

subjects common to research in most disciplines, such as the choice of projects and when to abandon them; budgets and administrative controls; staff grouping and the flow of authority; laboratory design; and the practical problems of communicating the results of research and getting them used by those who could benefit from them. Details of the symposium may be obtained from the organizer, Mr. E. S. HISCOCKS, National Physical Laboratory, Teddington, Middlesex.

**Lister Institute.**—The governing body's report for 1955-6, presented at the annual meeting on June 21, is a useful directory of the Institute's staff, research activities, and publications. The fields of research and the principal subjects investigated were: *Microbiology*.—Antigenic and other properties of the whooping-cough bacillus, vole tubercle bacillus, typhoid bacillus, and *Trichomonas foetus*; inheritance in bacteria; bacterial physiology; organisms of the pleuropneumonia group and their relationship to non-specific urethritis. *Virology*.—Trachoma (with the Institute of Ophthalmology); vaccinia virus and dried smallpox vaccine; a search for antiviral antibiotics, bacteriophages being the test organism. *Immunology and Serology*.—Mechanism of the paralysis of the immune response; distribution and mode of action of antibody; serological identification of insect blood-meals (in connexion with trypanosomiasis research in East Africa); antitoxin production. *Experimental Pathology*.—Mechanisms of inflammation, infection, and defence; plasma substitutes for transfusion. *Biochemistry*.—Human blood-group substances; bacterial toxins. *Biophysics*.—Human plasma proteins. *Blood*.—Unrecognized blood groups and their inheritance; in addition, there is the work of the blood products laboratory, which is being re-equipped, and of the blood-group reference laboratory. The director of the Institute is Professor A. A. MILES, and its address Chelsea Bridge Road, London, S.W.1.

**Emergency Bed Service.**—The remarkable feature last winter in London, according to the latest report of the Emergency Bed Service (up to March 31, 1956), was the exceptional difficulty in finding the necessary beds for acute general cases. During the year the Service received 65,695 applications for admission to hospital, some 2,000 more than the previous year. Although a large total, it was not the largest in the history of the Service, and all whom it was deemed essential to admit, states the report, were admitted. "But," it continues, "the proportion of cases forced into hospital under the medical referee procedure rose to unprecedented heights." Among the possible reasons for this the report suggests the unwillingness of hospitals to clear beds by discharging in very cold weather those with respiratory diseases, "shortage of nurses" (often due to illness), an increase in beds for special purposes at the expense of those for general emergencies, the difficulty of dealing with unexpected emergencies when the bed occupancy is kept as high as possible, and lastly in some hospitals a prejudice against "E.B.S. cases." This intense pressure on hospital beds, states the report, occurs in the first three months of the year with un-failing regularity, and the Service is now discussing means of alleviating it with the Ministry of Health, the regional hospital boards, and boards of governors. The E.B.S. is under the King Edward's Hospital Fund for London. The E.B.S. committee consists of Dr. G. F. ABERCROMBIE (chairman), Dr. H. ALEXANDER, Lord AMULREE, Mr. O. N. CHADWYCK-HEALEY, Mr. A. J. GARDHAM, Brigadier G. P. HARDY-ROBERTS, Mr. S. C. HARRIS, Dr. H. M. C. MACAULAY, Sir GEORGE NORTH, and Dr. J. A. SCOTT. The director is Mr. R. E. PEERS.

**Scottish Society of Anaesthetists.**—Besides administering anaesthetics, anaesthetists in these days are liable to be called upon for their expert help in an increasing variety of medical emergencies and problems. This was the theme of Dr. H. BRUCE WILSON's presidential address, "Widening Horizons," at the Society's annual meeting this year. He listed seven such situations: (1) the treatment of bronchial-tree obstruction, both post-operatively and in cases with neurological lesions involving the bulb; (2) the treatment

of cerebral vascular catastrophes; (3) the assessment of peripheral vascular lesions; (4) the treatment of cases of paralytic poliomyelitis and severe tetanus; (5) the treatment of overdosage with hypnotic, sedative, or analgesic drugs; (6) the design (with physicists) of equipment for anaesthesia or research; and (7) hypnosis. The guest address was given by Dr. M. D. NOSWORTHY, of the Westminster Hospital, London, on the dangers of reflex stimuli.

The following were elected to the executive council for the coming year (1956-7): *President*, Dr. H. BRUCE WILSON (Aberdeen); *Vice-president*, Dr. R. LAWRIE (Perth); *Hon. Secretary*, Dr. A. G. MILLER (Glasgow); and Dr. F. G. GIBBS (Edinburgh), Dr. J. W. LEVACK (Aberdeen), Dr. F. HOLMES (Edinburgh), Dr. W. AULD (Glasgow), Dr. J. R. KYLES (Edinburgh), Dr. W. CHRISTIE (Dundee), and Dr. H. FAIRLIE (Glasgow).

**Lord Cohen of Birkenhead.**—Sir HENRY COHEN's barony, conferred on him in the Birthday Honours, was gazetted this week by the name, style, and title of Baron Cohen of Birkenhead, of Birkenhead in the County Palatine of Chester.

**Deputy Chief Medical Officer.**—Dr. G. A. CLARK, formerly professor of physiology and dean of the medical faculty at Sheffield and since 1946 a principal medical officer at the Ministry of Health, has been appointed Deputy Chief Medical Officer at the Ministry of Health from August 1, on the retirement of Sir WELDON DALRYMPLE-CHAMPNEYS. Dr. Clark is 62. He is a member of the governing body of the British Postgraduate Medical Federation, and has served on the G.M.C. since 1938, first as the representative of Sheffield University and later as a Crown nominee. He graduated in medicine at Durham, obtaining a gold medal with his M.D. The other Deputy Chief Medical Officer at the Ministry is Dr. G. E. GODBER.

**Registers of Medical Auxiliaries.**—The 1956 registers of orthoptists and chiropodists are now available from the Board of Registration of Medical Auxiliaries, B.M.A. House. The registers are supplied free to medical practitioners and to hospitals and other authorities employing medical auxiliaries. To others their prices are respectively 5s. (orthoptists) and 10s. (chiropodists).

## 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 25

POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL SCHOOL OF LONDON.—2 p.m., Dr. R. W. Riddell: special lecture on mycology

### Thursday, July 26

INSTITUTE OF DISEASES OF THE CHEST.—5 p.m., Dr. H. J. C. Swan (Minnesota): Physiological Considerations Pertaining to the Surgical Correction of Congenital Intracardiac Defects.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.—5 p.m., Hunterian Lecture by Professor J. S. R. Golding: Bone Changes in Sickle Cell Anaemia.

ROYAL SOCIETY OF TROPICAL MEDICINE AND HYGIENE.—At Hospital for Tropical Diseases, 7.30 p.m., clinical meeting.

## BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS

### BIRTHS

**Dixon.**—On July 6, 1956, at Cardiff Maternity Hospital, to Megan (formerly Rees), wife of Dr. J. M. S. Dixon, a daughter—Anne Victoria.  
**Hewitt.**—On June 19, 1956, at Bristol Maternity Hospital, to Yvonne (formerly Andrews), wife of Dr. Keith M. Hewitt, a brother for Paul.  
**Staniland.**—On July 11, 1956, at Central Middlesex Hospital, London, N.W., to Shelagh (formerly Mathias), M.B., B.S., D.A., wife of Gerald Staniland, M.Sc., M.B., B.Ch., F.R.C.S., a daughter.

### MARRIAGES

**Pattinson—Davies.**—On July 7, 1956, at the Church of St. Boniface, Joint Headquarters, Moenchengladbach, Germany, Roger Thomas Pattinson, L.D.S.R.C.S., to Maureen Frances Davies, L.R.C.P.&S.Ed., L.R.F.P.S., both of the Royal Air Force, Headquarters 2nd Allied Tactical Air Force.

### DEATHS

**Arvor.**—On June 28, 1956, at his home, 13, Traverse Ste. Anne, Aix-en-Provence, France, Frank Arvor, M.C., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.  
**Boyd.**—On June 29, 1956, at his home, "Strathlene," Rochdale Road East, Heywood, Lancs. James Boyd, M.B., Ch.B.  
**Carew.**—On June 30, 1956, at his home, Weston, La Rocque, Jersey, William King Carew, L.R.C.P.&S.I. & L.M., L.D.S.  
**Gunn.**—On July 1, 1956, at Durban, Natal, South Africa, George Herbert Gunn, M.D., D.P.H., late of Caithness and Selkirk, aged 61.