

We regret to learn of the death, at the age of 66, of FRANCIS XAVIER DA COSTA, F.R.C.S.Eng., L.R.C.P.Lond., L.M. and S.Bombay, which occurred on December 23rd, 1928, at Bangalore, Southern India. After receiving his early education at St. Xavier's College, Bombay, and graduating in medicine and surgery at Bombay University, he entered Charing Cross Hospital, and obtained the diplomas of the English Conjoint Board in 1888. For some time he served as house-surgeon to Charing Cross Hospital, proceeding to the Fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons, England, in 1890. Subsequently he held appointments as house-surgeon to the St. Peter's Hospital for Stone, and surgical registrar to Charing Cross Hospital. During this period he earned a high reputation as a coach in medical and surgical subjects. On his departure for India in 1894 he received from his teachers, fellow students, and pupils in England tokens of their appreciation of him as man and colleague. After some years' practice in Goa he proceeded in 1908 to Bangalore, where he soon commanded an extensive practice. In 1915 he was placed in charge of St. Martha's Hospital, where he worked until some five months before his death. He was highly respected for his professional skill, his genial manner, and ready sympathy. The Apostolic delegate in India, the Bishop of Mysore, and other high officials of the Roman Catholic Church have referred to the death of Dr. da Costa as a loss sustained by the whole diocese of Mysore. He leaves a widow, who is also a member of the medical profession, three sons, and three daughters.

The following well-known foreign medical men have recently died: Dr. JEAN SICARD, a prominent neurologist and professor of medical pathology in the Paris faculty of medicine; Inspector-General DELORME, formerly director of the medical school at the Val-de-Grâce Military Hospital and president of the Académie de Médecine, aged 82; Dr. JAMES BADAL, formerly professor of clinical ophthalmology at Bordeaux, aged 89; Dr. LÉOPOLD DANDOIS, emeritus professor of clinical surgery at Louvain and formerly president of the Belgian Royal Académie de Médecine; Dr. ERNESTO TRICOMI, professor of clinical surgery at Palermo; Professor HEINRICH WINTERBERG, a Vienna cardiologist; and Dr. PAUL SILEX, extraordinary professor of ophthalmology of Berlin, aged 71.

CORRECTION.

PROFESSOR T. WARDROP GRIFFITH desires to correct a slip in the obituary notice of Dr. J. E. Eddison published in the *Journal* of February 16th (p. 327). In the fourth line of the second paragraph, for "the first William Hey" read "the second William Hey."

Universities and Colleges.

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD.

At a congregation held on February 16th the degree of Doctor of Medicine (D.M.) was conferred on L. J. Barford.

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE.

At a congregation held on February 16th the following medical degrees were conferred:

M.B.—E. G. Recordon.
B.Chir.—I. C. C. Tchaperoff.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.

An ordinary Council meeting was held on February 14th, when the President, Sir Berkeley Moynihan, Bt., was in the chair.

The secretary reported the death, on January 28th, of Mr. Victor G. Plarr, M.A., Librarian of the College since 1897. The following vote of condolence was passed:

The Council hereby express their deep regret at the death of Mr. Victor Gustave Plarr, and their very sincere sympathy with Mrs. and Miss Plarr in their bereavement. The Council do also record their appreciation of Mr. Plarr's services to the College as Librarian, a post which he held with faithfulness and unflinching courtesy during the long period of thirty-one years. The Council recognize that the reputation of the Library has been worthily maintained during Mr. Plarr's term of office, and that the good order in which it has been kept during large additions and several extensions bears witness to his able direction and to the care and attention which he devoted to the duties of his office.

The Library Committee was requested to consider and report to the Council upon the steps to be taken with the object of filling up

the vacant office of librarian, and upon what alterations, if any, it would be desirable to make in Section 27 of the Standing Rules relating to the office.

The Diploma of Fellowship was granted to Russell Claude Brock, who had complied with the regulations.

Diplomas of Membership were granted to 143 candidates, and Diplomas in Public Health were granted jointly with the Royal College of Physicians to 37 candidates. (The names of the recipients of the diplomas were printed in the report of the meeting of the Royal College of Physicians, published in our issue of February 9th, p. 276.)

The President reported that he had appointed Mr. R. P. Rowlands as Bradshaw Lecturer for the ensuing year.

Mr. Ernest W. Hey Groves was appointed Hunterian Orator for the year 1930.

The secretary reported that from information recently received from Canada it appeared probable that there would be a sufficient number of candidates to justify a Primary Examination for the Fellowship being held at Toronto this year, that the dates of the examination had provisionally been fixed for August 6th and 7th for the written examination and August 9th and 10th for the viva voce examination, and that Professors William Wright, Le Gros Clark, Lovatt Evans, and John Mellaub had accepted the nomination to conduct the examination, Professor J. B. Leathes having found it not possible for him to act.

The President reported that he had received a letter from the Prime Minister enclosing a cheque for £1,000 as a grant to this College from the sum of money placed at the Prime Minister's disposal by Lord Beaverbrook in gratitude for his and his associates' escape in a recent motor accident; the sum to be expended either as capital or interest for the furtherance of medical knowledge—for example, research, studentships, contributions to scientific equipment or to the library, and not to be used for any purpose of a routine character or one which should be met out of ordinary income. The Council referred this matter to the Museum Committee for their advice.

A letter was read from Sir James Berry resigning his seat in the Council, such resignation to take effect at the end of the College year in June. The resignation of Sir James Berry was accepted with regret.

The President reported that an election of four Fellows into the Council would take place on Thursday, July 4th, at 11 a.m., in the vacancies occasioned by the retirement in rotation of Sir H. J. Waring, Mr. C. H. Fagge, and Mr. W. Sampson Handley, and by the resignation of Sir James Berry; that notice of the election would be given to the Fellows by advertisement and by circular on March 9th; that March 18th would be the last day for the nomination of candidates; and that a voting paper would be sent on April 2nd to every Fellow of the College whose address is registered at the College.

The Services.

DEATHS IN THE SERVICES.

Colonel William George Beyts, C.B.E., Army Medical Service (ret.), died in Queen Alexandra's Military Hospital, Millbank, on February 12th, aged 63. He was born on February 24th, 1865, educated at Guy's, took the M.R.C.S. and L.R.C.P.Lond. in 1889, and entered the army as surgeon lieutenant on January 30th, 1892. He attained the rank of lieutenant-colonel on January 1st, 1914, got a brevet colonelcy on January 1st, 1917, became colonel on December 26th, 1917, and retired in 1924. After retirement he filled the post of medical officer of the Tower of London. He served on the north-west frontier of India in the campaign of 1897-98, with the Kohat and Kurram Valley forces, took part in the action of the Ublan Pass, was mentioned in dispatches in the *London Gazette* of December 21st, 1897, and gained the Frontier medal with two clasps; also in the South African war in 1902, receiving the Queen's medal with three clasps.

Lieut.-Colonel Alexander John Willcocks, Bengal Medical Service (ret.), died of pneumonia at Dehra Dun on January 14th, aged 77. He was born on May 15th, 1851, the son of the late Captain W. Willcocks of the Indian Army, and was educated at Aberdeen, where he graduated as M.B. and C.M. in 1873, and as M.D. in 1883, and at Guy's, also taking the M.R.C.S. in 1873. He entered the I.M.S. as surgeon on September 30th, 1873, passing in first, of the first batch admitted to the service after the abolition of the rank of assistant surgeon, became lieutenant-colonel after twenty years' service, and retired on April 1st, 1901. For two years, 1903-5, he acted as a member of the India Office Medical Board. He rejoined for service in the war of 1914-18, when he served in Egypt, and was mentioned in dispatches in the *London Gazette* of July 6th, 1917. After the war he settled in India. Nearly the whole of his service was spent in civil employ in the North-West Province, now the United Provinces. While serving as civil surgeon of Bulandshahr, a small and unimportant station in that province, he distinguished himself by performing a greater number of surgical operations than had ever been done by any civil surgeon before, especially extractions of cataracts. Others may have met with even greater success in this direction in later years, but it was Willcocks who first