

of public safety. The vehicle must not be allowed to stand on the road so as to cause unnecessary obstruction. The driver must not quit the vehicle without having stopped the engine and applied his brake.

Unless adequate protection is afforded by the body, the motor vehicle must be fitted with wings or other similar means to catch mud or water thrown up by the wheels. All brakes prescribed by the Regulations (the requirements vary with the type of vehicle) must be maintained in good and efficient working order and shall be properly adjusted. Every motor vehicle propelled by an internal combustion engine must be fitted with a suitable silencer or other contrivance for reducing the noise caused by the exhaust. Vehicles must not cause excessive noise (except from some temporary or accidental cause) through any defects or lack of repair, or faulty adjustment in the motor vehicle or trailer, or the faulty packing or adjustment of the load. They must be constructed and maintained so that no danger is likely to be caused to other road users. This applies equally to the weight distribution, packing, and adjustment of loads.

## METHYLATED SPIRITS REGULATIONS

### EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

In a leading article in the *Journal* of December 6th last (p. 968), we referred to the Methylated Spirits Regulations, 1930. The Commissioners of Customs and Excise have published an explanatory notice on the new Regulations (Notice No. 55) for the benefit of doctors, dentists, veterinary surgeons, hospitals, and nursing homes. This memorandum explains the new position so clearly that we reproduce it below, substantially in full.

#### Notice by the Commissioners of Customs and Excise

1. Any medical practitioner, dentist, veterinary surgeon, hospital, or nursing home may, on application to the nearest officer of Customs and Excise, obtain authority to receive industrial methylated spirits.

2. Industrial methylated spirits consist of 95 parts of ethyl alcohol denatured with 5 parts of wood naphtha. They may be obtained in various strengths, including a strength corresponding to that of absolute alcohol.

3. Industrial methylated spirits received under an authority as in paragraph 1 may be obtained either from a methylator (in quantities not less than five gallons at one time) or from any wholesale chemist or dispensing chemist authorized to sell them (in quantities not exceeding four gallons at one time). On each occasion a "requisition" (in an official form, a book of which will be supplied by the officer of Customs and Excise) must be forwarded to the supplier.

4. Without obtaining any authority, any medical practitioner, dentist, veterinary surgeon, hospital, or nursing home may obtain industrial methylated spirits in quantities not exceeding half a gallon at one time, from any wholesale chemist or dispensing chemist authorized to sell them, merely on a written order signed by a medical practitioner, dentist, or veterinary surgeon. Hospitals and nursing homes should arrange for a doctor to whom they are known to sign orders for them.

5. Industrial methylated spirits received under either paragraph 1 or paragraph 4 may be (a) used in making up articles to be dispensed for medical, surgical, dental, or veterinary purposes, or (b) used or dispensed without admixture, or diluted with water, for any medical, surgical, dental, veterinary, or scientific purposes, but may not be used or disposed of for any other purposes.

6. In all cases the following conditions must be observed:

(i) To every bottle or other container dispensed to a patient and containing either an article made with industrial methylated spirits or industrial methylated spirits must be affixed a label bearing the words "For external use only," "Not to be taken," or otherwise to the same effect.

(ii) No greater quantity than one pint of industrial methylated spirits, either alone or as an ingredient in any article, may be dispensed at one time to or for the use of any one person.

## Scotland

### Professor Muir's Portrait

On the afternoon of Tuesday, January 20th, in the Randolph Hall of the University of Glasgow, Sir Frederick Gowland Hopkins, President of the Royal Society, presented to Professor Robert Muir, M.D., F.R.S., on behalf of the subscribers, his portrait in oils by G. Fiddes Watt, R.S.A., and to the University a bust by G. H. Pauling, A.R.S.A. Professor Muir has held the Chair of Pathology in the University since 1899.

### St. Mungo (Notman) Chair of Pathology, University of Glasgow

The curators, at their meeting on January 7th appointed John Shaw Dunn, M.A., M.D., to the St. Mungo (Notman) chair of pathology in the University of Glasgow, in succession to the late Professor John Hammond Teacher. The holder of this chair is *ex officio* pathologist to the Royal Infirmary, where he has, in the pathological institute, accommodation and facilities for teaching and research. Professor Shaw Dunn is 47 years of age, and was educated in Glasgow. After graduating M.A. in 1901, and M.B. with honours in 1905, he took the degree of M.D. with honours in 1912, gaining a Bellahouston gold medal for excellence in this thesis. He then held resident posts in the Royal and Western Infirmarys and in the Royal Hospital for Sick Children. Thereafter he became assistant in the pathological department of the Western Infirmary under Professor Muir, holding appointments in turn as lecturer in pathological histology and in clinical pathology in the university and director of the clinical laboratory in the Western Infirmary. During the war he was attached to the R.A.M.C., from which he retired with the brevet rank of major, and published important papers on war nephritis and gas gangrene. In 1919 he was appointed professor of pathology in the University of Birmingham, and in 1922 became Proctor professor of pathology in the University of Manchester. He has made numerous contributions to pathological literature in addition to those already mentioned.

### Care of the Child in Scotland

Under the auspices of the Edinburgh and Leith Parents and Parent-Teachers' Associations, a lecture was delivered on January 14th by Dr. John Guy, medical officer of health for the city of Edinburgh, who said that the past year had shown, with the exception of two war years, the lowest birth rate yet recorded in Edinburgh. During his own lifetime the fall in the birth rate in the city had been exactly 50 per cent. Approximately 7,500 children had been born in 1930. In his opinion the excuse for the low birth rate, often advanced at the present time, that quality was better than quantity, was untenable. The fact that the number of children born diminished each year so that families became smaller and smaller might be a condemnation of present modes of living. The Scottish race had been, and was, of too good a quality to be allowed to die out without regret, for a persistently declining birth rate ultimately meant the passing away of a race. Last year the birth rate was 17 per 1,000 and the death rate approximately 14, so that there were only 3 persons to the good out of every 1,000 living. A family of four might be regarded as a reasonable minimum. He had found that of the 7,500 children born 250 died before they were 4 weeks old, and he wondered how many of these children would have lived if they had been borne by well-developed, healthy mothers. In regard to the care of young children, he thought that, while physical and mental training was important, it was