

| | Incipient. | Comparatively. | Moderately Advanced. | Advanced | Totals. | Average Previous Duration of Disease. | Average Stay in Hospital. | Average Change in Weight. |
|--|----------------|----------------|----------------------|---------------|------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Very much improved | 9 | — | 1 | — | 10 | 10 months | 15½ weeks | 18 lbs. 9 ozs. gain. |
| Much improved | 4 | 18 | 15 | 3 | 40 | 17 " | 13 " | 13 lbs. 7½ ozs. " |
| Improved | 3 | 15 | 16 | 8 | 42 | 15 " | 12½ " | 6 lbs. 3 ozs. " |
| Unchanged | — | 3 | 7 | 9 | 19 | 12 " | 8½ " | 2 lbs. 1 oz. " |
| Worse | — | — | — | 4 | 5 | 27 " | 6½ " | 4 lbs. 7 ozs. loss. |
| Died | — | — | 1 | — | 1 | 20 " | 3½ " | — |
| Totals | 16 | 36 | 41 | 24 | 117 | 15 months | — | — |
| Average previous duration of disease ... | 9 months | 15 months | 15½ months | 18 months | — | 15 months | — | — |
| Average stay in hospital | 14 weeks | 12 weeks | 13 weeks | 9 weeks | — | — | 12 weeks | — |
| Average gain in weight | 14 lbs. ¼ ozs. | 9 lbs. 3 ozs. | 9 lbs. | 3 lbs. 5 ozs. | — | — | — | 8 lbs. 9 ozs. |

dation. In support of the necessity that existed for the means of treating consumption he said that in all Ireland 1 out of every 7 deaths was due to tuberculosis; 49.6 of all deaths between the ages of 15 and 35 were due to this dreadful scourge; while the average between the ages of 15 and 25 was still higher—52.8—in other words, during the most active period of life, out of every 2 deaths in Ireland 1 was caused by tuberculosis. When they came to consider separately the figures for the Dublin area they found for the year 1900 out of close on 10,000 total deaths, 2,074 were due to tuberculosis—that was to say, 1 in every 5 deaths was caused by this preventable disease. But the worst of it was that the numbers who died from tuberculosis were distinctly increasing. In 1889 the total deaths from tuberculosis in Dublin were 1,727; in 1899 they were 2,041; and in 1900 they were 2,074. Going one step further, they could show in what proportion the various classes of society were victimised by pulmonary consumption. Of the whole population in Dublin 1 out of every 259 inhabitants died from it. The professional and independent class suffered to the extent of 1 in 819 of their number; the middle class showed 1 to 431; the artisan and petty shopkeeper, 1 to 307; the general service class, 1 to 293; while of the total inhabitants of the Dublin workhouses, 1 out of every 16 inmates was a victim of consumption.

Sir John W. Moore, M.D., in proposing the election of the Board, said that in the Dublin registration area 1,348 deaths had been registered from pulmonary consumption. From the zymotic diseases grouped together there had been 1,221 deaths. He pointed out that Dublin registration area included half-a-dozen healthy suburbs near Dublin. What, then, he asked, was the proportion of deaths in the Coombe and districts on the north side of the city? In the Poor-law unions Dr. Craig had told them that 1 in every 16 died of pulmonary consumption. This, he submitted, was an appalling state of things. Very little had been done in Ireland to fight the disease, but something had been done. In addition to the Foster Greene Hospital in Belfast and their own in Newcastle there were two sanatoria working, one near Rostrevor and the other on the banks of Lough Erne, but the latter two were only intended for private patients.

FINSBURY.

A public meeting arranged by the Public Health Committee of the Finsbury Metropolitan Borough Council was held on February 22nd at the Finsbury Town Hall to consider the question of the prevention of consumption in the borough. Amongst others present were the Mayor of Finsbury, Mr. Enos Howes, J.P., who presided, Sir William Broadbent, Bart., Sir James Crichton Browne, Professor MacFadyean, and many of the medical men of the district. The Mayor pointed out that the mortality from phthisis in Finsbury was nearly if not quite as high as in any of the metropolitan boroughs, and that something like 300 people died of phthisis alone every year in the borough. It could only be by the hearty co-operation of the public and of the medical men with the sanitary authority that preventive measures could be satisfactorily enforced. If there were about 280 to 300 deaths each year it meant that there certainly could not be fewer than 1,000, and probably more, actual cases of the disease in the borough, and that each of these

persons was acting in a greater or lesser degree as a "centre of infection."

Sir William Broadbent, in seconding a resolution moved by Sir J. Crichton-Browne, said that Finsbury had taken a step of the greatest importance in the voluntary notification of phthisis, since many instances were known in which the disease was contracted by persons who went to live in a house that had been occupied by consumptive patients, and therefore such houses should be known by the authorities. Not only also was disinfection carried out after death from phthisis, and in some cases after notification, at the public expense, but also the medical diagnosis was confirmed by bacteriological examination of the patient's sputum, free of charge, if forwarded to the medical officer of health.

Professor MacFadyean discussed the question of the conveyance of infection by tuberculous food—milk and meat.

Dr. Evan Jones, the Chairman of the Public Health Committee, pointed out that as a sanitary authority they had already arranged for a very strict supervision of the milk supply throughout the Borough of Finsbury, and that they also had one inspector whose special and only duty it was to inspect meat.

CONTRACT MEDICAL PRACTICE.

THE BIRMINGHAM MEDICAL AND SURGICAL CONSULTATIVE INSTITUTION.

By the resignation of Dr. Ward Irvine, announced in the letter which we published last week, the affairs of this institution have entered upon a new phase. The event seems to have been quite unexpected in Birmingham, and has necessarily attracted a good deal of attention, and all four of the daily papers published in Birmingham have leading articles upon the subject from which we give the following extracts in order to show what is the local opinion so far as this is reflected in the press. The morning papers are the *Daily Post* and the *Daily Gazette*. The former is a Liberal-Unionist organ of very great influence throughout the Midlands. In social matters it is now, as always, frankly Liberal and democratic, with no leaning towards the "classes" as distinct from the "masses," and by no means prejudiced in favour of the medical profession. After commenting upon the suddenness of the resignation so soon after the public meeting at which his supporters were vehemently assured that, come what would, Dr. Irvine would stick to the Institution and the Institution would stick to Dr. Irvine, the *Post* points out that the resignation offers a favourable opportunity to all concerned for reconsidering the situation. The article goes on to say:

The root object of the institute is to bring the services of specially-qualified surgeons and physicians within the reach of those who really ought not to be expected to pay more than half a guinea a visit. That is in itself a laudable desire. There is no room for offence in frankly recognising that the "half-guinea" patient sometimes needs and is fully entitled to obtain the advice of a medical man above the professional rank of the average general practitioner. To recognise this is to express no sympathy whatever with the exceedingly offensive language in which the general practitioner has been referred to by those who ought to have known better. But these are the days of experts, and the poor as well as the rich should be enabled as far as possible to consult the expert. An expert, however, is not made in a day nor in a year, and, whether he be a doctor, a lawyer, an engineer, or an electrician, he is entitled to ask a

fee proportionate to the value of his advice in the open market. Now, unless the position has been sadly misrepresented, there are a large number of the best medical experts in the city who are willing to meet the friends of the institute in the matter of fees, subject to conditions. Could not the two parties once more be brought together to discuss what those conditions should be?

The *Daily Gazette*, the oldest Birmingham newspaper, of Conservative politics, takes much the same line, but while crediting the Consultative Institution with being a genuine, if mistaken, attempt to diminish hospital abuse, it emphasises the ineptitude and ignorance of the Committee in attempting to start a consultative institution upon such a basis:

They never condescended to seriously consider the question, What is a consultant? They gave £500 a year to an absolutely unknown and inexperienced man, and set him up as a sort of Admirable Crichton of the medical profession. That consultants and general practitioners alike considered this an insult is not to be wondered at. With all respect to Dr. Irvine, he had nothing to distinguish him above a hundred or more of the able and experienced men who give their services for half the fee the institution demanded. But this is not the worst feature of the case. The young and unproven man was blazoned forth as a reliable authority on all the ills that flesh is heir to. The working classes, ever ready to be guided by such a body as the Hospital Saturday Committee, were tempted to ignore real specialists, and to entrust themselves to a man who may be excellent in one or two things, but cannot excel in all. That is a matter the gravity of which cannot be overstated, and we are amazed to find men of average intelligence associating their names with the system. An error has been made; Dr. Irvine was in a false position, and now he has resigned it. An opportunity presents itself for reconsidering the whole subject, and it should be done in a reasonable spirit, with careful regard to the real meaning and purpose of the word "consultant."

The *Birmingham Daily Mail*, which supports the present Government, publishes a derisive article under the title of "The Comedy of the Consultative," pouring ridicule upon the whole business. After offering the Committee the editor's hearty sympathy, the *Mail* says:

To laud their consultant to the skies, to bear the brunt of the battle, and then find themselves deserted by their hero in the critical hour would irritate the mildest-tempered individuals. What are they to do? Are they to discover another prodigy of healing before whose prescription-writing powers Dr. Irvine would pale his ineffectual fires? Are they to abandon the Institute which, like the latest medicine or the newest journal, was created to supply a long-felt want? or will they make peace with the consultants of Birmingham after all, and accept the offer to see the diseased and destitute at reduced fees? We cannot imagine Mr. Arthur Chamberlain giving up the contest at this interesting stage, even though his lieutenant has deserted, but there are manifest difficulties in the way of introducing a new consultant. Cards cannot be sent out again broadcast, public meetings can hardly be arranged to proclaim the new arrival of a Heaven-sent genius, and the brass band and big drum, so dear to our old friend Sequah, are somewhat out of date. Even supposing the right man was secured, the Medical Council might again take action, the consultant once more resign, and to have a constant succession of young doctors, and profess each better than the last with no advance in prices, might—we only say might—shake public confidence a little. People might think it better to bear the ills they have than fly to doctors that they know not of, or—terrible possibility—they might spring another half-guinea and actually seek advice from the man who had specialised their complaint. It is a situation full of piquant interest, for Dr. Irvine seems to have placed the managers of the Institute between the devil and the deep blue sea. We are all anxiety to know the next move.

The *Daily Argus*, which is Liberal Imperialistic, condemns the scheme in more dignified language, and calls upon the Committee to avail themselves of this opportunity to make a fresh start:

They can either employ their experience to avoid the rash errors of the past, or they can seek fresh candidates for the post of universal expert in the healing art, which no man who ever lived was qualified to fill. If the Committee are wise they will recognise that the facts which have proved too strong for Dr. Irvine will be insurmountable even to their energy and perseverance. Their object is to bring expert medical advice within the reach of the self-respecting workman, without too great a sacrifice either of money or independence. The local consultants proposed to the creators of the Institute a fair and reasonable scheme by which the most skilful medical advice in the city should be made available to the class whose interests were assumed to be in view. If philanthropy is the real aim of the Institute Committee they may well reconsider the means of achieving it which this alternative provides.

Reports of an interview with Dr. Irvine and Mr. J. S. Nettlefold have also appeared in the papers. It seems that Dr. Irvine has obtained another appointment, and Mr. J. S. Nettlefold, with that regrettable tendency to reckless assertion which has characterised his utterances upon this question, is reported to have said that "Dr. Irvine's appointment elsewhere had doubtless been arranged either indirectly or directly by the opposition." This is denied by Dr. Irvine, who writes that "nothing could be more absurd and unfounded than such a rumour." This contradiction is, however, nothing to a man of Mr. J. S. Nettlefold's condition, who has shown himself to be quite unfitted to discuss this matter with the temper needed to bring about a peaceful solution. It is a pity that the working men of Birmingham are represented by an individual whose language is reproached by

moderate men of all parties. As the *Argus* says, "no man with common sense, modesty, and the true spirit of his profession, could have listened to the speeches, say of Councillor Nettlefold, without praying to be saved from his advocate."

A letter from Mr. Arthur Chamberlain appeared in the *Daily Post* of March 4th, in which he says that "the resignation of Dr. Irvine clears the ground for a friendly discussion of the subject between those concerned. My Committee I am sure would," he says, "be pleased to meet a deputation from the Birmingham consultants," but he goes on to admit that he anticipates no good results from such an interview, for he says

All that we want is to provide for this class on terms within their means, and under conditions that shall not offend their self-respect. Frankly speaking, I do not personally see how any other method than that we have adopted can meet the latter of these two conditions; but my Committee is open to argument, and if we cannot convince the consultants, perhaps the consultants will be able to convince us.

It is difficult to see anything in this letter beyond a somewhat ungracious concession to the unanimous opinion expressed as above by all the Birmingham newspapers that the Committee should reconsider its position. The method proposed by the medical profession was placed before Mr. Arthur Chamberlain's Committee eighteen months ago, and it was then pointed out that it would at least cost nothing to try it. Mr. Arthur Chamberlain entirely misconceives the situation. His plan has been tried and has failed.

Dr. Irvine's resignation came before the Executive Committee of the Hospital Saturday Fund at its meeting last Friday, when the following resolution is said to have been unanimously adopted:

That in the opinion of this meeting the need of a consultative medical and surgical institution for the city of Birmingham has been clearly established, and this Committee is of opinion that the Committee of the Consultative Institution should take immediate steps to secure a suitable successor to Dr. Ward Irvine.

This resolution will form the basis of a recommendation to the Board of Delegates of the Hospital Saturday Fund, which will meet shortly, and is expected to receive enthusiastic support from that body. It is therefore probable that a fresh "consultant" will be advertised for, and we take this opportunity to point out to young practitioners who might be attracted by the offer of £500 a year the great injury they must suffer by connecting themselves with this institution. While it is perfectly true that the action before the General Medical Council concerned Dr. Irvine alone, and will probably have no sequel now that he has resigned, it is equally certain, in our opinion, that the Committee of the Institution are not people in whose hands any young practitioner can place himself with safety. They advertised in the most audacious manner, and although they tardily withdrew the cards complained of, they have since tried to puff the Institution and its consultant by the most outrageous speeches delivered at public meetings. As the *Birmingham Daily Mail* ironically says:

Of course these meetings were not advertisements, they were simply to protest against the treatment Dr. Irvine had received, a gentleman whose eminent attainments were freely acknowledged, who had cured where some of the best Birmingham consultants had failed, and who was ready and willing to give advice at half a guinea only and no questions asked.

The tone of the speeches against the General Medical Council delivered by Mr. Arthur Chamberlain and Mr. J. S. Nettlefold was most violent and insulting, and created in the minds of many persons the impression that Mr. Arthur Chamberlain was quite prepared to see Dr. Irvine's name removed from the *Medical Register*. The latter is to be congratulated upon having realised the danger of being any longer the tool of gentlemen of this temper. Any other man who, after this experience, puts himself in the same position, will deserve no sympathy.

ENFIELD.

A short time ago we commented on the union of the profession at Enfield, and reported that a doctor who had been dismissed by a club because of his refusal to accept women and children members, had been supported in his refusal by his brethren, so that the club in question had been unable to find another to take his place. We are informed that united action has not been maintained, but that one of the local doctors has accepted this club. It is urged on his behalf that the club officials protest that they never had any intention of forcing women and children members on the profession without their consent, and that the dismissal of the doctor was because a majority of the members objected to him personally. We are informed that the members passed a vote of confidence in

this gentleman shortly before the controversy arose, and dismissed him immediately after his refusal to accept the new members without the consent of the Enfield Ethical Society. The excuse of the club officials cannot, therefore, be regarded seriously. The displaced doctor has in all probability lost his post on account of his loyalty to the Enfield Society, so that he ought to be supported by that body. Under no circumstances, unless with his consent, ought this appointment to have been accepted by one of his brethren, after that Society had by a resolution, which we are informed was unanimous, determined that none of their members should accept it.

COVENTRY PROVIDENT DISPENSARY.

DR. J. LESLIE CALLAGHAN (Coventry), in the course of a letter on this subject, writes: That the "heads of the profession" are the men who stand in the way of reform is proved by the action of certain Birmingham consultants. Had the consultants been true to the profession, the resolution lately passed by the Birmingham Branch would have been a gigantic step in the right direction; but consultants, by continuing to meet the dispensary staff, are obstructing reform. The Birmingham consultants professed a very high code of professional ethics when their own interests were assailed by the Birmingham Consultative Institution (when they were loyally supported by the general practitioners); but when the interests of general practitioners are trampled upon these consultants, instead of giving a helping hand, are found in the camp of the enemy, bolstering up a condemned institution, and encouraging the staff to set at defiance the mandate of the profession as expressed in the resolution I have referred to. The men who did all they could to compel Dr. Irvine to sever his connection with the Consultative Institution are now doing all in their power to encourage the dispensary staff to serve a lay committee and to set at defiance the findings of ethical committees. Those who support the Coventry Dispensary should be included in the same resolution as the dispensary staff, and therefore "in future no professional recognition should be given to them."

CLUB FOR AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS.

JUSTICE asks what would be a fair annual charge per head for a medical club of 70 members, chiefly agricultural labourers, living within a radius of three miles; and would be glad if any member having clubs of this description would send copy of their rules.

COLLIERY CLUBS.

B.—As we understand the dispute in question, it is as to what rate of pay should be charged by the local surgeons to those pits working in a district where a large number of accidents occur. It seems that a demand for a fee of 15s. a case was once granted, and probably that sum would still be paid if A. had not taken the pits at the old rate of 2s. 6d. a head. His successor B., therefore, should offer to resign the clubs in that particular district within a reasonable time, and he should not make any conditions as to what arrangements should be made in other districts where fewer accidents occur. B. would be quite free to apply for re-appointment at the 15s. rate. B.'s professional neighbours should remember that he has been placed in a very difficult position by the purchase of A.'s practice, and they should not be too hasty in denying him social and professional recognition.

MINERS AND MEDICAL FEES.

FROM reports published in the *Newcastle Leader* and the *Newcastle Journal* it would appear that strenuous efforts have been made in certain districts to oppose the action of the Northumberland and Newcastle Medical Association. It is reported that the Throckley miners have partly succeeded in forming a medical association of their own, and have managed to engage a doctor; but they have been compelled to raise their subscriptions to the extent of 50 per cent. An association attempted by the Prudhoe, West Wylam, and Edrington miners has not met with such success, no suitable doctor being procurable, and that association appears to be threatened with collapse.

AUTOMOBILE AMBULANCES.—It appears that in Paris motor cars will shortly take the place of the ambulances now in use. For some months past the military authorities have used the tramways for the transport of sick soldiers from barracks to the Val-de-Grace. The Public Assistance and the Prefecture of the Seine at first thought of following this example, but the scheme was open to the obvious objection that the patients to be taken to hospital do not always live in streets where there are tramway lines. They then conceived the idea of using automobiles.

AN INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF NURSES.—An International Congress of Nurses will be held in Buffalo next September, during the time of the Pan-American Exposition, in order to strengthen the national and international organisations which the nurses of Great Britain, the English Colonies, the United States, Denmark, and Holland have for the last few years been striving to develop. Within the last year an International Council of Nurses has been organised, which will hereafter hold quinquennial meetings in conjunction with those of the International Council of Women; the next one (after the Buffalo Congress, which is a special occasion), is to be held in Berlin in 1904. The President of the International Council of Nurses is Mrs. Bedford Fenwick of London, and the Vice-Presidents are the presidents of the respective national councils. The Chairman of the Congress is Miss McIsaac, Superintendent of Nurses in the Illinois Training School, Chicago, and the Secretary is Miss Banfield, Superintendent of the Polyclinic Hospital, Philadelphia, Pa.

THE MEDICO-PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION.

A GENERAL meeting of the members of this Association was held on February 14th, at the London County Asylum, Claybury, Dr. FLETCHER BEACH, President, in the chair.

PROPOSED EPILEPTIC COLONY.

MR. W. C. CLIFFORD SMITH, engineer to the Asylums Committee of the London County Council, read a paper on, and exhibited the plans of the proposed Epileptic Colony to be built on the Horton Estate, Epsom, the buildings having been designed by Mr. Smith on the lines suggested by Dr. G. J. Cooper, L.C.C., in his report upon "A Scheme for the Establishment of an English Epileptic Colony."

In the discussion which ensued Dr. WIGLESWORTH referred to a visit he paid, in company with Dr. Castleton, of the Lancashire Asylums Board, to Germany last spring, with the object of inquiring into the segregation treatment of the insane there. The result of the visit was that they recommended the adoption of the system for a Lancashire asylum which was then being projected. The suggestion at present was that the villas should be for epileptics and imbeciles combined. The villa system had attained a great development in Germany, particularly in the newer asylums. There either a colony had been established in connection with the main buildings, or the entire asylum consisted of small villa residences, which accommodated 40 to 50 patients each. He was much impressed by the comfort and general home-like surroundings, and thought future endeavour should proceed on those lines. Asylums should be built in the form of villas, not only for epileptics but for other patients, in preference to the colossal buildings of which that at Claybury was such a splendid example. He thought great credit was due to Mr. Clifford Smith as one of the originators of the movement in this country. He understood it was suggested that there should be a large central dining hall, to which the residents of the various surrounding villas should resort for their meals, or, at all events, the hot ones. Dr. Wiglesworth said he was in favour of the opposite plan, namely, that the meals should be served in the separate residences, as that much more approached the home life which they aimed at. In Germany the dinners were sent to the residences on waggons from a central cooking establishment, and they succeeded in getting all served in a reasonable time. The meals were conveyed in airtight tins, so constructed that the food was surrounded by a hot jacket. With regard to the heating, in many of the German asylums there was a small simple boiler for hot water, in addition to open fireplaces, and he thought that, on the whole, such a plan was the best for warming the dormitories at night. The number of patients in any one villa should be from 36 to 40. There should be four attendants for each building, and for the supervision of the attendants he advocated the use of the tell-tale clock system.

Dr. URQUHART agreed that there should be four attendants to each villa, so that if two were away for any purpose there would be two left. If the villas were to retain domestic features, the residents in each should not exceed 40. With regard to heating, two asylums on the plan suggested were being built in Scotland, one for the parish of Edinburgh, and the other for Aberdeen. The first idea there was to have steam supplied round the whole institution from a central boiler, and he did not see why some such plan should not be practicable, because in an American town of 30,000 inhabitants the houses of the better classes were provided with steam from a central station, at prices which varied with the rental of the houses. This steam was used for baths, cooking, and various domestic purposes, though the extreme distance the steam travelled was two miles. For Aberdeen he suggested a saddle boiler, like an ordinary conservatory boiler, to be put in each villa, in the scullery, and regulated by the scullery attendant. In his own house some years ago he had his kitchen boiler connected with a system of radiators, and had now the satisfaction of knowing that the heat was not passing up the chimney, but was being distributed to various parts of the house. Recently a paper had been read before the Institute of Civil Engineers by Mr. Robertson, which extended the system considerably. The boiler which that gentleman designed was of a zigzag shape, and he claimed to be able to heat any ordinary mansion by means of two such boilers