

the back of the vestibule, and filling the space between it and the back wall of the building, are too small dressing-rooms, each about 6 ft. square, with doors opening both into the waiting and into the consulting-room. The waiting-room measures 18 ft. 6 in. by about 12 ft. A larger room was not provided as it is desired to avoid the collection of a crowd of consumptives, and it was decided that each patient should be told to come at a definitely fixed time. The consulting-room measures 15 ft. by 12 ft., and opening out of it is a small laboratory measuring 11 ft. by 6 ft. fitted with a bench and sink. There are also two lavatories, one opening out of the waiting-room and the other out of the consulting-room. These rooms are cross-ventilated by windows and other openings in ceiling and wall and warmed by two open grates, one having a boiler behind it. The internal walls are painted dead white with "duresco" and the wood work enamelled with "paripan." Both therefore are easily kept clean. The walls themselves are built on the hollow-wall system, with a view to equability of temperature, the material used being "eternite," which is composed mainly of asbestos and cement and presents a smooth surface.

Externally, the building presents the appearance of a half-timbered cottage; it was built in a little over six weeks, is estimated to have a lifetime of not less than twenty-five years, and cost altogether, including foundations (prepared by the borough engineer) and gas, electric light, and water fittings, £330.

The equipment is also simple. In addition to tables and chairs, it consists of readily sterilizable hypodermic syringes of 1 c.cm. capacity, clinical thermometers, a weighing machine, a laryngoscope, and lamp; a urine testing apparatus; a supply of sputum flasks, a small sterilizer for syringes; a spirit lamp, cotton wool, strapping plaster, and alcohol; a vertical filing cabinet for case-cards and charts, and a small laboratory outfit. The drugs kept include pyramidon (for the treatment of headache and sleeplessness consequent on injection), witch-hazel (for the treatment of pain in the needle tracks), an inhalation, and malt and cod-liver oil.

The staff at present consists of one medical officer, one whole-time nurse and health visitor, and one part-time health visitor. It is considered, however, that a second medical officer will probably be required, and this may well prove the case, since it is intended that this dispensary shall be not merely a place for the injection of tuberculin, but the head quarters of a general crusade against tuberculosis.

In respect of treatment the first step taken after the patient has been duly examined, is to instruct him how to take and record his own temperature. He is then told to do so every four hours for four days, and return at the end of that period. If his case is then deemed one of tuberculosis, and his temperature not above 100° F., and there is no other contraindication, tuberculin injections are commenced forthwith. If, however, definite evidence of tuberculosis cannot otherwise be detected, he is tested by old tuberculin and curative injections commenced if a definite reaction follows. The tuberculins used in treatment are first P.T.O. (originally unconcentrated bovine tuberculin); then P.T. (which is P.T.O. evaporated down to one-tenth of its volume at a low temperature and in a partial vacuum); and finally O.T. or Koch's Old Human Tuberculin. For other details regarding the dispensary and the treatment followed therein, readers may be referred to a pamphlet<sup>1</sup> on the subject drawn up by Dr. Mearns Fraser.

## Scotland.

[FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENTS.]

### ROYAL VICTORIA HOSPITAL FOR CONSUMPTION AT EDINBURGH.

It was recently explained in the JOURNAL that an appeal had been made for funds for the purpose of extending the outdoor dispensary in connexion with the Royal Victoria Hospital for Consumption at Edinburgh. A further stage has now been reached, for the managers have bought, at a cost of £2,500, St. Cuthbert's United Free Church and Hall, not far from the west end of Princes Street, and in a

<sup>1</sup> W. H. Barrett, Limited, High Street, Portsmouth. Price 1s. net.

central position for railways and tramways. The necessary alterations will at once be begun, and it is expected that they will be completed in time for the building to be in use early next year. The church itself will be used as a large waiting-hall, and a series of examining and dressing-rooms will open off this central hall. On the ground floor there will be provided a drug dispensary, a caretaker's house, and lavatory accommodation. The upper floor will be reserved for scientific research work in connexion with tuberculosis. The hall will be used as a tuberculosis museum, where also meetings for the education of the public will be held. This is a further step in the excellent organization devised by Dr. Philip for fighting consumption.

### MEDICAL HOSTELS IN GLASGOW.

The committee in charge of the University and Western Infirmary Medical Hostels, consisting of Principal Sir Donald MacAlister, Lady MacAlister, Professor Muir, Dr. Mackintosh, Dr. and Mrs. Crawford Renton, and Mr. Gourlay, desire to make public acknowledgement to the generous donors who contributed £1,000 towards defraying the initial expenses. Two hostels in telephonic communication with the Western Infirmary have been opened, and both have been full from the outset. The students attending the infirmary realize the great value of the facilities for securing extra clinical instruction in urgent medical or surgical cases, which the new arrangement affords, and all the rooms in both houses are taken for next winter. They are the first hostels for medical students adjacent to and in direct telephonic communication with an infirmary, to be opened in Scotland. The charge for board and lodging is £1 1s. a week, and so far, this has sufficed to make the hostels self-supporting, which is what the committee has aimed at. As the success of the experiment is now demonstrated, the committee looks forward to opening a permanent residency, capable of accommodating twenty-five students. For the initial expenses of adapting and furnishing a suitable house, it invites contributions, which may be sent to Mr. John W. Gourlay, 124, St. Vincent Street, Glasgow, or to any member of committee.

### INSANITARY LEWIS.

The medical officer of health for the district of Lewis in his report to the district committee remarks on the recent outbreaks of typhus at Borge, in connexion with which 18 cases with three deaths were notified. In the course of his report Dr. Murray states that the village of Borge is an exaggerated microcosm of the worst sanitary features in the Island of Lewis. The great majority of the dwellings outrage the most elementary sanitary principles. They are built on sites which it is impossible to drain, and are consequently sodden and reeking with the products of the byre—a most fertile breeding ground for fever and other diseases. The great majority of the present houses should be condemned, and a better class built on healthier areas.

### HEREDITARY UNSOUNDNESS IN HORSES.

There is considerable doubt as to the diseases and defects of horses which should be classed as hereditary unsoundness, and the adoption of a list by the Board of Agriculture seems to be a step in the right direction. It is the result of the recommendations of the Advisory Council on Horse Breeding, and is a schedule for disqualifications for registration of stallions. The conditions enumerated are cataract, ringbone, roaring, navicular disease, sidebone, shivering, whistling, bone spavin, string halt, and defective genital organs. There may be doubt as to the proof that certain of the above are hereditary, but according to the combined wisdom of an experienced body of men they are of this nature, and the list will direct inquiry and observation into useful channels.

## Ireland.

[FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENTS.]

### IRISH DISTRICT LUNATIC ASYLUMS.

In reference to the bill at present before Parliament relating to the employment, pension, and superannuation of asylum attendants, the Secretary of the Select Committee which has just reported on the bill invited a statement of the views of the Committees of Irish District Asylums.