

## Universities and Colleges

### UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

#### *Refresher Courses for Medical Officers released from H.M. Forces*

A 14-day general refresher course will begin on Monday, Dec. 3, at Southend-on-Sea General Hospital, and a special 14-day course on "Pulmonary Tuberculosis, its Differential Diagnosis and Treatment," at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, in conjunction with Papworth, on Jan. 14, 1946. General practitioners may attend these courses should vacancies occur. No accommodation is provided, and all those attending must make their own arrangements. Applications for further information and admission should be made to Dr. Firth, Trinity Hall, Cambridge.

The Raymond Horton-Smith Prize for 1944-5 is awarded to R. I. N. Greaves, M.D., for his thesis on the preservation of proteins by drying, with special reference to the production of dried human serum and plasma for transfusion. G. W. Harris, M.D., is *proxime accessit* for his thesis on the secreto-motor innervation and actions of the neuro-hypophysis, an investigation using the method of remote control stimulation.

During October the titles of the degrees of M.B., B.Chir. were conferred by diploma on M. M. Mason, of Newnham College.

### UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD

At a meeting of the University Council, held on Nov. 2, the following appointments were made: *Lecturer in Medicine*, Dr. T. E. Gumpert, F.R.C.P. *Lecturer in Surgery and Lecturer in Surgery to Dental Students*, Mr. J. C. Anderson, F.R.C.S. *Lecturer in Industrial Medicine*, Dr. G. B. Oliver. *Tutor in Surgery*, Mr. A. G. Butters, F.R.C.S.

Profs. H. N. Green, M.D., and Wilson Smith, M.D., were appointed representatives of the University on the Sheffield Hospitals Council.

### ROYAL FACULTY OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS OF GLASGOW

At the annual meeting Mr. William Alexander Sewell was elected President; Dr. Geoffrey B. Fleming, Visitor; Mr. Walter W. Galbraith, Honorary Treasurer; Dr. W. R. Snodgrass, Honorary Librarian; and Mr. Andrew Allison, Representative of the Faculty on the General Medical Council. The following were elected members of the Council: Dr. John Gardner, Mr. Archibald B. Kerr, Mr. G. T. Mowat, Mr. James H. MacDonald, Mr. J. W. Macfarlane, Mr. Eric G. Oastler, Mr. Charles Read, Mr. Matthew White, Dr. J. H. Wright, Mr. Roy F. Young.

### ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF IRELAND

At the monthly meeting of the President and Fellows of the College, held on Nov. 2, Dr. Maurice Gerald Nelson and Dr. Michael Stanislaus O'Beirne were admitted Licentiates and Members of the College.

## Medical Notes in Parliament

### The Government and the Hospitals

MR. CHURCHILL on Nov. 8 asked Mr. Attlee by private notice whether in view of the public anxiety aroused he would state the decision reached by the Government on the future of hospitals, both voluntary and municipal.

MR. ATTLEE replied that the Government could not be held responsible for any anxieties caused by unauthorized statements in the Press. The Government was not in a position to make any statement on the matter at present.

MR. CHURCHILL asked the Prime Minister to take into consideration that considerable harm had been done by an unauthorized statement, and that the springs of private charity might dry up before public benevolence began to flow. He pointed out that from day to day people were giving large sums to the voluntary hospitals or were leaving sums under bequests and that great disturbance had been caused by this unauthorized publication. MR. ATTLEE said he was not prepared to admit that there had been a leakage of the Government's intention. He had made inquiries and could not find that there had been any leakage. He hoped that in view of his statement the general public would not be deterred. MR. CHURCHILL asked whether the House could now take it that these were idle and unauthorized rumours and that when the Government had a plan it would announce it. MR. ATTLEE replied that at the right time a statement would be made by the Government. The intention

was that it should be made to the House of Commons. The Government could not be responsible for intelligent or unintelligent anticipations or imaginations in any section of the Press.

### Penicillin Supplies

New factories for production of penicillin are under construction, which, with those now working, will provide sufficient to meet all foreseeable requirements. The Ministry of Supply is consulting with Mr. Bevan with a view to penicillin, "as soon as supplies permit, being made more widely available for use by doctors in those cases where experience indicates the need for its use."

### Publicity for Diphtheria Immunization

The expenditure on publicity for the immunization of children against diphtheria has been: 1940-1, £800; 1941-2, £2,276; 1942-3, £19,909; 1943-4, £30,777; 1944-5, £32,467. Since the immunization campaign started the number of deaths from diphtheria has fallen to one-third of the pre-war average. The number of cases has fallen by 28,000. Mr. Bevan calculates this means a saving of £800,000 for hospital care.

### Doctors' Cars

MR. JOHN FOSTER suggested on Nov. 5 the granting of permits for reconditioned motor cars to doctors demobilized from the Services. MR. ALFRED BARNES said the present limited supply of these vehicles fell far short of the number of deserving applications from disabled ex-Service men, nurses, and midwives, for whom they were being reserved. He regretted that he could not adopt Mr. Foster's suggestion.

MR. DALTON refused on Nov. 6 to arrange for qualified medical practitioners to be allowed to buy motor cars free of Purchase Tax for use in their professional duties. He said that administratively the remission would be very difficult.

### Demobilization of Doctors

MR. KEY said on Nov. 6 that the demobilization of doctors was receiving the urgent consideration of the Ministers concerned, and a statement would be made as soon as possible.

### Sale of Practices

MR. BEVAN told Sir Ernest Graham-Little on Nov. 7 that he was aware that the uncertainty as to his future intentions with regard to the continuance of the system of sale of practices was causing difficulties for doctors who were being demobilized in making agreements necessary to settle in practice. Asked to announce his policy, Mr. Bevan referred to an answer he had given on Oct. 11.

### Shortage of Nurses

In a statement on Nov. 8 MR. BEVAN said Mr. J. Westwood, Mr. G. Isaacs, and he had considered what action could be taken to remedy the shortage of nurses and domestic staffs in hospitals. They had consulted with representatives of hospital authorities and the organizations and trade unions representing nurses, midwives, and domestic staff. An agreed statement would be issued on Nov. 10. This dealt with the extent of the need and the causes of shortage and outlined the administrative measures which would be taken in an endeavour to remedy the present unsatisfactory position. He added that an urgent appeal was made in the statement to men and women to offer their services in one or other of the many fields of hospital work. This appeal would be supported by appropriate publicity. Publicity was not in itself sufficient. Conditions of service were of equal or greater importance, and codes had been drawn up in agreement with all concerned defining the conditions which it would be the aim of the Government and hospital authorities to ensure. The Government recognized many long-term problems relating, for example, to the training of nurses and the prevention of wastage. These could not be dealt with fully in the statement and would require continuous study. The Government would give close attention to these matters.

### Civilian Doctors this Winter

MR. BEVAN told Cmdr. Douglas Marshall on Nov. 8 that in the United Kingdom the present proportion of civilian doctors of all kinds to population was about 1 to 1,350, or in the case of general practitioners only, 1 to 2,500. The extent to which this position would be improved during the winter depended on the number of doctors to be released from the Forces, which was receiving the urgent consideration of Ministers. MR. BEVAN added that the shortage of civilian doctors was itself an obstacle to organizing in advance any mobile units, although if the need arose mutual assistance would be arranged locally. He said he had arranged with Service Ministers for the loan of medical officers so far as their resources permitted if an urgent need arose.

### Diphtheria Immunization

A statement circulated by Mr. Bevan on Nov. 8 shows that the numbers of children under 15 immunized against diphtheria in England and Wales under local authority arrangements during the past five years were:

1940 and 1941 (separate totals not available) ..	2,365,400
1942 .. .. .	1,399,750
1943 .. .. .	1,039,490
1944 .. .. .	561,320

In the same period, during which diphtheria mortality in this country fell by nearly two-thirds, of 135,431 children notified as suffering from diphtheria 17,084 were immunized; and of 3,346 children who died from diphtheria 118 were immunized and 3,228 unimmunized. He added that the cost of carrying out immunization on fell on local authorities except for the cost of the toxoid supplied to them free by the Government, which has averaged about £13,500 a year. He had no information about the number of doctors who, as medical officers of local authorities or as practitioners engaged on a sessional basis, had taken part in this work.

### The Public and the Common Cold

Cmdr. MAITLAND asked Mr. Bevan on Nov. 8, in view of the number of working days lost during the winter months by epidemics of the common cold and influenza, to initiate a nationwide campaign to encourage the voluntary use of inoculation against these diseases and to arrange for the inoculation to be given at the expense of the Government. Mr. BEVAN said the general results so far obtained of inoculation against the common cold and against influenza were not such as to justify the measures suggested. The publicity campaign would be actively continued, to make known the rules of healthy living and to check infection through careless coughing and sneezing.

### The Invalided Psychoneurotic

On Nov. 8 Sir IAN FRASER asked the Minister of Pensions to undertake an inquiry into the attitude of his Ministry towards cases of psychoneurosis with a view to securing more sympathetic and generous treatment of them.

Mr. PALING said he was satisfied that cases of psychoneurosis were sympathetically and generously treated by his Department. As in the case of any other disability, pension was dependent on whether the condition was causally connected with war service. But where a man who had been invalided for psychoneurosis was in need of and likely to benefit by institutional treatment, free treatment was provided in special centres even though the condition was neither attributable to nor aggravated by war service. Attention was given as part of the treatment to the man's re-establishment in employment, and where necessary vocational training was arranged.

### Raynaud's Disease and Vibrating Machines

Dr. MORGAN inquired on Nov. 8 whether any reports had yet been made of the number of cases with an increasing incidence of alleged Raynaud's disease or dead hand or disabilities classified as vibrational diseases as the result of handling by workmen of vibrating rotating machines in a factory at Trafford Park, Manchester.

Mr. JAMES GRIFFITHS answered that he had no information in regard to such cases at a factory at Trafford Park. Extensive investigations had been carried out by the Medical Inspector of Factories and the Medical Research Council in collaboration into the effect of electrically driven vibrating tools in factories in Lancashire and Cheshire. These had not disclosed evidence of disability beyond frequently recurring transient effects, which in some cases might be sufficient to cause the man to seek a change of employment. There was not enough evidence that Raynaud's disease was so specific to employment as to justify its inclusion in the Schedule of Industrial Diseases under the Workmen's Compensation Act.

*Public Assistance Medical Care.*—Mrs. CASTLE suggested on Oct. 25 that the Minister of Health should, pending the establishment of a national health service, encourage public assistance authorities to introduce the open-choice system of medical assistance for needy persons not covered by the Health Insurance Acts, so that they could obtain free medical treatment from their own doctor. Mr. BEVAN said he was prepared to consider favourably any application for his consent from a public assistance authority which found it practicable to introduce the open-choice system.

*Medical Examination of Tin-miners.*—Mr. BEECHMAN on Oct. 25 asked the Minister of National Insurance to ensure that intending tin-miners were medically examined before they took up work and that all tin-miners had periodical medical examinations. Mr. JAMES GRIFFITHS regretted that the difficulty of finding doctors with the special experience necessary to carry out the examinations made it impossible now to propose such extension of the statutory requirement. The matter would be kept under review.

## The Services

The following have been awarded the R.N.V.R. Officers' Decoration: Surg. Cmdr. H. P. Widdup, Acting Surg. Cmdr. D. A. Imrie, and Surg. Lieut.-Cmdrs. P. D. Daly, M. G. Stratford, W. G. Campbell, and W. Gough, R.N.V.R.

The following awards and mention in dispatches have been announced in recognition of gallant and distinguished services in the field:

*M.C.*—Major (Temp.) O. G. Prosser, Capt. E. F. M. Caraher and A. C. P. D. Thomson, and Lieut. M. A. Egan, R.A.M.C.

*Mentioned in Dispatches.*—Capt. D. R. Macaulay, R.A.M.C.

*Repatriated.*—Capt. Hugh Edward De Wardener, R.A.M.C.

### CASUALTIES IN THE MEDICAL SERVICES

*Killed.*—Surg. Lieut. Colm Nolan, R.N.V.R.

*Killed in road accident in Rome.*—Major John French, R.A.M.C.

*Wounded.*—Surg. Lieut. J. Wedgwood, R.N.V.R.

## Medical News

A sessional meeting of the Royal Sanitary Institute will be held at Halifax Town Hall on Saturday, Nov. 17, at 10.15 a.m., when papers will be read by Mr. J. W. Beaumont on "Rodent Control" and by Dr. G. C. F. Roe on "The Nature, Incidence, and Treatment of Mental Defect."

A course for Dominion and Allied Forces arranged by the British Council at the Overseas Club, Birmingham, from Nov. 19 to 24, will include a talk by Dr. H. Guy Dain, Chairman of Council of the B.M.A., on "The State and Medicine."

Dr. A. S. Parkes, F.R.S., will speak on "Some Problems of Reproductive Physiology" at a meeting of the Eugenics Society to be held on Tuesday, Nov. 20, at 5.30 p.m. in the rooms of the Royal Society, Burlington House, W., with Mr. Eardley Holland, P.R.C.O.G., in the chair. All interested in this subject are invited to attend.

Dr. G. Macdonald, Director of the Ross Institute, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, will read a paper on "Tropical Hygiene and the Oversea Empire" at the Royal Society of Arts, John Adam Street, Adelphi, on Tuesday, Nov. 20, at 1.45. Sir Rickard Christophers will preside. Tickets may be obtained from the acting secretary of the Dominions and Colonies Section, Royal Society of Arts, John Adam Street, London, W.C.2.

A meeting of the Medico-Legal Society will be held at 26, Portland Place, W., on Thursday, Nov. 22, at 8.15 p.m., when a paper will be read by Mr. T. Mervyn Jones on "The Medico-Legal Aspects of War Injuries."

A general meeting of the Medical Society for the Study of Venereal Diseases will be held at 11, Chandos Street, W., on Saturday, Nov. 24, at 2.30 p.m., when an address on the prevention of syringe-transmitted hepatitis will be given by Major S. M. Laird, R.A.M.C.

The British Empire Leprosy Relief Association has arranged a public meeting to be held at Friends House, Euston Road, N.W., on Tuesday, Nov. 27, at 6.30 p.m. The Archbishop of Canterbury will take the chair and Dr. Ernest Muir is among the speakers. An exhibition will open at 6 o'clock; there will be a cinematograph film, and singing by the Toc H male voice choir. Admission is by ticket (free) on application to the Organizing Secretary, B.E.L.R.A., 167, Victoria Street, S.W.1.

An open meeting of the Neurosis Subcommittee of the Royal Medico-Psychological Association, to which all interested are invited, will be held at 11, Chandos Street, London, W., on Thursday, Nov. 29, at 11 a.m., when there will be a discussion on "Education in Mental Hygiene," to be opened with short papers by Dr. Clifford Scott and Dr. R. Sutherland. The next quarterly meeting of the Association will be held at 11, Chandos Street, W., on Friday, Nov. 30, at 10 a.m., when papers will be read by Dr. Elizabeth Casson on "The Psychiatric Approach to Work of Rehabilitation" and by Dr. T. M. Ling on "Psychiatric and Industrial Aspects of Rehabilitation." A discussion will follow. At 2.30 p.m. the twentieth Maudsley Lecture will be delivered by Sir Laurence Brock, lately Chairman of the Board of Control, on "The Place of Psychiatry in the Public Health Service," at the Royal Society of Medicine (1, Wimpole Street, W.). Psychiatrists and other medical practitioners, psychologists, and members of the legal profession, teachers and students, and all interested are cordially invited to attend. Admission is without ticket.