

to districts where qualified midwives are already employed. But as the Registrar-General for Ireland pointed out, of the 859 dispensary districts in Ireland in only 142 are there qualified nurses. Many have only unqualified nurses, and in many there is no nurse at all. Sir John Byers said that in the Queen's University of Belfast they had adopted all the suggestions of the General Medical Council, passed in 1907, to improve the students' practical knowledge of midwifery, and they had a clinical examination therein at the final M.B. examinations. In the Belfast maternities they trained both midwives and students, but—like the Rotunda in Dublin and the other maternities in Ireland—they could not continue to do so unless the clauses of the Act depriving of maternity benefit a woman attended at her confinement in the wards or in the extern department of a maternity were altered. Mr. A. J. Horne, a former assistant Master of the Rotunda and present Master of the National Lying-in Hospital, Dublin, said that of 11,000 poor women confined in the Dublin area about 8000 were attended in the practice of the lying-in hospitals. He feared that unless the part of the Act referring to maternities was altered the maternities would be closed, and these great training schools for nurses and doctors would be lost. He suggested that either a Midwives Act should be introduced for Ireland, or centres for the examination of midwives should be established in Dublin, Belfast, and Cork. It was incumbent on the General Medical Council—which was responsible for the medical education of students—and on the Central Midwives Board to take the matter up.

The Belfast Insurance Committee.

At a meeting of the medical profession in Belfast on May 23rd the following four names were chosen, from which the Irish Insurance Commissioners will select two to represent the profession on the Belfast Local Insurance Committee: Dr. R. J. Johnstone, Dr. J. R. Davison, Mr. T. C. Cathcart, and Dr. A. P. B. Moore.

The Ulster Hospital for Women and Children.

A three-day fête in aid of the Ulster Hospital for Women and Children was opened on May 23rd in the new building erected on the site of the old institution in Templemore-avenue by the Countess of Shaftesbury, the Marquis of Londonderry presiding. The chief object of this bazaar was to provide a sufficient reserve fund, so that the larger expenses entailed by the increased work of the new hospital might be provided for until the ordinary income had grown sufficient to meet the greater expenditure. The fête was most successful and a large sum of money was raised.

Death of Mr. Robert Cooper Parke, F.R.C.P. Edin., L.R.C.S. Edin.

The death occurred on May 26th, after a long and painful illness, of Mr. Robert Parke, of Newtownards, County Down. Mr. Parke, who was the son of a Presbyterian clergyman, studied at Queen's College, Belfast, and in 1868 became a Licentiate of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, and in 1883 a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh. In 1869 he began practice in Newtownards, where he was medical officer of the workhouse, consulting medical officer of the Newtownards union, and coroner for the northern division of County Down. Mr. Parke was a magistrate for County Down, a leading member of the Masonic Order, and a great sportsman, and was for a long time the leading medical practitioner in his district. He was unmarried.

May 28th.

BUDAPEST.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Regulations as to the Return of Children to School after Infectious Illnesses.

THE Ministry of Public Instruction, in conjunction with the Ministry of Public Health, has issued a new order relative to the return of children to school after infectious illnesses. The paragraphs of this order are copied from those of the corresponding French order, which came into force several weeks ago, and was outlined by the Paris Correspondent of THE LANCET on Feb. 24th, 1912 (p. 540).

The Limitation of Venereal Diseases.

On the initiative of Professor Julius Donath a national league for the limitation of venereal diseases has been established, and the inaugural meeting was held on April 22nd before an audience consisting of medical practitioners and schoolmasters. The opening address was delivered by Professor Donath, who pointed out that up to the present time very little real progress had been made in preventing the spread of venereal diseases, although the ravages of syphilis were more disastrous than those of either alcoholism or tuberculosis. Statistical returns showed that from 15 to 20 per cent. of the human race suffered from syphilitic infection in some form. He proposed that dispensaries for the treatment of syphilis should be established and that prostitution should be regulated with the view of putting prophylaxis on a more reliable basis. Professor Donath's proposal was unanimously accepted, and arrangements were made for the formation of branch societies in the country.

The Wreck of the "Titanic."

The Cunard steamships starting from Fiume are required to carry a Hungarian medical officer on every voyage, and on board the *Carpathia* this position was filled by Dr. Arpad Lengyel, to whom the principal officials of the Budapest Medical Casino sent a congratulatory telegram. They at the same time asked him to read at one of their meetings a paper on the memorable events associated with the recent voyage of the *Carpathia* and to give them some account of the circumstances in which that vessel rescued the survivors from the wreck of the *Titanic*.

May 23rd.

PARIS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

The Personnel of the Faculties of Medicine and Pharmacy.

THE *Journal Officiel* publishes the regulations for the appointment, promotion, and discipline of the auxiliary personnel of the Faculties of Medicine and Pharmacy, which comprises the directors of practical studies and of the research and the clinical laboratories, the demonstrators, the chiefs of clinic, the prosectors, and the assistants in anatomy. No one may be appointed as director of practical studies or of a research laboratory in a faculty of medicine or in a mixed faculty of medicine and pharmacy unless he possesses either the degree of doctor of medicine or of sciences, or the diploma of pharmacist of the first class, and unless his name appears on the list of candidates qualified for the post by the Commission on Medicine and Pharmacy of the Consultative Committee of Public Instruction. For the purpose of establishing this list the Commission examines yearly those candidates who present themselves provided with a report from the *doyens* and with testimonials from the rectors. The *professeurs agrégés* of the faculties of medicine and of the mixed faculties of medicine and pharmacy who may so request will also be officially entered on this list. The directors of practical studies are to be appointed by the Minister, on the nomination of the *doyen* and with the recommendation of the rector. The directors of research laboratories are to be appointed for six years by the Minister, on the nomination of the professor concerned, with the recommendation of the *doyen* and the rector. Their term of office may be prolonged under the same conditions and for a like period. No one may be appointed as director of a clinical laboratory unless he possesses the degree of doctor of medicine or of sciences, or the diploma of pharmacist of the first class. The directors of clinical laboratories are to be appointed for one year by the Minister on the nomination of the professor concerned and with the recommendation of the *doyen* and the rector. Their appointments may be renewed year by year under the same conditions. No one is to be appointed to the office of demonstrator (*préparateur titulaire*) who is not either a doctor of medicine or a licentiate in science, a pharmacist of the first class, or who has not completed 16 terms, as well as holding the post of medical intern of an approved hospital.

The Treatment of Typhoid Fever.

On May 17th, at the Société Médicale des Hôpitaux, M. Courmont, of Lyons, in conjunction with M. Rochaix, reported that he had treated typhoid cases by introducing

into the large intestine cultures of Eberth's bacillus, killed by a temperature exceeding 53° C. The results obtained were worthy of notice and of further investigation. Briefly, out of 171 patients not treated on this plan there had been 20 deaths, or 11.6 per cent., while out of 39 patients who received daily two injections of the culture until the subsidence of the fever, only two deaths occurred, a mortality of only 5 per cent.

The Société de Médecine de Paris.

The Société de Médecine de Paris has formally opened its new library. Occasion was taken to fête two of its members—M. Lucas-Championnière, on his recent admission to the Institute, and M. Letulle, who has been recently appointed professor in the Faculty of Medicine. The ceremony was largely attended and was very harmonious. The president of the society having first congratulated M. Lucas-Championnière and M. Letulle, enlarged on the usefulness of the library. M. Debrigode, the historian of the society, upon whom devolved its material organisation, spoke of the history of the documents and works of which it was composed, and in particular of the numerous volumes constituting the complete collection of more than a century of the society's Bulletin. The secretary-general, M. Paul Guillon, recalled the fact that the society, which is one year younger than the Institute, is an older foundation than the Academy of Medicine. M. Letulle, professor of the history of medicine, in an interesting address, expressed his wish to search the archives of the society to trace the scientific rôle that had had been played by it. M. Lucas-Championnière, after thanking his colleagues and friends, pointed out how necessary it was that a society such as the Société de Médecine de Paris should have a library to-day, now that more than ever before the communications dealt with facts and precise observations, rather than academic and theoretical discussions. A presentation of colour pictures by M. Personnaz terminated the proceedings.

The Pathology of our Predecessors.

At the meeting of the Academy of Medicine on May 20th M. Lucas-Championnière communicated an interesting study on the pathology of our forefathers in the Neolithic age. He said that Dr. Marcel Baudouin, formerly secretary-general of the Société Préhistorique de France, had discovered in the Neolithic burying-ground of Vendrest (Seine et Marne) a number of adult human bones presenting lesions characteristic of the disease now known as osteitis deformans. Among the bones manifestly affected, without counting débris not yet studied, were 29 vertebræ in good preservation, a patella, two ribs, a fibula, a third right metatarsal, and five phalanges. As the vertebral column furnished the greatest number of diseased bones, M. Baudouin had been able to study systematically the localisation of the disease in this part of the body. He examined all the specimens, and determined that the lesion in women is manifestly localised in the middle of the cervical spine, and is situated more often on the left than on the right side, a fact hitherto entirely unknown. In men the disease is seldom found, on the other hand, except at the bottom of the dorsal part, and in the middle of the lumbar part, and its seat is nearly always on the right side.

May 27th.

CONSTANTINOPLE.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Cholera.

FROM several parts of Turkey, such as Adana, Konia, and Epirus, comes news of an outbreak of cholera. In the first-named place the epidemic is acquiring alarming proportions. It is feared that with the advent of warm summer weather the ravages will steadily increase. During the coming months it is expected that about 20,000 workmen will flock to Adana. If no vigorous preventive measures are taken now it is quite likely that this great influx of people, living as they do under very unsatisfactory sanitary conditions, will be seriously affected by the epidemic, and then its spread throughout the whole of Anatolia will inevitably follow. The workmen flock to Adana from many provinces, such as Erzerum, Halep, Wan, Bitlis, and

Angora. When their engagement is at an end they return carrying with them the germs of infection. Lack of energy on the part of the Ottoman sanitary authorities would therefore be followed by disastrous consequences. I hear, however, that some steps are being taken and that a certain degree of vigilance is being kept to prevent cholera spreading to Constantinople itself. These measures do not seem to me to be satisfactory at all. Authorities here talk so much about the embellishment of the metropolis, while they frequently forget that thorough sanitation is of paramount importance. They enlarge the streets and plant trees instead of creating first and foremost proper drainage and a good water-supply.

Malaria and Syphilis in Anatolia.

The following distressing accounts are taken from Turkish local newspapers. Of all the diseases prevailing in many parts of Anatolia the most terrible are syphilis and malaria. In one district with a population of 5000 people about 3000 were laid up with malaria. In another district almost the whole of the population was stricken with syphilis. Those who escaped the contagion were pointed to by the rest as something anomalous. Children of tender age are frequently sent by their parents to solitary places in order to be cured by superstitious procedures. An eye-witness describes the condition of these children as being in the highest degree piteous. No rational measures are taken and the customary lack of medical men is felt at every turn. The Turkish papers draw the serious attention of the Government to this deplorable state of affairs. The Government, however, is at present so engrossed by the conflict with Italy and by various other political matters that it seems to have no time whatever for needs of a more domestic kind.

Small-pox.

As small-pox is spreading in Constantinople the municipality has appointed a number of public vaccinators and distributed them throughout the various quarters. Vaccination is to be gratuitous. There exists a law that children should be vaccinated six months after birth, and that revaccination should take place every five years. Those who possess no certificate that their children have been vaccinated have to pay a fine of about 7s. (2 medjidiehs). In spite of all this, however, many parents refuse to let their children be vaccinated. Frequent quarrels and affrays ensue. The police authorities have to interfere, and small-pox still continues. I must, however, confess that I do not altogether blame the parents for their unwillingness to submit to the public vaccinators, as some of these do their work hastily and clumsily and not seldom with disastrous consequences to the children. Time and again vaccinated children are brought to me with terribly disfigured arms, the mark of vaccination being converted into a large foul-smelling wound. Thorough disinfection is little practised, if at all, in some quarters.

The Medical School at Beirut.

This useful French institution was founded in 1883 for 60 students; now it has over 250. This latter number would be increased considerably if the school possessed all the necessary equipment. There is a great lack of surgical instruments, of hospital accommodation and of laboratories. The French Chamber of Deputies has now granted a subsidy of 30,000 francs in order to make good the deficiencies.

The Hygienic State of Mecca.

Dr. Ibrahim el Shorbaghi has submitted a report on this subject. The following are the most interesting items. The present number of inhabitants is 90,000. The sanitary and hygienic conditions of this sacred city of Islam are far from satisfactory. The water-supplies are always found contaminated, and very frequently the water is said to be undrinkable. The wells communicating with the aqueduct of Ain-Zobeida are muddy, and the buckets used for drawing the water are anything but clean. A plan has been submitted for the installation of a system of water-supply similar to the one existing at Alexandria. The cost was estimated, it is said, at £45,000. But it seems that the scheme has fallen through. In some quarters the pilgrims wash their feet and their clothes in basins communicating with the aqueduct and wells. The Sheriff of Mecca quite realises the urgent necessity for improving matters, but meets with obstinate resistance from the Bedouins.

May 14th.