the strength of character, enthusiasm, and determination of John Chiene. The surgery of the present, like every other department of human knowledge, was the product of evolution, and had culled from every source that which would contribute to its advancement. A new era dawned when John Hunter left the Lanarkshire farm in which he had been born and brought up, and joined his elder brother William in London, three years after the rout of the Stuart cause at Culloden. It was Hunter who raised surgery to the dignity of a science. Before his time surgery and physiology were far asunder. Never since Hunter's day had the study and teaching of surgery been dissociated from the sciences of physiology and pathology. Surgical anaesthesia, which they owed to America (the word itself to the gifted "Autocrat of the Breakfast Table"), was of all gifts of science to mankind the happiest and the most easily appreciated. The name of their countryman, James Y. Simpson, would always be associated with the birth of anaesthesia, for he not only discovered the anaesthetic uses of chloroform, but he rendered memorable service in advancing its cause. It was Joseph Lister who reformed the whole science of surgery, and it was one of the priceless possessions of their *Alma Mater* that it was during his incumbency of the chair of clinical surgery in that university that he perfected the theory and practice upon which the antiseptic principle was founded. Impressive and encouraging as was the remarkable growth, within recent years, of laboratories devoted to medical science, no one who had any knowledge of the vast field to be covered, of the difficulty and complexity of the problems, of the expenditure of money required, and of the returns in increased knowledge and benefits to mankind which had been attained, and which might be expected in increasing measure, could for a moment suppose that the existing opportunities, considerable as they were, were adequate to meet the present and the future needs of scientific medicine. It must ever be the aim of those who had the interests of universities and colleges at heart to foster the spirit of research in their students, and especially in their graduates, and ever seek to provide greater facilities to enable such research to be undertaken. They as a profession did not grudge the large expenditure which was required to maintain the naval and military forces of the Empire, nor the providing in old age for those who were unable, or had honestly failed to provide a competence for themselves, but they did desire that in the huge expenditure with which the country was charged that more should be forthcoming than the beggarly pittance at present granted for the advancement of those sciences on which the health and happiness of the people so much depended.

Dermatology in Glasgow.

In accordance with the power recently obtained by the directors in a Provisional Order, the Skin Hospital in Elmbank Street, Glasgow, has been closed and ceases to exist as a separate institution. The outdoor department has been transferred to the Western Infirmary, and will be carried on as a department of the dispensary, while, as hitherto, the two skin wards will be available for the treatment of more serious cases. To carry on the new dermatological work, the directors of the Western Infirmary have appointed Dr. J. Wyllie Nicol physician to the wards, and Dr. J. G. Tomkinson to officiate on the dispensary staff. During the next few months the University of Glasgow will establish the McCall Anderson Memorial Lectureship in Dermatology, for which provision is also made in the provisional order.

During the forty-eight years of its existence the Skin Hospital has done valuable work. Originally started for the gratuitous treatment of the poor suffering from the various forms of skin disease and for the advancement of this department of medical science, under the able guidance of the late Sir Thomas McCall Anderson both these objects were nobly fulfilled. The hospital was founded in 1861, and the first physicians were Dr. A. B. Buchanan and Dr. T. McCall Anderson. Dr. Buchanan died in 1865, but McCall Anderson maintained his connexion with the hospital till his death in 1908. The original premises were at 63, John Street, where they remained till 1878, when the directors purchased a house in Holland Street with an entrance from Elmbank Street. In 1871 the directors made a good bargain with the managers of the Western Infirmary, then in course of erection, whereby, on the sum of £2,000, which they had collected for building purposes, being transferred to the Western Infirmary that institution undertook to provide for the use of the Skin Hospital two wards each of 20 beds. It will thus be seen that the connexion between the Skin Hospital and the Western Infirmary is of old standing, and it was natural that when, on the death of Sir Thomas McCall Anderson, the future of the Skin Hospital came to be discussed, the directors should decide that the main objects of the Skin Hospital would be most advantageously ensured by amalgamating with the Western Infirmary and by founding a lectureship in the university for the promotion of study and research in relation to the pathology and treatment of skin diseases and for giving practical instruction in dermatology. To endow the lectureship the sum of £2,500 is to be paid over to the University Court, and the lectureship is to be named the "McCall Anderson Memorial Lectureship in Dermatology." The Western Infirmary has also agreed to call the two skin wards the "A. B. Buchanan Memorial Ward" and the "McCall Anderson Memorial Ward" respectively.

Ireland.

[From Our Special Correspondents.]

Dispensary Doctors' Salaries.

At a meeting held on September 27th, the Limavady Board of Guardians, despite the appeal of Dr. MacCarthy, Local Government Board Inspector, to their feelings of fairness and justice, to say nothing of generosity, decided to adhere to the scale of salaries previously adopted. This scale, proposed in 1905, provided for an initial salary of £100 a year, proceeding by increments of £5 quinquennially to a maximum of £120. At present four of the five dispensary medical officers are in receipt of £100 a year and the fifth £105, although they have been in the service of the guardians for periods of thirty-seven, thirty-one, thirty, nineteen, and seven years respectively. It was intended by the guardians that the first increase of £5 should only be granted on the completion of *five more years*. It was thus manifest that these gentlemen could never reach the very meagre maximum allowed. Dr. MacCarthy said the scale was absolutely the very lowest in Ireland. Once medical men have been for some time established in such appointments and districts, it is extremely difficult to abandon all their interests and seek new fields; but how any young medical man, with all England, the services, and the colonies before him, can be induced to apply for such posts and be at the beck and call of every red line, perhaps necessitating a journey of fifteen miles, and at a salary which, all told, will scarcely pay his posting, can only be explained as a matter of sentiment or ignorance of the world, not on principles of legitimate business. The landed gentry have left or are leaving the country houses. Such a house, with attendance on visitors, servants, and mostly a large family, used to be worth anything from £20 to £100 a year to the medical attendant, but they are standing empty by the dozen all over Ireland; the farmers are growing wealthier, but from a medical point of view offer no compensation as yet to the unfortunate doctor.

Health of Belfast.

At the monthly meeting of the Belfast City Council on October 1st, the medical officer of health reported that the death-rate from all causes had been 15.7; there had been a few cases of typhus fever, but the disease had been stamped out, and at the beginning, and no others had occurred. At the next meeting

The Port Sanitary officer and the medical officer of health reported the importation of some 140 tons of inedible lard from the United States of America; the word "inedible" had been whitewashed over. The importers agreed to reinstate the words "inedible" or "non-edible," and to account for all such lard they already had or were about to receive. Professor Symmers reported that the water in the Ormeau Avenue Baths, after four weeks' use of the new system of filtration and aëration, contained 27 per cent. less germs than the original fresh water.

THE BELFAST NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY.

As already announced in the JOURNAL, Sir John Byers has been re-elected President of the Natural History and Philosophical Society for another year. The society has made application to the Commissioners of Charitable Donations and Bequests to be allowed to transfer upon loan to the Belfast Corporation the various collections of the museum, and the Corporation has agreed to take this over, and strike a rate of ½d. in the £ for the care and use of the specimens. This will leave a certain amount of money to be expended on lectures and the like.

England and Wales.

[FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENTS.]

MANCHESTER AND DISTRICT.

THE JOHN MORLEY LABORATORIES.

THE new chemical laboratories, which have been built through the munificence of Mr. Andrew Carnegie, who presented £10,000 to the University of Manchester for the purpose, are, by his request, to be known as the John Morley Chemical Laboratories. The new buildings include a large laboratory for organic chemistry, research rooms, private laboratories, and other accommodation for the professors, and a large laboratory for third-year students, with new service and store rooms, and cold-storage and ice-making machinery. In addition to Mr. Carnegie's gift a considerable sum is required for equipment, but towards this some generous benefactions have already been received.

Lord Morley, the Chancellor, who presided at the Convocation of the University on October 4th, after conferring honorary degrees upon the American Ambassador; Sir Robert Stout, Chancellor of the University of New Zealand; Sir Alfred Lyall, and Dr. Otto Wallach, Professor of Chemistry in the University of Göttingen, delivered a short address, in the course of which he said that he would like every one to consider what was the proper answer to the question, What is an educated person? He would himself put first the power to appreciate the nature of evidence, to know when a thing was proved and when it was not. His experience at the India Office had led him frequently to consider how far circumstances limited the application of abstract principles, and how far circumstances transformed principles, excellent in certain respects at certain times and in certain places, into irrelevant catchwords. The American Ambassador, Mr. Whitelaw Reid, in thanking the university for the honour conferred upon him, said that in some of the newer institutions in America there had sprung up an idea, rather extravagantly expressed in the popular saying that the education of a boy who was to make his way in the world should teach him everything about something and something about everything. A university like Manchester might be disposed to be little more insistent upon the last principle.

Sir Henry Roscoe, Emeritus Professor of Chemistry, having declared the new laboratories open, said that the chemical school of Owens College and the University of Manchester had been, and he firmly believed would long remain, the premier school of chemistry in the country. The new laboratories were admirable, and he was glad that Mr. Carnegie, who had endowed libraries throughout the English-speaking world, should now have taken his share in establishing a scientific laboratory, he hoped not for the last time. It was the teacher's personality that made a school, and in that respect the university was on sure and safe ground. In the course of some reminiscences, Sir Henry Roscoe said that it was almost exactly fifty-two years since, at the age of 24, he was appointed professor of chemistry in Owens College; he was the last survivor of the old staff which in 1857 set itself doggedly to overcome the prejudices that then existed. The college was then a very small affair; there were only thirty-five students, of whom fifteen worked in his laboratory. The progress made in the last fifty years read almost like a fairy tale. The university was now conspicuous in all branches of intellectual activity; it was not a mere school of science, though each of its science departments might well challenge comparison with similar institutes in other universities, but a real university with all its faculties fully and adequately represented.

WALES.

SWANSEA SANATORIUM.

THE Swansea Board of Guardians, which has for some time recognized the need of a sanatorium in the Swansea district, has now decided to call the attention of the Swansea Borough Council, as the authority primarily responsible for the health of the town, to the urgent necessity of doing something to prevent the spread of consumption either by providing a sanatorium, or such other means. Mr. Owen, who has taken an active interest in the subject, told the guardians that last week one of the relief committees had thirteen cases of consumption before it. Sir John T. D. Llewelyn, of Penllergaer, recommended that an arrangement should be made with the Alltymynydd Sanatorium, which, he said, had already done excellent service. At present that sanatorium was restricted to the three western counties, but he hoped some arrangement could be made for the erection of châlets to which Swansea patients could be sent. Recently, as a representative of the Glamorgan County Council, he attended a conference in London, at which the feeling was expressed that local authorities might join in a much wider application of powers to get this terrible disease stamped out. He understood that about 50 per cent. of consumptive cases could be cured if sent away in decent time. Some of the members attributed much of the consumption at Swansea to overcrowding.

Correspondence.

THE GASTROSCOPE AND ITS USES.

SIR,—It may safely be assumed that the vast majority of those who read in your issue of September 25th the account of the admirable piece of independent work carried out by Drs. Souttar and Theodore Thompson on gastroscopy, were under the impression that these investigators had struck new ground. Only a select few in all probability were conversant with the pioneer gastroscopic inventions and demonstrations of Mikulicz[1] so far back as 1881, and with the straight gastroscopic devices introduced by Rosenheim[2] in 1895. There must be many, however, who remember reading the lengthy and illustrated article on oesophagoscopy and gastroscopy in the *Lancet* of April 28th, 1900, by Dr. George Kelling,[3] in

[1] V. Mikulicz, J.: (*a*) Ueber Gastroskopie und Oesophagoskopie, *Zentralbl. f. Chir.*, 1881, No. 43, s. 673. (*b*) Ueber Gastroskopie und Oesophagoskopie, *Wien. med. Presse*, 1881, No. 45, s. 1405; No. 46, s. 1437; No. 47, s. 1473; No. 48, s. 1505; No. 49, s. 1547. (*c*) Ueber Gastroskopie und Oesophagoskopie. mit demonstrationen am Lebenden, *Verhandlungen der Deutsch. Gesellsch. f. Chir. XI Kongress, Berlin, 1882*, s. 30. (*d*) Leading article on Oesophagoscopy and Gastroscopy, *Medical Times*, May 5th, 1883.

[2] Rosenheim, Th.: (*a*) Ueber die Besichtigung der Kardia nebst Bemerkungen ueber Gastroskopie, *Deut. med. Woch.*, 1895, No. 45, s. 740. (*b*) Ueber Oesophagoskopie und Gastroskopie, *Deut. med. Woch.*, 1895, No. 43, s. 688. (*c*) Ueber Gastroskopie, mit demonstrationen, *Berl. klin. Woch.*, 1896, No. 13, s. 239, u. s. 275.

[3] Kelling: (*a*) Zur Oesophagoskopie und Gastroskopie, *Archiv f. Verd.-Krank.*, 1896, Bd. ii, s. 321. (*b*) Endoscopy of the Oesophagus and Stomach, *Lancet*, April 28th, 1900.