

treatment centres. Such measures have obviously a considerable social bearing. Nevertheless, the Government believes that still more is necessary, and that the special measures enacted in 1926 and 1927 must be re-enforced on the following lines. Recognized medical practitioners will now, as before, be empowered to prescribe at the expense of the State such specific treatment as is necessary to ensure the curing of infective lesions; hospital consultations are to be re-established; post-graduate courses in syphilography will be organized in the universities for final year students, and only those practitioners who possess certificates issued at the end of such courses will be permitted to benefit by the free supply of specific remedies.

An International Pharmacopoeia.

The Belgian Government has approached the Council of the League of Nations with reference to the second International Conference for the Unification of the Descriptions of Drugs, which was held at Brussels in September, 1925. It was proposed to establish an international organization to bring about unification of the national pharmacopoeias, and to set up certain special commissions. The Belgian Government has informed the general secretary of the League of Nations that the international agreement elaborated at the conference has now been ratified by a sufficient number of countries, and the view of the League of Nations is sought with regard to the creation of the contemplated international organizations.

Prophylaxis Against Tuberculosis in the Congo.

Legislative steps have been taken in order to deal with the increase of tuberculosis in the Belgian Congo. It has now been enacted that no one of foreign derivation may enter the Belgian Congo to live there unless he possesses a duly legalized medical certificate, signed by a registered practitioner in the country in which he is living, or in the country where he last lived, and certifying that he has no sign of open tuberculosis. Any person not of Congo descent who is living in that country and is found to be infected with open tuberculosis will be required to leave the territory within six months after the diagnosis has been established.

The Proposed Flemish Academy.

A very important debate was held at the Academy of Medicine on the proposal to create a Flemish academy of medicine, science, and fine arts. Professor Bordet made a strong speech on the danger innate in such a proposition. It was evident, he said, that the adoption of a measure of this kind would bring about a serious cleavage between men imbued by a like culture and ideal; they desired, on the contrary, to co-ordinate their work, maintaining the closest mutual relations in order to serve that still higher interest which was common to humanity—namely, the scientific interest. Belgian men of science refused to believe that they would be asked to accept this great dissociation, which would drive them to forget all that united them and concentrate on what might divide them. The academies were justly proud of having been, and of being, in the intellectual sense, the representatives of the whole of Belgium, one and indivisible. It was evident that the language question was of the first importance in matters relating to purely literary interests, but, in the case of science the position was wholly different. For the scientist languages were the means of propagating discoveries; he had no wish to confuse himself with the separating of mankind into different nationalities. Most scientists in the course of their work had to make use of foreign languages, such as English or German, and liberty in this respect was an absolute necessity for science. It was absurd to decree the use on all occasions of one particular language for discussions or scientific writings. To impose such a blind restriction based on linguistic rivalries and national aversions was an offence to science itself; it amounted to a complete misconception of what constituted the real dignity of science. The self-sacrificing devotion of scientists was based on the human and international nature of science, the part it played in drawing together civilized peoples, its task of linking men together in sincere co-operation to

make life more peaceful and more pleasant, and thus to quiet those racial antagonisms which had caused so much evil and were still so often to be discerned. The text of Professor Bordet's speech, and the account of the discussion which followed, have been forwarded to the Government by the unanimous desire of the Academy, special attention being called to some of the considerations which were put forward in the course of the meeting.

Scotland.

The Prince of Wales's Visit to Edinburgh Royal Infirmary.

ON June 12th the Prince of Wales paid a visit to the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, with the object of commending to the public the appeal made by the managers in connexion with the bicentenary of the institution. The Prince proceeded first to the George and Agnes Murray Home at Gilmerton. This institution, completed in the spring of the present year at a cost of £22,000, has been established as a convalescent home in connexion with the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh, and is especially intended for invalid British soldiers and sailors. Lord Provost Whitson mentioned that the home would accommodate twenty convalescents. It had been provided out of funds left by the late Miss Helen Murray, and was designed to give the maximum amount of sunlight to all rooms at the time of day when they were in use. In declaring the home open the Prince remarked that he was proud to be associated at any time with an institution that could benefit ex-service men; he shook hands with the fifteen convalescent soldiers who are already in residence. Proceeding to the Royal Infirmary, the Prince was received there by the superintendent, Dr. G. St. Clair Thom, Mr. Henry Maw, secretary and treasurer, Miss Bladon, superintendent of nurses, and a number of the managers and honorary staff. After visiting a male surgical ward and a female medical ward, his Royal Highness planted a tree on the lawn between Wards 31 and 34 at the south side of the Infirmary to commemorate his visit. A tour of inspection was then made of the radiological department, where His Royal Highness showed special interest in an x-ray film illustrating the case of a man who had swallowed a safety razor which lodged in his stomach. He was also interested in the arrangements made for the radium received from the Radium Commission, which is stored in a special lead safe weighing three tons. Before leaving the institution the Prince visited the residency, where he signed his name on the dining-table that bears the names of all the residents who have passed through the institution since 1879, as well as those of distinguished visitors, including the King and Queen. He was presented by Dr. A. Logan Turner with a copy of his book dealing with the history of the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh. After a visit to the National War Memorial in Edinburgh Castle the Prince was entertained to lunch in the City Chambers. Here the Lord Provost proposed his health as Duke of Rothesay, Steward of Scotland. The Lord Provost remarked that the visit had been made on account of the celebration of the bicentenary of the Royal Infirmary, which had begun in a small house with six beds at Robertson's Close in 1729. The Infirmary had grown greatly since that time; its patients came from a very wide area, including the Hebrides, Orkney, and Shetland, a large part of the north and east of Scotland, and the area immediately round the Lothians and southern border. The visit of His Royal Highness would draw attention to the need for extension in view of the long waiting list, the requirements of the nursing staff, and other matters. The sum required for this purpose would be at least £500,000. The Prince, in reply, remarked that the Edinburgh Infirmary was the largest voluntarily supported hospital in Great Britain, and he would be very happy if his visit helped to draw attention to its needs and to the appeal which was about to be made. He sincerely hoped that the funds required for the extension would be obtained.

Care of the Blind in Scotland.

The annual conference of the Scottish National Federation of Institutions and Societies for the Blind was held in Perth on June 12th and 13th, and was attended by about eighty delegates. A civic welcome was accorded to the federation by Lord Provost Dempster, who referred to the beneficent work carried on by the various institutions and societies affiliated to the federation, especially in providing blind persons with the means of working and earning something to maintain their spirit of independence. Parliament was now rightly providing pensions for the blind, and had conferred powers on local authorities to promote their welfare, but the need for these societies was as great as ever in order to supply the personal and human touch. An address was delivered by Colonel Robert Forbes, Government inspector, on the training of the blind. He stated that in recent years, as the result of the advance of medical preventive and remedial measures, the number of blind children had shown a very marked decline. In the past the tendency in training had been to overlook the fact that the psychological outlook of the person born blind was entirely different from that of a person who had a conception of a visible world. It was a debated question whether the blind child should be educated in a day class or whether he should reside and be taught in an institution reserved for the blind. In either case there was an absolute necessity to detect as early as possible any particular aptitude or ability, and to develop any special bent.

Glasgow Radium Institute.

The Glasgow and West of Scotland Radium Institute at Garnethill was formally opened on June 10th by Principal R. S. Rait of Glasgow University, under the chairmanship of Sir John M. Macleod, who expressed regret at the absence of Sir George T. Beatson, to whose vision, wisdom, and patience, he said, the hospital owed its present position. Principal Rait, in declaring the institute open, referred to the great excitement caused about the year 1898 by the discovery first of x rays and then of radium. He mentioned that before the war radium cost about £36,000 for one gram, but, unlike other commodities, the price had fallen since the war owing to the discovery of deposits on the Congo; one gram could now be obtained for about £12,000. He quoted a statement that radium could undoubtedly remove cancerous growths without injury to the surrounding healthy tissue, and thought that this represented an enormous advance in the alleviation of human suffering. It justified the spending of a large amount of money in procuring radium, and also in training people in its use. The practical application of the properties of radium required the most delicate and sustained study; this was not understood by many people. As the result of the munificent gift of Lady Burrell it had been possible to establish this radium institute; those in charge of the cancer hospital did not intend to confine the radium to the use of the hospital itself, but to share it with other hospitals. An important scheme of a radium institute with a radium officer, beds for patients, and a staff of trained nurses had been formulated, and it was a matter for pride that this had been done before the Government scheme was elaborated by the National Radium Commission. There was still room, however, for the operation of such an independent foundation, and the Commission admitted that the work in Glasgow was in no way antagonistic, but that the two undertakings could co-operate. The Duchess of Montrose afterwards performed the opening ceremony of the nurses' home at the institute, and mentioned, as an example of the increased work of the Glasgow Cancer Hospital, that about thirty-four years ago, when the first extension to the hospital was opened, about eighty or ninety patients were treated annually in the wards, whereas last year the figure was 479.

New Edinburgh Medical Officer of Health.

At a meeting of the town council of Edinburgh on June 10th, Dr. John Guy was elected medical officer of health for the city in succession to Dr. William Robertson, retired. After some discussion it had been resolved to advertise the post, and twenty-one applications were received. The two names finally submitted to the town

council were those of Dr. Guy and Dr. William George Clark, at present senior assistant to the medical officer of health, Glasgow. On a division Dr. Guy received 41 votes and Dr. Clark 21. Dr. Guy, prior to his appointment, acted for several years as deputy medical officer of health for Edinburgh, and was tuberculosis officer for the city. He graduated M.B., C.M. at Glasgow in 1884, proceeded M.D. in 1900, and received the diploma in public health from Cambridge University in 1889. He became a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh in 1917. After holding the posts of county tuberculosis officer in Gloucester and medical superintendent of the Bridge of Weir Sanatorium, he went to Edinburgh about sixteen years ago as tuberculosis officer. He has contributed to numerous periodicals dealing especially with the treatment and administrative control of tuberculosis.

Edinburgh Hospital for Crippled Children.

A garden fête in aid of the Edinburgh Hospital for Crippled Children was held on May 31st at Craigiehall, Cramond Bridge, near Edinburgh. Sir David Wallace occupied the chair, and the fête was opened by Lady Rosebery, who remarked that although several hospitals existed in England for the treatment and cure of crippled children, no provision of this nature had so far been made in Scotland. The general infirmaries and children's hospitals were often unable to keep such children for a sufficient time, and their home conditions were very often such that a relapse was almost inevitable. The hospital soon to be completed near Edinburgh would specialize in these cases, and would provide educational and gymnastic facilities during the long period that it would be necessary to keep these children. The hospital would have seventy-five beds to start with, but provision was being made for another seventy-five beds, and although the bulk of the money required for the hospital had been received a great deal would be necessary for its extension. The sum raised by the fête amounted to over £900.

Measles Epidemic in Edinburgh.

A severe epidemic of measles has recently occurred in Edinburgh. The disease has been generally spread over the city; during the fortnight ended June 7th, 1,041 cases were notified, with twenty-one deaths. Since March of this year there have been approximately 8,000 cases, involving about 4,000 families.

England and Wales.**Sir William Morris's Gift to Oxford.**

THE munificent gift to the University and city of Oxford made recently by Sir William Morris was gratefully accepted for the University in a unanimous vote in congregation on Tuesday, June 10th. This gift—as wise in conception as it will be far-reaching in its consequences—consists of a large area of land adjoining the Radcliffe Infirmary, known as the Observatory site, and the Observatory and other buildings on the site which have been purchased by Sir William Morris. It is to be administered by trustees, the land being for the use of the hospital, and the existing buildings for the purposes of the School of Medicine. To the Radcliffe Infirmary the possession of this land will be an inestimable boon. It solves a problem which had recently become one of great urgency, and of the utmost anxiety to the hospital, shut in as it is on a comparatively narrow strip of ground between Somerville College and the Observatory grounds; for the hospital now serves the greater part of the three counties of Berks, Bucks, and Oxon, as well as the city and neighbourhood, and the need for new wards and other extensions had become extreme. But there was nowhere to put them, with adequate regard to modern hospital requirements and future needs, short of moving the whole hospital to an entirely new site in the suburbs—a plan which had been under serious consideration. The Observatory ground will meet all possible needs for very many years to come, and practically in perpetuity. Its possession, together with that of the Observatory buildings