**Prescription Charge**

Mr. Arthur Lewis (West Ham, North, Lab.) asked the Minister in what numbers he had received letters of support and opposition, respectively, to the Government's increased Is, per pound prescription charge. Mr. Vosper told him that approximately 600 letters had been received criticizing the revised charge. Some letters had been received expressing approval of it. Dr. Edith Summerskill (Warrington, Lab.) asked how many executive councils had written. Mr. Vosper replied, "A very large number," and added that their replies all expressed the view that the scheme was working well except in three or four instances.

**Group Practices**

Dr. Barnet Stross (Stoke-on-Trent, Central, Lab.) asked the Minister how many group practices existed; whether he was satisfied that sufficient loan capital was still available for them; and what amount of increase over the annual sum of £100,000 was contemplated. Mr. Vosper stated that the total number was not known, but loans to about 100 such practices had been approved in England and Wales and the money involved was about £450,000. The fund was now increasing by over £100,000 a year, and he thought this should be sufficient.

**Food-poisoning**

Mr. Somerville Hastings (Barking, Lab.) called attention to the increase by 49% of food-poisoning incidents in 1955; and asked whether the Minister would arrange for an inquiry into the causation and prevention of such incidents. Mr. J. K. Vaughan-Morgan, the Parliamentary Secretary, said the causes and means of prevention were being continuously investigated by medical officers of health, supported by the Public Health Laboratory Service and the Ministry's medical staff, and he did not think that a special inquiry was required.

---

**Universities and Colleges**

**UNIVERSITY OF DURHAM**

In Congregations on December 15, 1956, the following degrees were conferred:


**UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER**

The following candidates have been approved at the examinations indicated:


Diploma in Public Health.—Cecilia F. G. Wild.

**ROYAL FACULTY OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS**

At a meeting of the Faculty held on December 3, 1956, with the President, Professor Stanley Atland, in the chair, the following were admitted Fellows of Faculty: J. S. Beck, A. Smith, J. M. J. Supramaniam.

**CONJUNCT BOARD IN IRELAND**

The following successful candidates in the recent final examinations under the Conjoint Board were admitted by the President of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland to the Licence in Medicine and Midwifery on December 7, 1956:


---

**INFECTION DISEASES AND VITAL STATISTICS**

Summary for British Isles for week ending January 19 (No. 3) and corresponding week 1956.

Figures of cases are for the countries shown and London administrative county. Figures of deaths and births are for the 160 great towns in England and Wales (London included). London administrative county, the 17 principal towns in Scotland, the 10 principal towns in Northern Ireland, and the 14 principal towns in Eire.

A blank space denotes disease not notifiable or no return available.

The table is based on information supplied by the Registrars-General of England and Wales, Scotland, N. Ireland, and Eire, the Ministry of Health and Local Government of N. Ireland, and the Department of Health of Eire.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cases in Countries and London</th>
<th>1957</th>
<th>1956</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Diphtheria</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dysentery</td>
<td>175</td>
<td>121</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Encephalitis, acute</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enteric fever</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paralytic</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food-poisoning</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infective enteritis or diarrhoea under 2 years</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Measles *</td>
<td>957</td>
<td>652</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meningococcal infection</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pneumonia †</td>
<td>260</td>
<td>197</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poliomyelitis, acute Non-paralytic</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Puerperal fever §</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scarlet fever</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuberculosis Respiratory</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuberculosis Non-respiratory</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W.Hoppe고</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Deaths in Great Towns</th>
<th>1957</th>
<th>1956</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Diphtheria</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dysentery</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Encephalitis, acute</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enteric fever</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influenza</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Measles</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meningococcal infection</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pneumonia</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poliomyelitis, acute</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scarlet fever</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuberculosis Respiratory</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuberculosis Non-respiratory</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W.Hoppe고</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- *Measles not notifiable in Scotland, whence returns are approximate.
- † Includes primary and influental pneumonia.
- § Includes puerperal pyrexia.
New Zealand, the Republic of Ireland, and Burma, in that order, all taking between £1m. and £2m. Sales to Egypt at £742,000 were nearly £400,000 down on the previous year, but there was a great improvement in sales to the United States of America, which at nearly £1m. easily surpassed last year's record of £660,000.

R.C.O.G.—The Royal College of Gynaecologists and Obstetricians announced the election of Sir Russell Brain, P.R.C.P., and Dr. J. C. Rubin, of New York, to honorary fellowships of the College in recognition of their outstanding services to medicine. Dr. Rubin became clinical professor of obstetrics and gynaecology at New York University medical college in 1948.

Statistical Prize.—A competition for the 1957 Frances Ward memorial prize of 50 guineas is announced by the council of the Royal Statistical Society. The prize is open to investigators under the age of 35 on October 1, 1957, whether fellows of the Society or not. The prize is for the best investigation, on statistical lines, of any problem bearing directly or indirectly upon economic or social conditions. Members of the Society's medical section are mentioned among those who may wish to enter for the prize. Essays should be limited to between 5,000 and 10,000 words, and the closing date is September 30. Further details can be obtained from the Royal Statistical Society, 21, Bentinck Street, London, W.1.

D.G.M.S., Air Ministry.—Air Marshal P. B. Lee Potter, Q.H.S., has been appointed Director-General of Medical Services, Air Ministry, from February 1. He succeeds Sir James Kilpatrick, who is retiring from the Royal Air Force.

Diagnostic Radiology and Radiotherapy.—The Faculty of Radiologists is now arranging courses, starting in October, for candidates for the D.M.R.D. and D.M.R.T. Further information will be found at p. 54 of our advertisement pages.

Cambridge University.—Dr. J. D. Lever, university lecturer in anatomy, has been elected to a staff fellowship at Trinity College on his appointment as college lecturer.

Professor W. M. Mitchell is to retire from the chair of veterinary surgery at the Royal (Dick) Veterinary College, Edinburgh University. He became principal of the College in 1946, and five years later was made director of veterinary education in the University of Edinburgh. He joined the staff in 1910. He and Mitchell graduated in medicine after his veterinary training.

COMING EVENTS

Royal Eye Hospital Centenary Year.—Medical staff dinner at the Royal College of Surgeons, February 21, 7.30 for 8 p.m. Tickets (30s.) from the medical secretary, Royal Eye Hospital, St. George’s Circus, London, S.E.1.

Institute of Dermatology.—Semi-permanent exhibition on “Cosmetic Dermatitis,” March 4-25.

SOCIETIES AND LECTURES

A fee is charged or a ticket is required for attending lectures marked •. Application should be made first to the institution concerned.

Saturday, February 9

ASSOCIATION OF CLINICAL BIOCHEMISTS: SOUTHERN REGION.—At West Middlesex Hospital, Twickenham Road, Isleworth, 2 p.m., scientific papers.

Monday, February 11

POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL SCHOOL OF LONDON.—3 p.m., Dr. J. McClintock (New York): Thyroid Cancer (lecture and colouring film); 4 p.m., Dr. Sheila Sherlock: Portal Hypertension.

Tuesday, February 12

BRITISH POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL FEDERATION.—At London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, 2.30 p.m., Mr. H. J. Seddon: Recent Work on Paralytic Poliomyelitis.

CELTIC CLINICAL SOCIETY.—At Rembrandt Hotel, S.W.3., 8.30 p.m., discussion to be opened by Dr. J. A. Dudgeon and Dr. F. O. MacCallum: Prevention and Laboratory Diagnosis of Virus Diseases.

Institute of Dermatology.—5.36 p.m., Dr. D. L. S. Scott: Genodermatoses.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF MEDICAL COLLEGE.—5 p.m., Lord Cohen of Birkenhead: Concept of Cleft Disease.

ST. MARY’S HOSPITAL MEDICAL SCHOOL.—At Wright-Fleming Institute Theatre, 5 p.m., Mr. W. G. Mills: Dysmenorrhoea and Pelvic Pain.

Wednesday, February 13

EUROPEAN SOCIETY.—At 36, Portland Place, W., 5 p.m., Galton Lecture by Professor T. H. Kemp: Genetic-Hyponic Experiences in Denmark in Recent Years.

Institute of Dermatology.—5.30 p.m., Dr. H. Haber: Clefis, Vesicles, and Ulcers.

Institute of Diseases of the Chest.—5 p.m., Mr. D. M. E. Thomas: Surgical Views of Primary Tuberculosis.

Institute of Urology.—4.30 p.m. for 5 p.m., Mr. H. K. Vernon: Indications for Treatment in Enlarged Prostate.

Lower School.—At London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, 5.30 p.m., special university lecture in pathology by Professor J. B. Douglas: Mechanical Factors in Infections, by Professor D. B. W. S. Smellie.

POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL SCHOOL OF LONDON.—2 p.m., Professor C. L. Green: Food Poisoning and the Food Hygiene Inspector.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF EDINBURGH.—3.30 p.m., Sir Harold Stiles Lecture by Mr. G. E. Mayor: Administration of Potassium to the Hypothyroid Heart.

ROYAL FACULTY OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS OF GLASGOW.—5 p.m., Venereal Lecture by Dr. E. N. Chamberlain: British Contributions to Cardiology.

Thursday, February 14

BRITISH POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL FEDERATION.—At London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, 5.30 p.m., Dr. W. J. Whelan, Ph.D., D.Sc.: Synthesis and Degradation of Polysaccharides.

GLASGOW UNIVERSITY MEDICO-PSYCHIATRIC SOCIETY.—7.30 p.m., Mr. S. A. Barnett: Freud and Instinct.

HUNTERIAN SOCIETY.—At Savoy Hotel, 7 for 7.30 p.m., annual dinner.

Institute of Dermatology.—5.30 p.m., Dr. S. C. Gold: Bullous Eruptions.

LIVERPOOL MEDICAL INSTITUTION.—At Royal Liverpool Southern Hospital, 2 p.m., afternoon clinical demonstration.

LIVERPOOL UNIVERSITY MEDICO-PSYCHIATRIC SOCIETY.—5.15 p.m., B.M.A. Lecture by Mr. G. T. Davies: Towards the Understanding of Personality in Schizophrenia.

LONDON UNIVERSITY.—At Meylerstein Lecture Theatre, Westminster Medical School, 5.30 p.m., special university lecture in pharmacy by Dr. H. W. Kent: Approaches to the Chemotherapy of Virus Diseases.

NUNFIELD ORTHOPAEDIC CENTRE.—At Wingfield-Morris Orthopaedic Hospital, 3 p.m., Mr. J. M. Monkard: Types of Surgery, and Operative Technique of the Femur.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.—4 p.m., Hunterian Oration by Sir Ernest Finch: Influence of the Hunters on Medical Education.

ROYAL MEDICO-PsYCHIATRIC SOCIETY OF MEDICAL EDUCATION.—At Chandos Street, W., 5.30 p.m., discussion: Psychological Factors in the Production of Epilepsy.

ROYAL MEDICO-PSYCHIATRIC ASSOCIATION: PSYCHOPATHOLOGY AND SOCIAL PSYCHIATRY SECTION.—At Royal Society of Medicine, 8.15 p.m., Dr. G. M. Cartman: Preventive Psychiatry: Is there such a Thing? (Open to members and guests).

ROYAL SOCIETY.—4.30 p.m., Dr. Honor B. Fertl, D.Sc.: F.R.S.: Effect of Excess Vitamin A on Cultures of Embryonic Chicken Skin Explanted at Different Stages of Differentiation, Dr. Margaret L. R. Harkness, Dr. R. M. Rosen, and Dr. D. A. McDonald: Collagen and Elastin Content of the Arterial Wall in the Dog.

ST. GEORGE’S HOSPITAL MEDICAL SCHOOL.—5 p.m., Dr. M. A. Patridge: Psychiatric Demonstration.

Friday, February 15

Institute of Dermatology.—5.30 p.m., Dr. P. F. Bottle: clinical demonstration.

Institute of Diseases of the Chest.—5 p.m., Dr. A. P. Norman: Cystic Fibrosis of the Airways.

Institute of Laryngology and Otology.—3.30 p.m., Mr. K. G. Rotter: Common Diseases of the External Ear.

KENT AND CANTERBURY HOSPITAL.—5 p.m., clinical meeting.

LONDON UNIVERSITY.—At Meiylerstein Lecture Theatre, Westminster Medical School, 5.30 p.m., special university lecture in pharmacy by Dr. E. W. Whelan: Approaches to the Chemotherapy of Virus Diseases.

POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL SCHOOL OF LONDON.—Professor J. B. Finn: Lymphoedema; 4 p.m., Dr. R. N. Rowlands: Symptomatology of Peptic Ulcer.

ROYAL MEDICAL SOCIETY, EDINBURGH.—8 p.m., dissection by Mr. I. B. MacDonald: Intestinal Obstruction.

ROYAL MEDICO-CHIRURGICAL SOCIETY OF GLASGOW.—At Royal Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow, 8.30 p.m., Dr. J. H. Crichton: Aphakia.

SOCIETY OF MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH: WELSH BRANCH.—At B.M.A., 195 Newport Road, L.R.C.P., 6.30 p.m., Dr. Alice M. Stewart: Survey of Malignant Disease in Childhood.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS


DEATHS


Duffy.—On January 13, 1957, Alfred Wienshter Forrest, M.B.E., M.B., C.M., of Myrtle Cottage, Mare Hill, Pulborough, Sussex, at his home, 2, Chiswick Place, Eastbourne, Sussex, aged 84.


Tuffs.—On January 6, 1957, at Salisbury, Southern Rhodesia, Charles Tuffs, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., 6.30 p.m., Dr. Alice M. Stewart: Survey of Malignant Disease in Childhood.