

proposing the health of the clinic, Dr. Laing Gordon spoke of the confidence of the staff in the future of psychotherapy, their enthusiasm for the cause of mental hygiene, and of the justification for these feelings found in the results of treating 15,000 cases grouped as "neurasthenia" and incipient mental disorder. He paid tribute to the enlightened policy of the Ministry in the care of the "shell-shocked" and to those who had guided it in the establishment and maintenance of the clinic; in particular to Sir John Collie, Dr. W. A. Brend, and Dr. H. E. Davison. Sir Charlton Briscoe, who occupied the chair in the absence through illness of Dr. H. E. Davison, stated that the attendance of pensioners for treatment up to date amounted to over 200,000; and 51,000 had attended for diagnosis and the recommendation of suitable treatment. Sir Charlton Briscoe traced the growth of the clinic from its birth in 1917 at Lancaster Gate. The health of the guests was proposed by Dr. Travers Smith, who pointed out that if the need for psychotherapy amongst pensioners were decreasing the success of the clinic made all the more evident the urgent necessity for similar clinics for civilians. There was a general tendency in the profession to look for a leader, and to regard Lord Dawson as the profession's spokesman and referee; knowing his interest in the subject of team work the profession would be well content to leave that of psychotherapeutic clinics in his hands.

In his reply Lord Dawson said that this clinic was of value because it set the pace, embodied an idea, and carried it out well. It bore testimony to that widening reasoning which was ever spreading out over the medical profession and developing the power of working together. Lord Dawson then entered a plea for more co-operation and team work within the profession and pointed out that the danger to be guarded against might be the risk to the individual spirit. Organization must preserve adequate freedom for the individuality of the practitioner. Apart from its intrinsic value, the clinic might be well worth preservation as a concrete object lesson in what team work should be. Lord Dawson concluded an inspiring speech on a note of high hope for the future of the profession. Sir William Furse followed, and expressed, both as regional director and as a layman, his gratitude to the clinic for its very valuable services to the ex-service man.

Scotland.

THE SCOTTISH MOTOR SHOW.

By H. MASSAC BUIST.

THE twenty-second International Motor Show promoted by the Scottish Motor Trade Association has been open during this week in Kelvin Hall, Glasgow, where it will be closed this (Saturday) evening. The exhibition policy in Scotland is akin to that which obtains in New York, where the show was held last week. By contrast, in Paris and in London the tendency is to hold the motor show early in the autumn. For instance, this year the Paris show will be held from October 1st to 12th inclusive, and the London car show will be advanced in date from November to October 16th—a wise move which will, incidentally, enhance the interest attaching to the Scottish show next year. This year the exhibition differs from the passenger car show in London in that it embraces examples of the leading utility vehicles, and gives a very representative display of 1924 motor-cycle types. Of course, Scottish-built cars are much to the fore, including the new "Empire" model Arrol-Johnston, which is a result of Mr. T. C. Pullinger's recent world tour; the latest versions of the 12-h.p. single sleeve valve engined Argyll; and the range of Beardmore, Galloway, and Rob Roy types. Of the English-built chassis exhibited that were not seen in London most were excluded from the recent Olympia show by reason of lack of space. These types include the new four cylinder 12/30-h.p. overhead valve engined Sunbeam model, which is the smallest of that firm's range for the present season and is without front-wheel brakes; and the 20-h.p. overhead valve six-cylinder engined Rolls-Royce car, which has never been shown either in London or Paris, and which has been

considerably developed, notably in regard to ensuring engine balance. Scarcely of interest to the medical profession is the display for the first time at a motor exhibition of the "Austin 7" speed model. Ariel introduces a four-cylinder car. Compared with prices ruling at Olympia there are few changes, though Clement-Talbot reduces the cost of the 10/23 and of the 8/18-h.p. models; and Swift announces some lower prices, as does Voisin.

The Spice of Novelty.

Front-wheel brakes constitute a prominent feature of the show. But none of the Scottish makers has so far offered these at option, far less as standard. An interesting new body design is shown on one of the 14/40-h.p. Vauxhall chassis; it is a four-door saloon constructed of panelling material that prevents drumming, and so arranged as to interior details that the front seat can be folded in a manner which provides sleeping accommodation for two. The new 12-h.p. West car is shown with a better-looking radiator than was furnished at the time of its introduction at Olympia, and with better-planned coachwork also. Among Citroën novelties is an 11.4-h.p. type with an attractive Vickers-built English body carried out in grey and very completely equipped as to accessories, including a petrol gauge with a cork float furnished in the tank-filler cap, and a rear windscreen. The 12/30-h.p. Sunbeam car is of interest to the medical profession in that this premier make is now brought within the range of many who hitherto have not been able to afford machines produced by the winners of last year's Grand Prix, the blue ribbon international motor event of the world, and by the builders of the power plant for the only airship that has ever crossed the Atlantic. The push-rod operated overhead valve type of engine employed is of 1,598 c.c.m. cylinder volume (11.46 h.p. Treasury rating) and developing the higher power figure of its nominal rating; it is sold as a completely equipped four-seater, with a gearbox giving three speeds forward, for £570, including a comprehensive equipment. The design is characteristic of this firm's practice in respect of its higher powered and more expensive products, notable features including the easy manner in which the valve covers and cylinder head can be detached, the employment of a positive drive in connexion with the ancillary gear of the engine, and the regulation of the temperature of the cooling water by means of baffle plates fitted inside the radiator. The rear suspension is by cantilever springs. On various stands in the building there are shown examples of the Weymann type of light, flexible, noiseless, durable, covered body.

HEALTH OF SCOTLAND IN 1923.

Despite the record of bad trade and unemployment the year 1923 stands out as the healthiest year, as shown by the vital statistics so far available. In the sixteen larger burghs the total number of deaths from all causes was 32,280, which is equal to a death rate of 13.49 per 1,000 persons living. The corresponding figure for the 105 county boroughs and great towns of England and Wales was 11.6. It may be assumed from this that the general death rate for Scotland, which is always several points less than that for the burghs, will be not greater than 13 per 1,000, as compared with 11.6 for England and Wales. If this expectation is fulfilled the rate in Scotland will compare favourably with 15.5 per 1,000 for some years before the war, 17.1 per 1,000 in 1915, 16.3 in 1918, 15.6 in 1919, 14 in 1920, 13.6 in 1921, and 14.9 in 1922. There are fluctuations, but the steady gain becomes still more noticeable when comparison is made with much earlier mortality rates—for example, 23.58 per 1,000 in 1864. The death rate fell below 18 for the first time in 1894, below 17 in 1896, and below 16 in 1909. The mortality of most of the infectious diseases decreased in 1923. Thus for the sixteen larger burghs the deaths due to measles fell from 2,168 in 1922 to 815 in 1923, pneumonia from 4,366 to 2,869, phthisis from 2,312 to 2,234, and influenza from 1,988 to 210. On the other hand, scarlatina showed a rise from 145 in 1922 to 225 in 1923, diphtheria from 288 to 291, and non-pulmonary tuberculosis from 932 to 994. As regards measles, 1922 was an epidemic year and produced the highest mortality from that disease that had occurred since 1893.

About 13 out of every 14 deaths occur in children below the age of 5 years, and of these a very large proportion occur during the first year of life. This great mortality from measles among young children suggests once more that an administrative effort to postpone the incidence of this disease till after the age of 5 years might be of great value. As matters stand, most local authorities have abandoned the problem of preventing measles and few require it to be notified. The mortality among children under 5 in 1923 showed a striking decrease to 83.85 as compared with 114.2 for 1922. In the large towns of England and Wales the rate was 73. There are, however, encouraging signs in the large towns of Scotland; the rate in Glasgow dropped from 120 to 88, in Edinburgh from 91 to 82, in Aberdeen from 133 to 105, and in Dundee from 109 to 93. These decreases are of great importance, for it is now widely believed that a year showing heavy mortality among children leaves a high proportion of weakly children whose defects emerge at a later period. While the diminution of infantile mortality in England has been attributed by some to the lessening of measles and summer diarrhoea, this does not hold good for Scotland, where the low rate is explicable in great part by the absence in 1923 of any serious influenza epidemic.

RESEARCH IN ANIMAL BREEDING.

Dr. F. A. E. Crew, Director of the Animal Breeding Research Department in the University of Edinburgh, delivered last week an address to the North of Scotland College of Agriculture at Aberdeen, in which he gave an account of the work that was being done in the Breeding Research Department at Edinburgh, where for the past two years an extensive study of the fowl and duck had been carried out. In the sheep two different subjects were being studied—one the question of congenital malformations in lambs, to which he hoped the solution would be given after the present lambing season; the other the problem of improving fleeces. The Bull-Terrier Club of India had invited the department to study the question of deafness in bull terriers, and he thought it would be possible to demonstrate how this taint could be removed by breeding. It might be possible also to attack the subject of foot-and-mouth disease by genetical methods. This would depend upon the correctness of the statement that certain breeds of cattle—for example, the zebu and the first crosses between the zebu and European cattle—were immune to it. A study of the factors involved in the length of gestation and the cause of birth had been begun, and it had already been shown that this was mainly a question of endocrinology, in which the pituitary, the ovary, and the corpus luteum were concerned.

A FOOT DISPENSARY IN EDINBURGH.

At a public meeting in Edinburgh last week, when Mr. C. W. Cathcart, C.B.E., F.R.C.S.E., was in the chair, a scheme was adopted to establish at 1A, Hill Place, Edinburgh, a dispensary where men and women of the working classes, as well as children, might obtain advice and treatment for malformations and other minor but disabling maladies of the feet. Mr. Cathcart, at the outset, observed that there were ailments of the feet that were small, but crippling and hampering, and the idea of extending this treatment to the poorer classes was an excellent one. Mrs. Swanson, in a brief review of the subject, stated that in 1913 a "pedi-clinic" had been started in London, and recently in Manchester a similar institution had been inaugurated. The idea was to provide treatment for clerks, shopkeepers, and others working during the day whose efficiency was hampered by the condition of their feet. In the London institution there was an average of seventy cases each evening. A representative committee was appointed for the initiation of the Edinburgh scheme.

NEW SUPERINTENDENT OF EDINBURGH ROYAL INFIRMARY.

The managers of Edinburgh Royal Infirmary last week appointed Colonel G. St. Clair Thom, C.B., C.M.G., C.B.E., out of thirty-one candidates to the post of superintendent of the institution, in succession to Lieut.-Colonel Sir Joseph Fayrer, Bt., who will retire from the post on June 1st. Colonel Thom, who is in his 54th year, graduated at

Edinburgh University in 1893, after being president of the University Union. He entered the Army Medical Service in 1894; he went to South Africa in 1900, and for his services in this campaign was mentioned in dispatches. At the beginning of the great war he was attached to the staff of the 52nd Lowland Division, with which he served in Gallipoli, and later in France. In January, 1919, he proceeded to Archangel as deputy director of medical services in the North Russian Expeditionary Force, and the exceptional freedom of that force from epidemic disease and its strikingly low mortality may, in great part, be attributed to his efforts. He is at present assistant director of medical services to the Home Counties Area (West).

Ireland.

INCREASE OF LUNACY IN IRELAND.

WITH regard to the marked increase in the number of admissions to the Grangegorman Mental Hospital, in which are housed the insane cases from the borough and county of Dublin, the *Freeman's Journal* in an editorial states:

"A distressing story is told in figures, but the cause of the increase in insanity is left open to surmise. The number of patients for which provision was made in the estimates of 1923 and 1924 has long since been exceeded, and the total for the coming year has been calculated at a much higher figure. The Chairman said that he had asked if any explanation could be furnished as to the cause of this increase, seeing that the rate of admission remained almost stationary during the years of the world war. Certainly it is remarkable that in the report of the inspectors of lunatics for the year 1915 it was stated that whereas an increase in the number of admissions to asylums in Ireland, due to mental stress, might have been expected owing to war conditions, no such increase, as a matter of fact, was shown by the figures at their disposal. At the end of 1916 the proportion of cases admitted to asylums, which were considered to be due to mental stress, had fallen off as compared with the previous year. In 1917 there was an increase of 0.31 per cent., and in the last year of the struggle there was a further increase of 0.59 per cent. One fact specially noted was that the proportion of female cases in which the effect of the war played any direct part nearly doubled, while that of the male cases only showed a slight increase.

"Whilst Ireland escaped the strain which was experienced by the civilian populations of the countries at war, the toll of insanity in the afflicted nations was heavy beyond the telling. It is a fairly obvious conclusion that the stress of the period of strife in our own midst has been the main factor in the increase of lunacy in Ireland. The terrors and alarms of that awful period racked the nerves and upset the mental balance of folks who, in happier circumstances, would have lived out their allotted span without ever manifesting any symptoms of insanity. In counting the cost of civil strife this item must be included in a reckoning of which we cannot yet calculate the total. Dr. Donelan said that good work would be done if all Ireland would contribute to the establishment of one great, well-equipped pathological establishment, with competent and expert men in charge. Research work in regard to mental diseases undoubtedly merits greater encouragement than it has received, but the care of the afflicted, entailing as it does so heavy a drain upon the public revenues, for the present monopolizes attention."

TYPHOID EPIDEMIC IN CONNEMARA.

The appalling conditions under which large numbers of the people of Connemara live were revealed at the meeting of the County Galway Board of Health, when the secretary reported that he had been notified that an outbreak of typhoid fever had taken place at Renvyle, and that a number of the sufferers had refused to leave their homes to go into the Galway Hospital for treatment. Numbers, he had been informed, were starving. The Local Government Department had advised the Home Assistance Officer to secure the services of a nurse. The secretary of the Galway Central Hospital mentioned the case of a family that had come under his notice. A man and his wife and three children were stricken with typhoid. The family were subsisting entirely on black tea and dry bread. The wife refused to go to the hospital, but the husband and children consented after much persuasion. The wife died in her home; her life would probably have been saved had she been treated in hospital. The chairman, Dr. Walsh, suggested that the Government should be immediately appealed to for monetary assistance to relieve the distress in Connemara. The following order was made:

"That the Home Assistance Committee, County Homes, Loughrea, are instructed to-day to issue allowance to Clifden Home Assistance Committee for the balance of the 6d. in the £ limit, under scheme available. The Board recommend Galway County