

of 250 boys to Canada—boys rescued from destitution and crime, and placed in comfortable homes in the New World, where, with exceedingly few exceptions, they have done well and have prospered. At the middle of this month a detachment of 130 was sent out. To a large number of those interested in the homes, who had assembled at Bridge of Weir for a special farewell meeting, Mr. Quarrier, the founder and organiser of the homes, explained that his desire was to send 400 annually; that not only were arrangements for the disposal of the boys completed before their arrival in Canada, but the children were never lost sight of till they reached 18 years of age.

The activity of the Glasgow Sanitary Inspector in the matter of adulterated foods is every now and again resulting in the exposure of grave frauds on the public. Last week a milk-dealer was summoned for selling butter found on analysis to contain 50 per cent. of water. The defence was that it was Irish powdered butter brought over to Glasgow, recharged to remove the salt, and made up into prints as fresh butter to be sold at 1s. 2d. per pound. Ordinary fresh butter sold at 1s. 8d., and the people who bought the cheaper article must know they were not getting ordinary fresh butter. The Sheriff held that a shopman was not entitled to shelter himself under the plea of selling the sophisticated article at a cheap rate, but that a buyer was entitled to get what he asked for; and he, therefore, imposed a fine of £4. A farmer, of Kirkcudbright, was fined £3 for sending twelve gallons of sweet milk into town which contained 15 per cent. added water. The defence was that the milk had been put straight into the tins from the cows, and that on the way to the station milk must have been removed and water added, an ingenious plea which the Sheriff could not see his way to accept.

At Johnstone, near Paisley, with a population of 9,267, no fewer than 250 children were reported as absent from the public schools on March 12th, owing to an epidemic of measles. Fifty per cent. of the absentees were from the infant department.

A late merchant in Glasgow, Mr. Robert Paterson, who died on March 9th, has left a sum of about £30,000 to be distributed among various institutions of the city. The Western Infirmary receives £10,000; the University, £2,000; the Asylum for the Blind, the Society for the Education of the Deaf and Dumb, the Association for the Relief of Incurables, the Lenzie and Dunoon Convalescent Homes, and Quarrier's Orphan Homes, each £1,000; the Eye Infirmary £500; while a multitude of other charities receive smaller sums. By the will of the late Mr. George Lumsden, of Edinburgh, formerly of Glasgow, £1,400 are left to Glasgow charities, of which the Royal Infirmary receives £200.

The annual meeting of the subscribers to Anderson's College Dispensary was held on March 26th, Dr. James Morton presiding. The report for the past year showed that there had been 16,451 consultations. Of these, 8,629 were medical, 3,156 surgical, 1,284 diseases of women, 1,438 diseases of skin, 646 diseases of the eye, 362 diseases of the ear, and 936 diseases of the throat. During the year, 2,890 visits were paid to patients at their own homes, and the dispensary officials also visited the pensioners on the outdoor fund of the Association for the Relief of Incurables. This large amount of work has been done at very small expense.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE CHAOS OF STATE MEDICINE.

SIR,—As I am not likely to have the opportunity of addressing the law-makers from the benches of the House of Commons, will you allow me to do so through your columns, and to bring again to their notice the wretched state of things which holds at Whitehall in matters medical, as shown in the three following instances which have been recently brought to my notice.

For more than thirty years I have urged upon our local authority the duty of providing for the care of infectious disease in properly constructed wards. At length sanitary law allowed and then compelled boards of guardians, if none other was provided, to provide infectious wards for pauper cases. The Croydon board of guardians did so in 1874; and in 1880 they doubled that accommodation, so that at this moment we have from seventy to eighty beds in four separate blocks, capable of complete isolation

from the outer world, and amply fitted for almost every contingency. They have never been full, are frequently empty, and seldom have more than seven or eight cases, the majority of which are sometimes not true paupers. They are situated in the centre of the borough of Croydon, with open spaces on all sides but one. The Destitution Department of the Local Government Board now refuse to allow the guardians to admit non-pauper cases into the wards, and the Sanitary Department at Whitehall call upon the sanitary authority (the corporation) to erect contagious wards for the borough.

I have suggested to the corporation that they should get out of the difficulty by leasing or buying the present wards, and then make arrangements with the board of guardians for the admission of pauper cases. I apply to the medical head of the Sanitary Department for his sanction to this proceeding, but as it arises upon a point raised by the Destitution authority, I can get no assistance, and this in a matter which is vitally and seriously affecting the health and pockets of the people. To me it seems a monstrous thing that all the arrangements connected with the sickness of the people should be under two different departments in the same building at Whitehall, with medical inspectors acting independently of the Sanitary Department of the country, and that it should be necessary to have two centres for infection in one neighbourhood because non-pauper cases must not be treated in a building which belongs to the board of guardians, though the latter have ample room for the whole.

The second illustration that I would bring to our legislators' notice has arisen within the last month.

In a set of cow-houses, well cared for in every way, a magnificent herd of cows has become affected with cow-pock (?). A number of the men employed in the distribution of the milk are also affected. I bring this fact to the notice of the head of the Medical Department of the Local Government Board. I am met in the same way with the information that, though so seriously affecting the health of Her Majesty's subjects, cow-houses are in the hands of the Veterinary Department, and he cannot interfere unless something more arises than nine or ten men becoming affected with some comparatively unknown but yet infectious disease. The disease in question is not included in the list which is under the supervision of the Sanitary Department, and therefore the effect of the distribution of the milk from the affected cows goes on without any direct observation being kept upon the results. It may produce an epidemic of some kind; but it will not do for one department to interfere with another, and the chance of getting information will therefore be lost.

Lastly, it has been my duty to-day as, in the absence of the chairman, representing the Parliamentary Bills Committee of the British Medical Association, to attend with a deputation of certifying surgeons under the Factory Acts before Mr. Matthews at the Home Office. Why these matters, which are absolutely connected with the health and well-being of those unable to help themselves, should be dealt with in another department, is a query which no person can properly answer except upon the principle that the heads of the profession, both in Lincoln's Inn Fields and in Pall Mall, utterly neglect the State interests of the profession to which they belong. They are so occupied by their private patients that they have no inclination to defend the interests of their poorer brethren, or to study the welfare of the people in promoting the repression of disease as distinct from its cure. It is left to the British Medical Association and to its ramifications to do this unpleasant work, and to urge upon the law-makers the propriety of providing for the careful sanitary protection of Her Majesty's subjects. In no other country but this would the heads of the profession stand aside and let the factory surgeons be placed under the heels of their employers; they would call upon the State to do its duty to their profession, and provide something more than the miserable pittance which is now unwillingly doled out by the factory owners, because the State refuses to do its duty in protecting the weak, and placing the rank and file members of the medical profession in their proper place.

When a Minister of Health comes to be appointed, and all these departments are centred under one set of officials, they will be ready enough then to try and get the cream, if there is any, in any well-paid office of a Secretary of State, and those who have procured the alteration of the law will have the usual result of a conscientious knowledge of having done some good in the world for other people.—I am, etc.,

ALFRED CARPENTER.

Duppas House, Croydon, March 26th.