

be such as to preclude satisfactory treatment. The inspector has stated in his report to the Board that there was practically no maternity ward, as the ward was always full of other cases, there are no separate wards or day rooms of any kind, and the nurses' accommodation is also insufficient. The inspector points out that radical improvements are very necessary and that he has from time to time impressed this upon the guardians.

These deficiencies are presumably due to the same spirit of short-sighted economy which has expressed itself in the payment to the workhouse medical officer of what, in the opinion of the local profession, is an entirely inadequate remuneration for the duties he is called upon to discharge. At a meeting of the guardians a proposal was made to increase the salary offered for the vacant appointment from £50 to £60, but this was defeated by 21 votes to 17, one member of the Board expressing the opinion that the guardians would be able to obtain just as good a medical officer at £50 as at a higher figure. The unsoundness of this estimate is perhaps sufficiently indicated by the fact that at a general meeting of members of the medical profession in the town, held on March 20th, it was resolved that, having regard to the amount of work necessary to carry out the duties satisfactorily, the salary should be at least £70, and it is understood that no local practitioner will become a candidate on the terms at present offered.

Sheffield.

The warning notice as to Sheffield has reference to the "Sheffield United Friendly and Trades Societies' Medical Association," an organization in process of being formed, on lines which are unfortunately already familiar to the profession in many districts, and are fully described under the title of "Friendly Societies' Institutes" in Chapter 8, Section C, of the Report of the Medico-Political Committee on Contract Practice. For the convenience of any medical practitioner who may contemplate applying for the Sheffield appointment, we quote from that report the following description of the position of the medical officers to these organizations:

The work required from the medical officer to these bodies is sometimes very heavy in proportion to the remuneration. In one case the medical officer gave over 13,000 attendances in the year for the payment of £275—that is to say, he received about 5d. for each attendance.

The position generally of the medical officers of these institutions appears to be in many cases less satisfactory than that of the practitioners connected with any other form of contract practice, except perhaps the Medical Aid Societies. The medical officer has no independence in the practice of his profession, being absolutely under the control of a committee who have little or no knowledge of the conditions necessary for efficiency of a medical service.

In many towns the institutes have been founded as the result of disputes between clubs and private practitioners regarding remuneration, wage limits, or other questions of difficulty, and the medical officers, by the mere fact of accepting the appointment, place themselves in a position of hostility to, and therefore of isolation from, the other practitioners of the district.

This fact, the arduous work, and frequently inadequate remuneration, and the entire sacrifice of independence, probably account for the frequent changes of medical officers, and the unsatisfactory character, professionally and otherwise, of some who accept such appointments.

The information which we have received with respect to the Sheffield appointment affords no reason for supposing that the position of its medical officers will be in any respect more favourable than that of the majority of medical officers of such institutions as above described. The avowed object of the combination is primarily to obtain cheap medical attendance; therefore the work to be done must be expected to be greatly in excess of that for which the fixed salary offered would afford even a moderate remuneration. The medical officer can enjoy no security of tenure or professional independence, and to these disadvantages of the appointment as compared with the inducements offered by other forms of medical practice, he must add the consciousness that he has taken up a position of definite hostility to the general body of his professional brethren in the district in which he practises. It is difficult to conceive, in view of these facts, that this appointment will be accepted by any medical practitioner whose abilities, industry, and character entitle him to expect even average success in any other kind of medical career.

IRISH MEDICAL SCHOOLS AND GRADUATES' ASSOCIATION.

ANNUAL MEETING.

THE twenty-ninth annual general meeting of the above Association was held at the Hotel Cecil, London, on March 17th, when the following officers were appointed for the ensuing year:—*President elect*: Sir John William Moore. *Vice-Presidents*: Dr. Phineas S. Abraham; Sir James N. Dick, K.C.B.; Sir William Whitla; and Dr. H. Macnaughton-Jones. *Honorary Treasurer*: Dr. Michael J. Bulger. *Chairman of Council*: Dr. J. H. Swanton. *Vice-Chairman*: Dr. Kenneth Fraser. *Council*: Drs. George Vere Benson, William Barter, James Chambers, E. Wolfenden Collins, George Cowen, Sir Charles Cuffe, K.C.B., George W. Dawson, H. J. Hildige, W. Beech Johnston, J. J. Macan, Alex. McDonnell, W. Moyle O'Connor, W. Booth Pearsall, Redmond Roche, W. W. Scott, James Stewart, W. Bland Stokes, and Telford Telfordsmith. *Honorary Secretaries*: Dr. T. Hobbs Crampton, Mr. E. Canny Ryall, and Dr. William Douglas. *Honorary Auditors*: Colonel James Moorhead, R.A.M.C., and Dr. A. J. Preston.

The annual report was most satisfactory. A vote of condolence was passed in connexion with the domestic bereavement of Dr. James Stewart, and sincere regret was expressed at his retirement from the post of Provincial Honorary Secretary, which he had held for over twenty years.

DINNER.

The annual festival dinner of the Irish Medical Schools and Graduates' Association took place in the Grand Hall of the Hotel Cecil on March 17th, with the President of the Association, Dr. E. Irwin Scott, in the chair. Dr. G. Stoker having proposed the toast of "Our Defenders," Inspector-General W. H. Lloyd responded for the navy and Lieutenant-General Sir John French replied for the army. Sir John French excused himself from making a speech, remarking that so much had been heard of the army lately that all would agree it should have a "close time." The toast of "Our Guests" was submitted by Dr. Macnaughton-Jones, and Sir John French in acknowledging referred to the happy relations that existed between the Irish Medical Schools and the army. Those schools had furnished the army with many distinguished military doctors. In time of war when the soldier was resting after a march the military doctor spent his hours of rest in attending to the wounded, and therefore there was small wonder that his health so often broke down. Mr. Mayo Robson and Mr. W. Arbuthnot Lane also responded to this toast. Mr. R. G. Webster gave the toast of "Ourselves," and after this had been suitably acknowledged by the President of the Irish Medical Schools and Graduates' Association the proceedings terminated.

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE PREVENTION OF CONSUMPTION AND OTHER FORMS OF TUBERCULOSIS.

ANNUAL MEETING.

THE seventh annual meeting of the members of this Association took place at 20, Hanover Square, W., on March 20th, at 4 p.m. The Earl of DERBY presided over an influential meeting, and was supported by Sir William Broadbent, Chairman of the Council. Amongst those present were Sir William Church, Dr. Theodore Williams, Dr. Hector Mackenzie, Dr. Theodore Dyke-Acland, Mr. Malcolm Morris, Dr. Weatherly, Mr. George Harwood, M.P., and Dr. Perkins (Secretary).

Lord DERBY, in moving the adoption of the report, referred to the important work which the Association was doing, which, however, could not be carried on without money. In the last report it had been necessary to call the attention of the members to the unfortunate financial position of the Association at the close of 1904, when there was an adverse balance on the revenue account for that year of £365. He was glad to say that the year 1905 closed on a much more favourable state of things. The debt had been cleared off, and a small balance remained to the credit of the Association. This result was in great measure due to the kindness of the Lord Mayor in granting the use of the Mansion House for a public