

clergy and laity having received pamphlets. The objects of the society had also been made known by means of the delivering of an address and the holding of a drawing-room meeting. Out of the funds of the branch £35 had been contributed to the parent society, and at the close of last year a credit balance of £60 remained. After the adoption of the report, a committee was elected for the ensuing year, and Professor Schäfer then delivered an address, which will be published. The proceedings closed with a vote of thanks to Professor Schäfer.

NOTIFICATION OF CHICKEN-POX.

The Dublin Sanitary Association has passed a resolution urging the sanitary authorities of Dublin and its suburbs to make chicken-pox a notifiable disease during the next six months. The reasons adduced for the necessity of the step are the possibility of extension of small-pox from England to Dublin, and the risk of small-pox cases being mistaken for chicken-pox.

DUBLIN HOSPITAL SUNDAY FUND.

The amount contributed to this fund during 1910 was £3,340 17s. 9d., which is a decrease of a little over £100 as compared with 1909. Collections were made in 282 places of worship in all, and, in addition to the sums thus yielded, £100 was realized by the hospital football match. The expenses amounted to £227 5s. 6d., which was equal to about 6 per cent. of the total sum collected.

BEQUEST TO DUBLIN HOSPITALS.

By the will of the late Miss Magan of Dublin, who died some months ago, the residue of her personal estate was directed to be divided into three equal parts for the erection of three new hospitals in Dublin in commemoration of the mother of the deceased, of the late Dr. Fleming, and of the late Colonel Bernard. The trustees and executors in administering the estate found that the sums available were not sufficient for the building of new hospitals, and therefore requested permission of the courts to apportion the sums to already existing Dublin hospitals. This request was acceded to, but considerable litigation followed as to which of the hospitals could be shown to have the best claim on the estate. Last week the Master of the Rolls finally decided in favour of allocating one-third part of the estate to the Adelaide Hospital and one-third to Sir Patrick Dun's Hospital. The destination of the remaining third will be decided later.

England and Wales.

[FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENTS.]

MANCHESTER AND DISTRICT.

THE MANCHESTER CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL.

THE recent application of the Manchester Children's Hospital for financial assistance from the Manchester Education Authority in respect of the school children referred to the hospital for treatment lends special interest to the figures given in the annual report which was presented at the annual meeting of the supporters of the hospital last week. The report shows that the total number of in-patients during the year 1910 was 2,702, the largest ever recorded. The average stay in hospital was 20.8 days, which is about two days a case less than in 1909 and three days less than in 1908. Each in-patient cost 3s. 2d. a day, against 3s. 3½d. in 1909, and the average total cost per in-patient discharged was £3 6s. 3d. per head, against £3 12s. 8½d. in the preceding year. The cost per occupied bed was £58 2s. 2d., against £60 17s. 5½d. in 1909. There was thus a general reduction in the cost per in-patient and per bed, which is attributed to the fact that the hospital has been worked to its fullest capacity. The number of operations had been 1,351. In the out-patient department there had been 34,135 new out-patients, and the total attendances were

105,534, compared with 30,970 patients and 96,583 attendances in 1909. Excluding Sundays, this gives an average for every working day of 109 new out-patients and 337 attendances. It was stated that the cost per head of the out-patients had been 1s. 6d., as against 1s. 6½d. in 1909. The general financial position showed that the ordinary expenditure had exceeded the income by £2,122. At the convalescent home at St. Anne's 364 children had been treated, and the income of the home fell short of the expenditure by £532.

There is the strongest possible feeling in Manchester that the hospital is being exploited by the Education Committee, in spite of the fact that the education authorities simply insist on the children found on inspection to be defective obtaining treatment somehow and somewhere without systematically referring them to any particular hospital. But the practical outcome is almost the same as if the children were directly referred to the hospital, for to tell parents who cannot afford to pay for medical treatment for their children that they must get treatment or they will be prosecuted is in every way tantamount to driving them to this or some other hospital, or to some practitioner who never gets paid for his services. It is a physical impossibility for the Children's Hospital to treat over 300 children a day in anything like a satisfactory way, and no grant that the Education Committee would ever make would enable it to do so. The parents are bitterly complaining of having to wait often three hours or more in an uncomfortable waiting hall before they get one minute, or even less than one minute's, attention. Many of them have to travel several miles to the hospital, and it is becoming intolerable that they should have to waste the best part of a day to obtain such meagre attendance. In addition to this, quite 90 per cent. of the cases require nothing like specialist treatment, and could quite well be treated by general practitioners, and it is practically certain that if the Education Committee should by any possibility be induced to subsidize the hospital for the treatment of defective school children, the charitable subscriptions will be reduced in nearly the same proportion as the subsidies are raised. As was expressed at the recent meeting of Manchester medical men, medical inspection without treatment is much of a farce; the inspection is being done as far as the limited staff enables it to be done, but the facilities for treatment are totally inadequate, and to subsidize the hospitals for the purpose would simply mean that the Education Committee was shuffling off its responsibility on to other shoulders.

THE CHARITY ORGANIZATION SOCIETY.

THE seventy-eighth annual report of the District Provident and Charity Organization Society of Manchester and Salford gives an account of the various activities of the society, in which are included the provision of a sick and relief fund, a special fund for the assistance of consumptives, which at present only amounts to about £300, the convalescent home at Southport, a pensions fund, a savings bank, the Surgical Aid Society, and the Provident Dispensary Association alluded to in this column last week. In addition to these special activities the society does a large amount of work in investigating the circumstances of persons who apply for relief at the various charities, especially the medical charities of the district. Of the cases investigated by the society's officers, 36,480 were referred to it by the Manchester Royal Infirmary, 8,547 by the Salford Royal Hospital, 9,900 by the Northern Hospital, 8,511 by the Ancoats Hospital, 331 by the Victoria Dental Hospital, 760 by St. Mary's Hospital, and 474 by the Manchester Midwives Supervising Committee, the last being in order to ascertain whether the persons were able to pay for medical aid or whether the Supervising Committee should pay the medical fee when midwives had found it necessary to summon medical assistance. Full particulars are given only of the first four named hospitals, for which 63,438 cases were investigated, and it is stated that of these no less than 8,259 belonged to other towns and 1,624 could not be found, having

given wrong or insufficient addresses. Of the remainder it is said that 48,603 out-patients and 1,888 in-patients were suitable cases for free treatment, 2,590 out-patients were in a position to obtain treatment by joining a provident dispensary without depending on charity, 19 out-patients were able to pay a doctor's ordinary fees, and 455 in-patients were able to make some payment for their treatment. Expressed as percentages, of the out-patients visited 5.09 per cent. were found to be provident dispensary cases; and of the in-patients visited, 19.41 per cent. were able to make some payment. The number of visits made by the society's officers was 55,179.

Without detracting in any way from the good work of the society's officers, these figures cannot be accepted as a reliable criterion of the amount of hospital abuse; for in the first place no hint is given as to the standard fixed by the society in deciding suitability for free treatment, and in the second place by no means all the applicants for free medical treatment at the hospitals named are referred for investigation. As a single example, the average number of in-patients at the Royal Infirmary is about 8,000 a year, but only 1,493 were investigated by the society. Moreover, few, if any, of the 8,259 persons belonging to other towns could be investigated, and the fact that they were able to pay the cost of travelling shows that the bulk of them could have afforded to pay something for treatment at home. Further, of the 1,624 cases in which persons gave wrong or insufficient addresses, probably in a large proportion this was done purposely in order to avoid inquiries. Thus the two large sections which probably embrace the greatest number of cases of abuse practically escape investigation altogether. Indeed, the figures given in the report cannot be said to have much practical value except in so far as an investigation made into any particular case may have some deterrent effect.

LEEDS.

DINNER TO SIR CLIFFORD ALLBUTT.

WHENEVER Sir Clifford Allbutt revisits Leeds—the scene of the most active years of his strenuous professional life—he can be sure of a welcome as sincere as it is cordial, and when it was announced that he had accepted the invitation of the Leeds and District Medical Practitioners' Association to dine with them on the occasion of their second annual dinner, it was certain that the gathering was destined to be a success. Under the presidency of Dr. Hawkyard about 130 medical men and their guests assembled to meet and honour their old friend.

The toast of the evening was in the able hands of Mr. Moynihan, who in the opinion of those who were present voiced the sentiments of the gathering in a way that probably no one else could have done, and who surpassed himself, though that is a hard thing to do, in the grace of his language and in the felicity of his expressions. He said truly that Sir Clifford's position in respect of Leeds was a peculiar, even a unique, one, for it was something like a quarter of a century since he had ceased to be an individual and had become a tradition. His appeal had always been made to a much larger audience than could ever be gathered within the walls of a lecture theatre. He was without doubt the most fecund author and editor of the present day. There was certainly no physician or surgeon of this generation who could match him in one particular: he was absolutely supreme as a master of English prose. Those who wished to know the rhythm and majesty of English prose could not do better than read the writings of Sir Clifford Allbutt. In his works they would find many a polished gem of literary perfection; indeed, the magic and beauty of his words were sometimes so distracting that attention was called away to gloat over their majesty, while something of their message escaped the reader. Yet the message was expressed in words which were the fewest and the most fitting. As an orator among men of the present day Sir Clifford stood absolutely without a

rival, at any rate in respect of short speech. No summary of Sir Clifford Allbutt's association with the district, continued Mr. Moynihan, would be complete which did not say something of the loyal devotion and affectionate pride in which he had been held by the lay public. His had been a well-proportioned life from the beginning. In his university he had received that ineffable stamp which men of the right metal alone seemed able to receive. He had years full of the most beneficent activity when in Leeds, and he performed work of a character which made it absolutely necessary that he, and he alone, should be called to fill the chair of Regius Professor at Cambridge. But in Leeds he had always been looked upon as a Leeds man, and they were now giving him a welcome home. It has seemed well to quote Mr. Moynihan's speech fully from the excellent report which appeared in the *Yorkshire Post*, for it may reach the eyes of some who, from one cause or another, were prevented being present at the dinner.

Sir Clifford was most warmly received on rising to reply, and in a speech which was partly reminiscent, dealing as it did with old colleagues and friends, and partly prophetic in so far as it dealt with the indications which all could see that unless care were taken the work of medical men would be exploited for the public welfare without adequate remuneration, displayed all his old vigour and charm. It is indeed difficult for any one to credit that it was in the year 1884, and at the end of twenty years' service as physician, that Sir Clifford Allbutt retired from the active staff of the infirmary, in which he yet retains so keen an interest.

BIRMINGHAM.

HOSPITAL SATURDAY FUND.

THE Birmingham Hospital Saturday Fund has since its foundation collected the large sum of £436,000, at an expense of less than 5 per cent. Besides giving for many years £10,000 per annum to the various hospital and nursing institutions of the city, the Fund has administered the convalescent homes it possesses in a most economical and successful manner. These homes are as follows: Tyn-y-coed, Llanrhos, the convalescent home for men, in which last year there were 1,230 patients; Marle Hall, Llanrhos, the women's convalescent home, in which there were 1,388 patients; the Red House, Great Barr, the home for children, in which last year 615 children and 110 women were treated. Since the first convalescent home was established nineteen years ago, 37,909 patients have been received—16,744 men, 16,149 women, and 5,016 children. The scheme for the Sir William Cook Memorial Sanatorium for the treatment of consumptive patients has made considerable and practical progress. When the sanatorium is completed it will accommodate fifty patients. Last year the total collection for the fund amounted to £20,375, the largest with once exception since the fund was established, and the number of contributing firms was 2,188, as compared with 2,171 in the previous year.

LONDON.

KING EDWARD'S HOSPITAL FUND FOR LONDON.

THE annual meeting of the Governors and General Council of King Edward's Hospital Fund for London took place on March 28th at St. James's Palace under the chairmanship of H.S.H. the Duke of Teck. This meeting is usually of a purely formal character, the affairs of the fund being reviewed and discussed at length at the distribution meeting in December,¹ but on this occasion there were some occurrences of interest. The accounts submitted showed that the total receipts for the year exceeded £205,169, of which sum £76,935 (or very nearly half the total sum distributed, £155,000), represented interest on invested capital. The balance of the receipts was made

¹ BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, 1910, vol. ii, p. 1986, and SUPPLEMENT, p. 463.

up of £34,495 donations and annual subscriptions, some £55,000 in the form of legacies, and £18,000 from the League of Mercy and a few odd items. It was also stated that the total distributions made by the Fund since its foundation have now reached over a million and a quarter pounds. The special committee on the out-patient department question, the Duke of Teck observed, had been sitting regularly since January and had made considerable progress with the receipt of evidence. The report of the Distribution Committee on the question of the suspended grant to St. George's Hospital was also submitted and approved. Payment of the grant was delayed, owing to complaints having been made to the effect that the Fund was according its support to St. George's Hospital, although that hospital was making over to the medical school carried on in connexion with it part of the contributions received by it. The answer made by the hospital in general terms was that any sums passing from the hospital to the school were in payment of services actually rendered by it in the treatment of patients, and came well within the terms of the Minute on the subject of the financial relations between hospitals and medical schools drawn up Sir Edward Fry's committee. This explanation having been traversed, the Distribution Committee of the Fund was asked to make a special investigation of the matter before paying the award for 1910. The committee endeavoured to make an estimate of what the payment from the hospital to the school should be by ascertaining the average cost of laboratory work at the large hospitals in London. Only a few hospitals were able to supply useful figures on this point, but they seemed to the committee to justify the conclusion that the corresponding expenditure at St. George's was, owing to some circumstance or other, too much in excess of the average to be regarded as satisfactory. It also received from the governors of St. George's Hospital a detailed account of the fashion in which they and the school authorities together had endeavoured to assess the various amounts reciprocally payable by one to the other. The committee did not feel in a position to decide upon the justness of each of these assessments, and therefore, though convinced that the balance eventually struck seemed to the two authorities entirely just, it thought it best to base its own recommendations on the average expenditure of allied institutions. It therefore suggested that the school should repay to the hospital in respect of the year 1909 some £800.

THE MEDICAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT OF SCHOOL CHILDREN.

It was reported to the Education Committee of the London County Council on March 29th that the General Purposes Committee of the Council has referred to a special committee, chosen from members of the Public Health, General Purposes, and Education Committees, the whole question of the organization of medical inspection and treatment of school children, with regard to which the Education Committee sent a scheme to the Council on March 1st (BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, March 11th, p. 588).

Special Correspondence.

BERLIN.

Schools for Speech-Cripples.—Medical Inspection of School Children in Berlin.—Antivaccinist Propaganda.—Death of Professor Lucae.

For nearly ten years now Berlin, in common with other German towns, has devoted special care and attention to the teaching of deaf, or rather partially deaf, school children; in twenty-four municipal schools there are special classes for them, with properly trained teachers. But it is not generally known that since 1907 an entire school has been devoted to these little sufferers, where they are taught by a new method—a compromise between ordinary speech and pure lip-reading—and where they

have medical care as well as tuition. Twelve is the maximum number of pupils in each single class. No mentally defective children are admitted, but only "speech-cripples"—that is, children whose defective hearing alone is responsible for their not being able to speak properly. Articulation is carefully taught, and so are lip-reading and a special kind of acoustic exercises. But the teachers' chief aim is to strengthen and develop the interplay of the senses of sight and of hearing. The results so far have been most encouraging. The children very soon lose their helplessness and become teachable, with a prospect of being able to earn a living when they grow up. Each year some of the more advanced pupils have been drafted off to ordinary municipal schools, where they are able to get along with the other normal children very fairly.

But deafness, alas! is only one of the heavy handicaps that press on the child population from the crowded homes of our modern cities. The Berlin school doctors have issued their report of work done in the year 1909-10, and its figures speak an eloquent, a sad, language. No less than 1,462 boys and 1,562 girls, that is, 8.70 per cent. of the little "school recruits" had to be refused admission on account of bodily or mental unfitness. Twenty per cent. of the pupils had to be kept under supervision, and almost 55,000 medical examinations were made; 399 children (305 boys and 94 girls) were stammerers, 2 children showed the symptoms of commencing atrophy of the optic nerve, and 1 of tuberculosis of the lumbar vertebra. Seven children attended school with cannulae in the trachea, there were 6 cases of gonorrhoea and 4 of syphilitic eruptions. Several children suffered from psychoses and were removed from school, and 4 girls, whose dissolute habits and moral degradation made them unfit to associate with other children, were transferred to special homes.

Like the poor, the antivaccinationist we have always with us, even in Germany. He worries the sanitary authorities by refusing to bring up his children for vaccination at the legally fixed age, he gets up petitions, spreads his fallacious arguments and absurd conclusions broadcast, and whips up the agitation until at last even the Imperial Parliament is not proof against it, for it has made its entry into the debates of the German Reichstag. Strange to say, not a few of the members seem not averse to the introduction of a "conscientious objector's" clause on the English model, and this in a country that has succeeded in completely stamping out the fell disease (practically speaking) within a comparatively short period of time by stringent vaccination legislation. The fact is, that the present generation of antivaccinationist Germans have not lived through, or have forgotten, the terrible epidemics of the times before the Seventies of last century, while keeping count of and grossly exaggerating accidents and unfortunate by-effects that are bound to occur in isolated cases among hundreds of thousands of yearly vaccinations. At the last meeting of the Berlin Medical Society, March 14th, Professor A. Baginsky (director of the Emperor and Empress Frederick Children's Hospital) gave a historical survey of the German vaccination laws and their efficacy, and called upon German doctors to be on the alert, lest holes should be made insidiously in the protective fabric, which has done the nation such admirable service. He recalled the labours of the committee of 1884, instituted under the pressure of antivaccinationist petitions, on which doctors of both camps sat. Robert Koch said at that time that not the statistics of morbidity, but those of mortality must be accepted as conclusive. Revaccination was introduced in the German army as early as 1834, and under its influence mortality from small-pox has declined from 75 per 100,000 to *nil*, and in the non-military population (since 1874, the year of the vaccination law which is still in force) from 62 to 0.1 per 100,000. With these figures, that speak a language so plain and clear, it would be absurd to institute a new committee of enquiry. In England the introduction of the conscience clause in 1898 has materially contributed to the recrudescence of small-pox, though the insular position of the country is a safeguard against infection from other countries, while Germany is permanently endangered by its proximity to Russia, Austria, and France. Finally, Baginsky proposed a resolution setting forth that the Berlin Medical Society, in view of the late discussion in