

which is rather above the average of the preceding five years. As regards age, 27·13 per cent. were under five years and 30·68 per cent. above sixty years. The deaths from diseases of the chest were 41·54 per cent. of the whole, while zymotic diseases caused 8·34 per cent.

Health of Edinburgh.

The mortality last week was 104, making the death-rate 20 per 1000. Diseases of the chest accounted for 39 deaths, and zymotic diseases for 6, of which 2 were due to diphtheria, 1 to scarlatina, 1 to measles, and 2 to whooping-cough. The intimations were—typhoid fever 23, diphtheria 3, scarlatina 25, and measles 8.

Koch's Liquid at the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary.

A quantity of liquid has been received by the authorities at the infirmary, and it has been left to the medical and surgical staff to determine its distribution.

Meeting of Contributors to the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary.

On Monday an adjourned meeting of the contributors to the Royal Infirmary was held. The report, of which an abstract has already appeared here, was submitted, and special attention was also directed to the increase in the number of out-patients; and it was proposed that a record of these cases and the circumstances of the patients be made for a year. The necessity for increased hospital accommodation was also strongly represented, and it was suggested to the managers that they should open negotiations with the directors of the Sick Children's Hospital with a view to its possible acquisition for purposes of extension.

Edinburgh, Jan. 20th.

IRELAND.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Ligature of both Lingual Arteries.

ON Tuesday, the 20th inst., I had an opportunity of seeing Mr. H. Gray Croly, president of the Royal College of Surgeons, at the City of Dublin Hospital, tie both lingual arteries as a preliminary to excision of the tongue for cancer. The patient, a man aged fifty, about six months since noticed a growth on the left side of the tongue, due to some irritation of an adjoining tooth, and on being admitted to hospital the base of the tongue was found to be involved and some of the glands under the jaw. The left lingual was first tied, an incision being made from the angle of the jaw to the upper part of the hyoglossus, and then to the symphysis; the artery was very deeply situated, and required a tedious dissection. The submaxillary gland was removed, also a gland under the chin. The right lingual artery was then ligatured, the time occupied from the commencement of the incision until the ligature was placed on the vessel being twelve minutes. By this procedure the danger of secondary hæmorrhage in cases of excision of the tongue is obviated, and by giving an opportunity for the removal of any contaminated glands a better chance is afforded the patient of escaping recurrence of the morbid growth. Next Tuesday Mr. Croly will excise the tongue.

Koch's Treatment of Tuberculosis.

Koch's treatment is in full swing in the various hospitals in Dublin, and cures have been reported as having occurred. Some are very sanguine, but time must elapse before any definite and decided opinion can be given as to the positive benefits to be derived from using the fluid. Professor Virchow's assertion that injections with Koch's fluid may infect healthy portions with tubercular disease is a very serious statement, and hospital physicians ought to be extremely careful in the cases selected for the treatment, and not unduly sanguine as to the ultimate good effects of the proposed remedy.

National Eye and Ear Infirmary.

The Committee of Management have issued an appeal for funds to enlarge this hospital and render it available to accommodate sixty intern patients at an estimated cost of £7000. The long-talked-of amalgamation between the two ophthalmic hospitals in Dublin has not yet been carried out, although all concerned are anxious to have a single institution. It is stated that there is some legal difficulty involved, a solution for which has not yet been found.

Death of Samuel Bigger, F.R.C.S.I.

Last year this gentleman was attacked with paralysis,

and lingered on until Tuesday, the 20th inst., when he succumbed at his residence in Harcourt-street, at the advanced age of eighty-two. He had been surgeon to Simpson's Hospital, but resigned shortly after his illness commenced. He was a graduate in medicine of the University of Dublin, and obtained the Fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons in 1844. He was a kind and benevolent man, and attended many indigent sufferers without fee or reward.

Dublin Hospital Sunday Fund.

The total sum collected in 1890 for the Dublin hospitals amounted to £4188 2s. 11d., being an increase of £32 17s. 7d., as compared with the previous year. In this is included a sum of £60 10s. 1d., the proceeds of the annual football match.

South Dublin Union.

By the death of Dr. J. A. Byrne a vacancy has arisen for a medical officer to the Grand Canal-street Dispensary, which will be filled up on the 4th prox. The emoluments of the post are £125 a year, and the usual vaccination and other fees.

Numerous cases of mumps—an epidemic on a small scale—have occurred during the past few weeks in Dublin.

The Mitchelstown guardians have applied to the Local Government Board for a provisional order to sanction the expenditure of £5000 for supplying the town with water.

Mrs. Mary Jordan died this week at her residence in Warrenpoint, at the advanced age of 101 years.

Jan. 20th.

PARIS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

Koch's Treatment at the Hôpital St. Louis.

AT this hospital the excellent plan has been adopted of constituting the medical and surgical staff into a committee, whose duty it will be to furnish a concise report on the results obtained on their patients by the application of Koch's method. In anticipation of the expression of their views by each individual member of the committee, promised for the next meeting of the Société de Dermatologie et de Syphilographie, M. Vidal, one of their number, communicated at last Thursday's *séance* a preliminary *exposé* of their collective opinion. It appears that thirty-two patients have been inoculated since Nov. 30th, 1890, each receiving an average of from four to six injections, with an interval between each of from four to eight days. The committee find that with the shorter interval (two or three days) advocated at Berlin the subjects remain more feeble and become anæmic; and that, moreover, both the local reaction and the specific action on tuberculous elements become less and less pronounced at each inoculation. The three points to which M. Vidal desired to call particular attention were (1) the irregularity of the general reaction; (2) its dangers; and (3) the precautions indicated in order to obviate, or at least diminish, these dangers. The general reaction has not been found to present the regular features ascribed to it by Berlin physicians, nor is the local manifestation of the activity of the lymph always proportionate to the general reaction—this remark applying more particularly to cases of lupus. In several instances general reaction had been intense after as small a dose as half a milligramme; and this intensity had been observed in them after repeated inoculations. In one patient an injection of half a milligramme, practised after an interval of twelve days, determined a greater reaction than that induced by two preceding injections of double the strength. The duration of febrile reaction is variable. In most cases the temperature becomes normal within twenty-four hours; but it is by no means uncommon for it to reascend in the afternoon of the next day, and for this recrudescence to exceed in violence the primitive fever. A repetition of this vesperal ascent has been noted in a few cases on the third and even fourth day. Koch's liquid acts as a powerful pyrogenous agent, exciting congestion of the whole system, but so unequally that it is difficult to predict its intensity, and which organ is destined to bear the brunt of the attack. This capriciousness has even been noticed at different inoculations in the same patient. Viscera previously diseased (the disease not necessarily being of a tuberculous nature) are particularly prone to this congestion, and even organs apparently