

into force by the authorities concerned, and the third was still under the consideration of the Ministry of Health. In May the King's Fund co-operated in an inquiry, begun by the Voluntary Hospitals Commission at the request of the Minister of Health, with regard to the need for hospital extension, including the provision of accident beds. A questionnaire was issued by the King's Fund, and a report of the information obtained was presented to the Commission in November. In July the General Council decided to make use of the Wells legacies in aid of schemes of extension and improvement, and by the end of the year grants amounting to £81,000 had been approved, thus providing for an additional 301 beds, of which 53 were to be reserved for accident cases. The grants were for the most part accompanied by conditions designed to stimulate and reward efforts made by the hospitals themselves. The Wells legacies also enabled the King's Fund to enlarge the area of its operations from a radius of nine miles from Charing Cross to a radius of eleven miles from St. Paul's Cathedral. In 1919 the King's Fund issued the report of a special committee of inquiry into the question of pensions for hospital officers and nurses, and in this connexion a conference will be held shortly between the Hospital Officers' Association, the College of Nursing, the British Hospitals Association, and the King's Fund. The work of the Propaganda Committee during the year was chiefly concerned with educational programmes rather than finance. A film illustrating the work of a modern hospital was displayed at Wembley Exhibition as part of the Government programme. In October, 1924, a scheme of lectures on the work of modern hospitals was drawn up for the use of colleges and secondary schools, a panel of experts was compiled, and several lectures had already been given. The committee reported that it had secured a large number of voluntary workers, and had been assisted by the press and the co-operation of many hospital representatives.

The Prince of Wales, addressing the Council, pointed out that the accounts for the year were better than had been anticipated, and were an encouragement for the present year. The claims on the King's Fund would continue to increase, both in consequence of new hospital extension schemes and the enlargement of the area with which the Fund was concerned. The support of the public would be obtained in increasing amount when the need was realized; in this respect the value of the propaganda work of Lord Burnham's committee was very great. The Hospital Economy Committee was still engaged in the work of bringing up to date the revised uniform system of hospital accounts. His Royal Highness stated that during his absence from England his powers as president would be exercised by a committee consisting of Lord Donoughmore, Lord Cave, and the Governor of the Bank of England.

#### VENEREAL DISEASE ARRANGEMENTS IN LONDON.

The London County Council on March 17th received a report from its Public Health Committee on the working of the venereal diseases scheme during 1924. The councils of six adjoining counties and of three adjoining county boroughs participate in the London scheme, but the cases which come from the London county area are reckoned at 80 per cent. of the whole. The total number of new cases attending the clinics in 1924 was 25,573, of which 7,292 were found to be non-venereal. Of the venereal cases, those of syphilis numbered 6,626, those of gonorrhoea 11,350, and those of soft chancre 305. The total attendances at the clinics were 589,002, as compared with 555,509 the previous year. It is considered that the great increase in the ratio of attendances to new venereal cases points to the success which has followed the efforts made to secure the further attendance of patients so long as treatment is necessary. The number of bacteriological specimens examined at hospitals in 1924 at the request of and free of cost to medical practitioners was 24,797, a higher number than ever before; 405 practitioners are on the approved list for the supply free of cost of salvarsan or its substitutes for the treatment of patients resident in the county and for the prevention of the spread of the disease. It is proposed to continue the scheme for another year on the same basis as before. The total expenditure contemplated in the year

1925-26 is £122,810, compared with £124,050 for 1924-25, three-fourths of this sum being met by Government grant. The provision of £2,020 is to be made for publicity and propaganda work, and the National Council for Combating Venereal Diseases is again to be permitted to exercise such of the powers of the county council under the scheme in relation to propaganda work as are necessary for lectures, conferences, cinematograph exhibitions, and other occasions.

#### THE FREEDOM OF WEYMOUTH CONFERRED ON TWO MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS.

On March 19th the freedom of the borough of Weymouth was presented to Dr. J. Macpherson Lawrie, D.L., J.P., and Mr. H. H. Du Boulay, J.P. Dr. Lawrie, who began practice in Weymouth in 1883, has devoted himself particularly to the building of the Princess Christian Hospital, now the Weymouth and District Hospital. He was appointed a country magistrate in 1889, a member of the first Dorset County Council in 1892, and a deputy lieutenant in 1906. Mr. H. H. Du Boulay, now consulting surgeon to the Weymouth and District Hospital and to the Weymouth Eye Infirmary, has practised in Weymouth for nearly thirty years, particularly in connexion with the old Royal Hospital, now merged in the amalgamated Weymouth and District Hospital. The streets of the town were decorated for the occasion, and many speeches were made eulogizing the high services of the two new freemen of the borough of Weymouth and Melcombe Regis.

#### ROYAL DENTAL HOSPITAL, LONDON.

Much improved facilities for the treatment of children have now been obtained by the Royal Dental Hospital in London. At the annual general meeting of the governors, held on March 19th, the chairman referred gratefully to the help of Sir Oswald Stoll, who, by placing the Alhambra Theatre at the disposal of the hospital for a concert, had enabled a sum of over £600 to be raised for the children's department. The considerable enlargement has been effected partly by reorganization, and, to a certain extent, by rebuilding, and the special attention necessary in the case of children can now be more satisfactorily provided. The x-ray department has also been greatly extended, the work in it is expanding, and its value in diagnosing the more obscure diseases is becoming increasingly evident. The total number of attendances at the hospital during the past year was 54,950. A large proportion of the mortgage on the building is still outstanding, and the chairman appealed for efforts to be made to obtain a larger number of annual subscribers.

## Ireland.

#### RELIEF OF THE DESTITUTE (IRISH FREE STATE).

THE Minister for Local Government has announced that the Commission to inquire into the relief of the destitute sick and poor, including the insane poor, will consist of Mr. C. H. O'Connor, formerly of the Local Government Board (chairman), Alderman Corish, T.D., the Right Rev. Monsignor Dunne, Senator Sir John Keane, Dr. Hennessy, T.D., Sir Joseph Glynn, the Rev. M. O. Murphy (Dublin), Senator Mrs. Wyse Power, Major Myles, T.D., Mr. P. Sugrue, Commissioner for Co. Leitrim. The terms of reference are:

With the object of devising permanent legislation for the effective and economical relief of the sick and destitute poor, to inquire into the laws and administration relating thereto, and particularly as regards the following matters:

1. To inquire into the adequacy and suitability of schemes which have been formulated under the Local Government (Temporary Provisions) Act, and make recommendations.
2. To advise as to whether the existing law and regulations as regards home assistance require alteration towards securing that due provision is made for the sick and destitute poor in their own homes without avoidable wasteful expenditure on healthy persons who are incorrigibly idle.
3. To examine the law and administration affecting the relief of the following destitute classes, and to make recommendations:

(a) widows and their children, (b) children without parents, (c) unmarried mothers and their children, (d) deserted children.

4. To inquire into the existing provision in public institutions for the care and treatment of mentally defective persons, and to advise as to whether more efficient methods can be introduced, especially as regards the care and training of mentally defective children, due regard being had to the expense involved.

5. As regards cost of relief of the destitute poor generally, to inquire as to whether any change in the law is desirable towards securing more equitable chargeability on local rates for persons who, having been in fact normally resident in one poor relief district, have become a charge upon the rates of another district.

#### HARVEY LEWIS BEQUEST FOR DUBLIN HOSPITALS.

Judgement was given in the case in which the claims of the Dublin hospitals had been heard in connexion with the disposition of a sum of about £22,000, available under the will of Mrs. Jane Isabella Lewis, widow of John Harvey Lewis, some time member of Parliament and high sheriff for County Kildare. By her will Mrs. Lewis directed that, after the death of certain life-tenants, the trustees should possess all the proceeds of the sale of her real estate in Ireland, upon trust, to lay out and expend the sum of £80,000 for erecting in Dublin a hospital in memory of her husband, to be called "The Harvey Lewis Memorial Hospital." She died within three months of the execution of the will—August 7th, 1904—and under the statutory provisions the total sum that would have been available for the charity from the real estate was not forthcoming. A Dublin cabman, William Browne, had been found to be the heir-at-law. On the disposition of the lady's personal estate it was found that from the general residuary estate only about £22,000 remained to be devoted to the erection and upkeep of a hospital, and the bequest could not, therefore, be applied for that purpose. The Court had to apply the sum as far as possible in accordance with the wishes of the testatrix, for which purpose all the Dublin hospitals were notified. Mr. Justice Meredith said that he was satisfied that the best way in which the fund could be devoted, in accordance with the views of the testatrix, was to complete the Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital, Adelaide Road, Dublin, by building a proposed new wing. When the miscarriage of the original intention—that of erecting a new hospital—occurred, he felt that the project must be cut down to that of erecting a distinct part or wing of a hospital in Dublin, to be called "The Harvey Lewis Memorial Wing." He formed the opinion that it was imperative to keep the whole fund together. Counsel for the Attorney-General raising no objection, Mr. Justice Meredith allowed all the twenty-five claimants their costs out of the fund.

## France.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

REGARDLESS of all criticism, the Chamber has passed the bill establishing a system of general medical insurance. The Senate will be called to give its decision pretty soon, and in the meantime all our scientific and professional organizations are mobilized to prevent harm or injustice. At the Académie de Médecine Professor Weiss, the dean of the Strasbourg faculty, himself an Alsatian, urged his colleagues to oppose a system copied from one of the results of which he had been called upon to observe at very close quarters. Professor Weiss was careful to avoid treading on political ground, but he opposed our traditional sense of freedom to "corporalisation." As a citizen he dreads what he called wholesale medicine. As a medical man he fears the power of that anonymous machinery, the great trusts. As a professor he shudders to think of the baneful influence such a law may have on the teaching of students, and more especially on the moral conditions of the practice of medicine. To sum the matter up in one word, for him insurance means commercialization. The insurance system as it is contemplated would, he considers, certainly lower the standard of the profession, but the principal sufferer will be the sick. Professor Weiss must certainly have felt that he was supported by the unanimous feeling of his colleagues

in the learned Académie. He might have felt, too, the throbbing of the heart of the rank and file of the profession at large. What Professor Weiss left unsaid was that, though a question of such wide importance was at stake, our Académie de Médecine was not even asked to give its opinion or advice. Well, they are going to do so.

#### *Antisyphilitic Vaccination.*

Dr. Doleris on March 10th read a paper to the Académie on the work of Jauregui and Lancelotti of Buenos Aires, who have just arrived in Paris to ask that their experimental work may be controlled. They have produced in the llama experimental syphilis with an evolution quite comparable to human syphilis. Cerebral lesions are produced, hereditary lesions are observed, and cultures of treponema have been obtained. Experimental inoculation from man to animal has proved possible, and accidental inoculation from animal to man has occurred. Serotherapy was successful in the four cases that have been followed in men. In the discussion Dr. Jeanselme pointed out that the more striking the results the more severe must be the control. It is worth while to recall that in 1552 a Spanish historian, Gomara, wrote about a disease transmitted from llama to man and brought back to Spain by the expeditionary forces.

#### *Professor Jacobaeus.*

At the request of the association of the Paris faculty for the furtherance of medical relations, Dr. H. C. Jacobaeus of Stockholm delivered a remarkable lecture on thoracoscopy and described his method of cauterizing pleural adhesions in artificial pneumothorax. The process was illustrated by fine lantern slides, and the lecturer was received with great enthusiasm. The next morning he gave a clinical demonstration of his technique at the Hôpital Laënnec. May the success of such a visit help to pull down the Chinese wall of scientific nationalisms. A very gratifying symptom of the modern and liberal spirit of our old *alma mater* is the appointment of foreign assistants to our clinical professors. At the Enfants Malades Hospital Professor Nobécourt is giving his demonstrations to students with the able assistance of Dr. W. S. Copeman (M.B., B.Ch.Cantab.). This is certainly a rare opportunity given to our young confreres from abroad, and at the same time enables our students to come into contact with the spirit and methods of the British schools.

#### *Antityphoid Vaccination in the Navy.*

Interesting statistics have been published of the progress of antityphoid vaccination in the navy. It must be understood that our sailors are far more exposed to infection than soldiers in our army, being oftener employed in endemic centres. The navy morbidity was 1.9 per mille (as compared with 6.15 in 1912) and the mortality 0.09 (against 0.77). Vaccination is now performed by giving one injection only, generally with Le Moignon's lipo-vaccine. Formerly four injections with the vaccine of Chantemesse were given. The reactions are so mild as not to be worth mentioning. In some cases where there seems to be a contraindication Lumière's entero-vaccine is given by the mouth. Since 1915 not a single fatal accident has been recorded following vaccination. We can safely look forward to the time when typhoid shall be stamped out from the navy. Yet how often do we hear some fool asserting that medicine does not progress!

#### *The Medical "Salon."*

For the fifth time is being held an exhibition in Paris of works of art by medical men. Painting and sculpture are well represented, and the majority of works are well above the standard of amateurism. Some of the artists are highly reputed in our professional circles, and the catalogue brings together names such as those of Professor Hayem, Laignel-Lavastine, Caussade, Paul Legendre, Sabouraud. They remind us of our great Ingres the painter, who was never so pleased as when he was congratulated on his achievements as a violinist.

G. MONOD.