

Mr. LYTTLETON, in reply, said he quite understood that the House might be impatient on the subject of the social security scheme. He would have been so himself if he had not been a member of a Ministerial committee which had to deal with that question. The complexity of it had to be seen to be believed. If they took part of it, say workmen's compensation or the comprehensive medical service, they would become involved in administrative problems of the very greatest difficulty, requiring not only an encyclopaedic knowledge of the background, but very great administrative experience in solving present problems. The bulk of the problem had been tackled. The White Paper was now being drafted, and would be laid before Parliament. It would show that the Government had very definite proposals over a large part of the field, but that there were some subjects on which they were undecided and wished to take the opinion of members and to make soundings. He saw nothing reprehensible in that. Did anyone realize that a matter like the comprehensive medical service involved altering the number of those entitled to a comprehensive medical service from 18,000,000, the present insured population, to the whole population of 44,250,000?

Patulin

In an answer to Colonel Evans on Dec. 2 Miss HORSBROUGH referred to recent trials of the use of patulin. She said the Medical Research Council had accepted an invitation to undertake the organization of controlled clinical trials on a considerable scale. Arrangements were in hand for instituting these immediately. For the time being the use of patulin in the treatment of the common cold must be regarded as still in the experimental stage. Preliminary trials had not given consistent results, although some of these had been promising. It was uncertain what value the drug would eventually prove to have. It would necessarily take some months to collect adequate information on this point, and as regards the best methods of administration, the proper dosage, and the conditions under which the drug could be used with safety. It would be inadvisable to take steps to make patulin generally available until there was sufficient evidence on these questions.

Medical News

The Nuffield Provincial Hospitals Trust, at Lord Nuffield's suggestion, has offered the University of Oxford £8,000 a year for ten years towards the cost of establishing and maintaining a plastic surgery unit in the University of Oxford. The University has accepted with gratitude the offer of the Trust and has appointed Mr. T. Pomfret Kilner, F.R.C.S., as the first director of the plastic surgery unit with the title of Nuffield Professor of Plastic Surgery. The Radcliffe Infirmary will provide hospital facilities for the unit, and these will be supplemented by the Ministry of Pensions.

Prof. T. P. McMurray will open a discussion on "The Late Problems of War Surgery" at a clinical meeting to be held at 2.30 p.m. on Dec. 16 in the Ministry of Pensions Hospital, Woolton Road, Liverpool, 16.

Mr. R. Watson-Jones will speak on "A Surgeon's Impressions of Soviet Russia" at the annual general meeting of the Anglo-Soviet Medical Council on Friday, Dec. 17, at 4.30 p.m. at the Royal Society of Medicine.

A meeting of the Fever Hospital Medical Service Group will be held at Tavistock House, Tavistock Square, London, W.C.1, on Friday, Dec. 17, at 3 p.m., preceded by a meeting of the Group Council at 2.30 p.m. Subject for discussion: "Control of Cross-infection"; to be opened by Dr. R. B. Bourdillon, Dr. Joyce Wright, and Dr. H. Stanley Banks.

At the Royal Society of Medicine on Dec. 15, at 2 p.m. for 2.15 p.m., the Section of Comparative Medicine will hold the second of its discussions under the heading of "The Limitations and Uses of the Comparative Method of Medicine." The subject on this occasion will be animal ecology and genetics; openers: ecology, M. A. C. Hinton, F.R.S.; genetics, Dr. H. Grüneberg.

The Agricultural Group of the Society of Chemical Industry will meet on Tuesday, Dec. 14, at 4 p.m. in the rooms of the Chemical Society, Burlington House, Piccadilly, W., when a paper on livestock deficiency diseases and their treatment will be presented by Dr. S. J. Watson, Director of Research, Jealotts Hill Research Station.

The following meetings of the British Institute of Radiology will take place in the Reid-Knox Hall, 32, Welbeck Street, London, W.: Friday, Dec. 17, at 2.30 p.m., meeting of medical members. Saturday, Dec. 18, at 2.30 p.m., ordinary meeting, at which papers will be read on chronic intussusception in children by Dr. F. H. Kemp, and on instantaneous stereography by G. L. Rogers, Ph.D.

At a meeting of the Eugenics Society on Tuesday, Dec. 14, at 5 o'clock, at the rooms of the Royal Society, Burlington House, Piccadilly, W., Dr. J. A. Fraser Roberts will speak on "Population Problems in the Light of Differential Fertility." All interested in the subject are invited to attend.

The Finney-Howell Research Foundation announces that applications for fellowships for next year must be filed in the office of the Foundation, 1211, Cathedral Street, Baltimore, Maryland, by Jan. 1, 1944. Applications received after that date cannot be considered for 1944 awards, which will be made on March 1. This Foundation was provided for in the will of the late Dr. George Walker of Baltimore for the support of "research work into the cause or causes and the treatment of cancer." Fellowships, carrying an annual stipend of \$2,000, are awarded for the period of one year, with the possibility of renewal up to three years; special grants of limited sums may be made by the Board of Directors to support the work carried on under a fellowship. Application forms will be furnished by the secretary or any member of the Board.

An American-Soviet Medical Society has been founded in New York to meet an increasing demand for information about the results and achievements of Soviet medicine. The president of the society is Dr. Walter B. Cannon, emeritus professor of physiology at Harvard University; and Dr. Henry E. Sigerist, director of the Institute of the History of Medicine, Johns Hopkins University, is to be editor of its journal, *The American Review of Soviet Medicine*. The temporary offices of the society are at 130, West 46th Street, New York City.

Service medical officers in this country are to be allowed, so far as their military duties permit, to help civilian doctors during the present epidemic. Hard-pressed general practitioners needing help are advised to apply to the secretary of their local Medical War Committee forthwith.

Universities and Colleges

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

In a Congregation held on Nov. 20 the following medical degrees were conferred:

B.M., B.Ch.—J. Badenoch, *A. H. Torrance.
*In absentia.

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

At a Congregation held on Nov. 19 the following medical degrees were conferred:

M.D.—J. B. Murray, *D. D. Evans, *E. T. D. Fletcher.
M.B., B.Chir.—*F. M. Deighton.
*By proxy.

The Services

Major (temp. Lieut.-Col.) R. McL. Gordon, D.S.O., D.F.C., R.A.M.C., has been awarded the George Medal in recognition of gallant conduct in carrying out hazardous work in the Middle East in a very brave manner.

Lieut. B. Brownscombe, 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 appointments, awards, and mentions have been announced in a *Supplement* to the *London Gazette* in recognition of gallant and distinguished services in the Middle East:

C.B.E. (Military Division).—Brig. (temp.) R. W. Galloway, late R.A.M.C.

O.B.E. (Military Division).—Cols. (temp.) F. R. H. Mollan, M.C., J. G. Morgan; Lieut.-Col. R. MacL. Savage, M.C.; Majors (temp. Lieut.-Cols.) C. W. Arnot, M.C., D. W. Jolly, A. N. B. Odber, P. J. Richards, H. S. Ward, R.A.M.C.

M.B.E. (Military Division).—Capt. (temp. Major) A. J. C. Latchmore, R.A.M.C.; Subedar M. Singh, I.M.D.

M.C.—Capt. D. Rumney, R.A.M.C.

Mentioned in *Dispatches*.—Capt. E. F. Ridley, R.A.M.C.

CASUALTIES IN THE MEDICAL SERVICES

Wounded.—Temp. Lieut.-Col. M. J. Kohane, M.C., R.A.M.C.; Temp. Acting Surg. Lieut.-Cmdr. S. W. Maxwell, R.N.V.R.

Prisoners of War.—War Subs. Capt. F. E. de W. Cayley, Capt. R. M. J. Franks, War Subs. Major A. C. King, Capt. J. Ledingham, Acting Major T. M. Pemberton, War Subs. Capt. J. Richardson, War Subs. Capt. P. G. Seed, and Temp. Lieut.-Col. J. H. Strahan, R.A.M.C.

Reported Missing.—Surg. Lieut. R. McF. Kirkpatrick, R.N.V.R.
Died on Active Service.—Major W. H. Purves, M.B.E., R.A.M.C.