

The Services

CASUALTIES IN THE MEDICAL SERVICES

ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS

Major GORDON ALAN MACDONA LINTOTT died on active service in December, 1940, while serving in Egypt. He received his medical education at Guy's Hospital and qualified M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. in 1931, becoming M.R.C.P. in 1934. He also took the degrees of M.B., B.S. of the University of London in 1932 and proceeded M.D. in 1936. He had held the posts of medical registrar and tutor, demonstrator in physiology and pathology, and house-physician and out-patients' officer at Guy's Hospital, and before the war was clinical tutor at the hospital. He will be remembered for his critical examination and report on the routine of water diving carried out in the physiological department of the hospital. He mastered the technique of gastroscopy under Henning in Germany and subsequently visited many clinics in the United States of America, returning with much valuable fresh knowledge. On the outbreak of war, by which time he had established a reputation as a sound clinician and an able teacher, he remained at the hospital in the Emergency Medical Service as physician in charge of the medical unit, until he felt that he was still not putting out enough effort, when he joined the R.A.M.C. as major.

Medical News

Sir Walter Langdon-Brown will give a Chadwick Public Lecture entitled "Mental Health in Wartime" on Tuesday, February 4, at 2.30 p.m., at the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, 26, Portland Place, W.1.

A conference on A.R.P. is to be held on February 2, from 10.30 a.m. to 4 p.m., at Islington Central Library, 68, Holloway Road, N.7. The conference is convened by the Association of Architects, Surveyors, and Technical Assistants, and by the National A.R.P. Co-ordinating Committee. Their aim is to bring together for discussion technicians who are qualified to solve the urgent problems of A.R.P., and administrative officers who are not satisfied with the present state of affairs. Shelters, the care of those bombed out, and medical problems are among the subjects scheduled for discussion and on which a free exchange of opinion will be encouraged. Drawings and models of various types of shelter will be on view.

It is learnt that vitamin C, given in sugar tablets, is to be distributed daily, free of cost, to all children between the ages of 10 and 14 who live in thickly populated districts of Germany or territories incorporated into the German Reich. The order is effective from February 1 to May 31 in all regions except where fruit and vegetables are plentiful. Vitamin C tablets have already been distributed on an experimental basis free throughout the Reich. The resistance to infection was found to increase, and between December 15, 1940, and March 31, 1941, the treatment was extended to newly born children with good results.

The *Scotsman* reports steady progress in the campaign to immunize children against diphtheria in Edinburgh. Up to January 17, being the end of the sixth week of the scheme arranged by the Public Health Department, contact had been made with 20,387 children, and of these 15,438 had received the two inoculations necessary to complete immunization. Of the completed immunizations, 1,983 were given at child welfare centres, 2,800 at schools, and 7,933 at first-aid posts throughout the city. The number of immunizations carried out by private medical practitioners up to the same date was 2,722, and fresh batches of certificates are reaching the medical officer of health from this source every day.

Even if the evacuation of children is causing some unexpected psychological problems, it is at least satisfactory to note that the children in a much more dangerous and difficult position are being given sympathetic consideration by the authorities. Mrs. Creswick Atkinson, a member of Lord Horder's Committee, a well-known broadcaster on child welfare and a former British Red Cross worker, has been moved from her post as technical adviser to the Women's Voluntary

Services in order that she may take up a full-time paid appointment as organizer of welfare work for women and children who use the large air-raid shelters of London. Mrs. Atkinson will advise local authorities on the organization of welfare work in those shelters holding 500 or more people. She will work in collaboration with Mr. Charles Key, M.P., London Regional Commissioner for Shelters. Mr. Key states that, while dispersal remains the policy of the Government, and while one of the new organization's tasks will be to persuade mothers to evacuate their children, it must be expected that the large shelters will still be much used. Of the 81,000 children still in London, 60% have not attended school since last July and are badly in need of the care and guidance which the new body of welfare workers will provide.

Letters, Notes, and Answers

All communications in regard to editorial business should be addressed to THE EDITOR, BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, B.M.A. HOUSE, TAVISTOCK SQUARE, W.C.1.

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QUERIES AND ANSWERS

Premenstrual Mammary Swelling

Dr. ROSAMOND BISCHOFF (Luton) writes: I should like to know if any of your readers could tell me how to treat patients who suffer from swollen, painful breasts before menstruation. I have one patient who has considerable pain and slight swelling for two weeks before each period. Menses are regular and of moderate amount. She has been married six years but has no children. Examinations of breasts and pelvis are negative. Other patients have this complaint in a lesser degree and for a shorter period. My cases are all in nulliparae with normal menstrual history and negative examination. Would any form of hormone therapy be advisable?

Income Tax

Reduction in Net Earnings

"R. H." was mobilized in September, 1939, and has since employed an assistant. His aggregate income as assessed for the year to April 5, 1940, was not sufficiently in excess of his aggregate earned income for that year to justify a claim for relief. How does he stand for 1940-1?

* Presumably the profits of the practice will have fallen still further for 1940 owing to the fact that an assistant will have been paid for the whole of that year. It may therefore be that the difference between aggregate income as assessed (taking the practice profits at the 1939 figure) and the aggregate actual earned income for the year to April 5, 1941, will satisfy the 20% condition and relief will be due. (N.B.—In calculating the actual income from the practice "R. H." can if he prefers compute it for the year to April 5, 1940, as 3/4 of the 1939 profits plus 1/4 of the 1940 profits, and it may be worth reviewing the position for that year now that the 1940 figures are available.)

LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.

Diphtheria Incidence: A Small-pox Analogy

Dr. ROBERT ANDERSON (Birmingham) writes: Dr. R. M. Courtauld (January 18, p. 106) may find the explanation he wants in Glasgow's experience of small-pox epidemics in 1900 and 1901. In 1900 there were about 2,000 cases of small-pox and over 400,000 people were revaccinated—about half the population. In 1901 there was another epidemic of about 500 cases. Not one of the 400,000 revaccinated people contracted the disease. This was an experiment in immunization on a large scale.