

Lastly, should we not consider the convenience of our patients? Which of our patients would not rather go round the corner and see Dr. Jones at his morning surgery and be back in time to see to the family's lunch, rather than dress up to go down town to the centre and be sorted out like sheep into the appropriate pen?—I am, etc.,

JOHN R. M. SANGSTER,  
Capt., R.A.M.C.

## Obituary

### C. J. S. THOMPSON, M.B.E., PH.D.

Mr. C. J. S. Thompson, who died on July 14, was born at Liverpool on Aug. 27, 1862. Educated at Liverpool University, he devoted his early days to the study and practice of chemistry and pharmacy, with a special interest in the history of both these sciences. In 1909 he was appointed Curator of the projected Wellcome Historical Medical Museum and came to London to take up his duties. From that date until his retirement in 1926 he threw all his energy into gathering together and organizing the unrivalled collection housed at that time in Wigmore Street, W. In the course of arranging many noteworthy acquisitions he travelled extensively in Europe.

During the last war Thompson raised and trained two voluntary aid detachments of the British Red Cross Society, and established the "Holmleigh" Auxiliary Military Hospital, Harrow, of which he became the commandant. Many hundreds of British wounded passed through the hospital, and on its closing in 1919 Thompson was awarded the M.B.E. for his services. In 1927 the Royal College of Surgeons of England elected him honorary curator of the Historical Section of its Museum in Lincoln's Inn Fields, and in this position he worked untiringly until the collection was almost completely destroyed by enemy action in May, 1941. Fortunately Thompson had by that time finished his work on the *History and Evolution of Surgical Instruments* (New York, 1942), which placed on permanent record some of the Museum's most important exhibits.

The outcome of a life-long study of toxicology, C. J. S. Thompson's *Poisons and Poisoners* (1931) is a standard reference work. Outstanding among many other literary excursions into the byways of medicine, chemistry, and pharmacy was *The Art of the Apothecary* (1929). Already a member of the Royal Society of Medicine, Thompson became in 1936 a Commander of the Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem. For his researches in the history of medicine he was also elected an Associate of the Royal Academy of Medicine, Turin.

Dr. INEZ MEYER (Mrs. Struckman) died suddenly at her home in West Wimbledon on June 5. She was a student of the London School of Medicine for Women and the Royal Free Hospital, qualifying M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. in 1926 and later graduating M.B., B.S.Lond. After holding several resident appointments she started in practice in West Wimbledon and still continued at intervals to help in hospital clinical work. In both hospital and private practice her keen interest in all branches of medicine, her sympathetic understanding and friendly cheerful personality were greatly appreciated by her patients and her colleagues, who mourn the loss of an excellent doctor and a valued friend. She was a devoted wife and mother, and to her husband and two young daughters our deepest sympathy is extended.—E. M. H.

The death took place at Reading on June 30 of Dr. CAMPBELL HIGHET, late of Ayr, aged 75. After graduating M.B., C.M. at Glasgow in 1892 he started general practice at Cardonald, later moving south to Wisbech, Worcester, and Reading, where he had practised for the past 28 years. For many years Dr. Hight lectured and examined in first aid and home nursing for the St. Andrews Ambulance Association, the St. John Ambulance Association, and the British Red Cross Society.

Mr. HUGH WRIGHT THOMSON, consulting ophthalmic surgeon to the Glasgow Royal Infirmary and Ophthalmic Institution, died on June 16. He was born in Glasgow in 1873, and from Allan Glen's School went on to study medicine at the University, graduating M.B., C.M. in 1895. He proceeded M.D. seven years later, after holding a number of house appointments at the Royal Infirmary and Glasgow Eye Infirmary. Mr. Wright Thomson had a distinguished military record during the last war, serving in Gallipoli, Egypt, Palestine, France, and Belgium as lieut.-col., R.A.M.C.(T.), in command of the Lowland

Mounted Brigade Field Ambulance. His services were recognized by the award of the D.S.O. and the Territorial Decoration, and the Order of the Nile, 3rd Class. On returning to civil life he was appointed ophthalmic surgeon to the Bellahouston Hospital under the Ministry of Pensions and medical referee for ophthalmic cases in the Sheriffdom of Lanarkshire; and was also for a time senior oculist to the Glasgow Education Health Service. He had been a member of the B.M.A. for the past 45 years.

Dr. WILLIAM ELMSLIE HENDERSON, of Carlton Place, Aberdeen, died on June 26, aged 71. He studied medicine at Aberdeen, Edinburgh, and Dublin, after graduating M.A. of Aberdeen University in 1893, and took the M.B., Ch.B. Aberd. in 1898 and the D.P.H. of Manchester University in 1911. Before entering the Public Health Service Dr. Henderson had been resident house-surgeon at the Aberdeen Royal Infirmary and surgeon to Kirkcaldy Hospital. He was for some time M.O.H. and school medical officer for the County of Westmorland, and published articles on epidemic poliomyelitis in *Public Health* and on Westmorland school children in the *Caledonian Medical Journal*. In recent years he had served as temporary assistant county M.O.H. for the Lindsey part of Lincolnshire and lived at Horncastle. He joined the B.M.A. in 1898.

We regret to learn from Trinidad of the death of Dr. EDGAR NICHOLAS DARWENT, a very old member of the British Medical Association. Born in 1864, he studied medicine at the University of Edinburgh and graduated M.D. in 1887. In Trinidad he held the posts of resident surgeon at the two hospitals, and after retiring from the Government service had a consulting practice in Port of Spain, from which he retired owing to failing health four years ago. Dr. Darwent was the first chairman of the Northern Division of the local branch of the B.M.A.

## Universities and Colleges

### UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

In the Sheldonian Theatre on July 24 a ceremony was held for the second conferment of the degree of M.U.Dr. upon Czechoslovak medical students who have completed their studies in England and passed the special qualifying examination conducted by the Examining Board in England of the Royal Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons. The degrees were conferred by the Vice-Chancellor, the Regius Professor of Medicine, and the Nuffield Professor of Therapeutics in the University of Oxford, which is acting as sponsor for those Czechoslovak universities which are closed under the German occupation.

### UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

A graduation ceremony was held on July 14, when the following degrees and diplomas were conferred:

M.D.—Surg. Lieuts. 2 J. M. Crawford and 1 E. L. Thomson, R.N.V.R. M.B., Ch.B.—T. M. Abbas, T. L. Adamson, W. R. M. Alexander, R. P. Anderson, Catherine O. Bell, W. J. Bell, G. S. P. Birtwistle, J. A. P. Bouton, D. C. Boyd, Janet Braid, J. S. Brown, S. Campbell, J. A. Caskey, Jessica B. Core, C. M. Cornforth, B. Cruickshank, I. M. Cuthill, J. A. Dick, R. W. Draper, G. R. H. Drew, T. B. M. Durie, J. C. Edgar, R. Elliott, Constance M. Evans, Ida M. K. Fenton, Mary G. Findlay, J. B. Gibson, G. T. Goodall, Jessie R. Gray, Sarah K. R. Gray, H. Mack, Guthrie, R. D. Guy, R. R. Hamilton, H. C. Hastings, Lorna H. Heslop, Miriam H. Heughan, Elizabeth M. Hislop, D. R. Hughes, D. Hutchison, D. G. Illingworth, W. H. Isles, Isla M. S. Jamieson, J. C. Johnson, Kirsty M'F. Johnston (née Barker), A. H. D. Large, J. H. Lawson, Doreen S. Leith-Ross, Audrey B. Lornie, W. M. M. Lyon, Margaret MacDonald, H. A. M'Dougle, Margaret M. McIntosh, A. M. MacLachlann, A. M. Macleod, A. T. Macqueen, D. J. L. McWatt, J. G. Martin, T. S. Matheson, M. Mendick, R. C. Milne, Patricia E. Mitchell, R. A. H. Morison, J. A. Morton, Agnes P. Muir, W. D. Munro, W. Murdie, Janet T. Murdoch, G. H. Pearson, J. J. Pepper, Margaret G. Proudfoot, R. J. G. Rattrie, Monica M. Renner, Dorothy C. G. M. Reside, C. Riley, G. I. Robertson, D. W. Robinson, J. Ross, D. Savory, D. I. H. Smith, J. G. Sommerville, R. J. C. Southern, Sheena G. D. P. Splitt, Sheila M. Stark, Isabel F. Sutherland, M. Tait, H. B. Taylor, G. H. M. Thornton, A. R. Watson, R. W. Watson, Margaret Watt, Elizabeth G. Watts, T. B. Whiston, J. B. Wilson, L. A. Wilson, Olive Wilson (née MacMillan), Robert D. Young. B.Sc.—Margaret G. Proudfoot, M.B., Ch.B.

D.P.H.—J. B. Brown, 2 O. H. Siung.

1 Commended for thesis. 2 In absentia.

The following prizes were presented:

*Elles Scholarship and Leslie Medal, Keith Memorial Prize in Systematic Surgery, and Beaneey Prize in Anatomy and Surgery*: H. T. G. Strawbridge. *Scottish Association for Medical Education of Women Prize, Dorothy Gilfillan Memorial Prize, and Murdoch Brown Medal in Clinical Medicine*: Elizabeth M. Hislop. *Mouat Scholarship in the Practice of Physic*: W. Murdie. *Buchanan Scholarship in Midwifery and Gynaecology*: K. J. R. Cuthbert. *James Scott Scholarship in Midwifery and Gynaecology*: G. S. P. Birtwistle. *Conan Doyle Prize*: A. C. Macdonald. *Royal Victoria Hospital Tuberculosis Trust Medal*: D. J. C. Cunningham. *Annandale Medal in Clinical Surgery*: P. M. Roemeele. *Pattison Prize in Clinical Surgery*: G. V. R. Born. *Wightman Prize in Clinical Medicine*: C. W. Shearer. *Murchison Memorial Scholarship in Clinical Medicine*: R. Cruickshank. *Gunning Victoria Jubilee Prize in Zoology*: D. K. M'E. Kevan. *Gunning Victoria Jubilee Prize in Physiology*: A. E. Ritchie. *Lewis Cameron Undergraduate Prize in Bacteriology*: J. M'Lelland. *Colonel Thomas*

*Biggam Memorial Medal and Prize in Pathology* : J. T. Gray. *MacLagan Prize in Forensic Medicine* : I. M. Richardson. *Cunningham Memorial Medal and Prize in Anatomy* : W. R. St. Clair; prox. acc., R. B. White. *Whiteside Bruce Bursary* : Jean M. Dance. *Vans Dunlop Prize in Botany and Zoology* : D. W. Lyon and Margaret Stirling (equal).

#### ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF EDINBURGH

At a meeting of the College, held on July 20, with Mr. J. W. Struthers, President, in the chair, the following, having passed the requisite examinations, were admitted Fellows:

C. P. Allen, G. W. Baker, D. T. Howell Evans, C. C. M. James, H. Lyton, I. S. McGregor, A. K. Mitting, James Reid, T. R. Simpson, G. F. F. Sinclair, M. Weinilos.

#### SOCIETY OF APOTHECARIES OF LONDON

At a meeting of the Court of Assistants held on June 22, with Sir Stanley Woodwork, Master, in the chair, Sir Hugh Lett was re-elected as the Society's Representative on the British Postgraduate Medical School; Dr. H. Seaward Morley as delegate to the Representative Committee of the British Medical Association; and Wing Commander R. R. Trail to represent the Society at the 26th Annual Conference of the National Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis.

The following candidates have satisfied the Examiners in the subjects indicated:

**PATHOLOGY, BACTERIOLOGY AND FORENSIC MEDICINE**.—J. A. Baldwin, T. L. Benson, D. M. Carnegie, B. A. Gould, D. B. Lawrence, T. Moss, C. D. Sanders, R. M. B. Talbot, R. N. Thakston, W. M. Thomas, B. E. O. Williams.

**SURGERY**.—S. R. Abrams, A. M. Earle, P. L. G. Cole, C. M. F. Fiducia, I. D. Henderson, J. S. Pegum, A. G. M. Reese, C. D. Sanders, J. H. S. Scarlett, W. Sommer, C. T. Tahil, M. N. Tata, B. E. O. Williams.

**MEDICINE**.—J. A. Baldwin, R. F. Bates, T. L. Benson, D. M. Carnegie, C. M. F. Fiducia, B. A. Gould, I. D. Henderson, G. R. S. Jackson, D. B. Lawrence, T. Moss, A. M. Rajah, R. M. B. Talbot, B. E. O. Williams, S. Yaffie.

**MIDWIFERY**.—M. J. Beilin, C. P. Brown, I. D. Henderson, P. S. Hollings, D. B. Lawrence, D. D. Rosewarne, A. J. M. Reese, C. D. Sanders, M. N. Tata, F. R. Walker.

The Diploma of the Society was granted to T. L. Benson, C. P. Brown, D. M. Carnegie, P. L. G. Cole, P. S. Hollings, D. B. Lawrence, P. S. Pegum, A. J. M. Reese, W. Sommer, C. T. Tahil, R. M. B. Talbot, and B. E. O. Williams.

## The Services

Major (temp. Lieut.-Col.) G. S. N. Hughes, I.M.S., has been awarded the D.S.O., and Capts. B. P. Tully, R.A.M.C., A. Qadir and R. S. Sahi, I.M.S., have been awarded the M.C. in recognition of gallant and distinguished services in the Middle East.

Capt. H. D. Eddy, R.A.M.C., has been awarded the M.C. in recognition of gallant and distinguished services in North Africa.

Capt. R. E. Johnson, M.B.E., and C. S. Smalley, R.A.M.C., have been awarded the M.C. in recognition of gallant and distinguished services in Burma.

Capt. E. T. Gilbert, O.B.E., R.A.M.C., has been awarded the D.S.O. in recognition of gallant and distinguished services in the field.

#### CASUALTIES IN THE MEDICAL SERVICES

*Killed as the Result of an Accident on Active Service Over-seas*.—Squad. Ldr. T. D. R. Aubrey, A.A.F.

*Killed*.—Capt. A. O. Karstaedt, R.A.M.C.

*Wounded*.—War Subs. Capt. H. C. W. Baker, R.A.M.C., Lieut.-Col. J. W. Orr, M.C., R.A.M.C.

#### DEATHS IN THE SERVICES

Surgeon Rear-Admiral Sir ARTHUR REGINALD BANKART, K.C.V.O., R.N., died at Kenbrook, Star Cross, South Devon, on June 19, aged 74. He received his medical education at the University of Edinburgh, whose degree of M.B., C.M. he took in 1892, and in 1905 he passed the D.P.H.Lond. His efficiency is also shown by the award to him of the Gilbert Blane gold medal in 1910. As early as 1899 he was appointed surgeon in Queen Victoria's yacht *Osborne* and was transferred to the new *Victoria and Albert* yacht in 1901, on which he served until July, 1914. On the outbreak of war a month later in that year he was appointed senior medical officer to the battleship *Ajaccio*, and once more proved his efficiency at the Battle of Jutland and was noted for early promotion. In 1917 he became medical officer of the Portsmouth Marine Division and in 1919 once more joined the *Victoria and Albert* yacht. He was promoted to be surgeon captain in 1920 and surgeon rear-admiral in 1923, and retired at his own request in 1924. At various times he attended members of the Royal Family, and was awarded the M.V.O. in 1898, the C.V.O. in 1911, and the K.C.V.O. in 1923, in addition to being appointed as Honorary Physician to the King. In the course of his distinguished service Admiral Bankart was awarded foreign orders by Turkey, Russia, Greece, and Denmark.

## Medical Notes in Parliament

#### DECLINING BIRTH RATE

The trend of population was debated in the House of Commons on July 16, a discussion being arranged upon the votes for the Ministry of Health, the Department of Health for Scotland, and the Registrar-General's Office. Group Captain WRIGHT, who opened the debate, said it was difficult to interest people in the subject owing to the lack of a Government population policy and the difficulty of obtaining complete statistics. Yet the trend of the population was the base on which Ministers must initiate social improvements during the period of reconstruction. The nation must have a Government population policy and more complete statistics. Britain had over 2,000,000 fewer children under the age of 14 and 2,500,000 more persons over the age of 60 than in the last war. There were 1,500,000 fewer children than at the time of the Boer War and, in fact, fewer children than in any year since 1876, when the total population of the country was 24,000,000. In 1971, though the total population would be approximately the same as now, there would be 50% more people over the age of 45 than there were to-day, and 100% more people over 65. The number of people aged 45 and under would be only 75% of what it was to-day.

The net reproduction rate showed the number of girl children who survived to replace in the next generation the women of reproductive age in the present. Since the early 1930's the net reproduction rate had been about 75%. At that rate the nation must lose a quarter of its population every generation, which could be considered as being a period of 30 years. If the present death rate of those under 45 were halved it would still lose nearly a fifth of its numbers every 30 years. By 1971 the population would have declined by 25%. To prevent a decline it would be necessary to increase the average size of families by one in three at once, which was clearly impossible. Statistics had just been published by the Registrar-General to show that the birth rate for the March quarter had risen to 16.8, the highest for fifteen years. There was no mention that in 1917, after a precipitous decline of 26% during the first three years of the last war, the birth rate was then 17.8. During the last war, in spite of the great prosperity of the people, the birth rate persisted in falling. Not only in this country but almost throughout the world a declining birth rate had gone hand in hand with improved conditions. The most advanced countries, generally speaking, were those with the lowest rate. The removal of the unequal burden on the married man was the key to the whole problem if they agreed that children were a national asset.

Miss RATHBONE said the lowest birth rate of all was found among ministers of religion, doctors, and teachers. They represented the intelligent persons who were not willing to have large families in present circumstances. Only a few municipalities had introduced a scheme of rent rebates in respect of dependent children where the family income fell below a certain standard. Mr. JAMES GRIFFITHS said a large number of women had one child and refused to have another. It was essential to make motherhood safer. Another reason for the fall in the birth rate was that women increasingly desired a career and the social system compelled women to choose between a career and motherhood. A system must be devised whereby both were possible. Mrs. BEATRICE WRIGHT considered that many women were permitted under war conditions to stay at their work too long and to resume it too soon after their babies were born. Family allowances would meet this.

#### Fertility and Contraceptives

Captain ELLISTON said a modest start in dealing with the problem of declining fertility was made in 1937 when the Government brought in the Population (Statistics) Bill. That Bill had been treated with levity from the moment of its introduction. They were told that there was no evidence of increasing physical sterility, but that there was a deliberate policy adopted by parents to limit their families to one or two so that children could be brought up in greater comfort and security and with greater educational advantages. Some health experts said that by passing a Bill to prohibit the sale of contraceptives the problem would be settled. Others were not sure the availability of contraceptives was wholly responsible for the fall in fertility. Lord Geddes, during a discussion in the House of Lords, had suggested that the decline in fertility was a biological problem and that the germ plasm had ceased to be actively reproductive. Research had been made into similar symptoms in the case of pedigree cattle, and if pre-