

less, unless there is some good guarantee that the health visitors have been properly trained themselves, they may do as much harm as good. We are further told that the greatest tact is used in all cases, but the statement that the visitors notify cases of consumption to the authorities somewhat gives one pause. At the recent International Congress of Hygiene it was generally recognized that the time was not ripe for notification of consumption to be made general. Some time ago the medical men of Manchester stated their objections to such notification, and if the health visitors are going to take on themselves to notify cases which medical men hesitate to notify, and which the visitors are not qualified to diagnose, they may unconsciously do great injury to working families. Such notification ought to be hedged about with every precaution, and one would be inclined to think that for health visitors to notify consumption under any circumstances would be to exceed their duty. There have recently been loud complaints about sanitary inspectors exceeding their duty, and one instance of this was where an inspector notified as suffering from scarlatina a woman who was stated by a medical man to be suffering from influenza.

MANCHESTER PORT SANITARY AUTHORITY.

The reports of the Port Sanitary Authority often afford some interesting facts as to the food supply. We learn that in October 218 vessels were inspected and insanitary conditions found in 85. Over 8 tons of food materials had been condemned and destroyed as unfit for food. This included a large quantity of tinned tomatoes which the medical officer described as the worst he had ever seen. The contents of some of the tins were found to be completely decomposed, in some cases contaminated with lead and tin, while many of the tins had actually been "faked" so as to seem fresh. On the whole, the medical officer thinks that the consignments of tinned foods from America are now more carefully packed than formerly; but still, now and again, consignments of old tins arrive, the contents of which are often unfit for food. It had been discovered that some consignments which had apparently been tampered with had been sent round from London, but the evidence was not sufficient on which to take legal proceedings.

GLASGOW UNIVERSITY CLUB.

The second annual dinner of the Glasgow University Club, Manchester and District, will be held at the Midland Hotel, Manchester, on Tuesday evening, November 26th, at 6 o'clock. If any graduates in the district who may not have received notice will communicate with the Honorary Secretary, Dr. Richmond, 178, Drake Street, Rochdale, he will be pleased to supply them with entrance forms and tickets. Sir James Barr will preside.

Liverpool.

THE ASSOCIATION OF HONORARY MEDICAL OFFICERS OF LIVERPOOL MEDICAL CHARITIES.

DURING the past few months an Association of the Liverpool Medical Charities has been formed for the discussion of matters relating to the policy of the hospitals which in any way may affect the position of the honorary staff. If deemed necessary the Association will take steps to advance or protect the interests of the members and of the profession generally, in their relations to the hospitals. The annual subscription is five shillings, and all honorary medical officers of any Liverpool charities are eligible for membership, subject to election by the Council. The great majority of the members of the hospital staffs have already joined, and it is confidently expected that the few who have not yet become members will do so before long. The next meeting of the Association will be held on Friday next (November 22nd) at 8.30 p.m. in the Medical Institution, when two discussions will take place: (1) On the attendance of members on patients occupying private wards, and (2) on the territorial army scheme as affecting the honorary medical officers of the general hospitals.

ELECTION OF A SURGEON TO THE ROYAL INFIRMARY.

The election of a Surgeon to the Royal Infirmary, in place of Professor Rushton Parker, is fixed to take place on Wednesday. The candidates are Mr. R. A. Bickersteth and Mr. W. T. Thomas, the two surgeons to out-patients.

THE LORD MAYOR.

On November 9th, Dr. Richard Caton, M.D., F.R.C.P., Consulting Physician to the Royal Infirmary, and Emeritus Professor of Physiology in the University of Liverpool, was unanimously elected Lord Mayor. It is nearly a hundred years since the office of Mayor of Liverpool was held by a medical man, and it must rarely happen that a physician of Dr. Caton's academical and professional eminence is elected to such a post. Dr. Caton has been Chairman of the Housing Committee for the past year.

THE MAYOR OF BOOTLE.

The new mayor of Bootle is also a medical practitioner, Mr. James Pearson, Surgeon to the Bootle Borough Hospital, having been unanimously elected to that office.

Bristol.

THE ROYAL INFIRMARY.

THE general practitioners' manifesto, to which reference was made last week, has been sent to the Governors of the Royal Infirmary and published in the local press. It has thus had a wide circulation, and the general impression is that such a document, so universally signed and so clearly defining the opinion of the general practitioners of the city and neighbourhood, must have considerable influence with the Governors. One hundred and seventy-three medical men residing in Bristol and fifty-six living in the neighbourhood have put their names to the manifesto. The staff of the General Hospital were not asked to sign it, though they have on more than one occasion expressed their sympathy with their colleagues at the Royal Infirmary.

The policy of the Committee appears to be one of delay, possibly in the hope that the warmth of feeling on the question will diminish. The meeting of the strangely-constituted Subcommittee that was to have been held on November 5th was postponed. The Committee of the infirmary met on Tuesday for routine business and to make appointments on the resident staff, but not to discuss the main question at issue, as that is relegated to the Subcommittee, or, in other words, the Committee without the staff representatives. This Subcommittee met after the meeting of the Committee, and as the Committee do not meet for another fortnight, no report can be submitted till November 26th, two months after the date when the staff made their emphatic protest against the new rule. Such procrastination is remarkable.

The delay may be accounted for by the fact that the Committee are trying to find a graceful way to give in without loss of dignity, or perhaps of suggesting a compromise. The latter is a vain hope, for the staff, backed by the profession almost to a man (and woman) have no intention of discussing anything but the prohibiting rule. The delay cannot but have a harmful effect on the institution, and the sooner the question is settled the better for all.

Letters continue to appear in the local press, but few of the correspondents seem to grasp the meaning of the rule as proposed. It cannot be too clearly stated that the rule seeks to prohibit the staff from holding any appointment whatever except a professorship or lectureship at a university, college, or school.

West Yorkshire.

WEST RIDING GUARDIANS AND VACCINATION.

SOME time ago the Dewsbury Guardians suggested fees to the public vaccinators which the Local Government Board has stated are below the minimum it is prepared to sanction for that union. The guardians have now adopted a resolution instructing their clerk to prepare contracts with the public vaccinators appointed on the terms agreed upon, and to forward them to the Local Government Board with the intimation that the guardians can not depart from their decision. This inflexible attitude on the part of the guardians is worthy of a better cause, but there is little doubt they will eventually have to unbend.