

with five figures, having been 10,718 during the past seven days—a rise of 742 over the previous week. With the exception of one district the rise is general throughout the infected areas. The worst affected places are the Bombay districts and the Mysore territory, but the disease is rapidly increasing in the Punjab and in the State of Hyderabad. In Mysore an important State function had to be abandoned and in the Kolar goldfields the coolies are getting panic-stricken. The points of importance to note in this week's returns are the continued development in the badly infected areas, the rapid rise in the Punjab and in Bombay city, and the signs of recrudescence in Bengal. The detailed figures published are: Bombay Presidency, 7780 against 7384; Mysore State, 1122 against 1094; United Provinces, 736 against 745; Madras Presidency, 385 against 322; Punjab, 210 against 122; Hyderabad State, 149 against 86; Bombay city, 101 against 63; and Bengal, 52 against 31.

The details of the scheme for the new Army Bearer Corps are now sanctioned. The corps will form an integral part of the Medical Service. The four divisions will each be placed under the principal medical officer of the command with a special staff officer for each to supervise administration, organisation, and recruitment, and to assist in mobilisation. The staff officers will be appointed for five years and will receive a staff allowance of Rs.400 per mensem. An assistant surgeon from the subordinate medical department will be attached to each company. He will also be appointed for five years and will receive a charge allowance of Rs.50 per mensem. The subordinate department is to be increased by 37 assistant surgeons. The new bearer corps will consist of such men from the existing establishment of bearers as may be qualified by caste and fitness, supplemented by recruits. They will be divided into three grades—sirdars, mates, and bearers. The total strength will be 6000, organised in 28 full companies of 200 men each and four reduced companies of 100 men each. The full companies will have two sirdars, six mates, and 192 bearers. Except during war time men may claim discharge after three years' service. The men will be trained in the following duties: stretcher drill, first aid to the wounded, conveyance of the sick and the wounded, and camp arrangements. During peace time the bearers may be employed on any government work suitable to their caste in addition to their ordinary duties, such as punkah-pulling and water-carrying.

Poisoning is a common form of crime in India and it is possible for anybody to go into the bazaar and to buy as much poison as he wants. Poison is largely used for murders as well as suicides. It is probable that but a small number of these crimes are actually brought to light. Snake-bite and cholera are ready excuses to cover a crime and inquests are practically unknown outside the Presidency towns. Opium and arsenic are the two chief drugs used—the former for suicide, the latter for murder. Cattle also are extensively poisoned for the sake of the hides. There is more arsenical poisoning in the Punjab than elsewhere and it probably occurs from the readiness by which yellow orpiment can be obtained from Chitral. Suicides by opium are committed by the natives for the most trivial reasons, even children destroying themselves after being scolded and wives because their husbands complain of their dinners. It is difficult to restrain the purchase of arsenic because it is so largely used in manufactures, but opium and cocaine could be prohibited for sale except by licensed dealers. In the country districts, however, the death registration is so lax that even this would probably be of little benefit.

Calcutta, Oct. 10th.

LIVERPOOL.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Opening of the Heswall Hospital for Tuberculosis by the Lord Mayor of Liverpool.

ON Oct. 20th, in the presence of a representative company of upwards of 100 ladies and gentlemen, the Lord Mayor of Liverpool formally opened the new hospital for tuberculosis at Heswall, which is capable of accommodating 24 patients of the three Liverpool unions and which is the first of the kind in the country erected under similar auspices. The Lord Mayor opened the new building with a gold key which was presented to him on the threshold of the building. The principal part of the proceedings took

place in the interior. Among many others representing the three Poor-law combinations specially interested and other public bodies were the respective chairmen of the West Derby guardians, the Liverpool select vestry, and the Toxteth guardians; and Mr. Malcolm Morris, the treasurer of the National Association for the Prevention of Consumption and other Forms of Tuberculosis, and Mr. Jenner-Fust and Mr. W. M. Moorsom (Local Government Board inspectors) were also present. Mr. T. D. Laurence of the Liverpool select vestry, as chairman of the joint hospital committee of the three boards, presided. In introducing the proceedings he gave a history of the foundation of the hospital. On Feb. 22nd, 1899, a conference of representatives of the West Derby union, the Liverpool select vestry, and the Toxteth guardians was held, and after anxious consideration as to whether the new treatment of tuberculosis was so far past the experimental stage as to warrant them in taking the necessary steps to provide this treatment for their poor suffering from tuberculosis, it was resolved to proceed and to make provision for 24 beds. The foundation stone of the building was laid by the Right Hon. Walter Long, the President of the Local Government Board, on Oct. 25th, 1901. The cost of the land, building, and furnishing was £12,000. It was intended that admission to the hospital should be confined to cases from the infirmaries of the three contributing Poor-law authorities and each case would be separately inquired into. The cost men ioned appeared to be large for the number of patients it was proposed to accommodate at first, but it was thought to be desirable to proceed cautiously with the building arrangements, especially as it was the first hospital of the kind in the kingdom built under the auspices of the Poor-Law authorities. It was planned so as to be capable of extension at a comparatively small cost. Mr. Malcolm Morris, in an interesting speech, paid a high compliment to the enterprise of the Liverpool unions in inaugurating such a useful institution and paid a handsome tribute to Dr. Nathan Raw, the medical superintendent of the Mill-road Infirmary, for having induced the Liverpool guardians to take up the scheme, and said that he had come from London to testify what the association thought of him. Upon the termination of the proceedings the visitors were conducted over the building, the airy and comfortably-furnished dormitories being objects of admiration and favourable comment.

The Proposed Mid-Cheshire Infectious Hospital.

An application having been made by the Cheshire county council for permission to borrow £2000 for the purchase of a site for an infectious hospital in Hartford-lane, Davenham, for the joint district of the Northwich rural and the Northwich, Winsford, and Middlewich urban councils, an inquiry into the subject was held last week by an inspector of the Local Government Board at the Northwich workhouse. The probable cost of the hospital is estimated at £12,000. It was explained by the representative of the Cheshire county council that shortly after the passing of the Isolation Hospitals Act of 1893, the county council found that, whilst three of these urban councils had made inadequate provision, the Middlewich council had made no provision whatever for the isolation of infectious cases. Acting upon reports of the county medical officers, it held inquiries and conferences, and the Cheshire county council arrived at the conclusion that it would be more economical and better in every way if a large hospital area was formed. The county council's proposal of a hospital authority for the Northwich rural and the Northwich, Winsford, and Middlewich urban districts was opposed by all the authorities, but it made an order and after inquiry by the Local Government Board the order was confirmed in every detail, the only alteration being that it was to come into force in September, 1901, instead of January. The order provided that if a joint hospital were not erected the county council might appoint a new committee with a majority of county councillors as members. The county council had noted with satisfaction that the hospital committee had done everything it could with a view to bring the order into operation. The hospital committee approached the county council in June and asked its approval of a site which the committee had provisionally agreed to purchase. Petitions were then lodged against the site, contending that it was unsuitable in many ways and would be in the centre of a thriving village. The committee and the county medical officer of health replied to these criticisms and the medical officer reported to the county council that in his opinion it was an

admirable site, and he did not know of any site reasonably central and convenient of access so suitable for the purpose. The site was therefore approved by the county council. The population of the district to be dealt with by the hospital was 54,735, and the population within a quarter of a mile of the site was 108. The proposed site was afterwards visited by the inspector, who will give his decision in due course of time.

Bequests by the late Mr. George Rae.

The late Mr. George Rae of Redcourt, Birkenhead, who died on August 4th, bequeathed £200 to the Birkenhead Borough Hospital, and sums of £100 each to the Wirral Children's Hospital and the West Kirby Children's Convalescent Home. Five Liverpool hospitals have also shared in the bequests in the proportion of £100 each. The legacies are free of duty.

Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine: Present to the German Emperor.

The Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine recently forwarded to His Imperial Majesty the German Emperor a complete set, handsomely bound, of the numerous publications on the subject of tropical diseases issued by the school. The following acknowledgment has been received by the chairman of the school, Sir Alfred Jones, K.C.M.G.:—

German Embassy, London, Oct. 14th, 1902.

The German *chargé d'affaires* presents his compliments to Sir Alfred Jones and is commanded to convey to him His Majesty's thanks for his kind attention in presenting the Emperor with copies of the publications of the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine. The Liverpool School is attracting much attention in the scientific and colonial world of Germany and a somewhat similar school has now been established at Hamburg, the head of which paid a special visit of inspection to the Liverpool School recently.

The New Honorary Physician to the Royal Infirmary.

Dr. John Hill Abram has succeeded Dr. Richard Caton as honorary physician to the Royal Infirmary. Dr. Abram has had a long and honourable connexion with the Royal Infirmary, having filled the office of honorary assistant physician for upwards of six years, prior to which he held the post of pathologist for some years. He received his medical education at University College, Liverpool. His appointment to the higher post of physician is particularly acceptable to the students of the medical faculty as well as to his colleagues at "the Royal," as was evidenced by the hearty reception given to the announcement of his promotion by the dean of the medical faculty at the recent distribution of prizes at the Philharmonic Hall by Sir Frederick Treves.

Oct. 28th.

WALES AND WESTERN COUNTIES NOTES.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

Bath Water-supply.

THE water-supply of Bath is an exceptionally good one and is derived from numerous springs, some of which are superficial and respond readily to the rainfall, while others are more constant. The character of the supply was testified to by THE LANCET Special Commissioner in the autumn of 1899 when he reported that the system of service supply was free from reproach and that the pure water at the reservoirs was delivered unchanged and in excellent quality to the consumers.¹ The two reservoirs have an aggregate capacity of 60,000,000 gallons, an amount equal to 60 days' supply. At the end of 1901 during a severe drought an intermittent service was necessitated for more than a month and it was felt that further works should be undertaken. Mr. W. Fox, the engineer under whose supervision the largest of the existing reservoirs was constructed, accordingly prepared a scheme which it was estimated would cost £90,000 and which would ensure a constant supply during the severest drought. When, however, the council in September last considered the engineer's proposals some of the members were alarmed at the expenditure involved and Mr. Fox was instructed to submit an alternative and less costly scheme. This was placed before the council on Oct. 24th, and after considerable discussion it was decided to promote a Bill in the next session of Parliament to enable the project to be carried out. The cost of the works is estimated at £44,000. The existing waterworks have been a source of revenue to the city for some years, sums varying from £2500 to £3300 having been annually devoted to the relief of the city rates.

¹ THE LANCET, Oct. 14th, 1899, p. 1070.

Bristol Medical School.

Sir Victor Horsley distributed the prizes to the students of the Bristol Medical School on Oct. 23rd and was the principal guest at the annual dinner on the evening of the same day. He expressed a hope that Bristol University might ere long have the power to confer degrees and Professor Lloyd Morgan mentioned as a possibility the formation of a university for the West of England to include colleges at Bristol, Reading, and Southampton.

Private Sewers in Cheltenham.

The corporation of Cheltenham has at last determined to get rid of the anomalous position in which it is placed with regard to the sewerage of some portions of the town, and at the meeting of the council held on Oct. 20th it was decided by 16 votes to four to introduce in the next session of Parliament a Bill certain clauses of which will vest all the private sewers of the town in the hands of the corporation, subject to compensation being given to those owners who will suffer pecuniary loss. These sewers, which it is desired should be taken over by the corporation, have been laid down by private persons, by whom an annual rent charge has been made upon the houses which drain into them. The occupiers of these houses are thus paying a special sewer-rate in addition to the general rate for the whole of the borough. The medical officer of health (Dr. J. H. Garrett) has more than once urged the council to take over these private sewers, many of which are in a very unsatisfactory condition, and in his annual report for 1900 he advised that an Act of Parliament should be obtained containing clauses almost identical with those in the Bill it has now been decided to proceed with.

University of Wales.

The three constituent colleges of the University of Wales are situated in Aberystwyth, Bangor, and Cardiff. The corporation of Cardiff has obtained powers to enable it to subscribe £6000 towards the building of university offices and has also presented the University with a site for the offices. The Bangor city council has not been less generous in the presentation of a site of six acres to the governors of the Bangor College, for the population of Cardiff is 15 times as great as that of Bangor. It is proposed to erect buildings on this site at a cost of about £200,000. The rapid growth of the northern college has astonished its keenest supporters and is no doubt due in great measure to the organisation of the intermediate education system. During last session 900 students were attending this college and there were nearly 800 in the previous session. The library of the college contains upwards of 22,000 volumes. At the annual meeting of the court of governors of the Aberystwyth College, held on Oct. 24th, it was reported that there were 440 students in attendance, including 291 from Wales and 149 from England and elsewhere. It is proposed to erect a separate building at Aberystwyth for the department of chemistry at a cost of about £20,000, and other additions to the college buildings are contemplated. A faculty of law was inaugurated in October, 1901, and lectures on English law relating to commerce were delivered during the winter months in Swansea and Llanelli.

Housing of the Working-classes.

At the meeting of the Aberdare urban district council held on Oct. 24th a motion to adopt Part III. of the Housing of the Working-classes Act, 1890, was lost by the casting vote of the chairman. The mover of the motion gave some appalling instances of the overcrowding which exists in the town and therefore the need of more houses. In one house of three rooms there live two families, 10 persons in all; in another house of the same size are a man and his wife, four sons and two daughters, and it is impossible to lessen this overcrowding because there are no vacant houses to be had. In the adjoining town of Merthyr the district council has nearly completed the erection of 100 houses, each with three bedrooms, a kitchen and scullery. It is proposed to let them for 22s. 6d. per lunar month, a sum which will be sufficient to make the buildings self-supporting, though there are in the town new houses with the same accommodation letting at 18s. per month. The Abercarn urban district council is building 24 houses at a cost of £170 each, to be let at 22s. per month; and four at a cost of £160, to be let at 17s. per month.

The late Dr. E. Long Fox.

The subscriptions received by the committee in charge of the memorial to the late Dr. E. Long Fox of Clifton amount to £650. After providing for the placing of a brass