

of the finance committee in its recommendation to the city council to renew the grant.

Queen Alexandra Sanatorium, Davos: Meeting at the Town Hall.

A meeting in connexion with the Queen Alexandra Sanatorium, Davos, was held in the council chamber of the Liverpool town hall on June 10th. In the absence of the Lord Mayor the chair was taken by Sir Alfred Jones, K.C.M.G., and amongst those present were Lord Balfour of Burleigh, Sir James Barr, Sir Edward Russell, and many influential citizens. Sir James Barr moved a proposition to the effect that a fund for donations be opened in Liverpool in support of the scheme for providing an English sanatorium at Davos, which was carried. Lord Balfour addressed the meeting and described the perfect sanitary conditions of Davos and its advantages generally. The scheme aimed at aiding the lower middle-class and they offered medical treatment, with board, residence, and all the concomitants for one and a half guineas a week, which was almost as cheap as the treatment received at home. Lord Balfour mentioned that other towns had contributed liberally to the fund. Belfast had given £700 and he thought Liverpool could easily double that sum.

Proposed New Small-pox Hospital at Birkenhead.

The Birkenhead town council had before it at a meeting on June 5th the proposals of the health committee to extend the infectious diseases hospitals at Flaybrick-hill. The medical officer of the Local Government Board stated that the board was not in existing circumstances prepared to consider the application of the Birkenhead town council for sanction to borrow money for the erection of additional ward pavilions on the present site, but would be prepared to consider the application as regards the alterations and additions to the administrative block, the erection of a lodge and discharging block, and the reconstruction of the laundry block with the necessary machinery, upon certain undertakings being given by the town council. The inspector had further impressed upon the members of the sub-committee the desirability of the acquisition by the town council as early as possible of a separate site on which to erect a hospital for the treatment of small-pox patients. The committee recommended the purchase for £1069 of a piece of land, containing nearly nine and three-quarter acres, at Willaston as a site for a small-pox hospital in the event of the scheme not being opposed by the Wirral district council.

The Medical Officer of Health of Bootle.

Mr. T. W. N. Barlow, the medical officer of health of Bootle, will be called to the Bar this month, having successfully passed his examinations in English law for students of the Inns of Court.

June 11th.

WALES AND WESTERN COUNTIES NOTES.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

A Milk-borne Epidemic of Scarlet Fever.

THE medical officer of health of Cardiff (Dr. E. Walford) has recently reported upon the circumstances attending an outbreak of scarlet fever during the second fortnight in May. Of the 37 cases of the disease notified during this period in a particular district 21 were supplied with milk from the same dealer and upon investigation it was found that the daughter of the farmer who supplied the milk was suffering from scarlet fever and that two other members of the family had had sore throats but no other well-defined symptoms. About 13 per cent. of the 150 houses supplied from this farm were infected. The supply of milk was promptly stopped and the outbreak was checked. Cardiff is well supplied with accommodation for the isolation of scarlet fever patients and the inhabitants make good use of the facilities provided. In the last few years as many as 75 per cent. of the cases of scarlet fever notified have been removed to the city isolation hospital. Expressed in percentages of the cases notified the mortality was 5 per cent. in the year 1891 before the hospital was opened, but in 1906 it was reduced to 0.4 per cent.

Gelligaer and Rhigos Isolation Hospital.

It has been decided by the Gelligaer and Rhigos district

council to erect an isolation hospital at a cost of about £11,000. A site has been purchased for £260. The district adjoins Merthyr Tydvil and a portion is essentially rural in character, though there are many parts with urban features, and there are large collections of workmen's dwellings in which proper isolation of infectious disease is almost an impossibility.

Carmarthen Asylum.

The committee of visitors of the Joint Counties Asylum at Carmarthen has elected Dr. John Richards as medical superintendent of the asylum in succession to Dr. Edwin Goodall who was appointed last year superintendent of the asylum now approaching completion at Cardiff. Dr. Richards is at present senior assistant medical officer in the Leicestershire and Rutland Asylum and was formerly assistant medical officer in the Derby Borough Asylum. The Carmarthen Asylum has accommodation for 630 patients who are received from the three counties of Cardigan, Carmarthen, and Pembroke.

The Question of a County Medical Officer of Health for Monmouthshire.

In a recently issued report upon the sanitary administration of Ebbw Vale, a colliery district in Monmouthshire, Dr. Reginald A. Farrar, one of the medical inspectors of the Local Government Board, recommended that a medical officer of health should be appointed for Ebbw Vale and the adjoining districts who should devote his whole time to public health work. This recommendation has been discussed by delegates from the district councils concerned and they have arrived at the conclusion that a joint appointment for a combination of districts is not desirable, and in a communication addressed to the Local Government Board it has been pointed out by the delegates that the sanitary authorities are making strenuous efforts to improve the sanitation of their districts. It is very much to be regretted that this decision has been come to, for in increasing localities such as those in the Monmouthshire valleys, where the districts, though under different sanitary authorities, are actually close together, it is especially important that there should be uniformity of administration. Dr. Farrar's recommendation, if adopted, would most certainly make for efficiency and would be really economical. The county council has endeavoured to come to the assistance of the district councils by asking the Local Government Board to agree to the existing system of part-time medical officers of health at small salaries, provided a county medical officer is appointed "to supervise the work of the local officers." In this last expression there is displayed deplorable ignorance of the duties of a county medical officer who is the sanitary adviser of the county council and not the superior officer of the medical officers of health of urban and rural districts.

Schools and Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

At a meeting of the Devon education committee held on June 6th, under the presidency of Sir Thomas Acland, it was moved that no person should be employed in any school under the control of the committee who was suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis. The feeling of the committee was in favour of the proposal, but it was decided to refer the matter to a subcommittee in order that it might be carefully considered.

A Proposed Cornish Sanatorium for Consumptive Patients.

The Redruth board of guardians has been urging upon other boards of guardians in Cornwall the advisability of the Poor-law unions in the county uniting in the provision of a sanatorium for consumptive patients. The majority of the answers are not favourable to the proposition, the opinion being expressed that the guardians would derive all the benefits that they can wish by subscribing to the Didworthy Sanatorium on Dartmoor.

June 11th.

SCOTLAND.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

"The Really Useful in Electro-therapeutics."

AN interesting lecture on this subject was delivered on the evening of May 31st in the Western Infirmary, Glasgow, by Dr. H. Lewis Jones of St. Bartholomew's Hospital. There was a large and representative audience of medical men from Glasgow and the West of Scotland. In dealing with the

advance that had been made in the subject within the last 16 years Dr. Jones pointed out that this had been greatly facilitated by the unlimited supply of electricity now available, owing to the energy of corporations and public companies. 12 years ago it had been quite a common occurrence for an electrical specialist to be asked to attend at a bladder examination with his cystoscope but so widespread had the knowledge of these previously little known appliances become that the rôle nowadays of the electrical specialist seemed to be to explore and to open up new fields and then to hand them over to the physician and surgeon. As regards diagnosis by means of electricity reference was made among other things to the diagnosis of obscure peripheral nerve lesions, cervical ribs, tubercle in the lungs, aneurysm of the aorta, and fracture of the base of the fifth metatarsal bone. In passing it was suggested that the present methods of electrical testing of nerves and muscles were antiquated and unsatisfactory and would have to be put on a better basis. In connexion with treatment Sabouraud's method of dealing with ringworm was described, also the treatment of rodent ulcer, tuberculous glands in the neck, and leucocythæmia by x rays. The treatment of cutaneous nævus by sparking with high-frequency sparks so as to produce a superficial burn was recommended, but skill was needed, otherwise it was impossible to prevent blistering and scar formation. Finally, reference was made to Leduc's method of ionic medication which has put kataphoresis on a new basis. The first essential of the treatment to be successful was to find out whether the substance to be introduced was an an-ion or a kat-ion. Of course, there were limitations to the applicability of this form of treatment. Ether and chloroform were not capable of introduction into the body in this way because they were insoluble in water without dissociation. Also some drugs owed their action to their concentration, and such drugs introduced diluted, as ions necessarily were, tended to lose their medicinal properties. This mode of treatment was being gradually developed and according to the lecturer it had great possibilities. In rodent ulcer good results had been obtained by using ions of zinc. For lupus ions of zinc, aniline, and fuchsin had been tried; copper and magnesium had also been made use of in the ionic method of treating warts and other superficial affections. A vote of thanks to the lecturer was carried on the proposition of the President of the Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons, Glasgow, seconded by Dr. Dawson F. D. Turner of Edinburgh.

The Tragedy at Montrose Asylum.

At the monthly meeting of the directors of the Montrose Asylum Dr. J. G. Havelock, physician-superintendent, submitted a statement regarding the tragedy which had occurred the previous week. He had assisted at a post-mortem examination on the man who was killed and it was found that the brain, the heart, and the kidneys were extensively diseased. The opinion was that the injuries received were insufficient to cause death in a healthy person. It was decided to institute an inquiry into the fatal assault and to ascertain if it might not be possible to make arrangements which would increase precautions during the night time. Once in two hours seemed to be rather long between the visits of attendants.

The Proposed Foresters' Convalescent Home for Scotland.

At the thirty-first annual conference of the Scottish Foresters' Federation which is being held in Aberdeen a report was submitted on the proposed establishment of a Foresters' convalescent home for Scotland. The report stated that the sum of £1989 was in hand for the purpose and members were urged to persevere in the work of raising funds. After a lengthy discussion the committee was given powers to add to its numbers and to look out for a suitable house and grounds for the purposes of a convalescent home, the committee to report to the next conference.

The New Water-supply for Aberdeen.

At the last monthly meeting of the Aberdeen town council it was resolved that Sir A. R. Binnie, M.Inst.C.E., and Mr. George R. Strachan, M.Inst.C.E., should, together with Dr. A. C. Houston, director of water examinations to the Metropolitan Water Board, be requested to report upon the subject of new or additional water-supply for the city.

Elgin Nursing Association.

At the half-yearly meeting of the above association it was reported that 246 cases had been dealt with during the past half year, as against 279 in the corresponding period of the

previous year. The two nurses had paid 3681 visits. Reference was made to the donation of £500 which had been given to the association by Mrs. Woodhead, Hyde, a native of Elgin. The same lady has also presented a nursing home and some minor gifts. The association has a credit balance of £239.

June 11th.

IRELAND.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

University Education in Ireland.

THIS matter, which is to a large extent medical, still occupies attention in Ireland. The *Irish Times* having copied a statement which had appeared in the *Times* to the effect that the Government had definitely abandoned Mr. Bryce's scheme as regards the University of Dublin, the *Freeman's Journal* on the same day published a long list of lay Roman Catholics who were in favour of what they thought might be the Government proposal—i.e., that one Roman Catholic college would be established in connexion with the University of Dublin, to which its students could apply for degrees. You have had a certain amount of correspondence on the subject in your columns but I have seen no reference to one matter which cannot be denied. The Roman Catholic bishops and clergy, as far as possible, close all Government and Poor-law appointments in Ireland against medical men holding the University of Dublin degrees. It is deplorable that the public health of the country should thus be endangered by its unfortunate religious dissensions.

Apothecaries' Hall of Ireland.

At a general meeting of the Members of the Apothecaries' Company, held at 40, Mary-street, Dublin, on June 7th, Mr. G. R. Seymour Stritch being in the chair, it was proposed by Dr. Montgomery, seconded by Dr. T. D. Finucane, and passed unanimously—

That the best thanks of the Company are hereby tendered to Colonel Adye-Curran, M.D., F.R.C.S., for his untiring and successful efforts on behalf of this Hall in the General Medical Council.

The Irish Medical Association.

The annual general meeting of the Irish Medical Association was held this year, on June 5th, in the ballroom of the Northern Counties Hotel, Portrush, Mr. J. S. McArdle of Dublin, the President, being in the chair. From the report presented and adopted it appears that a sum of £297 17s. 2d. is still due to the law agent for law costs. The income received, with the balance in hand at the close of last year, was £901 18s. 6d., and the expenditure was £838 17s. 11d., leaving a balance of £63 0s. 7d. There is a balance to the guarantee fund of £60 16s. 3d. At the close of the year 126 members were in arrears for 1906, amounting to £130 14s. 6d. The President in his address, after thanking the members for re-electing him, spoke encouragingly of the work of the association, and thanked the Local Government Board for the manner in which it had received them at all times. He said that there were men in different districts in Ireland who belittled the association, although they belonged to it—a line which he denounced as cowardly, if nothing worse. He had nothing to say against the British Medical Association but why put it up, as it was being put up by members of that Association, as a rival to their own? Having impressed the lesson of unity the President said that every opinion which had been expressed by commissioners of late tended to demonstrate that there should be segregation of the profession in Ireland. Finally, he urged that they should in the future lend their strength entirely towards first securing proper scales of salaries all over the country, which could only be done by individual effort which he strongly recommended. Mr. J. S. McArdle was re-elected President of the association for the coming year; Dr. L. Kidd, Dr. W. MacSweeney, Dr. F. W. Kidd, and Dr. R. J. Kinkead, Vice-Presidents; Dr. J. Donnelly honorary secretary; and Dr. W. J. Thompson treasurer. In the evening the members dined together at the Northern Counties Hotel, the President being in the chair. On the next day there was an excursion to the Giants' Causeway.

Cerebro-spinal Meningitis in Belfast.

During the week ending June 1st 22 cases of cerebro-spinal fever were notified, the same number as in the previous week. Since May 30th 17 cases were notified, as against 20