

## SOCIETY OF MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH MEETING OF SERVICES HYGIENE GROUP AT R.A.M. COLLEGE

THE Group, which is composed of "past and present" officers of all three Services, met at the College by invitation of the Commandant on March 22, 1950.

Amongst the members and guests present were the Deputy Director-General, Army Medical Services, the President of the Group (Air Commodore J. M. Kilpatrick); the Vice-Presidents (Sir George Elliston, Lt.-Col. H. D. Chalke (O.C. London Hygiene Company, T.A.) and Brigadier A. E. Richmond, now of the Ministry of Health); and Major-General T. Young (Director of Army Health), Air Commodore Lipscomb (Director of Hygiene, Air Ministry), Air Vice-Marshal J. McClurkin and Colonel W. W. S. Sharpe of the Ministry of Supply, Dr. Andrew Topping (Dean, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine), Dr. G. M. Frizelle (Sub-Dean, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and Secretary of the Group); Colonel Hodgson, I.M.S. (retd.), Lt.-Col. E. F. W. Mackenzie (Metropolitan Water Board), Dr. J. A. Struthers (M.O.H. Holborn), Colonels F. C. Hilton-Sergeant (Army School of Health), A. E. Campbell (Professor of Army Health and A/Commandant, R.A.M. College), J. J. O'Dwyer (now of Unilever); Dr. G. D. Pirrie (L.C.C. Medical Staff), Dr. J. Craig Lindsay (M.O.H., Aldershot), Dr. V. Freeman (M.O.H., Islington), Dr. O. C. Dobson (Area County M.O.H., Middlesex), Lt.-Cols. C. L. Day, A. Meneces, D. W. Bell, R. W. Scott, Major S. Elliott, Majors M. M. Lewis and F. J. Ingham, Mr. Grundy and four St. Andrews University Cadets.

The evening's programme commenced with a showing of the new Army Health film "Health in Our Time."

In the Chemical Laboratory a series of bench demonstrations had been arranged by the Departments of Tropical Medicine & Entomology, Pathology, and Army Health. Subjects dealt with were the Dysenteries; Insecticides and Sprayers; Detergents; Water Sterilizing Tablets; Compound Vitamin tablets; the mounting of entomological specimens in Perspex; diagrams, etc., used in the teaching of entomology; antibiotics and recent developments; and the exo-erythrocytic phase of *P. falciparum*. The demonstrations were designed to represent recent advances of interest to Service Health Officers as well as methods and type of instruction used in the College.

From the modern lecture précis used in the Department of Army Health, visitors passed on to a viewing in the Library of the works of Parkes, de-Chaumont, Notter, Firth, Lelean and other former members of the College or Army Medical School Staff.

Also to be seen were some of the older writings on the health of the soldier. In these days many minds, both lay and medical, are giving much attention to

the improvement of communal health. Pringle in his "Observations on the Diseases of the Army" wrote in 1765: "I need scarce add that the preservatives from diseases are not to depend on medicines nor on anything which a soldier shall have in his power to neglect but upon such orders only at the same time that they do not appear unreasonable to him, he shall be made to obey." To read this in a beautifully bound copy with Sir James McGrigor's name on the fly-leaf was to glimpse an old view of the Army in the field not of war but of health education. There still seems to be plenty to learn and impart about the "preservatives from diseases" and it may be wondered if "orders" tend to be less "unreasonable."

The professional interest in the proceedings was gratifying and there was added pleasure in providing, with College resources, the occasion for a meeting of those with similar interests and service ranging from the "private enterprise" days before 1914 to that of present-day candidates for National Service.

### GUEST NIGHT

A GUEST NIGHT was held at the Headquarter Mess on April 27, when Major-General Sir Ernest Cowell, *K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., T.D., M.D., F.R.C.S.*, was "dined out" on the occasion of his retirement from active duty with the Territorial Army.

The Director-General proposed General Cowell's health in a short speech, which drew attention to the outstanding services which General Cowell had rendered both to the Territorial and to the Regular R.A.M.C. He had done pioneer work in Air Raid Surgery and had visited Barcelona during the Spanish Civil War to investigate at first hand the organization for these cases. His name would always be remembered for his work in connexion with the evacuation of casualties by air, and on wound shock in World War I. General Cowell's drill for the application of the Thomas's splint is the one which is now in force in the Corps. The Director-General then referred to his services during the last war, his active interest in the medical tactics of the forward medical units, his splendid work at Dunkirk, and his appointment as D.M.S. to the Forces in North Africa in 1942.

He was a Deputy Lieutenant for the County of Surrey and a Freeman of the Borough of Croydon.

General Cowell in his reply proceeded to give some reminiscences of his military career and referred to the shortage of surgical teams which had characterized World War I; the part which he had taken in the reorganization of the field medical units with the Hartgill Committee and emphasized how desirable it was that we should adopt close co-operation with the American Forces.

Amongst other guests present were Sir George Turner, Permanent Under-Secretary of State for War, and Lieutenant-General Sir John Whiteley, Deputy Chief of the Imperial General Staff, and many Territorial officers.

A message of sympathy on his illness was sent to Major-General Galloway, who had been unable to attend as a Mess guest on the occasion of his retirement.