

the present price of petrol, is an important point, and the average was just under 30 miles to the gallon. The engine is cast *en bloc* with a bore of 68 mm. and a stroke of 120 mm. This reduction in bore and increase in stroke has, of course, the object of evading the higher tax, and at the same time to provide the needful capacity to give sufficient power. The petrol tank is mounted in front of the dashboard, covered by the scuttle, and with gravity-fed petrol this seems an advantage over the old position under the driver's seat, as the spirit has always sufficient pressure to lift the needle valve in the float chamber, which, with the former situation, was, at any rate on hills, not always the case. Ignition is by a Bosch high tension magneto with fixed firing, and cooling by a gilled tube radiator with fan- and gear-driven centrifugal pump. The clutch is of the leather-faced cone type, and I noticed that the driven member was sufficiently light to come to rest without delay, which is an important point in avoiding wear on the gears and in permitting easy changing. Three speeds forward and a reverse, all controlled by one lever in a gate quadrant, are provided, and the final transmission is by bevel drive. The springing is satisfactory, and though I drove over some rough country roads there was hardly any vibration or road shock. Both the driving shaft and the rear road wheel brakes alone were enough to hold the car on a steep hill in either direction. This car, with two-seated torpedo body, hood, screen, side and tail lamps, pump jack and tool outfit, is listed at £225, and seemed to me to be well worthy of the serious consideration of a practitioner.

Motors Left Unattended.

A case that might affect medical men who are their own chauffeurs was heard recently at the Bath city police court. The defendant was summoned for causing an obstruction, having left his car unattended for an hour and a quarter. The magistrates said that whereas in the old days a man could not leave his carriage about, so now the street could not be used as a garage. It is to be trusted that this action of the police will not be applied to medical men, who may in midwifery or operation cases have to leave their cars outside patients' houses often for more than an hour. The case in question was dismissed on payment of costs.

Petrol Gas Lighting for Cars.

In answer to various inquiries on this subject I have ascertained that with modern unbreakable mantles a car may be thus illuminated. Personally I prefer electricity. Those, however, who desire to try the petrol gas method can have their ordinary lamps converted to carry an inverted bijou sized burner, and this can be supplied from the petrol tank on cars which have pressure-fed carburetters. On gravity fed cars a small special tank must be fitted.

A Folding Clothes' Brush.

The medical motorist who does his own driving may occasionally, as a consequence of a small roadside adjustment, feel the need of a brush before resuming his professional round. An ingenious pocket brush, not occupying more space than a cigarette case, has been put on the market by Messrs. Brown Brothers, Limited.

MANCHESTER.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Mr. John Burns on Modern Pauperism.

THE President of the Local Government Board formally opened the new workhouse infirmary at Rawtenstall on July 13th. The infirmary was erected by the Haslingden union at a cost of £30,000. He said that whatever might be the future of the Poor-law system, hospitals, infirmaries, hostels, and convalescent homes would always be needed. He spoke also "of the always changing and ever-improving Poor-law service"—changing in the onward, the upward, and the right direction. The injured in our industrial life numbered every year 300,000. In many cases later on in life the Poor-law institution was the only refuge for those in the army of industry upon whom the lot fell. Pauperism as understood seventy or eighty years ago we have not with us either in the amount or the intensity, and, above all, not with the shame and the degradation that too frequently accompanied the condition of the poor a hundred years ago. As showing how

pauperism had changed, 50 per cent. of the total amount of pauperism in the United Kingdom was due to disease or to sickness, to accident, or injury. In fact, failing a national medical service, the best of our Poor-law infirmaries provided for the very poor a national medical service of greater value and efficiency than some of the superficial critics of Poor-law administration were apt to admit. Poor-law administration had helped to diminish the ravages of consumption. Tuberculosis in ten years in Lancashire alone had diminished by 30 to 40 per cent. In Liverpool, of 4000 Poor-law consumptives 60 per cent. were paupers because they were consumptives.

Effect of Milk-feed on School Children in Salford.

The Salford Education Committee is about to make interesting experiments with school children. The School Canteen Subcommittee has accepted an offer to supply the scholars at the schools with half a pint of separated milk daily for four months free of charge. The Physical Care and Special Schools Subcommittee has requested the medical officer of health to make arrangements for the weighing of the children.

The Summer Session of the University.

The University activity is drawing to a close for the academic year. The other three Universities which form the quadrilateral of the North have for some time finished their academic work early in July. The University of Manchester next year will bring itself into line with the sister universities. The medical session next year will end early in July. In order to secure the necessary number of working days, the summer session instead of beginning late in April, or as was the practice some years ago, on May 1st, will begin about the middle of April, thus enabling the work to be completed before the advent of the "dog days" and their attendant quasi-paralysis of work.

Stockport and Its New Water-supply.

The new Kinder water works, which will supply Stockport and the surrounding districts with a reserve of 500,000,000 gallons of water, were opened on July 11th. The artificial lake was formed under conditions of unusual difficulty. It covers about 40 acres and has a capacity of 515,000,000 gallons and a depth of 95 feet at its deepest part. To get to a watertight foundation trenches had to be sunk to a depth of 280 ft. The top level of the water is 917 ft. above sea level. By the Act of 1899 the corporation is precluded from making any profit out of the water undertaking and it must charge the same ratio for water within as without the borough, which includes an area of 80 square miles. The population in the Stockport area has increased from 140,000 in 1901 to 171,000 in 1911, while in the same time the consumption of water has risen from 21.7 gallons a head to 25.5 gallons.

July 16th.

WALES AND WESTERN COUNTIES.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

Munificent Gift to the Cardiff Medical School.

ONE of the most gratifying incidents connected with the recent visit of the King and Queen to Cardiff was the gift by an anonymous donor of 10,000 guineas towards the building of a new physiological wing to the pathological block of buildings at King Edward VII.'s Hospital, as the Cardiff Infirmary will hitherto be known. The donor is now stated to be Mr. W. James Thomas, who a few years ago inherited from his grandfather large colliery undertakings in the Rhondda valleys. Mr. Thomas has taken a very special interest in the Cardiff medical institutions, and his latest gift is only one of many others to the hospital and medical school. At the last meeting of the council of the University College of South Wales and Monmouthshire a committee was instructed to report without delay as to the best means of carrying out the proposed extensions to the medical school. The complete scheme suggested will involve an additional expenditure of some £50,000, towards which sum it is hoped grants may be made from the Treasury and by a rate levied by the county councils concerned.

The Attendance of Non-medical Persons at Hospital Operations.

The Red Cross movement has been taken up with a great deal of enthusiasm in South Wales, and especially in Cardiff.

Many of those who have obtained certificates of competency in first-aid appear anxious to extend their knowledge beyond legitimate limits, and have made application—in some instances successfully—to be present at operations in public hospitals. At the last meeting of the board of management of the Cardiff Hospital a proposal was made that the medical board should draw up regulations governing the presence at operations of nurses and enrolled members of first-aid societies not on the staff of the hospital. A member of the committee very properly pointed out that it was quite unnecessary for members of Red Cross societies to have any knowledge of operations as they were only called on to render first-aid. This view was emphasised by other members of the committee, and Dr. Herbert Vachell said he hoped that the day was far distant when untrained nurses would be permitted to visit the operating theatre. The proposal was in the end amended so as to refer only to medical practitioners, medical students, and trained nurses.

The Bristol Dispensary for the Prevention of Consumption.

At a recent meeting of the Bristol Civic League the chairman of the Public Welfare Committee, Mr. F. Newton Colborne, made some interesting remarks on the work of the Tuberculosis Dispensary, which owes its origin to a gift of money made through, and under the control of, the league. He said that the relation of this institution to the sanatorium benefit section of the Insurance Act was being carefully considered by the dispensary committee in consultation with the municipal authorities. Since the dispensary was opened in February there have been 1900 attendances of patients at it; and the work of the whole-time officers (medical officer and nurse) has been supplemented by the help of two extra nurses from the public health department of the city. Owing to the regulation which allows no patient to come to the dispensary except on the recommendation of a medical practitioner, it has hitherto been possible to enlist the active help of the local profession.

An Unusual Visitor to a Children's Hospital.

The frequenters of a certain music-hall in Bristol have of late been entertained by the accomplishments of a chimpanzee. By way of celebrating his fourth birthday this animal paid a visit to the children's hospital, where he distributed toys and sweets to the in-patients, to their great delight and edification.

The British Dental Association at Bath.

The annual meeting of the Western branch of the British Dental Association was held at Bath last week. There was a good attendance of members. Mr. J. J. H. Sanders, of Barnstaple, the president, was presented with a silver salver and an illuminated address. Mr. Stuart Carter was installed as president, and gave an interesting address on the Dental Profession. The winter meeting of the society will be held at Taunton. The secretary (Mr. W. H. Goodman) stated that it was hoped the British Dental Association would hold its annual meeting in the West of England in 1915.

The Birth-rate of Bath.

The medical officer of health of Bath (Dr. W. H. Symons) states that the birth-rate for the "old city" in 1911 was 15.6 per 1000, the lowest on record; the previous minimum record was 17.2 per 1000 in 1909. For the "extended city" for the same period the rate was 17.2 per 1000. Dr. Symons, in his report, adds: "It would almost seem as if the pernicious principles of the Malthusian League were being adopted by the masses."

The Midwives Act in Somerset.

At Shepton Mallet, on July 12th, a woman was fined £1 13s. for practising as a midwife, not being certified under the Midwives Act of 1902. This is the first prosecution instituted by the Somerset county council since the passing of the Midwives Act.

Exeter City Asylum

The visiting committee of the Exeter City Asylum in its annual report for 1911, which has just been issued, states that during the year 434 patients were under treatment, 29 were discharged, and 55 had died. The patients remaining in the institution on Dec. 31st were 186 females and 164 males. The profits on the working of the asylum amounted to £1655, and this sum has been handed to the borough fund.

Death of Mr. H. H. Lovell.

Mr. Harry Haynes Lovell, of Chantry House, Whitford, Devon, died suddenly at Sidmouth on July 8th, where he had been staying for the benefit of his health. Mr. Lovell was born at Barnstaple, and after taking his medical qualifications was elected on the staff of the North Devon Infirmary, Barnstaple. Later he practised in the Midlands, and eventually went to Africa. About 12 years ago he retired from practice and went to reside in Devonshire. He was very popular there, was a member of the Axminster board of guardians, and represented Slute on the Devon county council. Mr. Lovell will be much missed in East Devon, and much sympathy is felt there for his widow. The funeral, which was largely attended, took place at Slute parish churchyard on July 10th.

July 16th.

SCOTLAND.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

The National Insurance Act and the Medical Staff of the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh.

THE following statement was prepared by the committee of the honorary staff of the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh for submission to the managers:—

We thank the managers of the Infirmary, through you, for granting the request of the honorary staff for this interview. The object the honorary staff had in view in asking for this conference was to bring under the notice of the managers (1) the changes in the present provisions for medical treatment which will be brought about by the National Insurance Act; (2) the attitude of the medical profession to the Act; and (3) the relations of the staff of this public charity to the profession at large.

Insured Persons and the Royal Infirmary.—It is estimated that one-third of the entire population will be insured, and that of the male population of 16 years and over 75 per cent. will be insured. Insurance under the Act implies that the State has undertaken to pay for the medical attendance of insured persons. They, as a class, cannot therefore be regarded as objects of charity entitled to make uncontrolled use of the out-patient department of the Infirmary. Further, when insured persons become in-patients, the Infirmary, under certain circumstances, may be entitled to a grant towards their maintenance from the Insurance Act funds. These altered relations have been brought about by the legislature and were not sought by the profession. We submit that such changes call for reconsideration of the existing arrangements at the Infirmary with a view to adapting these to the altered circumstances.

The Medical Profession, the Act, and the Royal Infirmary.—Another aspect of this question which the staff desire to bring under the notice of the managers is as follows. The medical profession has decided not to work the medical benefit section of the Act unless certain terms are definitely granted by the Commissioners. The Commissioners and the Government have been so dilatory in deliberating over these terms that the profession has had to take into consideration the possibility that their demands may not be granted, and to prepare for that eventuality. It may thus happen: 1. That medical benefit will be suspended, and that the money allotted under the Act for such benefit will be paid over to approved societies to make the best terms they can for medical attendance on insured persons. The profession has decided not to undertake contract work such as this might imply except on such terms as shall be acceptable to the profession, as represented in the local Medical Committees already elected in every insurance area. It is a fact that Friendly Societies are already attempting to get over some of their difficulties by trying to utilise such public medical charities as the infirmary. The members of the profession in Edinburgh, through its local Medical Committee, have strongly impressed upon the honorary staff of the Infirmary the necessity of bringing before the notice of the managers the probability of an extension of such action in the future, and they protest against the possibility of this great charity being used to undermine the united action of the profession. The staff fully realise the seriousness of this possibility, and, sympathising with their brethren, feel bound to support them by doing everything in their power to prevent its occurrence. Moreover, if such additional work were thrown upon the already overburdened out-patient departments, they would be quite unable to cope with it. 2. The Commissioners or Friendly Societies may profess to provide medical benefit by means of a small body of dissentients from the declared policy of the profession. Were this to happen, your honorary staff are expected by their brethren, and themselves desire, to do everything in their power, both as private consultants and as members of the staff, to discountenance such arrangements.

Sick poor not insured.—Apart from insured persons there are many thousands of sick poor to whom the staff will ever be ready and willing to give of its best, as it has done in the past, but the staff strongly represent to the managers that the time has arrived when it is of the first importance that steps should be taken to institute some efficient method of inquiry regarding the position of persons seeking advice at the Infirmary. They do not venture at present to propose any definite scheme, but they regard the initiation of such a scheme as urgent. The whole question of the relation of medical charities to insured persons is being dealt with all over Great Britain, and the staff realise that it would be a very serious matter if, as the result of inaction on the part of the managers, the medical profession in Scotland were to take up an attitude of hostility to the Royal Infirmary. It is hardly necessary to state to the managers that a large amount of the work done in the Infirmary is bestowed on persons recommended by medical men.