

I foresaw and used in argument when it was proposed to send me away, but to no effect; and if I, a doctor, could not save myself, what chance, I thought, could a lay patient have?

Our latest form of regionalization has now taken continents into its scope; cases of tuberculosis arising in the Eastern Theatre are now discharged to South Africa with the excuse that the climate there is beneficial. I was under the impression that the general view held was that the English climate was as good for the Englishman suffering from phthisis as anywhere, and I fancy the real reason for this latest effort is the lack of beds and staff at home. This lack could, however, be overcome very easily if the Services undertook the treatment of their own cases instead of handing them over to others. The Services, with their powers of direction and the appeal which they have to female staff, would have little difficulty in providing for the treatment of all the patients arising within them. But, no doubt, it would be inconvenient, and it is very easy to send the patients to South Africa, where, I do not doubt, they receive the best and kindest of treatment. But this is a tragic betrayal of the patient's real interests, for to a man who has already been away from home for perhaps a matter of years the prospect of being transferred now that he is ill to a strange country for an unknown length of time and always with the possibility of his dying there is terrifying. This, together with the fact that he has little say in the matter, leads to a state of mind which is not helpful to recovery.

Of course there is another side to the matter; there will never be enough specialists to have one available everywhere, and having the few there are in special centres does make them available, on paper anyhow, to everybody. By specialist I mean, in this instance, the man who has seen so much of one disease (or group of diseases) that he can recognize it by its bark and can treat it almost with his eyes shut. But I very much doubt whether these men contribute a very great amount to the sum total of medicine, and it is by no means certain that to force patients to go and stay long distances away in order to place them under the care of these men will contribute much to the sum of human happiness, nor will it save many from the grave before their time.

At the moment the special-centre enthusiasts appear to want to embrace almost all but the most elementary medical practice, and unless we can put the brake on this enthusiasm we shall all be caught up in the net. Medicine will then lose much of its humanitarian interest, for who can be interested in the unit which must be sent here for that and there for this? In addition we shall find ourselves fearful of making this or that diagnosis which we know will mean the removal of the patient from his home and the break-up, although temporarily, of his family—that is, of course, always supposing that he will go to the centre for his disease.—I am, etc.,

GUY ROWORTH,
Surg. Lieut.-Cmdr., R.N.V.R.

Universities and Colleges

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

John Yudkin, M.D., Ph.D., has been appointed to the University Chair of Physiology tenable at King's College of Household and Social Science as from Oct. 1.

UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW

Leslie John Davis, M.D., F.R.C.P.Ed., senior lecturer in the Department of Medicine in the University of Edinburgh, has been appointed to the Muirhead Chair of Medicine in the University of Glasgow as from Oct. 1, in succession to Prof. A. W. Harrington, M.D.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND

At a meeting of the Council of the College held on Aug. 2, with Sir Alfred Webb-Johnson, President, in the chair, a Diploma of Fellowship was granted to Raymond Alexander King. Diplomas of Membership were granted to D. A. N. Barran, A. V. G. Bibby, D. G. Evans, P. M. R. Hemphill, G. F. Jolly, R. A. J. Pearce, E. J. M. Weaver, and to the 130 successful candidates whose names were published in the report of the meeting of the Royal College of Physicians of London in the *Journal* of Aug. 11 (p. 201); as were the names of the five successful candidates for the Diploma in

Public Health. Diplomas in Medical Radiology and in Ophthalmic Medicine and Surgery were granted, jointly with the Royal College of Physicians of London, as follows:

DIPLOMA IN MEDICAL RADIOLOGY.—R. A. Andrews, K. C. Falkner, R. M. Hall, T. M. Young.

DIPLOMA IN OPHTHALMIC MEDICINE AND SURGERY.—D. Ainslie, F. J. Daniato, A. J. Elliot, H. C. Kodilinye, J. M. Loftus, P. J. McNicholas, L. H. G. Moore, J. C. Mustardé, T. H. Negus, A. K. Pittman, D. Shorten, R. Vaughan-Jones.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF OBSTETRICIANS AND GYNAECOLOGISTS

At a meeting of the Council, held on July 28, Mr. Eardley Holland was re-elected President to take office in October next. The following officers were also elected: *Vice-Presidents*: Profs. D. Dougal and R. Marshall Allan. *Honorary Treasurer*: Mr. W. Gilliat. *Honorary Secretary*: Mr. G. F. Gibberd. *Honorary Librarian*: Mr. F. W. Roques. *Honorary Curator of Museum*: Mr. A. W. Bourne.

The following candidates were elected to the Membership: T. M. Barnett, A. Buchan, Daphne Wai Chan Chun, Aileen M. Dickens, E. D. Y. Grasby, M. W. Hemans, Ursula M. Lister, Agnes M. D. Milne, Abd-El-Salem M. El-Minabbawy, K. Mitra, Joan P. Moignard, P. Raj, W. B. Shute, Beatrice M. Smyth, J. M. Thomson.

Medico-Legal

A SEAMAN'S RIGHT TO TREATMENT

If a merchant seaman reasonably believes his health is endangered by illness for which he can only be properly treated ashore, he may go ashore for the treatment even in disobedience of his captain's orders.

An assistant cook in a merchant steamer carrying troops complained to the ship's doctor of spasm in the right thigh muscles. About a fortnight later he complained of pain in one ear. By the time the ship reached Durban three months later both complaints had become worse and he was dissatisfied with the treatment given by the ship's doctor. The man went ashore and consulted of his own accord the port health officer, who sent him to two private doctors, one for his leg and the other for his ear. He also signed a letter to the captain of the ship, but this never reached the captain. Both the private doctors sent the man to a radiologist. He obtained from the ship's agents an authority to be radiographed; copies of the radiologist's reports were sent to the ship's agents and handed by them to the captain, who promptly started inquiries. The otologist, according to the man's statement later, said he must go to hospital for immediate operation, but that he must obtain a note from the ship's doctor allowing this to be done. When the man told the ship's doctor of this, the doctor, who had authorized neither the x-ray examination nor the consultation with the otologist, was not satisfied. He met the man at the otologist's surgery, and after a consultation the otologist told the man that the operation could wait until the ship returned to Liverpool. The man was not satisfied with this opinion and went back to the port medical officer, who also was not satisfied and sent the man to a third doctor. This doctor found the man definitely ill and in need of urgent attention to prevent infection spreading from the mastoid to the brain. He arranged for the man to see him next day so that he could make arrangements for his admission to hospital. Next day, however, the captain sent for the man and, after inquiry, ordered him to return to duty pending investigation. The man retorted that he proposed to go ashore and that the captain could not keep him on board. Shortly afterwards he went ashore, and was duly operated on and discharged about ten days later, certified as fit to travel but not to work. He did not inform anyone aboard the ship that he was in hospital; the hospital informed the ship's agents, but the ship had by then sailed. The captain detained the man's effects which he had left aboard the ship, and entered in the ship's log a statement that the man had deserted the ship at Durban.

When the man returned to England he sued the owners of the ship for a declaration that he was not a deserter, for the return of his belongings or their value, for wages, for breach of statutory duty to obtain a certificate from the shipping master entitling the captain to leave the man behind, and for libel. Mr. Justice Lynskey said¹ that to commit desertion a seaman must completely abandon his duty without justification. He took the view that the man, on the advice of the third doctor, thought an operation was imperative and delay might be fatal. He was therefore justified in taking the necessary treatment and not returning to his ship. Both the captain and the purser sent in evidence that if they had known he was in hospital they would have paid him off and not treated him as a deserter. A deserter forfeits wages and his belongings which he leaves on board, but this man, not being a deserter, was entitled to

¹ Moore v. Canadian Pacific Steamship Co., [1945] 1 All E.R. 128.

putting out to sea on an exceptionally rough night; a fierce gale was blowing, and conditions were so bad that many considered it unsafe for the boat to leave harbour. He is survived by his widow, a daughter of the late Dr. Johnston, of Belfast, one daughter, and two sons—Major Robert J. Porter, R.A.M.C., formerly attached to the London Hospital, and Mr. Hector Porter, who practises in Edinburgh.

Capt. DAVID IRVING ANDERSON, O.B.E., R.A.M.C., who died on July 25, was born on May 20, 1881, and received his medical education at the University of Edinburgh, where he graduated M.B., Ch.B. in 1904, taking the certificate in tropical medicine in the same year. After holding the post of clinical assistant in the eye department of the Prince of Wales's General Hospital, Tottenham, he went to Malaya, where he was surgeon to the Johore State and Lower Perak Planters' Association. He returned for service in the R.A.M.C. in the war of 1914-18, attaining the rank of major, and was appointed O.B.E. in 1919. After the war he practised at Ripley, Derbyshire; Pontifras, near Hereford; Hoddesdon, Herts (from 1920 to 1931, being honorary secretary of the East Herts Division of the B.M.A. from 1928 to 1931); and finally at Ross, Herefordshire, becoming medical officer under the county council and honorary physician to the local cottage hospital. He was employed as a civilian medical practitioner at Hereford Barracks when war in Europe again broke out in September, 1939, and in June, 1940, he was granted a temporary commission as lieutenant in the R.A.M.C., although then 59 years of age, becoming captain a year later. In 1942 he was transferred to the unemployed list.

Dr. C. D. FITCH, who died at his home at Chaddesley Corbett on July 19 at the age of 81, had, like his father before him, practised at Chaddesley for 40 years. Educated at Aldenham School, Herts, and at Queen's College, Birmingham, Charles Dennis Fitch qualified M.R.C.S., L.S.A. in 1885, afterwards becoming obstetric and ophthalmic house-surgeon at Queen's Hospital, Birmingham. He was fond of a number of outdoor pursuits, being a keen gardener, a sound cricketer, an ardent shot, and an acute observer of Nature, especially of bird life. But his greatest pleasure was in hunting and in point-to-point fixtures; he was a follower of the Worcestershire hounds and was a familiar figure at all horse events in the county for many years. He played a large part in village activities throughout his life and was widely respected. He was a churchwarden, a bellringer, and a trustee to the endowed schools, the Foresters, and the almshouses. He had been a member of the B.M.A. for 39 years, and in 1922 was chairman of the Worcester Division. He was a member of the Kidderminster Medical Society. Dr. Fitch retired in 1928. He leaves a son and daughter.

The Services

Temp. Surg. Lieut. A. G. M. Wilson, R.N.V.R., has been mentioned in dispatches posthumously for gallantry and outstanding devotion to duty while serving in one of H.M. ships in escorting convoys to and from North Russia.

Capt. J. A. Peters, R.A.M.C., has been appointed M.B.E. (Military Division) in recognition of gallant and distinguished services in the field.

The following have been mentioned in dispatches in recognition of gallant and distinguished services in North-West Europe: Major-Gen. E. Phillips, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., and Col. J. W. C. Stubbs, D.S.O., M.C., late R.A.M.C.; Cols. (Temp.) A. T. B. Dickson, O.B.E., T.D., C. Helm, D.S.O., O.B.E., M.C., J. P. J. Jenkins, T.D., and A. R. Oram, M.C.; Lieut.-Cols. (Temp.) C. Bainbridge, A. Cowie, M. H. Evans, M.B.E., R. Evans, F. F. Hellier, E. H. P. Lassen, D. J. MacMyn, T.D., G. A. G. Mitchell, and R. E. Tunbridge, O.B.E.; Majors (Temp.) R. Barraclough, J. Bleakley, J. A. C. Burridge, G. B. Carter, N. J. Crawford, H. B. L. Dixon, C. M. Elliott, W. Halliday, K. N. A. Herdman, P. W. Hunt, W. F. Mair, D. D. Maitland, N. H. Martin, D. I. McCallum, M.C., R. M. McGregor, D. J. Paddison, J. B. Shaw, J. E. Talbot, H. R. Thompson, R. S. Thompson, H. L. Thornton, J. C. Watt, K. S. Wilson, and H. L. Wolfe; Capt. J. T. Anderson, R. D. Chalmers, J. J. Cruickshank, J. Dawson, R. Dobson, J. S. Hollingsworth, A. C. Houghton, H. J. C. J. L'Etang, A. T. Macknight, (Miss) R. M. Marwick, S. A. Mason, R. S. McGeorge, C. N. Mills, B. B. Milstein, J. M. Scott, M. H. Sherwell, R. T. Thin, and C. R. Wright; Lieuts. A. O. Harries, M.C., and W. Mills, R.A.M.C.; Lieut.-Col. G. C. Ferguson; Majors R. Blais, H. I. Palmer, and A. E. Thoms, M.B.E.; Capt. (Acting Major) F. S. Brian, C. C. Misener, and C. L. Pearson; Capt. T. A. Laidlaw, P. Bernstein, N. N. Levine, H. A. Roberts, and R. G. Winram; Lieut. N. A. Riley, R.C.A.M.C.

CASUALTIES IN THE MEDICAL SERVICES

Surg. Lieut.-Cmdr. GERALD NOEL MARTIN, R.N.V.R., the fourth son (all of whom entered the medical profession) of the late Dr. John Wise Martin of Sheffield, died on June 30 at the age of 59, after an operation and a very short illness at the Royal Naval Hospital, Plymouth. He was educated at Sheffield and the London Hospital, qualifying M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. in 1913, and then held a house post at the Royal Sussex County Hospital, Brighton. His great love was for the sea, however, and he spent many years afloat, both in the Royal Navy and the Merchant Navy. In the war of 1914-18 he served throughout in the Royal Navy, and was in the water 2½ hours when the *Aboukir*, the *Cressy*, and the *Hogue* were torpedoed in September, 1914. When war in Europe broke out in September, 1939, he soon secured a transfer from the Merchant Navy, in which he had been serving, to the Royal Navy. Again he was on board a ship which was torpedoed and spent a night in a small lifeboat in the Atlantic, during which time he controlled a tourniquet on a seriously injured sailor. His service was spent in all kinds of vessels, from superbattleships to monitors, down to the *Discovery*, which was sent on an expedition to rescue Sir Ernest Shackleton. At the time of his illness he was engaged on work in connexion with the demobilization of naval personnel. He was given a Service funeral, with full naval honours. His loss is keenly felt by a great number of friends, both in the Service and out of it, nearly all of whom are members of the medical profession.

Missing, presumed killed.—Temp. Surg. Lieut. Ross McFaul Kirkpatrick, D.S.C., R.N.V.R.

Medical News

Major Basil H. H. Neven-Spence, M.D., F.R.C.P.Ed., who was re-elected M.P. for Orkney and Shetland at the recent General Election, received a Knighthood in the Resignation Honours List published on Aug. 13.

A short memorial service for Dr. Gordon Pugh will be held in the chapel at Queen Mary's Hospital, Carshalton, on Friday, Aug. 31, at 2.30 p.m.

On Aug. 8 a new kitchen suite was opened at the London Hospital, where a large basement ward has been converted for the purpose at a cost of approximately £7,000. The suite is equipped with labour-saving appointments and modern facilities for cooking, and care is taken in the presentation of food to both the patients and the staff. Sir Wilson Jameson, Chief Medical Officer of the Ministry of Health, congratulated the hospital on the lead it had given in hospital catering, and expressed the hope that other hospitals would follow its example.

The council of the Guild of St. Luke, SS. Cosmas and Damian, at a meeting on June 7, decided that the Guild should resume activities, and arrangements are being made for meetings of all branches to be held in the forthcoming session. Publication of the Guild's *Journal* is also to be resumed at the earliest opportunity. Subscriptions will become due when the new session opens, and application will be made for them by the Treasurer.

The Central Co-operative Anti-Malaria Society, Ltd., celebrated in December, 1944, the 25th year of its existence, under the presidency of Mr. L. K. Elmhirst, Agricultural Adviser to the Government of Bengal. In a special message to the society Mr. R. G. Casey, the Governor of Bengal, said: "By mobilizing popular support in the fight against malaria, and by stimulating interest in preventive measures, you are undertaking a task which is in accordance with the highest ideals of public service, and I wish you every success in your future efforts."

Mr. Basil Hughes, F.R.C.S., has resigned his position of honorary surgeon to the Bradford Royal Infirmary and to St. Luke's Municipal Hospital, Bradford, on his retirement from practice. Mr. Hughes's association with Bradford began in 1911, when he was appointed resident surgical officer at the Royal Infirmary.

It will be recalled that in 1941 the shortage of supplies necessitated the making of Orders by the Minister of Health and the Secretary of State for Scotland which limited the use of liquid paraffin in emulsions to not more than 25% by volume. As supplies have now improved these Orders have been revoked as from July 26, 1945.

The Medical Women's Federation will be glad to hear from medical women who, on demobilization from the Services, are faced with any difficulty on re-entering civilian life in which they desire advice. The Federation can loan money on easy terms in sums up to, say, £100, to suitable applicants who contemplate doing post-graduate study, or who wish to undertake medical work which involves monetary outlay. All inquiries should be addressed to the Secretary, Medical Women's Federation, 73, Bourne Way, Hayes, Bromley, Kent.