

busy practice and took infinite pains with all her patients. Her bright and happy disposition never failed to bring comfort to all who came under her care. Miss Nesbitt was a skilled pianist, but her chief recreation was golf, a game she took up after the war, and to it she devoted the same keenness and enthusiasm which characterized her work. She won the trophy of the City of Edinburgh Branch of the British Medical Association on two occasions and the Notts Ladies' Challenge Cup at the Annual Meetings of the B.M.A. in 1949 and 1950. Her husband, Mr. C. R. Duncan Leeds, won the Treasurer's Cup in the latter year, and this was possibly a unique event in the history of these competitions. To Mr. Duncan Leeds, who is an ophthalmic surgeon in Edinburgh, we offer our sincere sympathy in his loss.

## Medico-Legal

### DIABETIC MOTORIST ACQUITTED

Salford's stipendiary magistrate, Mr. Leslie Walsh, gave his reserved judgment on January 8 in the case of Robert Geoffrey Healey, 28, of Heywood, Lancs, who had pleaded not guilty to driving his car under the influence of a drug and dangerous driving.

The alleged offences occurred, said the Stipendiary, when Healey's car was involved in an accident in Bury New Road, Salford, on November 7, 1953. Police said that Healey's car ran backwards into a bus and then shot forward and collided with a van. The magistrate said that Healey suffered from diabetes and was treated with insulin. On the day of the accident he attended a diabetic clinic in Manchester and was seen by a doctor. He left the clinic and was later involved in the accident in circumstances which prima facie showed dangerous driving. Medical evidence was given, which was not contradicted, that his condition—hypoglycaemia—could occur without the defendant knowing about it.

"It is clear from the medical evidence," he continued, "that hypoglycaemia could arise without premonitory symptoms, and I am satisfied that Healey had no warning of the attack. In these circumstances the issue on dangerous driving is covered by a High Court ruling on motorists suddenly attacked by an illness which incapacitates them. I find that he was not guilty of dangerous driving. As for the charge of driving under the influence of a drug, I think that this section of the Act was never intended to cover such cases. The condition of hypoglycaemia could be caused in a diabetic by other factors than insulin, such as extra exertion, worry, or exasperation. As I am satisfied that Healey took only his normal dose of insulin on the day in question, and had never previously suffered ill effects as the result of that dose, I am not satisfied that he was under the influence of insulin at the time of this accident. Before the accident he was seen by a doctor, when his condition was normal. The charge will therefore be dismissed."

## Universities and Colleges

### UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

The Theodore Williams Scholarship in Pathology for 1953 has been awarded to Antony Babington Herring.

### UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

Dr. W. E. Hick has been appointed Reader in Experimental Psychology from October 1, 1953.

The following degrees were conferred on November 28, 1953:  
M.D.—M. G. Thorne, J. K. Wagstaff.  
Sc.D.—Kenneth Bailey, Ph.D., F.R.S.

The Raymond Horton-Smith Prize for 1952-3 has been awarded to Dr. John Perrin and Dr. Ernest Keith Westlake (equal).

### UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

The degrees of M.B., B.S. were awarded to D. D. J. Rees on October 21, 1953, the date to be inscribed on the diploma to be June 25, 1952.

The following candidates at the Institute of Psychiatry have been approved at the examinations indicated:

ACADEMIC POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN PSYCHOLOGICAL MEDICINE.—G. F. Vaughan, Lorna Wheelan. Part I: R. H. Gosling, W. A. Kennedy, J. Pisani, N. H. Rathod.

### UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER

The following candidates have been approved at the examination indicated:

FINAL M.B., CH.B.—Sheila Berry, J. K. Bleasdale, C. Booth, Margaret A. Broughton, J. W. Chamberlain, G. H. H. Dwyer, Pauline R. Dyckhoff, G. Gold, L. Goldie, A. Greenbaum, Mabel L. Haigh, Daphne J. Hall, F. Heyworth, J. Johnson, J. B. Jones, L. K. Levens, J. S. Lord, F. G. Lucas, Jean McCracken, C. Mawdsley, V. B. Maxwell, F. W. Murphy, W. C. Newport, J. Parkin, L. Reece, Eve M. Roper, J. G. B. Russell, Ruth M. Sellars, Joan E. Singleton, J. N. Standring, A. O. F. Stuart, A. T. Thompson, S. T. Whitehead.

## Vital Statistics

### 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 nine years 1944-52 are shown thus -----, the figures for 1953 thus ————. Except for the curves showing notifications in 1953, the graphs were prepared at the Department of Medical Statistics and Epidemiology, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

