

He served for many years in the R.A.M.C., T.A., and rose to the rank of lieutenant-colonel. He had been chief district medical officer of health of the Islands and Western Inverness-shire, and medical inspector of schools, etc., for Inverness-shire. During and after the war of 1914-18 he served as officer commanding Crookston War Hospital, in charge of the neurological department of the Edinburgh War Hospital, and as medical officer of Grove Neurological Hospital. After retirement he settled at Dollar, Clackmannanshire. He had been a member of the British Medical Association for thirty-four years.

## EPIDEMIOLOGICAL NOTES

### Infectious Diseases for the Week

Owing to the continued and unavoidable delay of returns for the acute infectious diseases in England and Wales publication of the full table has had to be deferred one more week.

The figures missing from the table published last week for England and Wales (deaths in brackets, including those for London where available) are: cerebrospinal fever 129, London (0); diphtheria 1,153 (37), London (2); dysentery 68; encephalitis lethargica 5, London (1); enteric fever 60 (2), London (1); erysipelas, London 34 (1); infective enteritis or diarrhoea under 2 years (35), London (5); measles 7,910 (10), London (0); ophthalmia neonatorum 116; pneumonia, influenzal, 603 (17), London 42 (2); polio-encephalitis 4, London (0); poliomyelitis 47, London (0); puerperal fever 4, London 4 (0); puerperal pyrexia 140; scarlet fever 1,755 (3), London (0); whooping-cough 1,253 (7), London (0); deaths (0-1 year) 307, London 25; deaths (excluding stillbirths) 5,742, London 1,700; live births 6,318, London 878; stillbirths 218, London 17.

With the single exception of enteric fever the incidence of the principal notifiable diseases increased during the week, especially in the case of measles, scarlet fever, diphtheria, and pneumonia; the figures for whooping-cough, cerebrospinal fever, and acute poliomyelitis were only slightly higher.

Enteric fever is the most easily controlled of the diseases mentioned, and in recent months the little-practised measure in civilians of prophylactic inoculation of T.A.B. has been used on an increasing scale in anticipation of possible pollution of water supplies by damage to mains and service pipes during air raids. Combined injections of antityphoid vaccine and tetanus toxoid are now available; reactions appear to be no greater or more frequent than when the prophylactics are given separately. Protection, so far as experience goes, is adequate, while the merits of fewer injections over shorter periods are likely to commend themselves as much to the busy practitioner as to harassed populations.

Infectious diseases characteristically spread by the upper respiratory tract are likely to be more difficult than ever to control. The dispersal of an increasing proportion of non-immunes to areas hitherto relatively free from infectious diseases in epidemic form, the close aggregation in shelters of those who remain in densely populated centres, with correspondingly greater risk of exposure to infection, and the difficulty of providing adequate isolation accommodation for cases, even for selected contacts, at a time when the majority of infections are rife, are all factors calculated to facilitate spread and defeat measures aimed at prevention and control. Therefore prophylactic inoculation against those diseases for which the method holds out some measure of success should be encouraged and made freely available either at centres already established by local authorities or by general practitioners, to whom facilities should be provided by local authorities whenever necessary. Diphtheria and measles are readily controlled by recognized prophylactics of proved efficacy, while whooping-cough and scarlet fever may be controlled actively or passively, although with less certainty of success for the individual. The use of aerosols—antiseptics, such as sodium hypochlorite, in a suitable solvent and sprayed out in minute particulate form—may well prove the answer to air-borne and droplet infection in shelters and other places where people congregate and infect each other's respiratory passages.

As regards acute poliomyelitis, the measures hitherto available, whether for prophylaxis or for treatment, have not proved themselves safe or reliable enough for general appli-

cation, although for such a serious disease any method offering promise of success merits a trial under control conditions. Fortunately the disease has rarely acquired epidemic character in this country, although during each summer and autumn isolated outbreaks, occasionally of some magnitude relative to the population at risk, are recorded. This year notifications have slightly exceeded those of last year, but were much below those of 1938 and are unlikely to approximate to them. During the week notifications rose from 38 to 47. Although nineteen administrative areas were affected only six recorded more than one case, and two accounted for nearly one-half of the total. Details from areas recording more than 1 case are: Warwick 11 (Birmingham 6, Sutton Coldfield M.B. 2, Warwick M.B., Solihull U.D., Stratford-on-Avon R.D. 1 each); Lancaster 10 (Blackburn, Bolton, Salford, municipal boroughs of Chadderton, Colne, Morecambe and Heysham, Nelson, Prestwich, and urban districts of Turton and Whitworth, 1 each); Southampton 4 (in R.D. of Kingsclere and Whitechurch, New Forest, Petersfield, and Winchester); Glamorgan 4 (Cardiff, Swansea, Aberdare U.D., Penarth U.D.); Derby 2 (Matlock U.D.); Stafford 2 (Wolverhampton).

## Universities and Colleges

### UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

An examination for the Theodore Williams Scholarship in Pathology, consisting of a written paper and a viva voce examination, will be held in the Sir William Dunn School of Pathology on November 10 at 2 p.m. The scholarship is open to any member of the University, whether man or woman, who on June 30 in the year of the award shall not have exceeded 26 years of age and shall have attended the course in general pathology and bacteriology in the Sir William Dunn School of Pathology either in the year of award or in the previous year. Entries must reach the Professor of Pathology before Wednesday, November 6, 1940.

### UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

Dr. James Dixon Boyd, professor of anatomy at the London Hospital Medical College, has been elected to a supernumerary Fellowship at Clare College, of which he is an ex-Fellow.

At a Congregation on October 22 the following medical degrees were conferred by proxy:

M.D.—R. W. D. Turner.  
M.B., B.Chir.—J. D. Kidd, B. L. F. Heydon.

### ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND

The annual meeting of Fellows and Members has been called for Thursday, November 21, at 3 p.m., when a report from the Council will be laid before the meeting. Copies of this report can be obtained beforehand on application to the secretary. Motions to be brought forward at the meeting must be signed by the mover, or by the mover and other Fellows and Members, and must reach the secretary not later than November 11. A copy of the agenda will be issued on or after November 16 to any Fellow or Member who might apply for one.

### CONJOINT BOARD IN SCOTLAND

The following candidates, having passed the requisite examinations, have been admitted L.R.C.P.Ed., L.R.C.S.Ed., L.R.F.P. & S.Glas.:

H. Baddeley, M. C. Bell, H. Bernstein, T. B. Binns, D. S. Bomson, T. Brittain, A. G. Buick, D. E. T. Donaldson, M. D. Evelyn, L. Feld, A. J. Friedman, A. P. Govender, A. Greenberg, J. J. Greenwald, E. Grossman, N. S. Handman, M. E. Haut, I. F. K. Hughton, B. Hurewitz, J. Israel, P. G. McE. G. Jones, S. Katz, M. J. Kelly, H. H. Kirk, A. M. Kumaraswamy, J. Kupchan, D. J. Livingstone, B. Levy, L. London, A. McAllister, E. W. Magill, Elizabeth D. Mercer, R. C. Nirsimloo, G. Novis, Agnes W. B. F. O'Gorman, S. Osroff, F. Pomerantz, M. I. I. Rajah, C. E. K. Ratnam, J. A. Reid, I. Robins, B. Ross, W. L. Schiffman, J. Siegel, M. N. Sholtzow, P. Snell, A. I. Swiller, Helen E. Swiller, M. P. Taft, M. E. Vawda, W. A. White, P. Wiesenfeld, D. L. Ziselman.

The following graduates of recognized foreign universities were also admitted licentiates:

W. B. Ehrmann, E. Forrai, E. Goldsmith, A. Horowitz, R. Posner, I. E. Reichenfeld, Marianne H. Weigert.