

hop substitutes, etc. The object of the analysis of these samples was either the determination of the brewing value for Revenue purposes, or to test their purity, particularly as regards freedom from arsenic. The results of the analysis might be summarized as follows: In 1,972 cases no objection was raised to the articles of which samples were examined. In 79 cases the articles submitted were not objected to, but the applicants were informed that the non-interference of the Board would not protect the user from any action which might be taken under the Food and Drugs Act. In the remaining 80 cases objection was raised to the use of the articles submitted on some one of the following grounds—(1) that the samples examined showed the presence of arsenic beyond the limit recommended by the Royal Commission on Arsenical Poisoning; (2) the presence of copper; (3) the presence of quillaia bark or extract; or (4) that they were alcoholic flavouring essences. Inland Revenue officers had full knowledge of the substances used by brewers for sale in the manufacture of beer. The penalty incurred by a brewer for not entering a full account in his brewing book of the materials used in brewing was £100.

**Medical Aid in the House of Commons.**—Mr. Patrick O'Brien asked the honourable member for Chorley, as representing the First Commissioner of Works, whether, in view of the fact that on the physical disablement of any member of Parliament there was at present no means of summoning immediate professional aid other than the services of any honourable member connected with the medical profession who might happen to be on the premises, he could make a statement as to erecting a telephone to Westminster Hospital, and as to the intention of the Treasury to make an adequate money grant to the hospital to secure prompt medical assistance in the House when needed. Lord Balcarras replied that telephonic communication with Westminster Hospital was arranged on Friday last. The Post Office would make the connexion early this week. As regards the provision of an adequate money grant, that point would be referred to the Treasury.

**Pathological Specimens by Post.**—Dr. Hutchinson asked the Postmaster-General on Monday if he could see his way to rescind the regulation as to the compulsory registration of pathological material sent by post, and allow in its place some distinctive mark upon the envelope. Lord Stanley replied that in view of the risks attending the transmission of pathological material by post, it was important that special precautions should be taken. The regulation which required that such material should be registered was in his opinion a necessary one, and he regretted that he could not see his way to modify it. Dr. Hutchinson pressed the matter by further question and illustration, but the Postmaster-General adhered to his answer.

**The Dangers of Flock Bedding.**—Mr. Fuller asked the President of the Local Government Board whether his attention had been drawn to the insanitary condition of certain cheaper kinds of flock used in the manufacture of cheap mattresses; and whether he would take steps, by legislation or otherwise, for the prevention of the spread of infectious disease arising from the use of insanitary and unwashed materials. Mr. Gerald Balfour answered that his attention had been drawn to the sale and use of unwashed flock for bedding and other purposes. The compulsory cleansing of the materials referred to could not be generally secured under the existing law. The point had been noted for consideration, but he could not at present hold out any prospect of legislation on the subject.

**Evasions of the Medical and Dentists Acts.**—Sir John Tuke asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he had received an opinion from the Law Officers of the Crown concerning evasions of the Medical Acts and of the Dentists Act under the provisions of the Companies Acts; and, if so, whether he would communicate it to the House. Mr. Secretary Akers-Douglas answered that the Board of Trade had received an opinion from the Law Officers, but he was unable to accede to his honourable friend's request, as such opinions were treated as confidential.

**Insanitation at Crossgar.**—Mr. Charles Craig asked the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he was aware of the insanitary condition of Crossgar, co. Down, owing to bad water supply and want of a sewage system; and

whether he would have a Local Government Board Inspector sent to report on the state of the town. Mr. Long answered that representations as to the defective sewerage and unsatisfactory water supply of Crossgar had been made to the Local Government Board. The matter had been brought to the notice of the district council, who, the Board understood, were carrying out works to improve the sewerage and provide a water supply.

**Teachers and Vaccination.**—Mr. Weir asked the Secretary for Scotland on Tuesday last whether he was aware that Miss Haines was appointed a pupil teacher by the Peterhead Burgh School Board in the month of July last, and commenced her duties in the following September, but had recently been informed that her appointment could not be confirmed until it could be certified that she had been successfully vaccinated; and would he explain why this rule had been imposed. Mr. Scott Dickson replied that it was the fact that in accordance with a general rule to that effect the Department had refused to confirm Miss Haines's appointment on the ground that she had not been vaccinated. The rule was imposed in the interests of the health of the children.

## Scotland.

### CREMATION IN SCOTLAND.

THE thirteenth ordinary meeting of the Scottish Burial Reform and Cremation Society, Limited, was held in Edinburgh, on May 19th, Sir Henry D. Littlejohn presiding.

In moving the adoption of the report, Sir Henry said that as Medical Officer of Health for Edinburgh he found that all the cemeteries were being filled up, and that some of them were enlarging their dimensions. Socially, he held that that was of the greatest possible importance. Only members of his profession knew of the awful changes that took place in the human body and the human face when buried in the ground. He himself had records of a hundred country churchyards, the condition of which he had investigated, and some of the details were most horrible. He had personally made inquiry into the system of cremation, and as director of the Society he had gone through the crematorium and had watched the process, and seen how nicely and rapidly the whole thing was managed. During the last few months he had cremated the body of one of his own children, and everything was most pleasant to a father's eyes. In the course of twenty minutes the whole of her body was reduced to fine ashes, and in the course of one and a half hours he was returning to Edinburgh with the urn in his possession. Cremation he held to be a barrier against foul play passing undetected, because before being cremated the body must be seen by two doctors, who certified the cause of death. Public education on the matter, he was sorry to say, was advancing very slowly, but he was becoming more and more convinced of the importance of cremation as contrasted with burying in earth, and he would to the end of his days go on advocating the principles of the Society. It was a disgrace to Edinburgh that they should have to go to Glasgow to have their cremations carried out.

Dr. Ebenezer Duncan, Glasgow, who seconded, said that quite recently he went to look at the ground on which an extension of the grounds of the Royal Infirmary of Glasgow was to take place. The new building was to be erected in the vicinity of the existing Royal Infirmary, on a place which was once a graveyard. He had seen with his own eyes some of the remains unearthed, and in particular the remains of one person who had been buried thirty or forty years before, and the state of that body was simply indescribable. All over the country there were places which used to be graveyards being used for building upon, and he did not think that this could be commended by any one on any ground. Dr. Duncan said that people looked upon the putting of a body on a furnace as a very repulsive idea. As a matter of fact, the body was not put on a furnace at all. The process was really the decomposition of the body by hot air. The body was consumed by the gases from the furnace. There was no element that was offensive to any mind, however sensitive, and he thought it only required a little more enlightenment to make this method of interment a very popular one. They were making progress, he was glad to say, in Scotland, and during the last six months they had had a larger number of cremations than they had had in any previous six months. He had no doubt that in the near future they would get rid of a great

deal of these very natural prejudices which at present prevented relatives from carrying out the wishes of those who had expressed a wish to be cremated. He mentioned that the late Duke of Argyll, and the late Marquis of Bute, had both expressed the wish that their remains should be cremated, but their wishes were not carried out.

The report, which was adopted, showed that twenty-two cremations were carried out at Maryhill during the last financial year, being an increase of four over the previous year. The total since the opening of the crematorium was 167.

#### EDINBURGH ROYAL INFIRMARY.

The annual general meeting of members of the Residents Club will be held in the Caledonian Station Hotel, Edinburgh, on June 30th, 1905, at 6.30 p.m. The eleventh annual dinner will follow at 7 p.m. Professor Annandale, President of the Club, will occupy the chair.

At the weekly meeting of the managers on Monday, May 22nd, Dr. Carnegie Dickson was appointed one of the University clinical tutors in medicine for the present summer session.

#### THE CHANNEL FLEET IN THE FORTH.

In connexion with the visit of eighteen of the finest vessels of the British Navy to the Forth, the Royal College of Physicians had the surgeons of the Fleet as their guests at luncheon on May 22nd, in the Hall of the College, Queen Street. The President, Dr. John Playfair, occupied the chair, and the Vice-President, Dr. Clouston, and the Treasurer, Dr. P. A. Young, acted as Croupiers. The guests were: Fleet Surgeons W. E. Home, E. R. D. Fasken, E. H. Meaden, J. D. Hughes, C. Bradley, H. Holyoake, J. H. Acheson, R. T. A. Levinge; Staff Surgeons P. M. May and H. N. Stephens; Surgeons H. R. Gardiner, E. F. Elles, T. E. R. Lockwood, F. M. N. Smith, J. E. Johnston, and Stone Herkert. Fleet Surgeons Luther and Maitland, who are resident in Edinburgh, were also included in the party.

#### EDINBURGH HARVEIAN FESTIVAL.

The 123rd Harveian Festival will be held in the Hall of the Royal College of Physicians, Queen Street, on June 6th, at 6.30 p.m., when the President, Charles E. Underhill, M.B., F.R.C.P.E., F.R.C.S.E., will deliver the Harveian Oration on "Harvey as a Teacher." Dinner will follow at 7.30. Harveians who intend to be present should intimate their intention to Dr. F. D. Boyd, 22, Manor Place, the day before the festival.

#### BUBONIC PLAGUE AT LEITH.

The three patients—mother and two children—suffering from plague in the hospital for Leith at East Pilton, continue to make satisfactory progress towards recovery.

No further case of plague has occurred either among the contacts or the general community. The houses of the contacts have been thoroughly disinfected. Notwithstanding the very extensive destruction of rats, no evidence of plague has been found in any of those destroyed. The source of the present outbreak, therefore, remains a matter of conjecture.

#### GLASGOW AND DISTRICT BRANCH OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE PREVENTION OF CONSUMPTION.

The fourth annual general meeting of this Branch was held in Glasgow on the afternoon of May 16th, the Hon. the Lord Provost, Sir John Ure Primrose, in the chair.

The annual report of the Council gave an interesting account of the work of the year. Many district public meetings had been held and lectures and addresses given at these by prominent medical men; also in connexion with these meetings and in other ways large numbers of the pamphlets of the Association had been distributed. The most interesting part of the report related to the work of the Sanatorium at Bellefield, Lanark. Although formally opened in June last, delay in the arrangements for the necessary drainage and water schemes prevented the admission of patients till the beginning of November. Since then it has been maintained in active operation, and the accommodation for thirty which the present pavilion and chalets afford has been in constant use. There have been fifty admissions, and the results, given in detail, are very encouraging and satisfactory.

Indeed, the accommodation is so incommensurate to the numerous applications received, even suitable applications, that plans are in course of preparation for the erection of an additional pavilion, together with a laundry and other premises, which will largely increase the number of patients that may be admitted. The Council appeal for further subscriptions to meet the large expense involved by

these extensions and their equipment, and by the greater number of patients that will have to be maintained.

The Lord Provost, in moving the adoption of the report, referred specially to the work of this sanatorium and to the educational value of residence there to the patients who were sent back to the world and their friends with a knowledge of the care required for the prevention of the disease; they might be expected to do a good work in co-operation with the Society.

Lord Inverclyde seconded the adoption of the report. Mr. Henry E. Clark, President of the Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons, also spoke, and the various office-bearers for the ensuing year were elected.

## Ireland.

#### IRISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

The annual meeting of the North Down Branch of the Irish Medical Association was held in the Medical Institute, Belfast, on May 18th. The President, Sir William Whitla, occupied the chair. Dr. Heron proposed, and Dr. McComiskey seconded, a resolution recognizing the appreciation of some of the Boards of Guardians of the inadequacy of medical officers' salaries, and calling for the repeal of Clause 6 of the Local Government Amendment Act. Resolutions were also passed objecting to any proposal whereby a dispensary medical officer should, without fee, be required to give a certificate under the Compulsory Education Act; declaring that the scale of fees for factory surgeons was inadequate; and recommending members of the Branch to refuse to accept Post Office medical appointments under the present scale of fees, which would not even compensate for car hire. Sir William Whitla was elected President; Dr. Olpherts, Honorary Secretary; and Dr. McComiskey and Dr. Olpherts, delegates to the Annual Meeting.

#### THE DIRECT REPRESENTATIVE.

Another candidate for the position of Direct Representative for Ireland on the General Medical Council has declared his intention of seeking this honour. The Mayo Branch of the Irish Medical Association has issued a circular in favour of Dr. R. B. Mahon, of Ballinrobe, in that county. Dr. Mahon is an M.D. of the Royal University and F.R.C.S. Eng. The circular declares that, "while the thanks of the Poor-law medical men of Ireland are due to Sir William Thomson for his efforts on their behalf, so many portals exist for his admission to the General Medical Council that it is unlikely that body will be for long without his assistance in the event of his non-election as Direct Representative," and it suggests that there should be a preliminary poll between Dr. Mahon and any other Poor-law candidate who may come forward.

#### NATIONAL CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL.

The annual meeting of this institution was held in Dublin on May 16th. The report showed that the average number of beds occupied during the year was 29. The dispensary patients were 3,751. A new x-ray department has been equipped. The speakers were Mr. Vere Brown (Chairman), Mr. Hunt, B.L., Sir Lambert Ormsby, Mr. Casson, Colonel Backhouse, F.R.C.S., Colonel Dopping, Colonel Lestrangle, and Dr. Wayland.

#### DUBLIN HOSPITAL SUNDAY FUND.

The report of the Council of this fund, which has just been issued, shows that since the foundation of the society thirty-one years ago £119,665 15s. 9d. has been distributed to various hospitals in the City of Dublin. Sir Patrick Dun's received £10,831 os. 10d., the City of Dublin £18,330 14s. 2d., the Meath £14,090, the Adelaide £19,161, and various other hospitals the balance. This fund was collected entirely in 273 churches of various Protestant denominations in the diocese of Dublin. The society appoints visitors, who inspect the hospitals and report on their general efficiency, and the amount of the contribution depends upon this, and the amount of aid given to the sick poor.

#### ST. JOHN AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION.

The annual inspection of the Belfast Fire Brigade Division of the St. John Ambulance Association was held by Mr. Derham, one of the Assistant Commissioners of the Association. In congratulating the men subsequently, he said it was one of the most effective divisions he had examined this year. Councillor Dr. Williamson said he regretted that Belfast was the only representative of fire brigades in connexion with the