

### London Emergency Bed Service

SIR,—Recently I was called to a case of ptomaine poisoning, a mother and child of 3 years; in addition there was a 2 months old baby (not infected). The mother and child were in need of urgent hospital treatment. I rang up King Edward's Fund Emergency Bed Service and explained the case; within fifteen minutes I was informed that a suitable hospital would accept the cases and also admit the baby for care while its mother was in the hospital! Such service cannot be too highly praised. I had anticipated an hour's telephoning to try to get the two cases into hospital; I hardly dared to hope to find a hospital willing to care for a normal baby during its mother's illness. I feel every practitioner should know of this excellent service.—I am, etc.,

London, E.13, August 6.

P. G. S. KENNEDY, M.B.

## The Services

### HONORARY PHYSICIAN TO THE KING

The King has approved the appointment of Major-General P. S. Mills, C.I.E., I.M.S., as Honorary Physician to the King, with effect from March 29, 1938, in succession to Major-General D. P. Goil, I.M.S., who has retired.

### AWARD OF MILITARY CROSS

The King has awarded the Military Cross to Captain M. F. Kelleher, R.A.M.C., for gallant and distinguished services in Palestine.

### PROPHYLACTIC ANTI-TETANIC INOCULATION

The issue of the *Royal Army Medical Corps Journal* for May, 1938, included a comprehensive paper by Major (now Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel) J. S. K. Boyd of the Department of Pathology, R.A.M. College, on active immunization against tetanus.

The work recorded was undertaken at the suggestion of the Director of Pathology to explore the possibility of introducing active immunization against tetanus as a routine measure in the British Army. Major Boyd found that the standard of immunity given by the well-spaced two-dose system compared favourably with that achieved by other methods, and it is believed to confer adequate protection for a considerable period of time. Recommendations were accordingly made to introduce this method on a voluntary basis for all Regular troops. An announcement on the subject has been made by the War Office Press Bureau, and an Army Council Instruction is issued on inoculation against tetanus with tetanus toxoid.

#### PROCEDURE

The procedure follows the same principles as those that have been so successfully applied in the prevention of diphtheria. It consists of two subcutaneous injections, each of 1 c.cm. of tetanus toxoid, given at an interval of six weeks. No unpleasant after-effects are produced by the toxoid. Within a few weeks following these inoculations defensive substances develop and persist in the blood; these effectively neutralize the toxin of the tetanus bacillus. It is not necessary to repeat the injections, since the protection lasts for many years. Officers and men will be encouraged to take advantage of this simple method of securing protection. To avoid interference with the normal duties of serving soldiers the inoculations will be undertaken after the training season. Recruits will be inoculated during recruit training, the first dose being given when the recruit attends for vaccination. Tetanus toxoid will be issued in bottles of 50 c.cm. and 10 c.cm., a record of the injections being made in accordance with Regulations for the Medical Services of the Army. Although the reaction after inoculation is very slight it is advisable that no active exercise should be taken for twenty-four hours.

### DEATHS IN THE SERVICES

Surgeon Commander HENRY BAKER HALL, R.N. (ret.), died in the Royal Naval Hospital, Plymouth, on July 16, aged 72. He was educated at Edinburgh University, where he graduated M.B., C.M., with first-class honours, in 1891. He entered the Royal Navy in 1892, and attained the rank of surgeon commander on May 11, 1908. On the outbreak of war in August, 1914, he became fleet surgeon in H.M.S. *Challenger*, and took part in the Cameroon Expedition. He returned to England in 1915, and was invalided from the Service. Later he became one of the medical officers for recruiting in Plymouth, and afterwards served as medical officer for the Ministry of Pensions in London and Bristol. He became a member of the B.M.A. in 1921, and had long associations with Plymouth.

Lieutenant-Colonel WILFRID BURRELL THOMSON, R.A.M.C. (ret.), died at Alverstoke, Hampshire, on July 19, aged 82. He was born in Burma on June 7, 1856, and was educated at Sheffield and St. Mary's Hospital. He took the M.R.C.S. Eng. and the L.R.C.P. Ed. in 1881, entered the Army as surgeon on July 29, 1882, became lieutenant-colonel after twenty years' service, and retired on June 7, 1911. After his retirement he was employed for some time, from 1912, at Northampton.

*Correction.*—The late Lieutenant-Colonel J. C. Gordon Carmichael, R.A.M.C. (ret.), was born on August 27, 1878, and not on the date mentioned in our obituary notice published on August 6.

## Universities and Colleges

### UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

At a meeting of the Senate held on July 20 it was announced that Sir Cooper Perry had been reappointed by the King in Council as a member of the Court for a further period of five years from October 1.

#### Recognition of Teachers

The following have been recognized as teachers of the University in the subjects indicated in parentheses: *Guy's Hospital Medical School*: Mr. H. J. B. Atkins (Surgery); Mr. Arthur Bulleid, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. (Dental Surgery); *Middlesex Hospital Medical School*: Mr. C. P. Wilson (Otorhino-laryngology); Mr. W. R. Winterton (Obstetrics and Gynaecology). *St. Mary's Hospital Medical School*: Dr. G. F. Buchan (Hygiene and Public Health); Mr. J. F. Simpson (Otorhino-laryngology). *King's College Hospital Medical School*: Dr. J. C. Hoyle (Medicine); Mr. E. G. Muir (Surgery); Mr. J. H. Peel (Obstetrics and Gynaecology). *King's College Hospital Medical School and Maudsley Hospital*: Dr. S. Nevin (Medicine). *London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine*: Dr. J. J. C. Buckley (Tropical Medicine). *Maudsley Hospital*: Professor W. E. Le Gros Clark (Anatomy); Dr. A. F. Tredgold (Mental Diseases).

#### Grants

Grants were made out of the Central Research Fund, the Dixon Fund, and the Thomas Smythe Hughes Medical Research Fund for 1938-9 to the following: A. W. M. Ellis (professor of medicine at London Hospital Medical College); C. A. Lovatt Evans, F.R.S. (Jodrell professor of physiology at University College); W. J. Hamilton (professor of anatomy at St. Bartholomew's Hospital Medical College); Samson Wright (John Astor professor of physiology at Middlesex Hospital Medical School); R. J. O'Connor (demonstrator in anatomy at University College); W. H. Newton (reader in physiology at University College); D. H. Smyth (lecturer in physiology at University College); G. Stella (lecturer in biochemistry at University College).

#### Amendment of Regulations

Amended regulations were approved for the second examination for medical degrees for internal and external students. It was resolved that in and after 1940 candidates for the second examination for medical degrees who have passed in Part I of the second examination for medical degrees under former regulations be required to take the biochemistry portion only of the paper and practical examination in organic chemistry and biochemistry. Copies may be obtained on application to the Academic and External Registrars.