

Scottish Microscopical Society.

The fourth meeting of this Society was held in Edinburgh on the 16th inst., Professor Rutherford, F.R.S., in the chair. The President referred to the loss the Society had sustained by the decease of one of its vice-presidents, Mr. Adolf Paul Schulze, a native of Saxony, who settled as a merchant in Glasgow, and devoted his leisure time to microscopical optics, more especially to photomicrography, in which he acquired very remarkable skill, his article on the subject in the *British Journal of Photography* for May 24th, 31st, and June 7th, 1889, being one of the best expositions of the practice of that difficult subject that has yet appeared. Mr. G. W. Watson, L.D.S., made a communication on pathology of dental caries, which was illustrated by sections and photographs of carious teeth prepared by himself, and which were shown on the screen with the oxyhydrogen microscope; the destruction of dentine by the growth of micrococci and bacilli in the tubules was clearly demonstrated. Mr. James Hunter, F.R.C.S. Edin., gave an interesting lantern demonstration of the properties of simple lenses, some of which had been devised by himself. Professor Macfadyean, B.Sc., gave an account and a demonstration of the morphology of actinomyces.

Health of Edinburgh.

The mortality last week was 90, and the death-rate 19 per 1000. Diseases of the chest accounted for 35 deaths, and zymotic diseases for 15, of which 2 were from typhoid fever, 1 from diphtheria, 3 from scarlatina, and 9 from whooping-cough. The intimations for the week were from typhoid fever 15, diphtheria 6, scarlatina 31, and measles 10.

Edinburgh, Jan. 27th.

ABERDEEN.

Aberdeen University Court.

At a meeting of the Aberdeen University Court held on Friday, 23rd inst., the Marquis of Huntly, Lord Rector, presiding, Dr. Angus Fraser raised the question as to whether the court had not the power to appoint all examiners and lecturers. All were agreed that it was the duty of the Court to appoint examiners, but there was considerable doubt with regard to the appointment of lecturers. The question came before the Senatus in the case of the appointment of the next Gifford lecturer, and a communication from that body was read at the meeting, requesting the University Court to join them in obtaining the opinion of counsel as to the right under the Act of 1889 of electing the Gifford lecturer. In discussing the question Dr. Fraser suggested that it might be well to have the opinion of counsel upon the point; but it was ultimately agreed, on the motion of Mr. Edmond, "That the Court communicate with the Courts of the other Universities with the view of arriving at a common understanding as to the respective rights of the Courts and Senatus of the Universities to appoint examiners and lecturers, and especially the Gifford lecturer."

Students' Representative Council.

A statutory meeting of the Students' Representative Council was held at Marischal College on the 24th inst. A considerable amount of routine business was transacted, and it was also agreed that the council should offer to the University Court to conduct all the arrangements for the rectorial address on March 6th, as was done by the Council in 1888, provided the University Court paid the necessary expenses which were on that occasion paid by the Senatus.

Koch's Treatment of Tuberculosis.

Professor Smith Shand and Dr. Blackie Smith, physicians to the Royal Infirmary, have procured a supply of Koch's liquid, and in their wards several cases of lupus and phthisis are being treated. So far the results have been characteristic and, on the whole, satisfactory.

Health of the City.

During the week ending Saturday, 24th inst., the following cases of zymotic diseases were notified to Professor Matthew Hay, the medical officer of health: Measles, 1; scarlet fever, 16; diphtheria, 2; whooping-cough, 2. In his report for the month of December Dr. Hay states that the death-rate was 20.48, as against the average of 22.52 for the same month during the past ten years; it is also

lower than in any individual year except 1888. About this time last year he directed attention to the exceptional prevalence at that period of puerperal fever. In his present report he says he regrets to have again to note a recrudescence of this disease. During the month there were five deaths from puerperal fever—an unusually large number, seeing that the total number for a whole year is usually not beyond six or seven.

Aberdeen Jan. 28th.

IRELAND.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

British Medical Association: Dublin Branch.

THE fourteenth annual meeting was held last week at the Royal College of Physicians. The annual report of the Council, which referred to the admittance of Irish graduates to English hospital appointments and the condition of army medical officers, was adopted. The new President, Dr. Walter Smith, delivered an address which dealt with the administration of hospital extern departments and their special importance as a means of developing in the best manner the education of students. The following resolution, proposed by Dr. Atthill and seconded by Mr. Horne, was adopted:—"That in the opinion of this Branch the registration of midwives as proposed by Parliament will not tend in any marked degree to render more efficient the nurses practising as midwives, unless steps be first taken to improve their education; that the question of registration be postponed till it is shown that facilities exist for the education of such women as may desire to practise as midwives, and that the proposed registration of all women at present practising as midwives would be a most dangerous proceeding. This Branch is further of opinion that any legislation on the subject of improving the education or status of midwives should not be undertaken without serious consideration, and desires to urge on the Government the necessity of having it referred, in the first instance, to a select committee for consideration and report." The annual dinner took place the same evening in the hall of the College of Physicians.

The Rights of an Unborn Infant.

In the Queen's Bench Division judgment was given last week in the case of *Mrs. Walker v. the Great Northern Railway Company*, which involved an important point—viz., the rights of an unborn child. The plaintiff was a passenger in the excursion train that was wrecked last year at Armagh, and was *enroute*, the child being born deformed. She alleged that the child which she was carrying at the time of the accident was injured, and as a result was born deformed. The railway company, by counsel, demurred, alleging that an unborn child had no right of action or interest to recover damages for personal injuries. The plaintiff's case was lost, the demurrer being allowed. It may be mentioned that a sum of £800 had already been given to the mother by the company as compensation for injuries received by her.

City of Dublin Hospital.

The patient whose lingual arteries Mr. Croly tied as a preliminary step to excision of the tongue, referred to last week in these columns, died suddenly while incautiously sitting up in bed to eat.

Magrath, the Irish Giant.

Professor D. J. Cunningham this week read a paper at the Royal Irish Academy on the skeleton of the Irish giant Cornelius Magrath, at present in the museum of Trinity College. He believes it was a case of acromegaly, there being undue development of various portions of the skeleton—viz., abnormal size of the hands, feet, and lower jaw, which projected greatly below the upper jaw, while the head itself was not in equipoise with the vertebral column, and in this respect resembled the negro head. Magrath's height was said to be 7 ft. 8 in.; but Professor Cunningham, from a careful examination of the skeleton, believes it was 7 ft. 2½ in.

Mr. Michael Joseph Bulger has been elected assistant surgeon to the House of Industry Hospitals.

Jan. 27th.