

and an abstract appears in another column. The report, which is accompanied by a memorandum by Lord Crewe, Secretary of State for the Colonies, deals with a subject frequently mentioned in these columns during the past few years, namely, the organization and administration of the body in question. It is admitted on all sides now that the complete development of the West African colonies, and the vast adjoining Protectorates is bound up, like that of most other typically tropical territories, with the efficiency of the medical arrangements made, or in other words, in this instance with that of the West African Medical Staff, which practically represents the whole professional advice at the disposal of the local authorities. Hitherto the service has managed to attract excellent recruits, but for many reasons it has failed to satisfy them; sanitary progress has, therefore, tended to lag, and as the result of representations made in this JOURNAL and by a memorial from members of the staff itself, the Secretary of State decided last autumn to appoint a committee to consider the complaints made and suggest remedies. The suggestions seem on the whole promising, but we reserve consideration of the matter, as it now stands, until next week.

THE ANNUAL MEETING.

WE are advised that it is desirable that members proposing to attend the Annual Meeting of the British Medical Association in Belfast—and the warning extends to Representatives travelling to the Annual Representative Meeting opening on July 23rd—should at once take steps to engage berths on the cross-Channel steamers and sleeping accommodation in trains. The routes were enumerated in an article published in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL of July 3rd, p. 27. The direct routes for England and Wales are by Liverpool, Fleetwood, Heysham, and Holyhead and Greenore. The shortest sea route is via Stranraer and Larne, leaving a short railway journey from the latter port to Belfast. Another short sea route is via Holyhead and Kingstown, the sea passage being about three hours, while the railway journey from Kingstown to Belfast occupies about the same time. By the Holyhead and Greenore route the sea passage is about four and a half or five hours, while the railway journey from Greenore to Belfast occupies about one and a half hours. We are asked to call the attention of Representatives in the Northern and Midland Divisions to the fact that a train by the route via Fleetwood leaves Manchester (Victoria Station) at 9.10 p.m. on July 22nd, and runs alongside the steamer at Fleetwood. The Representatives travelling by this train and route are advised to book berths at once by letter addressed to Commander Baugh, Marine Superintendent, Fleetwood. Members who have not yet sent in the form issued in the JOURNAL of June 19th, page 1521, July 3rd, advertisement page 9, July 10th, advertisement page 7, and again this week (advertisement page 9) should do so at once if they desire to obtain the railway vouchers entitling them to the special concessions which have been arranged. In the SUPPLEMENT for this week will be found particulars of excursions on Saturday, July 31st, to Carlingford Lough and the Mourne Mountains, to Portrush and the Giant's Causeway, and to Glenariff and the Antrim coast road.

THE University of Geneva has conferred on Lord Lister the honorary degree of Doctor of Medicine. A similar distinction was bestowed at the same time on Professor Haeckel, of Jena, and Madame Curie, of Paris.

Medical Notes in Parliament.

[FROM OUR LOBBY CORRESPONDENT.]

The Experiments on a Bulldog at the Royal Society Conversazione.—Mr. Ellis Griffith asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention had been called to a public experiment performed by Dr. Waller on a bulldog at the *conversazione* of the Royal Society at Burlington House on May 12th last, whereby a leather strap with sharp nails was secured around the dog's neck, his feet being immersed in glass jars containing salts in solution, and the jars being connected by wires with galvanometers; whether, in view of Section 6 of the Cruelty to Animals Act, 1876, which prohibited any exhibition to the general public of experiments on living animals calculated to give pain, he would say whether a licence had been granted to Dr. Waller for the performance of this experiment; whether Burlington House had been registered by the licensee for this purpose under Section 7 of the Cruelty to Animals Act, 1876; and whether any action had been or was being taken in reference to the matter. Mr. Gladstone replied that he had made inquiries. Dr. Waller held no licence for this demonstration, and Burlington House was not registered under Section 7 of the Cruelty to Animals Act, 1876. He understood the dog stood for some time in water, to which sodium chloride had been added, or, in other words, a little common salt. If his hon. friend had ever paddled in the sea he would understand the sensation. The dog—a finely developed bulldog—was neither tied nor muzzled. He wore a leather collar ornamented with brass studs. Had the experiment been painful, the pain no doubt would have been immediately felt by those nearest the dog. There was no sign of this, and he did not propose to take any action. In answer to further questions, he said that the object of the experiment was to show the pulsation of the blood and other interesting matters in the human body. It was absolutely painless. The animal was not drugged, and it was an ordinary demonstration causing not the slightest pain.

Antivivisectionist Processions.—Lord Robert Cecil asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention had been called to the proposed two processions of antivivisectionists; whether he was aware that for the purpose of these processions certain highly provocative banners were prepared; that the organizers of one of the processions had expressed the intention of employing certain roughs from Battersea to keep order; and whether, in view of these facts, he would take steps to prevent the processions taking place. Mr. Walter Guinness asked a similar question, and Mr. Gladstone replied that processions of antivivisectionists had been announced to take place on the 10th and 24th inst., but the police had been assured that provocative banners would not be carried. All necessary arrangements would be made by the police for the preservation of order.

Vivisection.—Mr. Ellis Griffith, who is the promoter of the Dogs Exemption Bill, which is down for the adjourned debate on second reading on July 26th, has introduced another bill, called the Cruelty to Animals Amendment Bill. Its full title is "A Bill to amend the Cruelty to Animals Acts," and it consists of the two following clauses:

1. From and after the passing of this Act any person (being the owner of the dog) who shall have been convicted of cruelty to such dog under section two of the Cruelty to Animals Act, 1849, shall, at the discretion of a court of summary jurisdiction, be deprived of the custody of such dog and shall forfeit all claim to such dog or its value.

2. A court of summary jurisdiction shall, if they deem fit, order any dog of which its owner shall have been deprived under the foregoing section to be handed over to any recognized society for the protection of animals, or any person whom they deem fit to have the charge of such dog, to be kept or destroyed at the discretion of the court, provided that under no circumstances shall any such dog be used for the purpose of vivisection or other experiments.

The two bills with similar titles introduced by Mr. George Greenwood have been dropped, and this new bill has been put down for second reading on July 29th.

The Millbank Typhoid Carriers and their Treatment.—Sir William Collins inquired of the Secretary of State for War on Monday how many of the five supposed typhoid carriers at Millbank, reported on in Paper Cd. 4609, who were undergoing treatment in January-March of this year, were now pronounced to be free from *Bacillus typhosus*; whether these men exhibited any signs of ill-health beyond the excretion of such bacilli; whether the cases treated with general vaccine continued to excrete bacilli many weeks after the vaccination; what results had attended the use of the specific vaccine from which better results were hoped for; and whether cases were recorded in which two years after cured of typhoid these bacilli had been found in excretions? Mr. Haldane replied that only one of the five men was believed to be cured at present. None of these men exhibited any signs of ill-health beyond the excretion of the bacilli. The general vaccine had no effect on the excretion of the bacilli, and the excretion continued until treatment with the specific vaccine was commenced. The specific vaccine had not given any better results than the general vaccine. With regard to the last part of the question, reference to the report contained in Command Paper No. 4609 would show that such cases had been recorded.

Colour Blindness (Board of Trade Test).—Mr. Henniker Heaton asked the President of the Board of Trade whether there was any civilized country in the world, besides our own, which regarded the wool test, the official test of the Board of Trade, as a reliable test for colour blindness; whether he was aware that not a single ophthalmic surgeon of eminence in this country was of opinion that the wool test was an efficient one; and whether he could state how many, if any, of the examiners of the Board of Trade, either those employed in the first instance or on appeal, had any knowledge of physiology or ophthalmology? Mr. Churchill replied that he was obtaining information as to the countries which had adopted the Holmgren wool test as a test for colour blindness in the mercantile marine. This test was adopted by the Board of Trade on the advice of a committee of the Royal Society, which comprised both eminent physiologists and physicists, and he had reason to think that the highest scientific opinion was in favour of its efficiency. One of its advantages was that it could be applied by persons who possessed no knowledge of physiology or ophthalmology. No such knowledge was, therefore, demanded of the Board of Trade examiners in the first instance. But in the supervision of their tests, in the instructions of their examiners, and in the conduct of their special examination on appeal, the Board had the advantage of the services of two acknowledged authorities on colour vision—both Fellows of the Royal Society, who hold the degree of Doctor of Science.

The Belfast University and the Mater Infirmorum Hospital.—Mr. Hugh Barrie asked the Chief Secretary for Ireland whether it was proposed to affiliate the Mater Infirmorum Hospital (Belfast) to the new Belfast University; and, if so, were its teachers and teaching to be recognized; and would the members of its medical staff be admitted upon the Examining Board of the University? Mr. Birrell said it was not proposed to affiliate the Mater Infirmorum Hospital to the Queen's University. It was proposed by the medical faculty that the hospital should be recognized as a place for clinical teaching, as it was by the old Queen's College, but this was subject to the approval of the Senate. The appointment of examiners was for the Senate, upon the recommendation of the Academic Council. He had no means of knowing how far the medical staff of this or any other hospital would be recognized by the Senate.

Dairy Inspection in Ireland.—Mr. Sheehan asked last week whether district councils in Ireland had appointed as inspectors of dairies local subsanitary officers who also held the position of relieving officers, and whether such appointments would be sanctioned in view of the fact that the time of these gentlemen ought to be already fully occupied. Mr. Birrell replied that he understood that in sixty-eight districts the sanitary subofficers, who frequently hold the position of relieving officers as well, had been appointed to act as inspectors of dairies. The Local Government Board considered it unnecessary to press

local authorities to appoint separate inspecting officers of dairy premises in localities where the dairying industry did not assume large proportions. A sanitary subofficer had opportunity of observing defects or insanitary conditions in dairy premises, and there was no reason to suppose that his time was so fully occupied with other official duties as to prevent his carrying out such inspections. Moreover, under the Board's Sanitary Orders of May, 1900, it already formed part of his duties in a district where no inspector of dairies had been appointed to inspect dairies, cowsheds, and milkshops, and to report to the sanitary authority thereon. The sanction of the Board was only required so far as concerns the remuneration of officers under the Dairies Order.

The Sanitary Condition of Ramsey.—On Monday Mr. Boulton put questions to the President of the Local Government Board respecting the water supply, drainage, and the prevalence of infectious disease at Ramsey, and pressed for the visit of an inspector and the enforcement of the Public Health Acts. Mr. Burns answered that he was aware that the consulting medical officer of health of the county council had reported unfavourably on the water supply and disposal of the sewage of the town. The urban district council had decided to take some tentative action as regards the water supply; but, as previously stated, they considered the expense of providing a new system of sewers, which would also necessitate a water supply, to be prohibitive. He had made inquiry, and found that 53 cases of scarlet fever were notified to the medical officer of health in the months of May and June last, and that 5 deaths from the disease occurred during those months. As he had stated twice before, he had not received any such complaint of default on the part of the district council with respect to sewerage and water supply as would enable him to take compulsory action under the Public Health Act. He had, however, given directions that one of the medical inspectors of the Local Government Board should visit the district and make a report with respect to it.

Vaccination Exemption Orders and Fees.—In answer to Mr. Tyson Wilson, Mr. Gladstone stated last week that no fee was payable to a justice for taking a declaration under the Vaccination Act, 1907, or for any other act done in his magisterial capacity. A fee was chargeable by the justice's clerk if he was present and performed the service in respect of which the fee was authorized. Such fees had to be paid by the clerk into the county or borough fund. No complaint had been made to him of any justices keeping them for their own use.

England and Wales.

[FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENTS.]

LEEDS.

DEATH OF THE CHANCELLOR OF THE UNIVERSITY.

By the death of the Marquis of Ripon, which took place suddenly on the evening of July 9th, the University of Leeds has lost its first Chancellor and one of its warmest friends. As is well pointed out in a most appreciative notice in the *Yorkshire Post*, Lord Ripon's most noteworthy achievement in regard to education was the part he took in helping to found the Yorkshire College, on which the University of Leeds, as it now exists, was built. In the year 1879 he formed one of the deputation which waited on the Duke of Richmond and Gordon, then Lord President of the Council, to urge the establishment of a new university for the North of England with which the Yorkshire College could be affiliated. In 1882 he succeeded the late Lord Frederick Cavendish as President of the college, and up to the last his interest in the welfare of the college and of the university never flagged. In all the great events connected with the college and the university he took a leading part. These included the affiliation of the Leeds School of Medicine, the opening of the new wing of the college in 1885 by His Majesty 'then