

was made possible by the outlook, skill, industry, and organizing ability of Dr. Olbrich. He firmly rejected the idea that senility is inevitable and condemned the practice of allowing old people to go into a bed-ridden decline. He was interested in his patients as people, not merely as cases, and had a deep concern that they should live a full, interesting, and useful life. While directing a most active research establishment he yet found time to serve as chairman of the Old People's Welfare Committee in Sunderland, and was responsible for the inauguration of the "meals on wheels" service here.

Like a rare diamond Dr. Olbrich had many facets. His chief characteristics were his warmth and charm of manner, remarkable energy, which remained almost unaffected by serious illness, a deep understanding of human nature, a high sense of values, and great courage. Respected by all his colleagues and worshipped by his friends, he supervised all admissions to his clinic and was truly as close to the family doctor as his telephone. We never sought his help in vain. Though never intolerant of a differing point of view, Dr. Olbrich's fearlessness and integrity could make him a formidable foe to the hypocrite and the self-seeker. His own oblivion to personal reward is best exemplified by the prodigious amount of domiciliary consultation he undertook despite the fact that during the greater part of his time here no remuneration was received by the full-time consultant for such work. Several thousand elderly folk residing in this area bear living testimony to the greatness of Oscar Olbrich. He can have no finer epitaph than the continued existence of the geriatric unit whose traditions he founded so well.

Dr. H. PETER TARNESBY writes: The sudden death of Dr. Oscar Olbrich is a sad blow to the many students who had the privilege to be under his remarkable tutorship at Edinburgh. When in 1943 he first came to the medical out-patient department he made an immediate impact. It was an uphill fight for him from the start, but he could not fail to overcome all prejudice; because behind the "funny foreigner with the atrocious accent" was a truly great man, a most gifted and helpful teacher with an extensive knowledge and clinical acumen, a most likable, forceful personality with a wonderful sense of humour who could not help captivating the admiration and affection of those working with him. Soon "Ossie's" tutorials were crowded and his reputation grew high. He was one of those rare men who are inspired: he was driven by a great force which urged him to do clinical research, to overcome all seemingly impossible obstacles to do it, and to spare himself no personal hardship in its pursuit. Men who are really devoted to research are a gift of the gods, and deeply devoted he was. He has done more than publish 23 highly respectable papers on gerontology. He has perpetuated the tradition of his own original medical faculty in Prague, of which he was justly proud, and integrated it with that of the Edinburgh school which he much admired. This was his achievement; and in the spirit of his students it will live on.

A memorial service for Sir Charles D. Read will be held in All Souls Church, Langham Place, London, W.1, on Friday, September 27, at 11.45 a.m.

## Universities and Colleges

### UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

In Congregation on August 3 the following degrees were conferred:

M.D.—\*G. H. Dhenin, M. J. D. Newman, J. R. H. Pinkerton, J. S. Mitchell, C. B. Prowse, R. V. Walley, T. J. Rendle-Short, R. L. Huckstep, T. B. Anderson, Pow-Meng Yap.  
M.B., B.Chir.—J. G. Halberstam, A. J. Hosking, \*R. A. Barron, \*J. E. Portelly, N. G. A. Gracey, \*T. S. Worthy.  
M.B.—\*D. A. Crockford, \*D. C. Dumonde, \*M. W. Haslett, R. A. N. Petrie, \*T. R. P. Cullinan, \*J. W. B. Palmer, W. J. Cliff, \*B. A. Latham, \*D. W. Potts, D. A. Nightingale, I. McD. Jessiman, \*R. Banerjee, \*J. E. Robinson, \*June M. Wilby, \*Eima P. Wyatt, Sonia R. Dias Bandaranaike, Anne W. Peryer, \*Katharine E. Cuthbert, P. A. F. Chalk.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND VITAL STATISTICS

Summary for British Isles for week ending August 31 (No. 35) and corresponding week 1956.

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	1957					1956				
	Eng. & Wales	Lond.	Scot.	N. Ire.	Eire	Eng. & Wales	Lond.	Scot.	N. Ire.	Eire
Diphtheria ..	6	0	0	0	0	5	1	2	0	2
Dysentery ..	224	11	115	6	5	304	33	152	8	1
Encephalitis, acute	11	0		0		1	0		0	
Enteric fever:										
Typhoid ..	2	1	0	1		9	2	0	0	6
Paratyphoid ..	11	2	0	0		6	0	4 (B)	2	1 (B)
Food-poisoning ..	266	49	35	1		220	13		0	
Infective enteritis or diarrhoea under 2 years ..				10	32				12	25
Measles * ..	3,005	60	19	12	13	1,382	172	53	19	50
Meningococcal infection ..	17	3	10	0		26	1	13	1	1
Ophthalmia neonatorum ..	37	2	5	0		21	0	5	0	
Pneumonia † ..	184	13	128	0		175	6	126	1	
Poliomyelitis, acute:										
Paralytic ..	151	15	5	29	1	53	4	11	0	23
Non-paralytic ..	156	7				71	4			
Puerperal fever § ..	237	42	18	1		185	34	12	1	
Scarlet fever ..	245	17	47	11	11	246	17	57	12	12
Tuberculosis:										
Respiratory ..	501	59	71	14		481	51	102	17	
Non-respiratory ..	70	7	11	5		72	7	18	7	
Whooping-cough ..	1,010	54	87	0	22	2,282	190	345	28	31

DEATHS in Great Towns	1957					1956				
	Eng. & Wales	Lond.	Scot.	N. Ire.	Eire	Eng. & Wales	Lond.	Scot.	N. Ire.	Eire
Diphtheria ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dysentery ..	0	0		0		0	0	1	0	
Encephalitis, acute		0			0		0			0
Enteric fever ..	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	
Infective enteritis or diarrhoea under 2 years ..	10	0	0	0	1	3	0	0	0	1
Influenza ..	2	0	1	0	0	5	0	2	0	0
Measles ..		0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0
Meningococcal infection ..		0	0		1		1	0		
Pneumonia ..	144	17	12	11	0	144	24	10	8	4
Poliomyelitis, acute	9	0		0	0	2	0			0
Scarlet fever ..		0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0
Tuberculosis:										
Respiratory ..	58	8	3	2	5	48	3	3	2	2
Non-respiratory ..										
Whooping-cough ..	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Deaths 0-1 year ..	207	34	29	6	11	182	26	25	2	6
Deaths (excluding stillbirths) ..	4,474	666	452	115	133	4,369	631	511	92	152
LIVE BIRTHS ..	7,796	1,123	927	214	471	7,307	1,042	867	198	360
STILLBIRTHS ..	207	17	26			216	38	16		

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

† Includes primary and influenzal pneumonia.

§ Includes puerperal pyrexia.

west and from the East and West Ridings of Yorkshire. Laboratory tests have now shown that the Asian virus is widespread.

Vaccine against Asian influenza is being manufactured at the Wright-Fleming Institute, St. Mary's Hospital, London, and the Government is expected to purchase most of it. It is proposing to buy enough to offer vaccination to doctors and other workers specially exposed to infection. The vaccine is not yet on sale in the pharmacists' shops, and it seems unlikely to be so for several weeks.

## Medical News

**Changes at Ministry of Health.**—Owing to Mr. DENNIS VOSPER'S unexpectedly prolonged illness and his need for a thorough convalescence, the Prime Minister has been compelled to accept his resignation and appoint a new Minister of Health. Mr. Vosper succeeded Mr. R. H. TURTON at the Ministry of Health only seven months ago. The new



[Camera Press, Ltd.]

Minister is Mr. DEREK WALKER-SMITH, Q.C., whose appointment was announced on Tuesday. Mr. Walker-Smith comes to the Ministry from the Board of Trade, where since January he has been Minister of State, after two years as Parliamentary Secretary; before this he had been chairman of the "1922 Committee" for four years. He was chairman of the Conservative national advisory committee on local government from 1954 until January, 1956. Mr. J. K. VAUGHAN-MORGAN, who in his capacity as Parliamentary Secretary has been holding the fort at the Ministry of Health since Mr. Vosper became ill, has been promoted to the vacancy left by Mr. Walker-Smith: he becomes Minister of State at the Board of Trade. The new Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Health is Mr. R. H. M. THOMPSON, Vice-Chamberlain of the Royal Household since 1956 and formerly a Lord Commissioner of the Treasury. Mr. Walker-Smith, whose portrait is reproduced here, is 47. He has been Member of Parliament for the Hertford Division since 1945 (Hertford East since 1955), and is the younger son of Sir Jonah Walker-Smith, a former Conservative M.P. and Director of Housing at the Ministry of Health in the 1920s. Educated at Rossall, Mr. Walker-Smith went to Christ Church, Oxford, as a history scholar, where he gained a "First." He entered the Middle Temple as a Harmsworth scholar in 1931, and was called to the Bar in 1934, taking silk in 1955. He joined the Territorial Army in the 1930s, was subsequently commissioned, attended the Staff College, and held various staff appointments during the second world war. In the 1945-51 Parliaments Mr. Walker-Smith took an active part in opposition, particularly in matters relating to Housing and Local Government. He has made many appearances on radio and television. In 1954 he attended the Conference of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association at Nairobi, and toured parts of East, Central, and South Africa. Mr. Walker-Smith is married and has a son and two daughters. Mr. Thompson, the new Parliamentary Secretary, is 44; he has represented a Croydon constituency since 1950 (first West Croydon and now South Croydon).

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Educated at Malvern, he was until 1939 in business in the Far East. He served in the R.N.V.R. from 1940 to 1946, rising from the rank of ordinary seaman to lieutenant-commander. On entering Parliament, he became an assistant Whip in 1952, a Lord Commissioner of the Treasury in 1954, and was appointed Vice-Chamberlain to the Royal Household last year.

**W.H.O. Committee on Fluoridation.**—"The effectiveness, safety, and practicability of fluoridation as a means of preventing dental caries is now established," states a W.H.O. expert committee on the subject in a press release this month. This opinion is based, it is stated, on a review of fluoridation programmes in 17 countries. According to the committee, there was remarkable uniformity in the results of these programmes: the prevalence of caries in the permanent teeth of children was decreased by some 60%. The only ill effect noted from areas with a naturally high fluoride content in the water was mottling of the teeth. The committee was under the chairmanship of Professor INGVE ERICSSON, associate professor of cardiology at the Royal School of Dentistry, Stockholm. Dr. JEAN FORREST, senior dental officer of the Ministry of Health, was one of the rapporteurs.

**R.A.F. Appointment.**—Air Commodore J. HILL has been appointed principal medical officer, Home Command, with the acting rank of Air Vice-Marshal. The appointment is from October 22. He is at present principal medical officer at Technical Training Command.

**Wellcome Foundation.**—Dr. FRED WRIGLEY has been appointed to the board of the Wellcome Foundation Ltd. as sales director.

### COMING EVENTS

**National Smoke Abatement Society.**—Annual conference, Hastings, October 2-4. Details from the secretary of the Society, Palace Chambers, Bridge Street, London, S.W.1.

**Course in Gastroenterology.**—March 10-18, 1958, at Western General Hospital, Edinburgh; arranged by the Edinburgh Postgraduate Board for Medicine. For details see advertisement on p. 44 of this issue.

### 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.

#### Tuesday, September 24

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.—5 p.m., Edridge Green Lecture by Professor George Wald: Molecular Basis of Vision.  
WEST END HOSPITAL FOR NEUROLOGY AND NEUROSURGERY.—5.30 p.m., Dr. J. N. Milnes: Neurological demonstration.

#### Thursday, September 26

COLLEGE OF GENERAL PRACTITIONERS: NORTHERN HOME COUNTIES FACULTY.—At University College Hospital Medical School, 8 p.m. First Annual Pfizer Lecture by Lady Isobel Barnett: Why Don't We Live to be a Hundred?  
FOUNTAIN HOSPITAL.—5.30 p.m., Professor R. S. Illingworth and Dr. Ruth Griffiths: Early Diagnosis of Mental Deficiency.  
HILL END HOSPITAL MEDICAL SOCIETY.—8.45 p.m., Dr. P. M. F. Bishop: Endocrine Therapy.  
ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.—5 p.m., Hunterian Lecture by Professor J. F. Silva (Colombo): Old Dislocations of the Elbow.

#### Friday, September 27

INSTITUTE OF DISEASES OF THE CHEST.—5 p.m., Dr. J. Smart: clinical demonstration.  
INSTITUTE OF PSYCHIATRY.—3 p.m., public lecture by Professor Leo Kanner (Johns Hopkins University): Sources and Results of Perfectionism in Child Rearing.

#### Saturday, September 28

ASSOCIATION OF CLINICAL BIOCHEMISTS.—At Royal College of Surgeons of England, 9.30 a.m., scientific meeting with Association of Clinical Pathologists. 5 p.m., annual general meeting.

## BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS

### BIRTHS

**Blatchley.**—On September 7, 1957, to Barbara, wife of Dr. W. R. Blatchley, of 29, Birchall Avenue, Matson, Glos., a brother for Christopher and Alison.  
**Lambie.**—On August 26, 1957, at the Nuttall Memorial Hospital, Jamaica, British West Indies, to Pamela (formerly Rothnie), wife of Dr. Ronald Somerville Lambie, a sister for Penelope—Jane Fraser.

### DEATHS

**Barlow.**—On August 24, 1957, at his home, Foxhill, Porthcurnow, Cornwall, Albert Malcolm Barlow, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.  
**Williamson.**—On August 18, 1957, Alexander Dewar Williamson, M.B., F.R.C.S.Ed., D.O.M.S., aged 52.