

Scotland.

THE WESTERN INFIRMARY, GLASGOW.

Opening of the New Dispensary for Out-patients.

THE formal opening of the new dispensary buildings of the Western Infirmary took place on January 18th. Sir Matthew Arthur, the Chairman of the managers, presided, and amongst others present on the platform were Lord and Lady Blythswood, Lady Arthur, and Sir John and Lady Primrose.

After prayer by Principal Story, the Chairman said the question of increased dispensary accommodation had been before the managers of the Western Infirmary since 1892. At that time, however, they had much work in hand in connexion with the development of the rest of the infirmary, and the time was not suitable for a special appeal for the dispensary. In 1897 they issued an appeal for subscriptions towards the building fund of a new dispensary, and ultimately received nearly £25,000 for that purpose. The growth of the work of the outdoor department of the infirmary was illustrated by a comparison of the numbers for last year with those for 1892. In the year 1892 the number of outdoor patients was 12,422, and the visits paid 38,507; while for the year ending on October 31st last the patients had increased to 22,010, and the number of separate visits was 94,235. The visits of outdoor patients thus amounted to an average of about 300 daily. Besides the relief it afforded to those sick poor, the dispensary held an important place in the scheme of medical education. It was compulsory for students to attend the outdoor practice of a hospital, and at the Western Infirmary there were generally about 400 students enrolled. In the design of the new buildings, therefore, special attention had been given to the provision of increased facilities for teaching. The estimated cost was nearly £35,000, or about £10,000 more than the sum specially subscribed. Sir Matthew Arthur then called upon Lady Blythswood to perform the opening ceremony, and in doing so referred to her special interest in several kindred institutions in Glasgow and the West of Scotland.

Lady Blythswood having declared the buildings open, and having been presented with a handsome silver bowl by the contractors as a memento of the occasion, Lord Blythswood returned thanks on behalf of his wife.

Sir Lauder Brunton was then called upon for an address, and, after referring to his long connexion with outdoor patients at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, he congratulated the company on the excellence of the new dispensary buildings in which they were met. It might be asked whether it was worth while to expend so much money upon the treatment of out-patients. He believed that the money so expended was put out to interest and came back bearing fruit tenfold or even a hundredfold. The patients benefited and their families benefited, and so the working power of the community was increased. The wealthier classes benefited, too, for in such outdoor departments the future medical men learned much of the treatment of the common ailments, and in this new dispensary the arrangements for teaching were excellent. Sir Lauder Brunton then went on to urge that the sick poor not only needed medical advice and medicines such as they would be given there, but that they must have proper food, and, in particular, a supply of fresh and pure milk. He spoke of the formation of a National League for Physical Education and Improvement, the object of which was to get the many societies and organizations at present working for the good of the people to co-operate. He trusted that a branch of this League would be formed in Glasgow, and that medical men, municipal authorities, and institutions like the Western Infirmary would give their aid in the movement. In conclusion he congratulated the audience on the admirable arrangement of the new buildings, and expressed the hope that those who had so munificently founded the institution would see that it maintained its place by sufficiently subscribing to keep it up, so that it might long remain, as it was now, the best of its kind in existence.

The Lord Provost (Sir John Ure Primrose) moved a vote of thanks to Lady Blythswood for her kindness in opening the dispensary, and a similar compliment was paid to Sir Lauder Brunton for coming from London to address them.

The proceedings then terminated, and the company had the opportunity of inspecting the various rooms of the new buildings.

The new dispensary buildings are situated to the west of the main infirmary block, and will afterwards be joined to the

main building by a well-lit corridor. The entrance to the dispensary proper is from Church Street. Patients on their first visit will be directed to a waiting room, where all the usual enquiries will be made and the cases classified. The general waiting hall is a handsome hall of 86 ft. by 31 ft., and is seated for 400 persons. From this hall the patients may pass to the consulting rooms, each of which has two suitable dressing rooms attached. The medical and surgical consulting rooms are 24 ft. by 24 ft., and have each gallery accommodation for 50 students, and are well lighted from the north. There is an excellent operating theatre with all the necessary dressing and recovery rooms. There are also specially fitted-up rooms for ear, nose, and throat departments and for gynaecology. Excellent arrangements are made for the dispensing of the patients' medicines, a hall seated for 70 persons being connected with the dispensing room and the exit vestibule. The students also have a special entrance for themselves, from which they can reach the galleries of the various consulting rooms. The electrical department of the infirmary is also housed now in excellent quarters in the dispensary buildings.

PRESENTATION TO DR. R. WILSON BRUCE.

On the occasion of his retirement after twenty years' service on the Glasgow Parish Council, Dr. R. Wilson Bruce, of Glasgow, was entertained at dinner on January 20th by a number of friends, and presented with an illuminated address expressing appreciation and high admiration of his public and philanthropic work. In presenting the address the Chairman, Mr. Henry E. Clark, C.M.G., President of the Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow, spoke of the increasing necessity for medical men on public councils and Boards where questions of education and municipal administration affecting the health of the community required to be dealt with. Dr. Bruce, in responding, gave an interesting reminiscence account of his work as a parish councillor.

Ireland.

ULSTER MEDICAL SOCIETY.

THE fourth general meeting of the Society was held in the Medical Institute on the evening of January 19th. The President, Dr. Calwell, occupied the chair. A resolution of regret on the death of Dr. Praeger was passed.

Cases.

Mr. Mitchell showed a very successful result in a difficult case of hare-lip and cleft palate. He showed also a female patient who had suffered from an oesophageal stricture of about ten years' standing, treated by Symonds's tube, which had not been changed for the last six months. Dr. Rankin showed a large number of cases of lupus vulgaris and some of rodent ulcer treated by the Roentgen rays in the Royal Victoria Hospital. He also read a paper on the result of the application of the rays to carcinoma, sarcoma, rodent ulcer, lupus vulgaris, and lupus erythematosus in the hospital. No lupus case was made worse, and some improved rapidly; of the ten rodent ulcers, some showed excellent results; the carcinomata were very disappointing, but there was some effect on the sarcomata, evidenced by a temporary shrivelling and general paralysis. Dr. McQuitty read notes of a case of general paralysis, which first showed signs some fourteen years ago, and remained of the "tabes type" till lately, when the ordinary brain symptoms developed. A short discussion took place on the unity or duality of tabes and general paralysis, in which Drs. Lindsay, McKisack, Graham, and the President joined.

Cold in Pneumonia.

Dr. McKisack read a short paper on the treatment of acute lobar pneumonia by the application of ice externally, illustrated by a large chart and notes of eight consecutive cases; the average duration was shorter, and the temperature, if anything, a little lower: the patients expressed themselves relieved, and liked the application; there was one death: a patient of poor physique, in whom double pneumonia developed. Dr. McKisack said that on the whole he was favourable impressed with the result. Dr. Lindsay pointed out that cases with a fairly high temperature seemed to do well, and he would be cautious as to the beneficial effect of any treatment tending to lower temperature. Dr. Dempsey advocated an expectant plan of treatment guided by symptoms. Mr. Cecil Shaw remarked that the application of cold to the eye, where the result could be closely watched, did good as long as it was