

In the Faculty of Science the following are the figures:

University.	Students.			Students.			Students.		
	Winter Session, 1899-1900.			Summer Session, 1900.			Academical Year, 1899-1900.		
	Men.	Women	Total	Men.	Women	Total	Men.	Women	Total
St. Andrews	57	3	60	26	1	27	83	4	87
Glasgow	164	6	170	1	—	1	165	6	171
Aberdeen	—	—	—	—	—	—	60	2	62
Edinburgh	140	3	143	8	1	9	148	4	152
Grand Totals	—	—	—	—	—	—	456	16	472

In the Faculty of Medicine these are the figures:

University.	Students.			Students.			Students.		
	Winter Session, 1899-1900.			Summer Session, 1900.			Academical Year, 1899-1900.		
	Men.	Women	Total	Men.	Women	Total	Men.	Women	Total
St. Andrews	46	13	59	41	9	50	87	22	109
Glasgow	550	66	616	78	11	89	628	77	705
Aberdeen	—	—	—	—	—	—	325	11	336
Edinburgh	1,239	7	1,246	129	—	129	1,368	7	1,375
Grand Totals	—	—	—	—	—	—	2,408	117	2,525

During the Academical year 1899-1900 the following fees were received in the Faculty of Medicine:

	£.	s.	d.
St. Andrews	...	...	...
Glasgow	...	...	...
Aberdeen	...	...	...
Edinburgh	...	...	...
Total	£29,814	1	1

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS IN IRELAND. FELLOWSHIP EXAMINATION.

The following candidates having passed the necessary examination have been admitted Fellows of the College:

A. G. Beale, M. F. Cahill, E. F. Frazer, Miss G. H. Giffen, E. J. A. Haynes, R. M. Hugo, J. J. H. Jackman, Captain S. J. C. Prittie-Perry, W. Smart, A. W. Tabuteau, G. T. Whyte, and R. B. Wright.

The following candidates have passed the primary part of the Fellowship Examination:

A. E. Boyd, R. W. Burkitt, K. Fleury, J. J. McConnell, and S. S. Pringle.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND POOR-LAW MEDICAL SERVICES.

VITAL STATISTICS OF IRELAND.

The Registrar-General for Ireland has issued his quarterly summary of the weekly returns of births and deaths for the thirteen weeks ending March 30th, 1901:

Birth-rates per 1,000 of Population (Census, 1891).			
Dublin Registration Area...	33.0	Belfast ...	...
Total of 23 Town Districts in Ireland ...	31.0		

Death-rates per 1,000 of the Population (1891).

All Causes.	Zymotic.		All Causes.	Zymotic.	
	...	...		...	...
Dublin Registration Area	33.6	2.3	Lisburn	23.5	0.7
Dublin City proper	...	...	Wexford	24.6	8.3
Belfast	35.9	2.6	Lurgan	24.9	0.4
Cork	24.4	2.1	Kilkenny	31.9	2.9
Limerick	29.6	2.4	Clonmel	25.4	1.9
Londonderry	29.2	1.6	Sligo	18.3	0.0
Waterford	26.5	3.3	Tralee	36.9	4.7
Galway	22.7	0.8	Ballymena	21.2	1.7
Drogheda	31.9	1.7	Newtownards	30.4	1.3
Newry	26.0	0.3	Queenstown	16.7	2.2
Dundalk	24.4	1.5	Carrickfergus	22.0	1.3
	22.5	1.0	Portadown	31.3	7.1
			Armagh	20.8	1.6

The above death-rate in the Dublin Registration area is 3.4 per cent. over the average for the March quarter of the previous ten years. Sir Charles Cameron, C.B., Superintendent Medical Officer of Health for

Dublin, has called attention to the fact that according to the result of the census for the present year, the death-rate of Dublin for 1900 was made to appear higher than the reality. This is true, but if the death-rate of Dublin city proper for the past quarter be reckoned on the newly-published numbers, namely, 289,108, instead of those of the previous census, namely, 268,587, on which the above tables were calculated, the death-rate will be found to be 33.35 instead of 35.9. A reduction in any way is a source for gratification.

The total number of deaths from phthisis registered in the 23 town districts during the quarter was 927. In the Dublin Registration area the number was 325, but other forms of tuberculosis amounted to 174, giving a total of 499 deaths from tuberculosis. On the other hand, the zymotic diseases registered in the Dublin area for the quarter were 336, which is 33 under the average for the same period in the previous ten years. There were no less than 227 deaths from pneumonia registered during the quarter in Dublin area. It may be presumed that the majority of these were due to "acute pneumonic fever," and hence if the cases included under the latter heading were tabulated as they ought to be among the zymotic instead of under the respiratory affections the death-rate from zymotic diseases would be much higher.

Insurance of Children.

Two new tables appear for the first time and the Registrar-General is to be congratulated on publishing the interesting facts contained therein. The first deals with Death of Insured Children, from which it appears that of 866 deaths of children under 10 years which were registered during the quarter in 397 cases, or 45.8 per cent., certificates for insurance purposes had been issued. Under 1 year 128 children had been insured—97 at 1 and under 2 and 60 at 2 and under 3 years—of the total number 116 had been insured for £3 and under £4. In 17 cases the certificate of the entry of death was granted on production of "other satisfactory evidence" than that of a medical or coroner's certificate.

Stillborn Children.

The second table deals with stillborn children, and the fact is stated that in the City of Dublin and in the urban districts of Rathmines and Pembroke, where 2,721 births were registered in the quarter, 3.1 stillbirths occur to every 100 living children born.

Epidemic Cerebro-spinal Meningitis.

Finally, an analysis is given of the deaths from epidemic cerebro-spinal meningitis which were registered in the Dublin Registration Area from October 1st, 1899, to March 30th, 1901. The numbers respectively for the 6 quarters included in the above time were 1, 7, 45, 12, 4 and 8, and from these it will be seen that the quarter ending June 30th, 1900, was responsible for the majority of the deaths, while for the past quarter 3 deaths were registered. Of the total of 77, 38 were males and 39 females. Twenty occurred in the children of labourers, and 36 of the total proved fatal between the ages of 5 and 10.

DR. CULLEN AND THE IRISH LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD.

The Local Government Board for Ireland, after many weary months of controversy, has at length come to an understanding with the North Dublin Union Board of Guardians on the vexed question of Dr. Cullen's dismissal from the offices of Dispensary Medical Officer and Medical Officer of Health for the Castletknock District.

It could serve no useful purpose to set forth at any length the substance of the controversy. Suffice it to say that the Local Government Board, after two sworn inquiries, was of the opinion that Dr. Cullen had failed in his duty as medical officer of health to cope with an outbreak of enteric fever in his district, and ordered his dismissal. Dr. Cullen, in his defence, produced the evidence of several well-known physicians in Dublin to the effect that the notification of infectious diseases was, in their opinion, almost a dead letter in Dublin, and that therefore he had a reasonable excuse for having failed to notify. He, however, was an official under the jurisdiction of the Local Government Board while the others were not.

In spite of the commands of the Local Government Board the guardians re-elected Dr. Cullen, and the end has now come in the shape of a compromise. It is stated that the terms of the agreement are these:

1. Dr. Cullen formally admits his fault, and expresses regret. (The guardians also admit the fault.)
2. Dr. Cullen receives no salary for the period of one year during which he has acted as medical officer of Castletknock without the Local Government Board's consent.
3. The guardians abandon their position, and appoint a temporary medical officer other than Dr. Cullen.
4. The guardians proceed, after one month, to the election of a medical officer for the district, and in the event of Dr. Cullen being re-elected the Local Government Board are not to refuse their sanction.

VACCINATION IN TWO PLACES.

PUBLIC VACCINATOR writes: Since writing the letter published in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL of May 4th, page 1224, on "Vaccination in Two Places," it has come to my knowledge that two registrars of births in my area are working against vaccination as follows: No. 1, when a child's birth is registered, asks: "Are you going to have the child vaccinated; because, if not, it is necessary for you to have a birth certificate to take before the magistrates, which if taken now is as 7d., but if the book has to be opened again is 3s. 7d." No. 2 advises the parent: "Don't go before the D. magistrates for an exemption order, because they won't grant them; but go to A. or B." and offer the birth certificate at as 7d. This is an agricultural district, and the registrars are evidently looking after fees, and trouble themselves not at all about successful vaccination.

CRUEL TREATMENT OF A LUNATIC.

A CASE of very gross brutality to a lunatic occurred last month in the Co. Sligo Lunatic Asylum, a male attendant having beaten and kicked an insane inmate for not moving out of his way. The occurrence calls for special comment on account of the conduct of the Asylum Committee before whom the matter was brought. These gentlemen apparently considered the offence so trivial that the chairman gave the offend-

ing attendant the mildest of lectures on the evil results of giving way to bad temper, and wound up by saying he felt sure he was sorry for what he had done. The man said "I am," and the chairman said "I hope your conduct will be better in future," and there, so far as the asylum governors were concerned, the matter ended. We are glad to say, however, that two magistrates before whom the attendant was subsequently brought added two months' imprisonment to the chairman's lecture, lest his admirable admonitions should be too soon forgotten.

#### NOTIFICATION BY THE HOUSEHOLDER.

At the Harwich Petty Sessions, recently, a mariner was summoned by the Town Clerk for failing to notify a case of scarlet fever in his house. The Town Clerk said the prosecution had not been taken with any vindictive feeling, but to make people acquainted with the existence of the Act whereby the head of any family, or in his absence the wife or nearest relative, or the person in attendance upon the infected person, must notify to the medical officer of health. The defendant, who, according to a report in a local newspaper, seemed to treat the matter as a jest, said that he "did not want any threepenny doctors, and he could cure children of scarlet fever." The case was eventually withdrawn, but the Bench intimated that fines in future would be inflicted for disobedience to the Act. The correspondent who sends us the newspaper cutting observes that it shows what, as he says, has frequently been pointed out in our columns, namely, that the public appreciate the services of a medical man in proportion to the respect he has for himself.

#### HEALTH OF ENGLISH TOWNS.

IN thirty-three of the largest English towns, including London, 6,561 births and 3,674 deaths were registered during the week ending Saturday last, May 25th. The annual rate of mortality in these towns, which had been 16.5 and 16.8 per 1,000 in the two preceding weeks, declined again last week to 16.7. The rates in the several towns ranged from 11.2 in Croydon, 12.1 in Norwich, 12.6 in Brighton, and 13.6 in Bristol to 21.5 in Swansea, 21.8 in Birmingham, 22.1 in Salford, and 22.6 in Wolverhampton. In the thirty-two large provincial towns the mean death-rate was 17.4 per 1,000, and exceeded by 1.7 the rate recorded in London, which was 15.7 per 1,000. The zymotic death-rate in the thirty-three towns averaged 1.8 per 1,000; in London this death-rate was equal to 1.9 per 1,000, while it averaged 1.6 in the thirty-two provincial towns, among which the highest zymotic death-rates were 2.6 in Salford, 2.8 in Swansea, 3.2 in Preston, and 3.9 in Wolverhampton. Measles caused a death-rate of 1.1 in Nottingham and in Sunderland, and 2.2 in Portsmouth; scarlet fever of 1.8 in Preston; whooping-cough of 1.0 in Derby and in Newcastle, and 1.1 in Swansea and in Wolverhampton; and "fever" of 2.2 in Wolverhampton. In none of the thirty-three towns did the death-rate from diarrhoeal diseases reach 1.0 per 1,000. The 55 deaths from diphtheria in the thirty-three towns included 22 in London, 4 in Birmingham, 3 in Bristol, 3 in Leicester, and 3 in Blackburn. No fatal case of small-pox was registered last week either in London or in any of the thirty-two large provincial towns, and no small-pox patients remained under treatment in any of the Metropolitan Asylums Hospitals on Saturday last, May 25th. The number of scarlet fever patients in these hospitals and in the London Fever Hospital, which had been 1,705, 1,913, and 2,052 at the end of the three preceding weeks, had further risen to 2,241 on Saturday last; 341 new cases were admitted during the week, against 371, 397, and 323 in the three preceding weeks.

#### HEALTH OF SCOTCH TOWNS.

DURING the week ending Saturday last, May 25th, 890 births and 650 deaths were registered in eight of the principal Scotch towns. The annual rate of mortality in these towns, which had been 19.3 and 20.2 per 1,000 in the two preceding weeks, further rose again last week to 20.7 per 1,000, and was 4.0 per 1,000 above the mean rate during the same period in the thirty-three large English towns. Among these Scotch towns the death-rates ranged from 14.2 in Perth and 18.9 in Leith to 22.0 in Aberdeen and 23.6 in Dundee. The zymotic death-rate in these towns averaged 3.0 per 1,000, the highest rates being recorded in Glasgow, Edinburgh, Paisley, and Leith. The 204 deaths registered in Glasgow included 1 from small-pox, 10 from measles, 19 from whooping-cough, and 17 from diarrhoea. Two fatal cases of measles, 13 of whooping-cough, and 3 of diarrhoea were recorded in Edinburgh; 3 of whooping-cough, and 3 of diarrhoea in Dundee; 3 of diarrhoea in Aberdeen; 2 of measles and 2 of diarrhoea in Paisley; 4 of whooping-cough in Leith; 3 of measles in Greenock; and 2 of diarrhoea in Perth.

## OBITUARY.

### JOHN D. WILLIAMS, M.D., B.Sc. EDIN.,

Honorary Gynæcologist to the Cardiff Infirmary.

BORN on October 21st, 1864, at Treaserth, Llangaffo, in Anglesey, John D. Williams, Honorary Gynæcologist to Cardiff Infirmary, was only in his thirty-seventh year when death claimed him—barely two years past what men reckon as the middle point in life's journey. But his was a full life—strenuous, fruitful, beneficent, successful.

After a two years' apprenticeship to Dr. G. R. Griffiths, of Carnarvon, he went to Edinburgh University in 1883. There, in spite of difficulties, the young Welshman graduated as M.B., C.M., with honours in 1888, and gained at the same time the Freeland Barbour Fellowship, an achievement which had much to do with the bent towards gynæcology which his mind ever afterwards had. Two years later, in 1890, he obtained the degree of M.D., and along with it the coveted Gold Medal for a graduation thesis on the Pathology of the Female Genera-

tive Organs. This thesis, and the work which led up to it and was incorporated in it, marked the high-water mark of his scientific contributions to gynæcology; just as the appointment to the Cardiff Infirmary was the crowning event in his practical work as an operating gynæcologist. For months in 1889 he frequented the Pathological Department of the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary, where he obtained the material which was afterwards so carefully, so minutely, and so laboriously investigated in the Laboratory of the Midwifery Department of the University. It was at this period in his life that the present writer was associated with Williams, and saw and admired the thoroughness of his methods of work and the enthusiasm and devotion which he put into everything which he undertook. The sixty-three consecutive necropsies in which the pelvic organs were examined and described, in themselves constituted an almost Herculean task; but Williams found time to do other research work in addition to these. Thus gradually and laboriously the conclusions were built up, some of which are incorporated in the paper on the Fallopian Tubes (which appeared in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL in 1891, and in the book on the *Structures in the Mesosalpinx*). At this time, also, Dr. Williams had the advantage of seeing Professor Simpson's operations in the Infirmary, Edinburgh, and of occasionally assisting him in his private practice.

From 1891 to 1894 Dr. Williams was engaged in general practice in Dowlais with Dr. H. L. Hughes, and thereafter he removed to Cardiff, where the strong desire which he had ever had to become a specialist in gynæcology was gratified. In 1897 he became Honorary Gynæcologist to the Porth Hospital, and in 1898 Honorary Consulting Gynæcologist to the Cardiff Dispensary; but he only obtained full scope for his powers when he gained the post of Gynæcologist to the Cardiff Infirmary. The last three years of his life were full of the work, remunerative and unremunerative, which comes in the way of every kindhearted and skilful member of the medical profession.

In the last letter which the present writer had from him Dr. Williams enclosed a subscription to help on the work of the Edinburgh University Christian Union, and the letter ended with: "Off to Rome on Monday for three weeks' holiday" Alas! the three weeks' holiday brought not renewed health and strength, but sickness and death with it. Typhoid fever proved fatal on May 21st, and cut short a most useful life, which had in it all the probabilities of still greater usefulness and blessing to suffering women. Dr. Williams leaves a young widow.

J. W. B.

### ROBERT JOHN SPRAKELING, M.R.C.S., L.S.A., J.P., Bootle, Liverpool.

WE regret to have to record the death of Mr. R. J. Sprakeling, which took place at his residence, 58, Merton Road, Bootle, on May 9th. He was 68 years of age, and had been in failing health for some time. He was held in high esteem for many years as a leading practitioner in the neighbourhood. He obtained his qualifications to practise in 1857, and started practice in Bootle. On the incorporation of the borough in 1868 he was elected a member of the first Council, but retired from it in 1872 in order to take the appointment of Medical Officer of Health to the Corporation, an office which he continued to hold until his death. During this long period he discharged his official duties in an able and satisfactory manner. His knowledge of sanitary matters was wide and accurate, and it is mainly through his strong recommendations that there has been such a great improvement in the sanitary condition of Bootle during recent years. Ever since his appointment he took a special interest in everything that tended to improve the public health, and his annual reports, in which were embodied short but lucid and intelligent accounts of the progress of sanitation in the town, were always of a most interesting nature. In 1885 he was appointed a Justice of the Peace for the borough, and in every respect proved a most popular magistrate. He leaves a widow and a grown-up family.

Sympathetic references to his death were made at the Bootle Police-court and at the meeting of the West Derby Board of Guardians, to whom he was one of the medical officers, and his funeral was largely attended by his professional brethren and the public.