

Cullinan's main professional interest was in the clinical aspects of gastroenterology and his early classic papers on haematemesis and the natural history of infective hepatitis are well remembered and still frequently quoted. As a consultant who attained eminence at an early age it was natural that he should attract many honours. He was elected F.R.C.P. in 1934 and gave the Bradshaw Lecture before the Royal College of Physicians and was the Lettsomian Lecturer of the Medical Society of London. He was twice a Censor of the Royal College of Physicians.

Cullinan was at his best at the bedside of the sick. The unhurried courtesy, the air of equanimity and the sympathetic support and encouragement which he emanated truly reflected the art of the physician. He was never too busy to give of his best even though in the last few years indifferent health made everything more of an effort. To bring a patient to him at his house in Park Square West was a rewarding experience. After the consultation a glass of sherry would afford the excuse for the display of the most recent acquisition from his collection of eighteenth century glass, of which he was a connoisseur. It was in this relaxed setting that his expertise as a raconteur was best displayed and he would talk with charm of his past experiences in the R.A.M.C..

Cullinan had many facets to his character, some displaying a touch of the baroque. He was a conjurer of merit and at one time was a member of the Magic Circle. His holidays were often spent with his family on a converted barge exploring the inland waterways of England. He acquired possession of the Beachy Head lighthouse and had much fun in renovating it into a pleasant retreat. In his younger days he was an enthusiastic mountaineer and during his service in East Africa climbed Mount Kilimanjaro.

Cullinan's family life was exceptionally happy. He leaves a widow, the Hon. Joy Cullinan, daughter of his old chief, and four children. One son is a doctor; another entered the Church and officiated at the Requiem Mass at St. James', Spanish Place. To them we extend our most sincere sympathy in their loss.

R.J.G.M.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

R.A.M.C. HISTORICAL MUSEUM

From : Major-General R. E. Barnsley, C.B., M.C., M.A., M.B.

SIR—May I crave the hospitality of your columns in order to express my very sincere thanks to all who played any part in the events culminating in the presentation which took place in the Mess at Millbank on February 10th?

I feel that perhaps a word or two of explanation from the "receiving end" is due to all the kindly folk who have subscribed and sent their signatures.

Early in January I was told that a proposal had been circulated that some kind of presentation should be made, bearing the signature of subscribers, at a dinner in the mess. A few weeks later I was profoundly moved to learn that applications and subscriptions had got beyond the mess dinner and presentation stage and I was asked to suggest some deserving cause to which the very substantial fund might be devoted.

Both during my service and in the years of retirement the fine historical tradition of our Corps has been one of my greatest interests, one which I have been lucky enough to be able to pursue in helping to compile our Corps History and in establishing our

museum. I felt that the sum might well be used to help to promote esprit de corps among all ranks which is, indeed, the chief aim of our museum. The cheque handed over by the Director General for £800 was therefore made payable to the RAMC Museum Trust Fund and the final decision will rest with our trustees. I would assure your readers that our trust does not consist of a collection of elderly professors living remote lives in their libraries or laboratories but of men who are in daily contact with every phase of Corps life. They include the Director General, the Representative Colonel Commandant, the Commandants of the College and the Depot and our two individual trustees, Sir Arthur Porritt, and Dr. W. S. C. Copeman. They will be meeting to discuss the matter shortly and I think we can rely on them to find a solution acceptable to all ranks past and present and I hope they will announce their proposals in your pages in due course.

In the meantime I am arranging to have the 500 signatures suitably mounted and framed and they will hang on my wall as a perpetual reminder of the wonderful spirit of kindness and goodwill which permeates the great Corps to which I have been proud to devote over fifty years of my life.

R.A.M.C. Historical Museum,
Keogh Barracks,
Ash Vale,
Nr. ALDERSHOT, Hants.
8th March, 1965.

I am, etc.,
R. E. BARNSELY

SOVEREIGN BASE AREAS IN CYPRUS

From :

Major W. J. Lawrence, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.T.M.&H., D.P.H., D.I.H., R.A.M.C.

SIR—Vol. III, No. 1 of R.A.M.C. Corps Journal carried the above article by Lt.Col. Harrison, RAMC. The article, submitted to the Journal in 1962, detailed problems which might occur in and around the SBA's as a result of import restrictions forcing the procurement of local food produce. An impression was given that some items of local produce were below the standard of that of U.K., or were produced and processed under unhygienic conditions. Procurement would result in deficiencies in the soldiers—families diet.

Present conditions in Cyprus force me to say that the fears expressed have not come to pass.

Milk is obtained from contractors who have good farms, near to U.K. standards, and is pasteurised in plants of U.K. standards. Army contracts quote U.K. standards on specifications, and licence to sell to troops and families is only given to contractors meeting these specifications.

No local cheeses are sold in the NAAFI, where import restrictions have been lifted to allow all varieties of imported cheese to become available.

Local meat is not on sale in the SBA and a wide range of imported meat is available for troops and families. Local cafes, sutlers etc., to some extent also use imported meat as it is cheaper than local meat. The quality of local meat is itself quite good, and conditions in municipal abattoirs and markets compare very favourably with other tropical countries.

Local chickens are available both to the Army and NAAFI, and again are of good quality. This has been achieved by the Army specifying the size of eggs required, and contractors improving stock to produce these eggs.

Unsafe table waters have not been seen on sale by myself, or the Staff of the Hygiene Wing.

In general the standard of foodstuffs available to the Services, whether local or imported is good. The condition of production, processing and sale satisfactory.

This standard in Cyprus has to a large extent been achieved by detailed specification of contracts, and by contractors accepting the advice of Service specialists. NAAFI have liaised closely with the Services in the negotiations, and sell only produce from Service approved sources.

I wish to reassure any person who may have read Lt.Col. Harrison's article, and who is in the process of being posted to Cyprus, that the danger to health, to himself or his family from foodstuffs is far less than most other overseas postings. The variety, range and quality of foodstuffs on sale is not likely to lead to disease, malnutrition or monotony.

No. 1 Hygiene Wing, RAMC,
Nightingale Barracks,
Dhekelia,
B.F.P.O. 53.

I am, etc.,
W. J. LAWRENCE.

22nd April, 1965.

BOOK REVIEWS

Recent Advances in Surgery. 6th Edition. Edited by S. TAYLOR. London: J. & A. Churchill Ltd., 1964. Pp. iv+438. Illustrated. 65s.

This book continues the magnificent standard set by its predecessors and covers the advances in most fields of surgery. The Editor has called on a distinguished panel of contributors who are masters of their subject and also writers of clarity and skill.

The first chapter on Design of the Operating Theatre is a little disappointing as it shows the extremely empirical and impractical attitude still adopted in this country to Hospital design. One especially gloomy remark on page 8 is in the description of a new hospital which has a special clinical charge of 26 beds for anaesthetists included within the Theatre suite, 18 being for reception and the remaining 8 a recovery ward, which implies a somewhat terrifying operative mortality!

There is a most valuable chapter on the surgery of infection and on the present position in burns with an unfortunate curious printer's error on page 55 connecting azotaemia with arrangements being made for a mother to live in. I feel sure that there is an omission at this point.

Mr. Alan Davies contributes a valuable chapter on cytotoxic agents and wisely stresses that their use is still largely experimental and Dempster's chapter on kidney transplantation could hardly be faulted and Mr. Tibbs on Hydrocele in Infancy and Childhood, although very short, clears up a number of widely held misconceptions.

Mr. McKay Watts' chapter on Tracheotomy is excellent but on page 158 under the heading "Removal of Tracheo-Bronchial Secretions" an important point is over-looked in that the sucking tube should never be moved while sucking and should be provided with a finger control suction tube to avoid this damaging manoeuvre.

As is only to be expected, Vascular and Cardiac Surgery is covered extremely well and provides a useful up-to-date reference. Unfortunately though Mr. Eastcott's article (on page 239) repeats the fallacy that the reduction of amputation rate in the latter half of the Korean War by routine primary reconstruction was dramatic.

An extremely valuable chapter on the radiological aids to surgeons is most valuable particularly for those who are not familiar with these procedures and Mr. Calnan's chapter on Cleft Lip and Palate forms a delightful monograph on the subject with a delicate touch of humour in the caption to the illustration on page 357.

Messrs. Hastin Bennett and Radley-Smith discuss succinctly the surgical care of Parkinson's disease and the Editor discusses the treatment of hyper-thyroidism and the adrenal glands with his usual clarity and mellifluous phraseology.

No surgeon could afford to let this book go unread.

J. C. WATTS.