

the glamour of seeing the laboratories where insulin was discovered or the men who had found out the life-saving treatment of pernicious anaemia. They sought an experience of the system which had produced these wonderful gains for medicine. That system did differ from ours—though it had ceased to differ in London, Oxford, Cambridge, Edinburgh, and Aberdeen, and henceforward would cease to differ in Glasgow—in this point: that the study of medicine had been brought under the influence of that spirit of accurate scientific inquiry which was the highest aim known in a university faculty.

The opening ceremony was performed by Lady Gardiner, who wished Professor McNee and his assistants every success in the work to which they were so devoted. She said that the inspiration in making this gift was due to Sir Robert Muir, to whom her husband had always turned when he wished to do anything for the University. Among others present were the Principal of the University, Sir Hector Hetherington, Sir Robert Muir, Sir Henry Mehan, Sir George Mitchell, Dr. John Henderson, and Dr. D. J. Mackintosh.

Local News

SOUTH AFRICA

Health of Rand Miners

The report for 1937 of the Central Mining—Rand Mines Group—Health Department reflects credit on its able chief medical officer, Dr. A. J. Orenstein, and his staff. The organization now includes thirteen full-time medical officers, one part-time medical officer, and one research medical officer. During the year under review the mortality rate for diseases reached the record low level of 6.82 per 1,000. The morbidity rate for accidents due to employment, 226.18 per 1,000, is the lowest figure in the records of the group. Accidents not arising out of employment are stated to have increased again. It is hoped, however, that the removal of one of the worst slum areas, where illicit liquor selling was rife, and the building of municipal beer halls, where natives can obtain Kaffir beer, will have a beneficial effect. With regard to pneumonia, which constitutes a serious problem for the health authorities, the collected data after three years' inoculations with the "community anti-pneumonia vaccine" from the South African Institute for Medical Research were submitted for analysis to J. P. Dalton, Professor of Mathematics at the University of the Witwatersrand. His analysis, with a most interesting series of tables and graphs, is included in the report. The conclusion is obvious that, in the present state of medical knowledge, prophylactic inoculation against pneumonia cannot be relied upon to reduce markedly the incidence of the disease. Since it has been found, as a result of twenty-three years' experience, that the incidence of pneumonia almost always shows an upward trend during the cold months, the collaboration of the Government Meteorological Division was secured with a view to determining which of the meteorological phenomena, if any, played the dominant role. It appeared that pneumonia was most prevalent during the months of highest wind velocity, least rainfall, and lowest temperature. The curve of wind velocity corresponded most closely with the curve of the incidence of pneumonia. It would seem, therefore, that protection of the individual from the effects of the chilling winds is a matter of importance. To this end warm jackets have been issued to the natives, and shelters have been provided at the shaft heads on some of the mines. The report stresses the importance of these shelters as a preventive measure, and suggests that they should be provided at all shafts, that they should be adequate in size, and so constructed as to keep out wind and cold effectively.

ENGLAND AND WALES

Leeds Medical School : Retirement of Vice-Chancellor

Sir James Baillie, who has been Vice-Chancellor of Leeds University since 1924—a post to which he came from the professorship of moral philosophy at Aberdeen—retired at the end of September, and at the graduation ceremony held in the Medical School on September 23 occasion was taken to express to him in the name of the Medical Faculty the sense of gratitude he had evoked for his constant interest and help in medical education in the capital of the West Riding. In a brief farewell address Sir James Baillie offered to his colleagues on the medical staff his warm good wishes for their future and for the prosperity of the medical school. He would always retain, he said, the happiest memories of the various occasions on which he had been associated with the work of the several departments and of the loyal support which the staff had always given him in his efforts on the school's behalf. "No sphere of the University's activities has been to me of greater interest, no development in the University in recent years has afforded me greater pleasure and satisfaction than that of the Medical School; for in certain significant respects I regard the Medical Faculty as the most important and the most difficult domain of pure and applied science in the whole range of the academic curriculum." He went on to say that the high standing of the school in the eyes of the medical world was publicly acknowledged on the occasion of the centenary of the foundation in 1931. With the ampler and more appropriate accommodation secured in recent years, with the enlarged scientific staff and the greater financial resources, the school had entered upon a career of extended service to the vitally important cause of medicine. There was much still to be done, but the future, he was sure, was safe in the hands of those he was addressing to provide a new inheritance of knowledge for their successors and to give an added distinction to the University. He also expressed the hope that the growing community of interest between the members of the Medical Faculty and the whole University would be strengthened and increased as the years went on, for it was one and the same spirit of knowledge animating the whole life of the University which was the inspiration of every part. The Dean of the Faculty (Mr. Harold Collinson) expressed the general regret at Sir James Baillie's departure. By his retirement he said that the University lost the services of a man who had devoted himself heart and soul to the furtherance of its interests, the increase of its activities, and the cause of University education in the North of England. During his reign as Vice-Chancellor the development of the University had been phenomenal. In the department of medicine he had invariably encouraged and supported any suggestion for improvements in teaching and facilities for research, and in certain instances had initiated them himself. Any scheme suggested by the department had always been received by him in a sympathetic and understanding manner, and his wise counsels had been of the utmost assistance. As the head of the University in the wider field of public life, his dignity and eloquence had everywhere maintained and enhanced its prestige and influence.

King Edward VII Welsh National Memorial

The opening and dedication of the Hall of Nations at Cathays Park, the civic centre of Cardiff, will take place on November 23. The hall has been built by Lord Davies at a cost of £62,000, and apart from its work in connexion with the League of Nations Union will become the headquarters of the King Edward VII Welsh National Memorial Association, the organization which has done such valuable work in Wales in the prevention and treatment of tuberculosis, and of which Lord Davies is president. It will be remembered that Lord (then Mr. David) Davies and his sisters were responsible for founding this association in 1910. Following the Insurance Act of 1911 the functions of the association were extended to

include the administration of sanatorium benefit, then in 1921 the seventeen county and county borough councils of Wales delegated to the Memorial Association their obligations under the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Act of 1921, so that now, while the Association retains its voluntary character, it has become a semi-public service representing all the contributory authorities in the Principality. So comprehensive is its machinery that with the numerous hospitals, sanatoria, and clinics administered by it, maintenance expenditure alone amounts to nearly £300,000 a year.

Chadwick Lectures

The following Chadwick Public Lectures have been arranged on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 5.30 p.m.: October 11, at Niblett Hall, 3, King's Bench Walk North, Inner Temple, E.C., Mr. Roland Burrows, K.C., "The Development of Public Health Law during the Past Fifty Years"; October 27, at the Royal Sanitary Institute, 90, Buckingham Palace Road, S.W., Dr. Norman Macfadyen, "The Evils of the Congestion of Population and the Way Out"; November 8, at the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, 26, Portland Place, W., Sir Stanley Woodward, "The Rise and Fall of Certain Diseases Concurrent with the Progress of Sanitation and Hygiene"; November 24, at the Royal Institute of British Architects, 66, Portland Place, W., Malcolm Morris Memorial Lecture by Mr. W. W. Wakefield, "Playing Fields and the National Fitness Movement"; December 13, at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Keppel Street, Gower Street, W.C., Dr. Leonard Colebrook, "The Control of Puerperal Fever."

Correspondence

Medical Man-power in War

SIR,—The authorities have drawn up various schemes for utilizing the services of the medical profession in time of war. While I appreciate the good points of these schemes, and have no wish to be unduly critical, yet such schemes are drawn up largely as the result of experience of the last war and do not provide for certain obvious differences in modern warfare. I would therefore invite attention to the following points:

1. Assuming that no expeditionary force is dispatched, at any rate to begin with, the Territorial base hospitals will be standing idle if only used for military wounded. Yet these hospitals will be staffed by men receiving pay and in many cases busily employed in private practice.

2. In London and similar places there may be heavy civilian casualties as the result of air raids—which were only in their elementary stages in the last war. The voluntary hospitals will be flooded with such cases. If the honorary staff deal with these cases in a really conscientious manner they will, immediately after an air raid, have little time for their private practices. Are they to carry out this work on an eleemosynary basis? If so, it seems rather hard on these honorary staffs, especially in view of 1.

3. In areas not actually raided but receiving the evacuated sick of London a similar state of affairs to 2 will exist.

4. It is hoped that efforts will be made to use the medical profession in an economical manner. Should Territorial divisions be mobilized and held for any time more or less idle in camps in England, I would suggest that, except for a small nucleus, the regimental medical officers and officers of field ambulances might be seconded for service in dealing with air raid casualties, or other work of national importance, rather than sitting about in camps awaiting events.

5. I would also remind readers of the gross waste of medical services in the last war in the hope that such waste may be prevented in the next. I will content myself with two examples of such waste. In the Eastbourne R.A.M.C. train-

ing centre a medical officer was employed as a riding instructor! In 1917, when there was a real dearth of doctors for dealing with civilian sick in England, I was detached from a field ambulance in France and put in charge of a laundry on the outskirts of Bethune!

I am sure that all of us are ready and willing to do our bit in a national emergency, but such eagerness would be increased and the sacrifices involved borne more cheerfully if we were convinced that the burden was evenly and sensibly distributed.—I am, etc.,

H. J. McCURRICH, M.S., F.R.C.S.

Hove, Sussex, Sept. 29.

** It will be noted that this letter was written before agreement was reached at Munich. We publish it because the plans which were then incomplete will have to be completed in case of future emergency, for reasons set out in a leading article at p. 749 and in the opening pages of this week's *Supplement*.—ED., *B.M.J.*

Organization of Trained Nurses in Emergency

SIR,—The British Medical Association, at the request of H.M. Government, has compiled a register of doctors; and from the same source a request has been made that the College of Nursing should organize similar machinery for nurses. The object is to set up a reserve composed of State-registered and certificated nurses, having no other obligations, who would be available in time of national emergency to augment the present health services. It is felt that throughout the country there must be many who, either married or retired from active service, would be anxious to link up with some organization through which their skill could be utilized. Many hundreds of extra nurses will be required to supplement the staff of hospitals, district nursing associations, and other institutions, and I would ask every nurse coming under the categories mentioned above to get in touch immediately with the headquarters of the College of Nursing, 1A, Henrietta Place, London, W.1, or any of its local branches (lists of these may be obtained from headquarters). Nurses have ever been ready to serve their country, and I feel assured that this appeal will meet with a ready response.—I am, etc.,

FRANCES G. GOODALL, S.R.N.,
Secretary, College of Nursing.

London, W.1, Sept. 29.

Social Pathology

SIR,—In view of the tragic happenings in the world and the series of convulsive crises through which civilization is passing, it seems strange that our profession, so used to dealing with disease both physical and mental, has no theory of the pathology of society to offer. Is it not obvious that a civilization which within these last few days has been on the verge of suicide must be in a very diseased condition? And if so, should not its malady be susceptible of scientific study, like the diseases of an organism? I hope some readers of the *Journal* will agree with me that the medical profession, above all others, is that qualified to deal with social pathology, and that it is indeed its duty to study it. Why then does it not do so? In the hope of stimulating interest in this matter I venture to advance one preliminary conclusion at which I have myself arrived.

In view of the constant accretion of social services in all countries of Western civilization, how is it that this civilization is becoming not more but less healthy, as evidenced by its recent tendency to disintegrate altogether? I suggest that in multiplying the social services we have been merely treating symptoms, and that, our attention being thereby increasingly engaged, we have been more

Medical Association, which he joined in 1889. Throughout his life his profession came before everything else, and surgery interested him most of all branches. Although he worked hard all day he devoted a large part of every evening to keeping himself thoroughly up to date by reading the current literature and by adopting the new ideas and methods as they were suggested. An article of his entitled "Case of Haemophilia in an Infant" appeared in the *British Medical Journal* in 1893. Every patient was carefully and individually prescribed for, and "stock medicines" were unknown in his dispensary. He will be greatly missed by his colleagues and by his patients, to whom he was always a true friend and wise counsellor as well as physician.

Dr. FRANK REGINALD SAWDON, formerly of Buxton, died at his home in Bath on September 30, aged 59. A native of Manchester, he went from Rugby School to Owens College, Manchester, in 1895, and graduated M.B., Ch.B. in 1901, proceeding to the M.D. in 1927, with a thesis on hypoglandular arthritis in its relation to the menopause. After qualifying he was house-surgeon to the Rotherham Hospital and then settled in practice at Buxton, where he held several appointments, including that of honorary physician to the Devonshire Hospital. Dr. Sawdon held a temporary commission during the war and was awarded the M.B.E. and the Médaille du Roi Albert. He had been a member of the British Medical Association for the past thirty-four years.

The following well-known foreign medical men have recently died: Dr. FREDERICK PETERSON, professor of psychiatry, Columbia University, and past-president of the American Neurological Association, aged 79; Dr. ALFONSO DE VESTEA, for thirty-eight years professor of hygiene at Pisa; Dr. O. CROUZON, member of the Académie de Médecine, professor of medico-social assistance in the Paris Faculty and physician to La Salpêtrière; and Dr. CASIMIR DABROWSKI of Warsaw, an authority on tuberculosis, aged 52.

The Services

DEATHS IN THE SERVICES

Lieutenant-Colonel THOMAS RICHARD MULRONEY, Bengal Medical Service (ret.), died at Newquay on September 29, aged 85. He was born on June 23, 1853, the son of Thomas Mulroney of the Bombay Sub-Medical Department, and was educated at the Grant Medical College, Bombay. He entered the Bombay Indian Medical Department as assistant apothecary on September 27, 1873, and served in that department for seven years, resigning on March 30, 1880. He went with the Indian contingent sent by Lord Beaconsfield to the Mediterranean in 1877, and while stationed at Malta took the opportunity of studying at the University there, and graduated M.D., C.M. Malta in 1879. He took the L.R.C.P. and S.Ed. in 1879, the M.R.C.S. Eng. in 1880, and twenty years later the F.R.C.S. in 1900. He entered the Indian Medical Service as surgeon on March 31, 1880, became lieutenant-colonel after twenty years' service, and retired on August 13, 1909. After the usual period of military duty the rest of his service was passed in civil employ in the Punjab, where he was for long civil surgeon of Amritsar. He had been a member of the British Medical Association for twenty-four years.

Captain GILBERT CAPEL HALL, Madras Medical Service (ret.), died at Worthing on September 25, aged 75. He was born in London on July 27, 1863, the son of William Champaign Hall, and was educated at Birmingham. He took the L.S.A. in 1884 and the M.R.C.S. Eng. in 1885. He entered the Indian Medical Service as surgeon on September 20, 1886, was placed on temporary half-pay on account of ill health on March 12, 1896, and was invalided out of the Service on March 12, 1898. He served in the Chin-Lushai campaign in 1890 on the North-East Frontier of India, receiving the medal. He rejoined for service in the war of 1914-18, was appointed captain in the Medical Branch of the Royal Air Force on November 4, 1918, and transferred to the unemployed list on May 11, 1920.

Universities and Colleges

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

At a Congregation of the Senate on October 1 the Vice-Chancellor, Professor H. R. Dean, M.D., Master of Trinity Hall, reviewing the past academic year, touched on the need of the University for more lecture rooms and laboratories, and for additional funds. He said that the largest of the new laboratories was that of the Department of Anatomy. The rapid growth of knowledge, particularly in the natural sciences, the increasing tendency to specialization, the consequent demand for new departments and subdepartments with specialized workers and equipment, the very large number of students, especially in the Faculties of Medicine and Engineering, and the growing number of research workers in all the laboratories must lead to greatly increased expense. Advancing knowledge and the change of outlook required new professorships and new departments, with the provision of facilities for research and teaching in new subjects. But apart from the development of subjects new to the University there was need for expansion and for change in the existing faculties and departments. In some departments the number of students had grown so much that overcrowding had become a very serious problem; lecture rooms and laboratories could not accommodate all who wished to attend. In many departments the number of undergraduates had outgrown the capacity of the teaching staff, and there was grave risk not only that the standard of teaching might fall but that overworked teachers might not find proper time for the advancement of their subject by research. Increased expenditure appeared to be inevitable unless the University adopted the policy of limiting the number of students in the more crowded departments.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

A course of five lectures on "The Position of Viruses in the Organic World" will be given by Professor F. W. Twort, F.R.S., on December 1, 2, 5, 8, and 9, at 5 p.m. The first four lectures will be given at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Keppel Street, Gower Street, W.C., and the fifth lecture, with demonstration, at the Brown Animal Sanatory Institution, 149, Wandsworth Road, S.W.

LONDON HOSPITAL MEDICAL COLLEGE

Schorstein Lecture

The Schorstein Memorial Lecture will be delivered by Dr. Leonard G. Parsons, professor of diseases of children in the University of Birmingham, in the anatomy theatre of the London Hospital Medical College on Thursday, October 13, at 4.30 p.m. His subject is "The Haemolytic Anaemias of Childhood." Members of the medical profession are invited to attend.

Hutchinson Triennial Prize

The subject for the next Hutchinson Triennial Prize is "Bronchiectasis," and dissertations must be delivered at the London Hospital by October 31, 1941. Full conditions may be obtained on application to the dean of the London Hospital Medical College.

KING'S COLLEGE

Lectures

A special University lecture on "Some Aspects of Blood Pressure Regulation and Experimental Arterial Hypertension" will be given at King's College, Strand, W.C., by Dr. C. Heymans, professor of pharmacology in the University of Ghent, on Friday, October 14, at 5.30 p.m., with Professor R. J. S. McDowall in the chair. The lecture, which will be illustrated by lantern slides, is addressed to students of the University and to others interested in the subject. Admission is free without ticket.

A lecture on "The Formation of the Pronephros and its Causes" will be given by Dr. A. Dalcq, professor of anatomy in the Université Libre de Bruxelles, at King's College on Tuesday, November 8, at 5.30 p.m., with Professor T. Nicol in the chair.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE HOSPITAL MEDICAL SCHOOL

The address by Sir StClair Thomson on "Lister at University College and Hospital," announced in this column in our issue of September 24 to be given on October 4, has been postponed until Tuesday, October 11, at 4 p.m.