

on their clothing reached the post in fifteen minutes or, if the liquid were on their hands, in five minutes, they would suffer as mustard gas casualties. To neglect the mustard gas problem would be foolish. He thought the hospitals committee was strong and useful, but it should have been appointed long ago. There was not only the question of providing hospital accommodation but the question of how that accommodation was to be controlled. How were the control and organization of the hospital system in London to be shared between the London County Council and the voluntary hospitals, and in what way was the hospital organization outside the London area to be controlled? There was something to be said for making the control of the hospital services of the country into a national service. The committee appointed by the Home Secretary must consider how the hospital service required for air raid precautions was to be co-ordinated with the hospital services required for civilians and for the Army, Navy, and Air Force. During the war the whole of this country was covered with a network of hospitals to which men were distributed when brought back from the front in France. What extra provision would be required under the conditions of a modern war? Judging by what had occurred in Barcelona, one bomb dropped in a big centre of population in this country might cause casualties equivalent to those caused in a first-class action in the war. Was there any question of increasing the number of hospitals?

Mr. GEOFFREY LLOYD, replying to the debate, said that by the regulations casualty hospitals would be the responsibility of local authorities, while base hospitals were a central Government responsibility.

Colonel NATHAN asked if that applied to voluntary hospitals and municipal hospitals, and Mr. LLOYD said that it applied to all hospitals. On the question of the possible evacuation of the population from London, Mr. Lloyd said time-tables had been worked out with the railway companies that 3,500,000 could be moved fifty miles or more out of London by rail in seventy-two hours.

The Vote for air raid precaution services was then carried by 174 to 95.

General Medical Service for the Nation.—On June 2 Dr. ELLIOT told Mr. Gallacher that consideration was being given to the proposals of the British Medical Association in connexion with national health insurance, including increases in medical and surgical benefits. He was not yet in a position to indicate the attitude of the Government.

Obituary

We regret to announce the death of Dr. ROBERT STEWART MOWAT, which took place suddenly in Edinburgh on May 24. Graduating M.B., C.M.Ed. in 1894, he obtained the D.P.H. of St. Andrews in 1901 and the M.D.Ed. in 1909. He was appointed assistant to the lecturer in medical jurisprudence at University College, Dundee, and subsequently resident medical assistant at Dundee Royal Infirmary. He then returned to Edinburgh, and for forty years carried on a large and successful practice. Dr. Mowat had been a member of the British Medical Association since 1895. A modest, genial, kindly man of great personal charm, and gifted with a keen sense of humour, he was very conscientious and enthusiastic about his work, and ever willing to give sound advice and assistance to a young man commencing practice. Dr. Mowat was familiar with all that is best in our literature. He loved our countryside, and there, without ostentation, he revealed his expert knowledge of botany and natural history. A large number of patients, friends, and colleagues paid affectionate tribute to his memory at the funeral service on May 27. He leaves a widow and one daughter, to whom much sympathy will be extended.

The death took place at his residence in St. Andrews Drive, Glasgow, on May 28 after several weeks of illness of Dr. GEORGE GRAY BUCHANAN, medical officer of health for the county of Renfrew. Dr. Buchanan was born at Kirriemuir in 1881, and after graduating M.B., Ch.B. at Edinburgh in 1902 and taking the degree of B.Sc. in public health in 1904, he became assistant to the professor of public health in Edinburgh University. Later he was appointed assistant to the medical officer of health for Midlothian, and shortly before the war became medical officer of health for East Lothian. After serving in France and India with the R.A.M.C. during the war, he returned to his post in East Lothian, and in 1919 was appointed to the position of county medical officer for Renfrewshire. Dr. Buchanan was a popular and efficient administrator and took a special interest in current methods of disinfection. He is survived by his wife, a daughter and two sons, of whom one is a medical practitioner in Glasgow.

Universities and Colleges

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

On June 1 Professor H. R. Dean, M.D., Master of Trinity Hall, was re-elected to the office of Vice-Chancellor for the academical year 1938-9.

At a congregation held on May 28 the following medical degrees were conferred:

M.D.—A. W. Williams, R. M. Bolam, J. H. Cyriax.
M.B., B.Chir.—*M. C. Hounsfield, D. C. Lavender, G. R. C. Peatfield, R. D. Holloway.
M.B.—*G. D. Wedd.

* By proxy.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

The Senate on May 18 awarded the degree of Ph.D. in Bacteriology (non-clinical) to F. Himmelweit (St. Mary's Hospital Medical School) and the degree of Ph.D. in Psychology to G. W. Goodall (London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine).

UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER

Dr. A. D. Macdonald, Leech Professor in Materia Medica, Therapeutics, and Pharmacology in the University, has been appointed Dean of the Medical School from July 31, in succession to Professor H. B. Maitland.

Dr. R. W. Fairbrother has resigned the post of lecturer in bacteriology.

Dr. Raymond Whitehead, lecturer in pathology, has been elected to a Rockefeller Fellowship and has been granted leave of absence for the session 1938-9 while working at the School of Medicine and Dentistry of the University of Rochester, New York.

UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN

Professor C. Heymans of the University of Ghent will deliver two lectures in the physiology lecture room, Marischal College, Aberdeen University, on Monday and Tuesday, June 13 and 14, at 5 p.m. On June 13 he will speak on "Some Aspects of Blood Pressure Regulation and Experimental Arterial Hypertension," and on June 14 he will discuss "The Role of the Aortic and Carotid Sinus Presso- and Chemo-receptors in the Reflex Control of Respiration." Professor E. W. H. Cruickshank will be in the chair. The lectures are open to students of the University and others interested in the subject.

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

Professor B. P. Babkin, M.D., of the department of physiology, McGill University, Montreal, will deliver two lectures in the anatomy lecture theatre, University New Buildings, Teviot Place, Edinburgh, on Tuesday and Thursday, June 21 and '23, at 5 p.m. In the first lecture Professor Babkin will deal with "The Regulation of the Secretory Activity of the Gastric Glands," and in the second he will discuss "Conditioned Reflexes: Their Significance in the Light of Recent Work." Students and graduates are invited to attend the lectures.