

## Scotland.

[FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENTS.]

### THE CHAIR OF BACTERIOLOGY IN EDINBURGH.

EDINBURGH University has waited long and patiently for its professor of bacteriology. He is in sight at last—at least his chair is. A White Paper issued on January 21st contained an ordinance of the Court of the University providing for a professorship to be called the "Robert Irvine Chair of Bacteriology"; the professor is to belong to the Faculties of Medicine and Science, and his salary is to be the annual free income of the £25,000 which constitutes the Robert Irvine endowment. The late Mr. Robert Irvine, of Royston, Granton, near Edinburgh, left estate to accumulate till it reached the sum of £25,000 or £30,000, for the purpose of founding this professorship and of furnishing the equipment of a class-room and laboratory. The money is now available. Mr. Irvine was a Fellow of the Chemical Society and of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, and contributed in collaboration with Sir John Murray papers to the latter society on blue muds on the floor of the ocean, and on manganese oxides and manganese nodules in marine deposits; to him also the same society awarded the Neill Prize in 1895 for his papers on the action of organisms in the secretion of carbonate of lime and silica, and on the solution of these substances in organic juices. Local medical opinion has already settled who the first occupant of the Robert Irvine Chair of Bacteriology is to be.

### TWO MEDICAL PROBLEMS.

Emeritus Professor Crum Brown presided over the annual meeting of the Edinburgh Medical Missionary Society at the Edinburgh Café on January 23rd. The ordinary business was transacted and the financial statement made, and thereafter Dr. Prentice of Livingstonia and Dr. D. D. Muir of Manchuria, both of them former students of the society, gave addresses. In each address a pressing medico-political problem was alluded to. Dr. Prentice spoke of South Africa as the land of insect-borne diseases, and gave a graphic account, not unmingled with dry humour, of the numerous ticks and their insinuating ways; but he spoke more gravely of *Glossina palpalis* and *morsitans* in their relation to sleeping sickness and the protection of the wild game. He expressed his conviction that the antelope served as reservoirs for trypanosome infection. Dr. Muir gave his experience of the attempts being made in Manchuria to stamp out opium-smoking. Whereas some years ago medical missions had to deal with numbers of cases of suicide due to the drug; when he left China they were scarcely meeting with one. The Chinese police, he said, were in earnest about tracking down the vendors of the opium. The last case of attempted suicide from opium which he had seen before leaving Mukden had been brought into the hospital by two Chinese policemen; and the two representatives of the law managed by clever and persistent cross-questioning to find out from the man (not, perhaps, in the clearest state of mind to defy their inquisition) from whom he had bought the drug. Three years ago it was common in travelling through the land to see many fields with crops of the opium poppy and to witness the women going up and down making incisions and collecting the juice; when he left none of these things were to be seen. Dr. Muir also spoke of the 142 Chinese candidates who appeared for the preliminary examination in medicine at the Mukden Medical College, and of the dismay of the examiners, whose duty it was to read the more than seven hundred examination papers (in Chinese) which resulted therefrom. About fifty students had passed, and were doing well at the college.

### MEDICAL SERVICE IN THE HIGHLANDS.

The Committee of Management of the Highlands and Islands Approved Society have sent to Mr. Lloyd George a memorial with reference to medical service in the Highlands. It is pointed out that the memorialists represent a society which was formed as the outcome of appeals made by the Scottish Commissioners to the Supreme Courts of the Presbyterian Churches in Scotland,

asking their assistance in administering the Insurance Act in the poorer and remote parts of the Highlands. After conference among representatives of the churches, drawn from their Highland Committees, it was deemed best to form an approved society. The memorialists, as honorary members, are managing the society until the first annual meeting and express their satisfaction with the report of the Committee of Inquiry on Medical Service in the Highlands and Islands. They hail the proposals of the report as an earnest of sorely-needed reform, and point out that the large contribution which the Highlander makes to the personnel of the Empire demands medical care not merely for men and women of insurable age, but also for school children and infants. Local resources are admitted to be inadequate. The economic conditions of certain portions of the Highland area call for generous treatment by the Treasury, which treatment should include special consideration of educational questions, and particularly of medical inspection and treatment of school children. The memorialists express the hope that the recommendations of the report will be ungrudgingly endorsed by the Treasury and at once adopted by Parliament.

At a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses, held at the central office, Edinburgh, the following resolution was adopted:

That in view of the terms of the report of the Highlands and Islands Medical Service Committee and of the expression of approval of the work done by Queen's nurses in the Highlands and Islands, following on similar expressions in the reports of the Departmental Committee of the Local Government Board for Scotland (1904), and of the Royal Commission on the Poor Laws and Relief of Distress (1909), the Executive Committee of the Scottish Branch of Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses urges that the claims of these nurses may be recognized in the allocation of any Government grant towards the support of medical service in the Highlands; that copies of the above resolution be forwarded to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Secretary for Scotland, and to the Chairman of the National Health Insurance Commission for Scotland.

### JOINT SANATORIUM FOR FORFARSHIRE.

At a conference held on January 24th in Dundee to discuss the question of co-operating in regard to the provision of one large sanatorium suitable for the needs of the county of Forfar, the Dundee Public Health Committee, the county council, and all the burghs throughout Forfarshire were represented. The convener of the Dundee Health Committee, who presided, said that they believed it would be to the advantage of the county to co-operate with Dundee in a large scheme in which cheaper management was possible. Dundee would be responsible for the building and management of the sanatorium, and the county council would be required to guarantee a certain number of beds. The arrangement would be for sanatorium treatment only, for the advanced cases the outside districts would have to make their own provision. During the discussion which ensued, Dr. Templeman (Dundee) pointed out in reply to a question, that it was impossible to give the cost per patient to be charged by Dundee, as the capital expenditure that might be involved was not yet known. The Lord Provost said that negotiations had been opened with the directors of the Royal Infirmary for the purchase of the Sidlaw Sanatorium at Auchterhouse; it would be the most suitable and probably the least expensive. The feeling of the meeting was that it was expedient to co-operate with Dundee.

### THE LATE DR. GEORGE A. GIBSON.

At the weekly meeting of the managers of the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary, on Monday, January 27th, Sir James Affleck moved the adoption of a minute recording their deep regret at the death of Dr. George Alexander Gibson, senior ordinary physician to the Royal Infirmary. The minute recalled the fact that it was through Dr. Gibson's instrumentality that a considerable sum of money was given by an anonymous donor to establish and equip a clinical laboratory within the infirmary in which various modern scientific appliances could be utilized for the more accurate investigation of disease. The minute was approved.