

1926-9 and had been a member of the Glasgow Local Medical and Panel Committee. For some years he examined in forensic medicine for the University of St. Andrews.

News has been received from New Zealand of the death at Otago on June 21 of Mr. ALEXANDER TODD McCaw, surgeon to the Southland Hospital, Invercargill. He was born on April 9, 1881, son of Hugh McCaw, M.B., and was educated at Otago College of the New Zealand University. He came to England in 1905 and entered the London Hospital, where after qualifying M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. in 1908 he served as house-surgeon and pathological assistant. Then after further experience at the Seamen's Hospital, Greenwich, he took the F.R.C.S. in 1911, and was for a year senior resident officer at the Bristol Royal Hospital for Children and Women. Mr. McCaw returned to New Zealand to take up surgical practice at Invercargill, and during the last war was in France for two years as captain in the New Zealand Medical Corps. He joined the B.M.A. in 1914 and was chairman of the Southland Division in 1934-6. He was elected F.R.A.C.S. in 1929.

Universities and Colleges

UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

The University Court has resolved to confer the honorary degree of LL.D. upon Prof. H. S. Raper, F.R.C.P., F.R.S., who has been Brackenbury professor of physiology and director of the physiological laboratories in the University of Manchester for the past twenty years and formerly held the chair of physiology and biochemistry in the University of Leeds. This and other honorary degrees will be conferred on Oct. 27.

UNIVERSITY OF WALES

WELSH NATIONAL SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

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

M.B., B.Ch.—*Surgery*: S. C. Dymond, A. J. Evans, Elizabeth M. E. Evans, R. G. Evans, J. I. Hughes, F. C. Jenkins, A. E. Jones, C. R. Jones, C. C. Lewis, Gwenda M. Lewis, A. V. Lillywhite, Margaret E. Milter, Ivy M. Morgans, E. R. Price, J. F. Rees, P. H. Thomas, H. D. Walters, I. M. Watkin, A. A. Yauniskis.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF EDINBURGH

A quarterly meeting of the College was held on July 20 with the President, Dr. Charles McNeil, in the chair. Dr. James Macalister Mackintosh (Glasgow) was introduced and took his seat as a Fellow of the College. Drs. Henry Hunter Corrigan (Isle of Man), Ian Murray (Glasgow), James Innes (Edinburgh), Harry Stalker (Edinburgh), and Alexander Brown (Edinburgh) were elected Fellows of the College.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF OBSTETRICIANS AND GYNAECOLOGISTS

At a quarterly meeting of the Council held in the College House on July 24, with the President, Sir William Fletcher Shaw, in the chair, the following officers were elected to take office in October:

President: Mr. Eardley Holland. *Vice-Presidents*: Mr. William Gough and Prof. Daniel Dougal. *Honorary Treasurer*: Mr. J. P. Hedley. *Honorary Secretary*: Mr. G. F. Gibberd. Mr. William Gilliat was appointed Deputy Honorary Secretary in the absence of Mr. Gibberd on active service. *Honorary Librarian*: Wing Cmdr. F. W. Roques. *Honorary Curator of Museum*: Mr. Aleck W. Bourne.

The following candidates were elected to the Membership: J. K. Baker, J. Kruger, Katharine I. Liebert.

The Council was gratified to receive the gift of £1,000 from a Fellow of the College who wished to remain anonymous. It has been given to commemorate the Presidency of Sir William Fletcher Shaw and the honour of Knighthood conferred on him by the King, and the interest from the gift will form a scholarship to be awarded triennially for research.

CONJOINT BOARD IN SCOTLAND

The following candidates, having passed the final examination, have been admitted L.R.C.P.Ed., L.R.C.S.Ed., and L.R.F.P.&S.Glasg.:

J. E. K. Butchart, J. B. Chetwynd, E. J. Connolly, P. M. Ellison, J. Honig, S. Hellowell, R. H. Johnson, W. S. Joyce, W. B. Kalish, P. D. Kemp, L. Le Vann, W. Levy, V. H. McGettigan, W. McKenzie, A. Marshall, P. Menko, T. S. Moore, H. D. Morgenbesser, C. E. Phillip, C. E. Ratner, W. M. Robinson, O. C. Rollason, A. Simons, B. Snell, W. R. Steven, N. C. Wollin, M. Zises.

The following graduates of recognized foreign universities were also admitted licentiates: W. Hoffer, M.D.Vienna, E. Levin, M.D.Munich.

Medical Notes in Parliament

Pensions: New Provisions of Royal Warrant

A debate on pensions and allowances took place in committee of the House of Commons on July 20, when Sir JOHN ANDERSON explained the new arrangements. He said that a very careful review had been made by the War Cabinet after the criticisms and requests put forward in the House and outside. As a result of the changes proposed, it would be found that all reasonable demands had been substantially met. The first and very important change recorded in the White Paper recently issued concerned the onus of proof. The Government proposed to redraft entirely the existing provisions of the Royal Warrant governing the conditions of entitlement to pension. The redraft included certain novel features entirely in the interests of the claimants. They established two presumptions: (1) that a man's condition as recorded on his admission to the Service was, in fact, his condition at that time; and (2) that any subsequent deterioration in his condition was due to his service. It was further provided that there should be no onus of proof on the claimant, and that the benefit of any reasonable doubt should be given to the claimant.

Two other important changes had been made. The word "directly" in the phrase "directly attributable" was omitted and the word "material" in the phrase "material aggravation" and "materially" in the phrase "materially aggravated" were also omitted. These would result in bringing within the scope of the Warrant cases which had hitherto been properly excluded. Any such cases which, under the new terms, became for the first time eligible for pension or grant would be reconsidered at once by the Minister on application. That included old cases which had been rejected. These changes, important as they were, did not go as far as some critics of the Warrant wished, and did not mean an acceptance of the slogan "Fit for service, fit for pension." The only cases that were excluded were those of disablement which were frankly not connected with or attributable to war service, although suffered after the commencement of war service. It would not be possible to stop short at disablements which had occurred during service. Disablements arising after service would have to be brought in, and that would create inequalities and give rise to new grievances. Such cases were proper for consideration under the general social services provisions.

The Question of Accidents

Sir John went on to refer to the sentence beginning: "While the Minister of Pensions would pay regard to any other evidence, including the consensus of medical opinion," and ending with the words: "he will give full weight to the general view expressed above." He said the Government had provided that there should be no onus put on the applicant, that there should be a presumption in his favour, but that, if they found a condition which doctors universally agreed was not attributable to war service, then rebutting evidence would be admissible, and the presumption with which they started might be overborne. With regard to accidents, the Government was giving the fullest application of the doctrine that a Service man placed himself wholly and unreservedly at the disposal of the State during his service, and they were covering everything, with one exception. The exception was the case of a man who went on leave, who was for the time being entirely released from his obligation to the State, and was just as free as anyone else to do what he liked. When soldiers were on foreign service their whole conditions of life would be covered. The Government had not been able to agree to the demand that there should be no distinction between the post-injury marriage and the pre-injury marriage. They had, however, decided to give an extra 10s. a week to the wholly unemployable man, whether single or married, plus allowances at the full rate for his wife and children irrespective of the date of marriage. If the pensionable disablement resulted in the pensioner's death a widow's pension would be granted. That would have to be applied to pensioners of the last war. The case of officers' family allowances would be dealt with by removing the present obligation to prove need. Officers would of course also benefit by some of the other changes that were being made.

General Insurance Provision for Services

Dr. HADEN GUEST said that the changes in the pensions Warrant were very great. Its old-fashioned structure was completely broken up, and the main purpose of the old Warrant was dead. While welcoming the White Paper because of the simplification it would bring in administration, he urged that the State

tion, since October, 1940, every recruit had been asked to complete in writing a questionnaire, which included two questions specially directed to this subject. Since December, 1940, the Department had been notified by the Board of Control of all men who might have become liable for military service by reason of their discharge from Orders under the Mental Deficiency Acts, and in all such cases the man's history was brought to the notice of the medical board. Men who exhibited indications of a high degree of nervous or mental instability, or who had at any period of their lives been certified to be of unsound mind or about whom there was other convincing evidence of past or present insanity were not called up for military service.

Beds for Tuberculous Patients in Wales.—Mr. BROWN, replying to Mr. Ness Edwards on July 15, said it was anticipated that within the next few months at least 800 tuberculosis patients in Wales would be waiting for hospital accommodation. The figure was an estimate, but there was at present a substantial shortage of beds for tuberculosis cases in Wales, as in other parts of the country. The problem was greatly accentuated by the present necessary restrictions on new building, and by the difficulty of providing hospital staff. With the help of the Minister of Labour and National Service, he was actively seeking a solution of this staff problem to make it possible to use a certain number of emergency hospital beds for tuberculosis cases. A number of beds had recently been put at the disposal of the civil authorities.

Maternity Beds in London.—Dr. SUMMERSKILL asked on July 16 whether 200 expectant mothers were refused admission to Queen Charlotte's Hospital every month for lack of accommodation; and what action Mr. Brown proposed. Mr. BROWN said substantial numbers of mothers who made inquiries at this hospital had to be refused admission. The arrangement made to compensate for the shortage of maternity beds in London was by provision in the Emergency Maternity Homes established in safer areas for the purpose. Additional maternity beds were being opened in London as fast as adaptation could be carried through and trained staffs secured.

Notes in Brief

The Ministry of Health Standing Committee on Medical and Nutritional Problems, consisting in the main of medical and other officers of the Departments concerned, has, in the two years of its existence, met seventeen times. It has given advice to the Departments concerned on a large number of problems submitted to it.

The estimated numbers of wholesale producers and producer-retailers of milk of tuberculin-tested and attested standard on June 1, 1943, were 2,280 and 1,030 respectively. The corresponding figures for June 1, 1942, were 2,190 and 1,110.

The regulations of the national milk and vitamins schemes have now been adjusted to allow widows and children of Service men to continue to receive free milk and vitamins where they were receiving these commodities free of cost before the death of the husband or father, provided that the normal weekly income from all sources remains unaltered except by the substitution of a pension for the Service allowance. The concession will be extended to widows and children of men who were not Service men where the circumstances are parallel.

The county medical officer of health has informed Mr. Brown that at the end of 1942 the numbers of immunized children in the county districts of Northamptonshire were 8,000 children under 5 and 28,250 children aged 5 to 15. He estimates that these figures represent 46 and 74% respectively of the children in the two age groups specified. This information was obtained as the result of a special investigation made by the county medical officer of health. According to information received from the county medical officer of health, 102 children under 15 in the county districts of Northamptonshire were notified as suffering from diphtheria in the period Jan., 1941, to Dec., 1942.

A note on the possible danger from carbon monoxide has been sent recently to every operator of public service vehicles driven by producer-gas. The danger is also explained in the "Manual of Instructions" which will be distributed with each producer-gas unit allocated to operators of goods vehicles.

Arrangements are being made to afford the British Hospitals Contributory Schemes Association an opportunity of expressing its wishes as to the changes in the present conditions of medical service foreshadowed by the Government's acceptance in principle of Assumption B of the Beveridge report.

Mr. Eden said on June 30 that there existed already in this country a Standing Committee on Nutrition, composed of representatives of various Government Departments and scientific bodies, which performed all the functions recommended in this connexion at Hot Springs.

The British Government has agreed to make a further grant-in-aid of £30,000 for the maintenance of medical and surgical teams for work among Chinese troops and civilians in the war zones of China in co-operation with the Chinese Red Cross and the Chinese medical services. The grant on this occasion will be made direct to the Friends' Ambulance Unit.

An antimalarial unit is operating at Mauritius at present, and an engineer is shortly being sent to Mauritius at the Governor's request to prepare, in conjunction with the local authorities, long-range plans for reducing the incidence of malaria. A nutrition unit is also working in the island, and plans for further extension of its activities are awaited.

The Services

Surg. Lieut. D. M. Sheppard and Temp. Surg. Lieut. A. S. Duncan, R.N.V.R., have been awarded the D.S.C. for resolution, enterprise, and fine leadership in a successful encounter with enemy Forces in the Mediterranean.

CASUALTIES IN THE MEDICAL SERVICES

Killed on Active Service in Middle East in July, 1943.—Capt. A. F. Smith, R.A.M.C.

DEATHS IN THE SERVICES

Lieut.-Col. GEORGE M'PHERSON, C.I.E., I.M.S. (ret.), died on July 15 in Switzerland, aged 70. After taking an Arts degree in Glasgow he proceeded to qualify with the M.B., C.M. of the same university in 1895, and he entered the Indian Medical Service in January, 1898. He soon saw active service in China in 1900-2 and in the Aden Hinterland. In 1905 he joined the civil medical department of the Bombay Presidency, where he was in charge of plague measures. In 1911 he took the F.R.C.S.Ed. and was appointed professor of ophthalmology in the Grant Medical College of Bombay. In the war of 1914-18 he was consulting ophthalmic surgeon to the Expeditionary Forces in Mesopotamia and was awarded the C.I.E. for his services in 1918. In 1926 he retired and afterwards lived in Switzerland, in Bellaria, Vevey, and Montreux, where his readiness to help in any difficulties was much appreciated. On the outbreak of the present war he volunteered his services in any capacity, but his age precluded his further military employment. His wife, the daughter of the late John Reynolds of Bristol, survives him, as does his elder brother, Sir Hugh M'Pherson, K.C.I.E., of the Indian Civil Service, who formerly served in Bengal.

Medical News

At the opening of the new academic session at Westminster Hospital Medical School the inaugural address will be delivered by the Right Hon. Ernest Brown, Minister of Health, on Monday, Oct. 4, at 3 p.m. Tea will be served in the school.

The Chadwick Trustees are offering three prizes—one of £100, one of £50, and one of £25 (accompanied, if the Trustees so decide, by a Chadwick medal or medals)—for the best three essays, received before Sept. 1 next, on architectural, engineering, and administrative principles (relative to sanitation and hygiene) which should be observed in the replanning arrangements of war-devastated towns or areas. Information in regard to the scope of the essays, etc., can be obtained by sending a stamped and addressed envelope to the Clerk to the Chadwick Trustees, 204, Abbey House, Westminster, S.W.1.

The Board of Directors of the Finney-Howell Research Foundation has awarded two new fellowships and has renewed three others for research into the aetiology and treatment of cancer. Fellowships, carrying an annual stipend of \$2,000, are awarded for one year with the possibility of renewal up to three years. Applications must be made on forms obtainable from The Secretary, 1211, Cathedral Street, Baltimore, Maryland, and must reach the Foundation before Jan. 1 of each year. The appointments will be made in March.

Industrial workers are themselves taking an active interest in measures to promote safety and health, and in some factories health committees have been set up. Where no medical officer is available, however, it is difficult for them to obtain professional and technical advice, and the Leicester Branch of the Socialist Medical Association has been responsible for establishing a local Industrial Health Advisory Council, through which it is hoped that specialist advice on industrial health matters will be available wherever it is required. It is suggested that similar councils might be set up in other areas.

Arrangements have been made between the Ministry of Labour and National Service and the Ministry of Health under which State-registered nurses who on account of disability are not fit to return to their previous nursing work, but who are suitable for employment as sister tutors, health visitors, or industrial nurses, may receive training for that purpose.

Dr. John Robert Kennedy of Dunbeath, who graduated at Aberdeen in 1893 and has practised at Latheron for the past 44 years, has received a presentation from patients and friends to commemorate his jubilee in the medical profession.