in which are given figures comparing Lancashire with all counties in England calculated per 100 deaths from tuberculosis:

	Lancashire	All counties in England
Total new cases and new contacts diagnosed as suffering from tuberculosis and receiving treatment under the official scheme	162	141
Number of sputum examinations	516	368
Number of x-ray examinations	999	414
Number of home visits by health visitors	4,013	2,542
Number of cases remaining undiagnosed at the end of the year	3	26
Number of cases removed from the dispensary registers as recovered	62	51

The sad note of the report is found in the section on housing conditions. Of 1,856 patients over 15 with the pulmonary form of the disease "considered infectious," 469 occupied a separate bed but not a separate bedroom; and seventy-five not even a separate bed. Among 2,243 similar patients "considered not infectious" the corresponding figures were 440 and 652.

IRELAND

Irish Free State Medical Union (I.M.A. and B.M.A.)

At the last meeting of the Council of the Irish Free State Medical Union, Dr. MacCarvill was elected vice-president for the year 1937-8, and took the chair at the meeting in the absence of the president. It was announced that Mr. C. MacAuley was not prepared to seek re-election as honorary treasurer, and Dr. Frank Lavery (Dublin) was unanimously elected in his stead, the meeting expressing its appreciation to Mr. MacAuley for his past services. Dr. J. P. Shanley was re-elected honorary secretary for the year. The resolution of the annual general meeting instructing the Council to press for a "standard salary" of £300 rising to £500 for all dispensary medical officers was discussed, and after substituting the word "minimum" for "standard" the Council decided to refer the resolution to the Dispensary Medical Officers' Group Committee for consideration and suggestions, and to give full support to that committee should it decide to send a deputation to the Minister for Local Government and Public Health. A series of resolutions from the Connaught Branch were referred to the executive committee, which was given power to take such action as it considered necessary. The resolutions dealt with (1) fees for attendance at inquests and for post-mortem examinations by doctors employed in institutions, and fees and assistance for post-mortem examination by dispensary doctors; (2) fees for dispensary and hospital locumtenents; (3) acceptance by a Board of Health of the substitute nominated by a doctor in the employ of the Board; (4) travelling and subsistence allowances for Council members attending meetings of the Council; and (5) payment of fees to medical attendants in workmen's compensation

cases settled out of court. It was also agreed at this meeting to represent to the Local Appointments Commissioners that dispensary medical officers should be represented on the Selection Boards in the case of dispensary appointments.

A Tribute to Irish General Practitioners

Sir William de C. Wheeler, speaking at a clinical dinner in connexion with the Southend-on-Sea General Hospital on November 23, referred to the role of the general practitioners in the body politic and their heavy responsibilities. He paid a tribute to the work of the general practitioners in Ireland during the period of fighting and unsettled government. He described how the general practitioners in that country had carried out their duties under conditions which would make those trained in the profession of arms shrink and retreat. It was no light matter to travel over roads strewn with mines and explosives at the dead of night, nor was it a joy-ride to go through ambushes and trenches of necessity by forbidden routes. The doctors were often mistaken for combatants and fired on by friends and foes. Some fell wounded, some were killed, others escaped with their cars blown up and destroyed. There was never an instance of refusal to attend a patient when the summons was received. The general practitioner would hold an honoured place when the tempestuous times through which Ireland had passed were chronicled by the future historian. Visits to the Mayo Clinic and the methods adopted by various Continental leaders were subsequently described by Sir William Wheeler, who laid emphasis on the debt of the present generation to British surgeons of the calibre of Macewen, Bland-Sutton, Moynihan, Lane, Trotter, and Stiles.

Typhoid Fever in Donegal

An outbreak of typhoid fever is reported to have taken place among the patients in Donegal Mental Hospital, Letterkenny, an institution housing 700 patients. More than seventy cases had been confirmed at the beginning of this week, with four deaths. The patients include three members of the staff. A preliminary inquiry into the outbreak has been begun by an official from Dublin of the Free State Department of Local Government. The source of the outbreak is declared to be local. According to the *Irish Times* it is attributed to a patient who suffered from typhoid nine years ago and who, on examination, was found to be a carrier.

SCOTLAND

The Edinburgh Chancellorship: Lord Tweedsmuir's Candidature

Two persons have been nominated for the post of Chancellor of the University of Edinburgh, rendered vacant by the death of Sir James Barrie. These are the Marquess of Lothian and Lord Tweedsmuir, now Governor-General of Canada and known throughout the English-speaking world for his writings as John Buchan. At a meeting of the General Council of the University, held on November 26, Lord Tweedsmuir gained a large majority in a vote of members present. A poll was, however, claimed, and voting papers will be issued immediately to all graduates on the printed register of the General Council resident in the United Kingdom. These must be returned not later than December 17. During the proceedings reference was made to the fact that Lord Lothian is a Christian scientist, and to his views on animal experiments. The election of Lord Tweedsmuir was moved by Dr. Edwin Bramwell, who reminded the Council that Lord Tweedsmuir was one of the outstanding Scotsmen of to-day, "one who had done much in the service of the nation, a distinguished scholar, a brilliant man of letters, a man of affairs with a wide administrative experience, a man with a broad outlook whose judgement was universally acknow-

ledged and compelled confidence, a man with influence, who was not only in complete sympathy with, but who took a keen interest in and was necessarily *au fait* with, the requirements of a University. . . . We feel so strongly about Lord Tweedsmuir as an ideal candidate for the post that we are well prepared to wait the two or three years until he retires from his present position." These quotations are from a full report of the meeting in the *Scotsman* of November 27.

Rheumatism Clinic in Aberdeen

At the annual meeting on November 25 of the Aberdeen Branch of the Red Cross Society, the president, the Marchioness of Aberdeen and Temair, said that there was a movement to organize a centre for the treatment of rheumatic disease and for research into its causes, and a desire had been expressed that the Aberdeen district might lead the way in this matter in Scotland. The executive committee of the Scottish Branch of the Red Cross Society, after consultation with Professor Davidson, had resolved to follow the example of the British Red Cross in England, which had established a rheumatism clinic in London that had proved a great success. A grant of £500 had therefore been made for the support of the movement in Scotland. It was proposed in Aberdeen to set up a treatment centre at the new baths, and also a lectureship on the subject at the University, which would lead to further research into the causes of the disease and methods for its prevention and alleviation.

Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh

At the annual meeting on November 24 of the League of Subscribers to the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh it was reported that the executive had considered the question of members of the League who were unable to get immediate treatment in the Royal Infirmary, and who entered a municipal hospital, being asked to pay the fixed charges for treatment. It had been suggested that the Infirmary might pay the city for the treatment of members in municipal hospitals when they could not get admission to the Infirmary. The executive had decided against this proposal. It considered that there was no satisfactory compromise between the present open-door system with contributions freely given without obligation for treatment, and a contributory scheme under which payment would be made only to the hospital giving the treatment to the patient. It was also stated at the meeting that in the past year 21,000 patients had been treated in the Royal Infirmary, of whom 9,482 were from the city of Edinburgh and 11,514 from the counties of Scotland and England. Both expenditure and income had increased during the past year, although no provision had been made for capital expenditure which was going on steadily. Mr. Russell Paton, organizing secretary of the League, said that it might be assumed that a minimum contribution of twopence per week from all sections of wage-earners was essential for the maintenance of the hospitals on a voluntary basis, even when this was supplemented by auxiliary subscriptions, donations, and endowments.

Departmental Committee on Nursing

The Committee recently appointed by the Secretary of State for Scotland to inquire into the recruitment and terms and conditions of service of nurses in Scotland has now held its first meeting, under its new chairman, Lord Alness. The meeting, which was of a preliminary nature, took into consideration the terms of reference, and decided on the procedure to be followed in carrying out the inquiry. The next meeting is fixed for December 16, at which a start will be made with the taking of evidence. The Committee is open to receive evidence on the subject of its inquiry from persons and bodies interested. All communications should be addressed to the Secretary of the Committee, Mr. W. T. Mercer, Department of Health for Scotland, 121A, Princes Street, Edinburgh.

to Dr. David Little, an association which was to be continued for a long period. After seven years in residence there he took the F.R.C.S.Ed. in 1896, and started private practice in Manchester as an ophthalmologist. He became, in succession to Dr. Little, surgeon and later consultant surgeon to the Royal Eye Hospital, and he was a lecturer in ophthalmology and ophthalmic surgeon to the Manchester Royal Infirmary. He did a great deal of pioneer work on the subject of refraction and on the field of vision. A member of the Ophthalmological Society and of the Manchester Medical Society, he had also been a member of the British Medical Association for forty-three years, being appointed secretary of the Section of Ophthalmology at the Annual Meeting in Manchester in 1902 and vice-president of the same Section at Belfast in 1909. He contributed several papers to the specialist journals and a chapter on diseases of the choroid and vitreous to Oliver and Norris's *System of Diseases of the Eye*. Dr. Hill Griffith had a large measure of success in his professional work, and always enjoyed the confidence of his colleagues and his many patients. He was, too, an inspiring teacher, and his postgraduate classes at the Royal Eye Hospital were always among the best-attended. On retiring from active practice he went to live at Woking soon after the war, and developed there the interests he had always maintained in golf and music. He is survived by his younger brother, Dr. T. Wardrop Griffith of Leeds, and by several nephews and nieces.

Universities and Colleges

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

The Faculty Board of Medicine has appointed Dr. G. S. Graham-Smith, Dr. G. H. Orton, Dr. Ff. Roberts, Dr. F. G. Spear, Mr. R. Williamson, Dr. E. P. Cumberbatch, Dr. P. J. Kerley, Dr. W. P. Philip, Dr. R. J. Reynolds, and Professor S. Russ to be members of the Committee for Medical Radiology and Electrology for the year 1938.

Sir Patrick Laidlaw, B.Chir., F.R.C.P., F.R.S., has been appointed Rede Lecturer for 1938.

At a congregation held on November 27 the following medical degrees were conferred:

M.D.—S. K. Sen, J. L. Lovibond, L. P. Marshall.

M.B., B.Chir.—D. H. Davies, *W. H. R. Jeremy, J. R. Owen, C. H. T. Bond, L. R. King, G. G. Ludgater, D. D. Keall.

M.B.—J. F. L. Walley, *E. J. Neill, *T. C. Stamp, F. C. Maddox, A. H. Lankester.

* By proxy.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

The following candidates have been approved at the examination indicated:

POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN PSYCHOLOGICAL MEDICINE.—*With Special Knowledge of Mental Diseases*: D. A. S. Blair. *Part A*: Hilda M. S. Davidson, S. H. Lubner.

QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY, BELFAST

The Senate at its meeting on November 24 conferred the title of Professor Emeritus upon Professor R. J. Johnstone, President of the British Medical Association, who has held the chair of gynaecology from 1920 to 1937.

SOCIETY OF APOTHECARIES OF LONDON

The following candidates have passed in the subjects indicated:

SURGERY.—J. D. Anderson, W. J. Bold, G. G. O. Evans, D. H. Fowler, H. D. Lamb, G. L. Young.

MEDICINE.—J. D. Buckner, H. D. Lamb, G. Macbain, F. W. McKenna, S. J. Nathan, R. A. Stenhouse, J. A. Taylor.

FORENSIC MEDICINE.—J. D. Buckner, H. D. Lamb, G. Macbain, F. W. McKenna, S. J. Nathan, R. A. Stenhouse, J. A. Taylor.

MIDWIFERY.—B. Berman, E. E. Buckler, H. S. A. Corfield, T. Gadian, B. A. Hoogewerf.

The diploma of the Society has been granted to J. D. Anderson, J. D. Buckner, T. Gadian, B. A. Hoogewerf, H. D. Lamb, G. Macbain, F. W. McKenna, and R. A. Stenhouse.

Medico-Legal

A PEST OF PRACTICE

One of the trials which sometimes beset the general practitioner is the fanatical patient who takes a dislike to him and follows him round, insulting him and damaging his property or spreading scandalous reports about him. It is always difficult to know what to do with these people—to do anything with them is bound to mean unpleasant publicity. A typical instance came before Mr. Justice Macnaghten at the Lincolnshire Assizes last month.

A Skegness doctor complained that while he was attending an old lady her daughter, "in a somewhat intoxicated state," threw a quantity of cold water over him and drenched him, threw empty beer bottles at him, and smashed all the glass in his car windows. After he had telephoned to the police she threw a number of large stones at him. A few days later she wrote him a letter, in the course of which she said, "Darling, you must keep your promise and marry me," and shortly after that an announcement of an engagement between the doctor and the girl appeared in the local paper. She also sent him postcards through the post, one of which bore the word "seducer." He thereupon charged her with assault, damage to property, and criminal libel. He denied in court that he had ever taken the girl in his car, gone for walks with her, or had any kind of relationship with her. The girl, in giving evidence, said that the doctor had attended her as a patient and had said he would like to marry her. He had afterwards seduced her and had had sexual relations with her on several other occasions. Two days before the assault he said he had had enough and was not going to marry her, and that if there was any nonsense he would have her mother certified. She admitted having had some drink on the day of the assault, and pleaded guilty to the assault and the damage. She said she had sent the postcards to the doctor because she had thought they were true. In cross-examination she admitted that she had done the same thing before, in 1928: she and her mother had broken up the other doctor's car and she had accused the doctor of seducing her and had assaulted him. The medical officer of Lincoln prison said that the girl suffered from hysteria, a condition which often gave rise to accusations of this kind. The learned judge said in summing up that there was no evidence for her terrible accusations and that the prison doctor's evidence explained how she had come to make them. In her own interest, and in the public interest, she must go to prison for nine months.

In this case, therefore, the doctor was able to deal effectively with a very serious nuisance and danger. A prosecution for criminal libel, however, always has the disadvantage that it must be tried at assizes. This may mean a delay of several weeks and a certain amount of expense and loss of time. Doctors owe to a certain solicitor of large experience in medical protection a simpler means of countering the "poison pen." Conduct of a character calculated to produce a breach of the peace is an offence which by the Summary Jurisdiction Act, 1879, s. 25, can be tried by a bench of magistrates at once. They can either bind over the offender or send him to prison, and the doctor's name need not be mentioned. This procedure has been found useful on more than one occasion, and has the added advantage that if the writer is mentally disordered he may be remanded and certified. From the reports of this case in the daily press* the accused was apparently suffering from some form of mental disorder. This, however, does not necessarily mean that the learned judge was wrong in sending her to prison. She had been medically examined, and his lordship doubtless had the benefit of thoroughly competent advice as to her treatment. It is probable that if she had been certifiable she would have been certified, and a stiff prison sentence with enforced abstinence from drink may prove beneficial.

* *Times*, November 9 and 10. *Daily Telegraph*, November 10.

Britain. Sir KINGSLEY WOOD replied that it could if the milk had not been pasteurized and, in the case of tuberculosis, if the cows actually yielded milk containing tubercle bacilli. Practically all milk and cream used for making imported butter was pasteurized.

School Dental Service.—The present staff of the school dental service in England and Wales is equivalent to about 735 full-time dentists. On the assumption that the ratio of the number of children receiving dental treatment to the number recommended for such treatment remained as at present, a staff equivalent to about 1,100 full-time dentists would be required to provide for all children attending public elementary schools a service of the type now available. Mr. KENNETH LINDSAY, in giving this information, added that the percentage of parents who accepted dental treatment for their children was regrettably low, and efforts were being made to increase it. If appreciation of the facilities provided, and particularly of the opportunities for conservative dental treatment, were universal, an efficient service for all public elementary school children would necessitate the employment of slightly more than 2,000 full-time dentists, or their equivalent in terms of part-time service.

Notes in Brief

About three million respirators have been placed in the regional depot in Liverpool.

The number of notified cases of acute poliomyelitis and acute polio-encephalitis in England and Wales during the current year up to October 30 is approximately 705, as compared with an annual average of 698 for the last five years.

A second anti-gas school will open at Easingwold, near York, on December 27. The school at Falfield, Gloucestershire, accommodates sixty students, and on completion the Easingwold school will accommodate a similar number.

Sir Samuel Hoare will consider a suggestion that he should draw the attention of the General Medical Council and similar bodies to the need for increased vigilance in the custody of poisons and drugs by medical practitioners and chemists. Sir Samuel hopes, however, that the publicity given by broadcast warnings and otherwise will suffice to ensure the utmost care.

A further experimental scheme for the supply of milk at cheap rates to expectant and nursing mothers and children under 5 years of age came into operation on October 1, at Whitehaven.

Measures recommended to safeguard the inmates of mental hospitals against the effects of poison gas following an air raid will be those recommended for the civilian population as a whole, with such special arrangements as the condition of the patients may require. Specially trained medical instructors will be available for lectures and practical demonstrations to the medical and nursing staffs.

The estimated cost of providing free milk to all children under school age and to expectant mothers daily in England and Wales is about £18,000,000 per annum.

The Services

ARMY MEDICAL SERVICES

The War Office announces that Colonel W. B. Purdon, D.S.O., O.B.E., M.C., late R.A.M.C., Professor of Hygiene, Royal Army Medical College, has been selected for promotion to the rank of Major-General, and for the appointment of Commandant and Director of Studies, Royal Army Medical College, from March 1, 1938, in succession to Major-General W. P. MacArthur, D.S.O., O.B.E., late R.A.M.C., who assumes the appointment of Director-General, Army Medical Services, on that date. Colonel Purdon will be succeeded as Professor of Hygiene, Royal Army Medical College, by Lieut.-Colonel D. T. Richardson, M.C., R.A.M.C., who at present holds the appointment of Assistant Director of Hygiene, the War Office.

DEATHS IN THE SERVICES

Deputy Inspector-General CHARLES WILLIAM SHARPLES, R.N. (ret.), died at Bognor on October 28. He was educated at the Middlesex Hospital, and took the L.S.A. in 1878 and the L.R.C.S.Ed. in 1881, after which he entered the Navy. He attained the rank of Fleet Surgeon on August 25, 1897, and retired as Deputy Inspector-General on February 27, 1909.

Lieut.-Colonel JAMES HENRY CURTIS, R.A.M.C. (ret.) died on September 27, aged 77. He was born at Cork on April 30, 1860, educated at Queen's College, Cork, and qualified L.R.C.P. and S.Ed. in 1883. He entered the Army as surgeon on May 30, 1885, became lieutenant-colonel after twenty years' service, and retired on June 4, 1910. He served in the South African war of 1899-1902, and took part in the relief of Ladysmith, and was present at the actions of Colenso, Spion Kop, Vaal Krautz, Tugela Heights, and Picker's Hill. Afterwards he served in operations in the Orange Free State, the Transvaal, Natal, and Cape Colony. He received the Queen's Medal, with a clasp, and the King's Medal, with two clasps. He rejoined on August 5, 1914, for service in the war of 1914-18.

Medical News

A sessional meeting of the Royal Sanitary Institute will be held at 90, Buckingham Palace Road, S.W., on Thursday, December 9, at 4.30 p.m., when there will be a discussion on "Public Health and the Factories Act, 1937," to be opened by Dr. A. Massey and Mr. Maurice Malins. The chair will be taken by Sir Francis Fremantle, M.P., M.D. The Institute will also hold a sessional meeting at Oxford Town Hall on Friday, December 10, at 5 p.m., when papers will be read by Dr. F. G. Hobson on "What is Scarlet Fever?" and by Mr. Stewart Swift on "Overcrowding Standards: A Comparative Study." On December 11 visits will be made to the Nuffield Institute for Clinical Research and the Oxford Corporation Waterworks.

Sir Joseph Barcroft, F.R.S., will give an address on "Foetal Respiration" before the Listerian Society of King's College Hospital Medical School at the school, Denmark Hill, S.E., on Wednesday, December 8.

A meeting of the Paddington Medical Society will be held at Paddington Tuberculosis Dispensary, Talbot Road, W., on Tuesday, December 14, at 9 p.m., when Dr. H. L. Marriott will give an address on "The Treatment of Cases of Acute Poisoning." Non-members are invited to attend and to take part in the discussion.

A winter sports tour designed to interest medical students has been arranged for this Christmas by the National Union of Students in co-operation with the medical office of the International Confederation of Students and the director of the Swiss University Sanatorium. It will provide opportunity to combine study of the leading Swiss sanatoria as the guests of the sanatorium authorities with a week at a winter sports centre in the Matterhorn district. The party will leave England on December 27 and return on January 8. Particulars may be had from the National Union of Students, 3, Endsleigh Street, London, W.C.1.

On November 25 Lord Sankey accepted, on behalf of University College, London, a portrait bust in bronze of the late Henry Tonks, F.R.C.S., who was Slade Professor of Fine Art in the University of London from 1917 to 1930. The bust is the work of Horace Gerrard, a former pupil and colleague of Tonks. Wood engravings of Bath and its neighbourhood by Mr. Gerrard adorned the *Book of Bath*, which was presented to all members of the British Medical Association taking part in the Annual Meeting there in 1925. An inscribed tablet on Professor Tonks's house in the Vale, Chelsea, and the founding of an annual prize for drawing in the Slade School complete the memorial.