

quarter ending April 1st was 118 per 1000 and the general death-rate 14·7 per 1000. Of the total deaths in the past quarter no fewer than 23·7 per cent., or nearly one-quarter of the whole, occurred in public institutions.

June 27th.

BRISTOL AND THE WESTERN COUNTIES.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

University of Bristol: Guild of Undergraduates.

AT a recent meeting of the Court of the University certain ordinances for the regulation of a Guild of Undergraduates were introduced and sanctioned by unanimous vote. The guild has as its objects "The promotion of corporate feeling and mutual fellowship among undergraduates and students, as well as of recreation in common and the cultivation of common intellectual interests." The Vice-Chancellor, in moving the adoption of the ordinances, said that they went no further than to constitute their guild a constituent body of the University, with a right to representation at the Court. They provide that every undergraduate shall, *ipso facto*, be a member of the guild, subscribing a sum not exceeding half a guinea annually. Provision is also made for the admission of associate members, the election of a representative to the University Court, financial administration, and the making of by-laws.

Chemists and the National Insurance Bill.

The chemists of Bristol and the surrounding towns met recently at the Grand Hotel to discuss the proposed insurance legislation. There was a very large attendance, and resolutions were passed approving of the separation of prescribing from dispensing, and asking that the dispensing should be entrusted only to persons registered under the Pharmacy Act, that patients should have freedom of choice of chemist, that payment should be fixed by scale and not on a capitation basis, and that pharmacists should have representation on the Central Advisory Board and on the Local Health Committee. It was further resolved that every dispensary employed under the Act should be subject to the Pharmacy Acts, the Food and Drugs Act, the Weights and Measures Acts, and all other Acts affecting traders; and that no further facilities be granted to carry on public dispensaries. All these resolutions were carried unanimously.

A Memorial Window at the Bristol Royal Infirmary.

A window, representing St. Elizabeth in robes of purple and grey, symbolical of royalty and humility, ministering to the sick and poor, has been placed in the chapel of the Bristol Royal Infirmary. Mr. Arnold Robinson of Bristol is the designer and the cost was defrayed by gifts from past and present nurses, members of the honorary staff and the committee. It is dedicated to the memory of eight nurses who have within recent years died while in the service of the infirmary. The ceremony of dedication was performed on Saturday, June 3rd, by Archdeacon Robeson.

Red Cross Society.

The Bristol branch of the Red Cross Society is now in possession of headquarters of its own in a central position. The various uses to which it is proposed to put all the rooms were explained to the officers of the various detachments by the county director, Mr. J. S. Griffiths, at a meeting held at the new headquarters. The work of the branch is progressing steadily, and it is hoped that eight or a dozen thoroughly served detachments may be formed with a few in reserve.

Compulsory Notification of Tuberculosis in Bristol.

At the last meeting of the Bristol health committee it was decided to report to the city council upon the importance of the compulsory notification of tuberculosis. It was also stated at the meeting that a lady would be prepared to give about £1000 towards the initiation of a dispensary for cases of tuberculosis. After some discussion the subject was left for further investigation.

*Herbert Lorraine Earle Wilks, L.R.C.P. Lond.,
M.R.C.S. Eng.*

Mr. H. L. E. Wilks, honorary surgeon to the Salisbury General Infirmary, died at his residence, The Retreat, De Vaux Place, Salisbury, on June 4th, in his forty-fourth

year. The deceased received his medical education at Guy's Hospital, and qualified as M.R.C.S. and L.R.C.P. in 1891. Shortly afterwards he was appointed house surgeon to the Salisbury Infirmary. Mr. Wilks held this appointment for several years, and on his resigning the post was elected honorary surgeon to the institution. He was also surgeon to the Salisbury and South Wilts Provident Dispensary. Mr. Wilks had an extensive practice in Salisbury and the district, where he was very popular, and great regret is felt there at his early death.

The Health of Gloucestershire School Children.

At the last meeting of the Gloucestershire education committee it was reported that during 1910 over 13,000 school children had been medically examined, and only 43 per cent. of them were classified as being in a normal condition of health, although a large proportion of the ailments were of a minor character.

New Water-supply for Instow (Devon).

On June 12th the new water-supply for Instow was formally inaugurated in the presence of a large gathering. For some 20 years there have been various discussions at different meetings of the Barnstaple rural district council in reference to the water-supply of Instow, and eventually an arrangement was made with the Barnstaple Water Company to supply the little town. The water is carried from Barnstaple by 8½ miles of mains. Instow, which is one of the pleasantest of North Devon watering places, is to be congratulated upon at last obtaining an efficient and excellent water-supply.

The Treatment of School Children's Teeth at Torquay.

The Torquay education committee has obtained the sanction of the Board of Education to a scheme for providing temporary dental treatment for school children of the ages of 6, 7, and 8 years. Mr. J. Glanville Turle and Mr. Ludlow Strangways have been appointed to perform these duties until August 4th. These gentlemen will attend the children on two mornings every week for three hours on each occasion. The estimated cost of the undertaking is £40.

The Penzance Board of Guardians.

At a meeting of the Penzance board of guardians held on June 8th, Mr. C. Branwell, who was the only candidate for the post, was appointed medical officer for the fifth district. As already stated in THE LANCET, Mr. Branwell, owing to the insufficiency of the salary, resigned this appointment some months ago. The guardians then increased the remuneration, and appointed another medical man, but the Local Government Board refused to sanction the appointment. Mr. Branwell is to be congratulated upon securing his old post at a more adequate remuneration, and in being well supported by the local members of the profession.

June 26th.

SCOTLAND.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

National Insurance Bill.

AT the annual meeting of the Edinburgh branch of the British Medical Association, held in Peebles on June 24th, Dr. William Russell presiding, an informal discussion took place on the National Insurance Bill. The questions mainly discussed referred to the £2 wage limit, which by many of the members was regarded as too high. One country parish was particularly quoted in which with a population of over 300 souls there were not more than five persons with an income of over £150 per annum. Another point discussed was the question of mileage. One speaker, who had worked this question out in his own practice, stated that travelling by his own motor-car cost him 6d. per mile, and quoted the case of a patient whom he had seen a few days before 15 miles away, or 30 miles including the return journey. He charged this patient 15s. per visit, which allowed nothing for either his time or his skill, his contention being that on the question of mileage alone the Bill was unworkable financially.

Royal Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow and the State Insurance Bill.

At a largely attended extraordinary meeting of the Fellows of the Royal Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow resolutions on the subject of the National Insurance Bill have been adopted, and the President, Dr. D. N. Knox, was requested to forward them to the Chancellor of the Exchequer for his earnest consideration. The resolutions were:—

1. That (a) the Insurance Commission, (b) the Advisory Committee, and (c) every Local Health Committee should include an adequate representation of duly qualified medical practitioners.
2. That "medical benefit" and "maternity benefit" should be administered by the Local Health Committees and not by "approved societies."
3. That in respect of the administration of "medical benefit" and "maternity benefit" the arrangements with "duly qualified medical practitioners made by the Local Health Committees should be such as to admit of free choice on the part of the insured person of the medical practitioner to be employed, and that the medical practitioner should have the right of refusal, such refusal being a matter of appeal to the Local Health Committee."
4. That in respect of the grant of subscriptions and donations to hospitals and other charitable institutions contemplated in Clause 17 of the Bill, the governing conditions should be assimilated to those set forth in Clause 15 (1) with regard to the administration of "sanatorium benefit."
5. That in respect of the provision to be made for "the supply of proper and sufficient drugs and medicines" under Clause 14 (2), the supply of proper surgical dressings and appliances should be included; and further, that steps should be taken to insure that the drugs and medicines are of the standard required by the British Pharmacopœia, and that the dispensing of prescriptions is carried out by qualified persons.
6. That "medical benefit" should include provisions for consultations and for operations when these are necessary; further, that the Local Health Committees be empowered to determine the remuneration of duly registered medical practitioners for special services rendered.
7. That in the case of an insured woman it should be made clear that "sickness benefit" accrues in addition to "maternity benefit"; and further, that in cases attended by a midwife the local health committee be empowered to pay for the attendance of a medical practitioner should such attendance be called for by the midwife, in accordance with the rules governing her practice.
8. That in respect of the deposit contributor class, which will consist of members other than the picked lives of the Friendly Societies, increased remuneration should be paid to medical practitioners.
9. That provision should be made in the Bill for exclusion from medical and maternity benefits of persons whose average income from all sources exceeds £2 per week.

Aberdeen Medical Men and National Insurance.

Under the auspices of the Aberdeen branch of the British Medical Association a mass meeting of the members of the medical profession within the area of the branch—Aberdeen, Banff, Kincardine, Orkney, and Shetland was held in the Medico-Chirurgical Society's Hall on June 15th for the purpose of considering resolutions and amendments anent the National Insurance Bill. There was a large attendance. The President, Dr. John Gordon, spoke of the medical aspect of the Bill, and referred to its effect upon the profession. He noted the fact that children under the age of 16—in the present form of the Bill—would not participate in money benefit, but would participate in medical benefit. He also drew attention to the fact that the Bill contained no provision for the statutory representation of the medical profession on any of the three administrative bodies, appointed under the Bill—the Insurance Commission, the Advisory Committee, and the Local Health Committee. Dr. D. Lawson, Nordrach-on-Dee Sanatorium, who represented the branch at the meeting held in London last month, reported shortly of the interview which the meeting had with Mr. Lloyd George, and showed how unsatisfactory, from the point of view of the profession, the meeting was. A lengthy discussion ensued, the Bill being strongly criticised in many cases. Finally, the resolutions contained in the circular of the British Medical Association of June 3rd were put to the meeting and unanimously carried. At a meeting of the Aberdeen Medico-Chirurgical Society held on June 14th the same resolution was carried unanimously.

Montrose Asylum: Annual Meeting.

The annual meeting of Montrose Asylum was held on June 13th. The usual grant of £325 was made to the Royal Infirmary. Dr. W. Leggett, chief assistant at Sunnyside, was granted an increase in his salary from £200 to £250 per annum. Dr. M. A. Milne was appointed X ray operator and chloroformist at the infirmary, and Dr. M. Connon, Dr. J. A. S. Grant, and Dr. H. J. Hoile were appointed medical officers.

The late Dr. MacKenzie, Kingussie.

The funeral of the late Dr. MacKenzie, Kingussie, took place on June 14th at Kingussie churchyard, amidst manifestations of deep sorrow on the part of the townspeople and the general public. There was a large attendance of mourners, and shops and all places of business were closed during the funeral. The schools were closed from midday, and a number of the advanced pupils, in whose welfare the deceased had taken a warm interest, attended. At the monthly meeting of the town council it was unanimously agreed to that a minute of condolence be inserted in the burgh records, and an excerpt ordered to be sent to the late Dr. MacKenzie's family.

Morningsfield Hospital, Aberdeen.

The annual general meeting of the managers and subscribers was held on June 13th. The balance sheet showed a total income of £1965 5s. 2d., and an expenditure of £2321 16s. 9d., and an extra expenditure of £44 18s. for repairs. A special grant of £150 was transferred to the reserve account. The average number of patients in the hospital throughout the year was 79. The committee regretted to report a deficiency of £356 11s. 7d. on the year's accounts, the more so as the deficiencies on the last seven years had amounted to £1532, and further, that except for legacies the deficiency would have been much greater. The average cost of each patient for last year was £25 6s. 7d. The ordinary income was sufficient to maintain only 50 patients. The report was approved.

Dundee Royal Infirmary: Annual Meeting.

The annual meeting of the Dundee Royal Infirmary was held on June 12th. Income amounted to £13,372 17s. 1d., an increase of £82 over last year. The principal item of increase was in collections from mills, factories, and works, which exceeded last year by £267. The greater part of that amount arose from Mr. J. K. Caird having contributed sums equal in amount to the collections of his workers at Ashton works and Craigie works for the years 1909-10 and 1910-11, the former having been received too late for inclusion in last year's accounts. The ordinary expenditure amounted to £16,445 17s. 3d., an increase of £385 17s. 6d. over last year. The extraordinary expenditure amounted to £1653 2s. 4d., leaving a total deficit of £4726 2s. 6d. The chairman said the directors had agreed to the continuation for another year of their agreement with the directors of the Royal Asylum relating to the admission and treatment of certain nervous disorders. The Sidlaw Sanatorium had at present 13 adult patients and 28 children. The new out-patient department of the infirmary, to which Mr. Caird contributed a gift of £2400, was opened last month, and was found convenient for the work. The number of in-patients treated in the infirmary during the year was 4098, as against 4038 during the previous year. In the maternity department there had been 370 in-patients, an increase of 50 over the previous year. There were 20,230 out-patients as against last year's 19,516. Altogether there were 31,921 cases treated as against 32,340. The average cost per bed occupied was £55 2s. 1d., which was a reduction of 13s. 8d. per bed over the previous year. Dealing with the Insurance Bill, the chairman said that apprehensions had been felt all over the country that the Bill, if passed into law in its present form, might strike a serious blow at the finances of their hospitals, which were largely maintained by voluntary subscriptions, inasmuch as employers and employed would alike be unwilling to continue their voluntary subscriptions when they were separately for the same purpose taxed by the law of the land. After reference to what has been done in the matter by the General Hospitals Association, he moved the adoption of the report, which was unanimously agreed to.

The Population of Aberdeen.

At a committee of the Aberdeen town council meeting on June 14th Professor Matthew Hay, medical officer of health, pointed out that the population of the city had increased 8 per cent., as compared with Glasgow 9 per cent., Edinburgh 4 per cent., and Dundee 2 per cent. If the population of Oldmill Poorhouse and Kingseat Asylum had been included in the population, the Census figures for the city would have been 165 184, as against Dundee 165,006.

Aberdeen University Anthropological Society.

A meeting of the Aberdeen University Anthropological

Society was held in the Anatomy Theatre, Marischal College, on June 16th, when a very interesting lecture was given by the Rev. F. G. Bowie on the inhabitants of the New Hebrides, where he has laboured for 15 years. Mr. Bowie described the various superstitious customs peculiar to the inhabitants, dealing particularly with their method of the treatment of disease, the problem of caste, and the relations existing between the inhabitants of various villages. The lecture was illustrated by a series of photographs and by numerous specimens.

June 26th.

IRELAND.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

The Visit of the King and Queen.

Two items in the programme of the forthcoming visit of Their Majesties to Ireland are of medical interest. Her Majesty the Queen has consented to visit the Coombe Lying-in Hospital and declare open the new dispensary buildings. The Collier Dispensary for the Prevention of Tuberculosis is to be opened by His Majesty the King with the Queen. Dr. J. T. Crowe, who has been medical superintendent of the Royal National Hospital for Consumption at Newcastle for some years, is to be medical officer of the dispensary, with Dr. Daniel as assistant, and Mr. W. Lombard Murphy as throat surgeon.

Meeting of the Irish Medical Association.

The annual meeting of the Irish Medical Association was held recently in Cork. The report showed that there were 425 paying members for 1910. During the year the Association, in conjunction with the Irish Committee of the British Medical Association, had taken steps to press forward the scheme for a National Medical Service. The main lines of the scheme approved are those of the Vice-Regal Commissioners' Report, with certain amendments. The main business at the meeting was, however, the discussion of the National Insurance Bill. The Association approved of the conference of delegates held on June 9th,¹ and appointed a committee, consisting of the President, Dr. Jeremiah Cotter, of Cork; the honorary secretary, Dr. A. G. Robb, of Belfast; Mr. G. U. Macnamara, of Corofin; and Dr. L. Kidd, to wait on Mr. Lloyd George and the Irish Members of Parliament. It is reported that the Chancellor of the Exchequer has left the whole matter of dealing with Irish medical men to the Irish Party, and that they are at present busily engaged in drafting a Bill, the main line being that the compulsory part is to be given over to the dispensary medical officers and the voluntary portion to be dropped. So far the party drafting this measure have not received any medical deputation. It will be interesting to see what sort of constructive Bill the hitherto most destructive critics in the House of Commons will produce. Subsequently a referendum of the whole profession in Ireland is to be procured and steps taken for the holding of a mass meeting in Dublin, at which, with the assistance of the increased information so obtained, all the medical practitioners of Ireland will have an opportunity of deciding what definite action should be adopted in what is regarded as a very grave crisis for the profession. The annual meeting was one of the largest held for many years, due, doubtless in great measure, to the interest taken in the Insurance Bill. The social functions organised by the local executive committee were a complete success. The President of the Association and Mrs. Cotter gave a luncheon to the members on the first day at St. Antony's Hall, and Professor B. C. A. Windle, President of University College, and Mrs. Windle provided afternoon tea. A large gathering attended the annual banquet at the Imperial Hotel the same night. Amongst the official guests present were the Lord Mayor of Cork, the Recorder of Cork, the City High Sheriff, and Mr. Maurice Healy, one of the Members of Parliament for the city. Whilst the medical men and their guests were dining, Mrs. Cotter provided a musical entertainment for the ladies in another part of the hotel. The following day the s.s. *America*, chartered by the local committee, conveyed a large number of the members and their ladies down the river to several of the beauty spots in the harbour, an excellent

luncheon being provided. That night the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress held a *conversazione* in the City Hall. The following day the City High Sheriff, Mr. Richard Beamish, and Mrs. Beamish gave a garden party, which was largely attended. The beautiful grounds were admirably suited for this very enjoyable entertainment, which proved a fitting *finale* to what on all hands was regarded as a most successful meeting.

The Royal Hospital for Incurables, Dublin.

There is warm discussion over the proposal of the Royal Hospital for Incurables to increase its accommodation for tuberculous patients. At present there are only 40 beds for such cases, and it is intended to increase the number to 100 by the erection of a new pavilion in the hospital grounds. The hospital is situated in the suburbs of Dublin in some 15 acres of ground. Outside the unions, and a few beds in the Hospital for the Dying and in the Rest for the Dying, the hospital affords the only shelter in Dublin to persons incurably ill of tuberculosis. Unfortunately, the property owners and householders in the neighbourhood of the hospital have become alarmed at the danger of infection, and threaten legal proceedings to prevent the governors of the hospital carrying out their plans. This opposition would hardly have been taken seriously had not the Royal College of Physicians introduced, and passed, a resolution condemning the proposal of the hospital, not merely on the ground of the danger to the health of the district, but also because it "would be against the best interests of the unfortunate subjects who would be admitted." This resolution has naturally come in for severe criticism, as the only alternative for unfortunate persons suffering from tuberculosis is to die in their homes, where they are an infinitely greater danger to the public health than they would be in a properly conducted institution.

Royal Institute of Public Health.

Lord and Lady Aberdeen will attend the opening of the Congress, when the Lord Lieutenant, as patron, will instal Lord Dunleath as President. In addition to the various papers which will be read the following important subjects have been arranged for discussion in the different sections and conferences at the congress to be held in Dublin in August:—

Section A.—Preventive Medicine:—Subjects to be discussed: (1) Vaccination; (2) Aerial Convection of Diseases; (3) Effects of the Insurance Bill on Public Health.

Section B.—Chemistry and Bacteriology:—Subject to be discussed: (1) Typhoid carriers.

Section C.—Child Study and Eugenics:—Subjects to be discussed: (1) Open-air Schools; (2) Sanitary Condition of Schools in Ireland; (3) Medical Inspection of Schools.

Section D.—Comparative Pathology and Veterinary Hygiene:—Subject to be discussed: (1) Diseases Transmissible from Animals to Man.

Section E.—Engineering and Architecture:—Subjects to be discussed: (1) Tar-bound Macadam; (2) Disposal of House and Trade Refuse; (3) Treatment of Sewage, Effluent and Sludge Deposit.

Section F.—Housing of the Working Classes, Town-Planning, &c.:—Subjects to be discussed: (1) Discussion on the Operation of the Housing of the Working Classes Act and the Labourers Dwelling Act in Ireland; (2) Discussion on the Problem of Providing Dwellings for Workers in Dublin; (3) Principles of Town-Planning.

Section G.—Municipal and Parliamentary:—Subjects to be discussed: (1) The Limitation of Non-notifiable Infectious Diseases; (2) The Day Industrial Schools.

Section H.—Vital Statistics:—Subject to be discussed: (1) The Vital Statistics in Dublin. (Paper by Sir C. A. Cameron, C.B.)

Conference of Medical Officers of Health and Port Sanitary Authorities:—Subject to be discussed: (1) The Administration of the Public Health Act in Ireland as it affects Medical Officers of Health in Ireland.

Conference of Sanitary Inspectors:—Subject to be discussed: (1) Necessary Amendment to the Public Health Acts.

The Death of Sir George P. O'Farrell.

General regret is expressed at the death of Sir George Plunkett O'Farrell who recently retired from the post of Inspector of Lunatics in Ireland.

Expenditure on the Belfast District Asylum.

At a conference held recently in Belfast in connexion with the Charity Organisation Society, in which the work of the Belfast Branch of the Women's National Health Association of Ireland was brought forward in reference to tuberculosis, hygiene of schools, and infantile mortality, Professor J. A. Lindsay referred to the state of the primary school buildings, and said that in Belfast they devoted more attention to the sanitary condition of dairies, cowsheds, and even piggeries than they did to the sanitary condition of their primary schools. He sometimes thought that if he received a

¹ See THE LANCET, June 17th, p. 1677.