

great range of surgical instruments, orthopaedic appliances, such things as elastic hosiery, sanitary wools, toilet preparations, surgical soaps, and various foods whose names are household words. A number of bookstalls with many interesting publications were scattered about the exhibition; but it is evident that if these exhibitions go on increasing their area some system of sectioning will have to be devised, for to have artificial limbs, tonic foods, laboratory apparatus, and the waters of English spas all pressing upon his attention within almost the same square yard is bewildering to the visitor and not quite fair to the exhibits.

#### MEDICAL EDUCATION AT ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL.

THE authorities of St. Mary's Hospital Medical School have issued an appeal for public subscription of at least £150,000. Of this sum, £30,000 is required for the rebuilding of the school, and £40,000 for the construction of a new block providing accommodation for a new pathological institute, and for laboratories for certain special subjects. At present the pathological institute, with its seven departments, is housed, not in modern well-equipped laboratories, but in converted wards originally intended for midwifery. Lack of funds, besides causing the pathological work to be conducted in conditions of considerable difficulty, has impeded the provision of in-patient clinical instruction in midwifery at a time when this is urgently required. An appeal is also made for £20,000 to endow a chair of hygiene, public health, and preventive medicine, and for an equal sum to endow a chair of pharmacology. The facts are made public that the teacher of preventive medicine at St. Mary's is paid only £10 a year; that there are not half a dozen whole-time teachers of pharmacology in this country; and that there is in London only one complete pharmacological institute—and that is dissociated from any hospital. It is from the heads of industry that aid is chiefly sought for the endowment of the chair in industrial medicine. The detection and prevention of "dope" and T.N.T. industrial poisoning during the war, and Dr. Llewellyn's researches on miners' nystagmus are given as instances of the value of industrial medicine. Good may ensue, both to the employers and employed, from investigation of the problems connected with fatigue, efficiency, and output, with occupational diseases, and with the psychology of industrial unrest; already in America there are departments of industrial medicine in connexion with six medical schools or universities. The appeal committee has issued a booklet in which are pointed out both the national importance of medical education, and its present handicaps; the extension and alterations which are proposed in the teaching of St. Mary's are summarized in an appeal which is "not based on sentiment but on grounds of investigation and education." Contributions are also asked for towards a fund of £20,000 with which to endow four research fellowships, each yielding £250 yearly, two in medicine and two in surgery.

#### THE FINSEN INSTITUTE IN COPENHAGEN.

In the annual report for 1919 the directors of the Finsen Institute in Copenhagen give a comprehensive survey of its multifarious activities. Altogether 3,957 patients attended the Institute, but only 1,587 were new-comers. The number of old cases of lupus carried over from earlier years is a sad commentary on the refractoriness of this disease even to the most modern treatment; of 507 cases of lupus vulgaris treated in 1919, only 131 were new-comers in 1919. It is, however, pointed out that these chronic cases largely represent the failure on the part of practitioners to send their patients to the Institute early in the disease. The adoption of universal light baths, in addition to strictly local exposures, is regarded as a distinct advance, both the duration of treatment and the frequency of relapses being considerably reduced. But some years

must still pass before the influence of this factor can be demonstrated by statistics. This use of universal actino-therapy applies to surgical tuberculosis as well as to lupus vulgaris, and for the purpose of universal exposures the quartz-mercury lamp has been almost completely superseded by the carbon arc lamp. Only when the subjects of laryngeal tuberculosis cannot tolerate the heat generated by the carbon arc lamp is the quartz-mercury lamp found more satisfactory. The x rays were used on 1,365 patients, partly in conjunction with light baths for various forms of tuberculosis, and partly as the principal remedy in various diseases of the skin. Altogether 98 patients were treated with radium, but the report does not say with what result. Carbon dioxide snow continues to be used with satisfactory results in various diseases of the skin, and altogether 166 patients received this treatment. Diathermy has also been introduced, but no opinion is expressed as to the value attached to it at the Institute. The galvano-cautery is occasionally used when electrolysis, diathermy, or operation is impracticable. In the oto-laryngological department Reyn's electrolysis is still practised when the localization or the extent of the disease contraindicates operation, and it is invariably practised when the disease is situated on the septum nasi and in certain parts of the mouth, provided the patient's general condition is suitable. In this department the introduction of universal light baths in the treatment of chronic bone disease and tuberculosis of the larynx is hailed as an important advance, and even in severe cases of laryngeal tuberculosis universal exposures to the carbon arc lamp have been found to banish pain and dysphagia.

WE regret to record the death of Dr. William Murray, consulting physician to the Newcastle-on-Tyne Hospital for Sick Children. An obituary notice will appear in an early issue.

THE Minister of Health has appointed a Committee, with Mr. Neville Chamberlain, M.P., as chairman, to inquire into the practice of living-in on canal boats in England and Wales, and to report whether any alteration in the practice is desirable. The Committee has no medical member.

The Minister of Health has appointed to be a medical officer of the Ministry, Dr. Alexander Macphail, formally Professor of Anatomy in St. Mungo's College, Glasgow, Lecturer in Anatomy at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and Secretary of the Anatomical Supplies Committee of Great Britain. His first duties in the Ministry of Health will relate to the administration of the Anatomy Acts, which has been transferred to the Ministry from the Home Office.

#### PRESENTATION TO DR. J. A. MACDONALD.

THE following further subscriptions have been received from September 21st to October 2nd, in response to the appeal published in the JOURNAL of July 24th (p. 129), towards a presentation to Dr. J. A. Macdonald on the occasion of his retirement from the office of Chairman of Council of the British Medical Association which he had held for ten years. Subscriptions of any amount not exceeding five guineas should be made payable to "The Macdonald Presentation," and sent to the Medical Secretary, British Medical Association, 429, Strand, London, W.C.2.

#### EIGHTH LIST OF SUBSCRIBERS.

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