

Medico-Legal

ALLEGED SMOKE NUISANCE FROM RAILWAY

Case Dismissed

The summonses for alleged smoke nuisance by railway engines at Camden Town, London, brought by Dr. D. H. Geffen and Mr. E. Winchester (*Journal*, October 15, p. 975) were dismissed by the magistrate, Mr. F. Powell, on October 20 without order as to costs.¹ Mr. Powell described the situation in which the public were prosecuting the public and the public would have to pay any fine which might be imposed as "Gilbertian." He found that the law did not require that all the smoke should be consumed, but only as much as was practicable; engines were not constructed to consume every whiff.

Giving evidence, Dr. Geffen claimed that the condition of smoke was "making the lives of the people in the neighbourhood a veritable hell." Asked whether he had found out whether it was practicable to raise steam in a locomotive without making smoke, he replied he did not think that was the duty of an M.O.H. He considered the smoke was more than was "reasonably practicable." Mr. A. R. A. Beldam, for the Commission, pointed out with regard to the fourth summons, in which the Commission pleaded guilty, that by the time Mr. Winchester reached the engine a foreman had already complained to the driver, who was later suspended for a day or two. Mr. Powell said he was glad the British Transport Commission took disciplinary steps to ensure regulations were enforced.

ABORTION LAW

Magistrates Want Changes

At their meeting in London last week the Magistrates' Association voted by 189 to 148 in favour of a resolution advocating changes in the law of abortion. The main purport of the resolution was, first, that no registered medical practitioner acting in good faith would be found guilty of an offence when terminating pregnancy to preserve the life of the mother, and, secondly, that therapeutic abortion may be permitted if there is a grave risk of the child being born mentally or grossly physically defective. The adopted resolution recommends that the required change of law should be obtained by adding to s. 58 of the Offences Against the Persons Act, 1861, the following proviso:

"Provided that:

(a) no registered medical practitioner shall be found guilty of an offence under this section unless it is proved that the act charged was not done in good faith for the purpose of preserving the life of the mother;

(b) no registered medical practitioner who acts with the concurring opinion of a second registered medical practitioner shall be found guilty of an offence under this section unless it is proved that the act charged was not done in good faith:

(i) for the purpose of preventing serious injury to the mother in body or health, or

(ii) in the belief that there was grave risk of the child being born grossly deformed or lacking normal physical or mental faculties or incapable of normal physical or mental development."

The proviso is substantially the same as that recently advocated by the Abortion Law Reform Association. It is narrower in scope than the alterations embodied in the bill introduced into the House of Lords by Lord Amulree on January 26, 1954, which was withdrawn.

¹ *The Manchester Guardian*, October 21, 1955.

Universities and Colleges

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

Dr. E. H. R. Ford has been appointed a University Demonstrator in the Department of Anatomy and Dr. H. Middleton a University Demonstrator in the Department of Pathology, both with tenure from October 1, 1955, for three years.

UNIVERSITY OF DURHAM

In Congregation on September 24 the Diploma in Psychological Medicine was awarded to Josephine Rutter and Margaret R. Walley.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

The following have been appointed or reappointed as representatives of the University on the governing bodies of the institutions indicated in parentheses: Sir Archibald Gray and Dr. C. F. Harris (British Postgraduate Medical Federation); Sir James Paterson Ross and Dr. J. Forest Smith (Guy's Hospital Medical School); Dr. M. I. A. Hunter and Dr. Katharine Lloyd-Williams (Royal Dental Hospital of London School of Dental Surgery); Mr. E. G. Slesinger and Professor J. Z. Young, F.R.S. (St. George's Hospital Medical School); Professor W. C. W. Nixon (St. Mary's Hospital Medical School); Professor R. Hare (St. Mary's Hospital Medical School, Wright-Fleming Institute); Mr. J. P. Hedley (St. Thomas's Hospital Medical School); and Sir Charles Harington, F.R.S., and Sir Archibald Gray (University College Hospital Medical School).

The following have been recognized as teachers of the University in the subjects indicated in parentheses: *St. Thomas's Hospital Medical School*, Mr. F. B. Cockett (Surgery); Dr. Raymond Daley (Medicine); Dr. B. D. R. Wilson (Children's Diseases); Dr. R. R. McSwiney (Pathology). *Charing Cross Hospital Medical School*, Dr. T. W. Glenister and Mr. P. A. Ring (Anatomy); Dr. S. J. R. Reynolds (Radiology); Dr. A. J. Smith (Anaesthetics). *Westminster Medical School*, Mr. K. L. James (Surgery). *St. Mary's Hospital Medical School*, Dr. C. A. Young (Medicine). *Guy's Hospital Medical School*, Mr. R. H. F. Brain (Surgery). *Institute of Orthopaedics*, Mr. J. A. Cholmeley, Mr. A. T. Fripp, Mr. J. I. P. James, and Mr. K. I. Nissen (Orthopaedics); Dr. F. H. Stevenson (Medicine). *St. George's Hospital Medical School*, Dr. S. R. T. Headley (Anaesthetics); Dr. A. G. Leatham (Medicine). *Middlesex Hospital Medical School*, Dr. Walter Somerville (Cardiology); Dr. J. H. Green (Physiology). *London Hospital Medical College*, Dr. Harry Harris (Biochemistry). Probationary recognition as a teacher of bacteriology at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine has been granted to Dr. Elinor W. McCloy for two years from July, 1955.

The Laura de Saliceto Studentship for cancer research, awarded to Dr. H. J. G. Bloom for the sessions 1953-4 and 1954-5, has been renewed for the session 1955-6.

UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

The following titles have been conferred: *Reader in Pathology*, Dr. D. B. Brewer; *University Clinical Lecturers*, Dr. W. Trevor Cooke (Medicine), Dr. J. M. Jefferson (Neurology), Mr. D. M. Morrissey and Mr. V. S. Brookes (Surgery), Dr. J. N. M. Chalmers (Clinical Pathology), Dr. P. B. Kunkler (Radiotherapy); *Clinical Tutor in Infectious Diseases*, Dr. F. L. Ker.

The following appointments are announced: *First Assistant to the Chair of Paediatrics and Child Health*, Dr. O. H. Wolff; *Lecturer in Paediatrics and Child Health*, Dr. B. D. Bower; *Lecturer in Medicine*, Dr. J. M. Bishop; *Temporary Lecturer in Surgery*, Mr. G. S. M. Botha; *Research Fellow in Experimental Pathology*, Dr. D. S. Rowe; *Research Assistant in Paediatrics and Child Health*, Dr. Mary M. Weeks.

Emeritus Professor W. H. Wynn retired from the post of Director of the Board of Graduate Studies on September 30, 1955.

Dr. J. W. Gerrard has resigned the post of First Assistant to the Chair of Paediatrics and Child Health on his appointment to the new Chair of Paediatrics in the University of Saskatchewan, and Dr. Constance Ross the post of University Research Fellow in Paediatrics and Child Health.

COMING EVENTS

Nottingham Medico-Chirurgical Society.—Fortnightly scientific meetings are held on alternate Wednesdays (the next on November 2) during the winter session at 64, St. James's Street, Nottingham, usually at 8.30 p.m. Details from Dr. J. B. COCHRANE, 36, The Ropewalk, Nottingham.

Semon Lecture.—LORD ADRIAN, O.M., P.R.S., will lecture at the Royal Society of Medicine on November 3 at 5 p.m. on "The Action of the Mammalian Olfactory Organ."

Institute of Dermatology.—Semi-permanent exhibition on "Occupational Markings," November 3–24.

St. John Ambulance Brigade.—Surgeons' Conference at the De Vere Hotel, London, W.8, on November 5 and 6. Details from the Grand Priory, 10, Grosvenor Crescent, London, S.W.1.

NEW ISSUES

British Journal of Ophthalmology.—The new issue (Vol. 39, No. 10) is now available. The contents include:

THE X RAY AND RADIUM PHOSPHENES. Leo E. Lipetz.
PROBLEM OF ORBITAL IMPLANTS AFTER ENUCLEATION. H. Arruga.
CENTRAL SEROUS RETINOPATHY. George Bennett.
EFFECT OF "MYANESIN" ON INTRA-OCULAR PRESSURE. R. Syst.
MYANESIN ELIXIR IN 150 CASES OF CATARACT EXTRACTION. P. Avasthy.
STUDIES ON DEVELOPING RETINAL VESSELS. III. ROLE OF SYMPATHETIC INNERVATION IN OXYGEN VASO-OBLITERATION. Charles Cook and Norman Ashton.
CASE NOTES: TEMPORARY CATARACTS IN DIABETES MELLITUS. R. C. Jackson.
AN UNUSUAL FOREIGN BODY. Doris Rose.
CONGENITAL ANOMALY OF OPTIC NERVE WITH FIELD DEFECTS. E. S. Perkins.
A CROSS-ARMED REVERSIBLE SCREEN STEREOSCOPE. A. C. Hudson.

Issued monthly; annual subscription £4 4s.; single copy 8s. 6d.; obtainable from the Publishing Manager, B.M.A. House, Tavistock Square, London, W.C.1.

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.

Monday, October 31

INSTITUTE OF PSYCHIATRY.—5.30 p.m., Dr. E. Stengel: postgraduate lecture-demonstration.

LIVERPOOL UNIVERSITY.—At Arts Theatre, 5.30 p.m., Sherrington Lecture by Sir Henry Cohen: Sir Charles Scott Sherrington, O.M., G.B.E., M.D., F.R.S. (1857-1952): Physiologist, Philosopher, Poet.

Tuesday, November 1

BRITISH POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL FEDERATION.—At London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, 5.30 p.m., Professor M. M. Swann: Physiology of Mitosis.

INSTITUTE OF DERMATOLOGY.—5.30 p.m., Professor C. A. Keele: Physiology of Sweating.

●INSTITUTE OF NEUROLOGY.—5.30 p.m., Dr. J. St. C. Elkington: Migraine. LONDON UNIVERSITY.—At Royal College of Surgeons of England, 5 p.m., Mr. J. G. Sandrey: Urethral Obstruction in the Adult Male.

●OXFORD UNIVERSITY MEDICAL SOCIETY.—At Radcliffe Infirmary, 8.15 p.m., Professor Ian Aird: Conjoined Twins (and a film).

ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL COLLEGE.—5 p.m., Mr. P. M. Gunning: The British Murderer.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.—5 p.m., Urology Lecture by Mr. J. G. Sandrey: Urethral Obstruction in the Adult Male.

ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL MEDICAL SCHOOL.—At Wright-Fleming Theatre, 5 p.m., Dr. L. Steingold: Anaemia During Pregnancy, Labour, and the Puerperium.

SOCIETY OF APOTHECARIES OF LONDON.—4.30 p.m., Dr. B. E. Schlesinger: Modern Advances in Paediatrics; 5.45 p.m., Mr. D. J. Browne: Surgical Aspect of Paediatrics.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON.—At Anatomy Theatre, 1.15 p.m., Dr. Hannah Steinberg, Ph.D.: Drugs and Psychological Time.

WEST END HOSPITAL FOR NEUROLOGY AND NEUROSURGERY.—5.30 p.m., Mr. I. R. McCaul: Surgical Aspects of Subarachnoid Haemorrhage.

Wednesday, November 2

EDINBURGH CLINICAL CLUB.—At Astley Ainslie Hospital, 4 p.m., clinical meeting conducted by Lieutenant-Colonel John Fraser.

INSTITUTE OF DERMATOLOGY.—5.30 p.m., Dr. R. W. Riddell: Pathogenesis of Tinea Capitis.

INSTITUTE OF DISEASES OF THE CHEST.—5 p.m., Dr. J. C. Hoyle: Spontaneous Pneumothorax.

INSTITUTE OF UROLOGY.—4.30 for 5 p.m., Mr. J. D. Fergusson: Prostatic Cancer.

LIVERPOOL UNIVERSITY.—At Arts Theatre, 5.30 p.m., Sherrington Lecture by Sir Henry Cohen: Sir Charles Scott Sherrington, O.M., G.B.E., M.D., F.R.S. (1857-1952): Physiologist, Philosopher, Poet.

MANCHESTER MEDICAL SOCIETY.—At Manchester University, 4.30 p.m., Section of Medicine, Dr. S. P. Meadows: Clinical Aspects of Optic Nerve Compression.

MIDLAND MEDICAL SOCIETY.—At Birmingham Medical Institute, 8.15 p.m., Sir Geoffrey Jefferson, F.R.S.: Sleep and Stupor.

POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL SCHOOL OF LONDON.—2 p.m., Dr. J. D. N. Nabarro: Diabetes and Carbohydrate Metabolism.

●ROYAL FACULTY OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS OF GLASGOW.—5 p.m., Mr. R. B. Wright: Peripheral Vascular Disease: The Veins.

ROYAL INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND HYGIENE.—3.30 p.m., Professor F. R. G. Heat: Tuberculosis in Geriatrics (Illustrated).

ST. MARYLBONE HOSPITAL FOR PSYCHIATRY AND CHILD GUIDANCE.—5.30 p.m., Dr. R. D. Newton: Organic Pathology and Mental Disease.

Thursday, November 3

BRITISH POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL FEDERATION.—At London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, 5.30 p.m., Dr. H. G. Davies: Use of the Interference Microscope in Biological Research.

COLLEGE OF GENERAL PRACTITIONERS.—At Worcester Royal Infirmary, 3.30 p.m., Dr. R. J. F. H. Pinsent: Prevention in Practice.

FACULTY OF ANAESTHETISTS: ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.—3.30 p.m., Frederic Hewitt Lecture by Dr. M. H. Armstrong Davison: Ut non Percipiat Dolor.

INSTITUTE OF DISEASES OF THE CHEST.—3.30 p.m., Dr. F. H. Young: Pathogenesis of Tuberculosis (III).

LIVERPOOL MEDICAL INSTITUTION.—At Adelphi Hotel, 7.30 p.m., annual dinner.

●LONDON MARRIAGE GUIDANCE COUNCIL.—At National Association for Mental Health, 7 p.m., Dr. S. Bockner: Psychological Factors in Marital Disharmony.

LONDON UNIVERSITY.—At Royal Society of Medicine, 5 p.m., Semon Lecture by Rt. Hon. Lord Adrian, O.M., F.R.S.: Action of the Mammalian Olfactory Organ.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.—(1) 3.45 p.m., Arnott Demonstration by Professor G. Causey: Mechanism of Respiration. (2) 5 p.m., Frederic Hewitt Lecture by Dr. M. H. Armstrong Davison: Ut non Percipiat Dolor.

ROYAL EYE HOSPITAL.—5.15 p.m., Dr. T. H. Whittington: Aspects of Refraction—IV. Hypermetropic Patients and Presbyopia.

ST. ANDREWS UNIVERSITY.—At Physiology Department, Queen's College, Dundee, 5 p.m., Professor J. H. Dible: Hepatitis and Other Problems in the Liver.

ST. GEORGE'S HOSPITAL MEDICAL SCHOOL.—5 p.m., Dr. J. H. Paterson: postgraduate demonstration in neurology.

ST. JOHN'S HOSPITAL DERMATOLOGICAL SOCIETY.—4.30 p.m., demonstration and discussion of clinical cases.

SOCIETY OF APOTHECARIES OF LONDON.—4.30 p.m., Sir Horace Evans: Medical Aspect of Peripheral Vascular Disease; 5.45 p.m., Sir James Paterson Ross: Surgical Aspect of Peripheral Vascular Disease.

Friday, November 4

HONYMAN GILLESPIE LECTURES.—At University New Buildings, Teviot Place, Edinburgh, 5 p.m., Dr. J. S. Robson: Physiological and Therapeutic Control of Total Body Sodium.

●INSTITUTE OF DERMATOLOGY.—5.30 p.m., clinical demonstration by Dr. M. Feiwel: Occupational Dermatitis.

INSTITUTE OF DISEASES OF THE CHEST.—5 p.m., clinical demonstration by Dr. J. L. Livingstone.

INSTITUTE OF LARYNGOLOGY AND OTOTOLOGY.—3.30 p.m., Mr. Charles Heanley: Fractures of the Nose and Jaw.

INSTITUTE OF OBSTETRICS AND GYNAECOLOGY.—4.30 p.m., Mr. W. Hawks-worth: Occipito-posterior Position.

LIVERPOOL UNIVERSITY.—At Arts Theatre, 5.30 p.m., Sherrington Lecture by Sir Henry Cohen: Sir Charles Scott Sherrington, O.M., G.B.E., M.D., F.R.S. (1857-1952): Physiologist, Philosopher, Poet.

LONDON UNIVERSITY.—At Charing Cross Hospital Medical School, 5 p.m., special university lecture in human anatomy and morphology by Dr. J. Hammond, F.R.S.: Growth of Animals.

POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL SCHOOL OF LONDON.—(1) 2 p.m., Professor Lambert Rogers: Surgery of the Carotids; (2) 4 p.m., Dr. J. F. Goodwin: Mitral Valve Disease.

SOCIETY OF MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH: WELSH BRANCH.—At B.M.A. House, 195, Newport Road, Cardiff, 6.30 p.m., Presidential Meeting.

Saturday, November 5

MIDLAND THORACIC SOCIETY.—At Birmingham Chest Clinic, Dr. George Simon: Some Pitfalls of Chest X-ray Diagnosis.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS

BIRTHS

Byron-Moore.—On October 7, 1955, in Salisbury, Southern Rhodesia, to Sheila, B.M., B.Ch., D.Obst.R.C.O.G., and Collie, B.M., B.Ch., a son and daughter.

Foster.—On October 22, 1955, to Rosemary (formerly Ardis), wife of Dr. Peter Foster, 421, Topsham Road, Exeter, a daughter—Ruth.

Gibb.—On October 23, 1955, at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London, E.C., to Mary (formerly Feetham), wife of William Eric Gibb, D.M., F.R.C.P., a son.

Hughes.—On October 15, 1955, at Goonpiper, Feock, Cornwall, to June, wife of Dr. E. B. Hughes, a daughter.

Lerse.—On October 17, 1955, to Margaret Hamilton, F.F.A.R.C.S., wife of Albert Lerser, of 19, Upper Wimpole Street, London, W., a son.

Pearson.—On October 10, 1955, at 8, Dennett Road, Beverley, Yorks, to Dr. Beryl Coline Pearson (formerly Davies) and Dr. Paul Pearson, a son.

MARRIAGES

Davies-Whelan.—On October 15, 1955, at St. Catherine's Church, Didsbury, L. M. Davies, L.R.C.P.&S.Ed., of Bank House, Radcliffe, to Catherine Whelan, S.R.N., S.C.M., of 109, Atwood Road, Didsbury, and Portarlinton, Eire.

DEATHS

Bishop.—On September 30, 1955, at Whaley Cottage, Pentire Avenue, Newquay, Cornwall, George Spencer Armitage Bishop, M.B., F.R.C.S.Ed., late of Melton Mowbray, Leics.

Davidson.—On September 26, 1955, at a nursing-home, Archibald Davidson, M.D., of Surrey House, Thorpe St. Andrew, Norwich, Norfolk, aged 75.

Higson.—On September 24, 1955, at Erniecroft, Manchester Road, Swinton, Lancs, Ernest Higson, M.B., B.Ch., aged 78.

Marris.—On October 11, 1955, Henry Fairley Marris, M.D., M.R.C.P., of Bournemouth, Hants.

Roife.—On September 17, 1955, at 44, St. Albans Road, Bristol, Richard Roife, M.B., B.Ch., aged 78.

Stronach.—On September 24, 1955, Ian David Stronach, M.B., F.R.C.S.Ed., of Knight's Cross Cottage, Newstead Abbey, Notts.

Turner.—On September 18, 1955, at the Westminster Hospital, London, S.W., Alfred Turner, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Withers.—On September 20, 1955, at Epsom and Ewell Cottage Hospital, Samuel Anthony Withers, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., D.M.R.E., L.D.S., of Mulberry Cottage, Epsom Road, Ewell, Surrey.