obviously the first step must be attained with unquestionable accuracy before the last two become possible. Attention is therefore directed to two or three semi-official bodies who are now available and which must necessarily influence the opinions and possibly actions of those in authority.

Part of the survey carried out for the Ministry of Health on the hospital services for London and the Home Counties has just been published, and it will presumably be taken as an official basis for future organization. It contains a number of errors concerning radiotherapeutics which may or may not be vital, but which are nevertheless most unfortunate and suggest that other errors may also exist in other specialized sections. In Appendix I figures are given for the numbers of "radiologists" and "radiotherapists" on that staffs of various hospitals. It is also indicated that considerable confusion has occurred and give an entirely wrong picture of the type of specialist staff in those hospitals. For example, on page 53 St. Bartholomew's is credited with five visiting radiologists but no radiotherapists, in spite of the fact that one of the most well-known of those specializing in radiotherapy Dr. Finzi—is on the staff. Further, on page 75 it is categorically stated that only the Middlesex, Lambeth, and Royal Cancer Hospital carry out any appreciable amount of radiotherapy in London, entirely ignoring the very large and important radiotherapy departments at Barts, Westminster, and University College Hospitals.

In the whole of London the statistics only show radiotherapists at Guy's, Westminster, and U.C.H. among the largest hospitals, and at none of the general or municipal hospitals, which produces the anomaly that at none of the three hospitals the report recognizes as carrying out the practice of the specialties. It is also too easy to predict future legislation taking these errors as gospel, leading to disastrous changes in the special fields concerned.

In the report in Part 2 of the Survey a strong resemblance to those already published by the Faculty of Radiologists and by the National Radiological Society is observable, who naturally as the surveyors have presumably largely accepted the views of these specialized organizations as they themselves are admittedly not expert in such matters. Total Support for the view that publication of page 83 two unofficial bodies in this official report does, however, give them added weight, and it is necessary for a word of protest before it is too late, since these views are by no means universally held by radiotherapists, as was forcibly demonstrated at the meeting held recently at the National Radiological Protection Board and the Commission to consider the "A B C Plan" for future cancer treatment. The published views of these two bodies, which are composed mainly of members of staffs of large hospitals and centres, not unnatural are that all radiotherapy should be carried out in such large centres. However ideal the work of the former may be, those of us who practise radiotherapy in the provinces know only too well the many difficulties connected with them, and we cannot always be sure that the high quality of treatment carried out under what our senior colleagues would regard as unsatisfactory conditions.

It is not the place to enter into any detailed discussion on the future organization of radiotherapy, but the facts noted above are of general interest, and are written in the hope that they will encourage cooperation in the details of the preparations now being made for the future medical services of the country. It is not perhaps too much to hope that the errors pointed out here may be amended and that undue weight will not be given to individual expressions of opinion. I am, etc.,

E. MILLINGTON.

Civilian Practice

Sir,—Nonsense is still being written about overworked doctors. The amount of work a doctor can do, apart from consultations and filling up forms, depends on the health of the patient. Without nursing homes, nurses, maids, "non-queueing" neighbours he cannot look after anyone who must stay in bed. Thus the private patient does as well in the hospital as in the surgery and the hospitals overfilled. Until more attention is given to the home demobilized doctors will find their work confined to consultations, certificates, and single visits.—I am, etc.

H. L. MILLINGTON.

Correction

Lieu.-Col. J. A. Balf-Foote points out that the last two words of the second sentence of his letter (July 14, p. 7) should be "free voting," not "free speech.

H.M. Forces Appointments

ROYAL NAVY


ROYAL NAVAL VOLUNTEER RESERVE


ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS

Short Service Commissions: War Subs. Capt. F. Zammitt and F. T. Fulpinico, from Emergency Commissions, have been granted Short Service Commissions in the rank of Lieut., and to be Capt.

TERRITORIAL ARMY

ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS

War Subs. Majs. J. C. Anderson and H. Hall- Terrick to be Majors.

War Subs. Capt. E. G. Murphy has relinquished his commission on account of ill-health, and has been granted the honorary rank of Capt. Lieut. (War Subs. Capts.) H. F. Whalley and C. R. Claydon to be Captains.

Senior Training Corps.—Major R. B. Green, supernumerary for service with whom University Senior Training Corps (Medical Unit) has resigned his commission.

TERRITORIAL ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS:

ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS

Capt. G. Chennah has relinquished his commission on account of disability, and has been granted the honorary rank of Major.

LAND FORCES: EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS

ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS


WOMEN'S FORCES

EMPLOYED WITH THE R.A.M.C.

The following M.O.s have been granted commissions in the rank of Lieut.: Ruth M. Haslam, Elizabeth M. Miller, and Agnes A. Brash.

ROYAL AIR FORCE

ROYAL AIR FORCE VOLUNTEER RESERVE

Squad. Ldr. (Temp.) C. F. Hamilton-Turner has been granted the rank of War Subs. Ldr.

WOMEN'S FORCES EMPLOYED WITH THE MEDICAL BRANCH OF THE R.A.F.

Flying Officer M. I. Allen to be War Subs. Flt. Lieut.

INDIAN MEDICAL SERVICE

Ex-captains: Major W. A. B. Reynard has relinquished his commission on account of ill-health, and has been granted the honorary rank of Major.

BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

Election of Member of Council by South Wales and Monmouthshire Branch The following is the result of the election of a Member of Council by the South Wales and Monmouthshire Branch:

W. V. Howells (Swansea), 163
G. W. Parry (Abergavenny), 86
O. Williams (Llanelly), 63
No. of voting papers issued 839
No. returned 312
Spoiled papers 2

CHARLES HILL,

Secretary.

WEEKLY POSTGRADUATE DIARY

EDINBURGH POSTGRADUATE LECTURES.—At Edinburgh Royal Infirmary, 4.30 p.m., Dr. J. Norman Davidson: Nuclear-proteins in Growth and Development.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, & DEATHS

The charge for an inscription under this head is 10s. 6d. for 18 words or less. Extra words 3s. 6d. for each six or less. Payment should be forwarded with the notice, authenticated by the name and permanent address of the sender, and should reach the Advertisement Manager latest than first post Monday morning.

BIRTHS

CHIPPENDALE.—On July 4, 1945, at Combined Military Hospital, Dehra Dun, India, to Ruth (nee Stevenson), M.B. (Edinburgh), and Ruth C. Hooper, M.B. (Edinburgh), to be Mrs. C. J. Hooper.

HUNTINGTON.—On July 10, 1945, at Richmond, Yorks., to Mr. and Mrs. George Metcalf, to be a son, James.

ABBATH.—On July 9, 1945, at the Middlesex Hospital, to Ashleigh (nee Rowan), wife of Flt. Lieut. A. Johnammen, a daughter.

JAMES.—At Okehampton, Devon, to Marjorie and Peter James, to be Mr. and Mrs. Gwendy Jones, the gift of a fifth child, Sally Metcalfe, to be Mrs. M. H. James.

Metcalf.—On July 14, 1945, at Glasgow, to Ann, wife of Major Norman Metcalfe, R.A.M.C., to be Mrs. M. Metcalfe.

METCALFE.—On July 26, 1945, at University College Hospital, to Norah Metcalfe, M.B., B.S. (nee Lambert) and Lieut. Kenneth Metcalf, R.A.M.C. (S.E.A.C.), to be a son.

DEATHS

CALEY.—On July 9, 1945, suddenly, Eric Stanssens, M.B., R.C.P.C. (St. Thomas's Hospital), aged 43, of Trees, Hooper Avenue, Exeter, Devon, late Captain, R.A.M.C., dearly beloved husband of Jean. Cremated at Plymouth.