

At Leeds there is a part-time course for the Diploma in Psychological Medicine. The course lasts two years. For general practitioners, weekly clinical meetings are organized at Leeds University from October to May, while week-end courses on special subjects are also held at intervals throughout the year.

At Glasgow postgraduate medical instruction is available, in the form both of clinical attachments and of organized courses. The transition from the Class I and Class III Government-subsidized posts to the registrarships of the National Health Service has led to the abandonment for the present of prolonged full-time postgraduate courses in general medicine and general surgery, but it is hoped to resume organized instruction in these subjects during the coming session. Courses in child health and in mental deficiency have been held during the past year, and the latter will be repeated at the beginning of the ensuing session. Periodic refresher courses for general practitioners are also held.

The Postgraduate Medical Education Committee of the University of Oxford (91, Banbury Road) has arranged a programme of ward rounds, clinics, and lecture-demonstrations at the United Oxford Hospitals. Some eight or ten of these in different departments take place each week-day. The programme extends from September to December, and another programme, with other physicians and surgeons on duty for postgraduate teaching, is arranged for January to July, 1951. Short courses in special subjects (otolaryngology, paediatrics, and dermatology) are available at the United Oxford Hospitals during the Michaelmas term provided that not less than six general practitioners apply to attend each course. These programmes provide for practitioners who wish to attend one or more short courses, those who wish to spend a week, a fortnight, or longer in intensive study, and those who wish to attend any number of "sessions" convenient to themselves during the postgraduate year. The programmes are circulated to general practitioners by the various executive councils in the Oxford region.

UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTRES OUTSIDE LONDON

All the provincial medical schools report an excess of applicants. Birmingham: "The number of students wishing to enter the Faculty still far outnumbers the vacancies." Bristol: "The applications for admission remain extremely high, and we are able to accept only about 1 in 10 of the applicants." Liverpool: "The number of applications for admission is slightly less than in previous years, but is still greatly in excess of the number of places available." Durham: "Selection of candidates for entry to the courses has again been difficult owing to the very large list of applicants." Leeds: "Applications for entry to the School have continued to exceed by many hundreds the places available."

In the Faculty of Medicine at Birmingham a new method of selection has been used. Those whose names are included in a preliminary short-list made by the sub-dean are interviewed by a selection committee. It is thought that by this means greater emphasis can be placed on the personality and general suitability of the candidate; the academic record, although important, is not regarded as the sole criterion for entry. The committee has two or three permanent members, but in addition all the professorial members of the Faculty and some of the senior members of the staff of the teaching hospital are asked to serve in rotation. At Leeds also, while examination results and headmasters' reports are taken into account, considerable weight is also attached to the impression made by a candidate at interview. This interview is carried out by a panel of interviewers, each candidate being seen by three members of the panel.

Integration of Subjects in Curriculum

The integration of subjects in the medical curriculum in the Birmingham Medical School has been carried a step further during the present year. Following the three-months introductory clinical course in medicine and surgery, obstetrics, paediatrics, pharmacology, pathology, and social medicine, the

teaching in these subjects is now spread over the whole of the three clinical years, and these subjects are all included in the final examination. This examination has been divided into three parts, the first of which can be taken 12 months before the other two. There is now only one examination between that in anatomy and physiology and the final examination. Moreover, for the final examination boards of examiners have been formed so that, for instance, the professor of pathology will take part in the examination in surgery and medicine. In this way it is hoped to demonstrate to the student an essential unity in the subjects which he has to study and, particularly, that pathology is the fundamental basis of medical practice. In the School of Medicine at Leeds a major review of the entire curriculum is being undertaken, and in this the views of the Goodenough, the B.M.A., and the Royal College of Physicians Committees, together with the recommendations of the General Medical Council, are being taken into account.

At the Medical School, King's College, Newcastle-upon-Tyne (University of Durham), several changes will be made in 1951 in the courses of study for the M.B., B.S. degree. The pharmacology course will be spread over a period of three terms, in place of the previous two terms, and will be given in the first clinical year. The course in pathology and bacteriology will be increased from three to six terms, and the examination, which forms Part I of the third M.B., B.S., will be taken at the same time as Part II (public health and medical jurisprudence)—that is, in the Epiphany term of the fifth year. There will also be changes in the arrangements for clinical appointments in the teaching hospital. The introductory clinical course will be given during the Easter term of the third year, and clinical appointments will begin in July in place of the previous arrangement whereby these appointments began in October. The clinical appointment in midwifery and gynaecology has been increased from three months to six months, and the requirements as to residence in midwifery increased from one month to two months. Junior and senior appointments will be held with one month's residence in each period. By agreement with the Newcastle-upon-Tyne Regional Hospital Board and the Newcastle Management Committee, part of this residence will be at the Newcastle General Hospital.

At Liverpool there have been no changes of a major kind in the curriculum, but classes in clinical pathology and clinical psychiatry are being more closely related to the study of clinical medicine in the wards. Dressing in the casualty department has also been more closely related with surgical ward work.

One interesting departure at Liverpool is the extension of facilities to students (already exempted from some of their premedical subjects) to attend, without further fee, classes of general cultural interest in other faculties. Many students have availed themselves of this, and it has proved a very successful venture. The classes attended have been principally in languages, social science, psychology, law, philosophy, and statistics, all of which will prove of undoubted use at a later stage of their career.

New developments at Leeds Medical School during the year include the institution of a chair in medical physics, and it is hoped that full-time chairs in surgery and in obstetrics and gynaecology, which have long been planned, will be filled in the near future. Accommodation in the School of Medicine is now insufficient for the needs of many departments, including the library, where the problem is very acute. The difficulty is being overcome so far as possible by the acquisition and conversion of suitable houses in the neighbourhood. This, of course, is a temporary expedient, and the problem will not be wholly met until the long-term plans for a new medical school are put in operation.

Curriculum Rearrangements

At Bristol the curriculum for social and preventive medicine is being rearranged, and the teaching in this subject has been advanced into the preclinical years, some lectures on vital statistics being given in the second year, and the main course of social and preventive medicine proper will in future begin in the third year, and be continued with lectures and demonstrations in the fourth and fifth years. By this means it is hoped

to give the students an insight into social problems from their earliest years and to maintain this interest throughout their course.

In the Sheffield Faculty of Medicine, from October of this year, the chair of obstetrics and gynaecology will be established upon a full-time basis. The first occupant of the chair under the new conditions will be Mr. Charles Scott Russell, lately reader in this subject in the University of Manchester. The new orientation in regard to respiratory disease is shown in the change of title of the lecturer in tuberculosis to that of "lecturer in chest diseases." The recently appointed venereologist for the Sheffield area becomes lecturer in this subject at the University.

The increasing number of students at Sheffield has recently raised difficulties in relation to residential hospital accommodation and refectory facilities. These difficulties have been greatly eased by the opening of a residency within the precincts of the Royal Hospital, providing living accommodation for 10 students and refectory facilities for some 70 to 80. The student health service (which, of course, covers not only the Faculty of Medicine but the whole University, as well as the nursing staff of the United Sheffield Hospitals) continues to expand. A second assistant medical officer has just been appointed. B.C.G. vaccination is available to all who require or wish it.

From Birmingham Medical School it is reported that the experiment of appointing two professors of pathology is proving a great success, and the extent of the research work now being undertaken by them is impressive. The provision of new accommodation for cancer research is almost complete, and negotiations are being undertaken with the British Empire Cancer Campaign whereby the cancer research laboratories will be taken over by the department of pathology. The anatomical research laboratories are, at long last, nearing completion. The department of neurological studies still lacks a professor or a reader in psychiatry, but the staff has been strengthened by the appointment of a first assistant. The dean mentions the continued help and encouragement which the medical faculty and the teaching hospital receive from the regional hospital board. "The occasions on which this has occurred are too numerous to detail, but mention should be made of the joint appointment of regional consultant advisers in plastic surgery, neurosurgery, and thoracic surgery, and of the provision at Dudley Road Hospital of residential quarters for students attending that hospital for clinical instruction in obstetrics. The cost of this building has been defrayed by the University Grants Committee."

Clinical Research Laboratories at Manchester

Before the war, laboratory facilities for clinical research in the Faculty of Medicine in the University of Manchester were confined to one laboratory. An important development in recent years has been the provision of clinical research laboratories for the departments of medicine, haematology, research in rheumatism, and cardiology at the Manchester Royal Infirmary. A new operating theatre and ancillary accommodation for neurosurgery was opened by Lord Webb-Johnson earlier in the summer. In addition, a temporary clinical sciences building is now in course of erection and this will provide accommodation for research in pathology, rheumatic diseases, experimental medicine and surgery, occupational health, child health, and oto-rhino-laryngology. There are also laboratory facilities at the Manchester Royal Eye Hospital for the department of ophthalmology.

The first full-time professor of psychiatry at Manchester has now taken up his appointment, and it is hoped shortly to provide more extensive accommodation and better arrangements than now exist for undergraduate and postgraduate teaching in psychiatry.

Until a year ago the clinical subjects in the final examination for the degrees of M.B., Ch.B. had to be taken together. A recent development has been the division of this section of the final examination into Part II (obstetrics and gynaecology, and paediatrics) and Part III (medicine and surgery), though both parts of the examination may be taken concurrently if the student so desires.

When the period of compulsory residence is introduced about 100 posts will be required, but there should be no difficulty in providing these in the hospitals of the Manchester Regional Board and of the board of governors of the United Manchester Hospitals.

Lectures in the history of medicine are to be instituted next session.

The Welsh National School of Medicine

The most important development in the Welsh National School of Medicine (University of Wales) is in connexion with an entirely new medical teaching centre. This scheme has been under continuous consideration and negotiation for several years, but is now taking concrete form. The Cardiff City Council has agreed to sell land—at present open space within easy reach of the centre of the city—extending to 53 acres for an entirely new general hospital and medical school. It is possible that other units serving the Welsh Regional Hospital Board will also be erected on this site. Application has been made to the Treasury to acquire the site and proceed with the scheme.

Other developments in the Welsh National School have included the reallocation among the visiting staff of beds in the Cardiff Royal Infirmary and the Llandough Hospital (formerly municipal but now one of the United Cardiff Hospitals), and transport to Llandough has been arranged which enables the beds to be much more fully used for teaching. A new chair and department of child health have been established, centred mainly on Llandough Hospital. A new central library for the Medical School was formally opened by the vice-chancellor of the University, and in conjunction with it an examination-room has been added in order to cope with the increased number of candidates for the Welsh degrees. The new Institute of Pathology, which has been under construction for some years, is nearing completion. When it is finished accommodation at present used for pathology will become available for research in anaesthetics, which is recognized as the responsibility of the Medical School. A new maternity hospital of 87 beds, with accommodation for teaching students in midwifery and in the health of the newborn, the erection of which was begun before the war, but was suspended, is now being completed.

QUALIFYING DEGREES AND DIPLOMAS

In Great Britain medical degrees or diplomas are awarded by the universities and also by certain licensing corporations. The abbreviations for registration following a pass in the final examinations are: M.B., Ch.B., U.Birm.; M.B., Ch.B., U.Brist.; M.B., B.Chir., U.Camb.; M.B., B.S., U.Durh.; M.B., Ch.B., U.Leeds; M.B., Ch.B., U.Lpool.; M.B., B.S., U.Lond.; M.B., Ch.B., V.U.Manc.; B.M., B.Ch., U.Oxf.; M.B., Ch.B., U.Sheff.; M.B., B.Ch., U.Wales; M.B., Ch.B., U.Aberd.; M.B., Ch.B., U.Edin.; M.B., Ch.B., U.Glasg.; M.B., Ch.B., U.St.And.; M.B., B.Ch., Q.U.Belf.; M.B., B.Ch., U.Dubl. (also L.Med., L.Ch., U.Dubl.); M.B., B.Ch., N.U.Irel.; L.M.S.S.A.Lond.; L.A.H.Dubl.; L.R.C.P.Lond., M.R.C.S.Eng.; L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S.Ed.; L.R.F.P.&S.Glas.; L., L.M., R.C.P.Irel.; L., L.M., R.C.S.Irel.

The Conjoint Boards

About one-fifth of those who qualified last year took the diplomas in the English Conjoint. Candidates for the English Conjoint are examined by the examining board in England of the three Royal Colleges (Examination Hall, Queen Square, W.C.1). Three examinations have to be passed: a pre-medical examination; a first examination in anatomy, physiology, pharmacology, and materia medica; and a final examination in pathology and bacteriology, medicine, surgery, and midwifery and gynaecology. Candidates are required to complete the medical curriculum extending over not less than 57 months of study at recognized medical schools and hospitals, and to pass the professional examinations in accordance with the regulations after passing any two parts of the pre-medical examination.