

and lecturer of the St. John Ambulance Association. He was a member of the executive committee of the Hampstead Division of the British Medical Association, and one of the representatives of the Division on the council of the Metropolitan Counties Branch, and was an ex-president of the Hampstead Medical Society. Dr. MacFadden had served as surgeon to the Cedar Lawn Military Hospital, medical officer in charge of the American Hospital, Caenwood Towers, medical officer of the Officers' Recuperative Hostel, Oakhill Lodge, and surgeon to the British Red Cross Hospital, Bulgarian Relief Section, in the second Balkan war, and was appointed Chevalier avec Couronne de l'Ordre du Mérite Civil du Bulgarie. He took great interest in local affairs and was a member of the Hampstead Borough Council for thirteen years, during which period he had served on a number of committees. He was chairman of the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee for two and a half years, and chairman of the Public Health Committee from 1920 to 1922, and again since 1929. On the day of his death he had been discussing with the officials a report of his committee till 5 p.m., and subsequently attended a patient. At the meeting of the town council, held on the evening of June 26th, when the mayor announced the sudden death of Dr. MacFadden, the members stood in silence as a sign of respect. For his services in connexion with the European war he received the decoration of O.B.E. Dr. MacFadden is survived by his widow, one son, and one daughter.

Medical Notes in Parliament.

[FROM OUR PARLIAMENTARY CORRESPONDENT.]

THE House of Commons gave three days this week to the committee stage of the Finance Bill. A discussion on housing arose on June 30th, and July 4th was set aside for the report stage of the Road Traffic Bill. Consideration of the Housing Bill by a standing committee was completed on July 1st. The House of Lords advanced several minor bills during the week.

The Parliamentary Medical Committee met on July 1st and arranged to send a deputation to the Minister of Health next day to advocate the establishment of a central advisory committee on rheumatism clinics.

On July 1st Mr. R. J. Russell presented a bill to amend the Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928, and to control the sale of cheese other than whole-milk cheese.

The Hours of Industrial Employment Bill has been withdrawn.

Miners' Nystagmus.

On July 1st Mr. SHINWELL told Miss Lee that miners suffering from nystagmus were in the same position under the Workmen's Compensation Acts as workmen disabled by accident or other industrial disease. He was aware of the difficulties to which they were exposed in obtaining re-employment, particularly in the present condition of the industry, and his Department was still considering with the Home Office what steps might be taken to help them in this respect. Clearly, the best remedy was to diminish the incidence of the disease, and investigations with that object were in progress. While medical opinion was by no means unanimous, it was generally agreed that defective light was a contributing factor, and it was satisfactory to note that, with the encouragement of his Department, improved lamps were being introduced at many collieries.

Housing.

In reply to Sir Kingsley Wood, on June 25th, Mr. GREENWOOD stated that, during the year ended March 31st, 1928, 18 slum clearance schemes had been confirmed, 8 completed, and 98 were in course of execution at the end of the period. During the following year 10 schemes were confirmed, 14 completed, and 94 were in execution. Up to March 30th, 1930, 17 schemes had been completed and 77 were in execution. The number of buildings acquired by local authorities in approved slum clearance schemes for the period between June 30th, 1929, and March 31st, 1930, was approximately 700. Mr. Greenwood further said, on June 25th, that he was aware of the overcrowded condition of many tenements, but had not received specific reports relating to their verminous condition. He did not propose to seek further powers under Section 46 of the Public Health Act, 1925, as local authorities had found their powers adequate, and there was no general demand for further legislation.

On June 30th the House of Commons in committee discussed the vote of the Ministry of Health for housing and administration under the National Health Insurance Acts.

Dr. VERNON DAVIES said that of all the failures of the Government the most colossal was that in regard to housing.

Viscountess ASTOR asked if the Ministry of Health had considered the question of securing sites for nursery schools. She also asked what had been done in regard to the prevention of maternal mortality. At present 3,000 women died every year in childbirth, and some members had a suspicion that the money which might have gone towards the work of prevention had been spent in other ways.

Miss LAWRENCE, replying to the debate, said it was true that the Government advised local authorities to hold their hands in regard to slum clearance until the new Housing Bill had been passed. The Government was proposing a shortening of procedure, and considered that the local authorities would gain by waiting for it.

National Health Insurance.—Mr. GREENWOOD told Mr. Albery and Sir Kingsley Wood, on June 26th, that he had not received any resolution from the recent co-operative congress on the continuance of the regulations of the Ministry of Health prohibiting the payment of co-operative dividend on national health insurance prescriptions, but he was aware of the discussion which took place, and the matter was receiving his attention.

Silicosis in Carmarthenshire.—Mr. SHINWELL, replying to Mr. Hopkin on July 1st, said that the inquiry by the medical officer of the Mines Department into silicosis in the Cross Hands district of Carmarthenshire was proving much more laborious than had been anticipated. Although a great deal of relevant data had been collected, the results on examination indicated the necessity for further inquiry.

Cost of a National Maternity Service.—On July 1st Mr. GREENWOOD told Mr. Freeman that data required for framing even an approximate estimate of the cost of providing a national maternity service, ensuring the services of doctor, midwife, and anaesthetic administration, were not yet available.

Mental Hospitals.—Mr. OLIVER BALDWIN asked the Minister of Health, on June 26th, to consider setting up medico-psychological departments in mental asylums, both criminal and non-criminal, in order to attempt the effecting of cures. Mr. GREENWOOD said he could not consider the proposal without a more precise indication of the proposed department, and of the necessity for its establishment, having regard to the medical services already available in mental hospitals.

Private Mental Institutions.—Replying to Mr. Maclean, on June 26th, Mr. GREENWOOD said the conditions under which patients were treated in private mental institutions were examined by the Visiting Commissioners of the Board of Control, who had a duty to inquire, among other things, into the fees paid. The Commissioners satisfied themselves that the fees paid were generally reasonable for the accommodation and treatment supplied. He did not propose to take power to compel licensees to submit their accounts to a Government department for examination.

Lunacy and Divorce.—Mr. MACDONALD stated, on June 30th, that he was unable this session to grant facilities for the passage of a bill to make certified lunacy of five years and upwards a ground for divorce.

Physically Defective Children.—In a reply to Mr. Foot, on June 26th, Sir CHARLES TREVELYAN stated there were 557 blind children under the age of 16 not attending any school or institution on December 31st, 1929. The corresponding number of deaf children was 305, and of cripples 5,461. These figures included children below school age and those temporarily prevented from attending special schools, and there was no need for special accommodation.

Prevalence of Mosquitos.—On June 24th Miss SUSAN LAWRENCE, replying to Sir W. Davison, said that the Minister of Health was advised that the number of mosquitos in this country fluctuated from year to year according to the climatic conditions, but did not show any general increase. In the present year some species (especially the sylvan species) were unusually prevalent. The Ministry of Health, in collaboration with the Natural History Museum, had given attention to this matter for some years past, and a pamphlet on *British Mosquitos and their Control* had been published, which contained advice on the best methods of combating mosquito pests. The Ministry was also prepared, on request, to advise local authorities on the matter.

Poisonous Liquor.—Mr. ADAMSON told Mr. McElwee, on July 1st, that he had received a report on "red biddy" from the chief medical officer of the Department of Health for Scotland.

Medical Records of Adolescents.—On July 1st Mr. HORE-BELISHA asked the Minister of Health if his attention had been drawn to a recommendation of the medical officer for Plymouth, in his recent report on the health of that city, that children aged 15 should immediately become insurable, so that their school medical records could be passed to panel doctors, thus avoiding the present year's gap in health supervision. Mr. HAYES, who replied, said that, in the event of provision being made by legislation whereby the minimum age for entry into insurance would coincide with the normal school-leaving age, the question of the transfer of the relevant medical records would receive consideration.

Smoke Abatement.—Mr. GREENWOOD stated, on June 26th, in reply to Sir N. Grattan-Doyle, that 116 local authorities had made by-laws on the subject of smoke abatement. This left 1,652 without by-laws, but these were largely districts where few or no manufacturing processes were found. He found it unnecessary to exercise his power of forcing local authorities to make by-laws.