

only in Liverpool but in the radiological counsels of the country. To his wife and two daughters we extend our sympathy.

A. E. B.

The sudden death of Dr. Robert Edward Roberts, at the age of 57, came as an unexpected shock to a wide circle of friends in the profession and particularly in the radiological world. It further depletes the distinguished group of provincial radiologists who did so much to build the reputation of British radiology between the two world wars. In the 'thirties a Lancashire triumvirate—Roberts from Liverpool, and R. S. Paterson and Twining from Manchester—took a commanding part in the radiological activities of the country, and on the death of both the Manchester radiologists in 1938 Roberts was looked upon as the leader of the diagnostic radiologists of the North. The claims of a busy hospital and consulting career were not enough to satisfy his energy and ability, and it was not long before he began to interest himself in the scientific, academic, and administrative aspects of his specialty. He published a number of important papers, and his early work on x-ray investigations in obstetrics and gynaecology soon established him as an authority on the subject.

Robin Roberts had an endearing personality which combined a scientific outlook, clinical acumen, and charm of manner in a way that won him success in whatever he attempted, and the respect and affection of all who knew him. More than any other quality it is perhaps his personal and social charm that will linger longest in the memory of his friends. A week before he died, the writer found him full of *joie de vivre*, and enthusiastic for the future. The end was brief and unexpected, as he would have wished, and British medicine is the poorer for his passing.

S. C. S.

Universities and Colleges

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

At a meeting of the Senate, held on July 24, the following appointments were made:

Neil Hamilton Fairley, C.B.E., M.D., D.Sc., F.R.S., F.R.C.P., to the Wellcome Chair of Tropical Medicine tenable at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, from Oct. 1; George Macdonald, M.D., D.T.M., D.P.H., to the University Chair of Tropical Hygiene tenable at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, from Oct. 1; Francis Cyril Oliphant Valentine, M.R.C.P., to the University Readership in Chemotherapy tenable at the London Hospital, from Oct. 1.

The title of Professor of Morbid Anatomy and Histology in the University has been conferred on Robert Wilfred Scarff, M.B., B.S., in respect of the post held by him at the Middlesex Hospital Medical School.

The title of Prof. Emeritus of Helminthology in the University has been conferred on Prof. R. T. Leiper, C.M.G., D.Sc., M.D., F.R.S., F.R.C.P., who retires in Sept. from the William Julien Courtauld Chair of Helminthology at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, which he has held since 1917.

The title of Professor Emeritus of Experimental Pathology in the University has been conferred on Prof. E. L. Kennaway, M.D., D.Sc., F.R.S., F.R.C.P., who retires in Sept. from the Chair of Experimental Pathology at the Chester Beatty Research Institute of the Royal Cancer Hospital, which he has held since 1931.

UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER

Prof. Henry Stanley Raper, C.B.E., D.Sc., M.B., Ch.B., F.R.S., F.R.C.P., who has held the Chair of Physiology in the University since 1923, has accepted an invitation to become full-time Dean of the Medical School and Professor of Chemical Physiology, from Sept. 29.

The Council has appointed Walter Schlapp, Ph.D., M.B., Ch.B., at present Reader in Experimental Physiology and Assistant Director of the Physiological Laboratories, as Brackenbury Professor of Physiology and Director of the Laboratories from Sept. 29, in succession to Prof. Raper.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF EDINBURGH

At a meeting of the College held on July 25, with Mr. James M. Graham, President, in the chair, the following, having passed the requisite examinations, were admitted Fellows:

R. D. I. Beggs, H. W. Gallagher, G. C. Gordon, D. B. Handelman, R. W. B. Holland, C. M. C. Hopkins, P. Jardine, J. P. Lane, T. J. McCormac, M. McLeaie, A. McL. Millar, G. H. Moore, J. F. Paxton, H. H. Pearson, N. A. Punt, S. Sacks, D. G. Simpson, W. M. Van Essen.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF OBSTETRICIANS AND GYNAECOLOGISTS

At a meeting of the Council held on July 27, with the President, Mr. Eardley Holland, in the chair, Mr. William Gilliat, C.V.O., M.D., M.S., F.R.C.S., F.R.C.O.G., was elected President to take office in September next. Robert Marshall Allan, M.D., F.R.A.C.S., Hon.F.A.C.S., F.R.C.O.G., and Sir William Fletcher Shaw, M.D., F.R.C.P., Hon.F.A.C.S., F.R.C.O.G., were elected vice-presidents.

The following candidates were elected to the Membership:

H. R. Arthur, S. J. Barr, B. E. Blair, Catherine I. Blyth, Joyce M. Burt, H. Burton, G. B. W. Fisher, B. G. Halder, R. L. Hartley, D. Jefferiss, Iola L. T. Jones, L. W. Lauste, Elizabeth McCallum, Margaret Orford, H. C. Perry, Dwifendra L. Poddar, Esther M. Pollock, J. E. Scott-Carmichael, W. R. Sloan, R. A. R. Taylor, E. W. L. Thompson, T. G. E. White.

Medical Notes in Parliament

The Royal Assent to the National Insurance Act was given on Aug. 1.

Parliament will reassemble on Oct. 8. The Second Reading of the National Health Service Bill is set down for that day in the House of Lords.

Hospital Finance in the Interim

On July 25 Major LEGGE-BOURKE invited Mr. Bevan to say how many intimations he had received from hospitals that they were having to dispose of their assets in default of voluntary contributions since the announcement of the introduction of a health service scheme. Mr. BEVAN replied that he had been approached by a few hospitals about their general position, but was not aware of any case of the kind described by Major Legge-Bourke.

Mass Radiography Progress

Mr. Bevan was asked on July 25 if his advisers had come to any decision as to the periods at which mass photographs of the population should be made to diagnose early cases of tuberculosis. Mr. BEVAN said there could be no standard rule about frequency of examination. Regular survey of the same groups was obviously desirable, but present resources—which were steadily increasing—still kept short of that ideal. Replying to a further question Mr. Bevan stated that the number of civilians examined by mass radiography in England and Wales up to Dec. 31, 1945, was approximately 797,000, of whom 2,900 were diagnosed as suffering from active tuberculous conditions. Of those requiring institutional treatment 830 had been admitted to such treatment up to Dec. 31 last, and admissions since then would have substantially increased this number.

Cancer

Mr. WATKINS on July 25 asked the Minister of Health to consider setting up an independent commission to inquire into the progress, if any, made by the various uses of radium in the cure of cancer.

Mr. BEVAN answered that he did not consider such a commission to be necessary, since the progress of cancer research and treatment was kept continuously under review by the bodies concerned.

Death rates per 1,000 population in England and Wales from cancer, 1936–45, were given by Mr. Bevan on July 25 as follows:

1936	..	..	..	..	1.575
1937	..	..	..	..	1.583
1938	..	..	..	..	1.616
1939	..	..	..	..	1.628
1940	..	..	..	..	1.723
1941	..	..	..	..	1.780
1942	..	..	..	..	1.834
1943	..	..	..	..	1.899
1944	..	..	..	..	1.897
1945	..	..	..	..	1.933

(provisional)

(The rates for the years 1939 to 1945 relate to civilians only.)

Although these rates showed an increase, Mr. BEVAN's information was that earlier diagnosis was resulting in reduced mortality, which was concealed by the simultaneous increase in ascertainment through better facilities for diagnosis and treatment.

Mental Defectives in Institutions

Mr. BEVAN on July 25 regretted that figures of the number of mental defectives now in institutions were not available, but added that the number on Jan. 1, 1946, was 52,788. This, he said, was approximately 20% of the estimated total number of