

The death took place at his residence in Sunderland on Sept. 1 of Dr. RICHARD HENRY DIX, aged 68, after a long illness. He was born in Sunderland and studied medicine at Durham and Dublin Universities. He graduated M.B., B.S. Durham with honours in 1900 and took the M.D. in 1902. In 1914 he obtained the M.R.C.S. Eng. and L.R.C.P. Lond. diplomas. After holding appointments as assistant demonstrator of pathology, anatomy, and physiology at Durham University he settled in Sunderland, where in an extensive private practice his patients were fortunate in having the benefit of his unusual skill and clinical judgment. His reputation as a family doctor in the best tradition was well recognized among his colleagues. In his early days Dr. Dix was somewhat of a local pioneer in radiology, which he carried out with apparatus installed in his surgery. His enthusiastic work in connexion with local medical organizations was well known, but by many of the public he will be gratefully remembered as honorary surgeon to the Sunderland Children's Hospital. It was there that for many years he gave much of his time and interest to work to which he was particularly devoted. Until the time of his illness he had been hon. secretary of the Sunderland Medical War Committee.

A veteran member of the B.M.A.—Dr. JOHN HUTTON BALFOUR—who joined it in 1887, died at Gullane on Sept. 15, aged 84. He graduated M.B., C.M.Ed. in 1881, and after serving as resident surgeon at the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, practised for more than 57 years in the Portobello and Niddrie districts. At the close of 1931 he received a presentation at a public meeting at Newcraighall, Midlothian, when the chairman said that Dr. Balfour had succeeded his father and brother, so that his family had then practised medicine in the neighbourhood for 78 years. Before the introduction of the National Health Insurance scheme "Dr. John," as he was widely and affectionately known, was, in addition to his ordinary work, medical officer to a number of collieries. He retired from practice seven years ago. He had taken a large part in the social and athletic life of the district and was himself a keen rugby football player and golfer in his younger days, and greatly interested in rowing and bowling. He was proud of having brought into the world almost 6,000 babies, and in doing this had lost only six mothers, one of them a woman at the point of death whom he was called in to on passing the house.

Dr. HENRY ALFRED LEEBODY, who died on Sept. 19, was the second son of Prof. Lebody of MacGee College, Londonderry, and, through his mother, was a direct descendant of John Knox. After a B.A. course in Ireland he went on to study medicine in Edinburgh, where he graduated M.B., C.M. in 1895. For a quarter of a century he was in general practice in the village of Corstorphine, now a suburb of Edinburgh, and he found an outlet for his inborn love of soldiering in service with the Queen's Edinburgh Rifle Volunteer Brigade, and later, on the formation of the Territorial Army, with the 3rd Lowland Field Ambulance. Shortly after mobilization on the outbreak of war in 1914 he was posted to the Scottish Command as D.A.D.M.S., where he became before the end of the war A.D.M.S., with the substantive rank of colonel. Disappointed in his hopes of further military service by the descent in 1920 of the "Geddes axe," he was fortunate in obtaining congenial work on the tribunals of the Ministry of Pensions until 1927. For the next 10 years he served as ship surgeon with the P. & O. line, which afforded him a welcome opportunity of travel and provided him with leisure to develop his remarkable gifts as an artist both in black-and-white and in colour. Dr. Lebody was a typical Irishman, keenly observant, humorous, kind-hearted, and generous. He was tall and strongly built and apparently incapable of fatigue. Throughout his life he was, to everyone with whom he came in contact, a true guide, philosopher, and friend, and an unfailing source of strength and inspiration. His son, Dr. John Lebody, is the medical superintendent of St. George-in-the-East Hospital, Wapping.

We regret to announce the death in retirement at Redlynch, near Salisbury, of Dr. THOMAS GILLESPIE, late honorary physician to the Southampton Children's Hospital, who represented his Division at the Annual Meeting of the B.M.A. in 1922. He began the study of medicine at Cambridge, taking his B.A. in the Natural Sciences Tripos of 1897, and after qualifying in 1900 became H.P. at Bart's and assistant H.P. at the Metropolitan Hospital. He took his M.A., M.B., B.Ch. degrees at Cambridge in 1901, and served during the last war as temporary captain, R.A.M.C. Dr. Gillespie was a co-founder of the Children's Hospital at Southampton and a member of the Board of Management from 1908 until he retired in 1938: a ward is now called after him. He was also an original

member of the Itchen, Romsey, and District Local Medical Service—one of the first in this country (1921)—and its chairman for over 20 years. His charm was the most typical feature of an all-round rare personality. A medical colleague writes: So Tom Gillespie has gone, and with him something of sweetness and light has passed for ever from the earth. For Tom, as he was universally called, had above everything the great gift of friendship. Few men can have had more friends, and no one was ever less likely to have an enemy. Coming to Southampton some 40 years ago, after a noteworthy hospital career, he very quickly gained the affection and trust of his patients and the high regard of his professional colleagues for his skill. His best-known work was probably his connexion with the Children's Hospital, the fortunes of which he helped to guide with great wisdom for many years. For Gillespie was a man of a very matured and sane judgment; every committee of which he was a member—and they were numerous—came to rely more and more on his opinion. Few can have been called on more often by all sorts and conditions of men for advice and help in personal troubles, for he saw life steadily, and he saw it whole. It was a great blow to his professional friends and to his many patients, when an increasing lameness, borne, as would be expected of him, with courage and patience, led to his retirement shortly before the war; but we all hoped he would enjoy many years of happiness, for with his great intelligence and his varied interests, life still held much for him.

Universities and Colleges

UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

The inaugural lecture in the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Leeds will be given by Sir Joseph Barcroft, C.B.E., F.R.S., in the Riley Smith Hall of the University Union at 3 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 26. Subject: Problems in Foetal Life. Members of the medical profession are cordially invited to be present.

Medical Notes in Parliament

Hospital Accommodation in London

On Sept. 26 Sir E. GRAHAM-LITTLE asked the Minister of Health whether he was aware that through recent requisitioning of another 50% of beds in the London hospitals, occasioned by the opening of the second front, the admission of civilian patients to the London hospitals had become almost impossible; and whether he would release for civilian use a proportion of the empty beds reserved for military casualties. Mr. WILLINK: As part of the plans for receiving casualties from Western Europe hospitals throughout the country were asked to restrict the admission of civilian patients, the aim being to reduce occupancy on the average to about 50% of the beds. In some hospitals this step was necessary in order to secure more beds for the casualties, and in others, notably in London, to set free staff for the hospitals specially designated to receive the casualties on arrival in this country. At the same time it was made clear that the restrictions were not to be applied to patients in immediate need of treatment in hospital. In view of recent developments of the war situation, my officers are now arranging for the restrictions to be relaxed, bearing in mind the varying needs at each hospital of civilian and Service patients respectively.

Mass Radiography in Liberated Countries

On Sept. 26 Mr. PARKER asked the Minister of Health whether he would consider supplying a limited number of mass radiography sets, from the stock of apparatus ordered by the Ministry from British manufacturers, to the Allied Governments that they might be able to estimate the extent of the tuberculosis problem in their countries after liberation; whether training would be provided through the Ministry's special training course to such Allied mass radiography teams as required it; and whether the co-operation of British tuberculosis experts would be available to assist and advise the Allied Governments in their antituberculosis work. Mr. WILLINK said that the question of making mass radiography apparatus available to the liberated countries was outside his responsibility, but it was under consideration by UNRRA. In regard to the last two parts of the question he would be glad to render all the assistance in his power.

The Services

The R.N.V.R. Officers' Decoration has been awarded to the following: Surg. Cmdr. C. Mason; Acting Surg. Cmdr. R. F. Woolmer; Surg. Lieut.-Cmdrs. J. D. Lendrum, C. A. Mather, V. S. Hughes-Davies, J. E. L. Morris, and P. G. C. Martin, R.N.V.R.

Squad. Ldr. David Duncan Morrell, R.A.F.V.R., has been appointed O.B.E. (Military Division). The citation in the *London Gazette* reads:

In June, 1944, a Liberator aircraft crashed into the sea some distance from the shore at Littlestone and an airman of the U.S. Army Air Force was trapped in the nose of the aircraft which quickly became almost submerged. Squad. Ldr. Morrell immediately waded into the surf and attempted to swim towards the Liberator, but was unable to reach it owing to the very heavy sea and strong current. He then commanded an amphibious vehicle which was passing along the water-front and eventually he was conveyed to the side of the Liberator. By this time the water was up to the shoulders of the trapped airman and he was suffering considerably. Displaying outstanding initiative and courage and ignoring the grave possibility of being trapped himself, Squad. Ldr. Morrell dived to the bottom of the fuselage. By using great force Squad. Ldr. Morrell tore away a part of the aircraft, which then enabled him to release the airman. Immediately afterwards he administered morphine to the suffering airman. All this took place inside the fuselage. Squad. Ldr. Morrell finally succeeded in dragging the airman clear of the aircraft and, with assistance, he got him aboard the waiting craft. Squad. Ldr. Morrell's outstanding courage and initiative saved the airman's life.

Service Psychiatrists.—In order to give assistance to medical officers leaving the Services and wishing to train as child psychiatrists the Child Guidance Council has set aside the sum of £500 to give grants to such medical officers with psychiatric and preferably paediatric experience. Applications will be subject to the approval of the Medical Committee. Inquiries should be sent to the Secretary, Child Guidance Council, 39, Queen Anne Street, London, W.1.

CASUALTIES IN THE MEDICAL SERVICES

Fl. Lieut. GEORGE EDWARD THOMAS SODEN was killed by enemy action on Sept. 26, aged 35. He studied medicine at St. Bartholomew's Hospital and qualified M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. in 1934, and held resident hospital appointments until 1936, when he entered general practice. He was commissioned as Flying Officer in the Medical Branch of the R.A.F.V.R. on July 29, 1943.

Died.—Temp. Lieut.-Col. Joseph Morgan, O.B.E., I.M.S.

Died of wounds in Normandy in August, 1944.—Capt. John Huntly Tarring Lawton, R.A.M.C.

Died in India.—Capt. William Raymond Thomson, R.A.M.C.

Wounded.—Temp. Major J. B. Menzies, War Subs. Capt. P. W. Henderson, V. F. Tyndall, P. J. R. Deller, A. A. Gregory-Dean, J. T. A. Lloyd, E. W. Moore, R. S. Smith, Lieut. T. R. Stephens, R.A.M.C.

Medical News

The thirty-sixth annual meeting of the Medical Benevolent Society for the North and East Ridings of the County of York (including the City of York) was held, by kind permission of the York Medical Society, in the Medical Library, Stonegate, York, on Sept. 26, with the president, Dr. Wm. Murray of Hesse, in the chair. Apart from other matters, the society has had a most successful year, especially in regard to new members, of whom forty-one were elected—many of them as life members—this influx being mainly due to the recruiting energy of the president. Applications for relief and assistance were considered and grants were made. In view of the healthy state of the society's finances further investments of the credit balance were authorized; and the following officers were elected for the ensuing year: Dr. B. A. S. Belas, of Middlesbrough, president-elect; Dr. G. F. Longbotham, Middlesbrough, vice-president; Dr. D. Matheson Mackay, Hull, hon. treasurer; Dr. W. W. A. Kelly, York, hon. secretary.

At a meeting of the Eugenics Society on Tuesday next, Oct. 17, at 5.30 p.m., in the Rooms of the Royal Society, Burlington House, Piccadilly, W., Dr. Innes H. Pearse, co-director of the Pioneer Health Centre, Peckham, will speak on "The Health Centre and the Family." All interested in this subject are invited to attend.

Dr. H. Courtney Gage was last month awarded the Knights Cross St. Olav (First Class) by the King of Norway for prominent work in the Norwegian cause. When the mass examinations of Norwegians with screen photography started as a routine in London at the beginning of 1941 Dr. Gage, the *Norsk Tidend* of Sept. 27 states, "at once put himself at our disposal and he still goes on with his work of interpreting the miniature x-ray pictures. . . . In the more than 3½ years that Dr. Gage has worked for us he has interpreted approximately 13,000 chest radiographs of Norwegians, and also in other fields has he put his enormous radiological knowledge at our disposal."

The distinguished Indian scientists who will shortly visit this country expect to stay for about seven weeks, during which time they will visit important scientific laboratories, and industrial, medical, and agricultural research institutions in and near London, in the Midlands and North of England, and elsewhere in the United Kingdom; they will also discuss modern scientific progress with such bodies as the Royal Society, the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, the Medical Research Council, the Agricultural Research Council, and the Radio Board. The visit of Indian scientists follows the visit to India last winter of Prof. A. V. Hill, M.P., secretary of the Royal Society. It was then suggested that Indian scientific men should be given an opportunity of coming to the United Kingdom, and of establishing closer relations between the many new scientific organizations in India and corresponding organizations here. The proposal was warmly welcomed by His Majesty's Government and by the Government of India, and steps were at once taken to invite the scientists to come.

The 33rd Long Fox Memorial Lecture will be delivered in the lecture theatre of the H. H. Wills Physics Laboratory (Royal Fort), University of Bristol, on Wednesday, Oct. 18, at 5.30 p.m., by Mr. E. Watson-Williams, Ch.M.; subject, "English Doctors from Smollett to Trollope."

A limited number of rubber hot-water bottles are to be manufactured within the next few months, and some have been allocated to the Ministry of Health, which now controls distribution, to hospitals. The Ministry emphasizes that rubber hot-water bottles should be used only in cases for which on medical grounds other types are unsuitable. Hospitals should apply, through their usual suppliers, to the Priority Officer, Ministry of Health, S.W.1.

Letters, Notes, and Answers

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ANY QUESTIONS?

Palliative Treatment for Cerebral Tumour

Q.—A woman aged 41 has been suffering for the last 13 years from increasing "bursting" headaches and epileptiform attacks. Cerebral tumour has been diagnosed, and operative treatment advised. The patient, aware of the danger of the operation, is not willing to have it done. Is there any other treatment—palliative or other—which would relieve her headaches and epileptiform attacks?

A.—If the cause of the fits and headaches is in fact a cerebral tumour no other treatment apart from that directed at symptomatic relief of symptoms is likely to be of benefit. Presumably the patient is receiving adequate doses of analgesics and of anti-convulsants such as phenobarbital, bromides, or epanutin. Without knowing the pathological nature of the tumour radiotherapy should not be undertaken.

Rhubarb and Breast Milk

Q.—My health visitors are constantly being asked by the welfare mothers for advice with regard to rhubarb, the fruit. Have either the cathartic principles or the oxalic acid any inimical effect on the breast milk?

A.—The cathartic principles of rhubarb are present in small amount only in the fruit, and normally the root or rhizome is used as a source. The principles in rhubarb are similar to those in senna, and pulv. glycyrrhizae co. has always been a recommended purgative for mothers on the ground that it does not affect the milk in the way castor-oil does. Hence so far as the cathartic principles are concerned, rhubarb fruit should be blameless. Rhubarb contains oxalic acid and can lead to stones of calcium oxalate in the urinary tract. Some may think that the oxalate will lower the blood calcium and affect the calcium in the milk. Large amounts of oxalate have been shown to lower the blood calcium in mice and to produce symptoms consequent on this. I cannot imagine, however, that medical officers at welfare clinics or health visitors propose to recommend rhubarb as daily fare. Probably there is sufficient oxalate in rhubarb to make it inadvisable, whether the subject is