

Ransford, the senior honorary surgeon, resigned his appointment after 27 years' service, to the regret not only of the managing board but also of all connected with the institution."

District Nursing Association for Exeter.

A meeting was held on Feb. 2nd, under the presidency of the mayor, to consider a scheme for the establishment of a district nursing association for the poor of Exeter, in conformity with the Queen Victoria Jubilee Institute for Nurses. There was a good attendance; amongst those present were a large number of the local medical men. The meeting unanimously decided that it was desirable such an association should be formed in Exeter, and it was also determined to shortly call a public meeting to bring the scheme before the citizens.

The Taunton and Somerset Hospital: The Centenary Year: The Abuse of Charity.

The annual meeting of the subscribers of the Taunton and Somerset Hospital was held on Feb. 10th. The financial statement showed a deficit of £744. The medical report was satisfactory. The President (the Hon. E. W. B. Portman) in his speech remarked that this was the centenary year of the hospital; the institution was founded in 1809, when the jubilee of the reign of George III. was celebrated. A certain Dr. Malachi Blake thought something of permanent value to the town should be done, and he called a public meeting. As a result a considerable sum of money was subscribed and the foundation-stone of the hospital was laid on April 11th, 1810. Dr. J. A. Macdonald said that the hospital was one of the most economically worked in the country, but he thought that 75 per cent. of the patients whom he saw there were not suitable candidates for hospital treatment as they could afford to pay a medical man.

Feb. 15th.

MANCHESTER.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Women and Residential Appointments at the Manchester Infirmary.

As one of the Manchester papers puts it, "the battle for the admission of women to residential posts at the Manchester Royal Infirmary has continued to rage during the current week," and will no doubt continue to rage for some time to come. Letters to the papers have been sent in shoals, pamphlets issued, and leading articles written. The advocates for the admission of women have some of them detracted from the sympathy felt for their cause by foolishly suggesting that subscriptions for the infirmary should cease or be cut down, showing that the cause of the women was in their minds more important than the good of the patients. However, the matter has been settled for a time by the motion carried on Friday last at a special meeting of the trustees held in the Mayor's parlour. Sir William Cobbett, chairman of the board of management, proposed the following motion: "That it is not desirable to appoint women to resident and surgical posts at the Manchester Royal Infirmary." Bishop Welldon seconded, and said "it embodied the unanimous feeling of the committee which inquired into the case for women," but also "the feeling which accorded with practically the universal custom of general hospitals to which medical schools were attached." He said the original claim was for complete equality with men in all cases, a demand which he felt it was the duty of the board unhesitatingly to resist, and in speaking of the structural changes that would be required said he thought it was a pity that the supporters of the women's claim had allowed the building of the new infirmary to proceed without first asserting their contentions. He urged that in a general hospital a woman doctor was not worth so much as a man in the treatment of general cases. After indicating the cases where the attention of women doctors would be undesirable, the Dean said that the natural delicacy and refinement of women were more precious to the community than the medical claims of women. Mr. J. E. Platt, chairman of the medical board, in supporting the motion, said the board was not absolutely unanimous on this question, but the great majority were opposed to the admission of women to resident posts, though they considered that they might be

admitted to the gynæcological, ear, throat, and burns departments, provided that suitable accommodation could be found for them, which was not so simple a matter as had been supposed. Dr. E. S. Reynolds said the difficulty of having women resident doctors in all general wards was to his mind insuperable. He spoke of the sex difficulty, which some women doctors said did not exist in the profession of medicine. "It was incomprehensible that a medical woman should ever wish to be an attendant in a male ward. The male patients did not want female residents, and the women were enormously in favour of male doctors." Several speakers were in favour of the claims of the women doctors, and some of them wished to postpone and refer the question back. Mr. C. P. Scott proposed as an amendment to add to the motion the words, "on the same terms as men," thus leaving it open for them to be admitted on some other terms. The amendment, having been seconded by Professor Herford, was put to the meeting and defeated, the original motion being carried by a large majority. Apart from the special question it would be unwise to carry this innovation out at present on account of the unknown expense it would involve, for the financial condition of the infirmary, both as regards the present and the future, is by no means free from anxiety.

The Manchester Ladies' Public Health Society.

The annual meeting of the Manchester Ladies' Public Health Society and Mothers' Guild was held recently, the Lord Mayor, Mr. Behrens, presiding over a large assembly. The report told of the increasing good work of the society in helping distressed cases in Manchester and Salford and in instructing and helping mothers in the poorest parts of the city. The institution does not give money, but gives help in the way of food, clothes, or milk. The Lord Mayor said that the society was doing part of the work of the corporation. Its health visitors were corporation officials, and the work done is under the supervision of the medical officers of health of Manchester and Salford. There is a happy combination of voluntary and paid help, as the lady visitors may be called honorary members of the staff. Mr. J. Howson Kay explained the means adopted by the society to familiarise poor mothers with the right methods to be used in the rearing of their children. He remarked that he would like to see a Chancellor of the Exchequer put a duty of 10s. a pound on tea, if only to prevent mothers giving it to their children, asserting no child under the age of six years should ever have either tea or coffee to drink. The Dean and the Mayor of Salford also spoke.

Feb. 15th.

SCOTLAND.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

Medical Referees.

THE Home Secretary has appointed Dr. A. Freeland Fergus and Dr. James Hinshelwood, both of Glasgow, to be medical referees under the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1906, with a view to their being employed in ophthalmic cases (including cases of miner's nystagmus) which may arise in the sheriffdoms of Lanark and Ayr respectively. The Secretary of State has also appointed Dr. Joshua Ferguson, of Paisley, to be one of the medical referees under the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1906, for the sheriffdom of Renfrew and Bute, and to be attached more particularly to the Paisley district, in place of Dr. Graham, deceased.

Scottish Poor-law Medical Officers' Association.

One of the advantages which medical practitioners derive from membership of a defence association is the obtaining of sound advice when they encounter legal or administrative difficulties. In the annual report of the Scottish Poor-law Medical Officers' Association, dealing with the events of the year 1909, several examples are given of cases in which such advice was applied for. In the first of these a Poor-law medical officer had signed certificates on which a person suffering from acute alcoholic insanity was removed to an asylum. In three days the patient was sufficiently recovered to be discharged, and then threatened the medical officer with an action-at-law for £1000 damages. The advice given in reply to an inquiry was that the medical man should inform the plaintiff's