

accounts of income and expenditure showed a deficit of £3,204, but legacies amounting to £6,575 have been received.

#### Edinburgh Dental Hospital

At the forty-fifth annual general meeting of the Incorporated Edinburgh Dental Hospital and School Professor Sydney Smith, who took the chair, announced that the governors proposed to extend the hospital buildings at a cost of about £35,000. Towards this sum the Dental Board of the United Kingdom had promised a donation of £5,000. At the present time this was the largest dental school in Scotland and the second largest in Great Britain, with 250 students in 1936. The premises had therefore become inadequate and the equipment was not sufficiently up to date, so that a large addition to the accommodation, equipment, and staff must soon be made. The annual report shows a great advance in the work done by the hospital during 1936. The total number of conservation cases was 19,395, compared with 13,313 in 1935. In the prosthetic department the number of dentures, repairs, etc., was 1,978 compared with 1,766, and the number of extractions increased from 17,708 to 22,742. The number of new patients during 1936 was 9,921 compared with 8,299, and the total attendances 29,369 against 22,194. With regard to finance the report shows a surplus of £684, but although this is regarded as satisfactory, all the money available will be needed for extension and equipment of the buildings, and it is proposed shortly to issue an appeal to the public for funds.

## IRELAND

#### Crown Nominee on G.M.C.

The *London Gazette* of March 19 announces that the King, with the advice of his Privy Council, under the provisions contained in the Medical Acts, has renominated Colonel Thomas Sinclair, C.B., F.R.C.S., M.P., to be, for a period of five years from May 13, 1937, a member of the General Council of Medical Education and Registration of the United Kingdom, for Ireland. Colonel Sinclair has served on the Council since 1927, when he was nominated to succeed Sir Edward Coey Bigger.

#### The Belfast Meeting: Accommodation

Dr. F. P. Montgomery, chairman of the Housing and Lodgings Committee for the 105th Annual Meeting of the British Medical Association at Belfast next July, informs us that hotel accommodation in particular and other accommodation in general is being rapidly booked up for the period of the meeting. All officers of Sections and all speakers who have undertaken to take part in the Sectional proceedings should arrange accommodation as soon as possible if they have not already done so. Requests for hotel accommodation should be sent direct to Thos. Cook and Son, Ltd., 27, Royal Avenue, Belfast, and requests for all other types of accommodation should be sent to the office of the Annual Meeting, Whitla Medical Institute, College Square North, Belfast.

#### Royal Maternity Hospital, Belfast

The registrar's report of the Royal Maternity Hospital, Grosvenor Road, Belfast, covers the period from January, 1932, to December, 1935. It deals with the work of the Belfast Maternity Hospital until July 31, 1933, and after that date of the Royal Maternity Hospital, which was opened on August 1, 1933. The latter hospital contains a unit for the treatment of all forms of potential and established sepsis. To this unit are admitted many emergency or unbooked cases, often frankly septic on admission. For the year 1935 the maternal mortality rate was 1.6 per cent. for all admissions, 0.6 per cent. for ante-natal admissions, and 4.4 per cent. for emergencies. Owing to a rise in the rate for the last-named category these figures are slightly less satisfactory than those of the

preceding years. Concise summaries are given of the seventy-five cases involving maternal death which occurred during the whole period under review. The series includes four cases of acute yellow atrophy of the liver. The statistics for maternal morbidity show a gradual improvement. The rate for 1935 was 4.9 per cent. Analysis shows a high incidence of infection of the urinary tract with thirty-nine cases, comparing with forty-one cases of puerperal sepsis during the whole period. The total number of patients admitted in 1935 was 1,413. Triplets were born on two occasions in the course of that year, and two cases of triplets are also recorded for 1932.

## Correspondence

#### Combined Universities Election

SIR,—May I, through your columns, thank all those who gave me their support at the recent election, and especially those who at headquarters or in certain Divisions (particularly in Birmingham) put themselves to considerable trouble by taking very active steps in this direction?

I should like it to be known that I undertook this candidature, against my own inclination, in pursuance of the definite resolutions of the Representative Body of the British Medical Association: (1) "That with a view to ensuring the presentation to Parliament of expert medical opinion on matters relating to the health of the community or involving the welfare of the medical profession, the Representative Body approve the principle of securing the services of a Member of Parliament intimately acquainted with the aims and policy of the British Medical Association"; (2) "That steps be taken forthwith to make preliminary inquiries for the selection of a medical practitioner intimately acquainted with the aims and policy of the Association with a view to his election to Parliament through one of the University seats." The Committee of the Association charged with the duty of implementing these resolutions urged me, when the parliamentary vacancy occurred, to become a candidate, and I did not feel at liberty to refuse.

The expectation of success in such a candidature even in what appeared to be favourable circumstances was perhaps never very high, but the actual figures of the result were disappointing. What conclusions the Council may draw from them, or what action may follow upon such conclusions, I do not, of course, know. The result, however, appears to indicate that even in a University constituency and with a candidature genuinely independent of all party considerations, common action among doctors as such, or teachers as such, or between the two professions, is not to be expected. Divided loyalties, combined with a considerable measure of complete indifference, produce curious outcomes which can be tested only by experiment.—I am, etc.,

London, N.W.11, March 24. HENRY B. BRACKENBURY.

SIR,—Those who made some effort to promote the success of Sir Henry Brackenbury's candidature in the recent election contest must feel greatly disappointed at the result. The election followed on usual party lines, and the reasoned argument in Sir Henry's election address on complete independence seemed to carry little weight with that portion of the constituency which included medical graduates. When the very small number of medical men now in Parliament is considered, surely it must have occurred to the medical portion of the constituency that the addition of a member of his calibre, experience, and past record of work for the profession