baby with an imperforate anus, she went so far as to make deep incisions. In the seventeenth century, several titled ladies who had studied abroad, became well known, and a Hannah Woolley, of London, actually published a rather popular book on medicine. Whether remedies such as being 'laid in horse dung' for eighteen days were widely used cannot be said.

"In Scotland a Lady Anne Halkett acted as surgeon to the Royal Army, gaining the gratitude of James II for her services.

"The fact that few of the women mentioned above had University degrees in medicine does not detract from their skill as official and compulsory standards had never been established. Dorothea Christine Erxleben, however, received a medical degree from the University of Halle in 1741, and practised medicine for several years. Another doctor by University qualification, Laura Bassi, lectured in anatomy at Bologna in the eighteenth century, while, in 1729, Antonia Elizabetha von Held, although unqualified, proclaimed herself a specialist in the treatment of syphilis. Dr. Charlotte von Siebold, the daughter of a well-known midwife, obtained a degree in Gottingen and was known in England. She attended the Duchess of Kent at the birth of Queen Victoria.

"One of the most interesting and striking discoveries in therapeutics was the introduction of digitalis by Withering. He studied and described the subject of digitalis treatment fully, but the credit must be given to a medical woman of the eighteenth century, Mrs. Hutton. Although she was unqualified she practised medicine and treated many well-known patients suffering from dropsy and heart disease."

AMERICAN HELP FOR BRITAIN.

With the consent of the President of Harvard University (Dr. James B. Conant), Dr. J. E. Gordon, Charles Wilder Professor of Preventive Medicine and Epidemiology in the University of Harvard, has accepted Mr. Malcolm MacDonald's invitation to act as United States Liaison Officer with the Ministry of Health.

Shortly after the outbreak of war Harvard University appointed a Committee to consider how the University could contribute material or professional help to a cause closely concerned with its interests. The possible nature of this help was conceived in the broadest terms, with the suggestion that it might be in the fields of economics, medicine, sociology, public health, law, and perhaps other fields. Through an exchange of opinion between authorities of the University and colleagues in Great Britain, it later became evident that help in the fields of public health and medicine was most clearly in point.

As a consequence Harvard University in June, 1940, made a formal offer to the Minister of Health, which Mr. Malcolm MacDonald gratefully accepted, to equip and maintain in Great Britain a public health unit for the study and control of communicable disease. The purposes of the unit were defined as:—

(1) To lend material aid to a friendly nation;
(2) To investigate communicable disease under unusual military and civil conditions;
(3) To obtain medical information of value to the national defence of America.

The unit as originally conceived was to include a group of workers concerned with field studies in epidemiology and a laboratory for the study of associated problems. British authorities early pointed out the desirability of adding to this basic unit a well-equipped hospital for the clinical care and study of communicable disease. This addition became possible through the active co-operation of the American Red Cross, who agreed to build and transport to Great Britain a pre-fabricated hospital of 125 beds. The final plans for the unit evolved from discussions between Professor Gordon and the authorities of the Ministry of Health in London during August and September. Facilities and staff are provided for the study of communicable disease in the field, in the laboratory, and at the bedside.

Professor Gordon returned to America in the latter part of September to assemble staff, order equipment, and lay plans for the hospital. He left in London Dr. John R. Mote, Assistant in Epidemiology in the Department of Preventive Medicine, Harvard University, now acting as medical adviser to the American Red Cross Committee in London, to continue and complete local arrangements. Dr. Gordon has now returned to London, and the first shipments of buildings and equipment are expected to arrive from America shortly. The headquarters of the unit will be in south-west England, with provision for a mobile team to serve more widely as need may arise.

As United States Liaison Officer with the Ministry of Health, Dr. Gordon has an office in the Ministry, and is taken freely into the confidence of the Minister and the staff of the Department. He will keep in close touch with the Ministry, which intends to afford him all the assistance he requires.

NEW TYPE OF X-RAY UNIT.

A Special Correspondent sends the following welcome information to *The Sunday Times*:—

Following the adoption of a new type of X-ray unit by the medical services, soldiers in advanced areas, naval men at sea and members of the R.A.F. at distant flying-fields will shortly have all the advantages of a thorough examination by a panel of medical specialists without having to leave their posts, and without the specialists having to visit their patients.

These mobile units, which were first invented in England before being perfected by the United States, take X-ray photographs on cinematograph film for projection on to a full-size screen, thus making it possible for specialists many miles away to study the heart and lungs of their patients under actual working conditions.

These units, which it is claimed are far cheaper to operate than the more usual fixed type of apparatus, can be used for any class of X-ray photography in which the plate process is now used. They will, however, chiefly be used to detect the early stages of the many types of chest troubles to which men are subject while under active service conditions, and particularly for the examination of those members of the R.A.F. whose duty calls for long stretches of flying in rarefied air at great heights.

Earlier Diagnosis.

It is pointed out that during the last war numbers of men were taken ill with various types of chest complaints simply because, during the early stages of the complaint, when it was still undiagnosable by the more usual methods used in the field, it was impracticable to send the men hundreds of miles for examination by specialists. Thus they had to carry on until the trouble was sufficiently far advanced to be detected by medical officers of the unit. This often meant that it was so far developed that the men were confined to hospital for lengthy periods, if not invalided out of the Service altogether.

Five of the new units have been given free of cost by the American Red Cross, and will be in service in England in the near future.

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