

Before settling in practice as an oto-rhinologist in Newcastle he held a house post at the London Temperance Hospital and travelled widely as a ship surgeon. During the last war he reached the rank of major in the R.A.M.C.(T.A.), was mentioned in dispatches and wounded in 1915; he received the Territorial Decoration in 1925. Mr. Harrison was consultant in his specialty at the Ingham Infirmary and had charge of the ear, nose, and throat department of the Fleming Memorial Hospital for Sick Children. He had served on the Council of the Laryngological Section of the Royal Society of Medicine and was a past-president of the Otolological Section; he was also a past vice-president of the Newcastle-upon-Tyne and Northern Counties Medical Society. He joined the B.M.A. in 1909, and published a number of papers on otitis media and mastoid disease.

RAYNER DERRY BATTEN, who died on Oct. 22, was born at Plymouth in 1858, the son of John Winterbotham Batten, Q.C., and elder brother of F. E. Batten, the neurologist, and of J. D. Batten, artist and illustrator. He studied medicine at St. Bartholomew's and in Germany, and took his M.D. Lond. in 1886. He was H.S. at Bart's and R.M.O. at the Brompton and at Addenbrooke's. He was in general practice for a number of years in Kensington, but at the same time did ophthalmic work at Moorfields, where he became assistant surgeon, and in the end gave up general practice for eye work. He was surgeon at the Western Ophthalmic Hospital for 33 years, remaining on the Medical and Management Committees until the time of his death. He was a member of the B.M.A. until 1913 and was hon. secretary of the Section of Ophthalmology in 1901. He became vice-president of the Ophthalmological Society and a member of council of the Oxford Ophthalmological Congress. He was exceedingly happy in his family life, and of his four children two, a son and a daughter, followed him into the medical profession, while another daughter has worked for many years in the "welfare of the blind" department of the L.C.C. A colleague writes: Rayner Batten was essentially a clinician. Though slow to make up his mind he had the true clinical instinct, compounded of painstaking observation, wide experience, and a retentive memory. The years spent in general practice gave to his early work (e.g., a paper on the genesis of myopia) a background which may have faded somewhat in later years but was never entirely obliterated. Twenty years ago Batten suggested that the technique of ophthalmic surgery was not for the many but for the few, and should be confined to the few. Thus the practice of ophthalmology would be shared between ophthalmic physicians and ophthalmic surgeons. Something akin to this is now again under discussion. Batten's own operative skill was considerable. He had a light, sure touch, devoid of tremor, which endured until advancing deafness compelled his retirement. He attached great importance to "good hands" in all who did ophthalmic work. His life-long hobby was wood-carving, and possibly the "feel" of tools thus acquired inspired the design of some of his instruments. His fixation fork is still of value, and a hydrophthalmoscope, originally devised to examine the fundus in high myopia—a forerunner of the contact lens—is often used in the treatment of purulent conjunctivitis by hypertonic solutions. One of his last tasks, undertaken with the assistance of his artist-brother, was the training of fundus artists. The first group of artists was trained at the Western Ophthalmic Hospital under his supervision, and from these a school, which still continues to do excellent work, developed and was later, for a time, under the direction of Mr. Head. This was the source of all the present fundus-painting facilities.

RICHARD AUSTIN FREEMAN, M.R.C.S., L.S.A., who died at Gravesend recently at the age of 81, was one of those medical men who have forsaken medicine for literature—Somerset Maugham, Brett Young, Warwick Deeping are other contemporary instances. Like another doctor, Conan Doyle, he made his name by his detective fiction, an art in which very many have dabbled since Doyle's time, but in few cases with the success which attended Freeman. He was born in 1862, educated privately and at Middlesex Hospital, where he was H.P. after qualifying in 1886. Thence he went into the Gold Coast Medical Service, served in the Ashanti expedition of 1889, on the Anglo-German Boundary Commission of 1890, and was invalided out in 1891. For a time he was in general practice, but after five years of it went back into salaried employment, first in the Prison Medical Service and then under the Port of London. He served in home units during the 1914-18 war, and later became a Freeman of the Apothecaries Society. His first adventure in literature was as far back as 1898, when he published an account of Ashanti; but he soon found his *métier* as a writer of crime detection, and for nearly forty years had poured out a steady stream of well-written and popular fiction of this type. His methods were rather nearer to those of Conan

Doyle than are some of the best-known modern exponents of the art; but he was no mere slavish follower, and in particular he constantly introduced developments of pathology and of medical research which either did not exist in Sherlock Holmes's day or were at any rate not utilized by the latter's creator. Haematology, endocrinology, morbid anatomy, bacteriology were all made to serve the purpose of Freeman's super-detective, Dr. Thorndyke, who was portrayed as a medical man specializing in forensic medicine and the tracking down of crime. Thorndyke's "Dr. Watson" was often a (supposititious) Christopher Jervis, always labouring to follow Thorndyke's deductions but always a day late in doing so. In addition, there was a wise old solicitor, Brodribb, who appeared in many of the stories, usually with some acute contribution to make to the solution of the mystery; but the most original character of all, and a very living one, was the crinkly-faced Polton, Thorndyke's laboratory technician, photographer, and general A.D.C. Not only were the plots original and skilfully constructed, the processes by which Thorndyke unravelled the crimes ingenious, and the crimes themselves often bizarre in the extreme, but in addition the victims and the criminals were drawn with real literary skill and often with great charm; it will suffice to mention the old drunkard in *Pontifex, Son, and Thorndyke*, and Shuttlebury Cobb in the novel of that name, as examples. In one book he sought to prove that the evidence of finger-prints may be highly deceptive—not because prints are themselves fallacious but because they can be counterfeited: dramatic as the denouement of this book was (and his climaxes were often highly dramatic) it was perhaps one of his less successful efforts. But in general Freeman kept steadily a very high level, and in his particular sphere of scientific-crime-detection novel-writing was well ahead of all rivals, even up to the advanced age at which he had only lately ceased to write. As with Conan Doyle, he seldom introduced any love interest; and his heroines, on the rare occasions when they existed, were apt to be rather wooden.

Universities and Colleges

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

The Faculty of Medicine has elected Mr. John B. Hunter, M.Ch., F.R.C.S., to be its Dean from Oct. 1, 1943, for the remainder of the period 1942-4, in place of Sir Girling Ball, F.R.C.S., resigned.

UNIVERSITY OF LÉEDS

Endowment of Prize in Anatomy

A year or two ago Major George Waddington of Collingham and Mr. Guy Waddington of Halifax decided to leave their bodies to the Anatomy Department of the Medical School. In each case the desire was to give aid to medical education, and their wishes were in due course carried out. Recently a group of relatives and friends of these two gentlemen, including Major Waddington's mother, presented to the University a sum of money to found a prize in anatomy in their memory. This prize, to be known as "The Waddington Prize," will take the form of books presented to the most promising student in the junior anatomy class at the Medical School. Mrs. Waddington, in handing over the cheque to the Professor of Anatomy, expressed the hope that the example of her son and her nephew might be followed by others; and in accepting the cheque on behalf of the University the Professor of Anatomy hoped that when others came forward to offer their posthumous services to medicine they might well consider combining the corporeal donation with some form of financial aid to the Medical School, as had been done by the Waddington family.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND

The annual meeting of Fellows and Members will be held at the College in Lincoln's Inn Fields on Thursday, Nov. 18, at 2.30 p.m., when a report from the Council will be laid before the meeting. Fellows and Members can obtain copies of the report on application to the Secretary, and the agenda paper for the meeting will be issued on or after Nov. 13 to those applying for it.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF OBSTETRICIANS AND GYNAECOLOGISTS

At a quarterly meeting of the Council held on Oct. 23 in the College House, with the President, Sir William Fletcher Shaw, in the chair, Prof. J. J. Kearney was elected to the Membership of the College.

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

It was announced that the donor of 1,000 guineas to commemorate the presidency of Sir William Fletcher Shaw wished the

interest to endow a lecture every second year to be given alternately (1) by a member of the College on the subject of infertility and (2) by a gynaecologist from the U.S.A. as an expression of the friendship existing between the two nations. At the end of the meeting, Prof. D. Douglas, Manchester, assumed the office of Vice-President and Mr. Eardley Holland, London, assumed the office of President. A vote of appreciation for the services of Sir William Fletcher Shaw during the past five years as President and during the whole period since the inception of the College was adopted by the Council.

The following have satisfied the examiners and have been awarded the Diploma of the College:

Agnes U. Campbell, W. H. Carlisle, J. T. Carroll, J. McD. Corston, Margaret C. S. Crockett, R. W. Danziger, Grace T. Dawson, Mary E. Egeiton, Charlotte L. Hess, P. C. Lewis, Eileen C. Miller, Mary L. Neville, Mary P. Short, J. W. H. Simpson, Esther M. Swinnerton, J. W. Totten, A. H. C. Walker.

ROYAL FACULTY OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS OF GLASGOW

At the annual meeting of the Faculty the following officers were elected for the ensuing year: *President*, Mr. James H. MacDonald; *Visitor*, Mr. William A. Sewell; *Honorary Treasurer*, Mr. William J. Richard; *Honorary Librarian*, Dr. W. R. Snodgrass; *Representative on the General Medical Council*, Mr. Andrew Allison.

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.:

A. C. Austin, F. St. M. Brett, E. D. Cameron, Margaret R. Connolly, M. C. Fitch, E. Frischler, E. Glekin, Elizabeth G. Hood, J. G. Levack, I. M. Lourie, S. R. Maraj, J. W. Muggoch, D. J. P. Naismith, Elizabeth R. B. Polland, J. T. Richardson, Frances Selesnick, A. M. Shokry, H. M. Steel, A. D. Willox.

The following graduates of recognized foreign universities were also admitted licentiates:

K. Friedmann, M.D.Vienna; G. W. Green, M.D.Brussels; Ruth Meier-Blaauw, M.D.Breslau, G. M. Weiss, M.D.Bologna.

The Services

Temp. Surg. Lieut. R. R. Dickson, R.N.V.R., has been mentioned in dispatches for constant and untiring devotion to duty and great skill in tending the wounded survivors from a torpedoed merchantman.

Temp. Surg. Lieut. I. S. Jacklin, R.N.V.R., has been posthumously mentioned in dispatches for gallantry in organizing the survivors from a torpedoed merchant ship and in swimming from raft to raft, in waters where sharks were known to be present, in order to tend the injured.

Capt. I. Joseph, R.A.M.C., has been awarded the M.C. in recognition of gallant and distinguished services in Sicily.

CASUALTIES IN THE MEDICAL SERVICES

Wounded.—Capt. F. M. Steel, War Subs. Capt. E. M. Leyland and J. R. Tocher, R.A.M.C.

Prisoner of war.—Temp. Major K. C. Hutchin, R.A.M.C.

Reported missing at sea.—Lieut. R. A. Palmer, R.A.M.C.

Missing on active service.—Surg. Lieut.-Cmdr. S. L. Lord, R.N.V.R.

Missing at sea.—Capt. R. M. Sharpe, R.A.M.C.

Died on active service.—Major K. C. Eden, R.A.M.C.; Fl. Lieut. W. S. Pitt-Payne, R.A.F.V.R.

Died.—Col. W. B. Rennie, M.C., War Subs. Capt. A. E. Locke, R.A.M.C.

REPATRIATED MEDICAL OFFICERS

Major-Gen. G. A. D. Harvey, C.B., C.M.G., late R.A.M.C.; Lieut.-Cols. T. A. S. Samuel, M.C., F. J. Morris, M.C.; Majors J. Burns, J. H. T. Challis, W. N. S. Donaldson, G. C. Steel, E. R. C. Walker, W. E. Tucker, J. A. Chapel, R. L. Mackay, M.C., C. H. Imrie; Capt. A. D. Aveling, E. R. Dansie, P. A. Forsyth, R. W. Gunderson, I. Jacobson, J. D. Recordon, G. E. Stoker, N. D. Allan, T. K. Elliott, G. S. Trower, W. C. Harris, M. A. Egan, E. M. Fraser, R.A.M.C.

DEATHS IN THE SERVICES

News has been received of the sudden death in Persia from acute nephritis of Capt. J. H. B. Round, M.A., M.B., B.Ch., R.A.M.C., aged 30. He was the only son of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Round of Edgbaston, Birmingham. He studied medicine at Pembroke College, Cambridge, and the Westminster Hospital Medical School, to which he won an entrance scholarship. While at Cambridge he was secretary to the Cambridge Medical Society. After graduating he served as house-physician at Westminster Hospital and then returned to Birmingham as the first medical officer to the Castle Bromwich Aero Factory and organized their medical services. Subsequently he was appointed as the first medical officer of the Midland Group of the Nuffield Factories, and held this position until he joined the R.A.M.C. in August, 1941. Dr. Round was one of the modern pioneers in industrial medicine, and had made valuable contributions to its present conception.

Col. SIDNEY MARTIN HATTERSLEY, M.C., late R.A.M.C., who died on active service from illness on March 24, had a distinguished military career lasting 30 years. He studied medicine at Cambridge University and St. Bartholomew's Hospital, qualifying M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. in 1912. He took the M.B., B.Ch. degrees at Cambridge in 1916, the D.P.H. in 1925, and proceeded M.D. in 1931. After qualification he served as house-physician at Manchester Royal Infirmary. As a junior officer in the R.A.M.C. he was taken prisoner in September, 1916, while serving over-seas, and in October, 1919, was awarded the Croix de Guerre, having already won the Military Cross. He was promoted to the rank of colonel in September, 1938, and for his services during the present war was mentioned in dispatches at the end of 1941. He joined the B.M.A. in 1912.

Medical Notes in Parliament

Food Values and Farming Methods

In the House of Lords on Oct. 26 Lord TEVIOT called attention to food values in relation to agricultural methods in view of their importance to the health of man, animal, and plant. No one, he said, who was connected with agriculture could be other than perturbed at the number of diseases among our farm stocks, while the diseases among crops were legion. The object behind his motion was to see that we put planning for the health of our people, animals, plants, and crops first. While the spirit of our people was magnificent and their courage undaunted, their bodily conditions were bad. A report from the B.M.A. summed up the whole situation in this way: "While hundreds of millions are expended in trying to cure, only one-fifth of 1% of the national expenditure and waste through ill-health goes on research to find out, not how to cure but how to prevent." He was entirely in agreement with a balanced diet, but unless the components came from a healthy soil rich in humus, there would be a deficiency of life-giving, disease-resisting properties. We had a sort of cycle—a healthy soil, a healthy plant, a healthy animal, and then a healthy man—and it was the integrity of that life-circle which was so important. We must plan to put back into the soil those things which we took from it. A council of nutrition was suggested some time ago. He hoped it would be set up and that it would take into serious consideration not what we should all eat but whence it came and how it was cultivated. He begged for a Royal Commission or a committee of inquiry in order to combat the present tragic state of affairs.

Destruction of Fertility

The EARL OF PORTSMOUTH said very few doctors would advise their patients continuously to use strong antiseptic nasal sprays; if they did the living membranes would suffer and have no power left of resistance to disease. We were doing exactly that to the soil. With lethal sprays we were destroying the soil's power of resistance, and at the same time were giving continuous doses of chemical food and chemical stimulants so that the infinite complex of bacterial life in the soil was being upset. We were upsetting the vitamin content—that was, the capacity of the soil to produce food—by destroying the humus within the soil itself.

Lord GEDDES pointed out that in Prince Edward Island there was a very high standard of health, an extraordinarily vigorous active population, and, quite remarkably, after 50 years of close examination no fall whatever in the birth rate. The population there drew their fresh food from the sea and from the field in the traditional manner, living on simple food-stuffs and the products of their own farms and fishing.

Northern Rhodesia, which had been depopulated by disease, was not an easy country to get people of another race into, and to keep them there in a good state of health. They had given the people food grown on rich humus soil with plenty of life in it. In the result they had beaten back disease and turned that part of Northern Rhodesia into what was a health resort. The positive health of these people was based on food. He supported Lord Teviot's plea for some work to be done in this country to follow up the work now being done in Canada.

Viscount BLEDISLOE pressed strongly on the Government that the time had come when there ought to be research: research not merely conducted in watertight compartments—the health of plants, the health of animals, and the health of human beings—but comparative research on the important problem of the interrelation between the morbid conditions of soil, plants, animals, and human beings. Very valuable research was being done to-day in New Zealand on diseases of animals and fish. What the doctors did not know, however, was the relation, if any, between the deficiencies in the animals and several mysterious morbid conditions of the human population of