

have to decide by whom they shall be represented in Paris and what their representatives shall do and say at the Congress. This is a matter which must be taken in hand early in the day. All resolutions to be submitted and reports to be read for the introduction of a separate subject should be sent to the general secretary before January 1st next. If they are sent later they may be crowded out and no new subjects can be introduced or taken into consideration when once the final programme has been prepared and issued. It is therefore not too soon to carefully consider the questions at issue and to prepare for the Congress.

Paris, May 1st.

## SCOTLAND.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

### *Scottish Association for the Medical Education of Women.*

THE Scottish Association for the Medical Education of Women, which conducts the Edinburgh Medical College for Women, has issued its ninth annual report. The court of the association express their sense of loss by the death of Mr. J. Ritchie Findlay who had taken the greatest interest in the welfare of the association and who had acted for several years as its president and then as vice-president. The number of students attending the college had increased from 84 last winter to 101 during the winter session of 1898-99. The income of the college from class fees and matriculation fees was £1959 15s. 6d. Since 1894 the curriculum and classes of the college have been especially recognised by the University of Edinburgh as qualifying for graduation in medicine.

### *Royal Society of Edinburgh.*

At a meeting of the Royal Society of Edinburgh held on May 1st papers were read by Dr. Alexander Galt, of Glasgow University, Dr. Carlier of Edinburgh, Lord Kelvin, Dr. O. Fuhrmann (communicated by Sir John Murray), Professor J. C. Beattie, and Professor Tait. The subject of Dr. Carlier's paper was Changes that Occur in Some Cells in the Newt's Stomach during Digestion. The paper was a study in cell physiology and showed that digestion began at the upper end of the stomach and passed in a wave down to the lower end. There was an interval of from one and a half to two hours between the beginning of the secretion in the upper and lower ends. The secretion in one cell lasted about four hours. The nuclei underwent changes, antecedent to the formation of the gastric ferment at the expense of the chromatic substance, and secretion came to an end when the chromatic material was exhausted. The chromatic substance was renewed by passage into the nucleus of material from the protoplasm, and when this was accomplished secretion could begin again. There was thus a kind of periodicity in the secretion. Cells undergoing division secreted and showed the same changes as cells which were not dividing. Nucleoli probably consisted of waste matter derived from changes in the chromatin. They were frequently extruded.

### *Fever Hospital for Kelso.*

At a meeting of the Kelso Police Commissioners on May 1st a communication was read from the Local Government Board calling attention to the lack of hospital accommodation at Kelso for cases of infectious disease and urging the commissioners and local authority to approach the district committee with a view to combination in their scheme. The commissioners remitted the communication to a committee of the whole board.

May 2nd.

## IRELAND.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

### *Mercer's Hospital, Dublin.*

At a meeting of the Dublin District Council held on May 1st the following resolution was proposed by Alderman Russell:—

That the resolution of council of Oct. 19th, 1898, adopting Section No. 3 of the Term Presentments relating to hospitals be varied in so far as it imposes upon the board of Mercer's Hospital the obligation of appointing three representatives of the corporation on the board as

a condition of their obtaining the annual grant of £300; and that Councillors M'Call, Murray, and Clarke be appointed by this corporation to attend the meetings of the Board of Governors of Mercer's Hospital as the representatives of this council and act on the visiting committee of the hospital; and that on an undertaking being received by the town clerk from the hospital authorities that the above-named gentlemen will be properly and regularly summoned to all board meetings of the hospital pending alteration of charter, that the city treasurer be authorised forthwith to pay over the said grant of £300 to the board of Mercer's Hospital.

He said that at one time the management of the hospital had been anything but good, but now that had been changed and the hospital management was such as they could approve of. He moved his resolution in the interest of the poor of the district. After considerable discussion the resolution was ultimately passed.

### *The Royal University of Ireland.*

A committee of graduates of the Royal University has been formed to secure the return of Dr. J. Walton Browne (senior surgeon to the Belfast Royal Hospital) as a representative of Convocation in the Senate of the Royal University. The vacancy arises owing to the period for which Professor O'Sullivan of Cork was elected having elapsed, and in a circular just issued the secretaries of Dr. Browne's committee say: "The unsatisfactory position of university affairs in Ireland, the recently threatened changes, and the resolution of The O'Connor Don at the last meeting of the Senate of the Royal University and the voting thereon imperatively demand the careful consideration of the graduates." They claim that the present vacancy offers an opportunity for showing the views of the graduates. While objecting to the abolition of the Royal University they consider that a material alteration in its constitution and management is necessary. They think that a more liberal endowment is necessary for the Queen's Colleges and that if Government see fit to endow sectarian colleges it should be done openly and not, as at present, "in an indirect and underhand" manner through the Royal University. They recommend that the present system of appointing Fellows and examiners be abolished and that all appointments should be made on the ground of merit and experience, with a fair proportion of extern examiners. Dr. Browne having pledged himself to support these views the graduates are asked to support him. It appears that the place which Dr. Browne seeks has been held since 1881 without a contest by Dr. O'Sullivan who, his three years' period (for which he was re-appointed) having expired, now seeks re-election. A member of Convocation (the Rev. J. Darlington) publishes in the Dublin press a letter which he has sent to the secretaries of Dr. Browne's committee, in which he points out that Convocation is represented on the Senate by six members; four of these come from Queen's College, Belfast, one from Cork, and one from Galway. He says that the election of Dr. Browne would give Belfast five senators, leaving the Cork graduates without a representative. Four of the six representatives of Convocation are Protestants and two have hitherto been Roman Catholics. Dr. Browne's election would make the proportion five Protestants to one Roman Catholic. The writer points out that Dr. Browne's committee are, consciously or unconsciously, trying to set at nought the honourable arrangement that one half of the governing body of the Royal University should be Roman Catholics—a condition loyally observed to the present. At present there are 18 Protestant senators, not including the Chancellor, and 16 Roman Catholics, two vacancies having occurred, one by the death of the Vice-Chancellor, Mr. Redington, and the other by the expiration of the three years' period of Dr. O'Sullivan. The election of Dr. Walton Browne, the writer says, would mean the establishment of a majority of 19 Protestants to 17 Roman Catholics, not including the Chancellor. In reply to a circular issued by Dr. O'Sullivan and the letter from the Rev. Father Darlington Dr. Walton Browne has addressed a communication to the members of Convocation in which he says that a representative of Convocation does not represent a college but the whole of the graduates of a university and they are entitled to know the views of the persons who are supposed to speak and act for them officially. He says that the northern graduates, having inquired directly about Dr. O'Sullivan's views (as revealed by the correspondence which he published), could not support him after his letter of April 14th. With reference to the question of representatives of colleges brought forward by Dr. O'Sullivan and of the religious sects referred to by the Rev.

Father Darlington in his letter of April 27th Dr. Browne wishes to say "that whatever Government may have done in relation to the Fellows and examiners I feel certain that the majority of the graduates recognise neither college nor religious profession at an election of a representative on the Senate."

*New Regulations by the Public Health Committee of Belfast.*

The Public Health Committee of Belfast have decided that in future there will be only four cleansings of ashpits in the year and householders who do not avail themselves of these stated opportunities must do the work at their own cost. Further, all trade refuse removed by the department is to be charged at the rate of 2s. per load. The truth is that the committee feel that the expenditure of the department, which has been creeping up gradually, must be restricted, as on all hands people in Belfast are crying out about the great increase in the municipal rates. A writer in the press has pointed out that in their proposed action the Public Health Committee have overlooked their liabilities under the fifty-third section of the Public Health (Ireland) Act, the wording of which is as follows: "If a sanitary authority who have themselves undertaken or contracted for the removal of house refuse from premises or the cleansing of earth closets, privies, ashpits, and cesspools, fail without reasonable excuse after notice in writing from the occupier of any house within their district requiring them to remove any house refuse or to cleanse any earth closet, privy, ashpit, or cesspool belonging to such house or used by the occupiers thereof to cause the same to be removed or cleansed, as the case may be, within seven days the sanitary authority shall be liable to pay to the occupier of such house a penalty not exceeding 5s. for every day during which such default continues after expiration of the said period."

*Visit of the Irish Medical Association to Cork.*

Heretofore the annual meetings of the Irish Medical Association have been held in Dublin but this year the association have arranged to make a new departure. The council have decided on holding every alternate general meeting in Dublin and in one of the provincial cities, and Cork has been selected as the place of meeting this year. The medical profession in Cork are devising means for giving a worthy reception to their visitors. Dr. N. J. Hobart, "the father of the profession" in Cork, has been appointed president of the association, a subscription list has been opened, and it is proposed to charter a special steamer to convey the members of the association down the river and round the harbour, due attention being paid to gastronomic requirements. The Council of the Queen's College have generously placed ample accommodation at the disposal of the association for the holding of their meeting and everything points to a successful and pleasant reunion.

May 2nd.

## PARIS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

*Alcohol and Phthisis.*

AT the meeting of the Hospitals Medical Society held on April 21st M. Jacquet informed the society that he had recently made an inquiry into the personal histories of the phthisical patients in his wards with reference to the question of alcohol. He had found that out of 17 patients 16 had been heavy drinkers for some years before their first attack of tuberculosis. They all were in the habit of drinking rum, brandy, or some kind of *apéritif*, and in addition were addicted to absinth. One patient used to take nothing but Amer Picon. In the course of from one to two years most of them reached the cavitation stage. This result is in opposition to the theory of some observers who have insisted on the tendency of phthisis in alcoholics to become fibroid, and it is certain that in phthisical patients there are many and various causes in action, such as, for instance, alcoholism or tuberculous tendencies in their ancestry. Thus two of M. Jacquet's patients, descended from alcoholic parents, had suffered from childhood with tuberculous manifestation elsewhere than in the lungs, such as lupus or tuberculous joint disease. The abuse of alcohol among the working-classes is so common that it is no wonder that phthisis should be also particularly common and virulent among their members. The results of the inquiry are, however, very

striking and it is evident that alcohol, more especially in the form of absinth or *apéritifs*, is "bacilliphile" to a most dangerous degree. M. Jacquet concluded by hoping that his colleagues would give him the results of their own experience.—M. Hayem said that trustworthy statistics on this matter were very difficult to obtain; looking at the enormous number of alcoholics to be found in every section of the wards it was impossible to get accurate information as to the relation between alcohol and phthisis, and it would be just as easy to establish a definite relation between alcohol and diseases of the kidney or stomach. It would be remarkably instructive to take complete statistics of all the alcoholics in the hospitals at one time and the figures would be somewhat astonishing.

*The Drink Traffic.*

The amount of drunkenness and abuse of alcohol which is so universally deplored is due in great measure to the unfortunate law passed in 1880 by which the sale of drink was made free. Anybody can open a pot shop provided that he be of full age, have not incurred certain legal penalties, and have made a declaration at the *mairie*. Throughout France there were in 1880 drink shops to the number of 356,863, while to-day the number is just 500,000—that is to say, half a shop for every 50 inhabitants leaving children out of the question. The best measure of reform would undoubtedly be the repeal of the law of 1880. But there is one great difficulty in the way, and that is that the tavern keepers have become a great electoral power and those whose election depends upon universal suffrage dare not attack them. All the same, two courageous senators, M. Siegfried and M. Béranger, have just drafted a Bill to regulate drink shops and to diminish their numbers. This Bill proposes that the right to open a new drink shop or to continue selling in one already existing shall depend upon the authorisation of the Prefect acting under the Departmental Committee of the Conseil-Général and of the Attorney-General (Procureur de la République). Further, no drink shop where drink is consumed on the premises shall be allowed in any building where other trades are carried on or be in direct communication with such—a state of things constantly met with now. With a view to make the proposed licences not too easy of acquirement the two senators suggest that the Prefect should only grant one licence out of every three applied for so as to reduce the proportion of drink shops to one for every 300 inhabitants as regards Paris and the neighbourhood. Opening a public house without a licence shall be an offence punishable by a fine of from 16 to 1000 francs and compulsory closing. Heavy penalties are also proposed against keepers of cafés and public houses who supply women and girls, whether employed in their establishments or elsewhere, with opportunities for drinking, and if this is done the place can be closed by a police order. Even if this Bill should become law it will leave individuals every chance of getting drunk at home, but it would nevertheless do much to diminish opportunities for temptation and bad example.

*"The New Idol."*

A piece now running at one of the Paris theatres is the talk of the whole town. The author is one of the foremost of the new school of dramatists, M. François de Curel, and he deals on the stage with one of the gravest questions affecting the life of the present day man of science. The case is that of a medical man, one of the first of his profession, who in order to study the problem of the contagiousness of cancer and the possibility of preparing a serum for the treatment thereof inoculates that terrible disease into a poor girl lying in his hospital who, he considers, is bound to die from phthisis within a few days. The patient, however, recovers from her phthisis but the malignant disease becomes disseminated all over her. The matter gets into the press, the public is profoundly moved, and the physician is obliged to send in his resignation of his professorial chair, of his hospital appointment, and of his membership of the Academy. In a beautiful and moving scene with his wife who, associating herself with the public execration of her husband's acts, has announced her intention of leaving him he enters into a magnificent defence of the rights of the investigator and the worker for the good of the whole human race. If, he says, a general receives nothing but praise for bringing about the deaths of thousands of men, and those hale and sound, with a view to an empty conquest of territory or from a mistaken idea of patriotism, the man