

of science set upon by the black-hearted politicians (in the scientific words of Dr. Bourne, "either ignorant, incompetent, or dishonest"). The fact is, of course, that many of the present deficiencies in our medical services have nothing whatever to do with "science," and Dr. Bourne cannot be allowed to evade these matters by such an easy device.

Let us take a simple example from the field of hospital services. A member of the public in need of hospital treatment seeks admission to a voluntary hospital. He finds that his chances of early admission to the hospital of his choice are infinitesimal, but they can be greatly increased if he is able to pay a private fee and consult a member of its honorary staff. If he feels this to be wrong, to whom should he appeal—the "scientists" or the "politicians"? (If Dr. Bourne doubts whether such a situation frequently arises, I can furnish him with particulars of some recent examples at hospitals well known to him.) Such matters are of more immediate concern to the people whom we serve than the abstract claims of "science," and if we believe in democracy, as Dr. Bourne does, we must concede the people's right to protest against them and the duty of democratic government to remedy them. Perhaps it is considerations of this kind which have given rise to the development of municipal hospital services. At present more than 80% of the hospital beds required by the people of London have to be provided by public authorities, and this would not be necessary if voluntary organizations had proved equal to our needs.

Municipal hospitals, like other institutions, have their faults, and it is easy (and legitimate) to criticize them. From the public's point of view, however, they have one simple virtue: they are *responsible to the public* for the provision of hospital treatment to those in need of it. For the very large proportion of patients suffering from diseases of the types which are unpopular in "scientific" institutions, this virtue outweighs many disadvantages.

Science, too, has its claims, and if Dr. Bourne is familiar with the magnificent public authority hospitals in countries where voluntary hospitals are unknown (for example, in Scandinavia), he must realize that science can and does flourish in such hospitals. In attacking the relatively archaic form of organization of our own municipal hospitals Dr. Bourne is largely tilting at the windmills, for their organization will undoubtedly develop and progress as do their standards of treatment. Those of us who work in municipal hospitals are not blind to their faults nor unconscious of their opportunities for development and improvement.—I am, etc.,

London, W.9.

A. L. JACOBS.

### Conditions for Good Work

SIR.—The average doctor is inarticulate, has no time for thinking or writing, and after recent events is more fatalistic than ever; it is therefore the extremes of opinion that are voiced. Of all that has appeared in print Mr. Wilfrid Adams's letter (July 10, p. 53) most nearly expresses the feelings of the average general practitioner and goes to the root of our present difficulties—namely, numbers.

Most of our troubles, both those mentioned by Mr. Adams and others, can be abolished, but only by a great increase in the numbers of the profession. State interference is now necessary because the average income cannot afford full and efficient up-to-date medical service; so the main feature of that interference should be financial subsidy. Given the money and the personnel, success could be achieved without making devastating changes; lacking either, any scheme must fail.

It is essential, therefore, by offering reasonably attractive prospects and by other means, to ensure an adequate supply of recruits and greatly increase the numbers of the profession; otherwise a vicious circle may develop with great detriment to the good of the community.—I am, etc.,

York.

CHARLES C. COBB.

It is generally agreed that the solanaceous alkaloids are useful in the symptomatic treatment of Parkinson's syndrome. H. Volmer (*Arch. Neurol. Psychiat.*, Chicago, 1942, 48, 72) concludes from his own experience that a combination of alkaloids is more effective than any one given separately, and found that the best mixture is 90.2% hyoscyamine hydrobromide, 7.4% atropine sulphate, and 2.4% scopolamine hydrobromide.

## Obituary

The recent death of HUGH WELLS ARMSTEAD at Seaton, Devon, whither he retired on giving up practice in London some years ago, removes one of those very highly qualified and gifted members of the profession who fifty years ago did not disdain the status of general practitioner but are now much more likely to adopt a specialty. He was educated professionally at St. Bartholomew's Hospital and School, where he was successively exhibitioner, junior scholar, senior scholar, and senior house-surgeon. He qualified M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. in 1892; M.B., B.S.Lond., with 1st-class honours in medicine; M.D.Lond. and F.R.C.S.Eng., both in 1894—a record which speaks for itself. He was for a long time a well-known London general practitioner, and published his reminiscences and reflections entitled *Thirty Years of General Practice*. Outside his professional interests, his leanings may be gathered from his *Artistic Anatomy of the Horse* and his contributions to the *Magazine of Art* on similar topics. For several years he was a member of the Council of Epsom College, until increasing deafness and his departure from London led to his resignation. He had been a good friend to the College, and to its library, as well as a regular subscriber for many years.

Dr. GERALD S. EWEN, of East Twickenham, who died on June 26 at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, joined the B.M.A. in 1912 and was chairman of the South Middlesex Division in 1924-5. He was born in Jamaica in 1877 son of the Hon. William Ewen, and from Lord Weymouth's Grammar School came to England to study medicine at Bart's, qualifying M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. in 1902. During the last war he served in Salonika with a temporary commission in the R.A.M.C. Dr. Ewen had been honorary medical officer of St. John's Hospital, Twickenham, since 1921.

Lieut.-Col. H. C. Keats, I.M.S. (ret.) writes: It was with great regret that I read of the death of Lieut.-Col. H. J. SHIRLEY. I knew him not as a doctor but as the colour sergeant of G Co. the Artists Rifles in the '90's. This company, of which I was a humble member, was composed of medical students, and I think that Scharlieb (as he then was) was the smartest colour sergeant in the regiment. A keen soldier and a strict disciplinarian, he was a man of great bonhomie and charm when off parade. I have very pleasant recollections of the little suppers we sometimes had in some small Soho hotel after Saturday parades. Personally I think he was cut out for a soldier and would have risen to high rank had he been in the Regular Army. The Artists want no advertisement; the value of their work and training was seen in the last war. And it was to such men as Col. Shirley that their efficiency was due; men who unselfishly gave up their leisure hours to promoting the efficiency of their famous corps.

## The Services

Col. B. C. Ashton, V.H.S., I.M.S., has been appointed Honorary Surgeon to the King in succession to Major-Gen. A. A. C. McNeill, I.M.S. (ret.)

Temp. Surg. Lieut. J. F. J. Kelly, R.N.V.R., has been mentioned in dispatches for good services to the wounded in a ship which was attacked by U-boats.

Majors (temp. Lieut.-Cols.) H. J. R. Thorne and C. H. Kerr, R.A.M.C., have been awarded the D.S.O., and Capt. T. Reilly, R.A.M.C., has been awarded the M.C., in recognition of gallant and distinguished services in the Middle East.

Cpts. H. M. MacFie, W. Robinson, and J. F. Webb, R.A.M.C., have been awarded the M.C. in recognition of gallant and distinguished services in North Africa.

Brig. (temp.) E. A. Sutton, O.B.E., M.C., late R.A.M.C., has been appointed C.B.E. (Military Division), Lieut.-Col. S. W. T. Lee, Lieut.-Col. (temp.) T. F. Anderson, and Major (temp. Lieut.-Col.) D. Bell, E.A.A.M.C., have been appointed O.B.E. (Military Division), and Major A. Galloway, South African Forces (attached E.A.A.M.C.) and Lieut. (temp. Capt.) L. P. Harington, Southern Rhodesia Medical Corps, have been appointed M.B.E. (Military Division) in recognition of gallant and distinguished services in East Africa and Madagascar.

Capt. C. P. Blacker, M.C., R.A.M.C., has been awarded the George Medal in recognition of conspicuous gallantry in carrying out hazardous work in a very brave manner.

The following have been mentioned in dispatches in recognition of gallant and distinguished services in East Africa and Madagascar: Col. (temp.) B. C. O. Sheridan, M.C., Capt. (temp. Major) W. N. Hood, and Capt. G. C. Griffiths, R. H. Isaac, and W. H. Whyment, R.A.M.C.; Lieut.-Col. C. H. Marshall, Majors (temp. Lieut.-Cols.) W. K. Connell, D. D. McCarthy and C. E. Roberts, and Capt. (temp. Major) N. J. Willans, E.A.A.M.C.; Lieut.-Col. J. Wakeford and Major P. Baron, Southern Rhodesia Medical Corps.

#### CASUALTIES IN THE MEDICAL SERVICES

*Prisoners of War.*—Major R. T. Binns, A.A.M.C.; Wing Cmdr. D. Magrath, R.A.F.

The notification that Dr. N. H. R. McCallum had been mentioned in dispatches, published in a *Supplement to the London Gazette* of June 22, should have read Temp. Surg. Lieut. N. H. R. McCallum, R.N.V.R.

## Universities and Colleges

### UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

In Congregation on July 1 the degrees of B.M., B.Ch. were conferred on J. A. Ritchie, and (*in absentia*) R. E. Lee.

### UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

#### GUY'S HOSPITAL MEDICAL SCHOOL

The following awards have been made for 1943: *Entrance Scholarship in Arts*—R. Handy. *Entrance Scholarship in Science*—B. J. Silkoff.

### UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL

The following candidates have been approved at the examination indicated:

FINAL M.B., Ch.B.—J. E. Bevis, M. P. Bourke, 1 A. G. M. Davies, Mercia J. Griffiths, C. H. Gurd, Elisabeth Hodson, (Mrs.) Lois M. Leitch, D. E. Olliff, 2 Mildred I. Pott, D. A. Sarsfield, 3 S. S. Short, T. R. Stephens.  
1 Distinction in forensic medicine and toxicology. 2 Distinction in public health. 3 Distinction in surgery.

### UNIVERSITY OF DURHAM

At a Congregation held on June 30 the University of Durham conferred the degree of D.Ch. *honoris causa* on Major-General P. H. Mitchiner, C.B.E., T.D., surgeon to St. Thomas's Hospital.

### UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL

The following candidates have been approved at the examinations indicated:

M.D.—A. B. Concanon, G. Sanderson, Mary D. H. Sheridan, V. K. Summers.

M.B., Ch.B.—*Part III*: Mary A. R. Allan, Muriel C. Andrews, A. Ansell, E. R. Banner, Beryl R. Bentley, R. A. Blyth, N. Broughton, Hilda E. Bullen, W. G. Canning, G. Davies, I. H. Foy, Joan O. Grant, E. N. Hugh-Jones, Eirwen M. Jones, J. J. Lieben, I. P. Madhok, Margaret L. Magge, A. W. Merrick, Jean C. Miller, K. H. Oldfield, E. W. Parry, E. Scott, K. H. Slatter, Nora Taggart, G. A. Wetherell. *Passed in Separate Subjects*: A. S. Beadel (Surgery, Obstetrics and Gynaecology), H. Francis (Medicine, Obstetrics and Gynaecology), Irene W. Simpson (Medicine and Surgery). *Part I*: M. K. Alexander, J. T. D. Allen, E. T. Anderson, H. B. Andrews, Beryl G. Ancombe, 2 G. Ansell, K. W. F. Baruch, 2 J. P. D. Bates, T. J. Boag, 1 2 Edith M. Brown, E. Cooper, 2 D. Craddock, Constance M. Davis, B. Dover, 2 K. R. Dumbell, E. D. Edmondson, J. L. Edmondson, J. W. L. Edwards, R. Ellam, P. Foster, 1 J. C. Frew, B. R. Frisby, S. Gillis, N. J. Gourdij, 2 D. A. Gregson, C. R. Helsby, 2 Winifred L. Hollick, G. Hughes, L. Jacobs, D. C. R. Jones, E. S. Jones, H. A. Jones, J. T. W. Jones, P. R. B. Jones, R. S. Jones, M. Kirwan, W. T. W. Lawson, Joyce R. Lewis, S. Lipton, J. B. Lynch, K. McCarthy, M. G. McEntegart, 2 R. H. Martlew, 2 Lucille F. Morgan, 2 D. B. Mossman, C. M. Ogilvie, C. A. Pearson, H. H. Pilling, J. B. Roberts, Isabel S. Smellie, G. W. Storey, P. J. Taylor, W. A. Thompson, Corris Venables, H. Wickham, J. R. E. Wilson. *Passed in Separate Subject*: A. D. Charnley, H. T. Davenport, Muriel E. St. Pier (Pharmacology and General Therapeutics).

1 Distinction in Pathology and Bacteriology. 2 Distinction in Pharmacology and General Therapeutics.

### UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW

At a graduation ceremony at Glasgow University, held on June 24, the degree of Doctor of Laws (LL.D.) was conferred on Air Marshal Sir Harold E. Whittingham, K.B.E., M.B., F.R.C.P.Lond., F.R.C.P.Ed., F.R.F.P.S., Director-General, Royal Air Force Medical Services.

### UNIVERSITY OF WALES

#### WELSH NATIONAL SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

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

M.B., Ch.B.—*Obstetrics and Gynaecology*: S. Brest, I. F. Barwell-Clarke, 1 Joan Collins, K. V. Crowther, 1 A. D. Evans, Eileen J. Evans, 1 H. J. Fisher, J. C. Hughes, R. G. Hughes, D. C. W. Jenkins, D. I. Jenkins, H. O. Jones, T. L. Jones, Alice M. A. Lee, Sarah M. Lewis, D. A. Macfarlane, Eiry Morgan, Mary W. Owen, E. J. Parr, J. L. J. Phillips, Winifred S. Phillips, Isabella M. Pinkerton, I. Rees-Matthews, D. B. Richards, F. W. Richards,

E. G. G. Roberts, W. Stevenson, Gertrude G. Thomas, L. P. Thomas, V. V. Tracey, H. O. Williams, Mary L. Williams, W. H. Williams. *Pharmacology*: W. H. Beasley, J. W. Bowen, B. L. Crystal, M. L. Edwards, L. A. J. Evans, M. Evans, J. C. Ham, D. W. James, W. J. Jenkins, C. G. W. Mason, J. Matthews, Isobel F. A. Mitchell, Nesta G. Morgan, Margaret Owen, D. B. Price, E. G. Rees, O. V. Rees, D. M. Rowlands, 1 R. M. E. Seal, D. R. Thomas, D. V. Thomas, G. H. Thomas, D. Tooms, Catrin M. Williams, Roberta Williams.

1 With distinction.

### ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND

At a meeting of Council held on July 8 Sir Alfred Webb-Johnson was re-elected President and Mr. H. S. Souttar and Sir Girling Ball Vice-Presidents.

The following appointments were made for the ensuing year:

*Hunterian Professors.*—Prof. G. Grey Turner, one lecture on the Construction of the Ante-thoracic Oesophagus; Surg. Rear-Admiral G. Gordon-Taylor, one lecture on the Technique and the Results of the Surgery of Peptic Ulcer, with Special Reference to the Value of Regional and Splanchnic Anaesthesia; Brig. Noel St. J. G. D. Buxton, one lecture on Gunshot Wounds of the Knee-joint; Prof. A. B. Appleton, two lectures on the Bronchi and Blood Vessels of the Lungs; Mr. W. Stirik Adams, one lecture on the Problem of Acute Otitis Media in Children and the Response of the Infection to Sulphonamide Therapy; Surg. Cmdr. J. B. Oldham, one lecture on Coccygeal Sinus; Mr. J. F. Brailsford, one lecture on the Plasticity of Bone; Mr. T. Holmes Sellors, one lecture on Constrictive Pericarditis; Mr. T. M. Tyrrell, one lecture on the Surgery of the Lacrimal Sac; Dr. R. B. Zachary, one lecture on Factors influencing Recovery after Nerve Suture.

*Arris and Gale Lectures.*—Dr. N. M. Goodman, one lecture on the Supply of Subjects for Dissection: A Historical Review; Dr. Herbert Haxton, lectures on (1) the Function of the Patella, and (2) the Anatomy of Progression.

*Erasmus Wilson Demonstrators.*—Mr. L. E. C. Norbury, one demonstration on the pathological contents of the Museum; Mr. C. E. Shattock, one demonstration; Mr. R. Davies-Colley, two demonstrations on Certain States of Bone Absorption; Surg. Rear-Admiral Cecil P. G. Wakeley, two demonstrations on Tumours of the Alimentary Tract.

*Arnott Demonstrator.*—Dr. A. J. E. Cave, six demonstrations on the contents of the Museum.

*Macloghlin Scholar.*—Michael Hatton of Epsom College.

#### Diplomas

A Diploma of Fellowship was granted to A. M. L. Smith, M.B., Ch.B.

Diplomas were granted, jointly with the Royal College of Physicians of London, as follows:

DIPLOMA IN PUBLIC HEALTH.—D. Hewspear, A. S. Hoseason, Joyce B. M. Mayes, S. J. Sutton.

DIPLOMA IN PSYCHOLOGICAL MEDICINE.—C. Anderson, H. M. Cohn, D. L. Davies, Wilhelmina L. Devlin, Elizabeth P. Dodds, H. M. James, Joan E. Mackworth, R. R. Prewer.

DIPLOMA IN LARYNGOLOGY AND OTOTOLOGY.—J. C. Liddle, P. S. Meyrick, C. P. Williams.

## Medical Notes in Parliament

### Food Conference at Hot Springs

In the House of Commons on July 6 Mr. EDEN made a statement on the result of the Food Conference recently held at Hot Springs. He said that the Government accepted the resolutions passed and the obligations to give effect to them in so far as they applied to conditions in the United Kingdom. They would also commend the resolutions to the Governments of the Colonies and overseas territories. The third resolution recommended that Governments should immediately begin the task of increasing food resources and improving the diets of their peoples in accordance with the principles and objectives outlined in the findings of the conference. The Government intended, despite the inevitable difficulties which the war entailed, to press on with this aim. They intended to participate fully in the work of the interim commission to be set up to prepare a plan for a permanent organization in the field of food and agriculture. One of the tasks of the commission would be to draw up a formal declaration or agreement for the consideration of the respective Governments, which would recognize their obligation towards their peoples and to one another to collaborate in raising levels of nutrition and standards of living.

In the House of Lords Lord ADDISON also called attention to the Hot Springs conference. Lord WOOLTON said that the recommendations of the conference covered the short-term and long-term phases of post-war development. The first two years after the war was bound to be a time of great stringency on the food front. We must prepare for that stringency now, as well as do what we could to meet the circumstances of the present stringencies in Europe and Asia. In the generally improved standards of nutrition and the special provision made for what the conference called "the vulnerable groups"—children, pregnant women, nursing women, and factory workers—we in this country had made really remarkable progress. Undernutrition had been vastly reduced during the war, and this was reflected in an improved national health bill. The creation of the interim commission would mean that the work of the conference would not be left in mid-air, and the Government intended to participate fully in the work of the commission.