

Elected members of the library committee : Dr. Philip Frank, Dr. Norman Moore, Dr. William Henry Allchin, and Dr. Archibald Edward Garrod. Curators of the museum : Dr. William Howship Dickinson, Dr. Henry Charlton Bastian, Dr. William Cayley, and Dr. John Abercrombie. Finance committee : Dr. George Fielding Blandford, Dr. James Frederick Goodhart, and Sir Isambard Owen. Examiners : Chemistry and chemical physics : Mr. Harold B. Dixon, F.R.S., Mr. John Millar Thomson, F.R.S., Mr. Frederick Daniel Chattaway, Ph.D., D.Sc., Mr. Alexander Mitchell Kellas, F.C.S., and Mr. John Addyman Gardner, F.C.S., F.I.C. Materia medica and pharmacy : Dr. Frederick Willcocks, Dr. Walter Essex Wynter, Dr. Henry Albert Caley, Dr. Francis Whittaker Tunnicliffe, and Dr. James Purves Stewart. Physiology : Dr. Ernest Henry Starling, Dr. Bertram Louis Abrahams, and Dr. Leonard Erskine Hill. Anatomy : Dr. Bertram C. A. Windle, F.R.S., and Dr. Robert Howden. Medical anatomy and principles and practice of medicine : Dr. Samuel Hatch West, Dr. Theodore Dyke Acland, Dr. George Newton Pitt, Dr. Sidney Philip Phillips, Dr. William Pasteur, Dr. William Collier, Dr. Norman Dalton, Dr. Frederick John Smith, Dr. Francis George Penrose, and Dr. John Rose Bradford, F.R.S. Midwifery and diseases peculiar to women : Dr. Alfred Lewis Galabin, Dr. Francis Henry Champneys, Dr. George Ernest Herman, Dr. William Rivers Pollock, and Dr. Edward Malins. Public health : Part I.—Dr. Arthur Pearson Luff. Part II.—Dr. William Heaton Hamer.

The PRESIDENT announced that he had nominated Dr. Frederick Roberts as Harveian orator for 1905. He also gave notice that Dr. F. F. Caiger would deliver the Bradshaw lecture on Nov. 15th instead of on Nov. 3rd as previously announced.

Sir WILLIAM BROADBENT was re-elected a representative on the executive committee of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund.

A report dated July 18th was received from the committee of management. The committee recommended that Felsted School, Felsted, which is already recognised for instruction in chemistry, physics, and practical chemistry, should be now recognised for the teaching of biology. Also, that St. Mary's Hospital, Manchester, should be recognised as a place of instruction in midwifery and gynaecology. The committee reported that it had considered the communication from the General Medical Council containing various resolutions in regard to the teaching and examination of the subjects of the first year of the curriculum and that such resolutions of the General Medical Council do not recommend anything which is not already included in the latest regulations of the Conjoint Board.—The report was adopted.

The quarterly reports of the College Finance Committee, of the Library Committee, and of the curators of the museum were received and adopted. After further routine business had been conducted the PRESIDENT dissolved the Comitia.

THE CONGRESS OF THE SANITARY INSTITUTE.

THE twenty-second Congress of the Sanitary Institute was held at Glasgow from July 25th to 30th under the Presidency of the Right Hon. Lord BLYTHSWOOD, LL.D. The proceedings began on the 25th, with a reception of the members of the Congress in St. Andrew's Hall by the Lord Provost, followed by an inaugural address by the President, Sir RICHARD DOUGLAS POWELL, who took for his subject the Prevention of Consumption. He urged the importance of physical training in schools and dwelt on the necessity for adequate ventilation and cleanliness in dwellings. It was from the poor and crowded populations that the vast death-rate from consumption arose. It was from them that the great bulk of poisoned material emanated; yet measures for the treatment of consumption amongst the poor were as yet hopelessly inadequate. If the death-rate from consumption was to be decreased the municipal authorities throughout the kingdom would have to make great improvements upon the work which had already been done.

On the following day the sectional meetings of the Congress were opened at the University, the University court having granted facilities for this purpose. There was

a large attendance of members including delegates from medical and municipal authorities in all parts of the country and many sanitary authorities from the continent.

SANITARY SCIENCE AND PREVENTIVE MEDICINE.

The section of Sanitary Science and Preventive Medicine met under the presidency of Professor J. GLAISTER (Glasgow), who in his opening address dealt with the influence of small-pox hospitals upon neighbouring populations with regard to the spread of the disease. In this connexion he discussed the doctrine of aerial dissemination and contrasted the position of this country with that of Germany with respect to the treatment of small-pox in hospitals. He thought that much of the evidence in support of aerial dissemination was of a very flimsy character. The history of the Glasgow epidemic abundantly showed that the practice of vaccination by giving an immunity against small-pox for a given number of years had caused, when small-pox made its appearance in the city, the development of a large number of mild ambulant cases of the disease which were not discovered and which did not call for medical attendance. That such cases were numerous in Glasgow the evidence of the medical officer of health was clear. Hence, if in the future they expected to deprive small-pox of its great anxiety to communities, then revaccination as practised in Germany must become the law; and before they could determine that aerial dissemination played any part in the propagation of the disease certain critical tests must be employed statistically and otherwise in any epidemic, so that the direct and mediate sources of infection are exhausted before this theory is invoked to account for the circumstances. In Germany the practice of vaccination and revaccination, he said, was universal and if revaccination became compulsory in this country after a comparatively few years it would be possible for small-pox hospitals as such to fall comparatively into disuse.

In the same section Dr. EBENEZER DUNCAN (Glasgow) raised a discussion on the following motion :

In view of the prevalence of phthisis pulmonalis in the working-class population of Great Britain and of the suffering, pauperism, and death resulting from the dissemination of that disease this Congress recommend the council of the Sanitary Institute to memorialise the Local Government Boards of England and Scotland to allow health authorities to add phthisis pulmonalis to the schedule of notifiable diseases.

Dr. Duncan afterwards agreed to the deletion of the reference to the working classes and to the motion being altered so that the memorial should be to the effect that local authorities should be allowed to make the disease notifiable on such conditions as might be approved by the Local Government Board. In this form the motion was passed by a very large majority.

The other subjects discussed in this section were : The Cause of Small-pox, Inspection of School Children, Malaria and Consumption in the Tropics, Infantile Mortality, and the Sanitary Condition of Vessels.

In dealing with the latter subject Dr. WILLIAM WRIGHT, medical officer to the Glasgow port local authority, advocated that port local authorities should combine in one strenuous effort to take over into their own hands the sanitary supervision of ships and to displace the Board of Trade from a position which up to the present had been nothing short of a sinecure. The officers of the Board of Trade, he contended, had no real knowledge of the sanitary requirements of a ship. The power should therefore be transferred to those who were properly qualified to advise. After further discussion the following motion was adopted :—

In consideration of the sanitary condition of the mercantile marine this section is of opinion that the sanitary control of ships both during and after construction should be vested in port sanitary authorities and that medical inspectorships for shipping should be created in the staffs of the Local Government Boards of England, Ireland, and Scotland to supervise all suggestions from such port authorities for the consideration and approval of the Board; and the section recommend the council of the Institute to bring the proposition under the notice of the proper authorities.

The work of the other sections, which was of a more technical character, can only be referred to very briefly. The section devoted to Engineering and Architecture met under the presidency of Professor H. ROBINSON. Among the papers read and discussed were those dealing with the Supervisory Control of Water Supplies, Domestic Sanitary Engineering, House Drainage, and Uniform Distribution of Sewage on Filters.

The section devoted to Physics, Chemistry, and Biology also met, Professor FRANK CLOWES (London) presiding. In

his address he referred to two subjects which were of extreme interest to Glasgow as a city—namely, the best methods of maintaining the purity of the atmosphere and of disposing of the sewage.

MUNICIPAL AND OTHER CONFERENCES.

A series of conferences of special bodies—municipal representatives, engineers and surveyors to county and other sanitary authorities, sanitary inspectors, and medical officers of health also took place, and an important conference was held on the Hygiene of School Life.

At this latter conference Dr. A. K. CHALMERS, medical officer of health of Glasgow, read a paper with reference to the Examination of School Children in Glasgow. His results more or less confirmed the impressions which the anthropometric committee years ago made plain—viz., that in towns there were children of corresponding ages who were both smaller in stature and less in weight than children brought up in the country. Grading children according to the class of house in which they lived it was found that those who lived in houses of three rooms and upwards had a better physique, judging by height and weight, than those living in houses of two rooms, and again that the latter were better developed than those living in houses of one apartment. These facts had an important bearing on the measures to be adopted for the physical training of children and established a case for further inquiry both as to food and clothing.

At the conference of sanitary inspectors Mr. PETER FYFE (Glasgow) read a paper entitled "What People Sleep on," an outcome of an investigation into the bed-making trade. As a result of his examination as to the nature of wool-flock he found that it was manufactured from a mass of rags the rejected of every class of the population. Nothing in the nature of cleansing or disinfection was attempted. All went into the machine if sufficiently dry and became transformed into flock. The very filthy character of this material was proved by both chemical and bacteriological examination. The results obtained, in the words of Dr. R. M. Buchanan, city bacteriologist, indicated an amount of uncleanness in the form of live potential dirt that was shocking to contemplate when the purpose for which the material was used was considered, and revealed a state of matters calling for remedial action. At the present time, however, sanitary officials were powerless to cope with this widespread evil—one well calculated to bring disease into the closest proximity with the labouring class.

At the conference of medical officers of health the subjects dealt with were chiefly those relating to the notification of tuberculosis, and the control of small-pox "contacts." After the discussion on the latter subject the following motion was passed:—

That this Congress is of opinion that the public health has suffered seriously through the transmission of small-pox by tramps and recommend the council of the Sanitary Institute to petition Parliament to take such measures as will place vagrants under control and reduce the risk of disseminating infection.

A conference of women on Hygiene, under the presidency of the Duchess of MONTROSE, was also held, at which such subjects as the physical training of women and the registration of nurses were discussed.

The entertainment of the members and their friends received the necessary attention and general satisfaction was expressed at the great success which had attended the whole proceedings of the Congress.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.

AN ordinary meeting of the Council was held on July 28th, the President, Mr. JOHN TWEEDY, being in the chair.

The SECRETARY reported the death, at the age of 87 years, of Sir John Simon, K.C.B., past President of the College.

The following motion was passed:

The Council hereby express their deep regret at the death of Sir John Simon, K.C.B., past President of the College, and their sincere sympathy with the members of his family in the loss which they have sustained. The Council feel that the College has lost one of its most distinguished Fellows whose great services in the promotion of measures for the improvement of the public health have been of lasting benefit to the country and will cause his name to be ever remembered with respect and honour.

Diplomas of Membership were directed to be issued to 115 candidates, and in conjunction with the Royal College of

Physicians of London diplomas in public health were directed to be issued to 22 successful candidates.

The report of the Finance Committee was received and adopted. The main items of the report were as follows. The gross income of the College for the past year amounted to £26,969, being £547 more than last year. From the examinations of the Conjoint Examining Board for England there was a decrease of £315. The incidental receipts from the Conjoint Examining Board were £558 more than in the previous year, which were chiefly due to letting rooms in the examination hall. From candidates for the Fellowship there was an increase of £165. From the Licence in Dental Surgery there was a decrease of £51. The expenditure amounted to £24,174, or £242 less than in the previous year. The expenses of the examination hall were £204 less than last year. The museum cost £204 less than last year. The extraordinary expenditure was heavy, amounting to £1014, the chief item of which was a premium of £418 for a seven years' policy of fire insurance. The balance of income over expenditure amounted to £2794. During the year the investments of the College have been increased by £1000 Local Loans 3 per cent. stock and £1500 London County 3 per cent. stock. A sum of £1612 has been expended upon the redemption of the land tax on portions of the College property.

On the recommendation of the committee of management it was resolved that Felsted School should be recognised as a place for instruction in biology and that St. Mary's Hospital, Manchester, should be recognised as a place of instruction in midwifery and gynaecology.

The following report from the delegates appointed to consider the letter from the Colonial Secretary in reference to diplomas in tropical medicine was received and adopted:—

The delegates have to report to the two Royal Colleges that, having fully considered the letter from the Secretary of State for the Colonies together with the proceedings of the two Royal Colleges on the subject of diplomas in tropical medicine, they have unanimously adopted the following recommendations:—

1. That with the permission of the authorities of the School of Tropical Medicine visitors be appointed by the Royal Colleges of Physicians and of Surgeons to attend the examinations of that school and to report upon the scope of the course of study and of examination, and that a request be addressed to the naval, military, and colonial authorities to allow visitors appointed by the two Royal Colleges to attend their examinations in tropical medicine for a similar purpose.

2. That at the end of a year a report be addressed by these visitors to the Royal Colleges on the whole subject of tropical medicine.

3. That in the event of the Royal Colleges adopting these recommendations a communication be sent to the Colonial Secretary informing him of these proceedings.

Mr. R. J. Godlee was appointed as visitor, and the President was authorised to appoint an additional representative if he should think it desirable.

A letter was read from Mr. Robert L. Morant, secretary to the Board of Education, forwarding a copy of certain suggestions submitted to the Board by the consultative committee for a system of school certificates, stating that the Board is anxious to obtain an expression of the views of the Universities and other bodies interested upon the important issues raised in the suggestions, and requesting that the Board may be favoured not later than Dec. 31st, 1904, with the outcome of such consideration as may be accorded to the scheme.

The letter was referred to a committee to consider and report.

MEDICINE AND THE LAW.

Byrne v. Thorne.

THE action brought by a patient against Miss May Thorne for alleged negligence, whereby a mattress sponge was left in the plaintiff's abdomen at the conclusion of an operation performed by the defendant, was brought to a conclusion now some weeks ago and resulted in a verdict for the plaintiff for £25 damages. All our readers know the circumstances of the case and know also that Miss Thorne received from the medical profession a practical testimony of sympathy in the payment of her damages and costs. But there are aspects of the case which may be further alluded to.

The directions of the learned judge to the jury, the questions left to the latter by him, the damages which were awarded, and the manner in which the finding was delivered