

Universities and Colleges

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

Part I of the Final M.B. Examination (surgery, midwifery, and gynaecology) will begin on Tuesday, June 17, and Part II (principles and practice of physics, pathology, and pharmacology) on Wednesday, June 18. Names of candidates should be sent to the Registry by April 29.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON ROYAL CANCER HOSPITAL (FREE)

The following candidates have been approved at the examination indicated:

ACADEMIC POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN MEDICAL RADIOLOGY.—*Part I*: I. H. Evans, C. K. Warrick.

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

The following candidates have been approved at the examinations indicated:

FINAL M.B., CH.B.—K. W. Beetham, J. F. Cameron, Frances C. E. Hutchison, A. F. Lang, Bertha Macfie (*née* Milne), W. A. T. M'Kendrick, A. K. M. Macrae, Joan M. M'William, T. M'I. Munro, E. J. Noble, M. R. Prestwich, Mary Scott-Wilson, J. G. Shearer, R. Taylor, C. C. MacD. Watson.

DIPLOMA IN TROPICAL MEDICINE AND HYGIENE.—E. Akwei, D. W. Horn, C. Odamtten-Easmon.

DIPLOMA IN PUBLIC HEALTH.—M. Nazir. *Part I*: Olive B. Barnetson, J. Cameron, W. Giles, Rachael Hunter, Margaret S. B. Langton, T. M. Small, Mona M. M'E. Thomson.

SOCIETY OF APOTHECARIES OF LONDON

The following candidates have passed in the subjects indicated:

SURGERY.—F. B. Beaver, G. R. S. Jackson, D. W. Mayman, R. South, A. M. Williams.

MEDICINE.—C. N. D. E. Eastes, R. South, C. H. Wood.

FORENSIC MEDICINE.—C. N. D. E. Eastes, R. South, C. H. Wood.

MIDWIFERY.—G. J. Ambrose, J. A. Dodds, J. S. McGillivray, R. South.

The diploma of the Society has been granted to F. B. Beaver, J. S. McGillivray, R. South, A. M. Williams; and C. H. Wood.

Medical Notes in Parliament

Fourth War Budget

Sir Kingsley Wood, Chancellor of the Exchequer, introduced the Budget on April 7. The standard rate of income tax is to be raised by 1s. 6d. to 10s. in the £, the tax on the first £165 of taxable income being raised from 5s. to 6s. 6d. Existing allowances are to be reduced as follows: earned income allowance from one-sixth to one-tenth with a maximum allowance of £150, and personal allowance for married persons from £170 to £140 and for single persons from £100 to £80. The extra tax paid because of these two reductions will be credited to the individual after the war in the Post Office Savings Bank, with a maximum credit of £65 for 1941-2. The exemption limit for both earned and investment income is reduced from £120 to £110. There are no changes in indirect taxation, but the Medicine Stamp Duty is to be repealed from September 2 next, and legislation introduced with the object of maintaining a fair balance between the interests of pharmacists and those of other vendors. The Chancellor stated that the prices of further essential goods and services are to be stabilized to prevent increases in the cost of living. The excess profits tax is to remain at 100%, but 20% will be refunded after the war for essential reconstruction and readjustment.

Science and War

In the House of Lords on April 2 Viscount SAMUEL asked whether the Government could make any statement on the extent to which the assistance of scientists had been enlisted in the prosecution of the war. He said that the council of the Institute of Chemistry had expressed the view that some of the Government Departments took too narrow a view of the term "scientist" and concentrated too much on professors from the universities and the like.

Lord HANKEY said that the three main pillars of scientific research were the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, the Medical Research Council, and the Agricultural Research Council. They were all responsible to the Lord President of the Council. There were joint committees on matters of common concern, and contacts could hardly be closer. On the defence side there were research organizations in the Admiralty, the Ministry of Supply (which undertook most of the research work for the War Office), the Air Ministry (which had now handed over most of its research work to the Ministry of Aircraft Production), and the Ministry of Home Security (which occupied a position intermediate between the Service Departments and the Civil Departments). In addition there was a good deal of research in the Civil Departments. The Scientific Advisory Committee was in close touch through the Royal Society with the great streams of scientific research and development, through the representatives of Government research with Government activities, and through its chairman and the Lord President of the Council with the policy of the Government in these matters. He did not agree that the Government interpreted the term "scientific" rather narrowly. The reason for the non-inclusion of applied scientists on the committee was not a failure to appreciate their great importance in the war effort, but simply that the proposal did not fit into the Government conception of the Scientific Advisory Committee. The Government was at present in touch with the professional societies concerned with a view to the possible establishment of a separate organization working in the field of applied science and in close touch with the Scientific Advisory Committee. The committee had devoted itself mainly to the contribution of science to the war, and would continue to do so, but it was also in touch with the Minister Without Portfolio, who was in charge of reconstruction. The Directors of Scientific Research of each of the Departments engaged mainly in war work were invited in turn to tell the committee something of their activities. The Medical Research Council was concerned in all problems that affected man's health and efficiency. This Council, with its forty-five committees or sub-committees, its National Institute for Medical Research, and its nine smaller research units, brought an immense assistance to the war effort. Before the war, in concert with the Ministry of Health, preparations were made for safeguarding public health against the risks of war conditions. An Emergency Public Health Laboratory Service was established with laboratories all over the country so that unusual outbreaks of disease could be rapidly identified. Stocks of antisera and vaccines were distributed throughout the country and provision made for their replenishment. The Medical Research Council assisted the Defence Departments by increasing the efficiency and well-being of men who had to operate aircraft, tanks, and so forth. Good work had been done by a Flying Personnel Advisory Committee, which, at the request of the Admiralty, had been extended to the Navy. A Military Personnel Research Committee had been set up. The success of the Medical Research Council was largely due to its being given full scientific freedom and complete control over the funds at its disposal. The Scientific Advisory Committee of the Cabinet attached great importance to the use of the facilities of the Medical Research Council. This would probably be extended.

Medical Care of Auxiliary Territorial Service

On April 1 Captain MARGESSON informed Miss Ward that the facilities for treatment of sick members of the A.T.S. were comparable in all respects to those provided for soldiers. An eminent woman doctor had been appointed to the A.T.S. Council to advise on all medical questions affecting the Service.

Captain Margesson also circulated a detailed statement as follows: A.T.S. personnel who wish to report sick attend at the medical inspection room provided for the unit or detachment or nominated for use by the A.T.S. in any particular area, and can there receive out-patient treatment from the medical officer. To meet the needs of those who require more than out-patient treatment, reception stations are provided for detachments of 300 and upwards, and sick bays are opened at medical inspection rooms for smaller units. At reception

stations the medical officer, who may be a woman medical practitioner, has a staff including V.A.D. nursing members and members of the A.T.S., and may have a sister or staff nurse if required. A.T.S. orderlies are authorized in sick bays where the strength of the detachment is over forty. As regards hospital accommodation, a wing for A.T.S. patients has been established in one large military hospital, and there are A.T.S. wards in over twenty of the larger military hospitals. In addition, military families hospitals are used for the A.T.S., and all the hospitals of the Emergency Medical Service of the Ministry of Health are available for them. So far as convalescent treatment is concerned, there is an A.T.S. convalescent depot, and a Red Cross convalescent home is reserved for the use of women serving with the Forces. Courses of lectures in hygiene have been arranged as part of the training of officers and other ranks of the A.T.S.

New Rates of Pay for Nurses

In reply to a question by Miss Irene Ward on April 3 Mr. ERNEST BROWN said that the shortage of nurses in hospitals providing for the general needs of the civil population, and in particular for infectious diseases and the old and infirm, was giving rise to anxiety. Available beds could not be used because of the shortage, and staffs were carrying on under increasing difficulties. He was appealing to women and girls to enrol for nursing service in any part of the country. Those who joined as nursing auxiliaries would not be sent to hospitals dealing with infectious diseases or mental cases or to sanatoria unless they volunteered for this service. Women who were prepared to take up nursing as a life career and to enter as student nurses one of the hospitals recognized as training schools would receive salaries at the rate of £40 a year, rising by annual increments of £5.

The salaries of members of the Civil Nursing Reserve in residential posts in hospitals were to be increased. Those of the assistant nurse and trained nurse included a sum representing the employer's contribution towards superannuation, and as from the first pay week in February the rates would be: nursing auxiliaries £55 a year, assistant nurses £70 a year, trained nurses £105 a year, with board, lodging, and laundry, and indoor and outdoor uniforms. Those who responded to the appeal and were accepted would receive a guarantee of a year's employment and would be asked to undertake to serve for that period. Recruits who joined as nursing auxiliaries would receive a short course of instruction in hospitals, during which they would receive 10s. a week as pocket-money, together with board, lodging, and laundry.

The Government had accepted the recommendation of the Athlone Committee that a Salaries Committee analogous to the Burnham Committees in the teaching profession should be established. The work of fifty-three State-registered nurses on the staff of the Ministry at Headquarters and in Regional offices, who were partly recruited for the E.M.S. services and partly for the public health and hospital work of the Department, would be grouped on its professional side into a Nursing Division of the Ministry under the general direction of a Chief Nursing Officer (Miss Katherine Watt) with two deputies.

Mr. Brown added that he had asked Miss Horsbrugh to make the Nursing Division her special concern. Mr. Johnston was making similar arrangements subject to such minor modifications as the conditions in Scotland required.

Increase in Scabies

Mr. ERNEST BROWN said on April 3 that there had been an increase in the incidence of scabies. Advice about the prevention and treatment of this disease had been given to local authorities, and their attention drawn to the importance of actively pursuing preventive measures under wartime conditions. Similar advice had been given in the leaflets and advertisements put out by the Ministry and the Central Council for Health Education. Further consideration was being devoted to the subject.

Notes in Brief

The number of medical officers employed by the Ministry of Health, including hospital staff under the Emergency Medical Service and officers on loan to other Departments or serving with the Forces, is 147, of whom fifty-two are serving in a temporary capacity. Sixty-three are employed in London.

EIREANN MEDICAL MISSION

A medical mission appointed by the Eireann Minister of Defence, which has come to London to study civil defence arrangements, was welcomed at the Ministry of Health on April 1 by Mr. Ernest Brown, Minister of Health, who was accompanied by Sir Weldon Dalrymple-Champneys, deputy chief medical officer at the Ministry. The mission, which is headed by Commandant Patrick J. Delaney, comprises nine surgeons and physicians. The members were presented to Mr. Brown by Mr. John Dulanty, High Commissioner for Eire. The mission will investigate medical problems arising out of evacuation and visit some of the reception areas. It will study the steps which are being taken by the United Kingdom Government to guard against the spread of infectious disease, and also examine the arrangements for maternity homes, first-aid posts, ambulance services, base hospitals, medical supplies, and blood transfusion. The Ministry of Health is providing full facilities for the mission's tour of inspection.

Medical News

There is an urgent demand for specialists in ophthalmology for the R.A.M.C. and the R.A.F.V.R. Any ophthalmologist who is prepared to offer his services and who feels that he can be spared from his locality is requested to communicate with the Secretary of the Central Medical War Committee, B.M.A. House, Tavistock Square, London, W.C.1.

The British Social Hygiene Council requires a part-time Medical Secretary to visit the Provinces and give lectures. Familiarity with social hygiene questions and interest in the sex education of adolescents are desirable. Particulars may be had from the Secretary-General of the Council, Tavistock House South, W.C.1.

At the next meeting of the Shaftesbury Military Hospital Medical Society, on Tuesday, April 15, at 3 p.m., the address will be given by the president, Major-General F. Casement.

The next meeting of the North-Western Tuberculosis Society will be held at the Tuberculosis Offices, 352, Oxford Road, Manchester, on Thursday, May 8, at 3 p.m., when Dr. S. Vere Pearson will speak on "What are we aiming at in Collapse Therapy?"

Dr. Cyril James, Principal of McGill University, Canada, suggested recently that the Colonial Office might regard it as a contribution to the war effort if McGill were to establish a School of Tropical Medicine to carry on the work of the London School, which was believed to have been temporarily interrupted. Telegraphing his "grateful acknowledgment of this very kind offer," however, the Secretary of State for the Colonies, Lord Moyne, was able to assure Dr. James that he had been informed that teaching is being carried on effectively at the London School in spite of present circumstances, and that it is not anticipated, unless conditions become much worse, that assistance on the lines indicated would be needed.

Steel helmets are now to be issued on loan free of charge to domestic staff of a hospital working full time but living out, doctors and nurses regularly employed in public air-raid shelters, members of the Civil Nursing Reserve employed as assistants to district nurses, nurses employed in auxiliary hospitals, and members of V.A.D. and ambulance organizations who have to work in the open or have to travel during air raids. The number issued will be limited to that required to carry out the particular service efficiently. Helmets may also be purchased with the aid of the appropriate grant for volunteers regularly employed in ancillary services.

Dr. W. F. Rhodes, professor of medical jurisprudence at the University of Capetown and senior pathologist of the Union Health Department, has been appointed as the representative of the university in the Leprosy Advisory Council.

Dr. E. D. Friedman has been appointed Director of the Department of Neurology at the New York University School of Medicine.