

prison camps and less chance of indiscipline by the guards in case of defeat. Taylor felt that, in spite of this order, his work lay with the many thousands of sick and wounded, and he got special dispensation to remain in Singapore.

Medical Notes in Parliament

PURCHASE OF PATENTED DRUGS

Mr. J. ARBUTHNOT (Dover, Con.) asked the Minister of Health if he would make a further statement about the purchase of drugs by hospitals from unlicensed sources.

Mr. ENOCH POWELL, in a written reply on May 18, said the Secretary of State for Scotland and himself proposed to use Section 46 of the Patents Act, 1949, which enabled a Government Department to use patented goods for the services of the Crown, in obtaining certain drugs for the hospital service either from manufacturers in this country or from abroad. The Act required that payments to patentees be negotiated, or determined by the High Court in default of agreement. Individual hospital authorities were being instructed to make no further purchases of patented drugs from unlicensed sources.

OTHER QUESTIONS

Prescriptions in 1960

Mr. K. ROBINSON (St. Pancras, North, Lab.) asked the Minister how many prescriptions were dispensed during each month of 1960; and what was the average cost per item in each month. Mr. POWELL gave the following information for prescriptions in England and Wales:

1960	Number of items dispensed millions	Average cost per item s. d.
January	18.6	7 1.4
February	19.5	6 11.0
March	20.2	6 11.6
April	17.8	7 1.3
May	18.2	7 2.1
June	16.7	7 4.0
July	16.7	7 4.8
August	16.1	7 5.2
September	17.2	7 4.1
October	19.1	7 3.7
November	19.0	7 4.2
December	19.4	7 6.3

New Hospitals

Dr. DONALD JOHNSON (Carlisle, Con.) asked the Minister on May 10 to enumerate and specify the new hospitals that had been completed since the inception of the Health Service; and to state the number of beds each contained and the year of completion in each case. Mr. POWELL said that the ten new hospitals listed below had been partly completed and were in use. They provided a total of 1,294 beds. In addition the Charles Clifford Dental Hospital, Sheffield, which provided for an intake of 40 students each year, had been completed in 1953 and much new work had been completed at other hospitals.

	Date	Beds
Good Hope Hospital, Sutton Coldfield ..	1952	162
Greaves Hall, Nr. Southport	1957	220
Oakwood Park, Conway	1957	187
West Wales General Hospital, Glangwili ..	1958	96
Balderton Hospital, Nr. Newark	1959	252
Princess Margaret Hospital, Swindon ..	1959	40
Llanfrecfa Grange, Newport	1959	200
West Cumberland Hospital, Hensingham ..	1960	137
New Teaching Hospital, Sheffield	1960	(Out-patients)
Singleton Park Hospital, Swansea	1960	(Out-patients)

Dr. JOHNSON also asked how many new hospitals the Minister expected to be completed in the next five years; and what was the total number of beds they would contain. Mr. POWELL: Ten, with approximately 4,000 beds. Five

more, with about 1,600 beds, were expected to be in use but not fully completed. Five new dental hospitals should also be completed.

Value of Tonsillectomy

Dr. B. STROSS (Stoke-on-Trent, Central, Lab.) asked the Parliamentary Secretary for Science whether he would request the Medical Research Council to consider the problem of disease of the tonsils, and, in view of the 200,000 tonsillectomies undertaken each year, to report on the value of this operation. Mr. DENZIL FREETH refused. The Medical Research Council, he said, had already considered the problem of diseases of the tonsils and had advised on the planning of two investigations which were now in progress on the value of tonsillectomy. The M.R.C. would give sympathetic consideration to any other promising lines of research in this field.

Safety Belts for Cars

Mr. D. SMITH (Brentford and Chiswick, Con.) asked the Minister of Transport on May 17 if he would now institute a publicity campaign by his Department to encourage car drivers to wear safety belts and harnesses. Mr. ERNEST MARPLES told him that he had inaugurated a publicity campaign on July 21 last, when the British Standard was published. As recently as April 27, he had said, in answer to a Question, that the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders had agreed to recommend types of harness which suited their vehicles and to supply complete kits and fitting instructions. The exchange of letters between the president of the society and himself was published. He would continue to give his fullest support to every effort to encourage the fitting and use of effective harness.

Mr. F. NOEL-BAKER (Swindon, Lab.): As part of that campaign, would the Minister take steps to warn the public about unofficial bodies like the so-called British Safety Council, which were misleading the public about the qualities of safety belts? Mr. MARPLES: I have said before and say again that the public ought not to buy a safety belt unless it bears the mark of the British Standards Institution on it.

Medico-Legal

TRICHLOROETHYLENE ADDICT

[FROM OUR LEGAL CORRESPONDENT]

£5,250 was awarded by Mr. Justice Elwes in the High Court on May 15 to the widow of a man who died as a result of his addiction to the inhalation of the fumes of trichloroethylene (*The Times*, May 16). The man in question was a Mr. Herbert Winn Jones, aged 30, a plating-shop foreman. Mr. Jones died in July, 1957, as a result of inhaling trichloroethylene vapour from a tank in the degreasing plant in his employers' factory.

Mrs. Jones sued the employers in negligence and for breach of statutory duty. By way of defence it was alleged that Mr. Jones caused or contributed to his death by deliberately inhaling trichloroethylene vapour and even by drinking the liquid in order to satisfy a secret addiction. This defence was attacked by an additional claim that the defendants knew or ought to have known that continued exposure to the fumes could lead to a craving which might develop into an addiction, and that by continuing to expose Mr. Jones to the fumes the defendants were negligent and such negligence caused or contributed to the death.

The evidence showed that over a considerable period Mr. Jones had become increasingly addicted to these fumes, and for at least six months before his death he had been too addicted to be capable of self-control, and virtually everybody in the workshop, including Mr. Jones's superior, knew of his condition. On several occasions, contrary to orders, Mr. Jones was found in the tank while it was being cleaned out.

Contributory Negligence

Mr. Justice Elwes found the defendants negligent in ignoring the evidence that the deceased was addicted and endangering himself; in failing to take proper advice by consulting the manufacturers of trichlorethylene, Mr. Jones's family, the factory doctor, and the factory inspector; and by allowing an obviously perilous situation to develop and doing nothing to cope with it when they knew that expostulations and threats were fruitless. On the issue of contributory negligence, the court found that the accused was at the time of his death by reason of his addiction incapable of helping himself. Looking at this alone, Mr. Jones could not be said to have contributed to his death by his negligence. Mr. Justice Elwes, however, took a broader view of the time factor in the case, and found that Mr. Jones had been contributorily negligent by his earlier failure to exercise normal and moral control and by his disobedience of orders over a long period which had weakened and finally extinguished his own power to control his actions. The total damages of £7,000 were accordingly reduced by 25% to £5,250.

Universities and Colleges

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

The Theodore Williams Scholarship in Physiology for 1960 has been awarded to Asa Gordon Hector Blakeley, B.A., of Magdalen College.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF EDINBURGH

At a quarterly meeting of the College held on May 2, with the President, Dr. J. D. S. Cameron, in the chair, the following were elected Members of the College:

H. T. Howat, W. F. Anderson, J. W. Affleck, R. B. Wilson, H. C. Jeffrey, S. C. Kapoor, A. Ramishvili, N. Ullah, M. Vannitamby, G. Holden, R. M. Barnes, A. J. Graham, Y. F. Sayegh, I. C. Mehta, E. Patrick, P. P. Nayar, M. W. Browne, T. K. Nag, M. E. A. Fadli, Resinald Ba Pe, Tit Shing Ip, D. M. Joshi (Godrez), W. S. A. Singh, D. B. E. Quamina, D. V. M. Box, J. W. Kibukamusoke, P. Lanzkowsky, T. D. Lahiri, S. S. Dalmia, A. S. Godbole, Alice Shun-haan Poon, A. H. Laing, Md. Fazle Rabbee, R. Summerly, A. K. Chakravarty, A. C. Ikeme, M. R. Mody, Oon Swee Yeoh, Cecil Chin Hin Chew, S. H. Shafqat, C. L. Anand, W. D. Murray, Gillian M. Watkins, A. U. Antia, Phyllis M. Fulton, D. A. Stuart-Smith, G. Dunea, K. N. Jeejeebhoy, J. W. Prineas, A. G. Krishna, I. P. Sukumar, K. D. Buchanan, O. O. Akinkugbe.

The James Mackenzie Medal for 1961 has been awarded to George Ian Watson, M.D.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF EDINBURGH

At a meeting of the College held on May 5, with Professor John Bruce, President, in the chair, the following candidates who had passed the requisite examinations, were admitted Fellows:

I. C. Ahsan, H. A.-B. Alusi, D. M. Anklesaria, P. G. Apte, B. N. Bhargava, I. H. Brozin, A. Cameron, S. B. D. Choudhury, G. J. A. Clunie, F. J. Collins, D. T. Cousins, R. Dalzeish, T. Duncan, W. R. Edwards, W. N. Etheridge, P. Field, N. Firdous, H. Forrest, A. K. Ghosh, H. Gordon, W. J. H. Graham, M. F. Guirguis, S. N. Gupta, R. M. Hackett, R. W. Irvine, C. R. Josh, S. K. Kyalwazi, K. F. Kyle, C. F. Leber, R. A. Long, J. J. Maccabe, J. A. McHardy, E. B. Mamoowala, K. L. G. Mills, N. D. Mukherjee, G. C. Nelson, W. J. Newlands, H. A. Rahman, S. T. S. Raj, D. Saha, B. P. Sethi, S. B. Shah, A. K. Sharma, R. L. Smith, J. A. Southam, P. F. M. Warlow, L. H. Wright, N. L. Wright, A. A. A. Yacoub, S. A. Zaheer.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS IN IRELAND

FACULTY OF ANAESTHETISTS

The following elected Fellows will be admitted to the Faculty by the President of the College on June 3: H. E. Bell, G. W. Black, J. K. Black, A. Blayney, J. P. Conroy, C. F. Cuniffe, B. J. Daly, I. Davidson, E. J. Delaney, D. Donovan, P. A. Forster, J. D. Gaffney, W. R. Gilmore, A. J. Haley, S. Hoffmann, N. Jafry, W. R. Lamb, P. V. Lang, J. G. Lomaz, J. Lynham, L. McArdle, J. McAuley, P. McGarry, I. D. Michie, W. F. K. Morrow, C. Moss, S. P. Murphy, A. O'Connor, K. P. O'Sullivan, A. Owen-Flood, J. Ozinsky, F. W. Parke, S. Poonambalam, Y. K. Poon, D. Power, M. Prosad, J. R. Radcliff, H. Raftery, O. Schahmann, D. Verley, R. D. Walsh, K. H. Wayburne, F. de Burgh Whyte, D. S. Wilson.

The annual general meeting of the Faculty will be held in the College on June 3, at 12 noon, and will be followed at 2.30 p.m. by a scientific meeting on the subject of obstetrical anaesthesia, and at 7.45 p.m. by the annual dinner. These latter two functions will also be held in the College.

Vital Statistics

Births and Deaths in Scotland

According to the preliminary return for the year 1960, the birth rate in Scotland was 19.4 per 1,000 population and the death rate 11.9, respectively 0.7 above the average and 0.1 below the average for the preceding five years. The infant mortality of 26.4 per 1,000 live births was the lowest ever recorded. The deaths from the principal epidemic diseases included 104 from influenza, 19 from meningococcal infections, 10 from whooping-cough, and 2 from measles. There were 472 deaths from respiratory tuberculosis (41 fewer than in 1959) and 36 from other forms of tuberculosis (27 fewer than in 1959). Deaths from violence, 2,863, were 3 more than in 1959: of these, 402 were due to suicide, 691 to road transport accidents, 1,050 to accidents in the home, and 720 to other forms of violence. 134 children under 1 year of age met with a fatal accident at home.

Graphs of Infectious Diseases

The graphs below show the uncorrected numbers of cases of certain diseases notified weekly in England and Wales. Highest and lowest figures reported in each week during the years 1952-60 are shown thus -----, the figures for 1961 thus ———. Except for the curves showing notifications in 1961, the graphs were prepared at the Department of Medical Statistics and Epidemiology, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

