

in which counties were these districts situated; and what steps were proposed to be taken to ensure that the whole country was served by full-time medical officers without further delay.

Lord LISTOWEL replied: There are 511 county districts in England and 111 in Wales (according to the latest available information) where the medical officer of health is not restricted from engaging in private practice. These county districts are situated in all counties in England and Wales except Cambridgeshire, Oxfordshire, Westmorland, the Isle of Wight, and Caernarvonshire. All counties except three have formulated arrangements under Section 58 of the Local Government Act, 1929, and Section 111 of the Local Government Act, 1933, for securing that as vacancies for medical officers of health occur in county districts the persons appointed to fill the vacancies shall be restricted from engaging in private practice. Steady progress was being made before the war in accordance with these arrangements in securing the appointment of whole-time medical officers of health not engaged in private practice, but the acute shortage of medical manpower during the war interrupted the process and from 1943 until the early part of this year appointments were normally made on a temporary basis. A number of county district councils whose proposals for full-time permanent appointments had had on that account to be deferred are now putting forward proposals for such appointments in accordance with the arrangements formulated under the Local Government Acts of 1929 and 1933. These proposals have to be considered in the light of changed circumstances, for example, the proposed modification in the duties of medical officers of health under the National Health Service proposals. In some instances it is necessary to discuss with the authorities concerned whether any alteration of the original arrangements is desirable. The Government are in full accord with the view that the employment of full-time medical officers of health throughout the country is an object to be attained with all practicable speed. They will carefully watch the position and consider what further steps are necessary in the light of experience.

The Press and Patent Medicines

During a debate on the control and ownership of the Press in the House of Commons on Oct. 29 Mr. DRIBERG said it would be unusual to see in any national newspaper an exposure or an examination of the claims of patent medicines by any scientist or doctor of standing. The newspapers exercised more censorship than they used to do over the advertisement of patent medicines. But there was still a considerable abuse and no freedom of expression about the claims of that kind of commodity was allowed in any big-circulation newspaper.

Mr. KEELING asked whether it were not the case that every daily newspaper in this country before publishing any patent medicine advertisement consulted the Advertising Association which had a special panel to "vet" all these advertisements on the advice of the medical profession or of the Pharmaceutical Society.

Mr. NALLY said that this panel paid no attention to the price of the commodity in relation to its actual value. If a charge of 2s. 6d. was made for something which the chemist could sell for 3d. the Newspaper Proprietors' Association did not trouble about that but proceeded to advertise the commodity. Mr. KEELING said the Advertising Association was influenced in its judgment on whether an advertisement should be published solely by professional advice on whether the claims put forward were legitimate or fraudulent.

Mr. DRIBERG said the factual wording of these advertisements was correct but the skill of the advertiser, the artist, and the copy-writer conveyed an impression which went beyond the actual wording of the claim. Mr. MAUDE said the proper way to control patent medicines was not to have a Royal Commission on the Press but to tackle the purveyors of patent medicines and to prevent people from selling two-pennyworth of bicarbonate of soda for 5s.

By 270 votes to 157 the House declared its opinion that a Royal Commission should be appointed to inquire into the finance, control, management, and ownership of the Press.

Streptomycin

On Oct. 29 Mr. BEVAN said medical research was being undertaken in the United States of America regarding the use of streptomycin in the treatment of tuberculosis. It would not be justifiable to adopt it for general use in this country till adequate clinical trials had been carried out to test claims made for it. Arrangements to that end were being made.

Mr. BEVAN, on Oct. 31, told Dr. BARNETT STROSS that two small plants were producing streptomycin on a very small scale in this country. None was yet available for clinical trials. Until those trials had been completed it would not be possible to assess the usefulness of the drug.

Tuberculosis Allowances.—On Oct. 24 Mr. WESTWOOD explained that family allowances were taken into account for the purpose of determining tuberculosis allowances because of the principle, accepted in all recent social legislation, that there should be no duplication of benefits payable out of public funds. The future of the Tuberculosis Allowances Scheme in relation to the new social legislation was under review, and the special needs of this class were kept in mind.

Radioactive Isotopes.—Mr. BEVAN, on Oct. 31, said that his attention had been drawn to clinical experimental work in the United States with radioactive substances, such as radioactive phosphorus and iodine in the treatment of inoperable cancerous growths. Experiments were being carried out with the small quantities of these substances available in this country. It was hoped that the quantities would shortly be increased.

Temporary Registration.—Mr. HASTINGS, on Oct. 31, inquired whether persons who had earned and secured naturalization by service as doctors in the armed Forces during the late war but had not obtained an English medical degree would be permitted to continue in practice in this country after Jan. 1, 1947. Mr. BEVAN assumed that Mr. Hastings had in mind the position which would arise in such cases when the Temporary Medical Register came to an end on Dec. 31, 1947. Mr. Bevan said he was considering this in consultation with the Secretary of State for the Home Department and the Secretary of State for Scotland.

Central Medical War Committee.—Mr. BEVAN, on Oct. 31, told Dr. JEGGER that the duties of the Central Medical War Committee in advising on the selection of individual doctors for the Services were still heavy and it must continue in being for the present.

National Health Service Supplies.—Mr. BEVAN is considering with Mr. WILMOT, Minister of Supply, how the medical supply industries will be able to meet the increased demands when the national health proposals become law. No final arrangements can yet be made.

Universities and Colleges

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

At a meeting of the Senate on Oct. 24 C. V. Harrison, M.D., was appointed to the University Readership in Morbid Anatomy tenable at the British Postgraduate Medical School, and M. A. Rushton, M.B., L.D.S., was appointed to the University Chair of Dental Medicine tenable at Guy's Hospital Medical School.

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

At a graduation ceremony held on Oct. 26, the following diplomas were conferred:

DIPLOMA IN PUBLIC HEALTH.—*L. S. Anderson, *H. A. Barker, *A. D. C. S. Cameron, E. Campbell, *K. H. Cheung, *P. S. Clouston, J. R. Gray, *W. W. Hutton, *R. S. Kennedy, *R. I. S. Lewis, D. A. Lowe, *D. I. M'Callum, *D. M'Gowan, Isobel P. MacKenzie, *J. M. Mair, *W. G. Pollard, *K. D. G. Reid, *D. S. F. Robertson, R. Scott, J. E. Simpson, J. Sleight, *B. Snell, *D. Thomson.
DIPLOMA IN MEDICAL RADIOLOGY.—P. Aitken, Margaret D. Cameron, *N. Saks, *A. C. P. D. Thomson, J. C. Wood.

* In absentia.

CONJOINT BOARD IN SCOTLAND

The following candidates, having passed the final examinations, have been admitted L.R.C.P.Ed., L.R.C.S.Ed., L.R.F.P.&S.Glas.:

Flora S. Barry, A. Blench, C. K. Brown, P. A. Clarke, E. D. Cloughley, T. Corrie, Hilda M. Davies, H. Fernbach, John Hamilton, Phaik-Lin Lim, P. A. R. Lornie, Anna Majzliz, F. R. Moreland, John McLaughlin, J. A. Pool, E. W. Russell, R. Short, E. Silverstone, H. J. Stott, P. J. Vertannes, D. T. Wilson, J. Zucker.

The Services

President Truman has conferred the Legion of Merit in degree of officer on Col. F. S. Gillespie, late R.A.M.C., for services as Medical Liaison Officer with U.S. Army.

The President of the U.S.A. has bestowed the Legion of Merit, Degree of Legionnaire, upon Temp. Surg. Lieut.-Cmdr. A. P. Curtin, R.N.V.R., for services to the U.S.A. during the war.

The President of the U.S.A. has conferred the Bronze Star Medal on Wing Cmdr. (Mrs.) Edna V. Butler-Jones, M.R.C.S., in recognition of valuable services rendered in connexion with the war.

Col. A. R. Moodie, T.D., has been appointed Honorary Colonel in the 51st (Highland) Division, R.A.M.C., T.A., in succession to Col. G. W. Miller, D.S.O., T.D., whose tenure of appointment has expired.

Surg. Lieut.-Cmdrs. P. de Bec Turtle and R. R. Prewer, R.N.V.R., have been awarded the R.N.V.R. Officers' Decoration.