

structed with due regard to all the requirements of a rapidly growing up-to-date and well-equipped scientific teaching institution.

I enclose herewith: (i) a detailed statement showing the staff of the Government Rayapuram Hospital and Stanley Medical College with their qualifications; (ii) a statement showing the accommodation available and the number of patients received in the Government Rayapuram Hospital, both out-patients and in-patients, as well as in the various special departments of the hospital which afford opportunity for clinical teaching; (iii) a statement of the existing nursing staff as compared with staff available before the inauguration of the Stanley Medical College.

I would like to add that the institution, which at present is recognized only for the purpose of teaching the pre-registration and the first- and second-year subjects, is to be shortly visited by the Madras University Commission and its requirements assiduously studied. Further additions and improvements to the equipment and staff are under consideration by Government.

I trust that you will give wide publicity to the above, as otherwise members of the medical profession, particularly outside India, are likely to have grotesque and distorted ideas of the nature of medical relief available in this country and give an impression abroad that India is a land of magic and quackery.—I am, etc.,

G. DINKER RAU, M.D.,
Madras, Nov. 18, 1940. Principal, Stanley Medical College.

An American Surgeon's Assurance

SIR.—I think that readers of the *British Medical Journal* will be interested in the subjoined extract from a letter received from the U.S.A. this morning. It was written by a surgeon and dated January 7, when the Lease-and-Lend Bill was in its infancy, and it indicates how widespread at that time was the desire to help Britain to the utmost.

"You, I mean England, is having enough trouble. We are going to do everything to see that England does not fall. To you it may seem slow. A few months more will make a difference that even you will not believe. You will read of opposition, but it is a small minority—but vociferous."

—I am, etc.,

London, W.1, Feb. 18.

ARNOLD LAWSON.

Greetings from Mexico

SIR.—We have received in the offices of the *Gaceta Médica de México*, organ of the National Academy of Medicine, the Centennial Number of the *British Medical Journal*, for which we thank you profoundly. As Editor of the *Gaceta*, it gives me great pleasure to send you my sincere and cordial congratulations upon the centenary just celebrated, which marks an epoch in the history of the world medical press. It is my hope that your illustrious *Journal* will continue its existence as, in the words of Sir D'Arcy Power, "the representative organ of the medical man in general practice." May the *British Medical Journal* continue working, as in 1840, for "the maintenance of the honour and respectability of the medical profession."

This noble programme, which has been maintained and has gathered strength for 100 years, is an example to all the medical papers of the world, which I believe that they should follow, as they should also bear in mind what the founders of the *British Medical Journal* said in 1840 when they affirmed that scientific questions and practices related to medicine should be considered "not merely in the light of personal struggle, on the part of the medical man, for his own individual rights and privileges, but also as part of the system of a wise and effective form of government, in which the health and lives of the people become equally objects of attention with the regulation and preservation of the rights of property." Such wise and altruistic rules of conduct acquire in this painful epoch a vibrant reality and are a clear declaration of the great democratic spirit of England, which has always fought and continues to fight for the preservation of the fundamental rights of man, winning by its extraordinary example of fortitude and confidence the admiration of the whole civilized world.

Please receive this testimony of the cordial sympathy and the justified admiration of the *Gaceta Médica de México*, which celebrated its 75th anniversary in 1939, and our sincere wishes that the *British Medical Journal* should continue to bear the standard of medical ideals and, above all, that England, the mother of human liberties, should emerge from these calamitous times victorious in the struggle for the salvation of democracy and humanity. And as an objective demonstration of these sentiments, I ask you to receive henceforth the *Gaceta Médica de México*, which we shall be very pleased to send you, so that it may occupy a place among the other numerous medical publications that you certainly receive from all parts of the world.

I take advantage of this opportunity to assure you, Mr. Editor, of my attention and consideration.

Dr. ALFONSO PRUNEDA,
Dec. 11, 1940. National Academy of Medicine, Mexico.

** It gives us much pleasure to publish this translation of a letter from a brother Editor. We thank Dr. Pruneda for his congratulations and reciprocate his good wishes.—ED., *B.M.J.*

The Flannel Hood Respirator

SIR.—I feel obliged, very reluctantly, I admit, to refer to the appreciation of the late Colonel Sir William Horrocks in your issue of February 15 (p. 258). Sir Leonard Hill, the author, makes an error in supposing that Sir William Horrocks was the designer of the flannel hood respirator for the use of the British Army. This was suggested to the Central Laboratory at G.H.Q. by Captain Cluny MacPherson of the Newfoundland Forces (Medical Corps) as a type of respirator that might do. The Central Laboratory sent Captain MacPherson over to London with his respirator, and I myself was present when he arrived and showed his hood to Colonel Horrocks. I am quite sure that Colonel Horrocks went out "and ordered the flannel on his own responsibility." Such a course was quite in keeping with his character and just like him. He was one of the most charming men and one of the least likely to take up an attitude of waiting for something that seemed to him important. But that he designed the hood respirator is not true. Probably Sir Leonard Hill got the impression that he did so, but the facts are as stated.—I am, etc.,

S. LYLE CUMMINS,
Feb. 18. Colonel (R.P.), late R.A.M.C.

MOBILE PHYSIOTHERAPY UNIT FOR THE RED CROSS

The first mobile physiotherapy unit for the treatment of men in the Forces was presented by the Chartered Society of Massage and Medical Gymnastics to the War Organization of the British Red Cross and Order of St. John on February 21. Lord Horder, president of the Chartered Society, in making the presentation, said that in July last a member of the Society's council, Miss B. A. Wilson, brought forward the proposal that as a contribution to the nation's war effort subscriptions should be collected for the provision of mobile physiotherapy units. Her plan was that such units should be mounted in a small motor van so that they could be brought in any district to convalescent homes and hospitals which were not large enough to have a department of physical medicine. The proposal was adopted, and this first unit was subscribed for in the town and district of Sevenoaks, which name appeared on the van with the Society's coat of arms. The unit, which is to be staffed by a masseuse and a Red Cross driver, contains all the apparatus for giving electrical and light treatments, including infra-red and ultra-violet rays and paraffin wax baths, but apparatus for diathermy and high frequency is absent, the use of these methods being at present prohibited. The various apparatus and its accessories are mounted on four trolleys, which can be wheeled into the hospital. The unit was accepted on behalf of the War Organization of the two Societies by Sir Philip Chetwode, who said that it would be stationed in Warwickshire. It is the desire of the Chartered Society to provide a fleet of such units for use in all parts of the country, and later with the Forces abroad if necessary.