

## The Services

### HONORARY SURGEON TO THE KING

Major-General R. E. Barnsley, M.C., late R.A.M.C., has been appointed Honorary Surgeon to the King, in succession to Major-General W. B. Purdon, D.S.O., O.B.E., M.C., late R.A.M.C., who has retired.

### NAVAL AWARD AND MENTION IN DISPATCHES

The D.S.C. has been awarded to Temporary Surgeon Lieut. Benjamin Crawshaw, R.N.V.R., for bravery and devotion to duty when H.M.S. *Grimby* was lost.

Surgeon Lieut. Charles John Robarts, R.N., has been mentioned in dispatches for bravery and devotion to duty when H.M.S. *Auckland* was lost.

### EFFICIENCY DECORATION, TERRITORIAL ARMY

The Efficiency Decoration of the Territorial Army has been conferred on Lieut.-Colonel Ranfurly Percival Stanley Kelman and Major Alfred Badenoch, R.A.M.C.(T.A.).

### CASUALTIES IN THE MEDICAL SERVICES

#### ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS

##### Wounded

War Substantive Captain William Robert Gemmell.

## Universities and Colleges

### UNIVERSITY OF WALES

#### WELSH NATIONAL SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

The following candidates have satisfied the examiners at the examinations indicated:

M.B., B.CH.—*Obstetrics and Gynaecology*: H. J. Houghton, Dorothy M. Hyde, Tessie Phillips, Annie M. Rees, Dilys M. Rees, Dorothy Roberts, D. G. H. Tutton, A. K. Toufeeq, S. E. Williams. *Surgery*: Beryl Bevan, W. M. Jones, Monica Parry-Morton. *Pathology and Bacteriology*: E. R. Edmunds, Phoebe J. M. Griffiths, T. Jones, H. D. Walters, A. A. Yauniskis.

### SOCIETY OF APOTHECARIES OF LONDON

The following candidates have passed in the subjects indicated:

SURGERY.—J. H. Ebbetts, M. C. Hannon, C. H. Kitchen.

MEDICINE, PATHOLOGY, AND FORENSIC MEDICINE.—C. Farès, R. Gunewardena, J. T. Hemingway, C. H. Kitchen, F. G. Leekam, S. A. MacDonald.

MIDWIFERY.—S. E. Gordon, R. J. C. Hutchinson, H. G. King, S. A. MacDonald, R. Mather, N. Rao, C. J. O. Taylor.

The diploma of the Society has been granted to M. C. Hannon and F. G. Leekam.

### FACULTY OF RADIOLOGISTS

The following candidates have satisfied the Fellowship Board at the examination for the Fellowship of the Faculty: *Radio-diagnosis*.—Eric Samuel, M.D., F.R.C.S., D.M.R.E. *Radio-therapy*.—Alice Margaret Ross, M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.S.Ed., D.M.R.E.

## Medical Notes in Parliament

### Conscription of Women

In the House of Commons on December 2 Mr. CHURCHILL moved a resolution stating that, in the opinion of the House, for the purpose of securing the maximum national effort in the conduct of the war and in production, the obligation for National Service should be extended to include the resources of woman-power and man-power still available, and that the necessary legislation should be brought in forthwith.

Explaining the new proposals, the Prime Minister said that there would be three important changes in the case of males. Hitherto reservation from military service had been by occupational blocks. It was now proposed to change over gradually from this system to that of individual deferment. The sole test would be the importance to the war effort of the work on

which the man was engaged. It was proposed to raise the age of reservation by one-year steps at monthly intervals, beginning on January 1, 1942. The age for compulsory military service would be raised from 41 to 51. Men called up over 41 would not be posted for the more active duties with the Forces. It was not intended to call on anybody to do tasks for which he was physically unfitted. It was proposed to lower the age of military service to 18½, and to register boys and girls between the ages of 16 and 18.

It was not proposed at present to extend compulsion to join the Services to any married woman, though they could, of course, volunteer. The existing power to direct married women into industry would continue to be used with discretion. It was proposed to take powers to require women to serve in the uniformed auxiliary Forces of the Crown or Civil Defence. All those affected would have exactly the same rights and safeguards as men subject to compulsory service. The new power would be applied in the first instance, and probably for some time to come, only to unmarried women between 20 and 30. This special movement of young women must be directed to the A.T.S. It was not proposed, when once they had joined the A.T.S., to compel them to serve in the lethal or combatant branches. Women would have the right to volunteer, but no woman in the A.T.S. would be compelled to go to the batteries.

In the great field of married women and women doing necessary household work, comprising about 11,000,000 persons, the Government saw their largest reserves for industry and home defence in the future. The part-time employment of women in industry had already been developed, but on nothing like the scale which must be reached in the months before us. To this matter employers would be wise to give their immediate attention, to see how they could adapt their businesses. There was an immense variety of arrangements to enable women to divide up domestic tasks and be free to work close at hand in the factory or the field. In some cases women would arrange to "Box and Cox," in others a group of five or more might arrange for each to cook a day in turn, or, again, the development of crèches and public nurseries or combined nurseries might free or partially free mothers of families from domestic duties. Wherever practicable work would be brought as near to the homes as possible.

Mrs. TATE said that there was a deplorable degree of absenteeism in the factories, and it was greater among women than men. One of the main reasons for the absenteeism of women was the inadequate number of nursery schools and day nurseries in which women could leave their children while they worked in the factories.

On December 4, after three days' debate, the House of Commons carried by 326 to 10 a motion declaring that the obligation for National Service should be extended to include the resources of woman-power and man-power still available. Replying to the debate Mr. BEVIN said it had been arranged that women doctors would serve on medical boards to take care of the women called up. The proposed registration of boys and girls at 16 was the first beginning in dealing with the adolescent in an organized manner. After the division Mr. Bevin introduced the National Service Bill, and it was read a first time.

### Alleged Incorrect Medical Certification

In a reply on December 4 to Captain C. S. Taylor, Mr. BEVIN said that last year the police investigated a number of cases in which members of the medical profession were alleged to have provided incorrect medical certificates for men of military age, stating that they were unfit for military service. The evidence was not sufficient for a prosecution. Further cases were under investigation. He could not say whether particulars of these cases had been reported to the General Medical Council. He assured Sir Henry Morris-Jones that, in the interests of the medical profession, he would adopt ruthless measures in the case of anyone found guilty. Mr. Bevin added: "I have to get evidence before I can bring a prosecution. Doctors are very fortunate; they can bury their mistakes."

Captain TAYLOR gave notice that he intended to raise this matter on a subsequent day on the motion for the adjournment of the House.