

England and Wales.

NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE.

BANQUET AND PRESENTATION TO PROFESSOR RUTHERFORD MORISON.

PROFESSOR RUTHERFORD MORISON'S retirement from active duty at the Royal Victoria Infirmary was on May 6th made the occasion of entertaining him at a dinner in Tilley's Rooms, when his colleagues and the past and present students of the University of Durham College of Medicine presented him with a silver tray and chiming clock. Mr. Albert M. Martin, Senior Surgeon to the Royal Victoria Infirmary, and Chairman of the Medical Board, was in the chair, and altogether 130 sat down to dinner. This is the third retirement within the last eighteen months of a member of the honorary staff of the institution. It seems but yesterday that we chronicled the retirement of Professor Drummond and Sir Thomas Oliver, both of whom fortunately are, like Professor Morison, still discharging the active duties of their profession.

To Mr. W. G. Richardson fell the honour of proposing the health of "The Guest of the Evening," and of making the presentation. Mr. Richardson's speech gave pleasure to all who heard it. A truer portrait of Mr. Morison could not have been painted. Of all present no one knew the guest of the evening better, for Mr. Richardson had been assistant to Mr. Morison when he was in general practice in Hartlepool. Mr. Richardson's reminiscences of the time spent there with his chief were not less interestingly told than they were highly appreciated. He said that, although Mr. Rutherford Morison held the office of physician to the Hartlepool Infirmary, he, of all his colleagues at that period, performed the largest number of operations. Mr. Rutherford Morison's attitude towards work contained a lesson for all. It was, he used to say, useless to spend time in regrets; what was required of all medical men was that they should examine their patients carefully and come to the best conclusion they could as to the best treatment, and if this had been done regrets were a waste of time. Professor Rutherford Morison had had a successful career as a teacher. He was now imparting information he himself had gathered. The large attendances at the classes on Friday mornings in the infirmary were evidence of the appreciation by the students of these demonstrations. Articles of great professional value had been contributed to the medical press by Professor Morison, and although his book on surgery was small in size, yet within its covers was contained information admitted by critics to be of the highest value. All felt that Mr. Morison's retirement from the infirmary on the age limit was a serious loss. It was, however, fortunate that as he retained the Professorship of Surgery in the College of Medicine students would still have the opportunity of coming under the influence of his teaching.

On rising to acknowledge the toast and thank subscribers for the gifts, Professor Morison was very heartily received. He gave a short account of his clerkship in the wards of the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary under the late Lord Lister. He spoke of the position of antiseptic surgery in the early Seventies and of the contrast presented to the observation of students by cases treated in the same hospital with and without antiseptics. After his graduation at Edinburgh University circumstances, he said, took him to Hartlepool, which he left in 1888 to become assistant surgeon to the Newcastle Royal Infirmary. At that date no beds were allotted to assistant surgeons, nor had they many opportunities of operating. There was only one day in the week (Tuesday) set aside for all operations by the members of the full staff. Each surgeon was in attendance and took his turn according to seniority. At this period, practically speaking, the only abdominal operations were ovariectomies. Nothing was done surgically for appendicitis, ruptured gastric ulcer, and ectopic gestation. Ovariectomy was then even a great event, and yet, notwithstanding all the preliminary preparations of the theatre for such an operation, 50 per cent. of the patients died. It was satisfactory to know that, taking all abdominal operations of varying severity into consideration, the mortality to-day was just over 6 per cent. Not

only, Professor Morison continued, had he no beds as an assistant surgeon, but he had few opportunities of operating. Nevertheless he commenced teaching, and established a Friday morning class, which was continued until his active connexion with the infirmary terminated. He had also, he recalled, started the first classes for the instruction of nurses in the infirmary. He claimed for surgery, both from the profession and the public, that recognition which was her due. Amusingly he alluded to the precedence which surgery was taking over medicine. To medicine was still assigned the foremost place in social functions, but there, he thought, the precedence ended.

Dr. G. H. Hume proposed the toast of "The Past and Present Students of the University of Durham College of Medicine," to which Dr. Wm. Martin responded. Dr. Mantle, of Harrogate, gave "The University of Durham," which was acknowledged by Sir George Hare Philipson; while in a few happy sentences the health of the Chairman was proposed by Mr. C. N. Gover and suitably acknowledged.

SHEFFIELD.

RADIUM FUND.

The Therapeutic Value of Radium.

At a meeting in the Town Hall, presided over by the Lord Mayor of Sheffield, on May 7th, Mr. Sinclair White, the chairman of the committee appointed by the honorary staffs of the Sheffield voluntary hospitals, said that the appeal made two months ago for a fund of £10,000 for the provision of radium had resulted in subscriptions amounting to £8,000. In making the appeal, the Medical Committee had made it clear that it did not ask for money that would otherwise have flowed into the exchequers of the voluntary hospitals, all of which were heavily in debt and had great difficulty in keeping their doors open. The committee had also made it clear that it was not possible to give the assurance which some people seem to think necessary, that radium was a specific cure for cancer. Evidence was accumulating to show that radium was a very valuable method of treating cancer, but while there were an increasing number of cases which apparently had been cured by the application of radium, the time had not yet arrived when it could be said definitely that such promising cases were actually cures. Cancer sometimes lay dormant for years and then broke out afresh, and so until a number of years had elapsed, and these cases of apparent cure had been established as cures, it would be a very unwise thing—indeed, it would be cruel—to tell the public that radium was a specific cure for cancer. All that could definitely be said of radium in regard to cancer at present was that it appeared to have a specific action on the cancer cells. While it was definitely hoped eventually to certify certain cases as cured, it was already proved in a much larger number of cases that radium, without actually producing a cure, did very materially retard the growth and ameliorate the pain and the other horrible accompaniments of malignant disease. Even if the hope that radium would definitely cure cancer had eventually to be abandoned, there would remain a very large volume of evidence proving that radium was of great value in mitigating the suffering of cancerous patients. Were that alone all that it proved capable of doing, it would be a very valuable boon; far more valuable than anything hitherto discovered. Sheffield should take its part in carrying out experiments with a view to determining the extent to which radium was a cure for this disease. Sheffield had a large number of hospital beds, and a university with very efficient workers, and might very well claim to take part in the investigations which were being carried out as to the effects of radium on cancer. To be of value radium must be given in large doses, and it was necessary to have a large sum of money so that a sufficient supply could be purchased. In order to ascertain what steps should be taken to procure radium, and also to study the methods of administering it, visits had been paid to London and Manchester.

On the motion of the Lord Mayor, a committee was appointed consisting of the Lord Mayor, the Master Cutler, the Vice-Chancellor of the University, the Professor of Physics at the University, the three gentlemen who each subscribed £1,000 to the fund—namely, Sir Frank Mappin, Mr. Wilson Mappin, and Mr. Denys Hague—three

medical and three lay representatives of the Royal Infirmary, two medical and two lay representatives of the Royal Hospital, and one medical and one lay representative each from the Jessop Hospital and the Children's Hospital, the committee having power to co-opt three additional members if and when they deem it desirable. Mr. W. H. Barnes, secretary of the Royal Infirmary, was appointed temporary secretary of the committee.

The following motion, moved by Dr. George Wilkinson and seconded by Dr. W. S. Porter, was carried:

That the Radium Committee employ the money subscribed and all future donations and legacies to the fund, to provide and distribute radium and other substances calculated to benefit patients suffering from the malignant diseases; and further, that while the infirmary and hospitals shall have the primary claims, the committee shall, as far as possible, offer facilities for the loan of radium to other than hospital patients, on terms decided on by the committee; the money received in this way to be devoted to the purposes of the fund.

Mr. Sinclair White said that inquiries had been made as to the price at which radium could be obtained. The prices mentioned at first were from £20 to £24 a milligram, but subsequently a tender had been received from Geneva at £14 a milligram. The authorities of the Radium Institute and Sir Ernest Rutherford, of Manchester, had been consulted, and had advised that the Geneva tender was advantageous, and he concluded by moving that the Lord Mayor, as treasurer of the fund, be empowered to buy 500 mg. at the price mentioned. This would absorb about £7,000, leaving in hand money to buy more radium or provide apparatus and a place for housing it. The motion was carried, and the Lord Mayor, in responding to a vote of thanks, said that all the credit was due to Mr. Sinclair White and the medical men working with him.

WALES.

THE MEDICAL SCHOOL OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WALES. THE conditions imposed by the anonymous donor of £70,000 to the Medical School of the University of Wales were accepted by the Council of the University College of South Wales and Monmouthshire at its last meeting. Of these conditions the most important is that the grant which the Chancellor of the Exchequer promised would be made by the Treasury shall be adequate for a first-rate medical school, and large enough to be considered a sufficient contribution from the State towards the maintenance, administration, and departmental expenses. In deciding whether the grant is adequate the Council will take the opinion of Sir William Osler, Regius Professor of Medicine at Oxford. Another condition imposed is that the sum of £2,000 promised by the County Council shall be forthcoming, and the third that a public health department shall be included in the school of preventive medicine which is to be formed, and for which buildings are to be erected on a site granted by the college authorities. It is particularly satisfactory to find the last condition made, for there is a very great risk at the present day of the divorce of research in preventive medicine from administration. It is hardly too much to say that in such a centre as Cardiff, the influence of which extends over the greater part of South Wales, the materials for research are supplied in the course of administration, or at least it may be asserted without fear of contradiction that many of the problems which have to be solved by research arise out of difficulties presented by actual occurrences in the life of a community. In some other great centres of industry in this island the work of the public health department is done under the direction of university professors, much to the advantage, not only of those engaged in research, but also of medical students and post-graduates.

LONDON.

LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL.

Medical Aspects of the Education Estimates.

THE London County Council on May 12th considered the education estimates for 1914-15, amounting to a total of £5,184,545, of which more than half was in respect of teachers' salaries. The Education Committee estimated

that a decline experienced last year in the number of school meals required for necessitous children would continue. Nevertheless provision must be made for 8,200,000 meals, and an additional 225,000 for children whose parents would reimburse the Council. The total cost would be £70,690, less about £3,000 repaid by parents or Poor Law authorities. The present position of medical treatment arrangements was that 22,480 eye cases, 16,020 ear, nose, and throat cases, and 2,290 ringworm cases were receiving attention at a cost of £11,250. It was not anticipated that any further provision would be required during the year, except possibly for ringworm, and an estimate of £12,000 had been put down. There were at present nineteen centres in London providing dental treatment for some 33,000 children annually at a cost of £8,200. Attention was confined to children of 6, 7, and 8 years of age, as it was considered that this age group was the most suitable for conservative treatment. Experience had shown that approximately 78 per cent. of the children of the ages mentioned required dental treatment. On this basis the total number in London requiring attention would be about 180,000, and assuming that 50 per cent. of these would avail themselves of facilities provided by the Council, arrangements should be made eventually for 90,000 children. It had been found of great advantage to proceed with the provision of dental treatment gradually (on account of the prejudice of parents), but the Education Committee considered that the rate at which the facilities were increased might now be accelerated. The estimate for dental treatment had been increased by nearly £4,000 to £12,000, the intention being to have 60,000 children under treatment by the end of the current financial year. Nursing treatment was provided for 12,980 children at a cost of £3,186. An estimate of £4,000 for the ensuing year would enable provision to be made for ten additional nursing centres. The cleansing of school children cost £8,045; it was expected that 40,000 cleansings would be necessary. The Education Committee noted an increase of £9,755, or 22 per cent., in the item of salaries in the public health department; this was due mainly to the reorganization of the school medical service. The total expenditure upon all forms of medical, nursing, and dental treatment (including administrative expenses) was estimated at £47,665, while in addition medical inspection was estimated to cost £42,445. The maintenance of open air schools would cost £5,240, and of special schools, £193,450, an increase of £11,855 upon the figures for last year. The total was made up as follows: Schools for the blind, £15,470; for the deaf, £23,910; for the mentally defective, £85,650; for the physically defective, £65,385; and for epileptics, £3,035.

Scotland.

[FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENTS.]

THE TEACHING OF MIDWIFERY IN SCOTLAND.

THE annual meeting of the Edinburgh Royal Maternity and Simpson Memorial Hospital was held on May 6th in the City Chambers. On account of domestic bereavement, Lord Provost Inches was unable to preside, and his place was taken by Mr. J. R. Middleton, the Chairman of the Board of Directors, and a minute of sympathy with the Lord Provost was passed. In moving the adoption of the annual report and accounts, Mr. Middleton stated that whilst this was the sixty-ninth annual report, the institution itself went much further back, having its origin one hundred and twenty years ago, when Dr. Alexander Hamilton, in the interests of the city, first proposed the foundation of a lying-in hospital. It had been in many homes on many sites, including Park Place, St. John Street, Milton House, Minto House, George Watson's Hospital, St. John Street again, and finally, since 1879, in the present building in Lauriston Place. A long list of eminent men had shed lustre on the institution, and their achievements in the realm of science had made the hospital ever their debtor. Any institution had every reason to be proud of its record that had counted among its staff men like Alexander and James Hamilton, father and son; John Moir, the beloved physician, so long a picturesque figure in Edinburgh; Sir James Young