

## SCOTLAND.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

*University of Glasgow: Memorial Window in Honour of Principal Caird.*

ON the initiative of the Business Committee of the University General Council a movement has been set on foot to place a painted glass window in the Bute Hall of the University as a special tribute by past and present students of the University of Glasgow to the memory of its late distinguished head. The idea is a most appropriate one and has only to be made known to be completely successful. Already many old *alumni* of the University in various parts of the country have sent in contributions. It is estimated that the undertaking will require about £1000 and the maximum subscription is £1 1s. As there are many former students of the University whom it is obviously impossible to communicate with from any lists at present available the coöperation of all interested in making the movement known among students of older date is invited. The secretaries are Mr. John G. Kerr, M.A. (Convener of the Business Committee of the University General Council), and the Rev. Arthur Stanley Middleton, M.A. (President of the Students' Representative Council). Mr. Archibald Craig, 156, St. Vincent-street, Glasgow, is treasurer.

*Hospitals in Aberdeen.*

Intimation having been made by the directors of the Royal Infirmary that they could not see their way to take any more cases of erysipelas into the infirmary the Town Council's Hospital Committee has agreed to admit such cases to the City Hospital, where a ward will be set apart for the purpose. The action of the infirmary directors is probably not unconnected with the fact that for the first seven months of this year there has been a deficit in the finances of £1300. The directors of the infirmary have appealed to the life managers and the public generally for larger subscriptions so as to meet the expenses of the enlarged institution and the increased number of patients. A similar appeal has been issued on behalf of the new convalescent hospital at Pitfodels in the suburbs of the city. For each contribution of one guinea per annum subscribers will have the right to nominate for a week's residence one patient, whether previously treated in the infirmary or not.

*Horseplay at the Glasgow Royal Infirmary.*

On Wednesday morning last, at the St. Rollox Police-court, Glasgow, ten of the junior staff of the Glasgow Royal Infirmary and two other persons were fined 1 guinea each with the alternative of fourteen days' imprisonment for having ducked another resident in a bath. The cowardice of this combination of twelve persons to do physical violence to one will strike all who hear of the matter. Members of the medical profession who attain to responsible posts in our large hospitals are supposed to have learnt to behave themselves, so that the rough horseplay which these young fellows indulged in was decidedly out of keeping with their positions.

Sept. 5th.

## IRELAND.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

*Typhoid Fever in Strabane.*

AT the weekly meeting of the Strabane Board of Guardians, held on August 23rd, it was reported that there were 11 cases of typhoid fever in the Fever Hospital, and 3 other cases were also reported. The Local Government Board have requested Dr. Trimble, medical officer of the Strabane Dispensary District, to let them know the probable source of infection in each case of typhoid fever and scarlet fever which has recently occurred in Strabane.

*Nursing in Castleblaney Workhouse.*

At an inquest held at the workhouse, Castleblaney, on August 24th, on an inmate of the workhouse infirmary, it was stated in evidence that the deceased was one of about 75 patients in the hospital and infirm wards—24 in hospital, the remainder infirm—who are attended by one nurse and one untrained assistant. These have the care of eight and

sometimes of ten wards, and have in addition to the nursing to superintend the washing and serving of food to the inmates of these wards. Dr. Wilson, the medical officer of the workhouse, said in his examination that it was a physical impossibility for the nurse and her assistant to pay proper attention to the sick in the hospital. It appears that the guardians have not carried out the recent requirements of the Local Government Board who called upon them to appoint an efficient staff of nurses to pay proper attention to the sick and infirm. Perhaps the rider added by the jury to their verdict, in which they recommend the Local Government Board to see that an efficient staff of nurses is appointed in the hospital to look after the sick, will have some effect on the guardians.

*Bangor District Nursing Society.*

At the first annual meeting of this society, held in Bangor on August 23rd, the Marquis of Dufferin presided, and the annual report was submitted by the Marchioness of Dufferin. It would appear that in Bangor trained nursing of the sick poor began on May 24th, the Queen's Birthday, and in commemoration of the Diamond Jubilee. The donations to the society were £89 and the annual subscriptions were £74. The district embraced by the nurse extends for two miles in every direction from the centre of Bangor and her nursing is entirely unsectarian. She had looked after 144 cases during the year and paid 3017 visits. The noble chairman intimated that during the coming year he would deliver a lecture on behalf of the funds of the society.

*Belfast Water-supply.*

The Belfast Water Commissioners, recognising the vast and increasing population of Belfast, are pushing on their new scheme by which they propose, at a cost of £850,000, to bring the water from the Silent Valley—a huge table-land immediately over Kilkeel, co. Down—a distance of 45 miles. Recently the Commissioners spent two days in inspecting the entire length of route. They first visited the service reservoir situated about five miles from Belfast, near Knockbracken, and found it in a wonderfully forward condition; it is to cost £34,000. They then inspected the conduit from the reservoir to Ballynahinch. It includes a considerable amount of "cut-and-cover" and a tunnel of more than 3¼ miles. This is almost finished and this contract is for £145,000. The next part of the conduit is principally "cut-and-cover" and will cost £45,000. The Commissioners then visited what is a very difficult part of the work, as it includes in addition to 2 miles of "cut and cover" the very laborious task of boring a tunnel 2¼ miles long through the highest of the Mourne range of mountains, Slieve Donard, as well as 7¼ miles of cast-iron and steel syphon pipes. The contract for this is £96,000. On the far side of Slieve Donard, that is, between it and the Silent Valley, the conduit is principally "cut and cover" and will cost £115,000. The Silent Valley, situated 500 feet above sea level, is a most suitable district for a reservoir and catchment area, but it is not contemplated for the present to build a reservoir here, as the supply of water from two rivers—the Kilkeel and Annalong—will for some years to come be sufficient without a reservoir, and the Commissioners have the right to tap these rivers. The work on this gigantic undertaking will probably not be finished for two more years. Then the citizens will have a never-failing supply of water which experts, after examination, declare to be equal to that of Loch Katrine, which supplies Glasgow.

*Report of the President of Queen's College, Cork.*

The annual report of the president of Queen's College, Cork, has been issued. It refers to the appointment of a lecturer on Celtic and considers there ought to be a chair for such an important subject, especially as comparative philology is receiving so much attention on the Continent at present. The president makes reference to many subjects concerning the medical school. The new pathological laboratory has been completed and is ready for the summer course of practical pathology. There have been very considerable improvements made in the medical department. A splendid collection of frozen sections of the human body has been obtained from Berlin and will shortly be placed in the dissecting-room. Many of these by a new arrangement will be visible on both sides. An excellent set of the newest kind of diagrams has been procured for the anatomical and physiological departments. Models of the viscera and other parts of the body have also been obtained and will be also placed in glass cases in the dissecting-room.

There are already several instructive dissections in the anatomical museum. It is proposed to place these in the dissecting-room with models in cases. When these changes have been made the dissecting-room will be well-furnished according to modern ideas. The president deals tentatively with the education question generally and urges on the Government the desirability of founding a University in Cork. In that connexion he alludes to "the extraordinary and quite exceptional ability of the people of the South of Ireland and particularly of those who inhabit the counties of Cork and Kerry." He directs attention to the very large sums provided by the State in various parts of Germany for the development of the national universities, and suggests that if our Government were to devote the same attention to the fostering of higher education in Ireland this country, like Germany, would rapidly attain a high position side by side with England amongst the commercial nations of Europe.

Sept. 7th.

## PARIS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

### *Pulmonary Streptococcus Infection.*

THE meetings of the Academy of Medicine are but sparsely attended at present owing to the holidays, but at the meeting held on August 15th M. Clozier reported a very interesting case of what at first appeared to be acute pulmonary tuberculosis. The illness, however, was due to streptococcus infection and was cured by the use of Marmorek's serum. The patient, a boy aged thirteen years, had previously been in good health and there was nothing of note in either his personal or his family history. After coming in from a bicycle ride in the rain he was seized with shivering, his temperature ran up, and he had a cough. Auscultation revealed small crepitations over the whole of both lungs. The sputa, which were muco-purulent, contained none of Koch's bacilli but plenty of streptococci. His condition became more and more serious despite free stimulation and active revulsive treatment. At last he was given a hypodermic injection of 20 c.c. of antistreptococcic serum followed by an injection of 10 c.c. for the next three days. He continued to get worse and there were heard on auscultation tubular breathing, large bubbling râles and pectoriloquy. The three following days the dose of serum was increased to 20 c.c. Finally, three days later than this a pulmonary abscess lying at about the angle of the scapula emptied itself and all the signs of a cavity became audible. One more injection was given and from that time rapid convalescence ensued.

### *Agglutination in Tuberculous Serum.*

At a recent meeting of the Academy of Sciences, a body whose work is less affected by the dull season than that of the other societies, M. S. Arloing and M. P. Courmont read a paper on the best methods of cultivating the bacillus of tuberculosis so as to obtain the agglutinative reaction in a neat and really convincing manner. The culture medium is beef or veal bouillon peptonised 1 in 100 and glycerinated to a strength of 6 in 100. Plain bouillon does not further the growth of the agglutinative material, whatever be the bacillary strength of the cultures, although agglutination sometimes occurs under such circumstances in a very defective manner. The proportion of glycerine is a percentage of from 2 to 12, but the most convenient proportion for bringing about the agglutinative action is a percentage of from 2 to 8. In a culture glycerinated to 6 or 8 per cent. serum manifests an agglutinative power twice as strong as a culture only glycerinated to 2 per cent. Peptone is also indispensable for a good growth. In a bouillon glycerinated but not peptonised the culture is no richer at the end of ten days than in a peptonised bouillon at the end of three. The bouillon must be sterilised by being heated for as short a space of time as possible to a temperature of 110° C. Homogeneity is obtained by frequently shaking the cultures, which are made for this purpose in cylindrical flat-bottomed flasks. Rich cultures of from eight to ten days old are the best for obtaining the agglutinative reaction. In many cultures the agglutinative substance is found to increase up to the fifteenth day, but after that date it diminishes or gets weaker. It is best to work with weak serums and cultures.

### *Radiography and the Physiology of the Heart.*

M. Bouchard at a recent meeting of the Academy of Sciences reported some observations he had made upon the thoracic organs by means of the x rays. Amongst other things he has been enabled to assert the existence of a marked dilatation of the auricles when the intra-thoracic blood-pressure is raised during inspiration. This condition is artificially brought about by endeavouring to inspire with the glottis shut and is naturally brought about by the violent inspirations during a paroxysm of whooping-cough. M. Bouchard has also discovered that a clear horizontal space exists during forced inspiration between the shadow of the heart and that of the diaphragm, but during normal inspiration there is no space visible. This phenomenon, which is remarkable considering that the diaphragm and the pericardium are attached to one another, is explained by M. Bouchard in the following way. During the forced descent of the diaphragm in a large inspiration the inferior surface of the heart is in contact with the diaphragm to a very limited extent. The pericardium tucks itself into the space existing between itself and the heart, forming in front and behind a gutter into which in turn the pulmonary tissue is packed, thus forming a layer of tissue much more penetrable by the x rays than those which make up the heart and the diaphragm.

### *Vaccination in France.*

At the Congress held at Nantes M. Brouardel proposed a resolution, which was unanimously adopted, to the effect that compulsory vaccination should be extended to Tunis. In France vaccination is enforced by strict regulations which do not meet with any opposition from the public. All persons seeking employment of any kind are required to produce a certificate of vaccination and all soldiers are revaccinated on joining their regiments. The Academy of Medicine also awards every year a considerable number of prizes and medals to the medical practitioners and midwives who have performed the most vaccinations and revaccinations. In fact, vaccination is taken quite as a matter of course in France and the arrangements for making it compulsory in the colonies are at the present time almost complete. Under these circumstances no one looked for a campaign against vaccination undertaken by the celebrated anti-Jewish journalist Edouard Drumont, a campaign undertaken in the name of individual liberty and, which is still more strange, in the name of hygiene as understood by M. Drumont. In an article which has produced some sensation and caused astonishment rather than made converts, he declares that small-pox is not a disease but a natural process, in the course of which the organism spontaneously throws off morbid products which it contained; in his opinion vaccination has no other effect than that of closing the pores of the skin and preventing the escape of the morbid products. According to M. Drumont vaccination is the only cause of racial degeneration and of the increase of new diseases which were formerly unknown; on this ground Jenner must be regarded as a scourge of humanity, although it is admitted that he possessed the merits of being an excellent father and a naturalist who carefully studied the habits of the cuckoo. In conclusion, M. Drumont draws attention to the unpopularity of vaccination in Jenner's own country. It is not very probable that the French public, whether medical or non-medical, will be influenced by these fanciful ideas.

Sept. 6th.

## BERLIN.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

### *Plague in East Africa.*

In a paper on Bubonic Plague which was read a short time since before the Berlin Society of Public Health Professor Koch said that only a few years ago it seemed as if the disease possessed little more than a historical interest, but the recent epidemics in China and the East Indies have proved that under conditions favourable to its development it remains capable of committing great ravages. The researches of Yersin and Kitato have shown that plague is a contagious disease produced by bacteria, and it has, moreover, been ascertained that it may be to a great extent spread by rats. It is also known that the disease is endemic in certain districts which from time to time become the starting