

Scotland.

PARLIAMENTARY REPRESENTATION OF THE UNIVERSITIES OF EDINBURGH AND ST. ANDREWS.

Mr. J. St. Loe Strachey.

MR. J. ST. LOE STRACHEY, editor of the *Spectator*, who has come forward as a candidate for the Parliamentary representation of the Universities of Edinburgh and St. Andrews in opposition to the sitting member, Sir John Batty Tuke, M.P., recently received a deputation from the Council of the Dundee Branch. A series of questions drafted by Dr. Buist, Chairman of the Medico-Political Committee of the British Medical Association, were handed to Mr. Strachey. The terms of these questions differ slightly from those subsequently approved by the Parliamentary Subcommittee and the Medico-Political Committee and published in the SUPPLEMENT to the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL of November 18th. To these questions Mr. Strachey sent the following reply :

November 9th, 1905.

Dear Sir,—In regard to the questions handed to me by the deputation which met me at Dundee last Tuesday, November 7th, I desire to make the following answers :

Medical Acts Amendment.—I consider that the admission of so many new universities to the Council, and the prospect of still further additions, makes it not only reasonable but necessary that there should be an alteration in the constitution of the General Medical Council, and I should certainly support a Bill directed to a substantial increase in the number of the direct representatives of medical and dental practitioners. I am further of opinion that in the case of the universities and corporations, it would in many cases be advisable to widen the basis of election, in order that the members thus chosen should have a more representative character. To Questions 2, 3, and 4, under your heading, "Medical Acts Amendment," my answer is, Yes. (2) I think the General Medical Council should have full control of the course of education. (3) I am in favour of the "one-portal system," which has, I realize, become a necessity in view of recent developments. (4) The evasion of present restrictions against the practice of unqualified persons by the use of the Companies Acts is a matter which, in my opinion, calls for immediate legislation in the general public interest. Those Acts were never meant to give immunity to "quacks."

Death Registration and Coroners Acts.—I should be willing to support an amending Bill, based on the principles stated in your memorandum. The matter is one to which I attach great importance on public grounds, and quite apart from the special interests of the profession.

The Lord Chancellor and Coroners.—I would support the inquiry you ask for under this heading.

Reorganization of the Local Government Board.—I approve the request for a Royal Commission on the lines laid down by you.

Public Health Bill.—I would support legislation under the three headings set forth. I may say generally that I think security of tenure is essential to the proper carrying out of their duties by medical officers. It is most unfair, and also contrary to the public interest, to ask men to perform their functions in offices of trust, and where it may be their duty to call for action which will be unpopular to large and influential sections of the community, unless they are given full security of tenure. A proper superannuation scheme is also, in my opinion, most desirable in the case of medical officers of health and sanitary inspectors.

Revaccination.—On the question of revaccination I have always felt strongly, and would support legislation to make revaccination compulsory for all children before leaving the elementary schools, subject to the same exceptions as apply to primary vaccination.

Public Vaccinators.—What I have said in regard to medical officers of health applies of course to public vaccinators, and I would therefore support the Bill outlined by you.

Incipient Insanity.—If it can be shown that the system in Scotland leads to no abuses in regard to the liberty of the subject, I should have no hesitation in supporting an amendment of the Lunacy Acts suggested. As I understand them, the present arrangements in England are often very unsatisfactory, and lead to a great deal of inconvenience, not merely to the medical practitioners concerned with the working of the Act, but to the general public.

Habitual Inebriety and Drug Habits.—I would support an

amendment of the Acts in the direction indicated, and believe that great good might follow if such amendment were carefully and judiciously made. The fear of procedure under the Lunacy Acts being put in force might, I believe, often have a strong deterrent effect on non-criminal inebriates and subjects of drug habits.

Poor-law Medical Officers, Scotland.—I would support the desired amendment of the present law.

Poor-law Medical Officers, Ireland.—I would support the desired amendment in this case also.

Vivisection.—Though you do not mention the subject of vivisection, I should like to take this opportunity of stating my attitude on the question. I am satisfied with the present state of the law, and would oppose any attempt to alter it in the direction of prohibition. The compromise arrived at seems to me to be a wise and humane one, and in the public interest.

I should like to say generally that if I become the representative of the Edinburgh and St. Andrews Universities I should endeavour, in the case of medical questions which come before the House, to be guided on technical matters by the best opinion in the profession. I should endeavour, that is, to ascertain and give weight to the views of the various bodies through which the trend of medical opinion may be authoritatively ascertained. Needless to say, I do not intend when I say this to suggest that I should abrogate my independence as a Member of Parliament, or that I would subordinate what I consider to be the public interest to sectional claims. What I mean is, that on technical questions, where my own judgement might easily be at fault, I should consult the best professional opinion. As a matter of fact, I do not believe that there is the slightest danger of any conflict between the public interests and those of the medical profession. The legislative proposals which you have brought before me strongly support my contention in this respect. Not only are they most moderate and reasonable in themselves, but are clearly quite as much designed in the general interest as in that of the great and honourable profession which you represent.

Believe me, dear Sir,

Yours faithfully,

J. ST. LOE STRACHEY.

To Dr. Buist.

N.B.—Since this letter was written I have been shown the amplified questions approved by the two Committees. The additions, however, do not materially affect their meaning, and I may say generally that my assent is given to them as well as to the somewhat shorter questions actually submitted to me at Dundee.

Sir John Batty Tuke.

Sir John Batty Tuke, M.D., has addressed to us the following letter :

Sir,—I have received from one of my constituents resident in Edinburgh the series of questions published in the SUPPLEMENT to the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL of November 18th, page 285. I enclose my replies.

I am, etc.,

(Signed) JOHN BATTY TUKE.

London, Nov. 28th.

Medical Acts Amendment.—(1) I am of opinion that reorganization of the General Medical Council is desirable in the interests of the public and of the profession. I have stated publicly my opinion that an increase of direct representatives is desirable. (2) I have for many years advocated the General Medical Council should have complete control over the registration and education of medical and dental students, including fixing the standard of preliminary general education. (3) My experience on the General Medical Council has convinced me that the one-portal system is desirable in the public interest. (4) I am strongly of opinion that the practice of medicine or dentistry by unregistered persons or by companies, and the signing of medical certificates by unregistered persons, should be more completely prevented. In fact, I introduced into the House of Commons last year two Bills bearing on the subject: one to prohibit the practice of medicine by companies, and the other applicable to dentists.

Death Registration and Coroners' Law.—I am in favour of all the proposals of the British Medical Association under this head, and would support Parliamentary amendments of the law.

Public Health Bill.—I would support in Parliament an alteration of the law to give medical officers of health in

England and Wales the same security of tenure as is at present enjoyed by medical officers of health in Scotland and London, and by Poor-law medical officers in England and Wales, and approve of the terms of the Bill drafted by the British Medical Association. I propose to form one of the deputation to the President of the Local Government Board on November 30th to advocate the principles embodied in the Bill.

Revaccination Bill.—I introduced this Bill into Parliament in the session of 1904.¹

Public Vaccinators.—I should be disposed to support a Bill to give public vaccinators the same security of tenure as Poor-law medical officers.

Reorganization of the Local Government Board in England.—The appointment of a Royal Commission to investigate the present central administration dealing with public health would have my support, and I consider that the scheme of reform contained in the Bill drafted by the British Medical Association is on the right lines.

Midwives Act.—An amendment of the Midwives Act to enable local authorities to make provision for the payment of medical practitioners called under the provisions of the Midwives Act to assist midwives in emergencies would have my support in Parliament.

The Lord Chancellor and the Coroner for South-West London.—I am in accord with the effort of the British Medical Association to obtain from the Lord Chancellor the judgement to which it is constitutionally entitled upon the case placed before him by the Association impugning the conduct of the Coroner for South-West London.

Incipient Insanity.—I introduced a Bill at the instance of the London County Council to give in England the same power of dealing with cases of unconfirmed mental disease as has existed in Scotland since 1857.²

Habitual Inebriety and Drug Habits.—During the session of 1902 I introduced into the House of Commons a Bill to give power to deal with non-criminal inebriates and the subjects of other drug habits.

Poor-law Medical Officers.—Since I entered Parliament I have advocated the cause of the Poor-law medical officers both in Scotland and Ireland. I backed two Bills introduced by Mr. Eugene Wason for the purpose of giving Poor-law medical officers in Scotland security of tenure.

THE QUATERCENTENARY OF ABERDEEN UNIVERSITY.

A meeting of the Celebration Committee was held in Marischal College on November 24th, Principal LANG presiding.

Reports were given in from subcommittees as to the invitations to be issued to various universities, literary, philosophical, and other bodies in all parts of the world, and as to the circular which should be used in connexion with those invitations. The circular, it is proposed, should be an interesting piece of typography in the style of black letter popular at the period when the University was founded four hundred years ago, and this circular will set forth the aims of the celebrations, as also interesting particulars regarding various ceremonies. It was announced at the meeting that the King had signified his intention to be present at the celebrations next year and to open the new Marischal College buildings. Hitherto uncertainty as to the visit of His Majesty and the formal opening of the new buildings by him had prevented the fixing of any time except the earlier half of September. No precise date, in fact, has yet been fixed, but it is expected that this will be shortly made public. The Principal also expressed the opinion that if the Queen would accompany His Majesty on the occasion it would add to the honour and enhance the pleasure of this gracious visit. The co-operation of the Lord Provost, magistrates, and Town Council was essential, and he was happy to say they could rely on that. The desire of the citizens of Aberdeen was at one with that of the University to give our Sovereign and the Queen a right hearty and loyal welcome to the Northern city, the capital of the county in which is situated the Scottish home of the Royal Family. The Principal then proceeded to emphasize some of the features of the celebrations, touching on the part to be taken by the students, the music to be provided, the opportunities to be given of seeing and hearing leaders of thought and research in Great Britain and the Continent, and the entertainments of various kinds. In concluding his statement he said it was hoped that in the meantime all interested would work with a will and work together for the common

end, and that the result would be a commemoration of an interesting past that should be also the prophecy of a great future—generous, but not extravagant; academic, but free from pedantry; representing worthily the height, width, and breadth of the brotherhood of letters.

Meanwhile, rapid progress is being made with the new medical buildings. The mason work is practically completed, the building roofed, and a large amount of work has been done in the inside of the structure. During the summer the magnificent pile has attracted great attention from visitors, and been much admired not only for the beauty and grace of the outline but also for the grandeur of the decorative scheme.

EDINBURGH SOCIAL UNION.

In the twenty-first annual report of the Edinburgh Social Union, which was presented on November 24th, it is stated that in connexion with the movement to organize the public charities of Edinburgh, some discussion has taken place between the Executive of the Union and that of the Social and Sanitary Society as to the federation of the two bodies. The Social and Sanitary Society was formed about the same time as the Social Union, and its objects are to improve the dwellings and social condition of the poorer classes of the city by:

(1) Procuring information regarding their social habits and sanitary condition; (2) communicating the information obtained to the authorities, with a view to the remedy of existing evils; (3) suggesting remedies in the interests of the health and comfort of the poor; (4) endeavouring to get both landlords and tenants to co-operate in carrying out the objects of the Society; and (5) specially endeavouring by practical advice, the diffusion of health literature, and kindly sympathy, to set the people on ways of self-improvement, industry, thrift, and cleanliness.

These objects being similar to those of the Social Union, it is considered that it would be for the benefit of both societies to be in closer union, holding a joint annual meeting and issuing a joint annual report. The Social and Sanitary Society would continue to have its own committee as before, but would be asked to appoint two of its members to form a joint executive with the Edinburgh Social Union. The Social Union administers such property as is committed to its charge by landlords who have confidence in its methods, and with whom the superintendents arrange the terms of management for each property. This year the work has not increased, but endeavours have been made to consolidate it and to make it more efficient. The aim of the window gardening department is to encourage children attending elementary schools to rear plants in their own homes. Arrangements are made with a gardener to supply plants and seeds at a reduced rate to the children. The plants and seeds are given out in spring, and a flower show is held at the close of the session in every school in which it can be organized. The introduction of Nature study into the school curriculum has given a great impetus to the cultivation of plants both in the schools and in the homes of the people. This summer the shows were particularly successful, and in some of the schools the exhibits numbered over 500, and the bare school-rooms glowed with colour. The objects of the Industrial Law Committee of the Union are: (1) To spread a knowledge of the industrial laws. (2) To constitute a body to which may be reported breaches of the law, and other matters relating to industrial employment, in order that these may be inquired into, referred to the proper authorities, and otherwise treated as may be deemed advisable. (3) To secure a more effective administration of the existing law. All complaints received regarding breaches of the Factory and Workshops Acts are forwarded to H.M. Inspector of Factories, and receive immediate attention. The paintings by Miss Macgibbon in the Tron Church Hall are now completed. The scheme of subjects chosen for the paintings was taken from the Acts of the Apostles, as it was considered typical of the practical missionary work for which the building is used.

ROYAL VICTORIA HOSPITAL FOR CONSUMPTION, EDINBURGH.

Under the patronage of Her Majesty the Queen, a great international fair was held on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, November 22nd to 25th, in the Waverley Market, Edinburgh, on behalf of the funds of the Royal Victoria Hospital for Consumption, Edinburgh, and so successful were the workings of the four days that a sum approaching £17,000 was realized, creating a record for bazaars in Edinburgh. The whole proceedings were fired by warmth and enthusiasm, and were conducted on a scale of much distinction. Stalls and stallholders representative of all branches

¹ SUPPLEMENT to the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, March 10th, 1904, p. 40.

² BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, April 15th, 1905, p. 846.

of the social economy in Scotland were concerned in the affair, and the result is not only a matter of congratulation to the great cause of charity, but to those directly concerned with the institution itself, which has as its pioneer and chief worker Dr. R. W. Philip. The Chairman of the Executive and Management Committee was the Lady Dunedin of Shenton, whose husband, the Lord Justice-General for Scotland, formerly Secretary for Scotland, opened the fair on the first day. Under her brilliant guidance was a band of hard and consistent workers, amongst whom may be mentioned Mrs. George Crabbie, Mr. J. E. Crabbie, Mr. Norman Cairns, Mr. W. Gardner Sinclair, Mr. Stewart Kennedy, and Mr. Stodart Walker. To Mr. Walker is due a magnificent volume, *A Beggar's Wallet*, which was reviewed in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL of November 25th, and the edition of an amusing evening paper, *The Bacillus*. An elaborate series of amusements—theatres, concerts, shooting galleries, and the like—served as a contrast to the serious work of the stalls. Of the stall-holders special mention must be made of Lady Dunedin, Anna Countess of Moray, Lady Grant, Lady Christison, Lady Grainger Stewart, Mrs. Crabbie, Mrs. Philip, Mrs. Redford, the Hon. Mrs. Trotter, Lady Cranston, and Miss Crabbie, whilst amongst the assistants were the Countess de la Warr, Lady Belhaven and Stenton, Lady Playfair, Lady Margaret Sackville, the Countess of Northesk, Lady Clementine Waring, the Hon. May Hamilton, the Hon. Muriel Hamilton, the Hon. Mary Graham Murray, Mrs. Pelham Bruce, and Lady Anne Kerr. The picturesqueness of the market, converted for the time into a fair of all the nations, and loaded with goods from all parts of the world, attracted great crowds during the week, and with the assistance of the bands of the Royal Scots Greys and the Highland Light Infantry the public were enticed to visit and revisit the most successful attempt of its kind of modern times. Messrs. Dobson, Molle, and Co.'s printing press, turning out thousands of the evening paper, with its brilliant cartoon and its clever sketches, was one of the attractions of the fair, which aroused so much public interest that even the city tramcars were decorated as for a coronation day. The Lady Helen Munro Ferguson and the Lady Marjorie Mackenzie were amongst those who declared the fair open. There can be no doubt whatever that the response of the Scottish public was an evidence of their deep interest in the great charity, and that the results will do much to encourage the directors and staff of the hospital—chief of whom is Dr. Philip; to him is dedicated the *Beggar's Wallet*, "out of respect for his distinguished attainments as a physician, his exceptional wisdom as a citizen, and his unflinching loyalty as a friend."

ASSOCIATION OF MEDICAL DIPLOMATES OF SCOTLAND.

On November 27th a deputation from the Association of Medical Diplomates of Scotland was formally received by the President and Council of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh. The deputation consisted of the President of the Association (Mr. St. Aubyn-Farrer), the Honorary Treasurer (Mr. W. Bell), and the Honorary Secretary (Dr. David Walsh). The gentleman last mentioned introduced the deputation and explained the object of the petition which they were then to present on behalf of the diplomates of the Edinburgh College. The petitioners prayed for the substitution or addition of a membership diploma for the existing qualification of Licentiate and Fellow. The desirability of such a change was urged by licentiates, who found themselves handicapped by competing in practice with those holding the membership of the English Royal College. An apparent inferiority was attached to the licentiate, a disadvantage which it was hoped the College would, if feasible, take steps to remedy. The petition was then read by the President of the Association, who pointed out that it was signed by between 700 and 800 diplomates of the College. The petition, handsomely illuminated on vellum and bound in red morocco, was then formally handed by him to the President of the College, Mr. C. W. MacGillivray. Some discussion then took place upon various points raised by the petition. On behalf of the College the President undertook the careful consideration of the important issue involved. Before withdrawing, Mr. St. Aubyn-Farrer thanked the President and Council for their most courteous reception.

We are requested to add that it is hoped that Licentiates and Fellows of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh who have not yet sent in their signatures to the petition will do so at once to Dr. Walsh, 18A, Hanover Street, W., for a supernumerary list.

THE LATE MRS. ELDER.

By the death of Mrs. John Elder the University of Glasgow has lost a generous benefactor, who at various times subscribed liberally to the University funds. She founded the women's department at Queen Margaret College, and for a long time took great interest in its welfare. Unfortunately some years ago Mrs. Elder considered that the University officials had broken faith with her by instituting mixed classes at Eilmorehill. Among other gifts to Govan, Mrs. Elder erected the Elder Cottage Hospital in connexion with the Cottage Nurses' Training Home. By her will she directs her trustees to pay any balance of the cost of the hospital building and of the equipment, and in addition she has set aside a sum of £50,000, of which the revenue is to be used in payment of the expenses of the hospital. To the Training Home she bequeaths the villa and ground presently occupied by that institution.

THE PAISLEY INFIRMARY.

During the latter half of the past week a very successful bazaar has been held in Paisley in aid of the funds of the Royal Alexandra Infirmary. The promoters aimed at securing £15,000 to remove a debt of £11,000, and place the institution upon a sound financial footing. The infirmary was erected a few years ago at a cost of £98,000, and by subsequent donations and subscriptions a further building fund of £90,000 was obtained. The debt of £11,000 arose from the yearly contributions falling short of the annual cost of maintenance. The institution provides accommodation for 167 patients, and there are in addition an isolation block, nurses' home, etc., while a dispensary was erected by private subscription as a Jubilee Memorial of the late Queen Victoria. The appeal for funds was warmly responded to by all classes, and valuable gifts and contributions were given. The bazaar was opened by Her Highness the Duchess of Albany on Wednesday, and at the termination on Saturday evening the Committee were able to announce that the total receipts amounted to £17,432, so that the sum aimed at was more than realized.

Ireland.

THE ELECTION OF DIRECT REPRESENTATIVE FOR IRELAND.

WE have received the following letter from Dr. Laffan of Cashel:

"Your reference to the above in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL of November 25th induces me to trouble you with some remarks on so important a matter. Personally I have no ambition to be the elected representative of a body of men who for so long a period have lain down under the metropolitan whip. Our profession is split up into two bodies in Ireland as with you—the rulers and the ruled. The doctor-making folk and the doctor-paying folk—the lordly minority and the suffering majority. Now let us see what the suffering masses ought to insist on.

"1. They ought to insist on examinations which should be open to the presence of every registered medical practitioner. Full liberty should be allowed to introduce shorthand reporters at the orals and to take copies of all written answers. Such an arrangement would get rid of fraudulent examinations and give us all more elbow room by lessening the in-pur into the profession.

"2. Hospital abuses should be sternly put down by making it infamous for any medical man to serve a hospital which by the admission of rich patients should rob the poor, the profession, and the charitable. A motion to this effect should be introduced at every meeting of the Medical Council by our direct representative.

"3. The professional masses who could formerly bestow estates on their sons by the cheaper medical education they could give them, should have that property restored to them by being readmitted to a share in the training of the neophytes of their profession, and the grounds for the repeated condemnation of the Medical Council visitors on the defective practical training of the profession be removed. In this way the views of the late Sir J. Paget, Mr. Wheelhouse, and other independent members of our calling would be given effect to.

"Lastly, a Council which is supported by us should be so reformed as to be elected by us, and not by those who prey on our very vitals.

"The foregoing seem to me the main planks for which the masses should strive. I will support any man who may be