

The Returned Service Doctor's Patients

SIR,—After six years' service in the R.A.M.C. I returned to my once prosperous practice last October, and although I expected to find myself not so busy as pre-war I had no idea what I should be up against. If it was not for the fact that I have obtained some temporary appointments I should have found it impossible to make both ends meet.

It is an extraordinary fact that doctors who were not in the Forces bemoaned the fact that they were grossly overworked and begged for the release of Service doctors, and those same practitioners, now that their Service colleagues have returned, show no willingness to relinquish one iota of their overwork. With one notable and stimulating exception all my colleagues show extreme reluctance to part with even one of my pre-war patients and quite happily remain overworked, attempting the impossible number of visits and having unhealthy (for the patient) and overcrowded waiting-rooms. Surely in all fairness this is wrong.

I want no reward for my Army service. I went in of my own free will in 1939, but I do demand that I shall not be penalized for it. There can be no doubt that those doctors who remained at home, uncomfortable as their circumstances must in some cases have been, have reaped a great financial return; without exception their practices have increased, in both private patients and insured ones. They did their job on the home front as we did abroad, but they had the supreme advantage of being with their families and from the practice point of view of being the "man on the spot." Let them now even things up; all I ask is that they should scrupulously examine their ledgers and return all patients whose doctors have been away, and then, should they still be called on to do more work than they can manage, let them pass some of it on to an ex-Service colleague.

I would ask them to ponder on the following facts: (1) The "panel" of all Service doctors must inevitably have dwindled by at least 60%. (2) The Service doctor's income during war has precluded any large measure of saving. (3) There is no real feeling between those who served in the Forces and those who served at home; the only real tangible difference is a financial one, although no money would buy the feeling of satisfaction that I personally feel over my service.—I am, etc.,

"DISILLUSIONED."

Association Notices

GROUP OF DERMATOLOGY

A meeting of the recently formed Group of Dermatology in the Association will be held at B.M.A. House, Tavistock Square, London, W.C.1, on Thursday, March 21, 1946, at 2 p.m. The Group consists of all those members of the Association who are engaged predominantly in the practice of dermatology. The agenda will consist of: (a) the election of a chairman; (b) consideration of the size of the Group Committee; and (c) a general discussion on the work of the Group.

CHARLES HILL,
Secretary.

Branch and Division Meetings to be Held

AYRSHIRE DIVISION.—At Ayr County Hospital, Sunday, March 17, 7 p.m. Clinical meeting.

EAST HERTS DIVISION.—At Mayflower Hotel, Hertford, Wednesday, March 20, 8.15 p.m. B.M.A. Lecture by Dr. Robert Forbes: The Doctor as a Litigant.

RETURN TO PRACTICE

The Central Medical War Committee announces that the following have resumed civilian practice: Mr. H. Burt-White, F.R.C.S., at 98, Harley Street, W.1; Mr. Maxwell Ellis, F.R.C.S., at 149, Harley Street, W.1; Mr. H. G. Estcourt, F.R.C.S.Ed., at 97, South Street, Eastbourne; Dr. E. P. Tulloh, at 21, Boscombe Spa Road, Bournemouth.

The Home Office announces that Dr. Alex Forbath, of Huddersfield, is no longer authorized under the Dangerous Drugs Act to be in possession of or to supply dangerous drugs.

POSTGRADUATE NEWS

The Fellowship of Medicine announces: (1) Week-end course in rheumatism, all day Sat. and Sun., March 16 and 17, at St. Stephen's Hospital, Fulham Road, S.W.; (2) Week-end course in diseases of the ear, nose, and throat (for general practitioners), all day Sat. and Sun., March 23 and 24; (3) Revision course in anaesthesia, all day, April 1 to 13, lectures and demonstrations. Detailed syllabuses from the Fellowship of Medicine, 1, Wimpole Street, W.

WEEKLY POSTGRADUATE DIARY

EDINBURGH POSTGRADUATE LECTURES.—At Edinburgh Royal Infirmary, Thurs., 4.30 p.m., Dr. E. L. Farquharson: Practical Considerations in the Surgery of the Hand and Fingers.

DIARY OF SOCIETIES AND LECTURES

ROYAL SOCIETY OF MEDICINE

Section of Psychiatry.—Tues., 5.30 p.m. Discussion: The Value of Play Therapy in Child Psychiatry. Openers: Drs. Margaret Lowenfeld and Alan Maberly.

Section of Physical Medicine.—Wed., 4.30 p.m. Paper by Prof. H. J. Seddon: Restoration of Function in Peripheral Nerve Injuries.

Section of Proctology.—Wed., 5 p.m. Discussion: Use of Medicaments in Diseases of the Colon and Rectum. Openers: Col. Hargreaves, Dr. F. Murgatroyd, Mr. T. H. Somervell, Mr. C. Naunton Morgan, Dr. J. L. Lovibond, Mr. Kenneth James, Mr. A. Dickson Wright, and Mr. Alan Hunt.

Section of Obstetrics and Gynaecology.—Fri., 8 p.m. Paper by Mr. A. J. Wrigley: Problems of Post-maturity: Film by Drs. I. M. Titcomb and M. M. Deane: Movements of the Human Foetus, with comments by Sir Joseph Barcroft.

Section of Radiology.—Fri., 8 p.m. Paper by Dr. A. Lacassagne (Paris): The Influence of Wave-length on some Radiation Lesions in the Mouse.

BIOCHEMICAL SOCIETY.—At King's College, Strand, W.C., Sat. (March 16), 2.15 p.m. Annual general meeting. Papers.

MEDICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON, 11, Chandos Street, W.—Mon., 8.30 p.m. Discussion: Benign Enlargement of the Prostate. To be introduced by Mr. Wilson H. Hey and Mr. W. E. M. Wardiil.

ROYAL INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND HYGIENE, 28, Portland Place, W.—Wed., 3.30 p.m., Dr. W. B. Stott: The Case for Diphtheria Immunization.

ROYAL INSTITUTION, 21, Albemarle Street, W.—Thurs., 5.15 p.m., Sir Henry Dale, M.D., F.R.S.: Chemical Transmitters of the Effects of Nervous Impulses—(3) Transmission of Excitation in Nerve Ganglia.

WEST LONDON MEDICO-CHIRURGICAL SOCIETY.—At South Kensington Hotel, 41, Queen's Gate Terrace, S.W., Fri. (March 15), 7.30 p.m., dinner; 8.30 p.m., Presidential Address by Dr. G. S. Hovenden: Fifty Years of General Practice.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS

The charge for an insertion under this head is 10s. 6d. for 18 words or less. Extra words 3s. 6d. for each six or less. Payment should be forwarded with the notice, authenticated by the name and permanent address of the sender, and should reach the Advertisement Manager not later than first post Monday morning.

BIRTHS

BERRY.—On Feb. 24, 1946, to Sybil (née Simons), wife of D. G. Berry, M.B. Vict., 36, Staverton Road, N.W.2, a son.

FISK.—On Feb. 26, 1946, at the Brunswick Nursing Home, Cambridge, to Dr. Susan Airey, wife of Mr. Geoffrey Fisk, M.B., F.R.C.S. Ed., a son.

JOAD.—On Feb. 10, 1946, at 21, Byfeld Gardens, Barnes, S.W.13, to Margaret Joad, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.A., wife of Peter Greenhill Andrews, a son.

PATTISON.—On Feb. 24, 1946, to Mary (née Andrews), wife of Surg. Lieut. Peter Pattison, R.N.V.R., of Sheffield, a son.

MARRIAGES

FOSTER—WHALLEY.—On Feb. 12, 1946, at Tingwall, Shetland, John Charles Foster, M.B., Ch.B. Ed., to Kathleen Lilian Whalley.

NAIRN—KEMP.—On Feb. 8, 1946, in Colombo, Richard C. Nairn, Surg. Lieut., R.N.V.R., to Barbara M. Kemp, Q.A.R.N.N.S./R.

PARKER—SAVORY.—On Jan. 22, 1946, at Merstham, Surrey, Capt. G. B. Parker, R.A.M.C., to Sylvia Maud Savory.

DEATHS

COURT.—On Feb. 20, 1946, at Norton Cuckney, Mansfield, Dr. Percy Hyde Court, aged 75, twin son of the late Sir Josiah Court.

GLYNN.—On Feb. 22, 1946, in London, after a long illness, Helen Moya (Helen Charles), dearly loved wife of Air Cdre. A. S. Glynn, C.B.E., M.B., Ch.B., R.A.F. (ret.), of Queen Alexandra Hospital, Cosham, Portsmouth.

McKINLAY.—On Feb. 23, 1946, after a short illness, at Beverley, East Yorkshire, Ann, dear wife of Peter C. McKinlay, M.D.

CORRIGENDUM

We regret the wrong line in the article on "A Suggested Industrial Health Service"—paragraph 5 of the section on Appointment and dismissal of the occupational health officer (Feb. 23, p. 38). The paragraph should read: "The Minister of Health should satisfy himself that the firm's pension scheme, which the occupational health officer should have the right to join, is appropriate and adequate."