
Licences and Diplomas


Diplomas in Physical Science were granted, jointly with the Royal College of Surgeons, to S. D. Elliott, R. J. Farnbach, R. A. Jones, G. G. Kayne, W. F. Lane, Catherine E. Murray, C. R. Pickard, T. S. Pratfall, W. V. Wilson.

Diplomas in Medical Radiology were granted, jointly with the Royal College of Surgeons, to E. W. Casey and F. Ellis.


ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND

The Begley Studentship, of a value of £20 per annum and tenable for three years, will be awarded in April to the candidate obtaining the highest number of marks in the anatomical part of the Examination in Anatomy and Physiology of the Conjoint Examinating Board in England held in March and April. Full particulars may be had from the Secretary of the College, Lincoln's Inn Fields, W.C.2.

BRITISH COLLEGE OF OBSTETRICIANS AND GYNEACOLOGISTS

A quarterly meeting of the Council was held on January 25th in the College House, 58, Queen Anne Street, London, with the President, Sir Ewen J. Maclean, in the chair. In a loyal address had been sent to King Edward VIII on behalf of the members of the Council, Fellows, and Members of the College resident in all parts of the British Empire, offering a respectful expression of their deep and sympatething sympathy, and congratulating His Majesty upon His Majesty, Queen Mary, and the other members of the Royal Family by the death of King George, and tendering to His Majesty congratulations on his accession to the throne. It was announced that the National Maternity Service had been submitted to the Minister of Health.

The report of the investigation into the use of anaesthetics suitable for administration by midwives was passed, and a full summary of this appears on page 273.
The following were admitted to the Membership of the College:

Alan John Stewart Lawson Boyd, South Africa; Mildred Isabel Ealing, London; Barton Gilbert, London; Stanley Henderson, Liverpool; Charles Roy MacDonald, Sheffield; John Sinclair MacVin, London; Thomas N. MacGregor, Edinburgh; Stanley Devenish Mearns, Sydney; Elizabeth Main Moore, London; Frederick Walter Gifford Nash, Bedford; John Gregory O'Donoghue, Melbourne; Patrick Playfair, London; Anthony Watson Purdie, Glasgow; Cleveland Patrick Scott, London; Edward Solomon, Falun; William Ralph Winterton, London; Bryan Leslie Jeffreerson, Leeds.

The following were admitted to the Membership of the College in absentia:


**SOCIETY OF APOTHECARIANS OF LONDON**

The following candidates have passed in the subjects indicated:


**Medicine.**—F. E. Bedell, M. G. H. Jones, R. L. Walsme.


The diploma of the Society has been granted to G. B. Barbour, R. H. Bembridge, J. P. McGuire, G. N. Rodgers, and R. L. Walsme.

**CONJOINT BOARD IN SCOTLAND**

The following candidates, having passed the requisite examinations, have been admitted L.R.C.P.Ed., L.R.C.S.Ed., L.R.F.P. and S.Glas.:


**Medical Notes in Parliament**

**[FROM OUR PARLIAMENTARY CORRESPONDENT]**

Both Houses of Parliament resumed the business of the session on February 4th. The House of Commons on that day discussed the Cotton Spinning Industry Bill.

Lord Kilmaine gave notice that in the House of Lords on February 6th he would ask the Government whether something could not be done to stop the independent broadcasting company of London, which broadcast through Radio Normandie and Luxemburg, from advertising patent medicines and fortune tellers, "such publicity being likely to lead to harm." The course of the debate will probably help to determine the Government's attitude to the Medicines and Medical Appliances Bill. Captain G. S. Elliston was prepared to introduce this measure if successful in the ballot for private members' Bills held in the House of Commons on February 6th.

Discussion on the Poisons List and Rules, now laid on the Table of both Houses, is likely in the Commons. Mr. K. W. M. Pickthorne may bring forward objections which have been expressed at Oxford and Cambridge.

**COMMITTEE ON CORONERS**

The Report of the Departmental Committee on Coroners was published on February 7th. The committee recommends that the office of coroner be retained, but that in future only solicitors or barristers should be appointed as coroners. It will when possible should have a knowledge of forensic medicine. In cases of suicide the Press should be prohibited from publishing an account of proceedings at the inquest beyond the fact that an inquest had been held, the name and address of the deceased, and the verdict that the deceased died by his own hand. No inquiry into the state of mind of the deceased should be made in cases of suicide save in so far as it might throw light on whether he took his own life, and no reference should be made in the verdict to the state of mind of the deceased. The verdict of felo de se should be abolished.

In evidence Sir Bernard Spilsbury said that a great deal of harm was done by the extent to which the details of inquests were published. Sir William Willcox was strongly opposed to publication of letters in such cases. Dr. Roche Lynch pointed out the danger of making known the poison which had caused the death of a person who had committed suicide. Chief constables who gave evidence all agreed that the publication of details in some cases was harmful. Representatives of the Trades Union Congress, in evidence before the committee, said they believed the publication of unwelshome details led to imitative suicides. The National Council of Mental Hygiene was disquieted at the increasing suicide rate, and said publication of details led to imitative suicides.

Recommendations are made for restricting the procedure at inquests in cases of suspected murder and in those of suspected manslaughter, including abortion. It is further advised that in cases which arise from road accidents, or are associated with war pensioners or with industrial accidents, the coroners' court should not assess civil liability. The committee recommends that the coroner should have discretion to dispense with an inquest in deaths due to simple accidents or to chronic alcoholism, or in deaths under an anaesthetic or during an operation. He should be obliged to hold an inquest in cases of suspected industrial disease. Post-mortem examinations ordered by coroners, save in exceptional cases, should be made by pathologists on a list to be kept by the Home Office under the advice of an expert advisory committee.

**Deaths under Anaesthetics**

Respecting deaths under anaesthetics, the committee says: "We consider that coroners should be informed of all deaths under anaesthetics in consequence of an anaesthetic, or to a simple operation; but that there should be an express statutory provision that, where an anaesthetic has been administered or an operation performed with reasonable care, a death which results should not be regarded as having arisen from the fact that an anaesthetic was administered or an operation performed, as a violent or unnatural death. It should, however, be provided that the coroner, before deciding not to hold an inquest because he is satisfied that reasonable care was shown, should have regard to any views expressed by the relatives of the deceased.

We do not propose to impose any statutory obligations regarding the reporting of these deaths to coroners; but, as the reporting of deaths by the registrar to the coroner necessarily involves some delay before the coroner is informed of the death, the committee recommends that the authorities should be asked administratively to ensure that the authorities of hospitals and nursing homes report to the coroner any deaths under anaesthetics or in the course of an operation, with such information about the circumstances of the case as the coroner may wish to have in this class of case. On receipt of this information the primary question to which the coroner should address himself is whether the circumstances are such that for his purposes the inquest is required. If this is important, it is important for the coroner to be present at the examination. If the coroner does not require a post-mortem examination to be performed, he should inform the registrar. If the coroner does not think it possible, he may order that the hospital may make arrangements for an examination for scientific purposes if such is thought desirable.

We have been impressed by the need for scientific inquiries into the causes of deaths due to anaesthetics. But the arrangements to be made for investigating these deaths, and for collating centrally the results of inquiries at local hospitals, do not come within our terms of reference. We refer it to the Ministry of Health, whatever this head may be called, that this head will facilitate the conduct of scientific inquiries in these cases."

**Coroners' Censures**

In another passage the committee states: "Mr. H. L. Eason, superintendent of Guy's Hospital and Vice-Chancellor of London University, and representatives of the British Medical Association, drew our attention to cases in which coroners have tended to use their public position for the
Medical News

Dr. Philip H. Manson-Bahr will deliver the Lettsomian Lectures on "The Differential Diagnosis of Diseases of the Colon (Dysentery and Colitis) and their Complications, with Special Reference to Treatment" before the Medical Society of London on Monday, February 17th, Wednesday, February 26th, and Friday, March 22nd, at 9 p.m.

Dr. Cecil Price-Jones will deliver a lecture on "The Sizes of Blood Cells," at University College Hospital Medical School, University Street, W., on Friday, February 28th, at 5 p.m.

On Friday, February 14th, Mr. W. McAdam Eccles, F.R.C.S., will deliver the Second Rae Memorial Lecture at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Keppel Street, W.C.1, on "The Neurones, and "Cancer," and "Problems of the Psychoses," at the Institute of Psycho-Analysis, 25, Gloucester Place, W., on Thursdays, February 13th and 29th, at 8.30 p.m. Admission to each lecture is 1s. 6d.

Three lectures on child psychology will be given at Carnegie House, 117, Piccadilly, W., on Mondays, February 17th and 24th, and March 2nd, at 3.15 p.m. The lecture will be given by Dr. Edward Glover, on "The Neuroses, and "Cancer," and "Problems of the Psychoses," at the Institute of Psycho-Analysis, 25, Gloucester Place, W., on Thursdays, February 13th and 29th, at 8.30 p.m. Admission to each lecture is 1s. 6d.

Owing to the death of King George V the annual dinner of the Medical Society of London will not take place this year. The dinner had been fixed for February 27th.

Owing to the death of King George V the annual dinner of the Hunterian Society, which was to have been held at the May Fair Hotel on February 13th, has been canceled. The Hunterian Oration will be delivered at the Mansion House, on Monday, February 24th, at 9 p.m., by Sir G. Lenthal Cheatie, on "John Hunter's Time and Ours."

A meeting of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain will be held at 17, Bloomsbury Square, W.C., on Tuesday, February 11th, at 8.30 p.m., when Professor F. P. Scofield and Mr. A. C. W. will deliver a lecture on "Chemical and Pharmacological Aspects of the Hormones."

A sessional meeting of the Royal Sanitary Institute will be held in the Grand Pump Room, Bath, on Friday, February 14th, at 5 p.m., when discussions on "Some Problems of Water Supply" and "Smoke Abatement—Industrial and Domestic" will be opened by Mr. F. P. Scofield and Mr. A. C. W., respectively.

Owing to the illness of Mr. H. M. Traquair, the two lectures on perimetry arranged to be given at University College Hospital Medical School on February 10th and 11th have been postponed.

Voluntary Hospitals (Paying Patients) Bill

In the House of Lords on February 4th the Voluntary Hospitals (Paying Patients) Bill was considered in Committee.

The only amendment of substance was in Clause 6, Sub-section (2) of Section 3 of this Act, an order authorizing the provision or maintenance of any buildings or beds shall not be construed as conferring on the committee of management any power, which apart from the order would not be exercisable by them, to apply funds in the provision or maintenance thereof.

On Lord Luke's motion, the following Subsection was unanimously substituted: "(3) Except to the extent of an application of funds authorized under Sub-section (2) of Section 3 of this Act an order shall not be construed as authorizing any application of funds."

The Bill passed through Committee.

Accidents in the Mining Industry

On February 4th Captain Crookshank informed Mr. Tom Smith that provisional figures for 1935 showed that in Yorkshire thirty-one persons were killed underground and twenty-one seriously injured by explosions of fire-damp or coal dust. From the same cause in Great Britain thirty-seven persons were killed and sixty-four seriously injured. Of ground seventy persons were killed and 224 seriously injured in Yorkshire, and 452 persons were killed and 1,476 seriously injured in Great Britain. As a result of shaft accidents two persons were killed and seventeen seriously injured in Yorkshire, and 183 and 788, respectively, in Great Britain. The figures for the calendar year in Yorkshire show a decrease, but in Great Britain they are 13 and 20, respectively, as compared with last year. In Yorkshire there were serious accidents in which ten persons were killed and nine seriously injured. In Great Britain there were serious accidents in which five persons were killed and six seriously injured.

The figures show that in Great Britain 5,382 persons were killed in 1935, and 62,255 seriously injured. In Yorkshire the figures are 3,290 and 46,377 respectively.

On the 17th February 3, 148 persons were killed and 7,847 seriously injured. In Yorkshire the figures are 2,290 and 21,557 respectively.

In Yorkshire there were 30,000 persons employed in mining, and 15,000 engaged in auxiliary occupations.

SPECIFICATION FOR HAEMACYTOMETER COUNTING CHAMBERS AND DILUTION PIPETTES

A committee of the British Standards Institution has prepared a "Draft British Standard Specification for Haemacytometer Counting Chambers and Haemacytometer Dilution Pipettes." The institution is now circulating copies of this draft for comment, and is desirous that the draft should have the widest possible consideration, so that the specification, when finally published, may command the maximum possible measure of agreement.

A copy of the draft specification may be obtained, post free, on application to the Director, British Standards Institution, 28, Victoria Street, London, S.W.1, to whom also all comments for amendment to the draft should be sent. All comments submitted to the institution will receive careful consideration when the draft is being revised for publication.
The examination of the sons of medical practitioners under 9 years of age for the two annual scholarships of £200 each by Sir Martin Coghill, Preparatory School, Broadstairs, takes place on March 3rd. Particulars may be had from the Head Master.

The Fellowship of Medicine announces that surgical tutorial classes will be given at the National Temperance Hospital, at 8.30 p.m.: on February 11th, injuries to joints, muscles, and tendons; February 18th, kidney and bladder; March 11th, thoracic surgery; April 1st, heart, liver, spleen, and pancreas. For Primary F.R.C.S candidates a course of lecture-demonstrations in anatomy and physiology will be given at the Infant's Hospital on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, at 8 p.m., from February 24th to April 24th. Advanced courses include gynaecology, at Chelsea Hospital for Women, February 19th to 22nd; neurology, at the Royal Infirmary at Newcastle; thrombosis and haemorrhages, at Brompton Hospital, February 19th to 15th; thoracic surgery, at Brompton Hospital, February 24th to 29th; M.R.C.P. clinical and pathological classes, at National Temperance Hospital, Tuesdays and Thursdays, at 8 p.m., February 25th to March 12th; orthopaedics, at Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital, March 9th to 21st. Week-end courses: children's diseases, at Princess Elizabeth York Hospital, February 22nd and 23rd; chest diseases, at Brompton Hospital, March 7th and 8th; clinical surgery, at Royal Albert Dock Hospital, March 14th and 15th. These courses are open only to members and associates of the Fellowship of Medicine. Full details may be obtained from 1, Wimpole Street, W.1.

The twenty-second annual conference of the National Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis will be held in the Conference Hall, County Hall, Westminster Bridge, London, on July 16th, 17th, and 18th. Further particulars will be issued in due course from the office of the N.A.P.T., Tavistock House North, Tavistock Square, W.C.1.

Beginning with the January issue, the title of the American Journal of Syphilis has been changed to American Journal of Syphilis, Gonorrhoea, and Veneræal Diseases, and it is now published bimonthly instead of quarterly.