

Matters of Interest

THE King, as Sovereign of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath, attended a Service he had Commanded to be held in Westminster Abbey on May 24, 1951.

This beautiful and impressive Service was attended by the following Serving and Retired Officers of the Army Medical Services who are Companions of the Order.

Lieut.-General Sir Neil Cantlie, Director-General Army Medical Services, Major-Generals Sir Ralph B. Ainsworth, Knt., H. P. W. Barrow, R. E. Barnsley, F. Harris, K. A. M. Tomory, F. R. H. Mollan, T. Young.

BRIGADIER COKE, Director-General of the Canadian Army Medical Services, was a visitor during Corps Week and attended the Ball at Aldershot on June 6, the Corps Sports on June 7 and the At Home and Dinner on June 8.

Brigadier Coke attended the 13th Congress of Military Medicine and Pharmacy in Paris from June 16 to 26 and then paid a visit to Germany before he returned to the U.K. Afterwards he visited certain military medical establishments in this country.

Lieut.-Colonel T. Williams of the New Zealand Army Medical Corps was also a visitor during Corps Week and attended the Corps Sports and the At Home. He represented New Zealand at the Congress of Military Medicine and Pharmacy in Paris and will later be visiting some of the military medical establishments in this country.

COLONEL WANSBOROUGH, Director of the Canadian Army Dental Corps, is on a visit to the U.K. and attended the 13th Congress of Military Medicine and Pharmacy in Paris.

THE Royal Army Medical Corps Annual Dinner was held at the Trocadero on Friday, June 8, under the Presidency of the Director-General, Army Medical Services. Those present included:

Lieut.-General Sir Treffry Thompson, Major-General O. W. McSheehy, Major-General J. C. Dowse, Major-General R. E. Barnsley, Major-General T. Menzies, Major-General J. M. Macfie, Major-General A. J. Beveridge, Major-General F. Harris, Major-General K. A. M. Tomory, Major-General R. D. Cameron, Major-General F. R. H. Mollan, Major-General T. Young.

Brigadier W. L. Coke, *O.B.E.*, Director-General, R.C.A.M.C., Lieut.-Colonel T. Williams, N.Z.A.M.C., and Capt. J. J. H. Connors, R.C.A.M.C.

The D.G.A.M.S. proposed the health of Brigadier Coke, Director-General of the R.C.A.M.C. He welcomed Brigadier Coke to the Dinner and said that



last year we were glad to welcome Major-General Kingsley Norris, the Director-General of the Medical Service of Australia.

The R.C.A.M.C. had recently established a Headquarter Mess at their depot at Camp Borden, Ontario, and he said that this was a step forward in the history of the R.C.A.M.C. The D.G.A.M.S. then spoke on the early days in Canada

and said that the earlier members of the medical profession came from the medical officers attached to the British regiments in Canada at the end of the eighteenth century. A certain number of these medical officers elected to remain in Canada when their regiments returned and they took with them their traditions of Army Service and of professional conduct. He said that the Officers of the Corps welcomed this opportunity of commemorating the foundation of the Headquarter Mess in Canada by presenting the Officers of the R.C.A.M.C. with a Silver Cup as a token of affection and esteem and in the firm knowledge that it would make closer those indissoluble bonds which unite the two Corps.

Brigadier Coke in his reply thanked the D.G. for the gift, which would be cherished as a lasting link between the two Corps and pointed out how much the military medical services in Canada had benefited from the R.A.M.C. Their organization and training was based on the Corps and they were determined that this should continue. He then presented the D.G.A.M.S. with a training film which showed the work of the R.C.A.M.C. in the field.

THE D.G.A.M.S. was a guest at the Annual Dinner of the Royal Army Dental Corps, which was held on June 1. In an after-dinner speech he outlined the steps which had been taken to establish the new dental specialist organization. He said that the aim must be to raise the professional status of the R.A.D.C. to the highest possible level. The arrangements for post-graduate periods of study in order to allow officers to take higher qualifications had been settled and he hoped that as many officers as possible would endeavour to qualify as specialists.

AT Aldershot on June 2 previous to their departure for Cyprus, the 23rd Para. Fd. Amb. was inspected by the D.G.A.M.S. The parade was under the command of Lieut.-Colonel A. Young, *D.S.O.* After the inspection the Fd. Amb. marched past; the D.G. then addressed the troops, saying how pleased he was to see their smartness on parade but he expected this standard of a parachute unit. He wished them good luck and a safe return.

BRIGADIER J. C. COLLINS, who has returned from the Far East, has been appointed D.D.M.S., Headquarters North-Command, in relief Major-General J. J. Magner.

NOTES FROM A.M.D.

BY

OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

WE are happy to record that six officers of the R.A.M.C. and late R.A.M.C. received awards in the Birthday Honours List. Major-General J. M. Macfie,

C.B.E., M.C., M.B., K.H.S., became a Companion of the Order of the Bath. In the Order of the British Empire, Colonel W. A. D. Drummond, F.R.C.S., was promoted to Commander; Lieut.-Colonel D. G. Levis, M.B., and Lieut.-Colonel A. J. Maciver, M.B. (T.A.R.O.), became officers; and Majors R. S. Hunt and W. Price became Members.

RECENTLY we came across a medical officer who has started a collection of misspelt medical terms. It appears that this officer receives frequent letters from the public on medical matters and each unusual spelling of a disease is added to his collection. We were permitted to examine some of the specimens and offered some advice on classification. There were the usual varieties of pneumonia—Plural phumonia suggested a widespread involvement of the lungs and pmonia introduced, we thought, some difficulties in pronunciation. We sympathized with the individual who found “abscess” to have a confusing number of consonants: he gave a number of alternative spellings by referring to “a TB aseses (abseses)” and later to “absese” and “abeses.” Another writer gave similar treatment to a different condition by complaining of Valuar Hearts Deceace and later of Valoular Heart Discease. Our speculation was aroused by “a secpical spine” and Strankled Urnia.” This last was, as far as we remember, associated with “frombosis.” But we thought the best specimen was a disease suggesting the risk to which progress may expose us all—“Pylon Ephritis.” We are reminded of an experience of our own, when a fond mother wrote to us to say that her son had been discharged with 390 K.Rs., and were they serious, please?

THE other day we met a senior officer of our acquaintance whose bronzed appearance was indicative of recent service in the Far East. His first questions after the usual compliments had been exchanged were enquiries concerning the present whereabouts of old friends in the Corps.. We reluctantly confessed that we were not very up to date on locations and resolved to refresh our memories. Ruminating on the lack of information about this, it occurred to us that readers might be interested to know what other officers were doing. We soon found that it was necessary to restrict our enquiries to officers above the rank of major in order to confine the task to reasonable dimensions. We decided that it should be possible to complete a rapid mental tour of the United Kingdom during this month, and resolved mentally to travel the whole world before the end of the year.

Commencing in London, we paid a brief visit to the War Office, where we found, working under the genial direction of Major-General F. Harris, D.D.G.A.M.S., the A.D.G.s of the A.M.D. branches and the Inspector of Training, Brigadier F. K. Escritt. At A.M.D.1 was Colonel E. H. Hall, moving medical officers over the chessboard of the world. We thought there were many similarities between the duties of a personnel branch and the rules of chess. In

the midst of these profound thoughts we were hurried along to Colonel J. H. J. Crosse of A.M.D.2, whose office seemed to have an international flavour—so many are the liaison duties of this branch. At A.M.D.3—downstairs again: our guide was more concerned with arithmetical progression than with economy of effort—At A.M.D.3 we found that Colonel J. P. Douglas was away at a committee meeting. This branch handles the “Q” side of medical affairs. Upstairs again at A.M.D.5, where we passed the door of Major-General T. Young, Director of Army Health, on our way to see Lieut.-Colonel R. W. Scott, A.D.A.H. of the hygiene branch. Finally we reached A.M.D.7—happily on the same floor—where we found Lieut.-Colonel M. S. W. Bisdee in charge of clinical affairs. Associated with this branch are the Consultants to the Army: the Director of Surgery, Brigadier A. G. Harsant; the Director of Medicine, Brigadier W. R. D. Hamilton; the Director of Pathology, Brigadier A. Sachs and the Director of Psychiatry, Brigadier J. Rosie. Brigadier Rosie has recently completed a hectic tour of B.A.O.R. and B.T.A. We also learnt that if we were prepared to hang around A.M.D.7 for a week we might meet the Advisers: Lieut.-Colonel H. N. Perkins (Oto-Laryngology), Lieut.-Colonel M. J. Milne (Physical Medicine), Lieut.-Colonel B. Levy (Venereology), Lieut.-Colonel T. M. Corcoran (Radiology), Lieut.-Colonel J. B. George (Ophthalmology) and Lieut.-Colonel K. F. Stephens (Anæsthetics).

However, time being short, we hurried off to Eastern Command, where Major-General K. A. M. Tomory is D.D.M.S., Colonel E. J. S. Bonnett is D.D.A.H. and Lieut.-Colonel H. T. Chiswell is A.D.M.S. The A.D.M.S. of an infantry division and East Anglian District is Colonel K. McNeil whose field ambulance commanders are Lieut.-Colonels G. B. Heugh, F. King and S. G. M. Lynch. Colonels B. J. Daunt and R. H. Robinson are A.D.sM.S. of London District and Home Counties District respectively. We later made a call on the Q.A. Military Hospital, Millbank, commanded by Colonel F. J. O’Meara, and the R.A.M. College, whose Commandant is Major-General F. R. H. Mollon. At these establishments were the Readers: Lieut.-Colonel J. A. MacDougall (Military Surgery); Lieut.-Colonel L. C. Chevens (Psychiatry); Lieut.-Colonel C. L. Day (Army Health); Lieut.-Colonel A. M. Pugh (Pathology).

As we pay our respects to Colonel A. E. Campbell, Professor of Army Health at the College, we think we ought to explain that no order of precedence is being attempted in these notes. Colonel A. N. T. Menéces was at Millbank as the Consulting Physician to the R.A.M. College; Lieut.-Colonel W. H. Hargreaves as O. i/c Medical Division and Lieut.-Colonel H. Pozner as Command Psychiatrist. Lieut.-Colonel A. J. Warwick was in the laboratory—he is A.D.P. Eastern Command.

At this stage we drew mental breath and hoped we had covered all the officers normally stationed in London.

During lunch at the Headquarters Mess we saw Lieut.-Colonel C. E. Bull, who of course is Staff-Captain to the Director-General and we immediately recollected Lieut.-Colonel J. H. Plumridge, who is a D.A.D.G. in A.M.D.1.

After lunch we decided that Woolwich is a part of London, and so we called at the Royal Herbert Hospital, where we found Lieut.-Colonel W. A. Y. Knight commanding. Lieut.-Colonel R. J. Morrison was O. i/c Medical Division there. We denied ourselves the pleasure of visiting Shorncliffe (Lieut.-Colonel A. J. A. Gray) and Colchester (Lieut.-Colonel S. W. K. Arundell) solely because of exhaustion.

Having lived very quietly for a few days, during which time we met Colonel P. F. Palmer, who was on leave after serving in Malaya, we then thought we might be equal to a survey of Southern Command.

Under the D.D.M.S., Major-General T. Menzies, are the D.D.A.H., Colonel R. T. P. Tweedy, and the A.D.M.S., Lieut.-Colonel P. T. L. Day. We heard that Colonel T. H. Twigg was about to vacate the appointment of A.D.M.S. Aldershot District, but we were not able to discover his successor. A.D.M.S. Salisbury Plain District (and an armoured division) was Colonel C. E. Eccles, with Lieut.-Colonels R. D. Menzies and T. D. Phelan as his field ambulance commanders. Colonel R. H. C. Pryn was A.D.M.S. South-West District. After visiting so many members of the staff, we found a pleasing contrast in the regimental atmosphere of the Depot, under Colonel T. F. M. Woods (Commandant), Lieut.-Colonel W. M. Oxley (Assistant Commandant) and Lieut.-Colonel R. T. Shipman (Chief Instructor). In the same neighbourhood we covered the Field Training School (Commandant: Lieut.-Colonel D. M. Ahern) and the Army School of Health (Commandant: Colonel H. E. Knott; Senior Instructor: Lieut.-Colonel T. M. W. D'Arcy).

We had a mental lunch at the Cambridge Hospital where we renewed acquaintance with Colonel V. C. Verbi, and met also Lieut.-Colonel M. F. Kelleher (O. i/c Medical Division) and Lieut.-Colonel R. A. Stephen (O. i/c Surgical Division). The Consulting Surgeon to the R.A.M. College, Colonel C. M. Marsden, is also frequently to be found there. At the Louise Margaret Hospital was Lieut.-Colonel I. H. C. Morton, who is also War Office Adviser in Obstetrics.

On our way down to Netley to see the Royal Victoria Hospital with its miles of corridors we passed the Connaught Hospital, which accommodates Army cases of T.B. who are awaiting transfer to a civil sanatorium. The Connaught was commanded by Colonel F. C. Hilton-Sergeant, but we were told that Lieut.-Colonel R. C. Langford would be taking over in August. The military hospitals at Wheatley (Lieut.-Colonel C. A. Levy) and Tidworth (Lieut.-Colonel C. A. Slaughter) we were unfortunately unable to visit, nor did we see the Leishman Laboratory (Colonel L. R. S. MacFarlane—A.D.P. Southern Command) nor the David Bruce Laboratory (Lieut.-Colonel M. H. P. Sayers). We arrived at Netley and met the O.C., who is Colonel J. W. Hyatt. The Convalescent Wing is in the charge of Lieut.-Colonel J. M. Carnow and in charge of the Psychiatric Division of the hospital is Lieut.-Colonel J. F. Murphy. We heard here that Lieut.-Colonel J. D. Cruickshank is at Porton. Not very far away from Netley was A.D.M.S.(E) Southampton—Lieut.-Colonel T. J. L. Thompson. We bid a

reluctant farewell, as the travelogues say, to Netley and arrived home in the sma' wee hours, hoping we had traced every senior officer in Southern Command.

Subsequently and mentally we journeyed to Northern Command where Major-General J. C. Collins, back from the Far East, is D.D.M.S. The D.D.A.H. is Colonel P. J. L. Capon and the A.D.M.S. Lieut.-Colonel M. J. Kohane. Colonel E. M. Hennessey is A.D.M.S. North Midland District, but at Catterick District we found Colonel D. Bluett about to depart for Germany. Commanding the hospital at Catterick was Colonel W. G. S. Foster and in charge of the medical and surgical divisions respectively were Lieut.-Colonels F. Holmes and P. R. Wheatley. The Command Psychiatrist was Lieut.-Colonel J. McQuillan and Lieut.-Colonel H. C. M. Walton was A.D.P. At York the commanding officer of the military hospital was Lieut.-Colonel J. Aitchison. As we were up North we decided to go over the border to see Scottish Command. We heard there that Brigadier O. C. Link, the D.D.M.S., was retiring shortly. Lieut.-Colonel E. J. Curran was there as A.D.A.H. and Lieut.-Colonel G. R. Christian as A.D.P. was at Cowglen. Commanding the Military Hospital, Cowglen, was Lieut.-Colonel D. T. Swift. A.D.S.M.S. Highland and Lowland Districts were Colonel R. V. Franklin and Colonel A. M. Simson.

Travelling South again, we looked in at Western Command, where we found Major-General J. M. Macfie, with Colonel M. R. Burke as his D.D.A.H. The A.D.M.S. was Lieut.-Colonel J. W. Orr. In Chester, the military hospital was commanded by Lieut.-Colonel A. Gleave, and Lieut.-Colonel D. W. Moynagh, the Command Psychiatrist, was based there. Colonel W. C. MacKinnon was A.D.M.S. North-West District and Colonel G. Moulson at Mid-West District.

We decided then that Northern Ireland District could best be contacted by telephone, and so we called up Colonel W. J. Robertson and discussed a modest item of business with him. Lieut.-Colonel C. King is O.C. Military Hospital, Waringfield.

It is scarcely necessary to mention Colonel T. I. Dun, who is in charge of Medical Services and W.R.A.C. Records, as most readers must be familiar with his name and appointment.

We ended this rapid and exhausting mental tour with a feeling that we might easily have omitted somebody. Those officers whom we have mentioned meeting may perhaps be puzzled over our identity and it would be as well to say that we are nebulous and intangible creatures, with a tendency towards fabricatory embellishment!

COLONEL G. O. F. ALLEY retired on March 30, 1951. He was appointed to a permanent commission in the R.A.M.C. in mid-1915 and served with distinction with the B.E.F. in France from 1916 to 1919. From 1920 to 1922 he was in Mesopotamia and from there went to India. He again served in India in 1929-31, and in Egypt 1935-36. In August 1941 he was appointed to command the Military Hospital, Barming Heath, and from there to 93 General Hospital

about a year later. For another year he was in PAIFORCE and M.E.F. and then went down to South Africa to command hospitals there. In 1946 he became A.D.M.S. 203 British Military Mission and nine months later he returned to the United Kingdom having meanwhile been promoted substantive colonel. Colonel Alley was A.D.M.S. Highland District from the beginning of 1947 until he went to East Anglian District, where he continued to serve up to the date of his retirement. During his service he was decorated with the Military Cross in 1917, was awarded a bar to this decoration in 1918 and a second bar in the same year. In 1949 he was made an Officer of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem.

We have not had news of any more casualties to medical officers in Korea, and we hear that Capt. T. Dungavel who was wounded is now back at duty. We were greatly shocked to learn of the accidental death of Lieut.-Colonel J. A. Manifold in Saudi Arabia. His passing will be a great loss to the Corps.

Obituary

Major JOHN STARTIN

In Plymouth on June 1, 1951, Major John Startin, *M.C.*, *R.A.M.C.*, Retired.

Born July 28, 1883, he took the *M.R.C.S.* England, and the *L.R.C.P.* London, in 1908, having been educated at Bedford College and St. Thomas's Hospital.

He joined the Corps August 1, 1908. Promoted Captain February 1, 1912, and Major August 1, 1920, he retired August 1, 1928.

Serving in India on the outbreak of war he proceeded to Mesopotamia, November 28, 1914, and took part in the defence of Kut, being taken prisoner April 28, 1916, on its fall. He remained a prisoner in the hands of the Turks till April 1, 1918; his captivity affected his health.

Thrice mentioned in despatches and also brought to notice for valuable service rendered while prisoner, he was awarded the *M.C.*, 1914-15 Star, British War and Victory Medals.

A well-known oarsman—he had rowed for St. Thomas's Hospital. He was largely responsible for the pioneer work in the formation of the Plymouth Amateur Rowing Association, of which he was Chairman at the time of his death.

The Plymouth Festival of Britain Committee and Royal Air Force Associa-