

8th, 1907. I did not enter on my duties at the Cossham Hospital until June 1st, and therefore I have never held the appointment contrary to the wish of the General Hospital Committee. During the whole course of the discussion on this matter at the General Hospital members of the Committee have shown me the utmost courtesy, and therefore I should much regret if it should appear that I had been acting in open defiance of them.

West Yorkshire.

THE BRADFORD CITY HEALTH COMMITTEE.

The Chairman of this Committee in an address delivered in Bradford on September 26th gave an outline of the work accomplished during the last three years. Altogether forty-one inspectors of various kinds had been engaged, and the inspection of food and milk was much more thorough than it had been for many years. The total cost of the Committee's work to the rates was 4½d. in the pound, of which 2½d. was for hospitals. Bradford was still sixth on the list of large towns in regard to overcrowding, and there were still in the town 300 or 400 cellar dwellings.

The Health Committee, through their municipal milk dépôt, had tried to reduce the infantile mortality, which in the Exchange Ward was 265 per 1,000. In the four worst wards of the city the infantile mortality averaged 213, but in the four best wards it was only 119. This enormous sacrifice of life was mainly due to poverty and uncleanness—especially uncleanness in the milk supply.

BRADFORD POLICE SURGEONS.

The Watch Committee of the Bradford Corporation made their final selections for the posts of Chief Police Surgeons and Divisional and Subdivisional Police Surgeons at a meeting held on September 27th as follows:

Chief Police Surgeonship: William Wragham, M.D. Lond.
Division A.: Richard Bladworth, M.B. Edin.
Division B.: A. Gray, M.B. Glasg.
Division C.: R. A. R. Lankester, M.D. Durh.
Division D.: Richard Honeyburne, M.D. Lond.
Division E.: J. A. Hope, M.B. Glasg.
Division F.: A. H. Robinson, M.B. Edin.
Division G.: A. H. Stewart, M.B. Glasg.

It will be remembered that the list of duties and amount and method of remuneration for these appointments were subjected to keen criticism by the medical profession of Bradford some time ago. The Corporation at first refused to make the desired concessions to the profession, and eventually nearly fifty medical men withdrew their applications for the appointments. The Bradford Division was very active in the matter, and eventually the Watch Committee agreed to meet the wishes of the profession and altered the conditions as desired.

Wales.

MERTHYR BOROUGH COUNCIL.

The Merthyr Corporation have for some time been considering the best means of remedying a defect in their Pentwyn reservoir. There was a huge fissure in the bed of the reservoir, originating in a fault and a drop in the strata, and extending under the dam. The Corporation has had shafts sunk in the bed of the reservoir beyond the fault to ascertain whether suitable foundations exist for the erection of a new dam, which would impound water in a much larger area than at present. The foundations having proved satisfactory in the opinion of the borough engineer, the Corporation decided to take the opinion of Mr. G. F. Deacon, who has reported favourably upon the proposal to construct a new dam on a site which has been proved north of the great east and west fault. The outlay involved will probably amount to £200,000, but it was decided to ask Mr. Deacon to prepare an estimate.

ISOLATION HOSPITALS.

The isolation hospital built at Blackmill to serve the Ogmores and Garw Urban District was opened recently by Colonel Henry Lewis, Chairman of the Sanitary Committee of the Glamorgan County Council, who observed that the hospital occupied a good position, with good roads

from all parts of the district, except Gillsach Goch. It was said that there was a certain amount of prejudice against the use of these hospitals, but that would doubtless disappear as soon as people realized how very much better the accommodation and treatment were at these hospitals than they could ever hope to have at their homes. After the company had inspected the hospital, Dr. D. J. Thomas, C.C., Medical Officer of Health, proposed a vote of thanks to Colonel Lewis and Dr. W. Williams, County Medical Officer, and the other visitors for their presence; this was carried with acclamation. Colonel Lewis, responding, said that when the Glamorgan County Council came into existence there were only a few isolation hospitals in the county, and those were of a temporary character, affording accommodation for less than 100 patients. As soon as the Isolation Hospitals Act, 1893, enabling county councils to compel district authorities to provide such hospitals, was passed, the county council set to work, and now there were seventeen isolation hospitals of a permanent character in the county, with accommodation for 500 patients. Only two districts in the county were unprovided. In addition, there were fourteen hospitals for the treatment of small-pox. He had it on the authority of the Local Government Board that Glamorgan was the premier county in England and Wales as regards isolation hospitals. Dr. W. Williams, County Medical Officer, also responded, and said that only a little firmness on the part of the medical practitioners of the district was needed to get the public to use these buildings; he eulogized the work of Alderman W. Llewelyn, as Chairman of the Local Government Committee of the County Council, and that of Dr. D. J. Thomas, as a member of the Sanitary Committee. The most important matter the Glamorgan County Council now had in hand was the provision of an adequate and wholesome supply of water for every district in the county, and he hoped they would not rest until they had brought this about. Dr. J. D. Jenkins, Medical Officer of Health to the Rhondda District Council, said that the building was in a splendid position, and he was glad to see that it could be extended if necessary. The Chairman intimated that visitors would be welcomed to the hospital during the ensuing week.

Ireland.

DUBLIN HOSPITALS.

The forty-ninth annual report of the Board of Superintendence of Dublin Hospitals which share in the Parliamentary grant has just been published. These hospitals are the Lock Hospital, Steevens's, the Meath, Cork Street Fever, Richmond, Rotunda, Coombe Lying-in, Royal Victoria Eye and Ear, and the Royal Hospital for Incurables. The Governors state: "In all we found evidence of advancement with the times in their equipment and their supply of modern appliances, while the reputation of the visiting professional staff—a reputation that stands high both in the general and medical world—leaves no room for doubt that all that science is now capable of doing to relieve suffering and cure disease is put at the disposal of the sick poor as fully as is possible under very straitened circumstances." They also commend highly the matrons and the registrars.

The Lock Hospital was found to be in excellent sanitary condition. Steevens's was in most admirable order, and a commodious apartment had been provided for the reception of accident cases on first arrival, and generally the favourable criticism of former reports held good. In the Meath at every turn there were indications of enlightened progress and energy. An admirable nurses' home had been completed. Of Cork Street Fever Hospital there is high commendation. In the case of the Richmond, Whitworth, and Hardwicke, the contrast between the new buildings on the surgical side and the old over on the medical side struck one. But, as at Steevens's, one could not help remarking how well old boards can be made to look when they are properly kept. Undoubtedly the one thing wanted by Dublin hospitals is money. The Board inspected the well-equipped bacteriological laboratory on which the hospital governors have with wisdom laid out a good deal of money. How much has been done! How much remains to do! The Board of Superintendence