

that my services could have been more useful elsewhere, or if the work could have been undertaken by someone not physically fit. Meanwhile my home has been blitzed, and my practice—representing ten years' hard work—has all but vanished. Wartime sacrifices have not been limited to the armed Forces.

It seems unlikely that the majority of Service M.O.s have spent more than a small proportion of their time in "sitting beside a slit trench" (H. Holden, Nov. 4, p. 610). I remember being visited by an R.N.V.R. friend in the summer of 1941, who, after two years in an armed merchant cruiser, had seen neither enemy submarine nor aeroplane, nor had heard gunfire. On only two nights of that period had he failed to sleep in pyjamas. In those dimly remembered days London was considered "front-line."

The points mentioned by Majors Armstrong and Maddocks are very real disadvantages of Service medicine, but they seem insufficient to justify a conclusion that the work of the rest of us counts for nothing at all. Moreover, Service medicine has some small compensations—rank, variety of experience, travel, popular prestige, and the promised gratuity. Much of the bitterness of these letters might have been avoided if at the outbreak of war we had become a single national medical service, to attend to all, irrespective of uniform or the lack of it.—I am, etc.,

London.

"E.M.S."

### Death of Robert Burns

SIR,—It was high time that some member of the medical profession made a determined effort to explode the legend that Robert Burns died of drink and dissipation. It is doubtful, however, if Dr. S. Watson Smith has given us the true picture yet. If Mrs. Carswell's facts, as given in her well-documented life of Burns, are correct, it was neither drink nor infective endocarditis which killed the unfortunate poet, but his doctors.

It appears that after many months of joint pains, increasing weakness, and emaciation, Burns was ordered by his physician, Dr. Maxwell, to go to country quarters "and there indulge in sea-bathing, horse exercise, glasses of port wine, and iron water. He was already being heavily dosed with mercury" (p. 443). On June 16, though scarcely able to stand, he went by himself to lodge in a wretched village on the Solway. "Each day he waded shakily—he had to wade a long way to get the required depth—into the chill Atlantic water that he might stand obediently up to his armpits till it was time to drag his aching joints out again and slowly dry himself and sip his allowance of port. Riding was beyond him even if he could have hired a horse, and he had no money." The wonder is that he survived this treatment until July 18, when financial worries drove him home. He arrived in such a feeble, fever-stricken state that he could not climb the stairs to his bedroom, and he collapsed on the kitchen "box-bed," where he breathed his last two days later. But for alcohol he might have died sooner.

Even the lack of the stethoscope and the clinical thermometer hardly explains why Burns fared so ill at the hands of our profession. I am glad to see Dr. Watson Smith making the *amende honorable*.—I am, etc.,

London, S.W.3.

LETITIA FAIRFIELD.

### Medical Reciprocity

SIR,—Dr. James Burnet's letter on medical reciprocity with France (Jan. 6, p. 27) raises a much wider question on this subject. While expressing no opinion on Dr. Burnet's proposal, I consider that the whole question of reciprocity might be reconsidered in the light of present-day conditions. The English qualification, for example, is not generally accepted in at least one of our Dominions—Canada. Some Provinces accept it, others do not. Surely there should be reciprocity between this country and her Colonies and Dominions before permitting such a state between this country and foreigners.—I am, etc.,

London, N.22.

S. CHAPLIN.

### "Healthy Industry"

SIR,—It is difficult to understand how the reviewer of my book *Healthy Industry* (Dec. 30, p. 855) could have overlooked or misunderstood that it was written for managements interested in industrial health services. Obviously it was never intended as a discourse for medical men on industrial medical conditions in a factory, hence the omission of medical data redundant to a management of laymen. The annual report so adversely criticized is at least a factual record of work done and results achieved. If, however, the reviewer or any other industrial medical officers with practical experience of this type of work could enhance this report their contribution would be warmly welcomed, not only by myself but by all those engaged in similar work, and incidentally the purpose of this letter will have been achieved.—I am, etc.,

Liverpool.

JACK TARSH, M.B., CH.B.

## The Services

Acting Squad. Ldrs. S. Davidson and E. A. G. Goldie, R.A.F.V.R., have been awarded the Air Force Cross.

The following Air Force medical officers have been mentioned in despatches: Air Vice-Marshal F. C. Cowtan, C.B., K.H.S.; Acting Air Cdre. F. J. Murphy; Gp. Capt. J. D. Leahy, M.C., R. H. Stanbridge; Acting Gp. Capt. R. G. James, A. F. Cook, R. L. C. Fisher, F. E. Lipscomb; Wing Cmdrs. F. G. Mundell and R. Thorpe; Acting Wing Cmdrs. J. G. L. Brown, H. A. Graham, J. G. Stewart, J. L. Brown, J. F. MacCarthy, A. Muir, J. St. C. Polson, J. B. Ross, C. Wollaston, J. R. Cellars, D. J. Dawson; Squad. Ldrs. K. G. Bergin, P. M. Davies, J. H. P. Gauvain (deceased), L. D. A. Hussey, J. M. Kerr, M. L. Maley, A. T. M. Roberts, D. Skinner, W. H. C. Spooner, D. M. Wallace, O.B.E.; Acting Squad Ldrs. C. Bucknall, J. G. Burgess, R. H. Carpenter, G. Clayton, C. V. Gledhill, J. Guthrie, T. A. Hale-Monro, D. W. Higson, W. L. James, A. D. Messent, E. J. G. Murray, T. H. Redfern, C. O. Ribeiro, D. C. Russell, O. Scarborough, W. B. Waterfall; Fl. Lieuts. D. Laing, W. J. Lynd, W. R. K. M. Parry, F. S. Rickards, J. E. Sharpley, A. Standeven, P. W. G. Sutton, L. A. Sylvester, J. Taylor, R. G. M. Wedderburn, J. H. Wilkins, J. A. J. Wiseman, A. C. Smerdon; Flying Officer H. T. Foot.

### CASUALTIES IN THE MEDICAL SERVICES

*Killed by enemy action.*—Major William Napier, R.A.M.C.

*Died in hospital in India.*—Capt. Frank Alec Stuart Austen, R.A.M.C.

*Wounded.*—War Subs. Capt. K. M. Bell, A. Lyell, D. J. Tibbs, J. P. Weiss, R.A.M.C.

*Prisoner of war.*—Brig. C. H. Stringer, D.S.O., O.B.E.

## Universities and Colleges

### UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

The following candidates have been approved at the examination indicated:

ACADEMIC POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN MEDICAL RADIOLOGY.—P. C. Bhandari, A. S. Craner, F. Duval, N. Hajdu, A. L. Henderson, H. B. McDowell, J. Noriega, A. P. S. Sanders, A. A. Vickers, J. G. Winternitz.

### UNIVERSITY OF DURHAM

At a congregation held on Dec. 22, 1944, the following medical degrees were conferred:

M.D.—1 Helen Ramsay.  
M.S.—E. J. Field, R. A. Fleming, 1 J. Swinney, 1 H. K. Vernon.  
M.B., B.S.—W. R. Argument, Marjorie Bell, A. Bender, R. E. Blakey, A. McK. Brass, Doreen C. Brown, Elspeth M. C. Brown, N. Cardoe, R. G. Chaytor, Joan C. Dickinson, W. H. B. Ellis, A. J. A. Ferguson, A. C. Fleming, F. W. Fordyce, Mary M. Harrison, J. D. Irving, W. Jack, Kathleen D. Knox, Muriel M. Lingwood, J. L. McConchie, Norah Martin, P. Millyard, R. W. J. Naismith, E. M. Norman, G. E. Paget, R. M. S. Parker, A. Pearson, K. Pickworth, W. G. A. Riddle, R. K. Rowntree, Winifred H. Russell, Jane C. Salkeld, R. G. H. Salkeld, Viola E. Shafto, N. A. Sharples, S. G. Siddle, E. Silver, J. E. Stobbs, W. E. Stuart, Elizabeth Troupe, Doreen M. Watson, J. P. Wedderburn, G. E. Welch, J. T. Wheldon, Jean G. Wight, Mary C. Winters, N. E. Wood, N. A. Wynne, J. H. Batchellor.

1 In absentia.