

## MALARIA ILLUSTRATED BY CINEMATOGRAPH FILM

The value of the cinematograph film as a means of conveying instruction in hygiene and health precaution was never better shown than in a sound film entitled "Malaria" which has been produced for world-wide distribution by the Shell Film Unit in collaboration with the Ross Institute of Tropical Medicine. With this film, which takes about half an hour to pass through the projector, the scientific critic can find no fault (except, perhaps, that the title refers to "microphotography" when "photomicrography" is meant—rather an important distinction now that microphotography has suddenly come into such wide use), and the lay spectator gains a great deal of information which is essential and even life-saving if his travels should take him to the malaria regions. Some of the photography was done at Horton Hospital, Epsom, in the malaria unit there, and some, particularly that dealing with methods of control, has been done in tropical lands. The first part of the film, which includes an interesting flash of Sir Ronald Ross at work with his microscope, illustrates, mostly by clever cartoon, the life cycle of the parasite. The way in which the malaria germ attacks and destroys the red blood corpuscles is vividly shown. The second part concerns the carrier, and compresses into a few minutes the two or three weeks which elapse between the laying of the egg, through the larval and chrysalid stages, and the emergence of the adult mosquito. Nothing could be better than the "shots" illustrating the mosquito actually laying its eggs or its method of taking its blood meal.

### Control of Mosquitoes

The third part of the film deals with mosquito control. The importance of such control is suggested by rapid pictures of great engineering works, such as Singapore docks, which have been made possible only by the most resolute measures to suppress the mosquito. But the point is brought home that malaria control can only be successful, whatever method is employed, if the co-operation of every member of the community in the malarial region is enlisted. The most important methods of stopping the larvae are shown to be by draining the land where mosquitoes breed, by spraying the surface of the water with oil, or blowing on to it a poisonous dust such as Paris green. To destroy or keep away the adult insect, spraying, mosquito-proofing, and the use of mosquito nets are advocated, and all these are shown in action. Control in the long run resolves itself into careful choice of healthy sites for houses in mosquito-ridden countries, taking suitable measures against breeding grounds, and personal protection against the adult insect. The technique of the film and the imagination shown in the choice and use of material deserve high praise. It is being issued for instructional purposes to H.M. Forces.

## Local News

### IRELAND

#### Health of Eire

The public health of Eire as reflected in the statistics for infectious diseases for the year 1939-40 continues to improve, the total of 6,146 notifications—roughly 1,900 fewer than in the previous year—being the lowest recorded since 1930. The incidence of diphtheria, which in 1938-9 (2,983 cases) was disappointingly high, was lower in 1939-40 than it had been for some years, the figure being 2,097. This is attributed in the Health Department's report to the immunization campaign which is being actively pursued, but regret is expressed "that the unfortunate dispute with the medical profession regarding fees for immunization . . . is still unsettled and consequently many children are still unprotected." The report records, however, that many practitioners "to their credit are carrying out the work without fee or reward." There were increases in the incidence of both typhoid and influenzal pneumonia, that of typhoid being attributed to a serious outbreak in County Kerry in the summer months. Mortality from the principal infectious diseases declined notably during the year; the aggregate figure

of 385 deaths was the lowest yet recorded; in 1936 these deaths numbered 687. Although the total number of tuberculosis patients treated in 1939 was 18,321, or 443 more than in 1938, the number of cases under observation showed a decline of 1,057. Deaths from all forms of tuberculosis numbered 3,304, a rate of 1.13 per 1,000, as against a decennial average of 1.23. Both maternal and infant mortality compared favourably with the figures for the preceding year and those for the decennial period 1929-38.

### SCOTLAND

#### New Blood Transfusion Plant for Scotland

The Government have agreed to make a grant to Scottish Blood Transfusion Services towards the establishment of two centres in Scotland for the processing of plasma taken from blood supplied by voluntary blood donors for use in hospitals. To each centre will be attached a whole-time mobile blood-withdrawal team, so that the services of country donors will be more readily utilizable than has hitherto been the case. One centre is to be under the direction of Prof. James P. Todd; the other, directed by Dr. C. P. Stewart, is also to be equipped with up-to-date plant for the preparation of dried plasma. While scientists in Scotland have done much useful work in the study of blood transfusion, they have not hitherto had the opportunity of developing the drying of plasma, the only drying plants in existence being attached to centres in England. The plant will be utilized not only in the preparation of plasma but also in experimental work. As dried plasma is believed to have better keeping qualities than liquid plasma, especially under difficult temperature conditions, it will now be possible to keep much larger stores of plasma available for Scottish civilian hospitals and for the Forces without risk of wastage, and adequate supplies will be ready for immediate use in bombarded areas. The services of Scottish blood donors were placed at the full disposal of the Forces at the outbreak of war, and it is hoped that by the establishment of these new centres the help given in this direction may be greatly increased. The address of the Scottish National Blood Transfusion Association is 10, Duke Street, Edinburgh, 1.

#### Cleanliness of Glasgow School Children

The first year of war, which saw the evacuation of school children from the large cities, the return of many of them, the closing of schools and dislocation of education, and the slow re-establishment of a modified regime, must stand by itself so far as statistics of medical inspection of school children are concerned; it can offer no useful comparison with previous years. The report, just issued, of the education health service in Glasgow during the year ended July, 1940, does, however, suggest that the improvement in the physical condition of school children which has been built up in recent years has been maintained. Measurements were taken between September, 1940, and April, 1941, of between 6,000 and 7,000 boys and a similar number of girls at 5 and at 13 years of age, and on comparing the measurements with those for 1939 a distinct improvement is shown, though, admittedly, the figures are not a true reflection of school population. The main attention of the school medical staff in Glasgow has been devoted to scabies, which has been increasingly prevalent; to pediculosis capitis, which was the most frequent cause of complaint against evacuated children; and to enuresis, which was greatly on the increase in 1940. It is admitted that as regards nits and vermin of the head the children evacuated from Glasgow were not as free as they should have been. The trouble is that so little can be done with the child whose head is not kept clean. A child may be cleansed, but hair cannot be cut without the parents' permission, and cleansing without cutting takes time. It is suggested that an attempt might be made to impose as a condition of attendance at school shorter hair styles for children; also that powers should be extended to allow examination of the person and clothing of the school child in the home. Enuresis was also the subject of widespread complaint from the reception areas at the first evacuation. Subsequently the presence of this defect was admitted in about 3% of the children examined. The school service has obtained good results by a combination of parental co-operation and gradually increasing doses of tincture of belladonna.

## The Services

### HONORARY PHYSICIAN TO THE KING

Lieut.-Colonel (temporary Colonel) S. Smith, R.A.M.C., has been appointed Honorary Physician to the King in succession to Major-General R. C. Priest, C.B., late R.A.M.C., who has retired.

### CASUALTIES IN THE MEDICAL SERVICES

#### ROYAL NAVY

Surgeon Lieut. DERMOT HARRY TUTHILL DUGGAN, R.N.V.R. (H.M.S. *Ardent*), who was announced as "Missing" in the *Journal* of August 10, 1940 (p. 207), is now reported "Missing, Believed Killed in Action at Sea." He was the only surviving son of the late Captain G. G. Duggan, who was killed at Gallipoli in 1915, and Mrs. G. de Courcy Wheeler of Foxrock, Co. Dublin, and was educated at Trinity College, Dublin, graduating M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O. in 1935, proceeding M.D. four years later. He had been a member of the British Medical Association since 1936. On the outbreak of war he entered the R.N.V.R. as surgeon lieutenant.

#### ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS

##### *Prisoner of War*

War Substantive Captain Ian Rainy Ingram MacDonald.

## Universities and Colleges

### UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

Francis Peyton Rous, M.D., F.R.S., of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, has been elected an honorary Fellow of Trinity Hall. Dr. Peyton Rous holds the honorary degree of Sc.D. of Cambridge and was Linacre lecturer at the University in 1929.

Names of candidates for the M.Chir. examination should be sent to the Registry by December 30; the examination begins on February 17.

### ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND

The annual meeting of Fellows and Members will be held at the College in Lincoln's Inn Fields on Thursday, November 20, at 2.30 p.m., when a report from the Council will be laid before the meeting.

### ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF EDINBURGH

At a quarterly meeting of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh, held on November 4, with the President, Dr. Charles McNeil, in the chair, Dr. B. Reid (Hellingley), Dr. J. L. Cowan (Penicuik), Dr. A. J. Rhodes (Edinburgh), Dr. A. D. Stewart (Edinburgh), Dr. A. Joe (Edinburgh), and Dr. J. B. Borthwick (Edinburgh) were elected Fellows of the College.

Hill Pattison-Struthers Bursaries in Clinical Medicine were awarded to Saul Jerome Blau and Louis Kaywin, and Wood Bursaries to Norman T. Speirs and John Alexander Loraine.

### ROYAL FACULTY OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS OF GLASGOW

At the annual meeting of the Royal Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow the following officers were elected for the ensuing year: *President*, Mr. Roy F. Young; *Visitor*, Mr. James H. MacDonald; *Honorary Treasurer*, Mr. William J. Richard; *Honorary Librarian*, Dr. W. R. Snodgrass; *Representative on General Medical Council*, Mr. J. Scouler Buchanan.

According to *South Africa* of October 18, only 35 Europeans died of disease in East Africa in the first eight months after Italy entered the war, and the incidence of ill-health during the East African campaign was not much higher than in corresponding age groups of the industrial population in tropical climates. No cases occurred of plague, louse-borne typhus, and sleeping sickness among the men serving under General Cunningham. Owing to the universal inoculation of the Forces only one case of typhoid fever was reported.

## Medical News

Sir Farquhar Buzzard will deliver a lecture on "Hospital Regionalization" at the Weston Hotel, Bath, on Thursday, November 20, at 5.30 p.m. All Service medical officers and civilian practitioners will be welcome.

A Chadwick Public Lecture entitled "Advances in Dermatology during the Past Forty Years" will be given by Dr. S. Ernest Dore, at the Westminster Hospital Medical School, 17, Horseferry Road, Westminster, S.W.1, on Thursday, November 27, at 2.30 p.m.

A squadron leader of the Royal Air Force Medical Service has written to B.M.A. House about the kindly reception given to him and to other members of the medical profession serving in the Forces by the South African Medical Association in Capetown on their brief visit to that city. Every facility for recreation, amusement, and matters of professional interest was given by the secretary, Mr. C. L. Darley-Hartley; and the kindness and hospitality of the citizens of Capetown were deeply appreciated by the visitors. The writer also refers to the "splendid bureau" near the dock gates, which is organized and run by the ladies, who put medical officers of the Services in touch with members of the profession in Capetown. Other members have mentioned the warm welcome received on their arrival at South African ports, and there was a note offering hospitality in a recent number of the *South African Medical Journal*.

Under the auspices of the Board of Education a conference on Food Education was held on November 7 and 8 at Gas Industry House, Grosvenor Place, S.W. The chair was taken at the opening meeting by the President of the Board of Education, the Rt. Hon. R. A. Butler, M.P. There were four lectures on the first day: Dr. Edouard-Jean Bigwood discussed the problem of improving health by influencing diet; Dr. Margaret Wright, rationed foods as the basis of a sound diet; Dr. Barnet Stross, food and health; and Dr. May Smith, some problems in teaching a practical subject. The morning of November 8 was devoted to a series of discussions on practical problems of food education, introduced by various speakers.

With the October number Dr. J. Y. Dent has succeeded Dr. T. N. Kelynack as editor of the *British Journal of Inebriety*.

The August issue of the *American Journal of Diseases of Children* contains a sympathetic obituary notice of Sir Frederic Still.

A severe outbreak of rabies has recently occurred in the East of Germany, according to the *Schweizerische Medizinische Wochenschrift*.

Emeritus Professor Ralph Stockman, M.D., has been elected a vice-president and Prof. E. W. H. Cruickshank, M.D., and Sir J. Donald Pollock, M.D., members of the council of the Royal Society of Edinburgh.

Mr. Robert John McConnell, M.Ch., honorary surgeon to the Ulster Hospital, Belfast, has been commended for brave conduct in civil defence.

The Pavlov laboratories in Leningrad are conducting research on the effect of various pharmaceutical substitutes on the higher nervous system. The work is going on regularly and systematically despite the proximity to the front.

The Canadian Red Cross Society is equipping a 25-bed emergency hospital for the Polish Army recruiting station at Windsor, Ontario. A 45-bed hospital will also be built for the Polish training centre at Owen Sound.

A typhus epidemic is reported to be raging in the ghetto of the Polish town of Miedrzyczec.

The manufacture of all drugs not vitally necessary, and of all cosmetics without exception, has been forbidden in Germany owing to the shortage of raw materials.

Owing to the lack of offers of "Aryan" blood for transfusion, the Rumanian Red Cross has announced that Jewish blood will be accepted.