

Medico-Legal

SURGEON RESPONSIBLE FOR SWABS

[FROM OUR MEDICO-LEGAL CORRESPONDENT]

On July 14, 1955,¹ the Court of Appeal gave judgment dismissing the appeal of Mr. Immanuel Bierer, gynaecological surgeon, of London, from a judgment of Mr. Justice Pearson.² Mr. Justice Pearson had awarded a total of £4,416 damages for negligence against Mr. Bierer and the Harley Street Nursing Home Limited, of Weymouth Street, London, W.1, in equal shares as a result of a swab or pack being left in the body of Mrs. Ellen Barbara Joan Urry after an operation for the delivery of a child by caesarean section on January 7, 1953. The issue before the Court of Appeal was whether the surgeon or the theatre sister was ultimately responsible for the removal of the swabs.

In his judgment Lord Justice Singleton said that when a judge was called upon to try an issue involving negligence his duty was the same whether the claim was brought against a surgeon or any other professional man or anyone else. He had to make up his mind on the evidence called before him, deciding what part of it he accepted and whether the case put forward was proved. It was no part of his duty to tell surgeons how to perform their duties.

In this case the surgical packs, each about 10 in. (25 cm.) square, were provided by the home, furnished with tapes as a help towards finding and removal, and counted by the theatre sister before and after use. The sister and the nursing-home had admitted that the count was wrong. Mr. Bierer had not used the tapes. The question was, Had Mr. Bierer failed in his duty?

Although the evidence of other surgeons had been that not to make use of the tapes was not by itself negligent, a surgeon who disregarded them placed an additional burden on himself. As Lord Goddard had said in *Mahon v. Osborne*,³ nothing could be more disastrous to the community than to leave it to a jury or a judge to lay down what it is proper to do in any particular case without the guidance of witnesses who are qualified to speak on the subject. But if it was the task of the surgeon to put swabs in it was his task to take them out, and if the evidence was that he had not used a reasonable standard of care he could not absolve himself by saying, "I relied on the nurse."

In this case Mr. Bierer said he looked, and would have expected to feel a pack in the position in which the pack was left, and was satisfied no pack was there or he would not have stitched up. By not availing himself of the tapes he deprived himself of an additional precaution. He was uncertain if he had placed two or three packs on or alongside the uterus. The patient was entitled to expect the surgeon to do what was reasonable to ensure that the packs were removed before asking the sister if the count was correct. The count was an additional check, and its occasional failure emphasized the need for diligence on the surgeon's part.

Lord Justice Hodson said that Mr. Bierer had fallen far short of the standard of care required of him, and was equally responsible with the sister. He had insisted that he was entitled to rely on the sister's count, and his technique did not include any particular effort to remember or have himself reminded of the location of particular packs although he was not using tapes.

Lord Justice Morris gave a concurring judgment and the appeal was accordingly dismissed. Responsibility of the accident was thus left where it had been placed by Mr. Justice Pearson, on the surgeon and the nursing-home through its servant, the theatre sister, in equal shares.

The Medical Defence Union instructed Messrs. Hempsons, solicitors, to act for Mr. Bierer.

¹ *The Times*, July 15, 1955.

² *British Medical Journal*, March 26, 1955.

³ [1939] 2 K.B. 14.

Universities and Colleges

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

Dr. A. C. Allison has been elected to an Official Studentship at Christ Church.

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

Professor V. B. Wigglesworth has been re-elected into the Quick Professorship of Biology for a period of three years ending September 30, 1958.

Dr. J. D. Lever has been appointed a University Lecturer in the Department of Anatomy; Dr. P. J. Randle a University Lecturer in the Department of Biochemistry; and Dr. H. F. Grundy has been reappointed a University Demonstrator in the Department of Pharmacology with tenure from January 1, 1956, for two years.

The following candidates have been approved at the examinations indicated:

FINAL M.B.—*Part II*: ³C. U. Abengowe, ^{1 2 3}D. M. Ackery, ¹D. P. Addy, ^{1 2 3}E. S. E. D. Alberman, ^{1 2 3}R. G. Anderson, ^{1 2 3}B. S. Ashby, ^{1 2 3}N. K. Ashurst, ^{1 2 3}D. H. Ball, ^{1 2 3}C. N. Barnes, ^{1 2 3}J. F. Baron, ^{1 3}J. R. Batchelor, ¹R. W. Beard, ²R. B. Bennet, ^{1 2 3}J. W. Bennett, ^{1 2 3}M. S. Bethell, ^{1 2 3}J. S. Bevan, ^{1 2 3}R. K. Blach, ²J. R. Blatch, ^{1 2 3}D. J. Blomley, ^{1 3}P. G. A. Bloomer, ^{1 2 3}A. H. Bottomley, ^{1 2 3}A. E. Boyo, ³M. M. Brain, ^{1 2 3}E. C. Bramwell, ^{1 2 3}A. H. Bromley, ^{1 2 3}J. M. G. Brooks, ^{1 2 3}J. Brothwood, ¹I. F. M. Buchanan, ^{1 2 3}R. M. Buckle, ^{1 2 3}K. M. Burkhill, ^{1 2 3}N. L. Burrell, ¹N. R. Burt, ³H. C. I. Bywater, ^{1 2 3}D. S. Carmichael, ^{1 2 3}J. D. Charters, ^{1 2 3}D. R. Cole, ^{1 2 3}E. W. G. Cooper, ^{1 2 3}H. J. Davies, ^{1 2 3}J. R. Cobbett, ^{1 2 3}R. H. L. Dawkins, ²P. A. Dinkel, ^{1 2 3}J. Dominian, ^{1 2 3}C. J. Drouet, ^{1 2 3}D. A. Earnshaw, ^{1 2 3}Mrs. G. J. Earnshaw, ^{1 2 3}J. H. Eckersley, ¹J. A. Eddington, ^{1 2 3}D. Emerson, ^{1 2 3}D. J. Fairclough, ^{1 2 3}R. E. Farmer, ^{1 2 3}M. G. P. Fisher, ^{1 2 3}A. G. Fraser, ¹J. F. Garner, ^{1 2 3}P. C. Gautier-Smith, ¹C. G. Geary, ^{1 2 3}P. M. S. Gillam, ^{1 2 3}K. P. Goldman, ¹J. V. Gosling, ¹I. P. Grant-Whyte, ^{1 2 3}A. J. Haines, ¹C. D. M. Hamilton, ^{1 2 3}A. Haworth, ²R. C. Hayball, ^{1 2 3}D. C. Heap, ^{1 2 3}C. F. Herridge, ^{1 2 3}M. H. Heycock, ^{1 2 3}W. M. Hollyhock, ²A. J. Hosking, ^{1 2 3}P. J. E. Hubbard, ^{1 2 3}R. E. Hudson, ³C. J. B. Hundleby, ^{1 2 3}O. Q. Hyder, ^{1 2 3}J. Inley, ^{1 2 3}J. D. Jenkins, ^{2 3}G. J. Jewell, ^{1 2 3}H. H. John, ^{1 2 3}R. D. Jones, ^{1 2 3}W. R. Keatinge, ^{1 2 3}J. F. H. Keighley, ^{1 2 3}J. H. Kelsey, ^{1 2 3}M. G. Kemp, ^{2 3}D. King-Price, ¹H. W. Kirkpatrick, ^{1 2 3}J. P. Knowles, ^{1 2 3}W. Leach, ¹J. H. L. Lloyd-Thomas, ^{1 2 3}F. E. Loeffler, ^{1 2 3}D. E. Longden, ¹J. D. McCaldin, ^{1 2 3}D. J. McGuigan, ^{1 2 3}W. J. E. McKee, ^{1 2 3}A. S. Mackenzie, ^{1 2 3}W. S. S. Maclay, ^{1 2 3}P. B. Mann, ^{1 2 3}J. F. Marsden, ^{1 2 3}J. J. Mather, ^{1 2 3}W. O. Mavor, ^{1 2 3}S. Mercer, ^{1 2 3}J. R. M. Millar, ^{1 2 3}A. B. Miller, ^{1 2 3}D. L. Miller, ¹J. B. B. Milne, ^{1 2 3}J. Moorhouse, ^{1 2 3}A. M. Morgan, ^{1 2 3}R. Moulton, ^{1 2 3}D. H. Murphy, ^{1 2 3}R. E. Nagle, ^{1 2 3}J. F. M. Newman, ^{1 2 3}E. M. I. Noel, ^{2 3}K. E. A. Norbury, ¹R. E. Nottidge, ^{1 2 3}W. B. Obank, ^{1 2 3}J. L. O'Sullivan, ^{2 3}M. A. Pallister, ^{1 2 3}D. J. Palmer, ^{1 2 3}Mrs. K. M. Parry, ¹G. H. W. Parry-Williams, ²G. W. Peacock, ²H. J. Pegg, ^{1 2 3}F. A. Perera, ¹G. M. Petrie, ^{1 2 3}B. S. Phillips, ^{1 2 3}G. W. Phipps, ^{1 2 3}J. H. L. Playfair, ^{1 2 3}R. H. Pont, ^{1 2 3}A. W. Prentice, ^{1 2 3}S. Priestman, ^{1 2 3}D. Read, ²M. B. Reddington, ^{1 2 3}M. Ridley, ^{1 2 3}P. V. Rycroft, ^{1 2 3}M. E. R. Samson, ^{1 2 3}D. W. I. M. Sandilands, ²A. D. Scott, ³P. H. Scott, ^{1 2 3}S. Sheldon, ²A. J. Shaw, ^{1 2 3}F. D. P. Shaw, ^{2 3}D. E. Side, ^{1 2 3}R. Smith, ^{1 2 3}M. Spiro, ^{1 2 3}D. A. Strong, ^{1 2 3}A. G. Strube, ^{1 2 3}J. L. Struthers, ^{2 3}F. Summers, ³S. G. Sutton, ^{1 2 3}J. A. Tait, ^{1 2 3}K. W. Taylor, ^{1 2 3}J. M. Tellwright, ²D. A. Thomas, ^{2 3}S. H. Thomas, ^{1 2 3}C. B. Thomson, ^{1 2 3}M. W. Tisdall, ^{2 3}D. G. Twyman, ^{1 2 3}J. Vinnicombe, ^{1 2 3}M. A. M. von Bergen, ^{1 2 3}D. M. Watney, ²R. V. F. Williams, ^{1 2 3}K. M. Wilson, ^{1 2 3}J. E. Woodyard, ^{1 2 3}C. C. Zilahi. *Part I (Pathology and Pharmacology)*: R. T. Barnie-Adshead, R. W. Beard, P. G. A. Bloomer, A. E. Boyo, R. Carlisle, J. D. Charters, M. N. Cox, A. G. Dawrant, J. A. Eddington, T. H. English, T. A. Fox, J. F. Garner, C. D. M. Hamilton, R. C. Hayball, W. M. Hollyhock, P. J. E. Hubbard, O. Q. Hyder, R. C. M. Kew, D. King-Price, W. Leach, J. H. L. Lloyd-Thomas, F. B. Mann, D. J. Moorhouse, A. M. Morgan, J. F. M. Newman, M. A. M. Pallister, E. H. O. Parry, G. M. Petrie, G. W. Phipps, R. H. Pont, N. B. Pride, D. Read, M. B. Reddington, J. D. M. Richards, P. V. Rycroft, M. E. R. Samson, A. H. Sears, F. D. P. Shaw, M. P. Sherwood, J. K. Skinner, G. W. T. Smith, M. J. V. Smith, J. A. Tait, K. W. Taylor, D. M. Watney, M. G. Williams, M. T. C. Wright.

¹ Passed in principles and practice of physic. ² Passed in principles and practice of surgery. ³ Passed in midwifery and gynaecology.

UNIVERSITY OF DUBLIN

SCHOOL OF PHYSIC, TRINITY COLLEGE

The following candidates have been approved at the examinations indicated:

M.D.—Margaret K. B. Knox, H. McVey, H. G. Nelson, A. T. F. French-O'Carroll, R. J. Weir.

M.C.H.—J. W. Jackson.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

Dr. N. A. Thorne has been appointed Bedell of Convocation for the year beginning February 1, 1955.

Dr. C. E. Newman has been nominated for reappointment as representative of the University on the governing body of West London Hospital Medical School.

The following have been recognized as teachers of the University in the subjects indicated in parentheses: *Institute of*

Neurology, Dr. William Goody (Medicine (Neurology)). *Guy's Hospital Medical School*, Dr. M. J. F. McArdle (Medicine (Neurology)). *Postgraduate Medical School of London*, Dr. P. L. Mollison (Medicine). *University College Hospital Medical School*, Dr. A. G. Spencer (Medicine). R. R. Stephens, B.D.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., has been granted probationary recognition as a teacher of dental surgery (children's dentistry) at the Institute of Dental Surgery for two years from May, 1955.

The Mary Scharlieb Research Studentship, which was awarded to Dr. Katharine M. Dormandy for 1954-5, has been renewed for 1955-6.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND

The Medical Directors-General of the Army and the Royal Air Force attended a meeting of the Council of the Royal College of Surgeons of England on June 9, when the President, Sir Harry Platt, was in the chair, and presented medals for meritorious work in the medical field, the Mitchiner Medal to Colonel W. R. M. Drew, late R.A.M.C., for his distinguished contributions to medicine in the Army, with special relation to the teaching of tropical medicine, and the Lady Cade Medal to Squadron Leader P. Howard for his experimental work in the development of partial pressure suits and pressure breathing equipment.

The Begley Prize was presented to Malcolm Swann (Westminster Medical School).

The following were co-opted to the Council for the year 1955-6, representing various branches of practice: *General Practice*, Dr. O. C. Carter; *Ophthalmology*, Mr. A. B. Nutt; *Radiology*, Dr. E. Rohan Williams; *Otolaryngology*, Mr. Myles L. Formby; *Anaesthetics*, Dr. Frankis T. Evans.

Professor F. C. Wilkinson was invited to act as the representative of dental surgery on the Council.

Diplomas of Fellowship of the College were granted as follows:

A. B. McGrigor, I. L. Gregory, Peggy K. L. Orton, Cecilie Greig, D. A. Watson, R. W. A. Bortons, G. Hadfield, G. S. Plaut, P. K. Pybus, J. Humphreys, A. Gol, A. E. Richardson, K. R. J. de Belder, J. E. H. Pendower, G. H. Jantet, L. Friedmann, R. H. Baird, J. C. B. Serjeant, N. E. Brand, E. V. Peipman, W. A. Baker, M. K. Guha Thakurta, F. J. Heden, E. W. Parry, M. M. Chawla, T. J. Thwaite, A. H. Toyne, Betsy Brown, G. P. Debenham, H. Gaylis, N. A. A. Myers, S. D. Broacha, H. H. Chesterfield-Evans, C. J. Phillips, B. Bhattacharya, B. L. Cornish, K. Cronin, J. Jacob, M. L. H. Lee, H. G. Lowe, G. D. H. Shawe, L. Simon, N. V. Addison, T. J. Claffey, C. N. d'E. Eastes, F. Ellis, W. F. Gordon, B. Ho, W. M. Keynes, J. P. Maddern, P. F. Mountfort, J. K. Oyston, H. Piggott, D. R. Richard, T. M. Robinson, W. G. Taylor, G. D. Tracy, H. T. G. Williams, G. S. M. Botha, D. J. Brain, J. A. C. Brown, R. C. Chakravorty, D. A. Cooper, J. B. Doss, M. S. El-Din Ed-Dars, W. B. Fleming, P. A. Freeman, S. B. Joshi, R. H. Kernutt, J. A. Loeb, I. L. McVey, S. N. B. Roy, C. G. Tulloh, R. G. Williams, K. P. Abel, S. M. A. Alhadly, J. G. Corson, D. O. Cropley, J. A. Myburgh, N. R. Patel, G. J. Schnitzler, S. R. Shar, W. W. Slack, V. H. Smith, A. B. Vivian, A. F. Wallace, D. W. Warren, D. G. Failes, J. F. H. Graff, A. Jessup, C. Shaldon, D. D. Arnold, J. N. Joshipura.

Diplomas of Membership were granted to B. M. G. Clarke, A. Gibbons, and Janet Goodall.

Diplomas were granted, jointly with the Royal College of Physicians of London, as follows:

DIPLOMA IN MEDICAL RADIODIAGNOSIS.—N. H. Aldridge, L. J. du Preez, D. Edwards, Shirley E. Entrican, W. C. Heron, K. S. Huque, Catherine V. Kraft, Omar Bin Din, W. M. O. Purcell, A. Rattarangsing, M. J. Ryan, M. M. Schechter, J. P. Sinha, G. C. Stavrakis.

DIPLOMA IN MEDICAL RADIOTHERAPY.—H. D. Batt, P. E. Bodkin, T. B. Brewin, J. C. Courtney, Hazel E. Davidson, Hung Chiu Ho, Y. Nasrallah, I. M. Shulman, A. J. Ward.

DIPLOMA IN PATHOLOGY.—L. Bernstock, D. A. Li, Bowen, M. Levene, L. Michaels, N. E. Rankin, P. D. Roberts, T. P. Teicher, T. A. White.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF EDINBURGH

At a quarterly meeting of the College held on May 3, with the President, Sir Stanley Davidson, in the chair, the following were elected Members of the College:

J. M. Johnston, H. R. Harris, T. M. Desai, L. Molk, M. B. Azami, R. H. Aldons, S. K. Mazumdar, D. O. Lewis, D. A. Kerfoot, E. N. A. Magid, J. Richmond, E. Schiller, W. G. Smith, S. S. Levin, E. S. Nash, J. R. Shah, B. C. Syam, I. J. Pinto, R. C. Parikh, N. H. Brooke, S. C. Jain, B. Cowan, R. H. C. Rischbieth, W. H. Wolfenden, J. C. Pond, M. Wakefield, G. D. Campbell, B. C. Paton, M. A. Kibel.

ROYAL AUSTRALASIAN COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS

The following, having satisfied the Board of Censors in Australia, were admitted to Membership by the President in May:

D. T. Church, B. D. Cotton, A. W. T. Edwards, D. A. Ferguson, R. A. B. Holland, R. G. Lewis, D. C. Maddison, R. S. Packard, R. D. Spooner, and Claire Weekes, of New South Wales; P. Ebeling, K. F. Fairley, W. S. C. Hare, K. H. McLean, B. W. Neal, and J. S. Penington, of Victoria; T. M. Ferrier, of Queensland.

The following, having satisfied the Board of Censors in New Zealand, were admitted to Membership *in absentia* by the President in May:

W. M. W. Brookfield, R. H. Culpan, P. W. Dykes, G. F. Hall, R. W. Hornabrook, J. D. McCreanor, J. R. Presland, D. H. H. Pullon, F. T. Shannon, C. M. Stubbs, J. M. Tweed, M. H. Watson, and R. D. Wigley.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND VITAL STATISTICS

Summary for British Isles for week ending July 2 (No. 26) and corresponding week 1954.

Figures of cases are for the countries shown and London administrative county. Figures of deaths and births are for the 160 great towns in England and Wales (London included), London administrative county, the 17 principal towns in Scotland, the 10 principal towns in Northern Ireland, and the 14 principal towns in Eire.

A blank space denotes disease not notifiable or no return available. The table is based on information supplied by the Registrars-General of England and Wales, Scotland, N. Ireland, and Eire, the Ministry of Health and Local Government of N. Ireland, and the Department of Health of Eire.

| CASES in Countries and London | 1955 | | | | | 1954 | | | | |
|--|--------------------|--------|-------|---------|------|--------------------|--------|-------|---------|------|
| | Eng. & Wales | London | Scot. | N. Ire. | Eire | Eng. & Wales | London | Scot. | N. Ire. | Eire |
| Diphtheria ... | 6 | 0 | 1 | 0 | | 20 | 0 | 5 | 0 | |
| Dysentery ... | 807 | 47 | 298 | 7 | | 661 | 85 | 199 | 3 | |
| Encephalitis, acute... | 3 | 1 | | 0 | | 6 | 0 | 0 | | |
| Enteric fever: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Typhoid ... | 5 | 0 | 1 | 0 | | 4 | 1 | 0 | 2 | |
| Paratyphoid ... | 17 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | 3 | 0 | 2 | 0 | |
| Food-poisoning ... | 327 | 36 | | 0 | | 217 | 34 | | 8 | |
| Infective enteritis or diarrhoea under 2 years ... | | | | 11 | 21 | | | | 11 | 21 |
| Measles* ... | 17,716 | 342 | 138 | 177 | 417 | 3,085 | 94 | 117 | 217 | 403 |
| Meningococcal infection ... | 23 | 1 | 7 | 0 | 1 | 29 | 2 | 8 | 0 | 4 |
| Ophthalmia neonatorum ... | 41 | 3 | 9 | 0 | | 45 | 1 | 4 | 0 | |
| Pneumonia† ... | 295 | 16 | 139 | 7 | | 293 | 26 | 119 | 0 | 2 |
| Poliomyelitis, acute: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Paralytic ... | 47 | 9 | 6 | 0 | | 35 | 3 | 11 | 4 | |
| Non-paralytic ... | 26 | 5 | 3 | | | 19 | 1 | | | |
| Puerperal fever§ ... | 230 | 49 | 12 | 1 | | 243 | 31 | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| Scarlet fever ... | 585 | 43 | 86 | 39 | 13 | 741 | 58 | 124 | 20 | 27 |
| Tuberculosis: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Respiratory ... | 743 | 88 | 139 | 31 | | 744 | 75 | 185 | 18 | |
| Non-respiratory ... | 133 | 5 | 33 | 2 | | 126 | 1 | 28 | 6 | |
| Whooping-cough ... | 1,833 | 91 | 97 | 62 | 52 | 2,211 | 84 | 200 | 19 | 42 |

| DEATHS in Great Towns | 1955 | | | | | 1954 | | | | |
|--|--------------------|--------|-------|---------|------|--------------------|--------|-------|---------|------|
| | Eng. & Wales | London | Scot. | N. Ire. | Eire | Eng. & Wales | London | Scot. | N. Ire. | Eire |
| Diphtheria ... | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Dysentery ... | 1 | 1 | | 0 | | 0 | 0 | | 0 | |
| Encephalitis, acute... | | 0 | | 0 | | | 1 | | | 0 |
| Enteric fever ... | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Infective enteritis or diarrhoea under 2 years ... | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Influenza ... | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Measles ... | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Meningococcal infection ... | | 0 | 0 | | | 0 | 0 | | | |
| Pneumonia ... | 143 | 17 | 15 | 12 | 2 | 143 | 17 | 15 | 8 | 4 |
| Poliomyelitis, acute ... | 1 | 1 | | | 0 | 1 | 0 | | | 0 |
| Scarlet fever ... | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Tuberculosis: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Respiratory ... | 47 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 77 | 12 | 15 | 3 | 2 |
| Non-respiratory ... | | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | 3 | 16 | 1 | |
| Whooping-cough ... | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Deaths 0-1 year ... | 191 | 21 | 25 | 10 | 6 | 202 | 20 | 21 | 5 | 7 |
| Deaths (excluding stillbirths) ... | 4,433 | 640 | 512 | 114 | 109 | 4,574 | 615 | 493 | 94 | 135 |
| LIVE BIRTHS ... | 7,650 | 1097 | 881 | 237 | 426 | 7,876 | 1181 | 888 | 217 | 461 |
| STILLBIRTHS ... | 209 | 28 | 13 | | | 184 | 23 | 24 | | |

* Measles not notifiable in Scotland, whence returns are approximate.

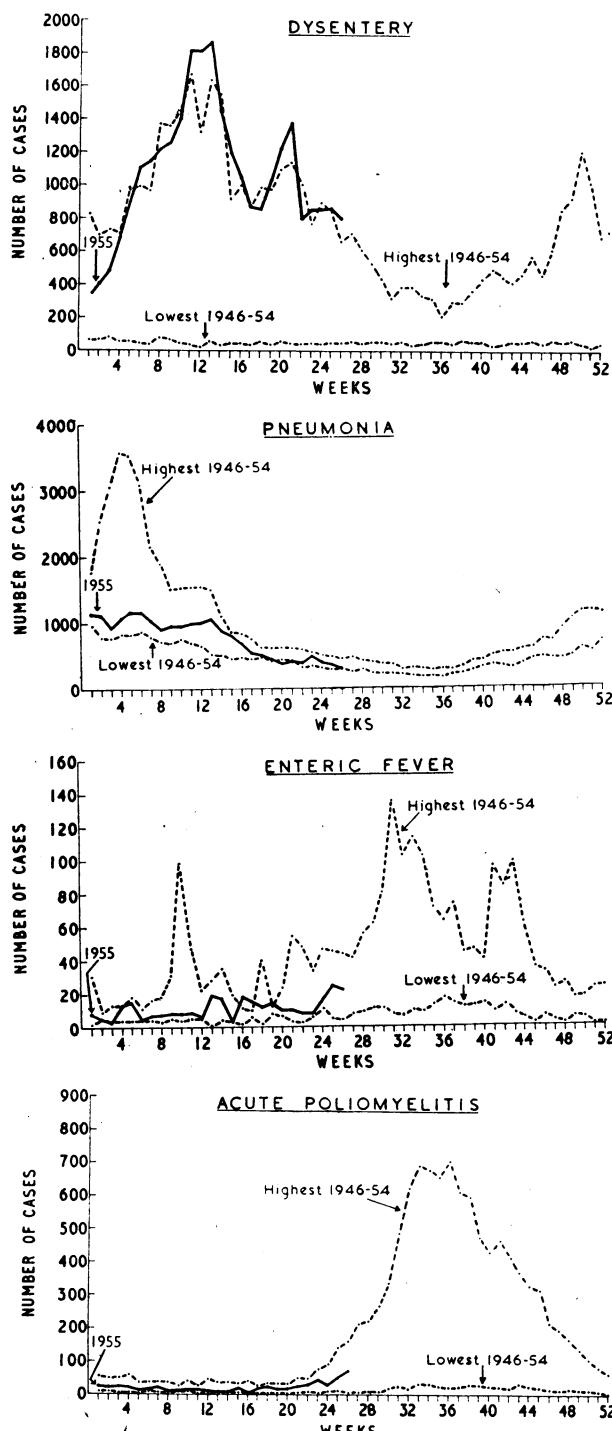
† Includes primary and influenzal pneumonia.

§ Includes puerperal pyrexia.

Vital Statistics

Graphs of Infectious Diseases

The graphs below show the uncorrected numbers of cases of certain diseases notified weekly in England and Wales. Highest and lowest figures reported in each week during the nine years 1946-54 are shown thus -----, the figures for 1955 thus ———. Except for the curves showing notifications in 1955, the graphs were prepared at the Department of Medical Statistics and Epidemiology, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.



Infectious Diseases

The fluctuations in the trends of infectious diseases in England and Wales during the week ending July 2 included falls in the notifications by 2,799 for measles, from 20,515 to 17,716, and 55 for dysentery, from 862 to 807, and rises by 44 for scarlet fever, from 541 to 585, and 10 for whooping-cough, from 1,823 to 1,833.

The largest falls in the incidence of measles were 298 in Yorkshire West Riding, from 1,171 to 873, 293 in Southampton county, from 1,260 to 967, 287 in Glamorganshire, from 1,343 to 1,056, 263 in Middlesex, from 1,062 to 799, 231 in Essex, from 934 to 703, 226 in Surrey, from 716 to 490, and the only large rise was 132 in Kent, from 1,100 to 1,232. The only large rise in the returns for scarlet fever was 44 in Lincolnshire, from 9 to 53, due to an outbreak in Bourne U.D., where 35 cases were notified. The largest variations in the trends of whooping-cough were a fall of 91 in Kent, from 158 to 67, and a rise of 53 in Lancashire, from 217 to 270. 6 cases of diphtheria were notified, being 12 fewer than in the preceding week.

73 cases of acute poliomyelitis were notified, and these were 13 more for paralytic and 6 more for non-paralytic cases than in the preceding week. The cases were mainly concentrated in three counties, Yorkshire West Riding 27 (Barnsley C.B. 11, Leeds C.B. 4, Dewsbury C.B. 3), London 14 (Poplar 2, Stepney 2), and Lancashire 9 (Barrow-in-Furness C.B. 3, Liverpool C.B. 4).

The largest returns of dysentery were Lancashire 227 (Liverpool C.B. 69, Blackpool C.B. 27, Middleton M.B. 25, Blackburn C.B. 18, Manchester C.B. 17), Yorkshire West Riding 100 (Huddersfield C.B. 44, Leeds C.B. 25, Sheffield C.B. 11), Durham 64 (Barnard Castle R.D. 30, Stanley U.D. 10), London 47 (Islington 12), Cheshire 46 (Dukinfield M.B. 21, Wallasey C.B. 20), Northumberland 39 (Newburn U.D. 14, Seaton Valley U.D. 11), Surrey 35 (Croydon C.B. 31), Glamorganshire 25 (Swansea C.B. 13), Yorkshire North Riding 25 (Middlesbrough C.B. 15, Whitby U.D. 10), Middlesex 21.

The largest reported outbreaks of food-poisoning were in Lancashire, where 53 cases were notified in Liverpool C.B. and 36 cases in Westhoughton U.D.

Week Ending July 9

The notifications of infectious diseases in England and Wales during the week included: scarlet fever 556, whooping-cough 1,865, diphtheria 10, measles 18,375, acute pneumonia 236, acute poliomyelitis 99, dysentery 590, paratyphoid fever 17, and typhoid fever 8.

The Services

Brigadier H. L. G. Hughes, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., Army Emergency Reserve of Officers, has been appointed Honorary Colonel of an A.E.R. Unit.

A *Supplement* to the *London Gazette* has announced the following awards:

First Clasp to the Army Emergency Reserve Decoration.—Major R. H. Berry, R.A.M.C. (now T.A.).

Third Clasp to the Territorial Efficiency Decoration.—Colonel J. R. McDonald, M.C., T.D. (now A.E.R.).

First Clasp to the Territorial Efficiency Decoration.—Major F. E. D. Griffiths, T.D., R.A.M.C.

Territorial Efficiency Decoration.—Colonel A. J. Maciver, O.B.E., Lieutenant-Colonel J. D. Finnegan, Captain (Honorary Major) H. Waters (retired), and Captains T. A. Blyton (retired) and G. J. Partington (retired), R.A.M.C.

Air Commodore D. A. Wilson, A.F.C., R.A.F., has been appointed Honorary Surgeon to the Queen in succession to Air Vice-Marshal E. D. D. Dickson, C.B., C.B.E., R.A.F., who has vacated the appointment on retirement from the R.A.F.

Group Captain G. L. M. McElligott, R.A.F.V.R., and Flight Lieutenant F. J. G. Jefferiss, R.A.F.V.R., have been awarded Air Efficiency Awards.

25s. for four issues. The corresponding prices in U.S.A., Canada, and South America are \$1.50 and \$5. The publishers are the Avenue Publishing Company, 9, Fellows Road, London, N.W.3.

Doctor at Sea.—The young man who passed his exams so entertainingly in *Doctor in the House* now becomes a ship-surgeon in Richard Gordon's latest film, *Doctor at Sea*. Fleeing the ardent embraces of his principal's daughter, the tyro general practitioner gets a post in a small ship to South America. An eccentric crew, the diffident doctor, and medical comforts provide clean fun on board ship, while the South American port gives plenty of scope for showing that the improper study of mankind is woman. Here we meet the delightful Brigitte Bardot, a new French star—and surely the first to be seen for some time outside an "X" film. Dirk Bogarde as the young doctor is what every layman thinks a young doctor should be, and James Robertson Justice roars with convincing aplomb as the irascible captain of the ship. Romance, humour, and the discovery that some parts of medicine are not in the textbooks combine here to give us a tonic without a trace of a bitter taste.

Monkeys for Poliomyelitis Research.—A Reuter dispatch from Delhi, dated July 17, states that the Indian Government has agreed to allow exports of monkeys to the United States, Britain, Australia, and Canada for use in the preparation of anti-poliomyelitis vaccine and other medical research. About 200,000 monkeys are expected to be exported during the coming year, more than half of them to the United States.

Connaught Laboratories, Toronto.—The University of Toronto announced on July 15 that a new million-dollar laboratory for the production of Salk poliomyelitis vaccine would be added immediately to the Connaught Medical Research Laboratories (*New York Times*, July 16).

Professor T. N. A. Jeffcoate, professor of obstetrics and gynaecology at Liverpool, leaves at the end of this month to take up a six-weeks appointment as McIlrath Guest Professor at the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Sydney. On his way he will deliver the Sir Arcot Mudaliar lectures at Madras University. After his stay in Australia, Professor Jeffcoate will tour New Zealand, and then go to New York for a month as visiting professor in obstetrics and gynaecology at New York State University. He will be away for about six months.

Mr. G. W. Taylor, acting assistant director of the surgical professorial unit at St. Bartholomew's Hospital Medical College, has been appointed to the London University readership in surgery tenable there.

Dr. Harry Butler, reader in anatomy at St. Bartholomew's Hospital Medical College, has been appointed to the chair of anatomy in the University College of Khartoum.

Professor M. L. Rosenheim, professor of medicine at University College Hospital Medical School, has been appointed a member of the senate of London University in place of Professor R. V. CHRISTIE, who is going to McGill University, Montreal.

COMING EVENTS

Institute of Medical Laboratory Technology.—The seventh triennial conference will be held at Nottingham University on August 27 to September 2. Further details from Mr. GEORGE WHITING, The Priory, Thurgarton, Nottingham.

Kashmir Medical Congress.—Arrangements are being made for a party from this country to attend the medical congress in Kashmir on October 12. The approximate cost of £298 per person will include return air fare from London and travelling and living expenses in India for four weeks. Further details may be obtained from Dr. R. U. HINGORANI, 128, Harley Street, London, W.1.

Sixth International Congress of Otolaryngology will be held in Washington, D.C., May 5-10, 1957.

SOCIETIES AND LECTURES

A fee is charged or a ticket is required for attending lectures marked ●. Application should be made first to the institution concerned.

Wednesday, July 27

YORKSHIRE SOCIETY OF ANAESTHETISTS.—At General Infirmary at Leeds, 8.30 p.m., Dr. D. G. Melrose: Hypothermia.

Thursday, July 28

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.—5 p.m., Hunterian Lecture by Professor F. G. Kergin (Toronto): Treatment of Chronic Pleural Empyema.

SURREY INTER-HOSPITAL PSYCHIATRIC ASSOCIATION.—At St. Francis and Hurstwood Park Hospital, Haywards Heath, Sussex, 7 p.m., clinical meeting. Mr. E. J. Radley Smith: Neuro-surgical Conditions Presenting with Psychiatric Symptoms.

APPOINTMENTS

LIVERPOOL REGIONAL HOSPITAL BOARD.—G. D. Walker, M.D., M.R.C.P., Whole-time Consultant Physician Superintendent to Newsham General Hospital; D. R. Wallace-Jones, M.B., B.Chir., D.M.R.D., Consultant Radiologist to the North Liverpool and Fazakerley Groups; J. C. Richardson, M.B., Ch.B., F.F.A. R.C.S., D.A., Consultant Anaesthetist for the Liverpool City Area; C. H. Jones, M.B., Ch.B., Whole-time Assistant Pathologist to the Alder Hey Children's Hospital; L. B. Scott, M.B., B.S., F.R.C.S.Ed., Whole-time Assistant Consultant Plastic Surgeon to Whiston Hospital, Alder Hey Children's Hospital, and the Royal Southern Hospital.

MACLEOD, MELVILLE C., M.D., D.P.H., Senior Medical Officer and School Medical Officer, Dorset County Council.

NORTH-EAST METROPOLITAN REGIONAL HOSPITAL BOARD.—A. W. Foxell, M.B., B.S., Consultant Pathologist, Group Laboratory, Mile End Hospital, London, E.; D. C. Arnott, M.B., B.S., D.Phys.Med., D.C.H., Part-time Consultant Physician in Physical Medicine, Queen Mary's Hospital and St. Mary's Hospital; G. Grunberger, M.D., D.L.O., Part-time Consultant Ear, Nose, and Throat Surgeon, Queen Mary's Hospital for the East End; R. Paul, M.B., Ch.B., D.M.R.D., Part-time Consultant Radiologist, St. Leonard's Hospital; D. L. Woolf, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.Phys.Med., Part-time Consultant in Physical Medicine to Cerebral Palsy Unit, Stevens Road, Ilford.

NORTH-WEST METROPOLITAN REGIONAL HOSPITAL BOARD.—P. N. Cunliffe, M.B., B.Chir., M.R.C.O.G., D.A., Assistant Anaesthetist (S.H.M.O.), Peace Memorial and Shrodes Hospitals, Watford; S. S. Reza, M.B., B.S., D.T.M.&H., Dip.Bact., Pathologist (S.H.M.O.), Napsbury Hospital; K. W. Dodd, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.A., Assistant Anaesthetist (S.H.M.O.), West Herts Hospital; P. C. Meyer, M.D., D.C.P., Assistant Pathologist (S.H.M.O.), Central Histological Laboratory, Whittington Hospital; L. B. Bloomfield, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.Phys.Med., Consultant Physician in Charge of Physical Medicine, Hounslow Hospital; P. J. Carter, M.B., B.S., F.R.C.S., D.L.O., Consultant Ear, Nose, and Throat Surgeon, Hornsey Central Hospital; L. C. F. Chevens, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.M., Child Psychiatrist (S.H.M.O.), Berkshire Child Guidance Service; Nina A. Meyer, B.M., B.Chir., D.P.M., Child Psychiatrist (S.H.M.O.), Bedfordshire Child Guidance Service; Doreen M. Sherwood Jones, M.B., Ch.B., D.T.M.&H., Child Psychiatrist (S.H.M.O.), Twickenham Child Guidance Clinic.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS

BIRTHS

Daniel.—On July 11, 1955, at the Jessop Hospital for Women, Sheffield, to Rhianydd, wife of Owen Daniel, F.R.C.S., a son.

Evans.—On June 29, 1955, at the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital, to Evelyn, wife of Dr. T. L. Evans, a son—Stephen John.

Gresham.—On July 12, 1955, at 47, Eachard Road, Cambridge, to Gwen (formerly Leigh), wife of Dr. G. A. Gresham, a son—Andrew Charles Jolyon.

Griffiths.—On July 6, 1955, at Royal Salop Infirmary, Shrewsbury, to Margaret (formerly Hepenstal), wife of Dr. Cary Griffiths, a daughter—Melanie Clare.

MARRIAGES

Thomas—Tighe.—On July 9, 1955, at Sketty Church, Swansea, Lewis Phillip Thomas, F.R.C.S., to Ann Gwendoline Tighe, M.B., B.Ch.

DEATHS

Ballantyne.—On June 12, 1955, at Ashton, Eskbank, Midlothian, Harold Sherman Ballantyne, M.B., F.R.C.P.Ed., D.P.H.

Barrett.—On June 8, 1955, at his home, 13, Salisbury Avenue, Goole, Yorks, Kevin O'Mahony Barrett, L.R.C.P.&S.I. & L.M., aged 49.

Bradford.—On May 26, 1955, in a nursing-home, St. Leonards-on-Sea, Sussex, Robert George Bradford, M.D., of The Pillars, North Trade Road, Battle, Sussex.

Carrington.—On June 6, 1955, at his home, 7, Fairlight Road, Hythe, Kent, George Hedwig Carrington, M.R.C.S., D.P.H.

Cholmeley.—On June 2, 1955, in a nursing-home, Montague Adye Cholmeley, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.M., of 29, West Hill, Wandsworth, London, S.W., aged 81.

Everidge.—On June 8, 1955, at his home, John Everidge, O.B.E., F.R.C.S., of 7, Wimpole Street, London, W.

Flenley.—On June 4, 1955, in hospital, Denis Flenley, M.B., Ch.B., of 9, High Cross Avenue, Poulton-le-Fylde, Lancs, aged 56.

Gill.—On June 3, 1955, at Tipton St. John, Devon, George Brittan Gill, T.D., M.B., B.S., F.R.I.P.H.H., formerly of Leicester.

Greenwood.—On May 26, 1955, at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham, Frank Redmayne Greenwood, M.D., of 621, Stratford Road, Sparkhill, Birmingham, aged 81.

Lavelle.—On May 25, 1955, at 51, Ashbourne Road, Derby, Henry Allman Lavelle, M.B., B.Ch.

Russell.—On May 28, 1955, David Russell, M.D., of Fernhill, Dunoon, Argyllshire, formerly of Lisbon, Portugal.

Scotson.—On June 6, 1955, in hospital, Kathleen Dorothy Clay Scotson, L.M.S., of 46, Roscoe Road, Irlam, Manchester, Lancs.

Upton.—On June 8, 1955, in York County Hospital, Stanley Upton, M.B., B.S., of 14, St. George's Place, York.