

The Services

The *London Gazette* has announced the award of the George Cross to Lieut.-Cmdr. PATRICK ALBERT O'LEARY, D.S.O., R.N., a Belgian doctor known to his countrymen as Dr. Albert Edward-Marie Guerisse, who became a British naval officer. The citation reads as follows:

Lieut.-Cmdr. O'Leary was captured by the French police during operations off the south coast of France in April, 1941. He escaped while *en route* to a French prison, and thereupon set up an organization to help the escape of Allied prisoners of war and evaders. Through his skill and his sustained personal bravery, the organization succeeded, between April and August, 1941, in getting away some 150 officers and men, many belonging to the Royal Air Force. At increased risk to himself, Lieut.-Cmdr. O'Leary was soon forced to expand his organization, to help an ever-increasing number of evaders. To keep the members working at full pressure, and to inspire their confidence, he travelled frequently between the Dutch border and the south of France through numerous German controls, himself escorting numbers of escapees. If any question arose of hazard greater than usual, Lieut.-Cmdr. O'Leary carried out the work himself. In March, 1943, he was betrayed to the Gestapo by a member of his group. Arrested, he was put to many forms of torture in an attempt to make him reveal the names, whereabouts and duties of the other members. He was put in a refrigerator for four hours, he was beaten continually, but never did he disclose information which could be of profit to the enemy. After more ferocious experiments the Germans gave him up as hopeless, and sent him to a concentration camp where he was once again the victim of torture. He was a prisoner in Mauthausen, Natzweiler, Neubremm and finally Dachau. He nearly lost his life in the Neubremm quarries, where he was beaten insensibly. Throughout his time in prison, Lieut.-Cmdr. O'Leary's courage never faltered. Numbers of prisoners have given evidence that his moral and physical influence and support saved their lives. On his liberation from Dachau, Lieut.-Cmdr. O'Leary refused to leave the camp, where he had been made "President" of all the prisoners (including some thousands of Russians), until he had ensured that all possible steps had been taken to ease the lot of his fellows. He was then given the opportunity to return to his family, but he insisted on proceeding to France, to trace the surviving members of his organization, and to help them in any way he could. From the time of inception until the end of the war, Lieut.-Cmdr. O'Leary's group was responsible for the rescue and successful return of over 600 British and American officers and men. It is now known that over 250 owe their safety directly to Lieut.-Cmdr. O'Leary, whose fortitude and determination matched every task and risk.

Fl.-Lieut. A. N. H. Peach, R.A.F.V.R., has been mentioned in dispatches in recognition of gallant and distinguished services in Malaya, Hong Kong, and the Netherlands East Indies during the operations against the Japanese ending in March, 1942.

The following appointments and mention in dispatches have been announced in recognition of gallant and distinguished services while engaged in special operations in South East Asia:

M.B.E. (Military Division).—Majors (Temp.) J. G. Dumoulin and A. Rapoport, and Capt. E. J. Harrison, R.A.M.C.

Mentioned in Dispatches.—Major (Temp.) C. E. Aston, R.A.M.C.

CASUALTIES IN THE SERVICES

Fl.-Lieut. RAYMOND GEORGE BLACKLEDGE, previously reported as missing, has now been presumed to have died about Jan. 20, 1945, while a prisoner of war in Japanese hands. He was born in August, 1912, studied medicine at Oxford University and St. Thomas's Hospital and qualified B.M., B.Ch., and M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., in 1937. After holding house appointments at St. Thomas's, the Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford, and the Miller General Hospital he was commissioned in the Medical Branch R.A.F.V.R. on Sept. 10, 1940.

Universities and Colleges

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND

At a reception at the College on Oct. 30, to celebrate the centenary of the first administration of ether in this country, the Princess Royal, Hon.F.R.C.S., unveiled a memorial tablet marking the centenary and honouring the four British pioneers, Henry Hill Hickman, James Young Simpson, John Snow, and Joseph Thomas Clover. Dr. A. D. Marston, president of the Association of Anaesthetists of Great Britain and Ireland, in his address pointed out that of the three English pioneers one was a Fellow and the other two were Members of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, and said that no more suitable place for the keeping of their memory could be thought of than within the precincts of the ancient and famous College which was their alma mater. Dr. Marston gave a brief account of the life and work of each of the pioneers and of their contribution to anaesthesia. Hickman's life was short (1800-30). He lived before the actual introduction of anaesthesia, but made experiments on animals and reported them to the Medical Society of London, and was convinced that means would be found to relieve human suffering. Sir James Young Simpson, the celebrated Scottish physician, had attained the age of 35 years and considerable academic distinction at the time of the

first administration of ether in this country. As professor of medicine at Edinburgh University and a leading exponent of obstetric practice Simpson had constantly sought means of alleviating the pangs of childbirth. John Snow, a Yorkshireman, was practising medicine in London when he read in the *Lancet* Bigelow's account of the Massachusetts demonstration, and he began to study the possibilities of anaesthesia at the age of 33. Clover, a native of Norfolk, became F.R.C.S. at the age of 28, and decided to devote his life to the study and practice of anaesthesia. He did much valuable work in restoring ether to its place as the principal routine anaesthetic agent, and spent years in perfecting his famous inhaler.

ROYAL FACULTY OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS OF GLASGOW

At the annual meeting of the Royal Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow the following officers were elected for the ensuing year: *President*, Dr. Geoffrey B. Fleming; *Visitor*, Mr. J. Scouler Buchanan; *Honorary Treasurer*, Mr. Walter W. Galbraith; *Honorary Librarian*, Dr. Archibald L. Goodall; *Representative on General Medical Council*, Mr. Andrew Allison.

VICTOR HORSLEY MEMORIAL LECTURE

The Victor Horsley Memorial Fund, which was raised in 1920 to commemorate the services of Sir Victor Horsley to Science and the Empire, is devoted to the giving of a lecture triennially in London entitled the "Victor Horsley Memorial Lecture." By invitation of the Trustees (the Presidents for the time being of the Royal Society, the Royal College of Surgeons of England and the British Medical Association, the senior physician of the National Hospital for the Paralysed and Epileptic, Queen Square, the senior surgeon of University College Hospital, and Mr. Stanley G. Robinson, son-in-law of Sir Victor Horsley) the seventh lecture will be delivered by Dr. F. M. R. Walshe, F.R.C.P., F.R.S., physician to the National Hospital, and physician-in-charge, Neurological Department, University College Hospital, in the Lecture Theatre, National Hospital, Queen Square, W.C., on Wednesday, Nov. 27, at 5 p.m. The title of the lecture is "The Contribution of Clinical Study to the Physiology of the Cerebral Motor Cortex," and the chair will be taken by Sir Alfred Webb-Johnson, Bt., P.R.C.S. Admission to the lecture is free on presentation of visiting card.

Medical Notes in Parliament

HEALTH SERVICE BILL

Royal Assent

Final discussions on the National Health Service Bill arose in the House of Lords on Nov. 6 on a Government motion that the House should consider the reasons advanced by the House of Commons for disagreeing to certain amendments previously made by the House of Lords.

A Lords amendment transferred to the Metropolitan boroughs and the City of London some of the health services which the Bill, as introduced, concentrated under the London County Council. In rejecting this the House of Commons formally expressed the opinion that it was expedient for all services to be provided under Part III of the Bill in any area to be the responsibility of a single authority and that in the County of London, as in other counties, the appropriate authority was the county council.

In defending the decision of the House of Commons the LORD CHANCELLOR said that to be effective the supervision of expectant mothers, and also prenatal and postnatal care, must be co-ordinated with the domiciliary midwives service through one authority responsible for all related facilities. Before the war 25% of the births in London were attended by these L.C.C. services and that figure had substantially increased.

LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH said midwifery was transferred from the borough councils to the London County Council only a few years ago. Integration had remained complete and mothers were unaware that the midwife was the servant of the L.C.C. while the health visitors were servants of the borough councils.

On the motion of the Lord Chancellor the House agreed not to insist on its amendment.

The Major Method of Remuneration

To the amendment made by the House of Lords respecting the remuneration of general practitioners undertaking to provide general medical services under the Act the Commons had disagreed on the ground that it was inexpedient that the method of remunerating the doctors providing these services should be laid down in the Statute.