

himself had reported a case of gonorrhœa on the ground that if a man could afford dissipation he could afford to pay a medical practitioner's fee. Besides there were medical men who undertook to attend a patient at his house for a whole week for only one shilling. In the face of such competition it was very difficult to act and he felt that if he attempted to prove cases of abuse he would become unpopular. One of his patients, a lady in receipt of an income of £500 a year, said that she was absolutely unable to pay £40 for a very serious operation, therefore she went up to London to get it performed at a cheaper rate. Many persons living in very good houses came to the dispensary, but in spite of appearances they were sometimes in very precarious positions. Lodging-house keeping is very hazardous and it often happened that all the furniture of persons so engaged was seized and sold. He did not think that the well-to-do tradesmen of Brighton were particularly prone to attend the hospitals; but nevertheless there was a widespread feeling that medical men were defrauded, but it was difficult to obtain positive proofs of the fact. Then the medical men had a great amount of gratuitous work to do for curates, governesses, and domestic servants.

The General Dispensary was founded in 1809, therefore it is a very old-established institution, and has so grown in importance that there are now a western branch and a northern branch besides the parent institution. At each of these there is a house surgeon attached who receives a salary of £140 a year but is debarred from private practice. Then there are four district medical officers who receive between them £280 a year. But apart from the paid staff there is an honorary consulting physician, an honorary consulting surgeon, an honorary visiting staff of twelve physicians and surgeons and two dental surgeons. This staff attended during the year 1896 no less than 15,078 patients and this was a decrease of 700 on the previous year. At the western branch there are wards and here 125 in-patients were treated in 1896. The number for the previous year was 113. There are fifteen beds at the western branch so that this constitutes yet another hospital. Patients are accepted at the General Dispensary on presenting a letter of recommendation and on paying a registration fee of 6*d.*, but free letters are distributed in return for contributions from friendly societies and to the collectors of workmen's boxes. Subscribers of only half a guinea annually are entitled to recommend six patients, and of course a much larger number of recommendations are given in exchange for larger sums. The government of the institution is vested in benefactors of £10 10*s.* and upwards and in subscribers of £1 1*s.* or more annually, and they are entitled to attend the general annual meeting so as to elect the committee of management and all officers. For these meetings Masonic lodges, friendly societies and other institutions of a similar character which subscribe £3 3*s.* annually may nominate a representative. The house surgeons and the district medical officers have to visit at their homes such patients as are unable to attend at the surgery. Then there is a Samaritan fund for the purpose of providing patients with extra diet, &c. The in-patients are received at the western branch on the recommendation of the house surgeon or one of the branch honorary medical staff. But domestic servants or other workpeople employed by governors living in the district may be received as in-patients on the payment of not less than 12*s.* weekly. The income from all sources during the year amounted to £3800, of which £691 consisted of dividends on investments; the patients' 6*d.* registration fees amounted to £253 and the contents of the workmen's boxes to £309. The annual subscriptions amounted to £820. Then there were donations and life subscriptions to the amount of £495; congregational collections, £206; and legacies, £1022. I have omitted the shillings and pence. These figures show the importance of this institution and the population of Brighton is estimated for the year 1896 at 120,000. As an example of abuse a case was related to me concerning a man who is employed by the town and receives a salary of 30*s.* a week. Two or three of his children are in regular employment and his wife does a good business in letting apartments. Nevertheless she took her child to the dispensary to be treated for a fractured arm and when the surgeon in attendance expressed his surprise she replied: "Is not the dispensary a place for all accidents?" On another occasion a tradesman who pays £35 rent for his house and lets apartments obtained a dispensary ticket and took his child there to be treated for a slight injury to the forehead. Then another case was mentioned to me of a child who was a patient at the dispensary though the

father earned as a gardener 27*s.* a week, owned a house worth £25 a year, and did a good business in letting apartments. It is generally felt that far too many letters of recommendation are given in exchange for small subscriptions.

(To be continued.)

LIVERPOOL.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Asylum Accommodation in Lancashire for Pauper Lunatics.

AT the recent quarterly meeting of the Lancashire Asylums Board, held in the County Hall, Preston, Mr. Shelmerdine (Liverpool), on behalf of the Lord Mayor of Liverpool, drew the attention of the board to the delay in the completion of the extra wards at Whittingham Asylum. The Lord Mayor had received a letter from Dr. Raw (the medical officer of the Mill-road Infirmary, Everton) complaining of the congested state of the insane wards in that institution, which were so crowded that it was impossible for him to give adequate supervision to dangerous lunatics. Eight lunatic cases were sleeping (at the time Dr. Raw wrote) in the ordinary wards, a state of things to be greatly deplored. The chairman of the Whittingham Asylum Committee said the work had been greatly hampered by strikes and other causes, but they were making every effort to hasten the completion of the necessary wards. The Lord Mayor of Liverpool takes an active interest in the matter, being a member of the West Derby Board of Guardians.

Hospital Saturday Workshops' Collection.

On Saturday, May 21st, the twenty-eighth annual collection in the workshops, warehouses, and other industrial establishments in the city on behalf of the medical charities took place. During the past twenty-seven years the sum of £80,172 has been raised by means of this agency. The collection in the streets called the "ladies' day" are fixed for June 11th, after which date the combined amounts will be advertised.

Hospital for Women, Shaw-street.

Dr. John E. Gemmell, the junior assistant medical officer, has been promoted to the post of acting medical officer, rendered vacant by the resignation of Dr. T. B. Grimsdale. Dr. David Smart has retired from the honorary staff of the hospital after eleven years' of devoted service. Much regret is felt both by the medical staff and committee at the severance of Dr. Smart's connexion with the hospital, for with all of them he was deservedly popular.

The Robert Gee Medical Scholarship.

Mr. Hubert Gordon Thompson, a former student of the Liverpool College, has been the successful candidate in the competition for the Robert Gee Medical Scholarship at University College, Liverpool. Mr. Thompson had previously matriculated at the University of London, having been placed in the first division.

Sir Henry Tate, Bart.

Mr. Henry Tate, formerly resident in Liverpool, who has been the recipient of a baronetcy on the occasion of the Queen's birthday, has been a generous benefactor to the city of Liverpool. He contributed £8000 to the funds of the Liverpool Royal Infirmary and generously assisted other local medical charities, besides contributing largely to the Royal Jubilee Nursing Fund. The spacious library in University College, Liverpool, was also one of Mr. Tate's numerous benefactions. His eldest son and heir to the baronetcy also takes an active interest in hospital work, being a member of several committees, notably of that of the Liverpool Royal Infirmary.

May 31st.

SCOTLAND.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

The Perils of the Medical Profession.

ANOTHER name has been added in Glasgow to the long roll of those who have fallen in the performance of duty. Mr. Thomas Henderson, son of Dr. T. Brown Henderson of that city, a student of medicine of much promise, has at the early age of twenty-two fallen a victim to blood-poisoning contracted in the pursuit of his hospital work as the result

of assisting at an operation (a case of osteomyelitis) in the Royal Infirmary. Seven weeks ago he became affected with blood-poisoning which seemed to have passed off satisfactorily, until Sunday, May 15th, after returning from church, fresh symptoms of blood-poisoning manifested themselves in the form of dark spots on the skin and also on the mucous membrane of the mouth and throat (purpura hæmorrhagica), and in spite of all that medical skill could do the disease proved fatal in seventy-three hours from effusion of blood on the brain. Mr. Henderson was of a singularly amiable disposition and was ardently devoted to his medical studies and much sympathy is felt for his father in the painfully sad circumstances. It is somewhat striking that several members of the profession in Glasgow have recently suffered from blood-poisoning similarly contracted, and we understand that one of these was an eminent surgeon who was infected from the case at which Mr. Henderson assisted when he received the blood infection. Only in Mr. Henderson's case, however, has a fatal result ensued, although in the case of the surgeon referred to the illness assumed for a time a serious character.

June 1st.

IRELAND.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

The Rotunda Lying-in Hospital, Dublin.

THE Lucina Bazaar and Fête, which was held in aid of the funds of the Rotunda Hospital, came to a conclusion on May 21st and proved most successful both as an entertainment and as a means of earning money for the funds of a great charity. The bazaar was formally opened by her Excellency the Countess Cadogan, who afterwards visited the performances in the gardens of the Rotunda on more than one occasion.

The British Dental Association and Dr. Stack of Dublin.

At the meeting of the British Dental Association, which took place at Bath on May 28th, a resolution was proposed by Sir Edwin Saunders, dentist to the Queen, that the following message, expressing the feeling of the assemblage, should be despatched to Dublin:—

That the members of the British Dental Association, now assembled at Bath for their annual meeting, desire to give expression to their heartfelt sympathy with Dr. Stack, and in doing so they would indulge in the hope that a further turn of rest may enable him to be restored to his family and to resume the duties and pursuits of active professional life.

Dr. Stack, the President of the British Dental Association and Professor of Dentistry at the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, occupies the very highest position in his branch of the profession here and is most deservedly popular not only among dentists but also with his colleagues at the College of Surgeons and elsewhere. Wide sympathy is felt with him in consequence of the severe attack of illness from which he now suffers. It is hoped, however, that he will soon be convalescent and able to resume his professional duties.

Hospital Saturday in Belfast.

Hospital Saturday in Belfast was held on May 28th, when about £400 was realised—that is, £80 in excess of 1897, and a larger amount than was obtained at any time during these last five years.

Queen's College, Cork.

The Cork College was very well represented at the recent medical examinations of the Royal University, as may be seen by the following statement:—Second Examination: Honours and exhibitions awarded to two students, one of whom was educated at Queen's College, Cork. Third Examination: Honours and exhibitions awarded to two students, one of whom was educated at Queen's College, Cork. Degree Examination: Honours and exhibitions awarded to two students, both of whom were educated at Queen's College, Cork. It will thus be seen that out of a total of six honours and exhibitions awarded at the various examinations four were won by students of Queen's College, Cork.

Dr. Thomas A. Kelleher has been appointed house surgeon to the Waterford City and County Hospital.

The Local Government Board for Ireland have appointed Mr. Edgar Flinn, F.R.C.S. Irel., D.P.H., of Kingstown, to be a medical inspector under the board.

June 1st.

PARIS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Agglutination of Tubercle Bacilli.

M. S. ARLOING made a communication to the Academy of Sciences on May 16th on the subject of the Agglutination of the Bacillus of Tuberculosis. He said that Koch's bacillus, like several other pathogenic microbes, may be made to agglutinate by certain serums. If to some drops of a homogeneous culture or emulsion of the bacilli there is added one-tenth of blood serum of a healthy goat which has never received any inoculation no agglutination is produced. If for this serum there is substituted that of a goat which has been submitted to a long series of subcutaneous injections of more or less virulent samples of either tuberculin or Koch's bacillus phenomena of agglutination soon make their appearance in an intense and complete form. The slight natural agglutinating power of the blood of the ass also increases considerably under the influence of such injections. The agglutinating power of normal serum of different kinds is in inverse ratio to the tendency of the respective animals to contract or to resist tuberculosis. It does not exist in the rabbit and the guinea-pig, which are easily rendered tuberculous; it is very slight in the goat, is more pronounced in the ox and the ass, and is very marked in the horse, which rarely becomes tuberculous. Serum rendered strongly agglutinating by subcutaneous injections of Koch's bacilli or tuberculin produces agglutination either in cultures growing in liquid media or in homogeneous emulsions of fowl tuberculosis, a phenomenon which tends to show a relationship between Koch's bacillus and the bacillus of fowl tuberculosis. The action of the agglutinating serum shows itself equally well in the case of bacilli growing in glycerinated bouillon. The agglutinating power may originate and develop in a very short space of time. Attempts to obtain agglutination in the diagnosis or prognosis of tuberculous disease in the human subject have given the following results: (1) the blood serum of persons affected or supposed to be affected with true pulmonary phthisis caused agglutination 94 times in every 100—complete agglutination 57 times and incomplete 37 times; (2) the blood of patients suffering from surgical tuberculosis caused agglutination 91 times in every 100—complete agglutination 35 times and incomplete 56 times; (3) the serum of various patients caused agglutination 32 times in every 100—very good agglutination 11 times and imperfect 21 times; and (4) the serum of persons supposed to be healthy caused agglutination only 22 times in every 100—very good agglutination 11 times and incomplete 11 times. The proportion of positive results gives reason to hope that the agglutination of Koch's bacilli may prove useful as a clinical method.

The Prophylaxis of Tuberculosis.

In the discussion on M. Grancher's report to the Academy of Medicine on the prophylaxis of tuberculosis, M. Gibert of Havre proposed at the meeting held on May 24th that the academy should represent to the executive the desirability of instructing the prefects to take measures for the disinfection of places occupied by persons who have died from phthisis, whether in town or in country. He remarked that in Havre there are streets inhabited by poor people where phthisis nevertheless does not exist, while, on the other hand, there are streets in which the death-rate from phthisis is 13 per 1000. As for phthisis among soldiers, he has constantly seen army surgeons pass into the service young men affected with tubercle and whom he had certified to be so affected. In order to avoid hurting the feelings of the army surgeons he thought that the medical men in attendance on such cases ought to communicate directly with the prefects and sub-prefects of the departments. M. Laveran said that latent tuberculosis was much more common in the army than was generally supposed. Some soldiers did not venture to go on the sick list and in this way might suffer for a long time from unrecognised tuberculosis; they might also be the means of imparting the disease to their comrades. With regard to such prophylactic measures as the use of spittoons and the damping of whatever has to be swept it has not been found possible to carry out these precautions efficiently, and sweeping is once more done in the ordinary way, raising clouds of dangerous dust. Although paraffin and coal-tar rendered flooring-boards impervious to unwholesome matter, these substances were nevertheless not used in the majority