

THE NEW BUILDING OF THE VICTORIAN BRANCH.

The accommodation of the Victorian Branch of the British Medical Association in Melbourne has long been out of date, antiquated, and wholly insufficient for its purpose. The urgent need of new premises has been insisted upon by many past presidents and councils, and, with the war a thing of the past, it has at last been found possible to take action. After a long survey of possible sites it has been decided to rebuild on the present site. The old one-storied building has been demolished, and a new two-storied structure is now in course of erection. Dr. J. W. Dunbar Hooper laid the foundation stone of the new building immediately after the presentation to Sir George Syme. The new building, when completed, will provide adequate accommodation for the library, the Council and its committees, and the monthly scientific meetings of the Branch. Provision has also been made for the addition of a third story when required. After the new premises have been completed the war memorial of the Branch, temporarily housed in the anatomy department of the University, will be transferred to its proper quarters, and will there form a permanent and beautiful tribute to the memory of those members of the Branch who laid down their lives for King and country.

THE MEDICAL SCHOOL OF THE UNIVERSITY.

The year 1924 has seen many changes in the medical school of the University. The magnificent department of anatomy, opened some fifteen months ago by the late Sir William Macewen during his visit on behalf of the British Medical Association, has been in permanent occupation for the whole of the last academic year, and has given the greatest satisfaction to all concerned. The evacuation of the old anatomy department has enabled the medical school library to be transferred to larger and more suitable quarters, and has also given much needed relief to the departments of biochemistry and pathology.

DEAN OF THE FACULTY OF MEDICINE.

The serious and, it is feared, permanent breakdown in health of the professor of pathology and dean of the Faculty of Medicine, Sir Harry Allen, has been universally regretted, the more so on account of his long and honourable association with the medical school of the University. As it no longer appears to be possible to hope for his return to duty, the University Council has been compelled to take steps to appoint a new professor of pathology. The Faculty of Medicine has elected Professor R. J. A. Berry dean of the faculty.

THE HOSPITAL SITE.

It has long been felt that the complete topographical separation of the medical school of the University from the clinical hospitals is not only anomalous, but detrimental to medical education, research, and the profession generally. An ideal site for hospital and medical school, known locally as the market site, of about fifteen acres, exists immediately west of the University, but the short-lived Labour Government of Victoria allocated this valuable site to the State Education Department, and did so without making any provision for Melbourne's most pressing necessity—additional hospital accommodation. In the new Government a medical man is now Chief Secretary of State, and his action in the matter is being awaited with considerable interest.

England and Wales.

WELSH NATIONAL MEDICAL SCHOOL.

We have referred on several previous occasions to the proposal to separate the Welsh National Medical School in Cardiff from the South Wales and Monmouthshire University College. A crisis appears to be developing now, and Cardiff is threatening to withdraw from the University of Wales and establish a university of its own. Since the establishment of the University of Wales in 1893, the University has retained some degree of central control over matters of finance and policy relating to its constituent colleges at Cardiff, Aberystwyth, and Bangor, and now at

Swansea. Special departments for agriculture exist at Aberystwyth and Bangor; Aberystwyth also has a law department, Swansea a school of metallurgy, and Cardiff its medical school. The recommendation of the Royal Commission of 1918, over which Lord Haldane presided, and to which we referred in our issue of July 19th, 1924 (p. 126), was based on a serious reason for separation. The college at Cardiff had applied to the Treasury for a substantial increase in its annual grant, and the Treasury, apprehending that such a grant would be taken as a precedent by other colleges, declared that it could not make a grant to a medical school belonging to a single college, though it might do so in the case of a national medical school. This ground for separation was shortly afterwards cut away when the Government decided to make additional grants to the universities and colleges of England and Wales on a new and purely arithmetical principle—according them in the form of "pound for pound" equivalents to such additional local grants as the several institutions might obtain. The grants to the University of Wales and its colleges were pooled, and the delicate task of dividing them among particular institutions was transferred to a local body. The question of a special grant from the Treasury to the Cardiff medical school therefore lapsed, and Sir Isambard Owen, late senior deputy chancellor of the University of Wales, in a statement published in the *Western Mail* of January 9th, takes the view that the commissioners' recommendation on the subject may be considered to have lapsed simultaneously. At the present moment the proposed new charter of the college at Cardiff is being considered by the Privy Council; this charter would provide for the medical school remaining a constituent part of the college. Dr. J. G. Adami (Vice-Chancellor of Liverpool University) contributed to the *Western Mail* of January 8th an article setting out the case for opposing the suggestion to make the Welsh National School of Medicine an institution independent of the University College at Cardiff, and cites the precedents of such medical schools as those of Manchester, Liverpool, and Leeds in England, the twelve medical schools of London, the Montreal School of Medicine in Canada, and the medical schools of Sydney, Melbourne, and Brisbane in Australia. Sir Isambard Owen contends that the college at Cardiff originally established the medical school and provided for its needs. He believes that the more closely the management of any school of medicine is connected with the immediate locality in which it is situated the better its general progress, since a school of medicine is dependent for its very existence upon its relations with local authorities. The financial side of the question has a serious bearing on the issue, for should Cardiff eventually secede from the federal university, out of the £54,000 yielded by a penny rate from the whole of Wales in support of the University, over £33,000 is contributed by Glamorgan, Monmouthshire, Brecon, and the county boroughs of Cardiff, Newport, and Merthyr. One story is good until another is told. As we have on previous occasions pointed out, there is a strong body of opinion in favour of making the Welsh Medical School a national medical school with its headquarters at Cardiff, but directly related to the University of Wales.

Ireland.

PROFESSOR PURSER'S GIFT.

PROFESSOR JOHN MALLET PURSER has made a gift of £10,000 to be administered for the benefit of the School of Physic and the Schools of Experimental and Natural Science of the University of Dublin by a committee consisting of the heads of three of the scientific departments of the college. The Board of Trinity College, in gratefully accepting his most generous donation, has expressed to Professor Purser its desire that he should associate himself with the committee in the administration of his gift, and Professor Purser has consented. His connexion with the teaching staff of Trinity College dates from 1874, when he was appointed King's Professor of the Institutes of