

UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL

A week-end course in industrial medicine will be held at the University of Bristol on Saturday and Sunday, July 10 and 11. The course has been arranged in co-operation with the Association of Industrial Medical Officers. The syllabus includes a visit to a factory and lectures as follows: "Heating and Ventilation," by T. Bedford, D.Sc., "Protective Clothing and Appliances," by R. Tugman, "Health Surveys in Factories," by Donald Stewart, M.D., "Foot Faults in Relation to Form and Function," by W. Sayle Creer, F.R.C.S. Fee for the course £1 ls., payable to the University of Bristol and sent to the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Bristol, not later than July 7; full syllabus may be obtained from him.

UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD

The University Council at its last meeting appointed Mr. W. J. Lytle, F.R.C.S., as Lecturer in Surgery.

Obituary

The sudden tragic death of Dr. CORNELIUS COTTER at his home at Lee Green on May 14 robbed the Tower Hamlets Division of its kindly and genial chairman and Poplar one of its best-loved practitioners. Dr. Cotter was born at Blarney, County Cork, in 1896. He was educated at Cork and graduated M.B., B.Ch., N.U.I. in 1918. Immediately after graduating he joined the Royal Navy and served with the Atlantic Fleet. While he was a surgeon-lieutenant he played rugby for the Devonport Services. He remained in the Navy until 1924, when he married and settled down in Poplar, to undertake the arduous duties of a busy East End practice. With his kindly sympathy, his ready wit, and his never-failing sense of humour, he quickly won his way to the hearts of his patients and his fellow practitioners alike. Although most of his time was ungrudgingly spent in the service of his patients, he devoted a great deal of his leisure to the interests of the local division of the British Medical Association. He was chairman of the Tower Hamlets Division for the past eight years. It was here that his colleagues learned to appreciate his wide guidance, his jovial Irish humour, and his clear grasp of the essentials of the subject of debate. The troubled years of the war added greatly to his burdens and responsibilities. To the office of chairman of the Local Medical War Committee he brought all his gifts of judgment and kindness and sympathy which made it a pleasure to sit with him. Even when he was ill he did not spare himself in the service of his patients, his colleagues, and the Tower Hamlets Division.

J. A. McL.

The death occurred on May 18 at St. Leonards-on-Sea, after a long illness, of Dr. GERALD A. TICEHURST. He was 64 years of age, and was born in the same town. Educated at Tonbridge School and St. John's College, Cambridge, he qualified at Guy's Hospital M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. in 1904, and obtained his M.B., B.Ch.Camb. in 1906. He was a scholar of his College at Cambridge and obtained 1st class honours in the Natural Sciences Tripos. He held the appointments of house-physician and obstetric resident at Guy's Hospital, and clinical assistant at the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street. In 1907 he succeeded his father and grandfather in general practice in St. Leonards-on-Sea, and for over 30 years was honorary physician to the Royal East Sussex Hospital, and latterly honorary gynaecologist. During the last war he served as a captain in the R.A.M.C. in France and Gibraltar. He will be remembered in the town and district for his devoted service to many families, rich and poor alike, and also by his nearest friends for his interest in fishing, shooting, and music. He leaves a widow and two sons.

Dr. JOHN MOORCROFT McCLOY, Chief Medical Officer, Ministry of Home Affairs, Northern Ireland, and Honorary Physician to the King since 1941, died at his home in Belfast on May 27. Born in Philadelphia in 1874, the elder son of James McCloy of Belfast, he was educated at Queen's College, Belfast, and graduated M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O. with honours at the Royal University of Ireland in 1909. After the creation of Queen's University, Belfast, he received the degree of M.D. with commendation in 1912, and also the D.P.H. Dr. McCloy was for many years medical inspector under the Local Government Board of Ireland, and during the last war served in the R.A.M.C. with the temporary rank of captain. In addition to his high post in the Ministry of Home Affairs he was also chairman of the Joint Nursing and Midwives Council for Northern Ireland, President of the Ulster Medical Society in 1938-9, and had been a member of several Government Com-

missions. Dr. McCloy joined the British Medical Association in 1911. He published papers on bacteriological subjects during his period of service in the R.A.M.C. and after the armistice.

Prof. WILLIAM BOXWELL, senior physician to the Meath Hospital and the County of Dublin Infirmary, died on May 22, aged 67. A grandson of the famous Dublin physician, William Stokes, William Boxwell studied medicine at Trinity College and graduated M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O. in 1903. He was elected F.R.C.P.I. in 1908, and proceeded to the M.D. in 1912. In 1918 he was appointed to the chair of pathology in the School of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland after serving as assistant pathologist at the Meath Hospital, where he continued to work for many years as physician. In 1937 he succeeded Dr. J. A. Matson as President of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland. Prof. Boxwell was a member of the British Medical Association and had served on the Council of the Royal Academy of Medicine in Ireland. As an accomplished clinician, having daily associations with the laboratory and the post-mortem room; he held an unusual place in the medical world of Dublin, performing with grace and efficiency his two-fold duties at the Meath Hospital and at the Royal College of Surgeons.

Dr. DAVID MEIKLE, who died at the age of 45 on May 25, had practised in the Warrington area for 20 years. A native of Glasgow, he served in the Navy during the last war. He graduated M.B., Ch.B. at the University of Glasgow in 1921 and then held house appointments at the Western Infirmary and the Glasgow Royal Asylum. Before settling in Warrington he had practised for a short time in Ayrshire. A colleague writes: Dr. Meikle will be sadly missed in Warrington. Keenly interested in medico-political matters, he was a live wire at all our Association meetings, and for a time was an enthusiastic and efficient secretary of the local Division. Dr. Meikle had an exceptional capacity for making lasting friendships, and he enjoyed nothing more than playing host to his numerous friends. A victim of ill-health, he never spared himself, and to his unselfishness may be attributed his untimely end.

The death is announced on May 25 at Newcastle-upon-Tyne of ALEXANDER ANGUS MARTIN, at the age of 80. He was educated at Surgeons' Hall and Edinburgh University, where his teachers were Argyll Robertson, J. W. Ballantyne, Francis Caird, and Charles Cathcart. With the three last-named he formed life-long friendships. After qualifying in 1887 he could not afford to spend time as a house-surgeon but went instead as a surgeon on a whaler to the Arctic. He became assistant in Hartlepool to the late Prof. Rutherford Morison, who later helped him to start practice in Percy Main, whence he went to North Shields. He very soon established a large general and surgical practice. He had unusual self-reliance and was doing abdominal surgery successfully as far back as 1893. Dr. Angus Martin was one of the original surgical staff of the Tynemouth Jubilee Infirmary. He took the F.R.C.S.Ed. in 1898 direct from general practice after only a very few weeks' coaching in Edinburgh—no mean achievement in those days. He regularly attended at the meetings of the old Northumberland and Durham Medical Society, and became its president in 1912; his presidential address was a description of the progress of surgery in the previous quarter of a century, and his year of office was marked by addresses by his old friend C. W. Cathcart and Sir Robert Jones. He retired from practice in 1925. For the past 17 years he had been consulting surgeon to a group of collieries. His first wife died in 1930 and he married again in 1932. There were seven children of the first marriage. His eldest son, Dr. N. A. Martin, served abroad in the last war and is in practice in Bristol. Three sons are now serving over-seas.

The death of Dr. FREDERICK GARDINER ROSE, O.B.E., which occurred at Georgetown, British Guiana, on Jan. 22 last, has deprived the medical profession in this Colony and the West Indian Islands of one of its leading members, and leprologists of one of the most indefatigable workers in their specialty. Rose was born in British Guiana in 1865 and, having won the much-coveted Guiana scholarship, he entered St. John's College, Cambridge, in 1907. After taking his B.A. he went on to St. Thomas's Hospital, London, and obtained the Conjoint Diploma in 1911, the Cambridge M.D. in 1926, and later the D.M.R.E. and M.R.C.P. After several appointments in England he returned home, having been appointed by the Colonial Office as Government bacteriologist and pathologist in 1915. In 1926 he assumed charge of the Leprosy Hospital at Mahaica, where he spent the best part of his career in the reorganization of the administrative side and treatment of leprosy by modern methods. He took up the treatment with hydriocarpus oil and

its esters by local injections, and, having achieved good results after several years' trial in early cases, he overcame the natural reluctance of persons suffering from leprosy to seek treatment, thus securing early confidence in the community and obtaining admission to the Leprosy Hospital of early sufferers. During his regime as Government bacteriologist Dr. Rose devoted special research to the filarial diseases which were so prevalent at the time in Georgetown; he devised a vaccine which is still being used in the treatment of filarial lymphangitis and obtained successful results in arresting the symptoms in early cases. He also took special interest in the establishment of the local tuberculosis society in 1911 and was for two periods president of the British Guiana Branch of the B.M.A. In 1938 he was chosen to represent the Colony as its delegate at the International Leprosy Conference in Cairo. In 1942 his health began to fail and he went to the U.S., where he was operated on at the Mayo Clinic; after a few months his condition deteriorated, and while on a sick bed he received the award of the O.B.E. as a belated recognition of his brilliant public services.

The late Dr. FREDERICK JAMES JAYNE of Talgarth, Breconshire, studied medicine at the University of Glasgow and graduated M.B., C.M. in 1895 at the age of 21. He began practice at Talgarth as an assistant nearly 48 years ago. He was made a J.P. for the county in 1907, and for some years had been chairman of the local Bench; he also served on the Hay Rural District Council. From 1914 he acted as M.O.H. to the council until the appointment of a full-time medical officer for a combined district. Dr. Jayne was a member, and for some years chairman, of the County Insurance Committee and served long on the Health Committee. He also took a leading part in many other local activities, including the Breconshire War Memorial Hospital, the Pontywal Sanatorium, of whose house committee he was chairman, and the District Nursing Association. His two sons followed him in the medical profession, Dr. Robert Jayne succeeding to the practice, and Dr. John Jayne now serving with the R.A.M.C. in North Africa.

C. J. S. G. writes: Having been a close personal friend, since student days, of W. J. EASTWOOD, or "Jimmie," as he was popularly known, I would like to say how great a loss his passing will mean to his very many friends and patients everywhere, but particularly so in the Liverpool, Wigan, and Chorley districts. His humanity, kindness, sense of humane unfeeling sympathy without sentimentality endeared him to all, and he was greatly loved by children. It was a fitting tribute to a fine character to see so many of his former patients paying their respects at the memorial service held in Wigan.

The Services

Capt. (temp. Major) W. A. Heggie and Capts. P. S. Barclay, F. H. Edwards, N. Gill, L. G. Harper, and K. F. Patton, R.A.M.C., have been awarded the M.C. in recognition of gallant and distinguished services in the Middle East.

Dr. N. H. R. McCallum, Merchant Navy surgeon, has been mentioned in dispatches for great skill and devotion to duty under most difficult conditions.

AUXILIARY R.A.M.C. FUNDS

The Auxiliary R.A.M.C. Funds are to extend help to cases arising out of the disablement or death of doctors or dentists in the present war. By this extension, which was inaugurated at a recent meeting presided over by Lieut.-Gen. Sir Alexander Hood, D.G.A.M.S., financial help will be given to officers of the auxiliary branches (Special Reserve, Territorial Army, and the new Army) of the R.A.M.C. and the Army Dental Corps who are incapacitated wholly or in part as a result of wounds, sickness, or accident due to service in the present war; and to the widows and children of such officers killed in action or dying of wounds, etc. The Auxiliary R.A.M.C. Funds were founded by the late Lieut.-Gen. Sir Alfred Keogh in 1916 when he was D.G.A.M.S., and approximately £80,000 has been distributed for the benefit of widows and children of officers and men killed in action or severely disabled during the last war. The minimum annual subscription has been fixed at one guinea, and it is hoped that all intending subscribers will make their subscription retrospective. Cheques, etc., should be made payable to the Auxiliary R.A.M.C. Funds (1939), and sent to the honorary treasurer at 11, Chandos Street, London, W.1.

CASUALTIES IN THE MEDICAL SERVICES

Wounded.—Lieut. F. K. Crittenden, R.A.M.C., War Subs. Capt. G. D. McIntosh, M.C., R.A.M.C., War Subs. Capt. J. M. McKiddie, R.A.M.C., War Subs. Capt. G. D. Park, R.A.M.C., Capt. W. F. White, R.A.M.C.

Missing.—Lieut.-Col. A. C. Craighead, I.M.S.

Prisoners of War.—Major D. McC. Black, I.M.S., Capt. A. M. McGavin, I.M.S.

Medical Notes in Parliament

DECREASE IN POPULATION

Attention was directed to the threatened decrease in the population of this country in the House of Lords on June 8 when Earl DE LA WARR asked what consideration the Government were giving to the matter. Lord GEDDES contended that the serious fall in the birth rate really began as far back as 1780-90. There was not a very large fall till 1830, but from then onwards the trend had made itself manifest. There was an enormous increase in population with the change in economic conditions following the industrial revolution. In point of fact, however, the fertility rate was lower, and the increased population was the result of a vastly increased survival rate. That increase in survival rate was going on, but it was not the same thing as having an adequate supply of young life.

Beyond all this question of the fall in the birth rate there was a biological problem of the most serious kind. The whole question of what was happening to the germ plasm was such that it was possible to understand it in the human being very slowly, and they had to turn to animals to see what was going on. In Marshall's book they would find that wild animals brought into captivity, whose conditions of life were changed, at once showed perhaps a complete cessation of, or anyhow a drop in, reproduction. Changes of diet changed reproduction.

Coincidence of Higher Standard of Living

The fall in the human birth rate between 1780 and 1790 came along slowly during the Napoleonic wars. The fall was still slow during the economic chaos after those wars. In the 1830's the birth rate went down at the very time when the standard of living was going up and when the conditions of life were changed by the tighter packing of people in the cities. That suggested that there might be something comparable between that and the experience with regard to animals. It might be due to the whole change that was taking place in the conditions of life that the germ plasm in some places seemed to lose its capacity or almost its desire to reproduce. It was strange that with all this new luxury and new increased nutrition there should be a sudden drop of that sort in reproductive power.

He believed that much of the unwillingness to have children had really got its origin in the germ plasm, which itself was not actively reproductive, and that that was affecting the psychology of human beings. There should be a Royal Commission or, much better, a real general Staff of Health to go into the question of reproduction and other matters. Was there any hope, at the present stage of scientific knowledge, of finding a way to reverse the trend—if it, in fact, was a trend—of the plasm? He begged the Government to realize that there were reasons for believing that there were biological grounds at the back of this.

Medical Views

Lord DAWSON said that the facts were abundantly clear and their significance was ominous. From 1880 there had been a steady fall in the birth rate so that now 100 women, in the active generative period of their lives, who at one time would have produced 150 girl babies, would now produce only 75 or 76. It was clear that the nation was not reproducing itself. The composition of the population had been going wrong, and there had been an increase in the proportion of persons over 60 and a decrease in the proportion under 20. This meant that we should inevitably have a nation which was no longer replenishing itself. The pensioners were beginning almost to over-reach the producers. The facts of the change in the composition of the population and the decline in the birth rate were accepted by everyone. He agreed with Lord Geddes that there was a matter for inquiry, not by a Royal Commission but, he suggested, by a widely representative body of inquiry like the Royal Society.

While he believed that the very strong love of children had in no whit diminished, side by side there had developed a much more sensitive conscience about the individual life. While in the last century there was a very high birth rate, if all the children had lived life would have been economically impossible. The pregnancies far exceeded the number of surviving children, and the real safety-valve was the high infant death rate. The social conscience of to-day was far more developed than in the days of our mothers and grandmothers. It arose, first, from the dislike of losing children, and, secondly, from a dislike of the large infant birth rate. It was that gradual pressure of events which brought contraception to the front of the stage. In this century people said that they did not want quantity of children but quality.