

Dr. Treadwell, who was 80 years of age, was educated privately and at St. Thomas's Hospital, qualifying M.R.C.S. in 1881 and L.S.M. in 1882. In the latter year he was appointed assistant surgeon at Millbank Prison, and he served in this capacity at other prisons until he went to Durham Prison as medical officer in 1885. He remained at Durham until he was transferred in 1894 to Borstal Prison, then a convict establishment; later he became medical officer of Portland* and also Parkhurst Prisons. In 1914 he was promoted to the office of Inspector of Prisons, and in 1917 became one of H.M. Commissioners of Prisons and a Director of Convict Prisons. He retired because of ill-health in 1921. Although Treadwell was by nature diffident and retiring, he was a loyal and upright friend and an unselfish colleague; an abiding sympathy for those in distress endeared him to all who knew him. At the last inquest held at Durham Prison before Treadwell was transferred the coroner observed that it must be gratifying to relatives to know that prisoners received such kindness as he had bestowed upon them. His skill and care are still remembered by the few remaining prisoners who formerly came under his supervision. He was a keen sportsman, excelling at tennis and golf. He had two sons and a daughter; the elder son died with his regiment in India in 1906, while the younger died from wounds received during an aerial fight in the war of 1914-18. His son-in-law also was killed in action in 1916, and those who knew him well realize that these losses saddened his remaining years. A wide circle of friends will mourn his loss and extend their heartfelt sympathy to his widow and daughter.

The following well-known medical men have died abroad: Dr. MAX CLOETTA, professor of pharmacology and director of the pharmacological institute at Zurich, aged 71; and Dr. C. H. DIX-HART, principal medical officer of the Rhodesia Railways since 1921.

Universities and Colleges

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND

At a meeting of the Council of the Royal College of Surgeons of England held on November 14, with the President, Mr. Hugh Lett, in the chair, Mr. Robert Milne was re-elected, and Mr. V. Zachary Cope, Mr. C. E. Shattock, Mr. M. F. Nicholls, and Mr. E. W. Riches were elected as members of the Court of Examiners for a period of one year from December 12.

Diplomas

Diplomas of Membership and of Public Health were granted to those candidates whose names were published in the report of the meeting of the Royal College of Physicians of London in the *Journal* of November 9 (p. 653), and in addition a diploma of membership was granted to John Chichester Day of St. Mary's.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF EDINBURGH

At a quarterly meeting of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh, held on November 5, with the President, Dr. Alexander Goodall, in the chair, Dr. Thomas Anderson (Glasgow) was introduced and took his seat as a Fellow of the College.

Dr. J. C. R. Buchanan (E.A.A.M.C.), Dr. John Harold Ewen (London), and Dr. James Colin Caird (Edinburgh) were elected Fellows of the College.

The Hill Pattison-Struthers Bursary in Anatomy and Physiology was awarded to Robert Power Cookson, and the Hill Pattison-Struthers Bursary in Clinical Medicine to Allan Ralph Bleich. The Wood Bursary was awarded to Eric Alexander Masterton Wood.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF OBSTETRICIANS AND GYNAECOLOGISTS

The following candidates have satisfied the examiners for the Diploma of the College:

H. I. C. Balfour (West Worthing), H. V. Corbett (Liverpool), H. Doberman (Middlesbrough), Ruth Edmonds (Leeds), J. B. Farquhar (Birmingham), M. L. Gaudin (Canada), C. Grimshaw (Perth), Doreen M. Martin (Preston), Mary C. J. McCann (London), A. F. Pearson (Salford), H. P. Swan (London), R. H. White-Jones (Liverpool).

The Services

CASUALTIES IN THE MEDICAL SERVICES

ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS

Prisoners of War

Major William Lindsay Kinnear, R.A.M.C.
Acting Major Edward Davies-Thomas, R.A.M.C.
Acting Major Claude Hepburn Imrie, R.A.M.C.
Captain John Russel Heslop, R.A.M.C.
Lieut. Ferdinand Duval, R.A.M.C.
Lieut. Austin George Hewer, R.A.M.C.
Lieut. Norman Everard Monteuiis, R.A.M.C.
Lieut. William Sillar, R.A.M.C.

Medico-Legal

CASES OF INFANTICIDE: A NEW POINT IN LAW

A new and interesting point was raised at Norwich Assizes on October 23 by Mr. Linton Thorp, K.C., in defending a woman charged with infanticide. At the end of the case for the prosecution Mr. Thorp submitted that there was no case to go to the jury. He said that the Act of Parliament on which the indictment was based, which was passed in 1922 and was unaffected in this respect by the later Act of 1938, made the offence a statutory one, not a common law offence, and it followed in his submission that the prosecution must prove all the ingredients—not merely some of them—in the relevant section of the Act. These were: that the accused caused the death of her newly born child; that she did so by a wilful act, meaning an act deliberate and intentional; that at the time the balance of her mind was disturbed; and, finally, that it was so disturbed by reason of her not having recovered from giving birth to the child. This placed the prosecution in the dilemma that if they proved that the balance of her mind was disturbed they necessarily failed to prove that it was a wilful act, and if they proved that it was a wilful act they could not prove that the balance of her mind was disturbed, for how could a person of disturbed mind commit a wilful act? He agreed that it was a startling submission, and that if accepted it would mean that every person so far convicted under the Infanticide Act had been wrongfully convicted, but he was concerned with the defence in this particular case. He cited some old judgments on the meaning of the word "wilful." In a vendor and purchaser case in the Chancery Division in 1886 Lord Justice Bowen interpreted "wilful" as denoting the act of a free agent, one who knew what he was doing and intending to do it. In the case of *Regina v. Senior* in the Queen's Bench in 1899 Lord Russell of Killowen again said that "wilful" meant "deliberate and intentional," something done not by accident or inadvertence, but carrying with it the mind of the person who did the act.

Mr. Justice Singleton said that Mr. Linton Thorp's argument, if it held good, might lead to the substitution of the indictment for one of murder, and result in a verdict of guilty but insane.

Mr. Thorp replied that in the present case the judge could not amend the indictment, and that murder was not an alternative charge.

To this the judge answered that he could direct that the trial proceed no further, and that an indictment for murder be presented, whereupon Mr. Thorp said that in that case he would fall back upon the argument that nobody could be placed in peril twice.

His lordship ruled that there was a case to go to the jury, and later in his summing-up he said that if the jury came to the conclusion that the accused caused the death of her child by a wilful act, and also that the balance of her mind was disturbed by reason of not having recovered from giving birth to the child, they would bring in a verdict of guilty of infanticide. Unless it was proved that the death of the child was brought about by her wilful act they were bound to acquit.