

## News from the Branches.

EAST MIDLANDS BRANCH.—The following letter appeared recently in a Nottingham paper over the signature of Mr. F. C. Porter :

Sir,—As one interested in the question of diet, especially as it affects the condition of the nation's teeth, I should like to congratulate Sir Albert Atkey on his suggestion to the Lord Mayor that he provide wholemeal bread when he dispenses hospitality to his guests.

That eminent physician, the late Sir William Osler, once declared that dental disease wrought greater havoc with health of the people than the abuse of alcohol. Those who have made a study of the diseases of the teeth tell us that the prevailing fondness for eating white bread and sweet cakes made from impoverished flour is one of the main causes.

Time was when only so-called people of quality ate white bread. It was too expensive for poor folk. The Borough Records show that in 1702, at the celebration of the Coronation of Queen Anne, one of the things provided for the festivities was white bread. It was a luxury. It would be interesting if the borough records of 1941 could show that My Lord Mayor decided that his guests, at any rate, should be provided with bread containing the greatest possible amount of nutriment. A healthy new world will need healthy builders.

## Obituary.

Arthur H. Parrott, O.B.E., M.D.S., L.D.S.Eng.

WE greatly regret to announce the sudden death of Mr. Arthur Parrott, one of the best known dental surgeons in the Midlands, at the age of 65. Mr. Parrott was a student of the Birmingham Dental School and obtained the L.D.S.Eng. in 1897. After a short period in practice in France he settled down in Birmingham and was elected on the staff of the Dental Hospital eventually becoming one of the Senior Honorary Dental Surgeons. For many years he was Honorary Secretary to the Surgical Committee and had always taken the greatest interest in that institution. He obtained the B.D.S. Birmingham in 1903, being one of the first to obtain this degree, and the M.D.S. in 1918.

During the last war Mr. Parrott worked indefatigably in the 1st Southern General Hospital and his work in the treatment of maxillo-facial injuries was recognised by the award of the O.B.E. This branch of dental surgery always attracted him; he published several articles on the subject, and was always glad to place his knowledge and experience at the disposal of anyone needing assistance. Only a few days before his death he visited East Grinstead and other Maxillo-facial Centres. He was also greatly interested in local analgesia and did a great deal to popularise intra-osseous injection, which is now frequently referred to as "Parrott's method."

In 1925 he was appointed Lecturer to the University on Materia Medica for dental students. He was a highly-skilled dental surgeon and most conscientious in his treatment. He was elected a member of the British Dental Association in 1899 and became President of the Central Counties Branch in 1920, later he was President of the Odontological Section of the Birmingham Medical Institute. He was President of the Odontological Section of the Royal Society of Medicine in 1938, an honour of which he was most proud. There were very few dental meetings he missed and he could always be relied on to use his influence to render them a success.

He was a member of the Grosvenor and University of Birmingham Lodges of Freemasons and rarely missed a meeting.

By his passing the profession has lost a loyal and distinguished member and the Dental School a sincere and devoted teacher. He leaves a widow, a son and daughter, to whom we extend our greatest sympathy.

Mr. C. F. Cale-Matthews writes : "The sudden and unexpected passing of Arthur Parrott has shocked and saddened his friends and colleagues. The writer received a delightful letter of good wishes for the New Year on the day of his death. There was no indication that he was ill or in any way anxious about his health. Birmingham has been fortunate in the personnel of its teaching staffs both at the University and at the Dental Hospital, friendship and loyalty to our School has always been the distinguishing factor in our work. It is largely due to men like Arthur Parrott that this attitude has been maintained and encouraged. A man of exemplary character, it was to such we owe so much. His professional attainments were high, his work was characterised by careful regard to every detail and was of a high standard. It was always safe to assume that any work entrusted to him, whether technical or administrative, would be carried out with exactness and sincerity.

His pleasures were simple and healthy. A player of more than average ability he took part in many of the Edgbaston Tennis tournaments. In later years Badminton became a

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favourite game. He possessed a pleasant cultured light tenor voice and enjoyed taking part  
 in light opera, such as Gilbert and Sullivan. Gardening was a great hobby. His death and  
 the loss of his friendship and comradeship is one of the blows which time inevitably brings to  
 those of us who have been so closely associated for over forty years in our life's work.

The youngest of a family of five sons and two daughters, he is survived by a brother, a  
 clergyman in Canada, and a widowed sister. A devoted husband and father, he will be  
 greatly missed. To Mrs. Parrott and his son and daughter we all give our deep and sincere  
 sympathy. We have all lost a sincere and loyal comrade."

## Wilfrid William Gabell, L.D.S.Eng.

WE regret to record the death at the age of 69, of Mr. W. W. Gabell, who practised for  
 many years at New Barnet. A student at the Royal Dental Hospital, Mr. Gabell qualified  
 in 1893, and after serving as house surgeon, he started practice in New Barnet. He joined the  
 Association in 1902 and from the first took an active part in the work of the Eastern Counties  
 Branch of which he was President in 1923-24. He was also a member of the Council of the  
 School Dentists Society before it became merged into the Society of Medical Officers of  
 Health, and a member of the Public Dental Service Association. He was keenly interested  
 in public dental service, and in addition to appointments at the local hospitals he was dental  
 surgeon to the Boys' Farm Home, East Barnet, and to the Children's Homes under the  
 Public Assistance Committee.

During the last war he voluntarily devoted a large amount of his time to giving dental  
 treatment to Belgian refugees and German prisoners of war. In addition to his professional  
 activities Mr. Gabell took an active part in the public life of New Barnet serving on many  
 committees. A keen churchman he had served as church warden and as a member of the  
 Parochial Church Council. He was a member of the Barnet Lodge of Freemasons and an  
 original member of the Rotary Club of Barnet and East Barnet. Both he and his wife, who  
 died in May, 1941, will be very much missed from the meetings of the Eastern Counties Branch  
 at which they were constant attendants. He leaves two daughters, Miss Frida Gabell and  
 Mrs. D'Arcy Norton, to whom we extend our deep sympathy.

## Surgeon Lieutenant (D) Robert Douglas Johnston.

It is with regret we record the death in action of Surgeon Lieutenant (D) Robert Douglas  
 Johnston, L.R.C.P.&S., H.D.D., L.D.S., Royal Navy.

Following a highly successful career as a pupil at George Watson's College, Edinburgh,  
 and subsequently as a student at the Incorporated Edinburgh Dental Hospital and School  
 and Edinburgh Infirmary, Johnston obtained the L.D.S. diploma in 1931, the L.R.C.P.&S.  
 in 1932 and the H.D.D. in 1935. He entered the Royal Navy in November, 1936, and served  
 with marked distinction in various appointments ashore and afloat, including H.M.S. "Hood"  
 (1938 to 1939), H.M.S. "Sussex" (1940) and finally in H.M.S. "Prince of Wales."

To the relatives and many friends of this gallant and promising young officer we extend  
 our deepest sympathy.

## Herbert Arthur Edwards.

MR. HERBERT ARTHUR EDWARDS, until recently Chairman and Managing Director of the  
 Dental Manufacturing Company died on December 19.

Mr. Edwards was associated with the dental trade all his life. He joined the Dental  
 Manufacturing Company in 1878, was appointed Joint Manager in 1894, became Managing  
 Director in 1913, and, on the death of Mr. William Rushton, in 1940, was elected Chairman  
 of the Company. These last two offices he filled until but a short time before his death. The  
 progress of the Company from its small beginning to the position it occupies to-day is due in  
 no small measure to his devotion and far-seeing management.

In the course of a very busy and useful life, Mr. Edwards gained the respect of all those  
 with whom he came in contact, and his loss will be regretted not only by his associates in the  
 dental trade, but also by members of the profession, whose interests he was ever anxious  
 to serve.

## Public Dental Service.

### Nottinghamshire County Council.

#### ANNUAL REPORT, 1940.

THE difficulty of administering a well-established dental scheme under war conditions  
 is illustrated in the Report by the Senior Dental Officer, Mr. D. E. Mason, contained in the  
 Annual Report of the County Medical Officer, Dr. Tibbits. On the one hand an increased  
 school population due to the inclusion of evacuees, on the other a depleted staff due to the  
 advantage taken of the permission given by the Authority to all their dental officers under