The Services

AMERICAN HONOUR FOR SIR E. M. COWELL

The President of the United States has awarded the military decorations of Lieut.-Colonel and O.B.E. to Mr. E. M. Cowell, K.B.E., D.S.O., F.R.C.S., for “exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding service from September, 1942, to March, 1944,” as director of medical services at Allied Headquarters, Mediterranean Theatre. General Cowell was responsible for the medical services of the Allied landings and later operations in North Africa, Sicily, and Italy. “He welded together the medical services of the American and British forces and produced a high standard of organization which resulted in the saving of many lives and contributed to the well-being and comfort of the sick and wounded of both nations.” He received the decoration at the hands of General Eisenhower on Jan. 15.


The Cross of Merit (with Swords) has been conferred upon Acting Sqdr. Ldr. P. A. Carter, R.A.F.V.R., by the President of the Republic of Poland in recognition of valuable services rendered in connexion with the war.

CUSTOMS IN THE MILITARY SERVICES

Died in Italy—Capt. Michael Robert Mullins, S.A.M.C.

Repatriated in September, 1943, now known to have been wounded.—War Subs. Capt. N. C. Rogers, R.A.M.C.

Reported missing at Arnhem, now known to have been wounded and prisoner of war in Germany.—Major J. C. Longland, R.A.M.C.

Missing.—Capt. B. D’E. Barclay, R.A.M.C.

Prisoners of war.—Lieut.-Col. W. C. Alford, O.B.E., R.A.M.C., Major C. Russell, M.C., R.A.M.C.
the British Medical Association throughout his professional life; he took an unselfish interest in the work of the B.M.A., and was a diligent reader of the Journal. He attended and enjoyed many of the Annual Meetings, and was a member of the World Tour in the summer of 1935 when the B.M.A. met in Melbourne.

Dr. Edward Smallwood, of Knight's Hill, West Norwood, S.E., died on Jan. 15 at King's College Hospital. He studied medicine at University College, Liverpool, and in London, took the diploma on the M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. in 1901, and soon afterwards obtained the M.D.Brussels degree. He held various junior posts at the Royal Infirmary, Liverpool, before settling in practice at Norwood, where he became medical officer to the Norwood Dispensary and many medical organizations in the local children's hospital. During the last war he served as honorary physician to the Chelsea War Hospital, the Meynell Hospital for Officers, and the Lambeth Auxiliary War Hospital. Dr. Smallwood joined the B.M.A. in 1889 and was a past president of the Norwood Medical Society.

A great personality has gone with the death of Dr. Jane Lormer Hawthorne. She was one of the pioneers of sex education for the young and attempted successfully to tear down the veil of pruriency with which it had been enveloped. As a lecturer for the Alliance of Honour and the British Social Hygiene Council she had a great success; and several psychotherapists followed her in this, as also did her power of ranging herself along with her audience. She was not a lecturer "telling people" but one of themselves discussing the matter. She positively welcomed interruptions, and would lose all her anxiety when they took their own view of her attractive and interesting audience. As medical officer to child welfare centres in the early days she was able to give information in a form acceptable to the working-class mother. Her views (as in all matters) were widely shared by those interested in the health of babies over-flushed on to the walls of her Canning Town clinic. It was not enough for her that a normal healthy child had been produced and that the mother had satisfactorily established breast-feeding; there was always a careful examination with a note on the involution or position of the uterus and the condition of cervix and perineum. New ideas were always being tried out; there was no fear of mental stagnation when Dr. Hawthorne was about. She had diminished the troubles and difficulties for some time, and a love of gardens and plants was added to her other interests. One could not be in her company without realizing a very remarkable, original, and many-sided personality. L. M. P.

Dr. Ernest Worley's death, while a great loss to the B.M.A. as a whole, will be particularly felt at the meetings of the Officers and Council. His good year (writes a college colleague) he drew up a programme of monthly scientific meetings where the lectures were much appreciated and followed by good discussions. He was able to infuse informality and friendliness so that the younger members were not afraid to ask questions, and that their opinions were wanted. Those who had held office will long remember the dinners before the scientific meetings, where they had an opportunity of making personal contact with the lecturer. All this meant a good deal of organizing work, which was never shirked when medical work was heavy or when Dr. Worley might have been thought to be fully occupied as organizing secretary for the Centenary Meeting. Dr. and Mrs. Worley loved the Division, and the Division loved them.

C. J. de V. S. writes: To everyone who knew J. J. O'Mullane, whether as friends or patients, his early death will cause much sorrow and leave behind a void it will be hard to fill. His greatcapacity and his enthusiasm for those in his care, his readiness to give a helping hand to whosoever needed it, endeared him to all who came in contact with him. He had an outstanding sense of humour—a ready Irish wit which was a great help to carry away the cares and troubles of his patients. For many years he suffered from indelent heart, but his insuperable energy and his indomitable courage made him carry on his practice, never sparing himself day or night to go to the support of his patients. Although his physical practice was large he never failed to keep in touch with the latest advances in medicine, and his treatment was always the most modern. His knowledge of medicine was extensive, and if he had not felt his work laden in general practice he would have attained greater heights. I have worked with him, and no words can speak too highly of him as a colleague. His early death at the age of 52 years has cut short the work he was doing in Plumstead—work in which his heart lay; but in the minds of all who knew him one thought remains above all: "He was a man."
ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS IN IRELAND
Prof. W. N. Rae, Sc.D., Registrar of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, Dublin, has received the following letter from Sir Alfred Webb-Reed, President of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, dated Dec. 28, 1944:

"I beg to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of your letter of the 22nd instant enclosing a donation of one hundred guineas from the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland to the fund for the restoration of the Royal College. I shall be glad if you will inform the President, Vice-president, and Council of your College that this spontaneous gesture is very deeply appreciated by me and my colleagues on the Council of this College. The gift will always be remembered as a token of our friendly relationships and as an earnest of our cordial co-operation in the future."

Medical Notes in Parliament

Women Medical Students: Admission a Condition of Grant

Dr. Summerskill on Jan. 18 asked Mr. Willink to make a statement on the report of the Interdepartmental Committee on Medical Schools.

Mr. Willink replied that the committee recommended a comprehensive programme for the reform and development of medical education and research. Certain of the matters involved would require legislation. The Government proposed to discuss with the bodies concerned. Apart from these the committee's recommendations were in the first place for the responsible educational authorities to study in framing their future policies. The programme was to be carried out according to the available medical schools, and teaching hospitals to give the report early consideration. Recognizing the fundamental importance of medical education and research to the future of the country's health services, the Government accepted the principle of increased grants for the purposes of medical education and research to be distributed by the University Grants Committee through the universities to medical schools, postgraduate schools and institutes, and hospitals used for teaching and research. They also accepted the suggestion that for a limited period these additional grants should be separated from the block grants received by universities for their work as a whole. The amounts of grant to be made from time to time, whether for capital or for recurrent expenditure, would be determined after consideration in the light of the recommendations of the University Grants Committee and the general financial position prevailing. The Government shared the views expressed in the report on the importance of affording to women equal opportunities to those enjoyed by men for medical training and for obtaining postgraduate experience. They had therefore decided to recommend that the committee's recommendation for the increased payments of grant to medical schools should be conditional on the adoption by the school of the principle of admitting a reasonable proportion of students of both sexes. They recognized that medical schools offering only different sex opportunities might need periods of varying lengths to adjust their arrangements to a co-educational basis. They therefore proposed that the University Grants Committee in consultation with the university authorities concerned should be charged with the responsibility of determining from time to time whether the action taken by each of these schools complied with the principle to the extent that is reasonable. The Government attached equal importance to the revision of the medical curriculum. Their acceptance of the principle of increased grants for medical education and research was dependent on the early completion of this process. They were glad to learn that, as recommended by the committee, the General Medical Council had already taken the initiative in this matter.

Deaf Aids Committee

Sir D. Hacking asked on Jan. 8 for the names of the members of the committee appointed to advise and assist the Medical Research Council in connection with the development of instruments for the electro-physiological problems of design and application of instruments in alleviation of deafness.

Mr. Attlee: The members of the committee are as follows:—Dr. W. G. Radley (chairman), Mr. E. J. Barnes, Sir Lawrence Bragg, Mr. N. Fleming, Dr. C. S. Halpine, Mr. L. C. Pocock, and Dr. T. S. Littler (secretary). The committee has formulated a detailed programme of research, and investigations in which physicists, psychologists, and psychonomists are in progress. The investigations will take some time to complete, and it is not anticipated that the committee will be in a position to make any recommendations before the end of the year.

Tuberculosis in Repatriated Prisoners of War

On Jan. 16 Miss Ward asked the Secretary of State for War whether he was aware of the dissatisfaction of relatives with the arrangements made for repatriated prisoners of war suffering from tuberculosis; and if he would consider these complaints with a view to an alteration of the present policy. Sir James Grigg replied that it is the practice of the Army to discharge soldiers suffering from tuberculosis as soon as possible so that if necessary they may enter civil sanatoria near their homes. Repatriated prisoners of war are given special consideration, but it is sometimes delay in admission owing to pressure on accommodation. The Minister of Health has therefore set aside a number of beds in E.M.S. hospitals especially for Service patients awaiting transfer to sanatoria. This should materially help to remove any cause for complaint.

Miss Ward asked if Sir James Grigg would inform the Minister of Health that his arrangements were most unsatisfactory and ask him to improve them in the future. Sir James Grigg said he would certainly pass on the message, but whether he should do it in quite those truculent terms was a matter he would like to consider. Dr. Summerskill: In view of the fact that the repatriated prisoners of war, when discharged, are sometimes delayed in admission owing to pressure on accommodation, the Minister of Health has set aside a number of beds in E.M.S. hospitals especially for Service patients awaiting transfer to sanatoria. This should materially help to remove any cause for complaint.

Distillation of Salt Water

On Jan. 16 Capt. Strickland asked the Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of War Transport what steps had been taken by the Government to encourage research into the conversion of salt water into drinking water. Sir James Grigg said that research for this purpose was undertaken by scientists of the Biochemical Research Laboratory of the Ministry of Health, and that these laboratories were considering the practicality of such research. The scientific methods of distillation and a number of possible processes were being investigated, and the Government would continue to give support to these investigations.

Medical News

A meeting of the Medical Society for the Study of Venerous Diseases will be held at 11, Chandos Street, W., to-day (Saturday, Jan. 27) at 2.30 p.m., when Dr. David Erskine will give an address on "Difficulties in the Successful Treatment of the Venerous Diseased Patient."

Dr. Andrew Topping will speak on the "Aims of U.N.R.R.A. in the Health Field" at a meeting arranged by the Polish Medical Association in the U.K. to be held in the Hastings Hall of B.M.A. House, Tavistock Square, on Jan. 30, at 5 p.m. The lecture is open to all and will be followed by questions and discussion.

Prof. T. Wallace, D.Sc., will deliver two lectures on "The Diagnosis of Mineral Deficiencies in Crop Plants" before the Royal Institution, 21, Albemarle Street, W., on Tuesdays, Jan. 30 and Feb. 5, at 15 p.m.

The Science (Research) Society has arranged two public lectures. The first, on Wednesday, Jan. 31, at 6.45 p.m. in the City Literary Institute, Stukeley Street, Drury Lane, W.C., will be by Lady Eve Balfour, of the Haughley Research Trust, on "The Living Soil"; the second, on Saturday, Feb. 24, at 3 p.m. in the Hastings Hall of B.M.A. House, Tavistock Square, will be a technical discussion on "Soil Biology," by Lady Eve Balfour and Dr. E. W. Russell of the Rothamsted Experimental Station.

The Seventh Addendum to the British Pharmacopoeia, 1932, which was noticed in an annotation last week (p. 89) will be published on Feb. 1, and becomes effective on the first day of April. It will be published with the 10, Orange Street, Leicester Square, London, W.C.2, publish it for the General Medical Council.

Prof. F. Wood Jones, F.R.S., F.R.C.S., will give an address on "The Mammalian Toilet" before the Royal Institution, 21, Albemarle Street, W., on Friday, Feb. 16, at 5 p.m.