

Medical Notes in Parliament

A new Session of Parliament was opened on Nov. 11 by the King in person. A passage in the Speech from the Throne said:

"My Ministers will continue to take all measures open to them to promote the health and well-being of My people in wartime by securing the better care of young children, by the prevention of disease, by the treatment of the sick, and by the alleviation wherever possible of the housing difficulties consequent upon the war."

An effort to improve the conditions of the peoples in the Colonies was also indicated. Proposals for better education in England and Wales and a review of the system of education in Scotland were mentioned.

The debate on the Address extended over the subsequent sittings of the House of Commons. It is hoped that time will be afforded for discussion of an amendment to the Address in the name of Prof. A. V. Hill, which is supported by many medical and lay Members. This proposes to add a declaration that the House, "while recognizing the constructive work done by the Government in building up and maintaining the health of the nation, regrets that further provision is not made for reducing the delay in applying the established results of scientific and medical knowledge to the betterment of public health and efficiency, particularly in regard to the prevention and treatment of venereal disease, the prevention of tuberculosis and other infections by the pasteurization of milk, and the prevention of diphtheria by immunization and through closer attention to factory hygiene and the health and nutrition of young people."

Nurses in Tuberculosis Sanatoria

On Nov. 10 Mr. WOOTTON-DAVIES asked the Minister of Health whether, in view of suggestions that girls should be compelled to take up sanatorium nursing and of the effort now being made to increase the number of nurses in sanatoria, he would investigate existing cases where nurses had contracted tuberculosis in the discharge of their duties and were now maintained either by public funds or on a sum which did not permit of adequate and proper care. He also asked what steps were taken to ensure the rehabilitation of nurses who contracted tuberculosis when nursing tuberculous patients. Mr. ERNEST BROWN called attention to the statement in the recent report of the Medical Research Council, that evidence from research in other countries and expert opinion in our own suggested that the risk of contracting tuberculosis from nursing tuberculosis patients in sanatoria was no greater than that involved in general hospital nursing. He added that a nurse in a tuberculosis institution who contracted the disease was customarily given every care and attention appropriate to her condition by the institution. Arrangements for care and after-care, directed to restoring working capacity, were an essential part of the tuberculosis service and applied to nurses as much as to any other person who had suffered from tuberculosis.

Anti-vaccination Activities

On Nov. 10 Prof. HILL asked the Minister of Health whether he was aware that seven anti-vivisection societies in Great Britain had between them invested capital of about £300,000 and an annual income of about £40,000 which was devoted largely to propaganda, by advertisements and otherwise, against modern scientific methods of preventive medicine; and whether, in view of the fact that eight children on the average died every day of diphtheria alone, he would take steps to counter these activities. Mr. BROWN said that local authorities and his Department had for some time been taking steps to counter these societies' activities in regard to immunization against diphtheria by the use of many forms of publicity. This publicity was continuing. In addition he had asked welfare authorities to do their best to relieve health visitors of their non-urgent routine duties, so that they might devote most of their time during the next two or three months to the immunization campaign. The President of the Board of Education had also asked local education authorities and head teachers to use their influence with parents, and to help the campaign in other ways.

Vitamin B₆ of Wheat Berry

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Food, in reply to a question by Sir E. Graham-Little, said that his attention had been drawn to remarks made by the Ministry's scientific adviser in his recent Harben Lectures. These included reference to a recent discovery that a large proportion of the vitamin B₆ of wheat germ was contained in the scutellum which formed part of the structure of the germ itself. There was no present

intention to modify in any respect the existing instructions to millers regarding the manufacture of national flour.

Air Transport of Wounded

On Nov. 10 Sir ARCHIBALD SINCLAIR informed Mr. D. Adams that in the Middle East, as in other theatres of operations, the evacuation of wounded or sick by air from the battle areas was undertaken by the Royal Air Force. Specially fitted transport aircraft were normally used for the purpose. He was advised by the Secretary of State for War that the supply of drugs and medical equipment from this country and America for the various units of the R.A.M.C. was being fully maintained.

Report of Committee on Nursing Services.—On Nov. 10 Mr. ERNEST BROWN stated that he was informed by Lord Rushcliffe, chairman of the committee which was inquiring into the conditions of the nursing profession, that while he could not say with certainty when the report of the committee would be available, he hoped, in view of the considerable progress already made, that it would be possible to submit a first report early next year.

The Services

The M.C. has been awarded to Capt. J. Baron, R.A.M.C., and to Capt. A. F. Graham, R.C.A.M.C., in recognition of gallant and distinguished services in the Middle East.

CASUALTIES IN THE MEDICAL SERVICES

Capt. RONALD EDWIN SHAW LEWIS, M.C., R.A.M.C., was killed in action in the Middle East in Oct. He was born on Feb. 15, 1914, the only son of Dr. and Mrs. A. J. Lewis of Birkdale, and was educated at the University of Edinburgh, where he graduated M.B., Ch.B. in 1939. He held a house post at Dover before entering the R.A.M.C. as temp. lieut. in Feb., 1940. He was awarded the M.C. in Aug. last in recognition of gallant and distinguished services in the Middle East. During the first three days of a tank battle he was continuously going to every tank that was hit or set on fire and extricating wounded, many of whom were incapable of helping themselves. The whole of the time he was travelling in a scout car and moving about among tanks. "His devotion to duty and absolute disregard for his own personal safety were magnificent," stated the official citation. He was a member of the B.M.A.

Universities and Colleges

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

At a Congregation held on Oct. 31 the degrees of M.B., B.Chir. were conferred on R. M. Stuart Matthews.

During October titles of the degrees of M.B., B.Chir. were conferred on G. E. L. Cummins of Newnham College.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

The Senate of the University has appointed David Randall Pye, Sc.D., F.R.S., Director of Scientific Research at the Ministry of Aircraft Production, to the post of Provost of University College, London, vacant through the death of Sir Allen Mawer. Dr. Pye will enter upon his duties on Jan. 1, 1943.

UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN

The General Council of the University has appointed Robert Richards, M.D. (Aberd.), F.R.C.S. (Ed.), lecturer in forensic medicine, to fill a vacancy on the Business Committee.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF EDINBURGH

At a quarterly meeting of the College, held on Nov. 3, with the President, Dr. Charles McNeil, in the chair, Dr. Wm. George Clark was introduced and took his seat as a Fellow of the College, and Dr. P. A. H. King, D.F.C., Dr. J. G. Sclater, Dr. Adam Patrick, and Dr. J. W. McNee, D.S.O., were elected Fellows. The Hill Pattison-Struthers Bursary in Anatomy and Physiology was awarded to A. Jardine Neil.

ROYAL FACULTY OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS OF GLASGOW

Prof. H. J. Seddon will deliver a lecture on "Recent Work on Peripheral Nerve Injuries" under the auspices of the Dr. John Burns Fund in the hall of the Faculty (242, St. Vincent Street, Glasgow) on Wednesday, Nov. 25, at 4 p.m.