

these he mentioned the names of Simpson, Syme, Hughes Bennett, Christison, and Goodsir, and referred to the work and characteristics of these leaders at that time in the Scotch capital. He coupled with the toast the name of the guest of the evening, Professor Annandale, the distinguished successor in the Chair of Clinical Surgery of Syme and Lister. The toast was received with enthusiasm, and Professor Annandale, on rising to reply, had a most hearty reception. He mentioned the pleasure it gave him to be present at the inaugural meeting of the club, and warmly congratulated its members on its making such an excellent start. He referred to Dr. Keeling's observations of his great predecessors in the Chair of Clinical Surgery, and made some interesting anecdotal remarks, especially concerning Syme and Lister, with both of whom he had been closely associated. A speech, however, from the professor would hardly have been complete without humorous anecdotes, and these were given in characteristic style, and reminded many of those present of their student days. Dr. Gordon proposed the toast of "The University of Sheffield," which was replied to by Professor Hicks, F.R.S. Other toasts were "The Guests" and "The Chairman."

DIACHYLON AS AN ABORTIFACIENT.

At an inquest in Sheffield last week on the body of a woman, one month pregnant, who died from convulsions brought about by lead poisoning, the jury attached to its verdict the following rider, and requested the coroner to forward it to the Home Office:

That the indiscriminate use of diachylon is dangerous and leads to most serious injury to life and health, and strongly suggests that it should be placed in the schedule of poisons and subjected to the restrictions thereof.

Birmingham.

LADY HEALTH VISITORS.

So successful have been the results from the appointment of lady visitors that the Birmingham City Council Health Committee have decided to add thereto. The new staff will consist of 19 ladies, including a chief inspector of midwives and a chief inspector of workshops. The experiment began in 1899 by the appointment of four ladies, and this number has been added to from time to time. They visit the poorer parts of the city, and advise parents as to the feeding of children and the necessity of cleanliness. No charity is directly distributed by them, but they are in touch with the various charitable associations. Dr. Robertson, the Medical Officer of Health for the City, appreciates very highly the work of these ladies, and the visible improvement resulting from their efforts is highly satisfactory. Birmingham in this respect appears to have profited by the example set by the Manchester and Salford Ladies' Public Health Society, the working of which was described in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL of January 20th, 1906, page 151.

CITY ANALYST'S REPORT.

Mr. Liverseege, the City Analyst, has presented his report for 1905 to the Health Committee. There have been 237 samples per 100,000 persons taken, women and children being employed to buy samples in the ordinary course of trade, a very sure way of detecting habitual fraud. It was found that 2 per cent. of the samples were adulterated with preservative: but since 1896 this has prevailed less than in previous years; 8.2 per cent. were adulterated in other ways, which is a greater percentage than in the four previous years. With regard to the milk supply 2.8 per cent. of the samples were adulterated with preservatives as against 4.5 per cent. in 1904, when systematic testing was begun; this is an improvement on any previous year. The Health Committee has prosecuted 38 persons. There were 239 samples of butter, or 10.5 per cent., in which adulteration had occurred—a proportion twice as high as in 1904 and higher than any previous year since 1898. The Welsh water has proved successful, but owing to the possibility of lead being present in soft water drawn through lead pipes, it is recommended that the first quart drawn from a tap should not be drunk, and, further, that as galvanized kettles yield a dangerous amount of zinc to the water enamelled kettles should be used.

Bristol.

THE fortieth annual meeting in connexion with the Royal Hospital for Sick Children and Women was held on March 17th, when the Lord Mayor presided over a large gathering. The report for the year stated that 804 children and 76 women had been in-patients, and 3,473 children and 1,736 women out-patients. In the dental department there had been 975 patients. The total ordinary income was £4,395 12s. 2d., the expenditure £4,909, so that there was a deficiency on the year's working. Reference was made to the various bodies helping in collecting funds and the generous donors during the past year.

South Wales.

LLANELLY WATER.

At an extraordinary meeting of the Llanelly Urban District Council the chairman complained that it had been suggested that the council had received some weeks ago a communication from the Local Government Board dealing with their inspector's visit to the watershed, which they had suppressed. It was absolutely untrue, as the letter had only been sent from London on February 23rd, and an extraordinary meeting of the council was convened to consider it. The letter of the Board stated that it was advised by its inspectors that although the use of the additional impounding reservoir and the byewash would permit of a certain amount of purification of the water by sedimentation, yet the possible sources of pollution on the gathering ground would remain practically the same as at their previous inspection in 1901. The Gellybysgod stream was liable to serious pollution, as also the majority of the streams running into the reservoir on this side. The Board was still of the opinion that the urban district council should take steps for reducing the sources of pollution, and for purifying the water as far as might be practicable by efficient filtration before it was delivered to consumers for domestic uses. It appeared to the Board that unless such steps be taken the urban district council would incur a grave responsibility in the event of disease breaking out in the district through preventable pollution of the water supply or the absence of efficient means of purification. The Chairman remarked that the Board adhered to its former decision not to sanction the supply to the rural area until an efficient means of filtration had been provided. After much discussion it was decided that the Clerk should ascertain if the Board would approve of high-pressure filters, the Surveyor remarking that the construction of filter beds would reduce materially the pressure from the reservoir. The Surveyor was instructed to report upon the best method of preventing pollution.

NEWPORT WATER SUPPLY.

The Mayor and Corporation of Newport (Mon.) recently inspected the Wentwood reservoir, whence the principal water supply of the borough is derived. The Wentwood reservoir holds no fewer than 384,000,000 gallons of water, and at the present time is full to overflowing. The Corporation acquired its water undertaking from the Newport Waterworks Company in 1888, for the equivalent of £278,000, and with the undertaking were transferred the Parliamentary powers obtained in the previous year by the company to construct a new reservoir at Wentwood. The scheme is what is known as a flood water scheme, the drainage area comprising some 1,604 acres of land. Water is drawn into the main reservoir from the Llanvaches and Newchurch Valleys, and the Castroggy and Nantypridd streams, by means of a tunnel nearly 2½ miles long, which has a discharging capacity of 71,600,000 gallons of water a day at the lower end. The embankment, the construction of which was at one time a source of great anxiety to the Corporation, is now as firmly established as the surrounding hills, and can be elevated 3 ft. to increase the storage capacity of the reservoir. The capital authorized by Parliament was £120,000, but this was increased as the works proceeded to the extent of £406,000. In addition to the Wentwood reservoir, Newport has three other supplies, the Ynysyfro reservoir, a subsiding reservoir in the same district, and the Pantyreos reservoir, all four yielding 621,700,000 gallons of water.