

clause along with the new conscience clause it has done an utterly foolish thing. It is universally recognised that re-vaccination occupies with regard to adolescents and adults the same place as a protection against small-pox which primary vaccination occupies with regard to infants.

We can only repeat what we said in a recent article—namely, that the Bill in the form into which it has now been brought is so very unsatisfactory that the Government would do well to let it drop for this session, and introduce next session a new Bill embodying a statesmanlike view not merely of the opposition to vaccination, and the weight to be given to that opposition, but also of the need which there is to incorporate in any new vaccination law a provision requiring re-vaccination.

MEDICAL MISSIONARY LOAN EXHIBITION IN EDINBURGH.

THE Edinburgh Medical Missionary Society are to be congratulated upon the valuable and interesting collection of objects of medical interest which they are exhibiting in Herriot Hospital during the annual meeting of the Association. Medical missionaries have many opportunities of acquiring instruments, charms, and drugs in use by the tribes amongst whom they live, and now that the Society has shown that they value such collections, it is to be hoped that before long a more or less complete museum of such medical appliances may be established.

Amongst the exhibits from Nazareth there are a number of charms which show that the Arabs living in that region are believers in the doctrine of "signatures." Thus a yellow stone is considered to be beneficial in jaundice, a spherical one in diseases of the eye, and a blue one pierced by six pupil-like apertures has a great reputation in fending off the effects of the evil eye. With regard to this last, the greater the number of apertures the more likely is it that the charm will not only be successful in preventing harm coming to the wearer, but will also enable him to injure the possessor of the evil eye.

The collection of instruments from China is exceedingly interesting, the ingenuity exercised in the shaping of certain probes, pus searchers, and foreign body extractors being especially noteworthy. Whether intentionally or not, too, most of the instruments are so made as to be easily kept clean. In some there are notches and irregularities, but in many the surface is smooth and even, and the whole instrument is made in one piece.

Amongst the Chinese medicines the usual superstitions of the ignorant are to the fore. Thus, the scaly skin of the snake is a remedy for scaly skin diseases, and a decoction of centipede is a specific for asthma and other lung affections, which cause a feeling of creeping in the throat and chest. In addition, one finds drugs allocated by guesswork: thus, powdered bird's-nest is used as a tonic, and certain stony-looking tablets are to be prescribed, when the doctor is in doubt, as being good for anything.

The collection of fetishes from the Lower Congo is fairly complete. There are examples of the carved images, the fetish bags, etc., such as are met with so constantly in this region. The natives of Bannu are evidently of a higher order of intelligence, for they have discovered the value of certain drugs; for instance, they use aconite root in fevers.

In the collection from Persia two hernia trusses are shown which are made upon exactly the same principle as our own. From the same country comes a cupping glass in which the glass is drawn out to a tube, which the surgeon sucks so as to reduce the internal pressure.

A couple of emergency splints from Natal and Mombassa consist of thin canes or flat pieces of wood united by grass cords, which are meant to encircle the limb, and to be kept in place with bandages.

Of course from all parts come charms of all kinds, which are supposed to ward off diseases: silver rings for hæmorrhoids, birds' claws to prevent harm arising from the attacks of birds, and so on, but these are no worse than the rings to prevent rheumatism and similar nostrums of which half-educated people in our country make use.

Only a few of the many rare and curious things to be seen in this exhibition have been mentioned, and space does not allow to tell of the *jia pota* which will cause a sterile woman to conceive, or a pregnant one to abort; of the devil-stick from Smyrna; of the African witch-doctor's accoutrements; or of the models, drawings, and photographs of mission hospitals. But enough has been said to show that the Society has gathered together a collection of great interest, not only to the medical profession, but also to the public generally.

In an adjoining room Messrs. Oppenheimer are showing the medical antiquities collected by Dr. Luigi Sambon, of Rome, which they exhibited in London in 1895. As these have been previously dealt with it is unnecessary to do more than mention them now. The collection is one of very great interest, and well repays a careful and thorough inspection.

CONGRESS OF THE ROYAL INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC HEALTH.

THE Congress of the Royal Institute of Public Health, under the presidency of Sir Charles Cameron, M.D., will be held in Dublin from August 18th to 23rd next. The local preparations are on an extensive scale, and everything points to a very successful meeting. The Local Committee is large and representative, and the subscriptions so far received are generous enough to make it certain that the entertainments will be exceptionally good. The meetings of the various sections will take place in Trinity College; the Health Exhibition will be held in the buildings of the Royal University, and a banquet in the Royal College of Surgeons.

There will be four sections—Preventive Medicine and Vital Statistics, Chemistry and Meteorology, Engineering and Building Construction, and Municipal and Parliamentary. In addition, there will be a conference of army medical officers on Enteric Fever in the Army, and by medical officers of health on the Housing of the Poor and the Prevention of Tuberculosis. Among the general subjects to be discussed in the various sections are: The Treatment of Infectious Diseases in General Hospitals, the Increase of Lunacy in Ireland, the Management of the Sick in Workhouse Hospitals, Pollution of Rivers and Treatment of Sewage, and Designing and Construction of Hospitals.

The proceedings will begin on Thursday, August 18th, when Sir Charles Cameron will give an address. There will be a luncheon at the Royal University, given by Alderman Pile, the High Sheriff, and afterwards the exhibition will be opened. In the afternoon Surgeon-General and Mrs. Preston will give a garden party. On Tuesday, there will be Presidential addresses in the Sections, a promenade concert, a garden party given by Sir Christopher and Lady Nixon, and a ball given by the Right Hon. the Lord Mayor; on Saturday, further addresses, concert, garden party by Right Hon. Alderman Meade and Mrs. Meade, banquet at the Royal College of Surgeons at which His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant will be present, and a promenade concert at the Royal University. On Sunday special sermons will be delivered in the Cathedrals. On Monday there will be an excursion to Belfast and a luncheon given by the Lord Mayor of that city; excursions to Wicklow; a garden party by Sir Henry and Lady Cochrane; and a concert. On Tuesday there will be further sectional meetings, and in the evening the Right Rev. Monsignor Molloy will give a popular lecture on Wireless Telegraphy.

This by no means exhausts the programme, which provides for much additional scientific and social hard work.

DR. D. M. FORBES was on July 19th entertained at luncheon at the Holborn Restaurant and presented with an illuminated address and a purse containing over 600 guineas on the occasion of his retirement from the post of Medical Superintendent of the Infirmary of St. Leonard's, Shoreditch, after a service of thirty years. Mr. R. G. Alabaster, J.P., Chairman of the Board of Guardians, who occupied the chair, said that Dr. Forbes was one of the first to introduce a better system of housing and nursing the sick poor in Poor-law establishments. He had been the means also of ameliorating the condition of workers in white lead by drawing public attention to that subject, and had taken a principal part in obtaining the White Lead Factories Act of 1891.