

Obituary

SIR LISLE WEBB, K.B.E., C.B., C.M.G.

Brevet Colonel Sir Arthur Lisle Ambrose Webb, who died on Oct. 7, was born on July 19, 1871. He received his medical education at University College Hospital, London, and took the Conjoint qualification in 1895. At the outbreak of the South African War in 1899 he was a district surgeon under the Basutoland Government, and immediately resigned his appointment and joined the R.A.M.C. He served throughout the war, for which he received the Queen's Medal with five clasps and the King's with two clasps. After the war he took the diplomas in public health and tropical medicine and hygiene. During the war of 1914-18 he served as an Assistant Director-General of Medical Services, and was mentioned in dispatches, awarded the C.M.G., and given the rank of brevet colonel. For his service during that war he was further, in 1919, awarded the C.B.

After the Armistice in 1918, and the consequent mass demobilization, the Ministry of Pensions was faced with the task of assessing the amount of disablement suffered by the many thousand claimants for compensation, and of providing in- and out-patient treatment where necessary. Lisle Webb was appointed Director-General of Medical Services to carry out this task, and in a comparatively short space of time medical boards were in continuous session throughout the country, and hospitals and clinics for the exclusive needs of ex-Service men were established in the large towns. Webb's work in this connexion was rewarded by the well-merited honour of K.B.E. He had been seconded to the Ministry from the R.A.M.C., and later it became a question whether he should return to the Army or not. He was, however, so obviously the man to continue directing the work which he had begun so well that his appointment in the Ministry was confirmed, and he retired from military service and became a civil servant. He continued in this position until the end of 1933, when he retired. Webb's success, while due largely to his own inherent ability, was in no small measure contributed to by the willing and efficient service rendered by his staff to a chief who considered them in every way. A piece of work well done won from him the praise which incited to fresh efforts; work was never allowed to accumulate while an official was on leave; any indication of overwork or ill-health was always met by an instruction to take the necessary rest.

When he retired in 1933 he did not sever his connexion with the Ministry, but filled the post of Secretary and Treasurer to Queen Mary's Hospital, Roehampton—an institution in which he had always taken the greatest interest, and for whose efficiency he was largely responsible. He finally retired in 1942, and spent most of his time at his home in Balcombe Forest.

He was a Knight of Grace of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem and an Honorary Fellow of University College Hospital. On his retirement from the Ministry of Pensions he was appointed consulting physician to that Department.

D. C. RAYNER, Ch.M., F.R.C.S., F.R.C.O.G.

We regret to announce that Emeritus Professor D. C. Rayner, who held the chair of obstetrics in the University of Bristol for six years, died in a Clifton nursing home on Oct. 21, aged 80. He still saw some patients until he himself became ill a short time ago.

David Charles Rayner was a student of the Bristol Medical School, and took the M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. diplomas in 1892. He obtained the F.R.C.S. in 1896, became an original Fellow of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists in 1929, and received the Ch.M. degree from Bristol University in 1930. After graduating he worked for a time in the physiological laboratories, and then joined the staff of the Bristol Maternity Hospital. He was appointed assistant obstetric physician to the Bristol General Hospital, and reached the senior staff in 1923. He became director of clinical obstetrics in the University of Bristol in 1925, a year before his election as professor of obstetrics, and on his retirement from the chair at the end of 1932 he was made emeritus professor. He was for some years an examiner for the Central Midwives Board for England and

Wales, and examiner in obstetrics for the University of Wales. At the Annual Meeting of the British Medical Association held at Bath in 1925 he served as vice-president of the Section of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, and he was also a past-president of the Bristol Medico-Chirurgical Society. He remained a member of the B.M.A. from 1894 until the time of his death. Prof. Rayner's published writings appeared in the *Lancet* (on rupture of the uterus in a case of normal labour), the *Birmingham Medical Record* (on puerperal sepsis), and the *Bristol Medico-Chirurgical Journal* (on the relation of gynaecology to the glands of internal secretion).

M. C. writes: Ex-students and nurses of the Bristol General Hospital will have read with distress of the loss of their old friend "Charlie Rayner." No man among the honorary staff won a greater measure of affectionate regard. His retiring and diffident manner, his unvarying kindness, courtesy, and charm, were coupled with considerable professional skill and experience. His modesty was quite disproportionate, but it failed to stem the growth of an enormous consulting practice. His services were freely available to all and sundry, at any hour of day or night. Not only was he unmercenary, but his generosity, or perhaps shyness, seemed often to prevent him from sending accounts even to the wealthiest of his patients.

Charlie appeared to have no hobbies or interests apart from his job, and when at home he lived with extreme bachelor simplicity and quietude, cared for by his devoted sister. Yet he was the friend of all, and no one in the West of England ever thought or spoke of him except in terms of the greatest warmth.

Universities and Colleges

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

In a Congregation held on Oct. 18 the following medical degrees were conferred:

D.M.—*W. E. Henley.
B.M., B.Ch.—I. G. Waugh, H. R. Smart, T. W. Price, *V. J. K. Wright,
*E. L. N. Shoeten-Sack.

* In absence.

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

At a Congregation held on Oct. 19 the following medical degrees were conferred, all by proxy:

M.B., B.Chir.—R. S. Lewis, J. A. R. Debenham, J. A. Rycroft, J. E. M. Whitehead, J. M. Cliff, E. D. Forster.
M.B.—W. A. Fell.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF LONDON

At a quarterly Comitia of the College held on Oct. 25, with the President, Lord Moran, in the chair, Dr. E. Bellingham Smith, Prof. A. W. M. Ellis, Prof. J. C. Bramwell, Dr. J. L. Livingstone, and Dr. E. R. Boland were elected Councillors.

The following were elected representatives of the College: Dr. H. E. A. Boldero on the committee of management of the Conjoint Board, Sir Comyns Berkeley on the Central Midwives Board, and Sir Francis Fraser on the Poisons Board.

The President announced the award of the Jenks Memorial Scholarship to J. C. Camac, late of Epsom College, and the Gilbert Blane Gold Medal to Surg. Liét.-Cmdr. F. P. Ellis, M.B., R.N. Dr. R. E. Lane was appointed Milroy Lecturer for 1947.

The Comitia of the College endorsed the unanimous recommendation of its Council that the present interests of the College would best be served by remaining in its present premises. In coming to this decision the College has had the benefit of the advice of a panel of experts.

Dr. W. Russell Brain will deliver the Bradshaw Lecture on "Speech and Handedness" on Thursday, Nov. 8, at 2.30 p.m.

Membership

The following, having satisfied the Censors' Board, were elected to the Membership of the College:

Ailsa Bannerman, L.R.C.P., G. A. Copping, M.D., Liét.-Col., R.C.A.M.C., G. D. Daruvala, M.D., C. E. Davies, B.M., A. P. Fletcher, M.B., Surg. Liét., R.N.V.R., J. E. Francis, M.D., W. Ganado, M.D., W. W. Goody, M.B., Capt., R.A.M.C., S. J. M. Goulston, M.C., M.B., Major, G. I. C. Ingram, M.B., A. J. Kerwin, M.D., Squad Ldr. R.C.A.F., F. J. D. Knights, M.D., C. A. Leeson, M.B., P. F. Lucas, M.B., M. B. McIlroy, M.B., W. E. Mahon, L.R.C.P., J. A. W. Miller, M.B., Major, R.A.M.C., F. E. E. Sargent, M.D., D. Shiers, M.B., A. J. Shillitoe, M.B., J. McN. Tainsh, M.B.,

S. M. Talaat, L.R.C.P., E. C. Turton, M.B., P. Venables, M.B., D. R. Wilkie, M.D., H. P. Williams, L.R.C.P., Major, R.A.M.C.

Licences

Licences to practise were conferred upon the following 184 candidates (including 29 women) who had passed the Final Examination in Medicine, Surgery, and Midwifery of the Conjoint Board and who have complied with the necessary by-laws:

F. Alberts, R. C. Allison, Daphne S. A. Anderson, G. J. E. Ansell, E. R. Arnold, Lenorah M. Atkins, G. M. Bailey, Joan R. K. Bastable, J. G. Bearn, T. R. Bennett, F. M. Benton, M. Blackwell, Stella Booth, Camilla B. P. Bosanquet, Lesley M. McL. Bowen, H. L. Brateman, N. Brodie, D. E. St. J. Burrowes, J. P. Bush, I. Butler, N. J. Caldwell, Margaret Capra, C. L. Casimir, D. A. Chandler, D. J. Chapman, J. Clarke-Goldthorpe, J. P. Clayton, D. Cockcroft, N. C. Connell, D. E. Cullington, R. Davidson, R. H. Davidson, E. C. Davies, Elizabeth E. Davies, E. J. L. Davies, N. N. Davies, S. Davis, D. A. Dawson, C. H. de Boer, R. A. Denham, A. L. de Silva, D. C. de Ville, A. G. Dingley, E. M. C. Dunlop, A. L. T. Easton, A. McK. Elliott, E. Ellis, R. H. Ellis, R. F. Ewing, A. Fernandez, J. Fife, M. L. H. Flindt, K. J. R. Ford, G. Forrester, W. S. Foster, A. E. Fyfe, J. Goddard, B. Gordon, C. W. Graham-Stewart, M. Grant, J. S. B. Greenfield, R. E. Gruchy, Tatiana P. Guercken, R. J. H. Guy, D. Hacking, H. M. Halle, Audrey Hanson, M. J. Harman, R. P. Harwood, A. G. Hayter, A. G. S. Heathcote, Mary Helmer, M. J. T. Hewetson, P. H. Hewitt, C. Hougie, Betty E. Howarth, D. E. Howells, C. H. A. Hoy, D. Hull, E. C. Hutchinson, M. S. R. Hutt, J. A. Hyde, C. C. Jackson, D. W. James, J. B. James, R. H. F. James, J. P. Janvrin, H. Jasowitz, P. M. Jeavons, F. F. Jerichow, D. J. B. Johnston, D. E. E. Jones, P. M. P. Jones, W. J. R. Jones, W. R. Jukes, H. T. Kay, H. E. M. Kay, Catherine M. R. Kirkpatrick, J. M. Kodicek, P. B. Kunkler, Stephanie A. Laing, H. A. Lane, J. G. Latimer, V. M. Leveaux, P. B. Levison, Helen M. Littler, Lilwen E. Lloyd, W. H. Lonsdale, J. D. Lucy, Joan V. Macdonald, R. C. McGregor, C. McIver, J. McMillan, P. N. Magee, J. E. Marrett, Margaret L. V. Matthews, M. Mattinson, W. G. Miln, M. Mir-Fakhrai, W. T. S. Moore, T. H. Morgan, D. R. Murley, R. R. W. Nichols, W. Niman, D. E. Oakley, Mora A. C. O'Hanlon, D. O'Keefe, Liliane Parkinson, Deirdre Paulley, J. P. Penon, I. M. Perkins, P. J. Preston, A. H. C. Ratliff, J. W. T. Redfern, A. P. Reed, N. C. Rees, Rosemary J. Reynolds, L. F. Richards, Rachel Richards, K. E. Rimmington, P. A. Ring, K. B. Roberts, J. O. Robinson, N. Rosedale, D. E. Rowlands, J. T. Rowling, C. M. Ruben, A. J. Rundle, Christine E. Sandford, G. A. Sedee, S. Seed, J. D. F. Shaw, D. A. Sherman, C. Shiers, Christine M. Singer, C. J. Stevenson, W. M. B. Strangeways, G. S. Tapsall, T. Taylor, H. G. Thomas, Peggy Thomas, J. M. Thompson, B. T. R. Thornton, Phyllida M. M. Thornton, W. R. L. Thursfield, J. V. Thurston, M. Tobias, D. G. L. Trust, F. T. G. Tuffnell, J. C. L. Wade, R. J. Walsh, D. A. Watkins, Mary Weston, J. A. Wheeler-Bennett, L. R. Whittaker, G. H. Whittle, W. B. Howell, J. B. Wild, C. B. Williams, R. L. Wills, W. H. D. Wince, D. L. Woolf, K. A. A. Wray, Joan D. Wrigley.

Diplomas

Diplomas in Child Health were granted, jointly with the Royal College of Surgeons of England, to the 35 successful candidates whose names were published in the report of the meeting of the Royal College of Surgeons of England in the *Journal* of Oct. 27 (p. 588).

Diplomas in Ophthalmic Medicine and Surgery, in Medical Radiology, and in Physical Medicine were granted, jointly with the Royal College of Surgeons of England, to the following successful candidates:

OPHTHALMIC MEDICINE AND SURGERY.—D. Ainslie, F. J. Damato, 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.

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

PHYSICAL MEDICINE.—F. J. Bach, E. J. Crisp.

Medical Notes in Parliament

Bread and Nutrition

In the House of Lords on Oct. 24 Lord HANKEY moved that the health of the population should be the guiding principle governing the Government's nutritional policy, and that in the case of bread the health of the consumer should be the primary factor and milling and other interests should be developed in harmony with this policy. He said the debate on bread which had been initiated by Lord Teviot on Feb. 28 had aroused remarkable interest. The leading article on it in the *British Medical Journal* headed "The Political Loaf" [March 17, p. 372] had caused many a chuckle. Lord Teviot in that debate had secured an undertaking that if the Government had been found wrong in reducing the extraction of flour to 80% it would go back to 82½%. A second undertaking was that the Government would not reduce the rate below 80% until it was satisfied that this change would not be detrimental to nutrition. Lord Hankey said that in the subsequent eight months figures and facts had been published which suggested that the Government was wrong and ought to go back to 82½%, or better still to 85%. Figures supporting that contention were based on the seventh report of the Scientific Adviser's Division, Ministry of Food, checked by a memorandum on nutritive values of war-time foods which had been published by the Medical Research Council.

The present 80% flour showed no marked difference from the 85% flour of Lord Woolton in the figures for proteins, fats, carbohydrates, and calories. But the 85% flour contained

a more valuable assortment of proteins, and their loss could not be stated in figures or corrected by enrichment or fortification. For the protective elements, which research had shown to be vital to health, the story was worse. The present 80% flour showed a loss of 10.2% in vitamin B compared with the 82% flour and 19.2% compared with the 85% flour; riboflavin showed a loss of 20% compared with last autumn's flour and 38½% compared with Lord Woolton's flour; nicotinic acid had a loss of 8.3% compared with the former but only 2½% compared with the latter. Iron in the present flour was reduced by 16½% compared with last autumn's flour and 21.7% compared with Lord Woolton's flour. That loss must be taken seriously because reduction in anaemia followed the introduction of the 85% flour. Other substances in wheat were removed progressively in passing from a whole wheat to a 75% flour. These unknown substances could be demonstrated by animal experiments to be nutritionally valuable. Obviously the millers could only put back what they knew they had taken out. Useful bran was also taken from the loaf. The 85% bread had been recommended all through the war as an optimum loaf by the Medical Research Council. The net result of the change involved the risk of an increase in anaemia, constipation, and consequential troubles.

A report on health and nutrition in the Channel Islands showed that the extraction level during the German occupation was practically 100% and that the great majority of people came to like the loaf. The medical profession of Jersey and Guernsey regretted its disappearance and its replacement by white bread when the relieving Forces arrived. While the 100% loaf was consumed the incidence of appendicitis, colds, and new cases of peptic ulcer was believed to have fallen considerably. In Jersey there had been no influenza epidemic. The first effect of the 100% loaf had been looseness of the bowels, sometimes severe, but after three months the symptoms abated and constipation, which before the occupation had been one of the commonest complaints, almost entirely disappeared. The investigators found nothing in Jersey approaching widespread undernutrition and were much impressed with the excellent condition of the teeth of the children. Lord Hankey added that vegetables had been unrationed and abundant during the occupation and were a staple food. Britain ought to go back to 82½ or 85%, and he asked the Government to publish the opinion of its scientific advisers.

NATURAL VITAMINS VERSUS SYNTHETIC

Lord HORDER, supporting the motion, said that since the debate on Feb. 28 a conference on the post-war loaf had been attended by representatives of the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Department of Health for Scotland, the Medical Research Council, the milling and baking industries, and flour importers. That conference agreed that three essential token nutrients could be specified as present in the wheat berry; that these could be assayed without difficulty and determined by the ordinary analyst; and that a minimum quantity of each of these should be present if bread was to remain the main contributory factor in the nation's health. Therefore the Government would have a basis on which it could make regulations requiring the minimum amounts of these substances to be present in flour, assuming that the Government decided to continue to regulate the character of flour.

The Chairman of the Food and Nutrition Board of the U.S.A. National Research Council reported that synthetic vitamins and vitamin concentrates were expedients which could not form the basis for a sound nutrition programme. The conference had left this question of the source of the token nutrients open for further research, but unanimously considered that in the meantime the Government should stick to the 80% extraction because it had coincided with such good health in the nation and could give the minimum quantities of the essential nutrients. Whether it did give them in the hands of a section of the milling industry could be judged only by analysis of bread obtained here and there in the country. There was no strict relation between the nutritive quality of flour and the extraction rate. Present knowledge of how these nutrients were distributed in the wheat grown was very recent, more of months than of years, but it had been confirmed. This knowledge permitted an improvement of milling to such an extent that they now knew at which part of the milling process the results should not be thrown away or even given to pigs and poultry. By the technique of milling they could direct into the flour the things they really required. The coarse fibre of bran could be diverted elsewhere and the loaf thereby made whiter and more acceptable to the average citizen.

Lord ADDISON agreed with the principle of the resolution that the health of the population should guide the nutritional policy of the Government. This country owed a debt to the Ministry of Food for emphasizing the importance of nutritional policy as underlying supply policy. The Government hoped