

## Local News

### SCOTLAND

#### Future Organization of Hospital Services

Mr. Thomas Johnston, M.P., Secretary of State for Scotland, together with Mr. W. R. Fraser, secretary of the Department of Health, recently attended a meeting in Edinburgh of the Scottish Branch of the British Hospitals Association to discuss post-war policy. Mr. Johnston pointed out that to overcome any local inadequacy of hospital accommodation it was first necessary to place on a more satisfactory footing the present loose partnership between local authority hospitals, voluntary hospitals, and the E.M.S. hospitals under State control. It was proposed, he said, as a first step to lay upon county councils and the councils of the larger burghs the duty of securing, in co-operation with voluntary agencies in the same field, that adequate hospital services were available to all who needed them. To avoid wastage and to ensure the best use of resources, such services must be designed with a view to areas wider than those of individual local authorities, and the more highly specialist services would be afforded at teaching hospitals and other specially selected centres, while between the hospitals as a whole within the region there would be an appropriate division of functions. After discussion the co-operation of the British Hospitals Association was offered to the Secretary of State in any investigation of post-war problems that he may decide to undertake.

On the following day in Edinburgh an address was given by Lieut.-Colonel A. D. Stewart, superintendent of the Royal Infirmary, who also spoke of the need for a wider organization of hospital services. He declared that hospital organization had lagged far behind medical science and discovery. Voluntary hospitals had suffered from their individualism and isolation, and in many there was a financial crisis. They appeared, said Colonel Stewart, to be nearing the limit of their capacity. Either new sources of income must be found or expansion curtailed, in which case the initiative of hospital development would pass into other hands. Hospital waiting lists are a difficult problem in Scotland as elsewhere. Colonel Stewart explained that the more emergency work a hospital did the larger would be its waiting list. Edinburgh Royal Infirmary was carrying out emergency work, both surgical and medical, for Edinburgh and the whole south-eastern area of Scotland. In a progressive hospital waiting lists could never be completely overtaken, for advances in knowledge and the supply of new services would create fresh demands for beds.

In view of this rather troubled picture it is reassuring to have the word of the Secretary of State that: "When account is taken of the hospital accommodation provided in Scotland to meet wartime needs, it is obvious that there is now sufficient accommodation to form the foundation of a hospital system capable of providing for the needs of every person who requires hospital treatment."

#### Research on War Wounds

A subcommittee of the War Wounds Committee of the Medical Research Council, comprising representatives of Scottish hospital centres and teaching schools, has been set up to foster and co-ordinate research in war wounds and related problems in the field of casualty work. The membership of the subcommittee is Prof. J. R. Learmonth of Edinburgh (chairman); Prof. J. S. Young of Aberdeen University; Profs. R. C. Alexander and D. F. Cappell of Dundee; Profs. C. F. W. Illingworth and C. H. Browning and Dr. D. P. Cuthbertson of Glasgow; and Profs. Sir John Fraser and T. J. Mackie and Dr. C. P. Stewart of Edinburgh. Dr. J. M. Johnston will represent the Department of Health for Scotland. The secretary of the subcommittee is Dr. A. B. Wallace of the Department of Surgery, the University, Edinburgh.

### ENGLAND AND WALES

#### York's New Municipal Hospital

The first half of York City's new Municipal General Hospital was opened recently by Alderman William Wright, who has served for twenty-nine years on the Health Committee, holding office as vice-chairman for seventeen years and chairman for four years. The new hospital, built on the most modern lines at a cost of nearly £100,000, was originally intended to accommodate 360 patients, but only half of the scheme could be put into operation under war conditions. Sir George Martin, chairman of the Leeds Health Committee and of the Yorkshire Regional Hospital Committee, said that the new institution would be very valuable in the regionalization of the hospital services of the county. Making the point that the one thing of real consequence in hospital administration was the patient, Sir George invited the York City Council to get rid of their distrust of the voluntary system and endeavour to make the best of both worlds; and, on the other hand, the voluntary hospital authorities should get out of their rather patronizing manner of speaking of municipal effort when praising the voluntary system. The country, he said, must have a proper working system, with complete co-operation between the two. Sir Francis Terry, chairman of the York County Hospital, who congratulated the City Council on building the new hospital, said that no one welcomed this addition more than the governors of the County Hospital.

#### London Chest Hospital

Some day, it is to be hoped, the story of the London hospitals under air attack will be told in a suitable volume. Meanwhile an interesting contribution to the literature of London's ordeal is forthcoming in the shape of a booklet on the London Chest Hospital (Victoria Park, E.2), which has been described by Ministry of Health officials as London's worst-bombed hospital in one night's attack. The hospital was founded ninety-three years ago in the City, but within a few years was moved out to Bethnal Green, where the foundation stone was laid by the Prince Consort in the year of the Great Exhibition. It became one of the leading centres for the treatment of chest diseases in Great Britain, with nearly 200 beds and a large out-patient department. The bombing, the results of which are illustrated in the booklet, took place on one night of last spring. It laid the north wing of the hospital practically in ruins, wrecked a part of the nurses' home, and completely demolished, among other buildings, the pathological department (which, incidentally, was started more than eighty years ago by the hospital's founder, Thomas Peacock, who worked here on congenital diseases of the heart and on the fatal disease of the lung known as "grinder's rot"). Although the patients on the night of the raid had elected to remain upstairs not one was killed; all were brought safely into the basement, and next day were transferred to their homes or to other hospitals. An examination of the building showed that in addition to the total destruction of certain parts, the roof had collapsed, and every window frame, door, and ceiling had been shattered. The brave story was continued in the work of reconstruction, for the out-patient department and attached clinics were quickly reorganized, and on the ninth day patients were again being treated. Despite further damage in another raid the wards were in use within four months. But a house at Camberley, which had been used as a sanatorium, has been secured, with accommodation for 30 to 35 patients, and this has relieved pressure on bed accommodation at the hospital and afforded a welcome change of environment for the nursing staff.

According to a correspondent of the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, psittacosis has recently appeared in the Paris area and has become a notifiable disease. There has also been an epidemic of scabies in Paris which has shown three periods of exacerbation, the first among the mobilized, the second at the time of massive evacuation, and the third at the return of the evacuated. Fats have become so scarce in France that ointments will soon become no longer obtainable.

## Universities and Colleges

### UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

The Appointments Committee of the Faculty of Biology "B" will shortly proceed to appoint a University Demonstrator in Pharmacology. Particulars of this post, which will be governed by the Statutes and Ordinances of the University, may be had from the secretary of the Appointments Committee, Mr. H. E. Tunnicliffe, Department of Physiology, Cambridge, to whom application should be addressed before December 9.

At a Congregation to be held to-day (Friday, November 21) a Grace is being submitted, on the recommendation of the General Board, that the Final M.B. Examination begin in the present term on Monday, December 8, a day earlier than is prescribed by Ordinance. The number of candidates for this examination is abnormally high, and it is not possible to conduct the examination in the normal manner.

During October the titles of the degrees of M.B., B.Chir. were conferred by diploma on E. H. M. Gillieson and R. M. Stevenson of Newnham College.

### UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

#### WESTMINSTER HOSPITAL MEDICAL SCHOOL

An entrance scholarship examination in anatomy and physiology will be held on Thursday and Friday, December 11 and 12. Two scholarships will be awarded, each to the value of £75. Further particulars can be obtained from the Secretary, Westminster Hospital Medical School, Horseferry Road, S.W.1.

### ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND

At a meeting of the Council of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, held on November 13, with Sir Alfred Webb-Johnson, President, in the chair, Messrs. R. Milne, R. Davies-Colley, G. T. Mullally, V. Zachary Cope, C. E. Shattock, and E. W. Riches were re-elected members of the Court of Examiners for the year beginning December 11, 1941.

It was proposed to hold a Buckston Browne lunch on Thursday, February 12, 1942.

#### Diplomas

Diplomas of Membership were granted to the 159 candidates whose names were printed in the report of the meeting of the Royal College of Physicians of London in the *Journal* of November 8 (p. 675).

Diplomas in Public Health were granted, jointly with the Royal College of Physicians of London, to L. C. Lodha, L. G. Norman, and M. A. G. Ward.

### SOCIETY OF APOTHECARIES OF LONDON

The following candidates have passed in the subjects indicated:

**SURGERY.**—T. L. Benson, H. V. T. Payne, G. M. Pearson, R. L. Skea, J. S. Taylor, S. S. Zoha.

**MEDICINE, PATHOLOGY, AND FORENSIC MEDICINE.**—C. R. Deuchar, J. S. Taylor, H. A. Worthy.

**MIDWIFERY.**—M. Fishman, M. C. Hannon, W. J. Lewis, Pak So, W. C. Salter.

The diploma of the Society has been granted to G. M. Pearson, J. S. Taylor, H. A. Worthy, and S. S. Zoha.

## The Services

### MENTION IN DISPATCHES

Surgeon Lieut. Patrick O'Brien, R.N. (H.M.S. *Defender*), has been mentioned in dispatches for gallantry and distinguished services in operations in Greek waters.

### CASUALTIES IN THE MEDICAL SERVICES

#### ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS

The name of Major MARTIN MCAULEY MORROW is included as "Died" in an Army Council Casualty List published on November 8. He was educated at Queen's University, Belfast, where he graduated M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O. in 1936. He entered the R.A.M.C. as lieutenant in 1938, became captain in 1939, and was recently promoted to major. He had been a member of the British Medical Association since 1937.

#### Prisoners of War

Major Arnold Gourevitch

War Substantive Captain John Hunter Annan.

War Substantive Captain Lachlan Maclean.

## Medical Notes in Parliament

### Health in the Debate on the Address

A new Session of Parliament was opened by the King in person on November 12. The Speech from the Throne spoke of the strengthened resolution of the British Nations to prosecute the war to final victory, and announced that Parliament would be asked to make further financial provision for its conduct. A promise was given that the Government would continue to take all practical steps to sustain the health and well-being of the people under the stress of war.

Speaking in the House of Lords on November 12 during the debate on the Address, Lord ADDISON praised the Speech's emphatic declaration about the health of the people, and welcomed the steps which were being taken to provide more milk for school children. He thought the war provided opportunities for developments in improved nutrition which peace hitherto had not made possible. He hoped for further advances and said the Labour Peers would, at an early date, ask the House of Lords to consider this subject. Lord MOYNE, in reply to the debate, said the Government's Colonial policy must press on with the improvement of health facilities. At home, despite the suffering and waste of war, they had improved the social services. The remarkable record of national health was largely due to the food policy of Lord Woolton, which had brought nutrition on the best scientific advice within the reach of many who previously suffered from some deficiency. To-day had brought the announcement that children up to the age of 2 were to get free supplies of vitamins.

Mr. CHURCHILL, speaking in the House of Commons on November 12, said an Education (Scotland) Bill was required so that full effect might be given in Scotland to the Government's scheme for nutrition of children by maintaining a high standard among school children and by expanding as rapidly as possible the provision of meals and milk in schools. He went on to say that the dietary of the people, though curtailed and less varied, was sufficient for physical health. He hoped the Government would be able to give a larger share of available supplies of meat to the workers who needed it most. This would be done by rapid expansion of canteens. The Minister of Food had been able to make, during the winter months, minor relaxations in his restrictions.

In fulfilment of Mr. Churchill's promise of November 12, the Education (Scotland) Bill was introduced in the House of Commons on November 13 by Mr. T. JOHNSTON. It proposes to amend the law regarding the provision by education authorities of food and clothing to school children.

**Committee on Nurses' Salaries.**—On November 11 Mr. ERNEST BROWN told Sir Joseph Lamb that the present terms of reference to the committee under the chairmanship of Lord Rushcliffe extended only to the salaries and emoluments of nurses who were either State-registered or in training with a view to State registration, including any members of the staff of public assistance institutions covered by this definition.

**Purchase Tax and Diagnostic Reagents.**—Mr. PRICE asked the Secretary to the Treasury whether it was intended that all biological products used for medical and veterinary purposes should be exempted from purchase tax; why such items as tuberculin, Johnin, and *B. coli* antiserum solely used for veterinary purposes were not referred to in Statutory Rules and Orders, No. 1390, 1941; and if he could put this matter right at an early opportunity. Captain CROOKSHANK said that exemption was intentionally confined to certain medicines and drugs of a specially costly character considered essential for the treatment of disease, and in the case of veterinary preparations for the treatment of serious diseases of livestock of economic importance. Diagnostic reagents were not regarded as taxable medicines, and it was accordingly unnecessary to exempt substances such as those mentioned in the second part of the question which were prepared for such use.

The Vienna Health Office has recently asked for the most rapid institution of measures to obtain serum from convalescent cases of poliomyelitis. All persons who have had the disease within the last six years are invited to offer their blood.