

Medico-Legal

NO INDECENT ADVERTISEMENT

[FROM OUR MEDICO-LEGAL CORRESPONDENT]

The police of Stalybridge recently prosecuted Mr. William P. Quinn, a shopkeeper in the High Street there, for unlawfully exhibiting indecent printed matter in his shop window.¹ They proceeded under the Indecent Advertisements Act, 1889, which prohibits the affixing of indecent advertisements to premises, and sought to show that the title of a book displayed in the window, *Veneral Disease: Its Prevention and Conquest*, was an advertisement, and that to exhibit such an advertisement in the window was equivalent to affixing it to the house. They did not claim that the contents of the book were indecent.

The solicitor acting for the shopkeeper said that he had never heard a more fantastic suggestion. The clerk to the magistrates declared that he was not disposed to advise them that the display of the book was an advertisement, and that he would advise them that the word "affixed" meant precisely what it said. The solicitor, applying for dismissal of the summons with costs against the police, maintained that the shopkeeper should not suffer financial loss owing to the "crass stupidity" of the police in bringing the summons. The bench, however, in dismissing the summons refused to make an order for costs.

The law on indecent publication is very obscure and confused, but there seems little justification for an attempt to stretch it as far as this. The remark of the solicitor for the defence, that if it is illegal to place books of this nature in shop windows there is not a bookseller from London to Manchester who does not commit an offence practically every day, is irrefutable. The time has long gone by when any useful purpose could be served by attacking in this way even really obscene publications, let alone innocent ones on such subjects as venereal disease.

¹ *Manchester Guardian*, January 24, 1950.

Universities and Colleges

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

The following appointments to the Senate for the period 1950-4 have been made: *Convocation—Medicine*, Sir Alexander Fleming, F.R.S. *Faculty of Medicine*, Dr. E. R. Boland and Mr. J. B. Hunter. *General Medical Schools*, Sir Harold A. Boldero. Dr. C. F. Harris has been appointed a member of the Senate as one of the representatives of the General Medical Schools for the period 1950-2.

John Bernard Kinmonth, M.S., F.R.C.S., has been appointed to the University Readership in Surgery tenable at St. Bartholomew's Hospital Medical College, from June 1.

UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

The following appointments are announced: Deryk Darlington, M.B., Ch.B., to be Lecturer in Anatomy from April 1; B. S. B. Wood, B.M., B.Ch., M.R.C.P., D.C.H., to be Lecturer in Paediatrics and Child Health from March 1; A. Lasnitzki, M.Sc., M.D., to be Senior Research Fellow in Biochemistry (Cancer Research) from October 1, 1949.

UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

At a Congregation held on May 19 the honorary degree of D.Sc. was conferred on William Norman Pickles, M.D., M.R.C.P., Medical Officer of Health for Aysgarth Rural District Council.

Rupert Allan Willis, D.Sc., M.D., F.R.C.P., Director of the Pathology Department of the Royal Cancer Hospital, London, has been appointed Professor of Pathology in the University from October 1.

UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD

The following appointments are announced: *Demonstrators in Anatomy*, J. B. Parkin, M.B., Ch.B., and B. A. E. Johns, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.P. *Research Assistant in Medicine*, Margaret M.

Platts, M.B., Ch.B. *Junior Graves Research Fellow*, G. Ansell, M.D., M.R.C.P. *Honorary Demonstrator (part-time) in Bacteriology*, J. C. Burne, M.B., Ch.B.

Dr. J. A. Kilpatrick has resigned from the post of lecturer in medicine, on returning to New Zealand, and Dr. R. O'Rahilly as lecturer in anatomy, on taking up a travelling scholarship to the U.S.A.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND

The following lectures will be delivered at the College (Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, W.C.) at 5 p.m. each day: Tuesday, June 6, Arnott Demonstration by Mr. F. S. Gorrill, "The Anatomy and Physiology of the Spleen"; Wednesday, June 14, Ophthalmology Lecture by Professor Leon Stone, "Development of Normal and Reversed Vision in Transplanted Eyes"; Thursday, June 15, Hunterian Lecture by Professor S. A. Henry, "Cutaneous Cancer in Relation to Occupation"; Monday, June 19, Moynihan Lecture by Professor F. M. Burnet, F.R.S., "The Natural History of Surgical Infection"; Thursday, June 22, Erasmus Wilson Demonstration by Mr. P. H. Mitchiner, "Dry Bones"; Tuesday, June 27, Hunterian Lecture by Dr. Arthur W. Allen, "Modern Trends in Colonic Surgery." The lectures are open to all those attending courses in the College and to all other medical practitioners, dental surgeons, and advanced students.

At a meeting of the Council of the College, held on May 11, with Sir Cecil Wakeley, President, in the chair, Dr. David Slome was appointed Professor of Applied Physiology in the College.

The Cecil Joll Prize for 1950 was awarded to Sir Thomas Dunhill for his outstanding work on surgery of the thyroid.

The following hospitals were recognized under paragraph 23 of the Fellowship regulations: Aberystwyth-Cardiganshire General Hospital, senior house-surgeon (for six months only); Derbyshire Royal Infirmary, ear, nose and throat registrar (additional post); Salford Royal Hospital, two senior surgical registrars, two surgical registrars, three junior surgical registrars, one registrar, ear, nose and throat; Morrilton Hospital, Swansea, three registrars and (for six months only) house-surgeon for general surgery, house-surgeon for neurosurgery, and house-surgeon for orthopaedics.

Diplomas of Membership were granted to the 204 successful candidates whose names were printed in the report of the meeting of the Royal College of Physicians of London in the *Journal* of May 13 (p. 1150).

Diplomas of Fellowship in Dental Surgery were granted to the following successful candidates: P. F. B. Gillett, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D. C. Smith, G. E. Ray, E. H. Cooper, A. Karim, A. D. McIntyre, A. W. D. Cowan, H. D. Penney.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF EDINBURGH

At a meeting of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh held on May 17, with Mr. W. Quarry Wood, President, in the chair, the following candidates, having passed the requisite examinations, were admitted Fellows: K. S. Alam, A. D. R. Batchelor, B. B. Bhattacharyya, A. L. De P. Carnegie, H. V. Corbett, A. S. Davidson, I. B. Faris, F. M. Fattouh, C. F. G. Fourie, E. F. B. Hamilton, A. P. Hayward, N. L. Kalle, J. Lister, R. S. McCrea, A. G. O'Malley, R. G. Parker, I. R. Ross, L. M. Satchwell.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF OBSTETRICIANS AND GYNAECOLOGISTS

Through the generosity of the Leverhulme Trust the Council of the College is in a position to award scholarships for the purposes of research into problems connected with obstetrics and/or gynaecology. The scholarships may be held simultaneously with another appointment if, in the opinion of the Council, sufficient time is available for research. Regulations and forms of application can be obtained from the secretary of the College, 58, Queen Anne Street, London, W.1. The last day for receiving applications on the prescribed form is July 1.

The National Corporation for the Care of Old People supports three "Darby and Joan" clubs at Croydon, Lewisham, and Streatham. The clubs are open six days a week, and each has 1,000 members or more on its books. They provide a sitting-room and recreation space, and meals at reasonable prices. In the second National Report of the Corporation the governors state that they cannot support similar ventures without discovering if it is possible for voluntary organizations to find the heavy annual maintenance costs. They feel that these clubs can do much towards helping to solve, at least temporarily, the difficulties arising from lack of housing accommodation, but a higher proportion of voluntary assistance is called for.