

Ireland.

THE IRISH DISPENSARY MEDICAL SERVICE REPORT.

At a meeting of the Fermanagh Branch of the Irish Medical Association, held at Enniskillen, on May 10th, the following resolution proposed by Dr. Leonard Kidd, and seconded by Dr. Annesley, was unanimously adopted:

That the warmest thanks of this meeting be conveyed to the Editor of the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL and the Special Commissioner for the great benefit rendered to the Irish Poor-law Medical Service by the able and excellent report published in the SUPPLEMENT of the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL on March 26th, which this Branch regards as the best work yet done on behalf of the Irish Poor-law Medical Service.

SIR CHARLES BENT BALL.

The King has been pleased to appoint Sir Charles Bent Ball, M.D., F.R.C.S., Regius Professor of Surgery, University of Ireland, to be one of His Majesty's Honorary Surgeons in Ireland, in the room of Sir Philip Crampton Smyly, M.D., deceased.

A DUBLIN CORONER.

At a meeting of the Public Health Section of the Royal Academy of Medicine on April 22nd Dr. Martley drew attention to the action of a Dublin coroner at an inquest recently reported in the press. The circumstances were that the deceased had been brought dead to a hospital at which he had attended as an out-patient six months previously, and that the house-surgeon, being asked by the coroner to give his opinion as to the cause of death without making a necropsy, declined to do so; thereon the coroner directed the jury to bring in a verdict without further evidence. The Section determined by resolution, proposed and unanimously accepted, to communicate the facts to the Council of the Academy, and to recommend that they be brought to the notice of the authorities. The coroner in question would appear to be the same legal coroner unfavourable criticism of whose action upon a corresponding occasion has already appeared in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL.

PROPOSED POOR LAW CONSUMPTIVE SANATORIUM FOR BELFAST.

At the last weekly meeting of the Belfast Poor-law guardians a letter was read from the Clerk of the City Council asking whether the guardians would co-operate with the Council in selecting a site and building a sanatorium. After some expression of opinion against the expense of two sanatoria, the principle of co-operation was unanimously agreed to—without prejudice, however, to the scheme of the guardians now in progress for acquiring a site for the sanatorium for the poor.

MEDICAL BENEVOLENT FUND SOCIETY OF IRELAND: BELFAST AND COUNTY ANTRIM BRANCH.

The annual meeting of the subscribers of this Branch was held in the afternoon of May 13th in the Medical Institute, Belfast. Sir William Whitla, M.D., President, occupied the chair.

Dr. Richard Purdon, Honorary Secretary and Treasurer, presented the annual report. The gross receipts amounted to £158 13s. 6d., and the total expenses were £114s. 7d. The receipts were £13 13s. 6d. less than last year, but the falling off was only apparent, as the contributions from the medical students had not yet been received; and there was a special contribution from the annual dinner of the Ulster Medical Society of £15 last year. Country members had increased and town members decreased; the latter had fallen by 15, and the amount by £6 5s. 6d; the former had increased from 42, contributing £31 12s., to 59 contributing £41 17s. 6d. Ten applications were carefully gone into, and nine forwarded to Dublin for favourable consideration, amounting to £142.

The Chairman, in proposing the adoption of the report, said that from one point of view it was extremely satisfactory; they were the premier branch of Ireland, and their contribution had shown a generous increase over that of a few years ago. On the other hand, it was deplorable that so many medical men failed to join with even the smallest subscription; he thought that this fund should take a leading place, indeed next to direct family claims, in the esteem of medical men.

Dr. Whitaker, whose membership extended over fifty years, seconded the motion; the fund was one of pure benevolence, above all sectarian or party differences.

On the motion of the President, seconded by Dr. Gibson,

Dr. Joseph Nelson, Belfast, was elected President for the ensuing year.

On the motion of Dr. St. Clair Boyd, seconded by Dr. Fielden, the following were appointed the Branch Committee: Sir William Whitla, Professor Lindsay, Drs. Brice Smyth, Henry O'Neill, J. P., St. Clair Boyd, Dempsey, R. C. McCullagh, McKisack, J. W. Taylor, Whitaker, Leslie, Gibson, McArthur (Greyabbey), St. George (Lisburn), Darnell (Bangor), Donnan (Ho ywood), Nolan (Downpatrick), and Gausson (Dunmurry).

Dr. Gausson proposed, and Mr. W. J. Shields seconded, Dr. R. J. Purdon as Honorary Secretary and Treasurer, with a warm vote of thanks for his great interest in the fund and his strenuous efforts to increase its benevolent efforts.

Professor Lindsay proposed, Dr. Leslie seconded, and Dr. Purdon supported, a vote of thanks to Sir William Whitla for his services as President during the last four years; throughout this time he had exhibited personal influence and energy which had been a strong factor in raising the subscription list to its present height.

AN OPERATION THEATRE FOR THE NORTH CHARITABLE INFIRMARY, CORK.

At the monthly meeting of the Committee of Management of the North Charitable Infirmary, Cork, Sir Daniel Hegarty presiding, Professor Pearson, F.R.C.S., appeared before the meeting, and asked to be allowed to make a statement which was of great importance to the institution. After drawing attention to the many improvements that had taken place in recent years in the infirmary, he said that, as one of the surgeons of the institution, the want still appealing to him was that of an operation room thoroughly up to date, and in accordance with the modern requirements of surgery. In the present room much good work had been done, but at the same time, as an operation room of the twentieth century, it was not suitable. He came there in the happy position of being able to announce to the Board that a generous donor had, through him, been good enough to promise to furnish sufficient funds to construct an operation room, the name of the donor to remain, for the time being at least, anonymous; the conditions under which the operation room was to be constructed were:

1. That the plans for same meet with the requirements of modern surgery and with the wishes of the surgeons of the institution.
2. That they receive the approval of the medical staff and the approval and sanction of the Board of Management.
3. That they are carried out under the direction and supervision of the architect, who shall from time to time consult with the intern surgical staff with regard to any points of detail or alteration in the plans which may arise.
4. That the work shall be executed in strict accordance with the supervision and to the satisfaction of the architect.
5. That payments shall be made from time to time by the trustees of the fund which they shall appoint, and who will be the intern surgeons for the time being.

Speaking further on the point, Professor Pearson mentioned that at the time of the promise of funds he had been going to Dublin, and had asked the architect of the institution to accompany him, and had shown him the most modern operation rooms which had been constructed within the past few years. They had also visited Belfast and inspected the Royal Victoria Hospital, which cost £150,000, and had seen everything from which they could derive information.

Mr. Harding, on behalf of the Board, expressed the thanks of the members to the generous unknown donor of whom Professor Pearson had spoken, and also thanked Professor Pearson for being instrumental in obtaining the generous grant for the infirmary, and for the most business-like manner in which he had acted on the occasion of taking the architect to Dublin and Belfast in order to put him in the position of being able to procure information as regards the construction of an operation room that would be thoroughly representative of the twentieth century.

It was proposed and seconded that Mr. Hill, the architect, be instructed to prepare the plans and specifications for the construction of the new operation room in accordance with the conditions mentioned.

At the last quarterly meeting of the court of governors of the Newcastle Royal Infirmary the following resolution was carried: "That in recognition of the splendid services rendered to the institution by the vice-chairman, Sir George Hare Philipson, M.D., over a long period of years, he be elected President of the Royal Infirmary."