

confusion exists in Britain as to what it does mean, and this has led hospitals to provide rooms which have not been as useful as they had hoped. Rooms intended for post-operative treatment of some days' duration are contiguous to an operating suite empty for a large part of each 24 hours. Such rooms may be without such elementary nursing facilities as a bed-pan unit or the means of making a cup of tea. In other hospitals an area intended for an hour or two's stay is situated some distance away from the operating team and where facilities for observation and emergency resuscitation are rudimentary.

The real purpose of these rooms, and hence their staffing needs both nursing and medical, and the necessary facilities and equipment which must be provided, are still matters which arouse intense discussion in interested circles. Considerable light is thrown on these and every other aspect of this problem by this little book. Here some 45 knowledgeable people in the United States give brief but pointed and often detailed answers to a host of questions about recovery rooms. Though these answers must be viewed against the background of American hospital practice, there is a great deal of valuable opinion for consideration by those in Great Britain interested in this problem. The book is strongly recommended.

W. W. MUSHIN.

### IDEAS ON THE BRAIN

*The History and Philosophy of Knowledge of the Brain and its Functions. An Anglo-American Symposium, London, July 15-17, 1957.* Edited by F. N. L. Poynter, Ph.D., F.L.A. (Pp. 272+x; illustrated. 22s. 6d.) Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1958.

This symposium was held in London as a historical introduction to the First International Congress of Neurological Sciences in July, 1957.

Hippocrates realized that the brain is an all-important organ. His view was supported by direct observation, and yet philosophers and physicians for the next 2,000 years often looked on the brain with little interest. In non-Western concepts, such as those of the Tibetan scrolls, the brain is entirely disregarded, as indeed are the lungs. The breathing exercises of Yoga practices are based on the idea that inhalation into a channel which spirals round the spine takes in the spiritual essence of immortal life. These and many other ancient concepts are of great interest, and yet how sad that we could not hear the views of, say, Aristotle or Descartes after they had become aware of what we now know of the function and structure of the brain.

The discoveries of the past century have of necessity changed man's conception of what goes on in his head. He now knows that his brain contains a universe of separate units whose remarkable qualities are at last being slowly unravelled, so that the separation of psychological from the physiological becomes more unreal with every year that passes.

In this symposium the last two papers describe the transformation resulting from modern knowledge: first a remarkable chapter by Dr. Mary Brazier on the evolution of concepts regarding electrical activity in the brain, 1600 to 1800; and second Dr. Chandler Brooks, with almost up-to-date accounts of excitation and inhibition, ion flux and membrane function, chemical transmission and the central synapse, and ideas regarding plasticity of the nervous system. Clearly there are going to be some exciting developments in knowledge of the central nervous system in the next few years.

W. RITCHIE RUSSELL.

### BOOKS RECEIVED

*Review is not precluded by notice here of books recently received*

*Children in Practice.* By John Peterson. (Pp. 227+vii. 25s.) London: Cambridge University Press. 1959.

*Wound Healing and Tissue Repair.* Edited by W. Bradford Patterson. (Pp. 83+xi; illustrated. 21s.) Chicago: University of Chicago Press. London: Cambridge University Press. 1959.

*Surgery for Nurses.* By James Moroney, M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.S.(Eng.), L.R.C.P.(Lond.). Sixth edition. (Pp. 751+xii; illustrated. 30s.) Edinburgh, London: E. and S. Livingstone Ltd. 1959.

*Notable Names in Medicine and Surgery.* By Hamilton Bailey, F.R.C.S.(Eng.), F.A.C.S., F.R.S.(Edin.), and W. J. Bishop, F.L.A. Third edition. (Pp. 216+xiii; illustrated. 35s.) London: H. K. Lewis and Co. Ltd. 1959.

*A Synopsis of Anaesthesia.* By J. Alfred Lee, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., M.M.S.A., F.F.A.R.C.S., D.A. Fourth edition. (Pp. 616; illustrated. 27s. 6d.) Bristol: John Wright and Sons Ltd. 1959.

*A Pocket Book of Proprietary Drugs.* Compiled by Alistair G. Cruikshank, F.R.C.P.E., and Cornelius Stewart, L.R.C.P.&S.E., M.P.S. (Pp. 236. 10s. 6d.) Edinburgh, London: E. and S. Livingstone Ltd. 1959.

*Genetik des Menschen. Lehrbuch der Humangenetik.* By Professor Otmar Freiherr von Verschuer, M.D. (Pp. 427+xi; illustrated. DM. 48.) Munich, Berlin: Urban and Schwarzenberg. 1959.

*The Prescriber's List of Proprietary Medical Products.* Alphabetically arranged. (Pp. 366. 15s.) London: The Unichem Association of Privately Owned Pharmacies. 1959.

*Intra Vascular Catheterization.* Compiled and edited by Henry A. Zimmerman, M.D., B.S. (Pp. 782+xviii; illustrated. £6 6s.) Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1959.

*Peripheral Vascular Diseases. An Objective Approach.* By Travis Winsor, M.D., F.A.C.P. With a foreword by Burrell O. Raulston, M.D. (Pp. 845+xviii; illustrated. £6 5s.) Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1959.

*Methods of Geographical Pathology.* Report of the Study Group convened by the Council for International Organizations of Medical Sciences. Established under the joint auspices of UNESCO and WHO. Edited by Richard Doll. (Pp. 72. 9s. 6d.) Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1959.

*Trigeminal Neuralgia. Its History and Treatment.* By Byron Stokey, A.M., M.D., and Joseph Ransohoff, M.D. (Pp. 366+xx; illustrated. 81s.) Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1959.

*Human Nutrition and Dietetics.* By Sir Stanley Davidson, B.A.(Cantab.), M.D., F.R.C.P.Ed., F.R.C.P.(Lond.), M.D.(Oslo), A. P. Meiklejohn, M.A., B.Sc., D.M.(Oxon.), M.R.C.P.(Lond.), and R. Passmore, M.A., D.M.(Oxon.). With a foreword by Lord Boyd Orr, D.S.O., M.C., L.L.D., F.R.S. (Pp. 844+xii; illustrated. 84s.) Edinburgh, London: E. and S. Livingstone Ltd. 1959.

*Tuberculosis and Other Communicable Diseases.* By J. Arthur Myers, M.D. (Pp. 499+xii; illustrated. £5 10s.) Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1959.

*Vocational Rehabilitation for the Physically Handicapped.* By Louise M. Neuschutz. (Pp. 136; illustrated. 43s.) Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1959.

*Pancreatitis. A Clinical-Pathologic Correlation.* By Herman T. Blumenthal, Ph.D., M.D., and J. G. Probststein, M.D. (Pp. 379+xiv; illustrated. 72s.) Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1959.

*Basic Physics in Radiology.* By L. A. W. Kemp, B.Sc., Ph.D., F.Inst.P., and R. Oliver, M.Sc., F.Inst.P., A.M.I.E.E. (Pp. 329+xiii; illustrated. 35s.) Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1959.

*Hypnosis in Modern Medicine.* Edited by Jerome M. Schneck, A.B., M.D. Second edition. (Pp. 389+xix. 66s.) Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas, Publisher. Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1959.

However, the court decided also that it was compelled to follow the strict grammatical interpretation of the words of the section to the effect that, in order for any liability to fall upon the insurers in respect of hospital treatment, they must have knowledge of the treatment before making any payment to the injured third party. The defendants had argued that it was sufficient if the insurers knew of the treatment before the issue of the writ, as in this case, but this argument was rejected.

Clearly in view of this decision, if a hospital contemplates a claim against an insurance company under Section 36 of the Act of 1930, the hospital should ensure that the insurers do have knowledge of the treatment as early as possible.

## Universities and Colleges

### UNIVERSITY OF ST. ANDREWS

At a Graduation ceremonial on June 30 the following degrees were conferred:

M.D.—<sup>1</sup>H. B. Goodall (with Rutherford gold medal for thesis), <sup>1</sup>W. Shepherd, <sup>1</sup>W. B. Robertson, A. D. Forrest.  
 Ch.M.—<sup>1</sup>G. Smith, <sup>2</sup>D. W. Blair.  
 M.B., Ch.B.—<sup>1</sup>R. F. Macadam, <sup>2</sup>P. D. Bewsher, <sup>3</sup>Helen B. Brodie, <sup>2</sup>K. G. Millar, Jane E. Anwan, J. N. Bell, A. Bertram, R. Y. Bishop, W. I. K. Bisset, A. W. Blair, J. R. Brown, A. J. Browne, M. R. Cassim, A. B. Chaloner, M. Dalton, Patricia A. Evans, G. N. Jamieson, H. J. Grycz, E. Hamburger, Jean B. G. Hamnett, D. G. Harries, J. M. Holt, T. H. D. Horsley, J. W. Innes, G. B. James, Celia M. Jenkins, Marie G. Kelloch, W. E. Kroutil, Gareth E. Leyshon, W. A. F. McAdam, Elizabeth A. Mackay, A. L. Macnair, M. Macphail, Christine A. Main, A. N. Munro, S. A. Nairn, J. E. Neehall, J. T. Robson, A. Saungsombon, J. M. Smail, Irene A. Smith, I. MacD. Strachan, I. Waheed, I. Wallace, F. G. Ward, I. H. Wishart.

<sup>1</sup>With honours. <sup>2</sup>With commendation.

### UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

The following degrees were conferred on June 22 and July 11:

Ch.M.—D. J. Oakland.  
 Ph.D.—In the Faculty of Medicine: D. A. Heath, M.D., W. M. McKernan, K. Aterman, M.D., M.R.C.P., D.C.H.  
 M.B., Ch.B.—A. Rhodes (with second-class honours, and distinction in medicine, in forensic medicine and toxicology, and in social medicine), F. K. Wright (with second-class honours), R. Baker, J. W. Bland, B. A. Boughton, Joan M. Brown, R. M. Brown, Angela R. Buckley, Annie R. Burgess, S. W. Clarke (with distinction in paediatrics and child health), R. M. Clewlow, A. J. Cox, N. A. Dent, D. Donaldson, Mary S. Duncan, Judith Ellison, F. Farmer, R. M. Finch, D. M. Fleming, Latitia M. Fooks, D. Galliford, M. J. Gilbert, M. F. Grayson, L. H. Grove, A. W. Harris, B. Hill, J. B. Hollins, June M. Hunt, Susan P. Jones, T. T. Jones, S. C. Kennedy, N. G. Lambert, Bozena Z. Leoszke, Gillian K. M. McMullan, Jennifer P. Mansfield, A. B. Masters, J. H. Morris, J. F. Morris, J. T. Mucklow, R. W. Myers, C. D. Neal, P. Omo-Dare, J. C. E. Parkinson, B. G. S. Peach, J. E. Perrin, A. J. Perrons, J. R. Perry, W. R. Plumley, Kathleen W. Raine, P. M. Rainsford, A. L. Revell, Anne L. Rifkin, P. Sadler, Philippa A. Sampson, Anne R. Schofield, B. J. Sealey, T. Shaw, J. R. Smethurst, A. G. E. Smith, Barbara G. Smith, C. S. Tyler, N. A. Ward, Romola I. Westwood, Janet A. Williams, P. M. Worrall, J. G. Wright.

(The degree of Ch.B. was conferred *in absentia* by special warrant on June 22 on all the above successful candidates for the degree of M.B. On July 11 the degree of Ph.D. was conferred, on K. Aterman, and the degree of M.B. on S. W. Clarke and J. H. Morris, all *in absentia*.)

Sir Arthur Thomson has been appointed representative of the University on the council of Malvern College.

The title of Honorary Lecturer has been given to the following: Department of Pathology, Dr. A. H. Cameron, consulting clinical pathologist, United Birmingham Hospitals, and University Clinical Lecturer in Pathology; Department of Experimental Pathology, Dr. C. N. D. Cruickshank, Assistant Director, Medical Research Council Unit for Experimental Pathology of the Skin, and University Research Fellow; Department of Bacteriology, Dr. K. B. Rogers, Consulting Clinical Pathologist, United Birmingham Hospitals, and University Clinical Lecturer in Pathology.

The title of University Research Fellow has been given to Dr. O. C. Forbes during the tenure of his award of Research Fellow sponsored by the Food Research and Toxicological Unit, or for the period of his stay in the University.

The board of governors at the United Birmingham Hospitals has granted honorary status to Dr. J. M. Bishop and Dr. P. C. Harris as honorary consultant physicians and to Dr. J. Butler, who resigned his appointment as Lecturer in Medicine on June 30, 1959, as honorary senior registrar.

The following appointments are announced: Dr. L. T. Clarke and Dr. B. L. S. Murtagh as part-time Lecturers in Anaesthetics from April 1, 1959, and Dr. A. J. Essex-Cater as part-time Lecturer in Child Welfare in the Department of Paediatrics and child Health from January 1, 1959.

## Vital Statistics

### Poliomyelitis in the U.S.A.

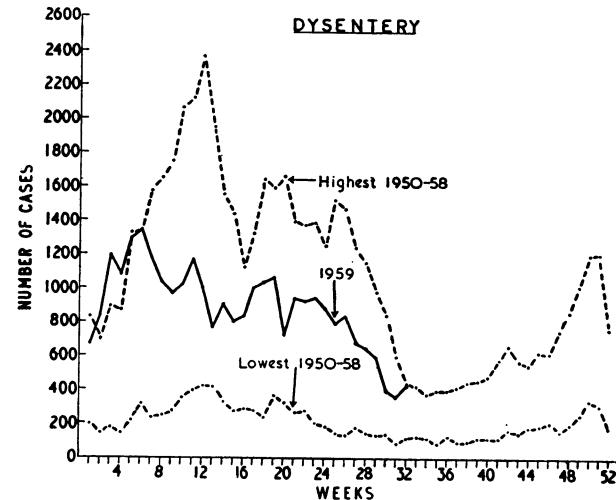
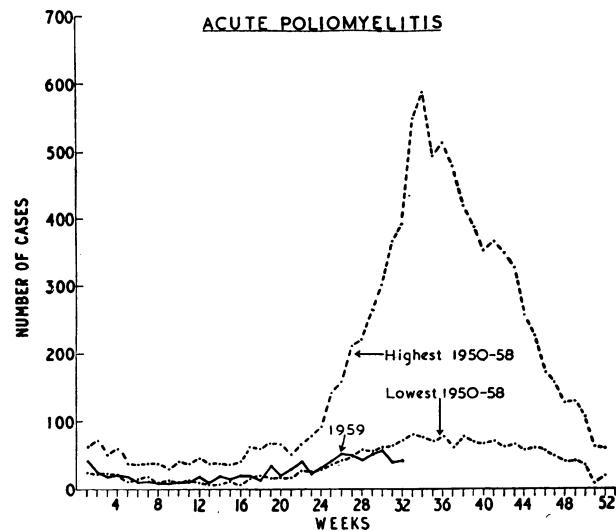
The incidence of poliomyelitis in the U.S.A. is higher than it has been since 1956. The cumulative totals up to the end of the first week in August are shown below.

	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
Paralytic poliomyelitis . . .	3,049	2,646	904	579	1,560
Total cases notified as poliomyelitis . . .	7,944	5,330	2,565	1,211	2,482

The largest outbreaks this summer have been in the states of Iowa, Missouri, and Arkansas. In some of these outbreaks about 15% of the paralytic cases had received three or more injections of killed vaccine.

### 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 years 1950-8 are shown thus -----, the figures for 1959 thus ——. Except for the curves showing notifications in 1959, the graphs were prepared at the Department of Medical Statistics and Epidemiology, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.



of Italian medicine. The first issue appeared in May, the editor being Professor T. OLARO, and the assistant editor Dr. G. SCEVOLA. Inquiries and subscriptions (£3 10s.) should be sent to Panminerva Medica, 83, Corso Bramante, Torino, Italy.

**Ionizing Radiations Panel.**—A panel of 23 experts has been set up under the aegis of the Ministry of Labour's Radioactive Substances Advisory Committee to consider safety and health in relation to the use of ionizing radiations. The chairman of the panel will be Professor B. W. WINDEYER. Among the panel's other members are Professor W. V. MAYNEORD, Dr. E. E. POCHIN, Surgeon Commander F. P. ELLIS, Mr. J. M. JOHNSTON, and Lieutenant-Colonel H. W. WITCHER.

**Working Party on Special Hospitals.**—The membership of the Working Party has now been completed by the appointment of Dr. D. H. H. THOMAS, medical superintendent of Cell Barnes Hospital, who was a member of the Royal Commission on the law relating to mental illness and mental deficiency. The names of the other 11 members were announced by the Minister of Health on July 30 (*Journal*, August 15, p. 197).

**Occupational Health Courses.**—The Ministry of Health has recently decided that postgraduate courses in occupational health can be provided under section 48 of the N.H.S. Act. Two such courses have already been arranged: one at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (September 28–October 3), and another at the Nuffield Department of Occupational Health at Manchester University (November 2–7). More will be made available if there is a demand for them. Further details obtainable from the Registrar, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Keppel Street, London, W.C.1.

**Faculty of Anaesthetists, R.C.S. (Eng.).**—Dr. GEOFFREY ORGANE has been re-elected dean, and Professor E. A. PASK vice-dean, of the faculty for the coming year. Dr. ASHLEY DALY, consulting anaesthetist to the London Hospital, has been admitted to the faculty's honorary fellowship.

**London's First M.O.H.**—A plaque commemorating London's first medical officer of health, Sir JOHN SIMON, has been put up outside 40, Kensington Square, where he lived for 37 years. He died, aged 88, in 1904.

**J.A.M.A.'s New Editor.**—Dr. JOHN H. TALBOTT, professor of medicine, University of Buffalo School of Medicine, has been appointed editor of the *Journal of American Medical Association* and director of the A.M.A.'s Division of Scientific Publications. Professor Talbott succeeds Dr. JOHNSON F. HAMMOND, who succeeded less than twelve months ago Dr. AUSTIN SMITH, who resigned after being nearly ten years in the editorial chair in succession to Dr. MORRIS FISHBEIN, who gave up his office in 1949 following a disagreement with the A.M.A.'s Board of Trustees. We wish Professor Talbott all success in his new career.

### COMING EVENTS

**Nutrition Society (Scottish Group).**—Symposium, "Nutrition at the Cellular Level," Aberdeen, September 19. Details from Dr. J. DAVIDSON, The Rowett Research Institute, Bucksburn, Aberdeen.

**Journées Gynécologiques et Obstétricales de Lisbonne.**—Lisbon, Portugal, September 19–22. Details from Dr. MARIO CARDIA (U.P.I.G.O.), 98, Rua Anibal Cunha, Porto-Portugal.

**Institute of British Surgical Technicians.**—A course of lectures on "The Anatomy, Pathology and Treatment of Hernia" will be given weekly from September 22, at 7 p.m., at Bolton Technical College, Manchester Road, Bolton. Details from the Registrar of the Institute, 6, Holborn Viaduct, London, E.C.1.

**Psychotherapy in General Practice.**—Seminars for general practitioners will be conducted by Dr. GRAHAM HOWE at the Open Way Psychotherapy Clinic, fortnightly on

Tuesdays from 3 to 4 p.m., from September 22 to July, 1960. Details from the Secretary, The Open Way, 37, Queen Anne Street, London, W.1 (LAN 1941).

**8th Congress of International Union of Railway Medical Services.**—September 21–26, Lucerne. Details from Dr. ORTEGA, 13, rue de Château-Landon, Paris, 10, France.

**Epsom College.**—Extraordinary General Meeting of the College Governors to appoint a President in succession to the late Lord WEBB-JOHNSON, Council Room, Medical Defence Union, Tavistock House South, Tavistock Square, London, W.C.1, September 25, 4 p.m.

**Glasgow Postgraduate Course.**—A course of clinical teaching ward rounds will be held in Glasgow hospitals on Thursday afternoons, 4.30 p.m., from October 8. Last date for application is September 17. For details see this week's *Journal*, advertisement page 49.

### NEW ISSUES

#### SPECIALIST JOURNALS AND ABSTRACTS

*The Journals listed below are obtainable from the Publishing Manager, B.M.A. House, Tavistock Square, London, W.C.1.*

**Archives of Disease in Childhood.**—Issued six times a year (£4 4s. annually). The new issue (Vol. 34, No. 175) includes:

**EDITORIAL NOTE**  
**BRONCHIECTASIS IN CHILDREN. ITS MULTIPLE CLINICAL AND PATHOLOGICAL ASPECTS.** Howard Williams and R. N. O'Reilly.

**RESPIRATORY STRIDOR PRODUCED BY AN ABERRANT PULMONARY ARTERY.** W. H. Schutt and P. M. Robb.

**BONE LESIONS OF URTICARIA PIGMENTOSA IN CHILDHOOD.** Martin H. Lees and C. Eric Stroud.

**A LONGITUDINAL STUDY OF THE GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF PREMATURELY AND MATURELY BORN CHILDREN. PART IV. MORBIDITY.** Cecil Mary Drillich.

**A CASE OF IDIOPATHIC PULMONARY HAEMOSIDEROSIS WITH MYOCARDITIS.** S. Campbell and C. A. J. Macafee.

**CONGENITAL HEART BLOCK.** R. W. Smithells and E. B. Outon.

**CONGENITAL ANOMALIES ASSOCIATED WITH CEREBRAL PALSY AND MENTAL RETARDATION.** Ronald S. Illingworth.

**HYDRANENCEPHALY AND ALLIED DISORDERS.** C. S. Muir.

**INCIDENCE OF RHEUMATIC FEVER IN CYLON.** Stanley de Silva.

**HERPES SIMPLEX VIRUS INFECTION: DISSEMINATION IN ASSOCIATION WITH MALNUTRITION.** D. McKenzie, J. D. L. Hansen, and W. Becker.

**CHRONIC ULCERATIVE COLITIS IN CHILDHOOD.** Donald C. King, Arthur E. Lindner, and H. Marvin Pollard.

**PHYSIOLOGICAL JAUNDICE.** A. A. Cunningham.

**THE DIAGNOSIS OF MENTAL RETARDATION IN INFANCY.** R. S. Illingworth and L. B. Birch.

**CONGENITAL HYDROCEPHALUS IN MONOVULAR TWINS.** V. Gellman.

**A CASE OF RUPTURE OF THE HEPATIC DUCT IN A NEWBORN INFANT.** Joan P. Wright and Helen E. Worsley.

**BOOK REVIEWS.**

**Abstracts of World Medicine.**—Issued in the first week of each month, this journal contains abstracts of important papers selected from the current medical literature of the world. Annual subscription £4 4s.

### 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.

**Thursday, September 3**

**MIDDLESEX HOSPITAL.**—At Courtauld Lecture Theatre, 5.15 p.m., Professor A. Gorman Hills (Miami University): Some Aspects of Adrenal Deficiency.

**Friday, September 4**

**INSTITUTE OF DISEASES OF THE CHEST.**—5 p.m., Dr. Howard Nicholson: clinical demonstration.

### BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS

#### DEATHS

**Barker.**—On June 30, 1959, at Silverstream, Headbourne Worthy, Winchester, Hants. Frederic Allan Barker, C.I.E., O.B.E., M.D., Lieutenant Colonel, I.M.S., retired, aged 76.

**Brookes.**—On June 30, 1959, at 75, Commercial Road, Kirkstall, Leeds, 5, Philip Brookes, T.D., L.M.S.A., aged 62.

**Church.**—On June 26, 1959, at Blairgowrie Cottage Hospital, Duncan Macdonald Cochrane Church, M.B., Ch.B., Major, I.M.S., retired.

**Dorrell.**—On June 23, 1959, at King Edward VII Hospital for Officers, London, W., Edmund Arthur Durrell, F.R.C.S., D.P.H., of 76, Bryanston Court, London, W., aged 87.

**Duggan.**—On June 26, 1959, Michael Duggan, M.D., of Brantford, Ontario, Canada, aged 39.

**Fairweather.**—On June 26, 1959, at Royal Cornwall Infirmary, Truro, Joseph Hayes Fairweather, M.D., D.P.H., D.M.R.E., of Clitheroe, Lancs.

**Franey.**—On June 24, 1959, after an operation at Plymouth, Roy Franey, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., F.R.I.C.S.

**Lewis.**—On June 26, 1959, at Dormers, Wimborne, Dorset, Herbert Wolsey Lewis, M.D., F.R.C.S., aged 90.

**Seccombe.**—On June 30, 1959, at his home, Matatiele, East Griqualand, C.P., South Africa, Sidney Thomas Seccombe, M.B., B.S., D.P.H., formerly of Ringwood, Hants.

**Teale.**—On August 22, 1959, Sir Francis Hugo Teale, K.C.V.O., M.D., F.R.C.P., of 32, Harley House, London, N.W.