

not convince the family doctor or the relatives of patients in the category I have described. Do we really increase the sum total of human happiness when we improve our "turnover" by discharging a cantankerous old patient to his unwilling relatives? The fact is that these difficult old people form only a small fraction—less than 1%—of the total aged population. I believe they are more expensive to maintain outside of hospital than within. In a recent case the patient in his home had the district nurse call twice daily, a session of home help, a daughter home from work, alternate daily visits from the doctor, not to mention additional extramural services from the local authority and voluntary organizations. On economic grounds alone I suggest we should have a surplus of institutional beds to accommodate these elderly patients and so relieve their relatives for productive work in industry. Not only would this allow us to give a better service from the humanitarian point of view but it would give us room for classification, research, and better treatment in the hospitals.

Might I make one more practical suggestion? The Subcommittee recognizes the existence of malnutrition in old people who live alone. Occasionally we see a case of scurvy, and recently I have seen a case of frank pellagra. Such cases are rare and do not necessarily signify a severe degree of widespread malnutrition in this age group. All the same I think there is enough malnutrition to justify cheaper milk and fruit juices for old people. It would not cost much to offer the same concessions already granted to infants and expectant mothers.—I am, etc.,

Bristol.

WILLIAM HUGHES.

H.M. Forces Appointments

ROYAL NAVY

Surgeon Commanders T. F. Miles, L. R. Norsworthy, and T. W. Froggatt, O.B.E., have retired.

Surgeon Lieutenants P. J. Preston and J. S. P. Rawlins to be Surgeon Lieutenant-Commanders.

G. O. C. Davies-Webb has been granted a Short Service Commission in the rank of Surgeon Lieutenant-Commander.

ROYAL NAVAL VOLUNTEER RESERVE

Surgeon Lieutenant W. A. Wilson to be Surgeon Lieutenant-Commander.

ARMY

Colonel W. J. Robertson, late R.A.M.C., has retired on retired pay.

ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS

Lieutenant-Colonel J. B. Bunting, O.B.E., has retired, receiving a gratuity, and has been granted the honorary rank of Colonel.

Lieutenant-Colonel J. J. O'Connell, O.B.E., has retired on retired pay, and has been granted the honorary rank of Colonel.

Lieutenant-Colonel J. C. Babbage, M.B.E., has retired.

Majors A. L. J. Webb, D. B. Jagger, M.B.E., and R. A. R. Topping to be Lieutenant-Colonels.

Major H. R. Vincent has retired, receiving a gratuity, and has been granted the honorary rank of Lieutenant-Colonel.

Captain P. M. Bretland to be Major.

HER MAJESTY'S OVERSEA SERVICE

The following appointments have been announced: G. C. Butler, M.B., B.Ch., Senior Medical Officer, Sleeping Sickness Service, Northern Region, Nigeria; H. D. Chambers, M.D., Senior Medical Officer, Jamaica; P. I. Franks, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.O.M.S., Specialist Officer (Ophthalmologist), Federation of Malaya; S. Mawson, Chief Mental Hospital Superintendent, Gold Coast; Jean K. Ritchie, B.M., B.Ch., M.R.C.P., D.M.R.T., Radiologist, Singapore; J. R. Currie, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., Pathologist, Sierra Leone; O. C. Fung, F.R.C.S., Medical Officer, Grade B, Trinidad; D. J. Jones, M.B., B.Ch., Medical Officer, Federation of Nigeria; W. Scheurer, M.D., Medical Officer, Gold Coast; M. O. Thomas, L.R.C.P.&S.I., Medical Officer, Sierra Leone.

Correction.—In the Section of Neurology in the programme of the Joint Annual Meeting, Toronto, June, 1955 (*Supplement*, May 7, p. 217), "Sir Charles Symonds (London). Cough Headache—A Benign Syndrome" should be deleted, as Sir Charles Symonds is unable to attend the Annual Meeting.

Association Notices

Diary of Central Meetings

MAY

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| 17 | Tues. | Estates Committee, 2 p.m. |
| 18 | Wed. | Working Party Subcommittee, Joint Consultants Committee, 10.30 a.m. |
| 18 | Wed. | Financial Advisory Committee, 11 a.m. |
| 18 | Wed. | Journal Committee, 2 p.m. |
| 18 | Wed. | Subcommittee on Admission of Students to Medical Schools, G.M.S. Committee, 3 p.m. |
| 18 | Wed. | Joint Subcommittee of Rehabilitation and Film Committees, 4 p.m. |
| 19 | Thurs. | Annual Conference of Representatives of Local Medical Committees, 10 a.m. |
| 19 | Thurs. | G.M.S. Committee (to follow Annual Conference of Representatives of L.M.C.s). |
| 19 | Thurs. | Tuberculosis and Diseases of the Chest Group Committee, 2 p.m. (<i>Date changed from May 18.</i>) |
| 20 | Fri. | Conference of Regional Officers, 12 noon (to be preceded by an informal meeting of the Officers at 10.30 a.m.). |
| 20 | Fri. | Registrars Group Council, 2 p.m. |
| 24 | Tues. | Joint Conference on Meat Production and Control, 3 p.m. |
| 25 | Wed. | Subcommittee on the Acceptance of Patients of a Vacant Practice, G.M.S. Committee, 11 a.m. |
| 25 | Wed. | Evidence Committee on Divine Healing, 10 a.m. |
| 25 | Wed. | Committee on the Control of Medical Manpower in War, 2 p.m. |
| 25 | Wed. | Staff Side, Committee "C," Medical Whitley Council, 2 p.m. |

Branch and Division Meetings to be Held

BARNSELY DIVISION.—At Queen's Hotel, Barnsley, Monday, May 16, 8.30 p.m., annual general meeting.

BIRMINGHAM DIVISION.—At Chadwick Manor, Knowle, Friday, May 20, 8 p.m., annual dinner dance.

BRISTOL DIVISION.—At Main Physics Lecture Theatre, Royal Fort, Wednesday, May 18, 8.30 p.m., annual general meeting.

DEWSBURY DIVISION.—At the Three Nuns Inn, Cooper Bridge, Mirfield, Tuesday, May 17, 7.45 for 8.15 p.m., annual dinner.

EAST HERTS DIVISION.—At Cranborne Rooms, Red Lion Hotel, Hatfield, Friday, May 20, 9 p.m. to 1.30 a.m., supper dance.

HERTFORDSHIRE BRANCH.—At the Old Fold Manor Golf Club, Hadley, Barnet, Thursday, May 19, 8.45 p.m., annual general meeting. B.M.A. Lecture by Dr. F. E. Camps: "Forensic Medicine, Past, Present, and Future." Members of the legal profession are invited.

HOLLAND DIVISION.—At White Hart Hotel, Boston, Saturday, May 14, 7.15 for 7.45 p.m., supper; 9 p.m., address by Dr. S. Wand: "Observations on the National Health Service Retrospective and Prospective."

KENSINGTON AND HAMMERSMITH DIVISION.—At St. Mary Abbots Hospital, Marloes Road, Kensington, W., Tuesday, May 17, 8.30 p.m., annual general meeting.

LINCOLN DIVISION.—At County Hospital, Lincoln, Thursday, May 19, 8.30 p.m., annual general meeting.

MACCLESFIELD AND EAST CHESHIRE DIVISION.—At Macclesfield Arms Hotel, Macclesfield, Friday, May 20, 8.30 p.m., A.G.M.

ROCHDALE DIVISION.—At Kingsway Hotel, Rochdale, Monday, May 16, 8.30 p.m., annual general meeting.

SHROPSHIRE AND MID-WALES BRANCH.—At 49, Church Street, Wellington, Thursday, May 19, 8.30 p.m., meeting of Clinical and Pathological Section. Paper by Mr. G. K. Rose: "Symptoms Arising from Cervical Spondylosis."

SOUTH ESSEX DIVISION.—At Oldchurch Hospital (in the Nurses' Lecture Room), Romford, Friday, May 20, 9 p.m., meeting. Lecture by Dr. R. S. Bruce Pearson: "Asthma."

SOUTH MIDDLESEX DIVISION.—At the Anchor Hotel, Shepperton, Wednesday, May 18, 9 p.m., meeting. Address by Dr. W. N. Pickles: "Research in General Practice." Members of the Guildford, Kingston-on-Thames, and West Middlesex Divisions are invited.

SOUTH-WEST ESSEX DIVISION.—At New Out-patients Department, Connaught Hospital, Orford Road, Walthamstow, E., Wednesday, May 18, 8.30 p.m., annual general meeting.

STOCKPORT DIVISION.—At Physiotherapy Department, Stockport Infirmary, Tuesday, May 17, 8.30 p.m., demonstration by Stockport Branch of Chartered Society of Physiotherapy of modern forms of physiotherapy. Members of the Stockport Division, B.M.A., have been invited.

WEST SUSSEX DIVISION.—(1) At Southlands Hospital, Shoreham-by-Sea, Thursday, May 19, 2.30 p.m., clinical meeting. (2) At 2, Longfellow Road, Worthing, Sunday, May 22, 4 p.m., annual general meeting.