

anatomy, physiology, and pathology of the oesophagus, and on March 20th the anatomy and nerve supply of the diaphragm. On March 9th Mr. C. E. Shattock will demonstrate specimens illustrating diseases of the colon and rectum, and on March 16th he will discuss affections of the kidney. The series will be brought to a close on March 23rd, when Mr. Reginald T. Payne will demonstrate pathological specimens relating to diseases of the gall-bladder and extra-hepatic biliary passages. The demonstrations, which commence at 5 p.m., are open to advanced students and medical practitioners.

The Services

DEATHS IN THE SERVICES

Lieut.-Colonel James Hickman, R.A.M.C. (ret.), died on December 18th, 1930, aged 75. He was born on September 26th, 1855, and was educated at Queen's College, Belfast, graduating as M.A. in the Royal University of Ireland in 1877. He took the L.R.C.P. and S.Ed. in 1880, and subsequently the D.P.H.Camb. in 1888. Entering the Army as surgeon on July 29th, 1882, he became lieutenant-colonel after twenty years' service, and retired on January 20th, 1904. He served in the Burma campaigns in 1886, receiving the Indian frontier medal with a clasp; in West Africa, in the Gambia campaign of 1892, and took part in the attack on, and capture of, Toniaataba, gaining the African medal with a clasp; in the Ashanti expedition of 1895-96 (star), and in the operations at Sierra Leone in 1898-99 (clasp); and in the South African war in 1899-1900, when he took part in the actions at Spion Kop, Tugela Heights, Vaal Krantz, and Pieter's Hill, and in the relief of Ladysmith, receiving the Queen's medal with two clasps.

Medical Notes in Parliament

[FROM OUR PARLIAMENTARY CORRESPONDENT]

The House of Commons was occupied this week with Supplementary Estimates. The Unemployment Insurance Bill was read a third time.

The text of the Nursing Profession (Hours and Wages) Bill has been issued. The Bill was introduced by Mr. Brockway on December 10th, 1930, and was down for second reading on February 26th. It is not expected to make progress this session. The Osteopaths Bill and the Hospitals (Relief from Rating) Bill were also formally set down for second reading this week.

The Pharmacy and Poisons Bill still awaits second reading in the House of Lords.

Cerebro-spinal Fever

Replying to Mr. Hacking on February 19th, Mr. GREENWOOD said that he was advised that an increase in the number of cases of cerebro-spinal fever, or spotted fever, was usual in the early months of the year, especially when influenza was prevalent. Local authorities and their medical officers of health were alive to the importance of urging precautions to prevent the spread of this disease. Mr. Greenwood stated that 272 cases of cerebro-spinal meningitis among civilians had been reported during the eleven weeks ended February 14th. There had been 79 cases of this disease reported recently in the West Riding of Yorkshire. The deaths could not yet be stated. Such preventive measures as were practicable were being used. Action taken by his Department included the close observation of reported cases of this disease, and the giving of advice, on request, to local authorities and medical officers of health on the isolation of patients and any practicable preventive measures. If necessary, visits were paid by medical officers of the Department to districts affected. The type of the prevalent organism was studied in the laboratory by the pathologists of the Department, who worked in co-operation with the pathologists of the Army, Navy, and Air Force. It was well established that overcrowding of persons in barracks, schools, and other residential institutions favoured the spread of meningococcus infection. The existence of overcrowding in such circumstances would be investigated in any district affected, but no notable example of such over-

crowding had been discovered during the present prevalence of this disease.

Mr. G. H. HALL told Sir H. Cayzer, on February 19th, that one case of spotted fever had occurred at Eastney Barracks, Portsmouth. No outside residents were permitted to attend any Divisional entertainment, and no football, hockey, or shooting matches would take place either at home or away.

On February 23rd Mr. MONTAGUE informed Mr. Groves that twelve cases of cerebro-spinal meningitis, of which six proved fatal, had recently occurred among Royal Air Force personnel stationed at Uxbridge. Eleven of the twelve men concerned had been vaccinated, but none had been inoculated. The dates of vaccination ranged from September 30th, 1930, to January 20th, 1931.

Mr. SHAW, on February 24th, told Lieut.-Colonel Heneage that the usual precautions to combat the outbreak of cerebro-spinal meningitis had been taken throughout the Army with regard to ventilation and prevention of overcrowding. Carriers were being searched for and immediate and remote contacts were being watched. In Aldershot, where rather special conditions obtained, special orders had been issued reducing indoor gatherings to a minimum. He was acting in concert with the civil authorities. With regard to investigations of the cause of the disease, the type of prevalent organism was studied in the laboratory by the Army pathologists, who worked in co-operation with the pathologists of the Navy, Air Force, and Ministry of Health.

Mr. SHAW also told Lieut.-Colonel Heneage that in England and Wales the published figures for the civil population showed a smaller ratio per 1,000 for cerebro-spinal meningitis than was shown for the troops. In regard to Scotland, the reverse was the case, but he was not sure that the figures were on a strictly comparable basis. The incidence of the disease was so spread that there were no grounds for connecting it with any particular type of barrack room. No barracks in the Aldershot Command had been condemned. The minimum cubic space allowed for British troops at Home Stations was 600 cubic feet a man.

Lieut.-Colonel HENEAGE asked whether, having in view the statement made by the Minister of Health that the disease was due to overcrowding, Mr. Shaw would pursue investigations on the types of barrack room. Mr. SHAW said that he would do so. Sir R. HUTCHISON: Will the right hon. gentleman make inquiries as to the percentage in each rank affected? Mr. SHAW: I am anxious to get all the information possible on these matters, and I will also make inquiries with regard to that question.

Mr. SHAW, replying to Mr. Freeman on February 24th, said that up to February 23rd the number of cases at Aldershot during the present outbreak of cerebro-spinal meningitis had been 13 (including a civilian nursing sister), of which 8 had proved fatal. The cause of the outbreak had not been ascertained. Twelve of the patients had been vaccinated, one within a week, one within a month, and the remainder from seven months upwards. Only one patient had been inoculated, and the inoculation was more than three years ago.

Asbestosis and Silicosis

On February 19th Mr. CLYNES stated that he had received a report from the senior medical inspector of factories concerning the death of a woman from heart failure following bronchial pneumonia accelerated by asbestosis. A draft scheme of compensation for this disease was issued last month, with a draft of the proposed medical scheme by which a medical board would be set up to deal with all cases of silicosis and asbestosis throughout the country. These draft schemes were now under consideration by employers' and workers' associations. He was impressed by the urgency of the question, and hoped to reach a final settlement by the end of next month.

Replying to Mr. Morley on February 19th, Mr. CLYNES said that the effects on the lungs of various dusts, including coal dust, were being investigated by an expert committee of the Medical Research Council. This committee was pursuing various lines of research, but the problems were complicated, and considerable time must elapse before definite conclusions could be reached. In reply to another question, Mr. Clynnes said that the Various Industries (Silicosis) Amendment Scheme, which amended the definition of "silica rock," came into force on February 1st.

Mental Hospital Laboratories.—Replying to Mr. Kinley on February 19th, Mr. GREENWOOD said that in some areas the local authority had provided a central laboratory for mental hospitals belonging to it. It was hoped, without prejudice to the principle of each hospital having a laboratory of its own, that such centralization might be developed elsewhere, particularly where the laboratory service could be based on the medical school of a university. It was not intended to attempt to set up a single central unit for this purpose.

Housing.—Replying to Major Nathan on February 19th, Mr. GREENWOOD said he did not consider that setting up a Royal Commission or a Departmental Committee would accelerate either the provision of new houses or the clearance of slums. Mr. Greenwood told Sir Kingsley Wood that the London County Council's programme for the next five years was 33½ per cent. more than for the last five years, but he was not satisfied that that was the best the Council could do.

Welfare of Coal Miners.—In the House of Commons, on February 17th, Mr. SHINWELL moved the second reading of the Mining Industry (Welfare Fund) Bill. He said that the Miners' Welfare Fund had been established for a period of ten years, which expired at the end of last year, and it was necessary to ask the consent of the House to proceed with the Fund for another five years. The Fund had provided drying rooms and shelters at the pithead, and in some cases drinking-water underground. Provision had been made for erecting hospitals and the endowment of these institutions in fifty-six schemes. These were costly propositions. There had also been thirty-seven schemes for the provision of convalescent homes. There was general approval of these institutions. There were thirty-one schemes for district nursing services and seventy-one ambulance services. Excellent work was being done in safety research by the Safety Research Board associated with the Mines Department. From the Miners' Welfare Fund approximately £50,000 had been devoted annually to research. The Bill was read a second time.

Sickness Benefit Claims.—Mr. GREENWOOD told Mr. Rhys Davies, on February 23rd, that no precise information was available in regard to the effects of the influenza epidemic on the applications for funds to meet claims for benefit. The applications in January did not show any considerable variation in amount, but further applications now being received indicated a serious increase in the claims for benefit during the last three weeks that might be due to influenza.

Finance of Health Insurance.—In reply to Mr. G. Macdonald on February 12th, Mr. GREENWOOD said that in 1928 employees' contributions to health insurance amounted to £12,600,000, and £32,300,000 was paid in benefits. The figures for 1929 were £12,700,000 in contributions and £34,500,000 for benefits, and in 1930 £12,800,000 in contributions and £32,550,000 in benefits.

Royal Veterinary College.—Dr. ADDISON told Mr. Ormsby-Gore, on February 12th, that it had been unanimously recommended that the Royal Veterinary College should be rebuilt on the present Camden Hill site. That recommendation had been accepted both by the Government and by the Governors of the College. The Government contribution of £150,000 was therefore offered with a view to reconstruction on the site. He did not wish to be considered absolutely bound, but understood that the committee's report was unanimous on the point.

Indian Medical Service.—Mr. BENN, on February 16th, told Major Pole that the contemplated establishment of the Indian Medical Department reserve of sub-assistant surgeons, the formation of which had been sanctioned by the Government of India, was 150 in the first instance.

An All-India Medical Council.—Mr. BENN also informed Major Pole, on February 16th, that the Government of India had reported, on January 27th, that the draft of a new Bill for the establishment of an All-India Medical Council was nearly completed.

Notes in Brief

Mr. Dalton reports that eleven European States have not yet ratified or acceded to the Geneva Gas Protocol. The first report of the Scottish Advisory Committee on Rivers Pollution Prevention has just been issued. The committee has not yet undertaken an examination of the Clyde.

Medical News

The Harveian Lecture before the Harveian Society of London will be delivered by Sir Percy Sargent at 11, Chandos Street, W.1, on Thursday, March 19th, at 8.30 p.m. The subject will be "The romance of the pituitary gland." At a meeting to be held on May 14th, Dr. Donald Hunter will open a discussion on indications and methods of treatment in calcium therapy. As already announced, the centenary celebrations of the Society will be held from June 11th to 13th.

At a meeting of the Royal Sanitary Institute, to be held on Friday, March 6th, in the Guildhall, Swansea, discussions will be opened on "The rheumatic child," by Mr. H. R. Tighe, F.R.C.S., and on "Housing," by Dr. J. M. Morris. The chair will be taken at 3 p.m. by Dr. Charles Porter.

The National Institute for Industrial Psychology will hold a conversazione at Aldwych House, Aldwych, W.C.2, on Thursday, March 19th, at 8.45 p.m. Sir Frederick Hopkins, P.R.S., vice-president of the Institute, will receive the guests.

The new wing for private patients at the Central London Ophthalmic Hospital, Judd Street, W.C., will be opened by Her Highness Princess Marie Louise on Thursday, March 5th, at 3.30 p.m.

Mrs. Philip Snowden is giving an "At Home" at 11, Downing Street, on Tuesday, March 3rd, in support of the rebuilding appeal on behalf of the London Temperance Hospital.

The secretary of St. John's Hospital for Diseases of the Skin, Leicester Square, asks us to state that the outpatient department is open daily at 1.30 p.m. and 5.30 p.m. (Saturdays at 1.30 p.m. only). Much inconvenience has been caused to patients, especially those who have come from a distance, who have been advised by their doctors to attend for treatment in the morning.

Particulars of the lectures and demonstrations arranged for next week by the Fellowship of Medicine will be found in our Diary of Post-Graduate Courses, published in the *Supplement* at page 68. Copies of syllabuses and tickets of admission can be obtained from the Fellowship, 1, Wimpole Street, W.1. The list of special courses arranged for 1931 is now available.

The next series of lectures and demonstrations on tropical hygiene for men and women outside the medical profession proceeding to the Tropics will be given by Lieut.-Colonel G. E. F. Stammers, from March 18th to 27th. Full particulars can be obtained on application to the secretary, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Keppel Street, W.C.1.

The Medical Society of the Mediterranean Coast has arranged a tour from March 29th to April 13th, which will include visits to Cannes, St. Raphael, St. Juan-les-Pins, Grasse, Nice, Cap Martin, Mentone, Monaco, and Cap Ferrat; there will be subsidiary excursions to Corsica, the Alps, and Italy. Fuller particulars of this tour can be obtained from the Federation of the Health Resorts of France, Tavistock House North, Tavistock Square, W.C.1.

King Edward's Hospital Fund for London has received from the Nizam of Hyderabad, through Sir Akbar Hydari, a donation of £2,000, as a token of his gratitude for the personal interest taken by His Majesty the King in the work of the Round Table Conference, and in that of the Hyderabad delegation.

The Gifford Edmonds prize of £100, awarded every two years, is offered for the best essay on radiant energy as (a) a pathogenic and (b) a therapeutic agent in ophthalmic disorders. It is open to any British subject holding a medical qualification. Preference will be given to original work rather than to compilations from the writings of previous observers. Essays must be sent in not later than December 31st, 1932. A leaflet giving full particulars may be obtained from the secretary, Royal London Ophthalmic Hospital, City Road, E.C.1.