

how essential John Hunter found his farm at Earl's Court to be for the completion of his experimental work, and hoped that the institution or farm he had in mind would serve young surgeons as an 'Earl's Court'. He bought land adjacent to the Darwin estate as a site for his institution, now known as the Buckston Browne Farm for Surgical Research. It was opened in 1933, but with the coming of war all its research workers were called to the field, the laboratories being taken over by the Emergency Health Service. With the return of peace we may hope to see it restored to its old activities.

Among his intimate friends Buckston Browne numbered Sir Thomas Barlow: both were from Lancashire; they met as students at University College; they occupied houses in Wimpole Street which faced each other. On January 11, Sir Buckston was carried to his old hospital, suffering from a

fracture of the neck of his femur; he died on January 19, well advanced into his ninety-fifth year. As he lay in the hospital, where seventy-three years before he had been house surgeon, his senior friend shook off the burden of life, having reached his hundredth year.

In 1931 the University of Aberdeen conferred its honorary LL.D. on Sir Buckston in recognition of his services to surgery. In 1932 he received the honour of knighthood, when he discarded "George" from his name, wishing to be known as Sir Buckston Browne.

A. KEITH.

IN *Nature* of October 28, 1944, an obituary notice was printed of Prof. Gustav Gilson: we have since been informed that Prof. Gilson died on January 1, 1944.

## NEWS and VIEWS

### Anglo-French Society of Sciences

At the beginning of the War, a number of scientific men in England and France became conscious of the lack of close knowledge and contact between the science and scientific workers of the two countries. As a result, they founded in April 1940 an Anglo-French Society of Sciences to assist the removal of this lack of mutual knowledge. The Society was organized in two groups, under the presidencies of Prof. P. A. M. Dirac and Prof. F. Joliot. The occupation of France interrupted normal proceedings, but during the occupation some members became very prominent in the French resistance movement. The liberation of France has enabled the Society to hold its first conference, which was on the topic of "The Solid State", and was held in London on January 20 at the Society for Visiting Scientists. Prof. F. Joliot and Mme. Irene Curie-Joliot travelled from France to take part in the proceedings, and were accompanied by Prof. Wyart, Dr. J. Laval and Dr. Mathieu. Papers were read at the conference by Prof. N. F. Mott, Sir Geoffrey Taylor, Dr. Laval, Dr. Mathieu, Dr. Guinier, Prof. Wyart and others.

Members of the Society were entertained to tea at the House of Commons by Sir Robert Bird, chairman of the Anglo-French Parliamentary Committee. In reply to speeches by Sir Robert Bird and Mr. E. W. Salt, chairman of the Parliamentary and Scientific Committee, Prof. Joliot spoke on the contribution of science to international understanding, and its place in the conduct of affairs. Science tends to clarity of mind and rational method, and it should be introduced into all aspects of a nation's life, including many where it may not hitherto have been customary. Prof. J. Hadamard referred to David Hume's famous remark that British soldiers fight and die in order that British judges may judge according to their conscience; the devotion of the English and French to that ideal is a binding link between them.

### Medical Education in Great Britain

In a reply on January 18 to a question in the House of Commons regarding the Goodenough Report on Medical Schools, Mr. Willink stated that the Government recognizes the fundamental importance of medical education and research to the future of the health services of the country, and accepts the

principle of increased grants for the purposes of medical education and research to be distributed by the University Grants Committee through the universities to medical schools, postgraduate schools and institutes and hospitals used for teaching and research. The Government also accepts the suggestion that for a limited period these additional grants should be separated from the block grants received by universities for their work as a whole. As regards the views expressed in the report on the importance of affording to women equal opportunities to those enjoyed by men for medical training and for obtaining postgraduate experience, the Government has decided that future payments of grants to medical schools should be conditional on the adoption by the school of the principle of admitting a reasonable proportion of students of both sexes. It is proposed also that the University Grants Committee, in consultation with the university authorities concerned, should be responsible for determining from time to time whether the action taken by each of these schools complies reasonably with the principle. Equal importance is also attached to the revision of the medical curriculum, and acceptance of the principle of increased grants for medical education and research depends on the early completion of such a revision.

### Tuberculosis Mortality in the United States

ACCORDING to J. Yerushalmy, principal statistician, H. E. Hilleboe, senior surgeon, and C. E. Palmer, surgeon, United States Public Health Service (*Public Health Rep.*, 58, 1457; 1943), the average annual number of deaths from all forms of tuberculosis in the United States in the period 1939-41 was 10,429 (45.9 per 100,000 of the population). Mortality from tuberculosis was 41 per cent higher among males than among females, and three and a half times as high among non-whites as among whites. Death-rates for all forms of tuberculosis were higher in the older age-groups than in the younger. Among children and young adults the rates were higher for females than for males; but in the older groups the rates were much higher for males. Nearly one half of all tuberculosis deaths occurred at the ages 20-44. The death-rate from tuberculosis for males was higher among residents of large cities than among residents in intermediate sized cities, and that of the latter was much