

## Medico-Legal

### PATENT IN NEW DRUGS

Mr. Justice Jenkins, in the Chancery Division, delivered a reserved judgment in a petition by Boots Pure Drug Company, Ltd., for the revocation of letters patent granted to May and Baker, Ltd., and Ciba, Ltd., a Swiss company, for an invention entitled "manufacture of new benzene sulphonamido derivatives." His Lordship also had before him a motion by May and Baker, Ltd., and Ciba, Ltd., for leave to amend the complete specification upon which the letters patent were granted by substituting for the derivatives mentioned "para-amino-benzene sulphonamido thiazole" and "4-methyl-thiazole." The subject-matter of the application was a convention patent dated January, 1939, in respect of four applications made in Switzerland.

Mr. Justice Jenkins, in his judgment, after a hearing which lasted seventeen days, said the importance of the class of chemical compounds falling within the general description of benzene sulphonamido derivatives lay in the chemotherapeutic value which some of them possessed. The discovery of the therapeutic value of sulphanimide had set many chemists in various countries to work on the problem of producing some further derivative of the parent substance which would possess a wider range of activity and a lower degree of toxicity. The ideal, but probably unattainable, goal was a drug which would be completely effective against all infections and completely innocuous to the patient.

After reviewing the grounds of objection to the specification his Lordship allowed the petition for revocation of the patent. On the motion to amend the specification he held that the amendments would make the invention, as amended, different from the invention claimed by the unamended specification, and accordingly they were not such as the Court could allow. The motion was therefore refused.

His Lordship said if there was an appeal the order for revocation would be stayed pending judgment in the Court of Appeal.

We understand that the effect of this judgment is to throw open not only to Boots but to other firms the production of this group of drugs.

## Medical News

### RETURN OF PLEBISCITE FORMS

**The Plebiscite Forms are flowing in thick and fast. If you have not already returned yours, please send it in as soon as possible.**

#### Royal Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow

At a meeting of the Royal Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow held on Jan. 27, with the President, Prof. Geoffrey B. Fleming, in the chair, the following resolutions were adopted:

(1) The Royal Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons views with apprehension the failure of the Minister of Health and the Negotiating Committee of the medical profession to reach agreement and urges Parliament to amend the National Health Service Act and the National Health Service (Scotland) Act. The Royal Faculty considers that if these Acts are implemented in their present form they will not operate in the best interests of the public and will seriously impair the ultimate quality of medical treatment in this country.

(2) That the above resolution be communicated to the Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition, and the Press.

#### Guy's Hospital and the Act

At a meeting of the visiting medical and dental staffs of Guy's Hospital on Jan. 27 it was resolved by those present that, while continuing to serve the patients of the hospital, they are not prepared to accept service under the National Health Service Act until it is clear that it commands the confidence of the majority of the medical practitioners of the country.

#### St. Bartholomew's Hospital Resolution

The following resolution was approved unanimously at a meeting of the Medical Council of St. Bartholomew's Hospital:

"The Medical Council of St. Bartholomew's Hospital is unanimously opposed to the National Health Service Act as at present constituted and will not enter into any contract with the Regional or Teaching Hospitals Boards under this or an amended Act without further discussion in this Council.

This Resolution is made on the assumption that the whole-time officers will continue their work but that they will not enter into the field of general practice nor into new contracts as part-time consultants or specialists with the Regional or Hospital Boards, even if continuing their work involves accepting new contracts with new employing bodies to which they may be automatically transferred.

The whole-time officers will not take over the wards or duties of their part-time colleagues; the members of the staff will continue to care for their patients at St. Bartholomew's Hospital."

#### Westminster Hospital Disapproves

The medical staff of the Westminster Hospital has met and passed a resolution "strongly disapproving of the Act as it stands," and refusing to serve under it until it has been modified and agreement reached between the Government and the medical profession as a whole.

#### Voting Last Week

Very large majorities were recorded in all parts of the country against service under the N.H.S. Act as it stands. The honorary medical staff of the Kent and Sussex Hospital recommended consultants and specialists not to serve until agreement had been reached with the profession as a whole. The medical staff of the Warwick Hospital engaged in private practice met on Jan. 23 and decided not to accept service under the Act as it stands. Over the week-end a meeting of Norfolk doctors resolved by 78 votes to 1 not to accept service, and 141 members of the Guildford Division of the B.M.A. decided unanimously not to serve. At Liverpool 300 doctors unanimously passed a resolution expressing confidence in the B.M.A.'s leadership and policy. Doctors in the Bexley, Erith, Crayford, and Dartford districts of Kent voted unanimously against the Service. Croydon Division of the B.M.A. voted 168 against the scheme, 7 for it; at Hastings and Bexhill the voting was 94 to 1.

#### Art and Rehabilitation

Lord Horder will open an exhibition of pictures by patients from the mental treatment centre of Hill End Hospital, St. Albans, on Wednesday, Feb. 11, at 3 p.m., at Foyle's Galleries, Charing Cross Road, London, W.C., under the title "Patients' Paintings—A Pathway of Progress." A small exhibition on similar lines was held at St. Albans last summer and attracted considerable attention. It was opened by Mr. Adrian Hill, the artist and author of *Art versus Illness*, which deals with the advantage of painting in the rehabilitation of tuberculous patients at a sanatorium.

#### Saint Leonard's Hospital

Saint Leonard's Hospital, Shoreditch, is to be allowed to continue as a training centre for nurses as a result of the appeal against the General Nursing Council, which has been heard by Mr. V. Zachary Cope and Miss M. F. Dykes.

#### Association of Clinical Pathologists

The 21st anniversary of this Association was celebrated by a dinner at the Piccadilly Hotel on Friday, Jan. 30, with the President, Dr. Cuthbert E. Dukes, in the chair. The toast, "The Association of Clinical Pathologists," was proposed by Sir Wilson Jameson, and responded to by Dr. Sydney C. Dyke, to whom a commemorative medal had been presented on the previous day. Dr. Dyke pointed out that the Association had come into being as a result of the activities of provincial pathologists. The health of the guests was proposed by Dr. J. G. Greenfield and replied to by Sir Alexander Fleming. Dr. Norah Schuster, speaking for the women members of the Association, quoted from an epitaph on a German tombstone, which she translated thus: "You may not be good doctors, but you were kind to the women."

The Association has established a "Dyke Medal" to be awarded every three years to a distinguished pathologist who will give the "Dyke Lecture." The first award of the medal is to Dr. Dyke himself.

## COMING EVENTS

#### Socialist Medical Association

The North-west Middlesex Branch of the Socialist Medical Association has arranged a meeting for members and friends on Feb. 12 at Wembley Town Hall. Dr. Peter Dupre will speak on "The B.M.A. Negotiations."

SOCIETIES AND LECTURES

Monday

MEDICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON, 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, W.—Feb. 9, 8.30 p.m. "Folic Acid," Prof. J. F. Wilkinson. "The Differential Diagnosis of Tuberculous Cervical Adenitis," Mr. Hamilton Bailey. "Potassium Thiocyanate in Hypertension," Dr. Geoffrey Evans.

ROYAL SOCIETY OF ARTS, John Adam Street, Adelphi, London, W.C.—Feb. 9, 4.30 p.m. "Fats in the Life of the Nation," Cantor Lecture by Sir Jack Drummond, D.Sc., F.R.S.

Tuesday

CHELSEA CLINICAL SOCIETY.—At South Kensington Hotel, 47, Queen's Gate Terrace, London, S.W., Feb. 10, 7 for 7.30 p.m. "Some Difficulties in the Science of Crime Detection." Discussion to be opened by Dr. C. Keith Simpson.

INSTITUTE OF DERMATOLOGY, 5, Lisle Street, Leicester Square, London, W.C.—Feb. 10, 5 p.m. "Diseases of the Nails," by Dr. H. Corsi.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF LONDON, Pall Mall East, S.W.—Feb. 10, 5 p.m. "The Public Health Laboratory Service," Milroy Lecture by Prof. G. S. Wilson.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON: DEPARTMENT OF PHARMACOLOGY, Gower Street, W.C.—Feb. 10, 5.15 p.m. "The Pharmacological Chemistry of Enzymes (i)," Mr. F. Bergel.

Wednesday

SOCIETY OF CHEMICAL INDUSTRY: FOOD GROUP.—At Chemical Society's Rooms, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London, W., Feb. 11, 6.30 p.m. "Some Effects of Fumigants upon Foods," Drs. A. B. P. Page and O. F. Lubatti.

Thursday

HUNTERIAN SOCIETY.—At Grosvenor House, Park Lane, London, W., Feb. 12. Annual dinner.

INSTITUTE OF DERMATOLOGY, 5, Lisle Street, Leicester Square, London, W.C. Feb. 12, 5 p.m. "Psychosomatic Dermatoses," by Dr. W. J. O'Donovan.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF LONDON, Pall Mall East, S.W.—Feb. 12, 5 p.m. "The Public Health Laboratory Service," Milroy Lecture by Prof. G. S. Wilson.

ROYAL PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN (SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL GROUP), 16, Prince's Gate London, S.W.—Feb. 12, 7 p.m. "The Importance of Illumination in Photomicrography," R. McV. Weston, M.A., F.R.P.S.

ST. GEORGE'S HOSPITAL MEDICAL SCHOOL, Hyde Park Corner, S.W.—Feb. 12, 4.30 p.m. Psychiatric lecture-demonstration, Dr. D. Curran.

Friday

BIOCHEMICAL SOCIETY.—At Westminster Hospital Medical School, 17, Horseferry Road, London, S.W., Feb. 13, 2 p.m. Communications and demonstrations.

LEEDS AND WEST RIDING MEDICO-CHIRURGICAL SOCIETY.—At Leeds General Infirmary, Feb. 13, 8.30 p.m. "The Home, the Family Doctor and the Hospital in Relation to Child Care," Prof. W. S. Craig.

LONDON CHEST HOSPITAL, Victoria Park, E.—Feb. 13, 5 p.m. "Acute Respiratory Infections," Dr. R. Sleigh Johnson.

ROYAL MEDICAL SOCIETY, 7, Melbourn Place, Edinburgh.—Feb. 13, 8 p.m. "Princess Charlotte and the Uterine Haemorrhage of Pregnancy," Address by Prof. R. J. Kellar.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON: DEPARTMENT OF PHYSIOLOGY, GOWER STREET, W.C.—Feb. 13, 5 p.m. "The Evolution of the Surgeon," Dr. E. A. Underwood.

Saturday

KENT PAEDIATRIC SOCIETY.—At Farnborough County Hospital, Feb. 14. Discussion: "Tuberculosis in Childhood," Section I, 11 a.m. "Symptomatology and Diagnosis," Dr. D. G. Madigan; "Orthopaedic," Mr. J. H. Mayer. Section II (open to non-medical persons interested in the subject), 2 p.m. "Epidemiology and Prevention," Dr. R. Cruickshank.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS

BIRTH

Shaw.—On Jan. 25, 1948, at the Christopher Nursing Home, Wigan, to Doris May (née Annett), wife of George Hubert Shaw, M.B., Ch.B., a daughter.

DEATHS

Bray.—On Jan. 26, 1948, Frederick Richard Bray, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., of Hagg Lane, Sandygate, Sheffield, aged 79.

Hill.—On Jan. 25, 1948, at Oxford, William Hugh Hill, M.D.Ed.

Howley.—On Jan. 28, 1948, at Sunningdale, Henry Edward Howley, L.R.C.P.&S.I. and L.M., Lieutenant-Colonel, R.A.M.C., retired.

James.—On Jan. 29, 1948, at Southampton Borough Hospital, Henry Walter James, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Lunham.—On Jan. 28, 1948, in London, John Lumsden Lunham, M.B., B.Ch., F.R.C.S.I., Lieutenant-Colonel, I.M.S., retired, aged 69.

Prichard.—At Menai Bridge, J. Llewelyn Prichard, M.D., D.P.H., late M.O.H. and School Medical Officer, Aberdare.

Steele.—On Jan. 6, 1948, at Geranium Cottage, Reigate, Florence Harriett Steele, aged 90.

White.—On Jan. 27, 1948, Ernest White, L.D.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., of 17, Chesterford Gardens, Hampstead, N.W., and 86, Brook Street, London, W.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND VITAL STATISTICS

We print below a summary of Infectious Diseases and Vital Statistics in the British Isles during the week ended Jan. 17.

Figures of Principal Notifiable Diseases for the week and those for the corresponding week last year, for: (a) England and Wales (London included). (b) London (administrative county). (c) Scotland. (d) Eire. (e) Northern Ireland.

Figures of Births and Deaths, and of Deaths recorded under each infectious disease, are for: (a) The 126 great towns in England and Wales (including London). (b) London (administrative county). (c) The 16 principal towns in Scotland. (d) The 13 principal towns in Eire. (e) The 10 principal towns in Northern Ireland.

A dash — denotes no cases; a blank space denotes disease not notifiable or no return available.

Disease	1948					1947 (Corresponding Week)				
	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)
Cerebrospinal fever ..	47	3	13	2	—	58	6	31	2	1
Deaths .. ..		2	—	—	—		2	—	—	—
Diphtheria .. ..	203	21	59	19	9	256	18	78	40	10
Deaths .. ..		5	1	—	—		5	1	—	—
Dysentery .. ..	96	4	37	2	—	72	4	17	1	—
Deaths .. ..										
Encephalitis lethargica, acute .. ..	1	—	2	—	—	1	—	1	—	—
Deaths .. ..		1	—	—	—		1	—	—	—
Erysipelas .. ..			55	12	7			48	5	3
Deaths .. ..										
Infective enteritis or diarrhoea under 2 years .. ..				28					39	
Deaths .. ..	49	5	15	6	2	96	13	14	8	—
Measles* .. ..	3,304	240	899	137	16	11,087	378	276	61	890
Deaths† .. ..							15	1	—	3
Ophthalmia neonatorum .. ..	39	5	13	1	—	69	6	21	—	2
Deaths .. ..										
Paratyphoid fever .. ..	4	—	1 (B)	—	—	6	—	2 (B)	—	—
Deaths .. ..										
Pneumonia, influenzal ..	787	67	5	10	8	1,223	73	53	13	6
Deaths (from influenza)‡ ..		13	1	4	2		85	13	23	—
Pneumonia, primary .. ..			253	38	9			94	413	30
Deaths .. ..	468	50								14
Polio-encephalitis, acute ..	2	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
Deaths .. ..										
Poliomyelitis, acute .. ..	47	3	6	2	—	9	2	—	15	—
Deaths§ .. ..		5	1	—	—					
Puerperal fever .. ..			3	11	—			2	12	1
Deaths .. ..										
Puerperal pyrexia   .. ..	102	5	13	—	2	153	9	31	1	—
Deaths .. ..										
Relapsing fever .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Deaths .. ..										
Scarlet fever .. ..	1,754	109	377	24	49	1,226	106	276	22	29
Deaths† .. ..										
Smallpox .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Deaths .. ..										
Typhoid fever .. ..	2	—	1	4	—	4	—	2	4	—
Deaths .. ..						1				
Typhus fever .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Deaths .. ..										
Whooping-cough* .. ..	2,343	160	46	49	7	2,192	158	488	107	62
Deaths .. ..		6	1	—	—		18	7	1	2
Deaths (0-1 year) .. ..	415	55	66	27	12	622	81	72	39	9
Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 live births) ..										
Deaths (excluding stillbirths) .. ..	5,248	850	617	198	124	6,579	1056	785	277	155
Annual death rate (per 1,000 persons living) ..				12.8	12.4			17.3		
Live births .. ..	8,510	1397	920	412	285	10,628	1721	1260	404	269
Annual rate per 1,000 persons living .. ..				18.5	25.8			25.3		
Stillbirths .. ..	252	29	25	—	—	291	32	29	—	—
Rate per 1,000 total births (including stillborn) .. ..				26	—			22	—	—

\* Measles and whooping-cough are not notifiable in Scotland, and the returns are therefore an approximation only.

† Deaths from measles and scarlet fever for England and Wales, London (administrative county), will no longer be published.

‡ Includes primary form for England and Wales, London (administrative county), and Northern Ireland.

§ The number of deaths from poliomyelitis and polio-encephalitis for England and Wales, London (administrative county), are combined.

|| Includes puerperal fever for England and Wales and Eire.

Br Med J: first published as 10.1136/bmj.1.4544.280-a on 7 February 1948. Downloaded from http://www.bmj.com/ on 19 April 2024 by guest. Protected by copyright.