

## England and Wales.

### NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE AND NORTHERN COUNTIES MEDICAL SOCIETY.

THE annual address of the Society was delivered on December 7th by Sir Humphry Rolleston, President of the Royal College of Physicians of London. The President, Professor Stuart McDonald, occupied the chair. An audience of over two hundred listened with the greatest interest to Sir Humphry's "Reflections on high arterial blood pressure." The lecturer outlined the history of observations on blood pressure from the earliest records to the present time, and then passed on to a critical analysis of the causes and treatment of raised blood pressure. The address will be published in full in the journal of the Society. Professor Drummond proposed a hearty vote of thanks to Sir Humphry Rolleston, which was seconded by Dr. Andrew Smith and carried with acclamation. In the evening the annual dinner took place, at which Sir Humphry Rolleston was the principal guest; 130 members and guests were present. The health of "The Guest" was proposed by Professor T. Beattie, and Sir Humphry Rolleston replied. In his speech he referred to several famous medical men who had originated in the Newcastle district, including Akenside, Addison, and Snow. "The Society" was proposed by Professor Arthur Robinson, Vice-Chancellor of Durham University, and responded to by the President. Dr. R. A. Bolam proposed the health of the other guests of the Society—namely, Professor Drummond, Admiral Slayter, and Mr. S. Dunstan. Admiral Slayter replied.

### THE GRADING OF MILK.

The Minister of Health has made an order entitled the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1922, prescribing the conditions subject to which licences may be granted for the sale of milk as "Certified," "Grade A (tuberculin tested)," "Grade A," or "Pasteurized." The order comes into operation on January 1st, 1923, and copies may be obtained from the Stationery Office either directly or through any bookseller. The principal conditions laid down in the Order are as follows:

*Certified milk* must be produced from healthy cows which have passed the tuberculin test. It must be bottled on the farm, and must satisfy a somewhat severe bacteriological test.

*Grade A (tuberculin tested) milk* must be produced from healthy cows which have passed the tuberculin test. It must be bottled before distribution, and must satisfy a bacteriological test less severe than that required for certified milk.

*Grade A milk* must satisfy the same conditions as Grade A (tuberculin tested) milk, with the exception of the tuberculin test.

*Pasteurized milk* must have been held at a temperature of 145° to 150° F. for at least half an hour, and then cooled to 55°, and it must satisfy a prescribed bacteriological test.

The Order prescribes the fees payable for licences; these have been fixed at such amounts as are estimated to recoup the licensing authorities for their expenditure under the scheme, but the fees are open to revision in the light of experience. An amending Order, dated December 18th, has since been issued, relaxing for a period of six months so much of the principal Order as limits the use of the designation "Pasteurized" to milk which has been treated by the process specified in paragraph (1) of Part IV of the third schedule to that Order.

### SMALL POX IN LONDON AND THE PROVINCES.

Confidence that the outbreak of small-pox in London had been overcome has been shaken by the occurrence of two fresh cases in Southwark on December 20th. At the beginning of the present week only 15 cases remained in hospital, and there had been no fresh admissions since November 24th. In an interesting report Dr. F. W. Alexander, M.O.H. Poplar, gives an account of the action taken in that borough. The outstanding fact is the vigour and concentration of effort devoted to the stamping out of the infection. The danger of the position was at once realized, and a wholesale immunization by vaccination of the inmates and staff of the Poplar workhouse was undertaken and overtaken without delay, so that only those who were already infected or whose infection was too far advanced to be forestalled by vaccination developed the disease. At the same time search for and surveillance of contacts was carried out. The Ministry of Health, the County Council, the borough health authority, and the guardians all shared in the crusade, and all have to be congratulated on the action taken. In the provinces the position is more doubtful. Cases are

reported from Nottinghamshire and Jarrow, and also from South Wales. It will be important to know whether these cases are of the mild or American type which has been the general character of variola in recent years, and also in the present year, or whether the disease in any of the affected areas is of the severe strain, with its 30 per cent. of fatality which has been experienced in London. It is too soon to go into details of the Asylums Board's cases, but a provisional report by the Chairman of the Infectious Hospitals Committee states that from July 25th to December 6th 69 cases of small-pox were admitted. Of these, 23 had died and 15 remained under treatment. Of the cases admitted none showed evidence of vaccination or revaccination within the preceding seventeen years; 12 of the 21 cases with no evidence of vaccination at any period had died; whilst of 48 cases that had been vaccinated in infancy but not since only 11 had died.

## Scotland.

### CHAIR OF PUBLIC HEALTH IN GLASGOW.

MR. HENRY MECHAN, one of the leaders in industry in Glasgow, has presented a sum of £25,000 to the University of Glasgow, for the establishment and equipment of a chair of public health. Hitherto the two departments of forensic medicine and public health have been combined, but Dr. Glaister, the Regius Professor of these subjects, recently reported to the University Court that there had been an enormous increase in the work of the two departments. At the examination last September there were no fewer than 295 candidates. Professor Glaister went on to represent that the time had come when, in the interests of the University, the two subjects should be separated and that an appointment should be made exclusively to the department of public health, leaving him to devote himself to forensic medicine. It was no doubt in consequence of this representation that Mr. Mechan has made his munificent donation. He has left all the details to be settled by the University authorities. The Principal, Sir Donald MacAlister, in making the announcement to the University Court on December 14th, said that the necessary steps to obtain a new ordinance establishing the professorship would be taken immediately. At the same meeting of the Court it was announced that the sum of £20,000 bequeathed by Mr. William Gemmell for the foundation of a chair in the faculty of medicine or of science, in memory of his brother, the late Dr. Samson Gemmell, Regius Professor of the Practice of Medicine in the University, had been received. The Principal remarked that these two chairs raised the number founded in the past fifteen years to seventeen. Even during the last few months four chairs have been founded: physiological chemistry, bacteriology, organic chemistry, and applied physics. The *Glasgow Herald*, in commenting on the most recent gifts, says, speaking of Sir Donald MacAlister, "We shall not go wrong in assuming that his striking personality and high service to the University have some relation to these munificent gifts by the grateful and far-seeing sons of the city."

### ST. ANDREWS UNIVERSITY AND DUNDEE ROYAL INFIRMARY.

At a meeting of the governors of Dundee Royal Infirmary on December 11th the announcement was made that a joint committee of the University Court of St. Andrews and of the Royal Infirmary governors had recommended, among other things, that in the event of a vacancy occurring in one of the professorships of medicine, surgery, pathology, or obstetrics the joint committee should recommend to the University Court one or more persons in order that the Court might appoint one of these to the vacant professorship, and the person so appointed should thereafter be elected to the staff of the Infirmary by the directors. It was also recommended that the joint committee should be retained as a standing committee, with the function of harmonizing the activities of the University and the Infirmary in matters common to both organizations. These recommendations had been approved by the directors and sanctioned by the University Court.

### TREATMENT OF CRIMINALS.

The last meeting of the Glasgow Medical Lunch Club for the present year was held on December 14th. Dr. John Henderson occupied the chair, and Dr. James Devon, Prison Commissioner for Scotland, was present as the guest of the Club.

After lunch Dr. Devon addressed the members on the treatment of criminals. He began by stating that from the purely medical standpoint the first consideration is the welfare of the patient, that the primary duty is the saving of life, without regard to the possible value of the life saved. In the treatment of criminals this principle could not be carried out, as the safety of the public must be considered, and to ensure this a suitable line of action must be adopted towards the offender. The proper care of the criminal was a considerable expense to the country, appreciably greater in England than in Scotland, and any scheme of reform seemed only to result in increased financial outlay, without any corresponding certainty as to improvement. Dr. Devon quoted figures illustrative of the annual cost of upkeep for each inmate in a Borstal institution and in prison. He emphasized the fact that the first consideration should not be the comfort of the offender, but the safety and comfort of other people. The world could not be altered to suit the criminal, but the offender must be made to realize that, to remain a member of a community, he or she must conform to its rules. Various classes of offender were cited, and the lecturer emphasized the point that often the so-called political offender was a greater nuisance and danger to the community than those who commit crime under the influence of passion. The latter, after a term of punishment, were not likely to repeat the offence, but the former could not be trusted to refrain. He or she would not obey the laws of a community, whose constitution they were determined to alter by any means, regular or irregular. With regard to the education of the criminal while under restraint, the lecturer expressed his conviction that this should be directed along some line by which on his release the offender might be able to earn a living honestly. The sort of higher education which was attempted in some quarters was unnecessary, and in most cases futile. The address was much enjoyed by the large attendance of members present, whose thanks were expressed by Dr. D. McKail.

#### CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD FOR SCOTLAND.

At a special meeting of the Central Midwives Board for Scotland for the hearing of penal cases, when Dr. James Haig Ferguson was in the chair, the certificates of two midwives were directed to be cancelled and their names removed from the roll. In one instance judgement had been deferred for further reports from the local supervising authority; these were unfavourable. In the other case charges with regard to failure to take and record pulse and temperature, to keep a register of cases, to send for medical assistance in a case of emergency, and of being generally incapable of carrying out the rules were found to be proved. This woman was further prohibited from attending women in childbirth in any other capacity.

## Ireland.

#### BELFAST TEACHERS IN AMERICA.

At a meeting of the Ulster Medical Society held in the Medical Institute, Belfast, on December 7th, with the President, Mr. R. J. Johnstone, in the chair, Mr. Andrew Fullerton read "Notes on a visit to hospitals in Canada and in the United States." His visit embraced Montreal, Toronto, Chicago, the Mayo Clinic of Rochester, Baltimore, New York, Boston, and Harvard University. Mr. Fullerton described the warm hospitality of both the Canadian and the United States surgeons, and the most pleasant reunions with those with whom he had worked in France. The essential points of difference between the American hospitals and those at home were the endless wealth that was showered by the rich in the former continent on their institutions; the readiness of both medical men and laymen to pick up, test, and, if found useful, adopt new ideas and suggestions, no matter from what source; the employment of large staffs of young ladies to keep indexes, records, and generally to facilitate looking up past histories and making references; the administration of anaesthetics by specially trained nurses instead of by medical men; the wonderful and very complete general organization; the provision of special pavilions for the middle classes in connexion with the general hospital, so that many surgeons practically spent their whole day at the institution, and the

patient might have his own medical attendant, these patients having thus all the benefits at present conferred only on the poor or on the very rich in this country; the large amount of radium; and the sizes and completeness of the dental clinics. Mr. Fullerton gave very vivid and often humorous details of his interviews and adventures, and described the impressive ceremony of his admission as Honorary Fellow of the American College of Surgeons. He said, once more, that nothing could exceed the kindness and thoughtfulness of those whom he met, some of them complete strangers. The President proposed, and Professor Sinclair seconded, the following resolution, which was carried with acclamation:

"That the Ulster Medical Society congratulates Colonel A. Fullerton, C.B., C.M.G., on his election as an Honorary Fellow of the American College of Surgeons. Not only is this distinction a fitting recognition of Colonel Fullerton's eminence as a surgeon and of his wide fame as an urologist, but it reflects honour on the Belfast School of Surgery, of which he is so distinguished a member."

Professor MacIlwaine followed with his account of a "Holiday visit to Montreal, Toronto, and the Mayo Clinic." He described the charming site of the university at each of these Canadian cities, and spoke of the wealth at the disposal of American institutions. His chief interest lay in the pharmacological teaching of the student and in the research, and every step and all equipment were most kindly explained to him. The metabolic clinic with its special little hospital and its special kitchen was a great advance and its study very instructive. The various clinics at Rochester were described and his experiences in each. Everywhere he was struck with the immense amount of trouble taken and the immense amount of work. The indexing and reference staff of young ladies was most complete; in no other way could so much be got through. The kindness of everyone and the amount of trouble taken to show the visitor everything were beyond all praise. Dr. Dempsey and Dr. Gardner Robb spoke of their experiences in America; the latter said that the Rockefeller Institute sent him the anticerebrospinal serum free for the town. The President conveyed to both the readers the very hearty thanks of the meeting for their most interesting and instructive papers.

#### TYPHUS IN COUNTY MAYO.

The typhus outbreak in the Barony of Erres on the West Mayo coast, about which alarming reports were circulated, is now well under control. When the first outbreak occurred in June the Public Health Department of the Irish Free State Government sent medical and nursing staffs with full equipment to the area. Since then there have been sporadic cases, but with the measures taken by the Public Health Department the serious danger which threatened the inhabitants is practically at an end; the number of deaths recorded is three. The two local medical officers were so unremitting in their attention to the patients that both were prostrated with fatigue and overwork, but neither contracted the fever. One of them has already resumed duty. Dr. McHale, the other medical officer, who was recuperating in Dublin, has returned to Belmullet, and it is expected that he will resume his duties in a few days.

Mr. Blythe, Minister of Local Government, in reply to a question, at a recent sitting of Dail Eireann, stated that in the middle of June cases of typhus fever were reported to the Minister of Local Government by the medical officers of health in Belmullet, and had continued at intervals over the intervening period. In all about 20 cases had come under notice, including the sanitary subofficer, who contracted the infection in the discharge of his duties, and one of the nursing sisters of the local hospital. The disease had been attributed to crowding in a disused coastguard station in which families who had deserted their homes took up their abode. Belmullet had long been recognized as a district in which typhus fever might be said to be endemic. The population was very poor, living in small and congested homes, with primitive habits, and the practice of housing animals in dwellings still existed. The normal disadvantages of the district had been aggravated by the unsettled conditions, and the sanitary administration was being carried out in the area under the gravest disadvantages. An inspector of the Ministry had reported on the immediate needs of the situation. A medical inspector had since been sent to the district and other action taken. The most recent information received by the Ministry was that there were no fever cases at present in the district, excepting two contacts in hospital under observation.