

Exchange Station Hotel, Sir James Barr again presiding. Mr. F. T. Paul, surgeon to the Royal Infirmary, proposed Sir William Macewen's health and offered him his cordial thanks for his lecture and for the appreciative references he had made to the late Sir William Banks. Sir William Macewen made a suitable reply.

The School of Tropical Medicine and Sleeping Sickness.

Sir Alfred Jones, the chairman of the school, has sent the following telegram to the Emperor of Germany:—

As president of the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine I desire to congratulate your Majesty on recent valuable work done by Professor Koch in confirmation of the discovery made by the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine of a possible remedy for sleeping sickness.

West African Trade Section of the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce: Health and Sickness in West Africa.

At the last meeting of the West African trade section of the Chamber of Commerce Dr. R. E. McConnell delivered an address on his recent visit to the West African coast, where he had been for 15 months at an important mine. No deaths occurred at the mine from sickness, owing largely to the improved class of miners now employed and to the care of themselves that Europeans have learnt by experience. He had observed six cases of blackwater fever, in one of which the temperature reached 108·6° F. They all recovered under careful nursing, and he thought that in places where it could be recognised early and carefully treated blackwater fever was losing much of its terrors in the popular mind. He was pleased to hear that the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine was about to organise an expedition to inquire into the cause, course, and treatment of blackwater fever. Very few cases of sickness at the mines were traceable to the water-supply. Where he was latterly stationed the rivers were the only source of water-supply, but owing to careful filtering and boiling not a single case of sickness which could be traced to the water-supply had come under his care. Everywhere he found that the work of the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine was thoroughly appreciated and there was a marked desire to help any members of its expeditions.

University of Liverpool: Diplomas in Tropical Medicine.

At a meeting of the Senate of the University of Liverpool held on Dec. 19th, 1906, diplomas in tropical medicine were awarded to the following gentlemen: H. G. Bennetts, R. M. Carter, R. W. Clements, A. W. Sampey, A. E. Smithson, and J. van S. Taylor.

Jan. 1st.

LEEDS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

The General Infirmary: Resignation of Mr. W. H. Brown.

To the great regret of everyone connected with the infirmary Mr. W. H. Brown, who has held the position of honorary surgeon to the institution for the last 16 years, has found it necessary to hand in his resignation. Mr. Brown has for some time been in ill-health and, though with characteristic self-sacrificing zeal he has carried on his hospital duties, it has been apparent to all that he has only done so at great personal inconvenience and doubtless with some embarrassment in connexion with his private professional engagements. In accepting Mr. Brown's resignation, which came before a very full meeting at which Mr. Brown's professional colleagues were fully represented, the following proposition was unanimously carried:

That in accepting Mr. W. H. Brown's resignation of his position as honorary surgeon to the General Infirmary at Leeds, the weekly board desire to place on record their high appreciation of the great services which Mr. Brown has rendered during the period of his association with the infirmary, and in particular during the 16 years that he has held the post of honorary surgeon. Conspicuous for his interest in his patients and his care for the honour of the infirmary, he has also won high esteem from his colleagues on the weekly board and the faculty, and from the members of the staff of the institution. The weekly board desire to express their great sympathy with Mr. Brown in his inability to bear the double strain of his public and private practice, but hope that now he is relieved from his heavy duties at the infirmary he will speedily regain his full health and strength.

In consequence of the resignation of Mr. Brown, Mr. B. G. A. Moynihan automatically becomes honorary surgeon with full charge of beds. Mr. Moynihan was appointed assistant surgeon about 11 years ago, and at the end of ten years' service in that capacity became, in harmony with the recently revised rules, eligible for the position of "hon. surgeon with charge of out-patients." This position carries

with it the succession to any vacancy that may arise on the full staff without the necessity for an election. Mr. Walter Thompson becomes senior assistant surgeon and the special election committee will shortly be called upon to fill the resulting vacancy of assistant surgeon.

The University of Leeds.

The degrees of Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery were conferred by the Vice-Chancellor on the following successful candidates in the recent examinations: V. C. Hackworth, W. O. McKane, E. W. Reed, and T. Whitehead. The graduation ceremony took place in the library of the medical school. By a recent regulation Part II. of the final examination—i.e., the examination in medicine, surgery, and midwifery and the various subjects included under these headings—is now held in March and December instead of in March and July as formerly.

Jan. 1st.

SCOTLAND.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

Edinburgh Town Council and the Notification of Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

At a recent meeting of the Edinburgh town council Dr. G. M. Cullen, chairman of the public health committee, submitted the resolution of his committee recommending the town council to approach the Local Government Board of Scotland asking it to have consumption added to the schedule of diseases attached to the Compulsory Notification Act. The arguments which Dr. Cullen used on this occasion were similar to those indicated in THE LANCET of Dec. 22nd, 1906, p. 1754, as having been used by him to the public health committee. He spoke strongly and effectively and the council adopted the recommendation by a very large majority. Dr. Cullen is to be congratulated on his handling of this matter; at the same time, the fact need not be ignored that a considerable weight of medical opinion in Edinburgh is opposed to compulsory notification. It has, however, had no public expression given to it, and there can be little doubt that the opinion of the laity has somewhat rapidly matured in favour of compulsion. It now lies with the Local Government Board to obtain the inclusion of pulmonary tuberculosis in the Compulsory Notification Act.

The Royal Society of Edinburgh.

Dr. Dawson F. D. Turner read a paper before the Royal Society of Edinburgh on Dec. 17th, 1906, on the Hæmorenal Salt Index as a Test of the Functional Efficiency of the Kidney. He had compared systematically the electrical resistance of the blood and of the urine in a large number of medical and surgical cases and has originated a ratio which he has termed "the hæmo-renal salt index." In health this would be equal to three, four, or five whole numbers, viz.:—

$$\frac{\text{Electrical resistance of blood}}{\text{Electrical resistance of urine}} = \frac{900}{225} = 4.$$

The higher this number was the healthier, other things being equal, was the condition of the patient. If this index increases it indicates that the blood contains fewer salts or is richer in corpuscles and that the urine contains more salts and that the functional activity of the kidney is increasing. If the renal index diminishes, then the kidney is becoming sluggish and less efficient. He then referred to a number of cases and particularly to some medical cases whose renal indices he had examined from time to time for more than two months. He pointed out that the renal index well reflected the general condition of the patient, rising when the patient's condition got better and falling when his condition got worse. In surgical cases this method of investigating the renal efficiency appeared to be of considerable value and its indications so far seem to tally with those based upon cryoscopy. Some surgical cases in which a successful operation had afterwards been performed were referred to in detail.

Glasgow Dental Students' Society.

In proposing the toast of "The Dental Profession" at the ninth annual dinner of the Glasgow Dental Students' Society Professor H. E. Clark, ex President of the Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons, Glasgow, dealt with the present

position of the dental profession. In his opinion qualified dentists had a great deal to regret in the present state of matters. It was a most discreditable thing that no precaution or safeguard was taken against those who were practising as quack dentists. There was no incentive for a man to become a qualified dentist beyond the facts that he got a better knowledge and a slightly better position in society. He would be very pleased if they had on the council of the faculty representatives not only of the medical Licentiates but also of Licentiates in Dentistry. He thought also they should make an effort to become recognised by the General Medical Council so far as representation was concerned.

Proposed Health Association for Anderston.

A meeting of the medical profession in Glasgow and the west of Scotland, convened at the instance of the local branch of the British Medical Association, has recently been held in the Faculty Hall for the purpose of considering the proposed Anderston and District Health Association, with special reference to the medical dispensary connected therewith. The meeting was very largely attended and after considerable discussion a resolution was unanimously adopted to the effect that the establishment of another open dispensary was unnecessary and representatives were appointed to form a deputation to meet the directors of the proposed association and to express the views of the meeting.

Jan. 1st.

IRELAND.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

Royal College of Physicians of Ireland.

At a recent meeting of the Committee for the Prevention of Tuberculosis held at the Royal College of Physicians the question of the conveyance of tuberculosis by raw milk was considered and after discussion the following proposition was unanimously adopted:—

That in the face of the constantly accumulating evidence that tuberculosis may be conveyed by the medium of raw milk, it should be obligatory on all boarding schools, orphanages, and similar institutions to use apparatus for the sterilisation of milk.

The report of the Viceregal Commission on the Poor-law service in Ireland was also submitted, as the volume contains valuable recommendations regarding the means which should be adopted to deal with the prevalence of consumption and advocates that some of the existing work-houses should be selected and converted into sanatoriums. In this connexion it is satisfactory to note that Dr. T. J. Browne, the Local Government Board inspector, addressed a joint meeting of the Clonmel rural councils on Dec. 22nd, 1906, urging the necessity for taking action with other councils in Waterford and Tipperary for the purpose of establishing a sanatorium for both counties. The councillors were all favourable to the proposal and a motion was adopted asking the rural and urban councils of the counties Tipperary, Waterford, and Kilkenny to join in the establishment of a sanatorium.

Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast.

Lady Pirrie sent a Christmas contribution of £25 to the funds of the hospital and intimated her intention of contributing a number of flannel jackets for the patients and also plum puddings for both the patients and the resident staff. The board of management returned its most grateful thanks to Lady Pirrie for her generous donation and gifts and for her continued kind remembrance of the hospital on which she and Lord Pirrie have conferred so many favours.

The late Alexander Stewart Merrick, M.D. R.U.I.

The death occurred on Dec. 19th, 1906, at his residence in Belfast, of Dr. A. S. Merrick who for many years was resident medical superintendent of the Belfast Asylum. The deceased, who was in his sixtieth year, had been in poor health for some years and died after a cerebral attack. A Cork man, he studied at Queen's College, Cork, where he was a scholar, and graduated M.D. of the old Queen's University in 1869. Shortly afterwards he was appointed assistant medical superintendent of Cork Lunatic Asylum. In 1873 Dr. Merrick was elected resident medical superintendent of Donegal Asylum at Letterkenny and in 1875 he succeeded the late Dr.

Stewart as head of the Belfast District Asylum, a position he occupied until 1897, when, owing to delicate health, he was obliged to resign. He was an excellent administrator, a man of very kindly disposition and of many accomplishments, not the least of which was music. Dr. Merrick is survived by his widow, one daughter, and three sons, the eldest being in the medical profession.

Jan. 1st.

PARIS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

The Prevention of Lead Poisoning.

At a recent meeting of the Senate Professor Dieulafoy, *commissaire du Gouvernement*, recommended the prohibition of white lead as an ingredient of paint, and concluded his remarks by saying that to permit the use of white lead for painting the interior of houses was the same thing as knowingly to expose painters to the risk of being poisoned, although the laws of hygiene and the dictates of humanity gave them a right to protection. He further argued that the conditions of their work made it necessary to take energetic measures for the preservation of the health of house painters. After some remarks by M. Viviani, Minister of Labour, who asked that the Bill as introduced by the Government should be passed, the general discussion was closed and the Senate resolved to pass to the discussion of the clauses.

The Prix Carlier at the Academy of Sciences.

M. Paul Juillerat, keeper of the sanitary records (*chef du casier sanitaire*) of Paris, has just been awarded the Prix Carlier by the Academy of Moral and Political Sciences for his work entitled, "A Necessary Institution: the Sanitary Record of Houses." Based upon observed facts and carefully verified statistics, these documents (*travaux*) form a striking contrast to the brilliant theories which have too often owed their origin to *a priori* conclusions existing in the imagination of distinguished authorities on hygiene. These theories have sometimes given rise to practical applications not in accordance with scientific principles and therefore foredoomed to end in disappointment.

Blindness among Arabs.

At a meeting of the Academy of Medicine, held on Dec. 4th, 1906, M. Chauvel read a paper communicated by M. Boigey dealing with the subject of blindness among Arabs. The observations therein described showed that the principal causes of blindness among Arabs were, in order of their importance, uncleanness, flies, diffused glare of the sun, dust containing sandy particles, and the excessive use of koheul (sulphide of antimony). Small-pox, syphilis, and tuberculosis were not usual causes of blindness.

The Treatment of Pneumonia.

At the same meeting of the Academy of Medicine M. Albert Robin read a paper of great therapeutic interest. He said that in the defervescing stage of pneumonia, and often before the fall of the temperature, there was an increased production of urea and uric acid simultaneously with an increase in the nitrogenous metabolism (*coefficient d'utilisation de l'azote*) and a diminution in the products of respiration, so that on the whole there was no augmented consumption of oxygen. These data implied that in the spontaneous crisis of pneumonia one of the associated conditions, if not the cause, was a process of hydration and deoxidation, by which the organism defended itself against the morbid action of the disease. In this property of increasing the aggregate consumption of nitrogen, the production of urea and uric acid, and the general nitrogenous metabolism, with simultaneous diminution of the consumption of oxygen, the "metallic ferments"¹ acted similarly to the spontaneous efforts by which nature endeavoured to meet an attack of pneumonia, and these ferments might, therefore, either initiate or accelerate recovery in such cases. Observation having shown that the ferments had no influence on the lesion of pneumonia, but only on the toxi-infectious element, it was necessary in the treatment of the disease to assist their action by adjuvants such as bleeding, fractional doses of calomel

¹ THE LANCET, Dec: 24th, 1904 (p. 1816), and August 12th, 1905 (p. 489).