

president, in the chair. It was reported that the work of the hospital was now carried on at four treatment centres (Camden Road, Lewisham Park, Holborn, and Clapham Common) and at ten borough council clinics in London, and that during the year there had been 13,437 attendances, including 4,788 cases which were dealt with by extraction. The London County Council had arranged to deal with over 3,000 cases during the present year—a considerable increase over any previous year—at the Lewisham school treatment centre. Valuable work was being done at the council clinics at Battersea and Paddington. Sir Harry Baldwin praised the work of the hospital as one which performed a first-class service for people who were not well-to-do but who did not desire to be treated on an entirely charitable basis. He was glad that such an institution was having to enlarge its borders and was paying its way. The members of the dental staff were required not only to hold the L.D.S. diploma, but to be members of the British Dental Association. He went on to speak of the proper measures to be taken to prevent dental decay; these were really three in number: (1) the proper selection of food, including a sufficiency of such foods as furnished the vitamins or accessory factors; (2) oral hygiene, in which he believed gum friction twice a day to be much more important than repeated tooth brushing; and (3) a little dentistry at the right time.

Scotland.

A CONVALESCENT HOSPITAL.

THE first portion of the new Astley-Ainslie Institution for the reception of convalescent patients from the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh has been opened. This institution, for which there is now available a sum of over £600,000, is the outcome of the beneficence of the late Mr. David Ainslie of Costerton, Midlothian, who died in 1900 and directed that the residue of his large fortune should accumulate for fifteen years for this purpose. The general idea of the scheme is to provide an institution midway between a general hospital and a convalescent home. When fully equipped it will be able to receive between 150 and 200 patients. The type of patient for whom it is intended are those who, though not yet able to walk about, have a good chance of being restored to health; it is not designed for incurable diseases or cases of dangerous illness. It is to be equipped with modern facilities for scientific treatment and research, so that the patients may be followed up by the physicians and surgeons under whose care they have been originally in the Royal Infirmary. Sheriff G. L. Crole, the Chairman of the Governors, in performing the opening ceremony, stated that no other such institution existed in Britain, or even in America. The governors had acquired four contiguous properties—Canaan Park, Canaan House, Millbank, and Southbank, beautifully situated and beautifully wooded in the southern suburbs of Edinburgh. The Board of the Royal Infirmary was represented on the Board of the Institution, but its management and funds were entirely separate. The unit now open for patients is Canaan Park House, which has been remodelled by Mr. John Jordan, F.R.I.B.A., so that it consists of a two-story building with open-air verandahs having a southern exposure and attractive outlook on the Blackford Hill. This and the other three units to be opened later are old mansion houses surrounded by grounds extending to some twenty-five acres, so that the convalescent patients will have ample scope for exercise and treatment by open air and sunshine.

THE LATE SIR ISAAC BAYLEY BALFOUR.

A movement has been set on foot to establish a memorial to the late Sir Isaac Bayley Balfour, who for thirty-four years was professor of botany in the University of Edinburgh and Regius keeper of the Botanic Gardens, Edinburgh. He had, with the Forestry Commission and the Office of Works, arranged for the establishment of a forestry station where plants and trees imported and raised in the Edinburgh Botanic Garden could be cultivated under more favourable conditions. An area of fifty acres on the commission's estate in Glenbranter Forest, Argyllshire, between

the Firth of Clyde and Loch Fyne, will be used for this purpose; it will be under the superintendence of the Regius keeper, and will be called the Bayley Balfour arboretum or garden. The expense of maintaining it will be small, as land, house accommodation, plants, and trees are already provided, and it is proposed that the memorial should take the form of a rest house for visitors, who desire to spend some days at the place. Simple accommodation, a caretaker, and botanical books of reference will be provided if sufficient funds are forthcoming. A small executive committee has been formed, and Mr. John Sutherland, 25, Drumsheugh Gardens, Edinburgh, is acting as honorary secretary and treasurer.

CONFERENCE OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN.

The annual meeting and conference of the National Council of Women of Great Britain and Ireland was held in Edinburgh under the presidency of Lady Frances Balfour. This Council, which was founded twenty-seven years ago, is interdenominational and non-political; it seeks to raise the level of citizenship and gives attention to the supervision of bills before Parliament affecting women and children, the promotion of health measures, educational reforms, and improvement of industrial conditions. About 600 representatives from all parts of the country attended the conference, which devoted a considerable amount of the time to questions affecting children. Mrs. George Cadbury, vice-president of the Council, proposed a resolution urging the Government and local education authorities to find funds for the further development of the School Medical Service. The Rev. Dr. J. Harry Miller, warden of New College Settlement, Edinburgh, gave an address on the delinquent child. Statistics showed that the age at which delinquency became most evident was between 14 and 17, and that Sunday was the day on which most offences were committed. Outlet for youthful energy in adolescence should be provided, and there was much need for halls, gymnasias, and other places of wholesome recreation.

RECTORIAL ELECTION IN EDINBURGH.

The triennial election of a Lord Rector for Edinburgh University took place on October 27th. The candidates were Mr. Stanley Baldwin, Prime Minister (Unionist); Lord Buckmaster (Liberal); and Mr. Bertrand Russell (Labour). Mr. Baldwin was elected, in succession to Mr. Lloyd George, with 1,236 votes as against 488 votes for Lord Buckmaster and 261 for Mr. Bertrand Russell. The rival parties of Unionists and Liberals engaged during the progress of the voting in the time-honoured "battle" for the steps of the quadrangle, and in the evening joined in a torchlight procession through the streets of Edinburgh.

Ireland.

ROYAL VICTORIA HOSPITAL, BELFAST.

THE opening address of the session was delivered by Professor A. Fullerton, C.B., C.M.G., in the King Edward VII Memorial Hall of the hospital on October 23rd. Mr. Mitchell, chairman of the staff, presided, and Dr. Lindsay, emeritus professor of medicine, and Mr. Sinclair, emeritus professor of surgery, with a large attendance of the staff of the hospital and students, were present. The chairman, in a few introductory remarks, called on Professor Fullerton, who welcomed the students to another year's work. He hoped they did not come with the object of riches nor of social advancement; the doctor was too often the butt of the novelist and of the playwright. Unwholesome and too flagrant competition amongst themselves in practice, and flat contradiction in the witness-box, lowered the respect of the community for them, and injured the prestige of the profession. Still there must be no barrier to all of good character in entering their ranks. Some were born into the profession, and breathed a doctor's atmosphere from their earliest years; some were guided by a trivial circumstance; but others, the idealists and enthusiasts, whom nothing could turn aside nor make waver in the pursuit of high scientific medicine, the discovery of knowledge, the prevention of disease, the relief of suffering—these entered medicine because simply they must; they had no choice;