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Thank you.
of "sub-normal mental development". This would seem to require some explanation in view of the fact that he passed a strict medical examination on entry. It might be as well to obtain a copy of his medical report on entry.

Will you please explain any medical terms used, e.g. "aphonia".

D.L. Slayn Cox
16/5/31

A statement is attached.

A.G.
19/5/31

Parliamentary Secretary

PAGE

THANK YOU
Case of EDWARD BANNETT, Late Boy, 2nd Class.

Bennett joined the Navy in October, 1926, at the age of 15 years and 8 months and served in H.M.S. "GASCOGNE" until 23rd April, 1926 when he was sent to the R. N. Base in Plymouth. He was invalidated on the 2nd June, 1926 on account of Dental Insufficiency certified by the Dental Board of Survey to be not attributable to the service as he was discharged prior to attaining the age of 18 years, and had therefore no service costing. For pension, he was ineligible for any award under the Disabling Sickness, etc. Regulations in respect of the invaliding.

If it had been possible to regard the invaliding as attributable he would have been eligible for an award, either temporary or permanent, up to a maximum of 33½d. per week, according to the degree of disablement.

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was receiving instruction in H.M.S. "DUBWISE" he was under medical observation both in Hospital and on the attending list practically the whole time. He frequented the sick bay with minor or imaginary complaints almost daily. His Divisional Officer reported that he considered him a "peculiar individual", his appearance, his and manner being peculiar and his natural state one of extreme dirtiness. At instruction he was extremely deme and dull-witted and only obtained a few marks in a very low class, and showed no signs of progress. He was reported during the period for several disciplinary offences. As it appeared that he was thought to make an efficient Seaman he was, in April, 1850, discharged to the H.M.S. Hospital, Chatham, for observation and treatment. Whilst in Hospital it was noted that his expression is dull and "heavy", he is mentally slow and contradictory in answering questions and is below the average intelligence."
In a letter written to his mother he stated "If I am "lucky" I may get my ticket as I am trying to work it" 'ticket' signifies discharge from R.N. Navy. After a period of observation in Hospital it was decided that he was mentally insufficient and below the standard required for R.N. Navy, and at the request of the authorities an examination was made and it was noted that his condition existed prior to entry and that it was not brought about by his short period of Naval training. No actual physical defects were noted, except that there was slight weakness of one group of muscles in the left leg, which had been noted, in accordance with the usual procedure, when given the opportunity of stating his own case on entering; he did not claim that his condition was a result of any injury received at Shoebury, but simply stated "I can't walk when walking." "Born with it". Since his discharge from R.N. Navy there is no official information of his progress, but medical
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Service Department's in this matter are shown in the
accompanying papers:

(a) Note of proceedings to the occasion of a Deputation
from the British Legion received by the
Parliamentary Secretary on the 31st July, 1927;

(b) Copy of letter reply of the Deputation - Admiralty
Letter of 18th August, 1927; and

c) Notes of proceedings of Deputation from the British
Legion to the War Office - 8th November, 1929.

19th May, 1929.

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