

look-out for suspicious cases. Immediately afterwards Dr. Donnan wrote to the Board of Guardians detailing the circumstances and asking for the fee of 2 guineas for Dr. Robb. But the request was refused, and the Chairman said that Dr. Donnan "had acted with great audacity." Dr. Donnan then wrote to the Local Government Board, and a copy of his letter was forwarded back to the guardians. At the next meeting of the guardians, on May 24th, the Chairman said that this was a misrepresentation, and that his words were that "the request for the payment of 2 guineas was an audacious one!" He ended his speech by saying, "The dispensary doctors complain of their salaries being too low, but the members of the profession meet in the Medical Institute to play billiards, smoke cigarettes, drink champagne, and so on." Dr. Macintosh, a medical member of the Board, promptly contradicted this statement, and said that no intoxicating liquors were permitted inside the Medical Institute. But the Chairman, not to be baffled, rejoined, "Well, they adjourn to some place." Statements so palpably and absolutely groundless make one feel sad that the chairman of an important public Board should so far forget dignity and fairness. Although several members refused to fall in with his views, the Chairman at the end of the discussion said that Article 21 of the regulations under which the claim was made, stated that the guardians could refuse to pay the fee, if they were not satisfied that the extra assistance was necessary; and finally it was agreed to reply to the Local Government Board, that "the dispensary doctors should be of such experience in their profession as to be able to diagnose the diseases of the poor who might require their professional care. We further say that where a dispensary doctor has doubts as to the disease from which a patient is suffering, he should have such a patient sent into this house." This extraordinary resolution appears all the more extraordinary when it is recalled that in 1902 nineteen cases out of a total of thirty in the whole town originated in the Union Infirmary from the very course the adoption of which is now urged, namely, a doubtful case being sent in, not diagnosed. At the time the whole place was in a ferment; students and visitors were stopped, and preventive resolutions were passed in sheaves. It is scarcely necessary to add that Dr. Donnan has the unanimous and complete approval of the whole profession and educated public for his very wise action in a case of doubt of the kind.

Scotland.

THE OTOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

This Society met in Glasgow on May 21st under the presidency of Dr. Thomas Barr. There was a numerous attendance of Scottish members, with representatives also from London, Liverpool, Manchester, and Belfast. The forenoon meeting took place in the hall of the Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons, where papers were read by Professor Cleland, of Glasgow University, Dr. McBride, Edinburgh, Mr. Parry, Glasgow, and Dr. J. H. Nicoll, Glasgow. Important cases and preparations were likewise exhibited and discussed. Later the members visited the University, where Dr. Colquhoun, in the absence of Professor McKendrick, gave an interesting demonstration in the physiology class room on the nature of the vowel sounds and their action upon the organ of hearing.

THE PLAGUE.

PREVALENCE OF THE DISEASE.

INDIA.

DURING the weeks ending April 23rd and 30th the deaths from plague in India numbered 3,748 and 4,473 respectively. The principal figures during these weeks were: Bombay City, 563 and 520; Bombay Districts, 2,723 and 3,027; Calcutta, 440 and 270; Bengal Districts, 1,439 and 1,062; North-West Provinces and Oudh, 4,270 and 2,965; the Punjab, 24,714 and 33,953; Rajputana, 1,072 and 865; Kashmir, 578 and 627; Karachi, 240 and 210; Central India, 1,288 and 722. It will be seen that in all districts plague has declined, except in the Punjab, where the deaths during the week ending April 30th exceed by over 3,000 the highest number of deaths recorded for plague in all India during any week in 1903.

SOUTH AFRICA.

Cape Colony.

Port Elizabeth.—During the weeks ending April 30th and May 7th the fresh cases numbered 1 and 0, and the deaths 0 and 0. Five cases remained under treatment on May 7th. No cases of plague were found in any other town in Cape Colony during the weeks in question. At Port Elizabeth alone were mice and rats found

infected by plague, 18 rats and 14 mice being found infected out of 83 rats and 54 mice bacteriologically examined.

Transvaal.

During the weeks ending May 14th and May 21st, the fresh cases of plague in the Transvaal numbered 7 (2 whites) and 14 (2 whites), respectively: the deaths during these weeks numbered 2 (1 white), and 2 (both whites).

Up to May 21st the total number of suspected and proved cases amounted to 140 (24 whites).

MAURITIUS.

During the week ending May 26th the fresh cases of plague numbered 3, and the deaths from the disease 3.

HONG KONG.

During the weeks ending May 17th and 26th, the fresh cases of plague in Hong Kong numbered 28 and 39; and the deaths from the disease 27 and 35 respectively.

THE METROPOLITAN STREET AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION.

OUR readers have been kept informed of the movements of this society from the beginning of its effort to bring about the organization and administration of a complete ambulance for Inner and Outer London, and are aware therefore of the activity with which they have been conducted. The Association, which is entirely a medical one, has grown so rapidly, and the demands for information upon the general question of ambulances have been so great, that the expenditure incurred has been much larger than was anticipated, although the 110 medical men who did such useful work as local secretaries in canvassing the candidates for election to the London County Council, and in endeavouring to create local interest in the subject conducted operations at their own, and sometimes considerable, expense. To meet, therefore, both present and future needs it has been decided to form a fund of about £70 or £80 from voluntary subscriptions, and the following is a list of donations received up to the present:

	£	s.	d.
Mr. Reginald Harrison (President)	...	2	0
Mr. James Berry	...	1	0
Mr. A. A. Berry	...	2	0
Dr. R. J. Collie	...	1	0
Dr. F. W. Cock	...	1	0
Sir W. Selby Church	...	1	0
Dr. Arthur James	...	2	0
Sir E. Cooper Perry	...	2	0
Dr. H. D. Kollleston	...	1	0
Mr. Cuthbert Wallace	...	1	0
Dr. F. P. Wightwick	...	0	10
P. H.	...	0	5
F. W.	...	0	2
I. R.	...	0	7
M. I.	...	0	5
Anon.	...	0	2

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The whole movement up to the present has been very successful, and in view of the favourable reception accorded by the London County Council to the deputation on May 9th there seems every likelihood that the County Council will, as desired, now take the matter in hand seriously. More work, however, still remains to be done, and as it would be regrettable that the movement should languish for want of a little financial support, the fund is one which may be recommended to the attention of readers. Subscriptions of any amount will be gladly received either by Mr. Anthony Bowly or by the Honorary Secretary, Dr. Arthur James, 69, Gloucester Terrace, Hyde Park, W.

THE REVACCINATION BILL, 1904.

THE Revaccination Bill introduced into the House of Commons by Sir John Batty Tuke lost its chance of a discussion on the second reading, owing to the fact that the day for which it was down was taken for Government business. It has now been introduced into the House of Lords by the Duke of Northumberland. The following petition in support of the Bill has been sent by the County Council of Salop:—

In Parliament.

Session 1904.

REVACCINATION BILL.

The Humble Petition of the County Council of the Administrative County of Salop under their Common Seal.

Sheweth as follows:

1. A Bill (hereinafter referred to as "the Bill") is now pending in your Honourable House intituled "An Act to pro-