

## Scotland.

[FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENTS.]

**EXTENSION OF POST-GRADUATE TEACHING IN EDINBURGH.** It will be remembered that during the past two years the second fortnight of July has been definitively included in the scope of the systematized course of post-graduate teaching in medicine in Edinburgh in connexion with the university and the royal colleges. The course which has hitherto occupied this fortnight has been one on diseases and defects of children. Arrangements have now been made to give another series of clinics and demonstrations in these two weeks, to be called the Course of Obstetrics and Gynaecology. The teaching will extend from Monday, July 20th, to Saturday, August 1st; the number of post-graduates attending will be limited to ten, and the inclusive fee will be 7 guineas. The arrangements for the first week are as follows: On each day from Monday to Friday Dr. J. W. Ballantyne will give an obstetric clinic at the Royal Maternity Hospital from 10 to 11 o'clock; from 11 to 1 there will be a gynaecological clinic at the Royal Infirmary by Dr. N. T. Brewis; this will be followed by an interval from 1 to 3; from 3 to 4 Dr. Berry Hart will give a series of demonstrations on sectional anatomy and placenta praevia; and from 4 to 5 there will be demonstrations by Drs. Barbour and R. W. Johnstone on practical gynaecological pathology. In the second week (July 27th to August 1st) Dr. Ballantyne will again give obstetric clinics at the hospital from 10 to 11; Dr. Barbour will give gynaecological clinics at the Royal Infirmary from 11 to 1, and Dr. Haig Ferguson from 1 to 2; there will be an interval from 2 to 3; Dr. Berry Hart will give demonstrations on eclampsia, deformed pelvis and operations, on abortion, and on puerperal septicaemia from 3 to 4; and Dr. James Young will have a course of practical gynaecological pathology from 4 to 5. On the two Saturdays Dr. Haultain will perform gynaecological operations in the morning. There will also be opportunities furnished to small numbers of post-graduates to see the ordinary and operative work in the Royal Maternity Hospital at other hours in the twenty-four. This course is in addition to what has already been done in the months of August and September; it will not take the place of the obstetric and gynaecological teaching in September, and Dr. Ballantyne's Saturday clinics on diseases of pregnancy in August will be continued as in the past. Further information can be got from the Secretary of the Post-graduate Courses at the University New Buildings.

### MEDICAL TREATMENT IN SCHOOLS.

A comprehensive scheme for the medical after-treatment of school children was considered at a conference in Glasgow of representatives of the various school boards in the county area convened by the Lanark County Council Committee on Secondary Education. A scheme was outlined to provide for the establishment of district centres for the treatment of visual and dental defects, the total estimated cost being £1,200, and it was pointed out that if nothing were done for diseases of the ear, nose, and throat on a comprehensive basis, the duty of providing for them would rest on individual school boards. It was suggested that a tentative experimental scheme might be devised to operate, say, during a year, with a view to testing by the treatment of individual cases, selected in proportion over the whole district, how a general scheme would be likely to operate both from the points of efficiency and cost. The chairman explained that it was impossible for the smaller boards in the county to have an adequate system of medical treatment, and unless some combined scheme was carried out the rural districts would derive no benefit from the Act of 1913. General approval of the scheme was expressed, although Dr. Brodie (Wishaw) regarded the cost as hugely under-estimated. A synopsis will be sent to each board, and they will be requested to consider it, and reply by the end of the present month to the county committee.

### GLASGOW ROYAL INFIRMARY.

The report submitted to the annual general meeting in connexion with the Glasgow Royal Infirmary was held on the 9th inst., Lord Provost Stevenson presiding. The

report submitted showed that during the past year the admissions were 9,661, as compared with 8,787 during the previous year. Of 9,650 patients treated to a conclusion, 931 died, a mortality-rate of 9.6 per cent.; of these, 349 died within forty-eight hours of admission, and, excluding these cases, the mortality-rate was 6.2 per cent. The average daily number resident was 656.8; the average residence of those treated to a conclusion, 24.85 days; the greatest number on any one day was 711. At the outdoor department there were: 8,290 medical cases, as against 14,371 the previous year, involving 16,860 attendances, as against 30,085; 8,291 surgical cases, involving 31,664 attendances, as against 13,786, with 48,677 attendances; 7,912 cases of special diseases, with 19,378 attendances, as compared with 9,576 cases and 22,240 attendances. The total number of accidents and urgent cases was 16,772, against 17,145; and the number of these admitted was 6,168, against 5,598; 6,099 patients attended the electrical department during the year. Of these, 388 attended for treatment, 37 for electro-diagnosis, and 5,674 for x-ray examination. The total number of x-ray examinations was 6,615. The average cost of each fully occupied bed was £78 19s. 4d., against £76 15s. 4d. in the year 1912; and the average cost of each patient treated to a conclusion was £5 7s. 5½d., against £5 11s. 7½d. in the previous year. *Ophthalmic Department:* The number of patients treated in the wards during the year was 1,051, against 1,045 in 1912, being an increase of 6; and 13,644 patients attended the dispensary for the first time, against 14,146 in 1912, the total number of attendances at the dispensary being 43,535. The average residence of in-patients was 12.1 days against 12.2 days in 1912. The number remaining in the institution on December 31st, 1913, was 26, against 31 in 1912. The total ordinary revenue for the year was £28,426 and the ordinary expenditure £53,548, showing a deficiency on the year's working of over £25,000. The extraordinary revenue amounted to £56,109, and the expenditure to £303.

The Lord Provost, in proposing the adoption of the report, pressed the claim of the infirmary for increased support, and the seconder suggested that the city should erect a small hospital for dealing with cases of accidents, thus allowing more room for some of the 900 people waiting admission to the medical and surgical wards of the Royal Infirmary.

### GLASGOW ODONTOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

The tenth annual dinner of the Glasgow Odontological Society was held on February 7th. In submitting the civic toast during the evening Dr. Noble spoke of the need for the corporation placing dental treatment within the reach of all classes. Hitherto, he said, qualified treatment was available to only two classes—the necessitous poor who received free treatment at the dental hospital and those who were able to pay the professional fees. They were now trying to meet the case of the intervening classes. A Scottish dentists' association had been formed, every member of which was a qualified practitioner, and by opening shops as dental clinics it was intended to provide treatment to the working classes. Already two such clinics had been opened—one in Partick, the other on the south side. It was hoped to extend the clinic scheme to every town and village in Scotland where they were required. The clinics could also be used for the treatment of school children. Bailie Bruce Murray in acknowledging the toast referred to the evils of unqualified practice in the city. He instanced cases of canvassers for unqualified firms, one such concern having thirty such canvassers. The subject was unfortunately treated with levity and ignorance by the authorities.

### SCOTTISH NURSING CONFERENCE.

Following upon the successful Nursing Conference held in Glasgow last week, it has been decided to hold a similar exhibition and conference in Edinburgh in February next year. One of the best sessions of the Glasgow Conference was that devoted to the consideration of a Midwives Act for Scotland. Dr. A. K. Chalmers, medical officer of health for Glasgow, read a paper on this subject, in which he stated that half of the midwives were without satisfactory training, they were untrained in any definite sense; it was a curious result of the increased payments possible under the maternity benefit sections of the Insurance Act that a number of old women had re-entered

practice as midwives. A letter was read from Dr. J. W. Ballantyne, Edinburgh, warmly supporting the view that there should be a Midwives Act for Scotland; it should not be a replica of the English Act, but an improvement on it; provision should be made for obtaining medical aid in abnormal cases, and for the payment of the medical men called in by the local authorities. Miss Paterson, one of the Scottish Insurance Commissioners, said that it was admitted by the Central Midwives Board in England that the women trained in Scotland were among the best on the register, and it was not fair that these women should have to face the competition of untrained women. A resolution favouring the passing of an Act was adopted unanimously.

#### THE ROMANCE OF X RAYS.

Dr. J. F. Hall-Edwards, of Birmingham General Hospital, delivered an address to the members of the Philosophical Institution, Edinburgh, on February 10th, on the subject of the romance of *x* rays. Regarded at first as harmless, these rays had been discovered to be very dangerous. No fewer than fifteen men had died as the result of contact with *x* rays, and there were throughout the world many dozens of crippled men like himself. Now, however, the *x*-ray apparatus was absolutely safe, not only for the patients, but for the operators, and compared with the dozen or so who had died, many thousands of lives had been saved, so that *x* rays had helped the interests of the world in a very high degree. It is well that lectures such as the above should be given to institutions like the Philosophical, so that the public may have the opportunity of hearing at first hand the truth about the risks and value of new methods of treatment from those well qualified (as Dr. Hall-Edwards assuredly is) to speak.

### Ireland.

[FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENTS.]

#### PROPOSED RADIUM INSTITUTE IN DUBLIN.

At the last meeting of the Royal Dublin Society on the recommendation of the Committee of Science and its Industrial Applications a sum of £1,000 was voted for the purchase of radium, to be added to the society's present stock. The minutes of the subcommittee appointed to report on the steps to be taken to found a radium institute in Dublin were approved, and it was asked to frame a scheme for submission to the next meeting of the council under which the radium it is now decided to purchase, together with that already in the society's possession, shall be utilized.

#### EPIDEMIC OF INFANTILE PARALYSIS.

A serious outbreak of infantile paralysis has occurred in Irvinestown Union, co. Fermanagh. At present the medical officer, Dr. Aiken, has about 12 cases under treatment. The cases appear to be of an acute type, the children complaining of headache at night, and showing paralysis of the limbs on the following morning.

#### SUSPENSION OF NURSING STAFF.

The entire nursing staff in connexion with the fever hospital in Strabane Workhouse was suspended by the board of guardians at their last weekly meeting. At the request of the guardians the Local Government Board has agreed to hold an inquiry into the nursing of the Strabane Fever Hospital.

#### WORKHOUSE INMATE'S DEATH FROM BURNS.

A coroner's jury returned a verdict of accidental death from burns in the case of an inmate of the Magherafelt Workhouse, whose clothes caught fire on January 22nd. She died on January 30th. The jury added a rider to the effect that the fire guards in each ward should be locked, and that flannel or non-inflammable flannelette should be provided for nightdresses for the inmates.

#### FIRST AID IN ASYLUMS.

The Inspectors of Lunacy have issued their report relative to the death of a patient in the Monaghan Asylum some time ago by hanging. The report states that all precautions appear to have been taken, but it was

unfortunate that those who discovered the patient were not competent to commence artificial respiration at once.

#### MEDICAL OFFICERS' SUPERANNUATION.

The Corporation of Sligo at its last meeting unanimously confirmed a resolution granting the full retiring allowance of £13 6s. 8d. a year to Dr. John Laird, who recently resigned his position as consulting sanitary officer of the borough.

At the last meeting of the Castlederg Board of Guardians a resolution was passed that a superannuation allowance of £116 16s. 11d. be granted Dr. Thomas Leary, who for over fifty-one years was medical officer of Castlederg Workhouse.

## England and Wales.

[FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENTS.]

### MANCHESTER AND DISTRICT.

#### THE MANCHESTER ROYAL INFIRMARY.

The annual report presented to the trustees of the Manchester Royal Infirmary at a meeting on February 13th showed that during the last year the number of patients treated was 68,781, of whom 9,049 were in-patients. The daily average number of beds occupied was 460, and the average stay of the patients was 18.57 days. The finances of the institution are still a cause of some concern, as the ordinary income of the infirmary itself was only £34,787 against an expenditure of £37,914, while the income of the Barnes Convalescent Home was only £3,213 against an expenditure of £5,557. There was thus a total deficit of £5,471 on the year. What makes the matter even worse is that the ordinary voluntary income last year only amounted to £15,320, the remainder of the income being derived from investments, patients' contributions, the absorption of all available legacies and by encroachment on the capital, and the report rightly states that "when the immense volume of business and wealth of Manchester is considered, £15,320 does not seem to be an adequate sum to be allotted to the maintenance of Manchester's premier charity." In moving the adoption of the report, the chairman of the board, Sir William Cobbett, called attention to the special appeal which is being made for funds for the building and equipment of the new central branch for accidents and out-patients. The cost of this branch will be about £25,000, and the subscriptions received up to the present amount to £18,701, which still leaves over £6,000 to be raised before the branch can be opened free from debt. The chairman also referred to the recent decision of the board to open a new surgical unit at the infirmary. This will entail an additional expenditure of £3,000 a year, and, in view of the general financial position, the board had only decided to undertake this great further responsibility because of the urgent appeals from a large number of patients waiting for admission. He earnestly hoped that additional subscriptions would be received so that their finances could be placed in a more satisfactory position than they had been for some time past. Dean Welldon also took the opportunity of expressing the hope that the courageous action of the board in opening the new surgical unit would meet with a generous response from the public.

#### EXPLOSIONS IN MINES.

A popular lecture was given on February 9th at the Manchester University by Professor H. B. Dixon on explosions in mines. Professor Dixon is professor of chemistry at the university and a member of the Home Office Committee on Mine Explosions, and has for some time been engaged in conducting experiments on a large scale at the specially equipped dépôt at Eskmeals. He said that a study of the great explosions of late years had shown that while firedamp might often be the initial cause of an explosion, the main cause of the violence was the ignition of the coal dust which was thrown up in vast clouds in the mine. Experiments had shown that a mixture of coal dust and various inert and incombustible dusts in equal proportions by weight could not be ignited even by such a flame as was produced by firing a charge