

## England and Wales.

[FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENTS.]

### LEEDS.

#### THE UNIVERSITY.

THE classes in the Faculty of Medicine will be resumed on Tuesday, October 4th, when the opening address to the students will be given by Mr. Howard Marsh. It is hoped that many former students of the school will be present. The annual dinner of the medical profession of Leeds and district takes place the same evening, when Mr. Howard Marsh will be the chief guest, and Mr. R. Lawford Knaggs, Professor of Surgery, will be in the chair.

#### WEST RIDING MEDICAL CHARITABLE SOCIETY.

The annual meeting of the West Riding Medical Charitable Society was held on September 22nd in Bradford, under the chairmanship of Dr. R. Hamilton. Last year the society had to record the death of its valued Treasurer, Mr. C. G. Wheelhouse, and the appointment of Mr. G. H. Rowe, who had so long acted as Mr. Wheelhouse's right-hand man, to succeed him as Treasurer. It was hoped and expected that for many years there would be no change in the office. The untimely death of Mr. Rowe has destroyed this hope, and the meeting was held under the shadow, one may say, of a double loss. Dr. Eddison, who, though he has retired from practice, retains a keen interest in the affairs not only of this society but in the management of the infirmary and in that of the Medico-Chirurgical Society, was selected to fill the position of Treasurer, and Mr. Michael A. Teale was reappointed Secretary. It is not necessary to comment at length on the work of this admirable society. Grants amounting to £1,645 were voted to some 50 applicants, on the recommendation of the stewards, and after careful investigation of the claims by the committee of stewards. Last year the grants made amounted to £1,625. The total amount of grants voted since the inception of the society amounts now to the handsome sum of £49,595 10s. The amount of good done by the association is really incalculable. Its work stands high in the affections of all its members, and, large though its membership is, it is matter of lasting surprise to those who know how it is managed and who know the amount of good work it does, that every medical man in the West Riding does not at once join its ranks.

#### PROSECUTION OF AN UNREGISTERED MIDWIFE.

Because it is the first of its kind in Leeds, it may be of interest to make reference to the conviction of a woman for habitually practising as a midwife without being registered. The accused had been practising as a midwife up to the time of the Midwives Act in 1902. She applied for registration to the Central Midwives Board, but her application was refused. On the same day that her application was refused, she attended a case and was paid. Some attempt was made to set up a defence on the ground that though confinements were attended, it was the *nursing* that was charged for, but a conviction followed. A penalty of £5 was imposed, but the fine was not to be enforced if the defendant ceased practising as a midwife.

### WALES.

#### GLAMORGAN COUNTY COUNCIL.

IN his annual report for 1909, Dr. W. Williams, the County Medical Officer of Health, states that there has been no change in the area of the administrative county during the year. The population of the administrative county according to the census, 1891, was 467,954; in 1901 it was 601,092; whilst the estimated population in 1909 was 689,343. (The Merthyr Urban District, with a population of 77,219 was constituted a county borough during 1908.) There were 24,190 births registered, equivalent to a birth-rate of 35.09, whilst the number of deaths was 9,809,

giving a general death-rate of 14.22, which is 0.28 lower than the average death-rate for England and Wales, and 0.28 lower than that of the seventy-six great towns. Of the total deaths registered, 2,834 were those of children under one year, and 1,098 of children 1 year of age and under 5 years. The infantile mortality-rate was 117, as against 152 in 1908. The causes of the relatively high infantile mortality are discussed at some length. The county rate for zymotic diseases is 1.14, as compared with 2.21 for 1908, and 1.12 for England and Wales. The death-rate from small-pox is the same as that for England and Wales—namely, 0.00. The number of deaths from the various forms of tuberculosis was 800, or about one-twelfth of the total number of deaths from all causes; and yet, compared with the action taken against the ravages of scarlet fever, diphtheria, and typhoid fever, which altogether accounted for 211 deaths, very little is being done towards stamping it out. Considerable progress has been made in the matter of isolation hospitals. In dealing with the inspection of meat and other articles of food, particulars are given of the generous scheme of the Glamorgan County Council, whereby all sanitary inspectors within the administrative county are enabled to specially qualify, free of all cost, as inspectors of meat and other foods. The scheme provided for a course of twenty-four lectures and demonstrations, which were held at a public abattoir situated in a convenient centre of the county, these classes being followed by further classes and practical demonstrations, etc., held at the Metropolitan Cattle Market, Islington, and the Billingsgate Fish Market; these latter classes covered a period of three weeks. Provided 80 per cent. of the total attendances were made, the student's train fares were paid to the local centre, together with return rail fares to London and a maintenance allowance of 30s. per week each during their three weeks' stay in London. These privileges were open to all persons residing within the administrative county of Glamorgan who already held the inspectors of nuisances' certificate, or that of the Sanitary Inspector's Examination Board, London. As only about one-half of the number of sanitary inspectors in office were able to leave their districts, it is the Council's intention to hold a further course of instruction. The County Education Committee (on the representation of Dr. W. Williams, the County Medical Officer and Chief Medical Inspector of Schools) rightly regarded food inspection as a branch of technical education, and the above scheme was approved by the Board of Education. It is worthy of note that this scheme is the most generous one that has yet been initiated in the United Kingdom, and it is to be sincerely hoped that it may prove a forerunner of many others in the various counties, so that uniformity of inspection may be carried out in this important branch of public health work. The work at the Cardiff and County Public Health Laboratory has been systematically carried on and is highly appreciated by medical officers of health and others.

In his annual report to the Education Committee as school medical officer Dr. Williams states that the three medical inspectors paid 367 visits to schools, the number of children examined being 13,407—namely: boys, 4,280 entrants, and 2,595 leaving; girls, 4,144 entrants, 2,383 leaving. At the routine examination no less than 3,488, or 35.39 per cent., were found to be physically defective, minor ailments not being included. In addition to the above, 3,638 children have been presented to the medical inspectors by the head teachers at the various schools to be specially examined on account of (a) physical and mental defects; and (b) uncleanliness. As to clothing and footgear, the figures given are rather better than those for 1908, the girls giving better results than the boys. Overclothing is more prevalent than underclothing, and many of the smaller boys wore children's corsets. Boots could most frequently be found fault with. Shawls, scarves, and mufflers are frequently worn, but, believing them to be unhealthy to wear, their use was discouraged. The results under the heading of Nutrition are better than those for 1908; the nutrition of

the girls being slightly better than that of the boys. In very few cases was there reason to believe that subnormal nutrition was due to underfeeding. In almost every case there was an adequate cause, such as bad teeth, digestive disturbances, improper diet, tuberculous diseases, or discharging ears. The general physical condition of scholarship candidates is said to be usually superior to that of the ordinary child. Children dirty in person and clothing were often found to be well nourished, but there was a marked falling off in the nutrition of the older children from the same families, showing that the home conditions took years to produce marked deleterious effects, but they were produced none the less certainly. In respect of cleanliness and condition of the skin, the figures agree very well with those for 1908, showing that no great improvement has taken place, though verminous condition of body and head is less frequent. There is an improvement in the cleanliness of the girls' heads, but there is still a greater improvement needed. The condition of the children's teeth is said to be deplorable, but among children from very poor districts seem somewhat less bad than in children of schools of better class districts. The figures relating to the nose are much the same as those for the preceding year, while the percentage for external eye diseases is lower, and defects of vision are more common in girls than in boys. On the whole ear disease was rare, the figures being: boys 2.9 per cent., while that for girls is 3.1 per cent. Out of 13,407 children medically inspected only 8 were found to be mentally defective.

## Scotland.

[FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENTS.]

### THE MEDICAL AND DENTAL DEFENCE UNION OF SCOTLAND.

THE eighth annual report of the Medical and Dental Defence Union of Scotland has just been issued. The council report that the past year has been a prosperous one, and that substantial progress has been made. The membership has continued to increase, and the financial position is a thoroughly sound one. The policy which the Union has adopted in dealing with claims made against members, and in difficulties which arise out of professional practice, has become recognized amongst claimants and their advisers, and there has been ample evidence that during the past year this policy has been a great benefit to the members. The financial report, as shown in the balance sheet, shows a satisfactory result. The income for the year is £630 7s. 10d., and the expenditure £241 9s. 5d., leaving a balance to the credit for the year of £388 18s. 5d.

The membership at the close of the financial year was 1,189, and 76 new members were admitted. In response to numerous applications by members of the English defence societies as to terms on which they will be accepted as members of the Scottish Defence Union, the council some time ago agreed to admit without entrance fee any practitioner residing in Scotland who was an active member of an English society. During the year under review, a considerable proportion of the new applications for membership has been from practitioners who were members of such societies.

### CALEDONIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

The annual meeting of the Caledonian Medical Association was held at Fort William on September 23rd. Dr. A. C. Miller, Fort William, was elected president for 1910-11.

A paper entitled "The Physician in Fiction" was read by Dr. Miller. Other contributions, including one of special local interest by Professor McKendrick on "Reminiscences of Lochaber," were submitted.

The members dined together in the evening. The toast of the society was proposed by Provost Mac-

kenzie, Fort William, and amongst other speakers and guests were Sir Hector Cameron; Dr. Alexander Carmichael, Edinburgh; Dr. Macphail, Derby; Dr. Macnoughton, Stonehaven; and Dr. Cameron Gillies, London.

### GLASGOW AND THE TUBERCULOSIS EXHIBITION.

The Town Council of Glasgow, at its meeting on September 22nd, adopted the recommendation of the Committee on Health that the Corporation should pay the expenses of the Tuberculosis Exhibition, estimated at about £250, and that the exhibition should be held in the city in the spring of 1911, instead of in October of this year, as originally contemplated. A special subcommittee was appointed to make the necessary arrangements in conjunction with the District Branch of the National Association for the Prevention of Consumption. An educational programme of special popular lectures will be a feature connected with the exhibition, and every effort will be made to obtain valuable results of a permanent nature.

### DUNDEE.

#### *Sidlaw Sanatorium.*

Sidlaw Sanatorium, as mentioned in the JOURNAL of September 24th, p. 902, is about to be reopened under the sway of the directors of Dundee Royal Infirmary, for cases of tubercle, both medical and surgical. The fact makes interesting the question of its medical and administrative organization. Three schemes have been suggested. The appointment of a superintendent who should be personally responsible for both medical and administrative management would recall the condition previously existing, while the opposite proposal is the appointment of a senior house-surgeon and physician who would be under the medical direction of certain members of the medical staff of the infirmary, and under the administrative control of its medical superintendent. An intermediate suggestion is that while the medical and surgical treatment should be under the advice of the medical staff, the medical officer appointed should in administration be responsible only to the directors.

#### *Between Nursing Home and Infirmary.*

The difficulty of providing for those able to pay small fees for treatment, but unable to face a charge of three or four guineas a week, has given rise to a lively newspaper correspondence apropos of a forthcoming bazaar for a small local hospital which was established to provide for women who wished to be attended by women practitioners. A suggestion has been made that the time has come for the establishment of a co-operative home somewhat on the lines of the one recently organized in Edinburgh. So far nothing definite has been done in the matter.

#### *Lawyer and Doctor.*

Though the Fatal Accidents Enquiry Act conferred on Scotland some of the doubtful advantages of the procedure of the coroner's court, the medical profession has not been greatly vexed by judicial *obiter dicta* such as are so familiar in the South. Apropos of a case in which a man who, having had two injured toes amputated at the infirmary, was sent home, and who, after readmission a few days later, died of tetanus, the sheriff-substitute, seemingly more in sorrow than in anger, made some severe strictures on the young doctors of the institution. The injustice of the remarks would have evoked resentment had they not, as the local newspaper pointed out, been born in ignorance of the facts; it is a circumstance to which, in medical and sanitary matters, this judicial personage has so accustomed Dundee, that each new decision, however absurd, is received without astonishment.

### THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD INSPECTOR AND THE SLUMS OF INVERNESS.

Severe strictures have been passed by the Local Government Board Inspector in a report which he submitted to the Board, and which has been forwarded to the Town Council of Inverness for information. In the course of his report Mr. Jeffrey