

of Health. In general, the Ministry recommends vaccination between the third and six months after birth. (b) A person requiring vaccination against yellow fever and also primary vaccination against smallpox should be advised to have the yellow fever vaccination done at least four days before the smallpox vaccination. If primary vaccination against smallpox is done first, the Ministry recommends that there should be an interval of 21 days before the vaccination against yellow fever. (c) "Duplicate" international certificates should not be issued. (d) When a person has lost an international certificate the doctor who performed the vaccination may be prepared, if he has the necessary records, to issue a new certificate. Any such new certificate should be dated as in the original, and it should not be marked "duplicate" or "copy." If that doctor is not available, or if the record of the original vaccination cannot be traced, it is recommended that the person should be revaccinated and be given a new certificate.

MEDICAL DEFENCE UNION

In taking the chair at the annual meeting of the Medical Defence Union, held at Tavistock House, London, on September 16, Dr. S. Cochrane Shanks, the president, said that the membership of the Union continued to increase *pari passu* with the membership of the profession. In July the membership stood at just over 37,000, and last month exactly 500 members were elected—an all-time record. The Union had had the opportunity of intervening to some extent in the passing of the Dentists Act and had sent a memorandum to both Houses of Parliament urging that dental auxiliaries should not be allowed to undertake fillings or extractions of teeth. Another matter which had engaged attention was the desirability of a more uniform system for the investigation of complaints against doctors and dentists. The Central Consultants and Specialists Committee of the British Medical Association had set up a subcommittee to report on this matter, on which the late president of the Union, Mr. Ivor Back, and the secretary, Dr. Robert Forbes, were invited to serve. Recommendations had been submitted to the Ministry of Health, which had made certain not unhelpful suggestions, and these were now being considered by the original committee. The Medical Act, 1950, had introduced a new feature into medical education—namely, the one year of compulsory pre-registration appointment. The council of the Union had decided that those placed on the provisional register should be eligible for membership of the Union. Another matter of concern was safety measures in connexion with gaseous anaesthetics. For some years the Union had been pressing for uniformity to eliminate risk of accident. Agreement on standardization had been reached in the United States, and it was hoped that at a forthcoming conference in Paris, at which the Union would be represented by its secretary, a similar agreement would be reached with Western European countries.

After Dr. Henry Robinson, honorary treasurer, had presented the accounts, the report and accounts were adopted without discussion. Dr. Robinson and Mr. A. Hedley Whyte, who retired in rotation from the council, were re-elected. Dr. J. C. Matthews, who retired under the same rule, withdrew his name as a candidate for re-election in order that the new president, Dr. Cochrane Shanks, might, as was very desirable, be one of the elected members of council. This was without prejudice to Dr. Matthews's subsequent election to the council by another route.

Recently the General Medical Council decided that the members of its Disciplinary Committee should be required to cease their connexion with any medical defence organization in order that their work might not be embarrassed. The council of the Union took the view that any member who was required to resign because of his appointment on the Disciplinary Committee should be held as covered in respect of any incidents arising before the date of his resignation, and the meeting passed a special resolution to give effect to that provision.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF OBSTETRICIANS AND GYNAECOLOGISTS PRINCESS ROYAL ADMITTED HONORARY FELLOW

The Princess Royal was admitted to the honorary fellowship of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists on September 27. Professor ANDREW M. CLAYE, in presenting Her Royal Highness to the President (Dame Hilda Lloyd), said that it was fitting that the first woman chancellor of a British university should receive this distinction at the hands of the first woman President of a Royal



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College. Their pleasure at this signal honour was tempered only by the knowledge that the first visit of Her Royal Highness to Queen Anne Street was also the last appearance in the highest office of Dame Hilda Lloyd. Her Royal Highness's interest in many good causes—the British Red Cross Society, the Girl Guide Movement, the care of old people—had been shown especially in Yorkshire, where they appreciated also her enthusiasm for maternity work. She was also associated closely with the blood transfusion service and was herself a blood donor. Miss GERTRUDE DEARNLEY, who also took part in the presentation, said that as a woman Fellow of the College she was particularly pleased to welcome the Princess.

The PRESIDENT then, by virtue of the authority invested in her by the council, admitted Her Royal Highness to the Honorary Fellowship. The PRINCESS ROYAL, in a brief speech, said that she was deeply conscious of the honour. Many members of her family had been associated with the Royal College, and she was very proud to take her place with the Queen and Queen Mother as a Fellow. The College's contribution to medical and surgical science could not be overestimated. To any woman the approach to maternity must be something of an adventure, especially in the case of her first baby, but by the patient research of the modern obstetrician the whole outlook of the expectant mother had been altered, and the ordeal had become much less. The specialized knowledge which the members of the College had placed at the disposal of doctors and midwives enabled them to give the mothers confidence and a feeling of happy security. Speaking of the recent growth in the teaching of mothercraft, she mentioned also the still more recent growth of what she called fathercraft. In her experience fathers were taking more interest in their young offspring than formerly—a development wholly to be welcomed.

The proceedings concluded with the pronouncement by the President of the words of exhortation, "*Super ardua consurgamus floreat collegium.*" Those accompanying the President included the two Vice-presidents of the College, Dr. V. B. Green-Armytage and Mr. John Eric Stacey, and the Mayor of St. Marylebone.