

PROCEEDINGS AND REPORTS OF UNIVERSITIES COLLEGES, COUNCILS AND ASSOCIATIONS

GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND

AMERICAN AND BRITISH COMMONWEALTH TRAVELLING FELLOWS IN ORTHOPAEDIC SURGERY

The bond of union between orthopaedic surgeons of the American Continent and the British Commonwealth of Nations has already been sealed in the two interchanges of travelling fellows in orthopaedic surgery—one group of twelve surgeons from Great Britain visiting important centres in the United States and Canada in 1948,* and another similar group from America travelling in a “deep-freeze” bus from one to another orthopaedic centre of England, Scotland and Wales in 1949.† Much enthusiasm arose from these interchanges. The tours then planned were vigorous and exacting; hard work was done in many orthopaedic centres; and the fellows had not only the honour of their appointment but also the opportunity of learning more of the work of their colleagues on opposite sides of the Atlantic as well as getting to know each other better. So successful were these first ventures that a club has already been formed—the A.B.C. (American, British, Canadian) club of travelling orthopaedic surgeons which now meets at least once each year.

This is perhaps one of the greatest adventures in interchange of surgical knowledge and stimulus between the younger orthopaedic surgeons of the great continents of the English-speaking world; and both the American Orthopaedic Association and the British Orthopaedic Association are determined that so valuable an influence should be sustained, maintained and even increased.

A more permanent plan has now been established. In alternate years five young orthopaedic surgeons will travel from the American Continent to Britain, or from the British Commonwealth of Nations to America. This will be sustained so long as the American, Canadian and British Orthopaedic Associations can support it, and they are determined to do so because they are so sure of the merits of the plan. So far as Britain is concerned it is intended to include the whole Commonwealth of British Nations, so that of the five travelling fellows at least one will come from Australia, New Zealand or South Africa.

This year it will be the turn of young British orthopaedic surgeons to go to America. Next year their men will come to us. The election of the British travelling fellows was entrusted to the Joint Committee of Postgraduate Orthopaedic Education, which represents the several Royal Colleges of Surgeons of Great Britain, the British Orthopaedic Association, the Department of Orthopaedics of the University of Liverpool, the Institute of Orthopaedics of the University of London, the Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre of the University of Oxford, and all the regions of the Ministry of Health. After very great deliberation this committee made its recommendations to the president of the British Orthopaedic Association. From a list of more than sixty applicants from Great Britain, and recommendations from Australia, the fellows appointed for 1954 are:—

Donal Brooks, London, England,
G. P. Mitchell, Edinburgh, Scotland,
H. J. Richards, Oswestry, England,
J. N. Wilson, Cardiff, Wales,
H. R. T. Hodgkinson, Sydney, Australia.

We send these ambassadors to the United States and Canada in the firm belief that they will come back with greater maturity and greater understanding, more than ever ready to receive our guests from the United States and Canada next year.

ROYAL SOCIETY OF MEDICINE

SECTION OF ORTHOPAEDICS

A clinical meeting of the Orthopaedic Section was held on February 2, 1954, with Mr H. L.-C. Wood in the chair.

Recurrence of Pott's paraplegia after antero-lateral decompression—*Mr J. H. Shelswell* (London) among other patients showed a woman of forty-six with Pott's disease of the spine who

* Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery, 1948, 30-B, 405.

* Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery, 1949, 31-B, 160.

† Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery, 1949, 31-B, 476, 623.