

2. *A Political Committee*, to organize and employ political pressure in the direction indicated by the Political Committee of the Council of the Association in each constituency in its area; and to support the candidature of members of the Association—not necessarily nominees—in local government and parliamentary elections.

3. *An Ethical Committee*, to deal with ethical matters as at present.

4. *A Finance Committee*, of which chairmen of Divisions should be members, to exercise control over the expenditure.

5. *A Scientific Committee*, to organize the scientific section or sections of the Branch.

When medical defence is undertaken by the Branch a Medical Defence Committee will become necessary.

The secretary to the Branch Councils should be a permanent and salaried one. He would attend all meetings of the Branch Council and Committees, and the Divisional meetings in the Branch area, and be responsible for the work of the Branch under instructions from the Council. He would collect subscriptions in his area, and relieve the London office of as much departmental work as possible. The work of medical defence (when undertaken) would form part of his duties, and indeed could not well be managed without such an official. At first, at all events, the work of more than one Branch might be done by him, which would lessen the chief objection to the suggestion—that of cost. The dates of meetings could be so arranged to render this quite feasible, or a beginning might be made in large centres and the system extended as the funds of the Association permitted.

The additional expense could be met partly by economies that might be effected; by a uniformity of method in Branch management; by having the bulk of the printing done by the Association; by the auditing of Branch accounts by an Association auditor; and by payment of Branch expenses by the Association instead of by capitation allowances. The funds accumulated by the Branches might be utilized to meet the extra expense during the first few years. Even if an increase in subscriptions were found to be necessary, as must be the case when medical defence is undertaken, I do not think members would object if they found they really had an efficient and effective organization ready and able to protect their honour and interests.

Finally, I would point out the need for members to "wake up" and take a part in the work of the Association, and not leave it in the hands of a few earnest workers and a few enthusiasts. The attendance at Branch and Division meetings, even when important questions are raised, is not creditable, and shows a lamentable lack of interest on the part of the large majority. The small amount of time and income involved should be willingly given, even from a selfish point of view, as the sacrifice is partly made for oneself, as a unit of the profession it is hoped to benefit and improve.

No organization, however perfect, will long succeed if this apathy continues; it must be abandoned, if the Association is to be and continue a strong and united body, able to uphold its claim to represent the views of all sections of the profession.

To sum up—at this juncture, before the Charter is applied for—the policy of the Association should be definitely settled by postal referendum. A method of government should then be formulated to carry out this policy in the most effective way. If the policy is to be a "trades union" one, decentralization and better local organization are essential for success.

THE late Dr. C. J. Cullingworth has left estate valued at £28,089.

A SMOKING concert in connexion with the Medical Corps of the New Territorial Force was held in Canterbury on May 27th, the occasion being a distribution of prizes to the non-commissioned officers and men of the 2nd Home Counties Field Ambulance, and to men of the South Eastern and Chatham Railway who have distinguished themselves in first-aid work. Major Hensley, who presided, gave a hopeful account of the future of the new scheme so far as medical work and Kent are concerned. The corps under his command is already 108 strong, including eight officers, and the detachments at Ashford and Whitstable are making progress.

MEMORANDA: MEDICAL, SURGICAL, OBSTETRICAL.

VAGINAL HAEMORRHAGE AND MILKY SECRETION FROM MAMMAE IN AN INFANT.

THE simultaneous occurrence of bloodless labour in the mother and of haemorrhagic vaginal discharge and milky secretion from both mammae in the infant perhaps justifies a short note. Of course, no connexion between the two is suggested. Labour set in in the mother at 2 p.m., and terminated at 10.30 p.m. A quarter of an hour after the placenta came away, the membranes intact, of a glistening pearly colour. Neither before nor after birth, nor after expulsion of the placenta, was there any bleeding. Some hours after the lochia appeared and continued in amount and character in conformity with ordinary experience, the patient making a perfect recovery. It was her second child, a female, and weighed 6½ lbs. Her first confinement was of the normal type. As regards the infant, a discharge of blood and mucus came from the vagina on the third day and lasted until the seventh. On the twelfth day the mammae became hard, swollen, and tender, and the skin over both had an erythematous blush. From both a milky secretion exuded, and continued for three weeks. The left enlarged first, preceding the right by twenty-four hours. The excretion was aided morning and evening by gentle pressure and massage, and the tumefaction subdued without trouble. The child was not upset by it in any way.

Dunblane.

THOMAS W. DEWAR, M.D., F.R.C.P.E.

BALANO-POSTHITIS AND GLYCOSURIA.

THE irritating effect of saccharine urine on the mucous membrane is of course well known, and is met with most frequently in women, because the conformation of the parts favours the retention of drops of urine among the folds of the vulva. But irritation also occurs in men, especially when the prepuce is long and worn habitually forward. In such cases the resulting balano-posthitis is sometimes acute, and causes a considerable amount of discomfort. The characteristic features of this form of balano-posthitis are a pronounced crimson or purple-red colour of the mucous membrane and a tendency to phimosis and cracking of the preputial margin. This peculiar colour of the mucous membrane was pointed out in France many years ago, and it produces a striking and angry appearance which, so far as I know, is not seen in balano-posthitis from other causes, and which should always suggest examination of the urine. It is important to recognize this form of balano-posthitis, because it may be the only thing that leads the patient to seek medical advice, and because it seems, when well marked, to be diagnostic. Sometimes, too, slight bleeding occurs. For example, I was recently consulted by a man aged 55 solely because, for no reason that he knew of, he had lately noticed bloody stains on his shirt. He complained of nothing else, and said his general health was excellent. On examination there was partial phimosis, accompanied by the peculiar colour of the mucous surface already mentioned, and a tendency to bleed on the slightest provocation. His urine was loaded with sugar. All men with glycosuria should be very careful as regards cleanliness, and they should also, if possible, wear the prepuce behind the corona, so as to keep it clear of the urine. If this is impracticable the prepuce should be drawn away from the meatus during urination, and the last drops mopped up with wool or lint. When balano-posthitis and phimosis are already present, the preputial sac should be syringed out with boric lotion at least twice a day, and a scrap of boric lint or wool kept within the preputial orifice, and changed after each act of urination. If the wool sticks so as to cause bleeding on removal, a little boric ointment should be used as well. Under this treatment the local trouble in the case just mentioned soon got well, although the sugar persisted.

ARTHUR COOPER,
Consulting Surgeon, Westminster
General Dispensary.

PYELONEPHRITIS IN PREGNANCY.

THE remarks on some cases of pyelonephritis occurring in pregnancy in Dr. French's paper published in the JOURNAL of May 2nd have induced me to ask you to kindly publish the following case, which appears to belong to the same class, but offers interest in the mildness of the type as compared with Dr. French's cases. A nulliparous girl aged 19 came to me on June 1st, 1907, complaining of dysuria and increased frequency of micturition. She had married ten weeks previously, after which there had been amenorrhoea for two months followed by a rather heavier period than usual, and it was just after this period that the urinary trouble commenced. The temperature was 99.9°, pulse 100, and the left kidney, which could just be felt, was slightly tender. Vaginal examination disclosed no appearance of pregnancy, but there was marked tenderness on pressing forwards on the bladder. The urine (obtained by catheter) was acid and showed pus cells on microscopical examination; epithelium cells and crystals could not be found, nor tubercle bacilli, though looked for many times. The patient went to bed, and had milk diet and a course of urotropine. The condition remained about the same for the following two months. There was never enough pus to form a naked-eye deposit, but the cells were always revealed by the microscope. On making a vaginal examination towards the end of July (that is, two months later) the uterus was found enlarged and anteverted and the signs of pregnancy well established. The tenderness over the left kidney was still present, but that over the bladder was no longer found. At the fourth month of pregnancy all the urinary symptoms had abated, and in February, 1908, the patient was delivered of a normal infant in a perfectly natural way, and is now in perfect health.

Moseley, Birmingham. OLIVE ELGOOD, M.S., M.B. Lond.

DISLOCATION AT THE ANKLE.

J. D., aged 55, a man of over 15 st., was standing with several others upon a wooden platform some 8 ft. from the ground. The platform suddenly collapsed, and while still in the standing position he fell to the ground among the debris of the platform. His left foot was jammed between two boards and the other men fell upon him. When I examined him shortly afterwards I found the following unusual, if not unique, injury. The foot was dislocated backwards and inverted at an angle of 45 degrees. The astragalus was dislocated forwards, and formed a projection under the skin. It was also rotated forwards upon its own axis, so that the upper or articular surface looked forwards and upwards. There was no fracture of either malleolus. Under an anaesthetic, with the knee fully flexed, I was able with great difficulty, and after using considerable force, exerted upon the foot downwards, forwards, and outwards, while pressing firmly with both thumbs upon the displaced astragalus, to replace the bones.

Except for a good deal of swelling in and around the ankle joint there is now no deformity. That such a displacement could have happened without fracture of either malleolus is certainly surprising.

Nuneaton.

E. N. NASON.

RIGOR MORTIS IN THE STILLBORN.

ON March 2nd, 1908, I was asked to attend a patient who was expecting to be confined. I found her in labour, but she said the pains were very weak, and she was afraid that, although she had had them for three days, she had not made much progress. The os was fairly well dilated, and the cervix was quite soft. I ruptured the membranes, and shortly after the pains became quite strong, and one hour after my arrival she gave birth to a well-developed female child. As it did not cry nor make any movements, I introduced my finger into its mouth, and was at once struck by the difficulty of doing so, the muscles of the jaw being firmly contracted. After repeated slappings there was no response, and on further examination the child was found to be quite dead. The arms and legs were flexed, and resisted the slight attempt to straighten them which I made; the muscles of the back, neck, and abdomen were flaccid, and the eyes were quite dull.

Thornaby-on-Tees.

A. TABLETON, M.B.

A CASE OF ABDOMINAL ANEURYSM.

ON October 6th, 1908, J. S., an iron planer, aged 38, was sent to the Oldham Infirmary for treatment by Dr. Martland, one of the staff. The patient complained of pains in the back, which had persisted off and on for over eighteen months. He had had occasional attacks of nausea, and nine months before admission he noticed a swelling just below the ribs in front. He had had malaria and syphilis when a soldier in India. On examination a pulsating tumour as large as a fetal head was seen in the epigastric and umbilical regions. On palpation it was felt to be very hard and nodular, but the pulsation was very marked. There was great doubt as to whether the pulsation was expansile or not. The tumour did not move with respiration, and no bruit was heard.

A provisional diagnosis of aneurysm of the abdominal aorta was made, but owing to absence of bruit and expansile pulsation, and the hard nodular character of the tumour, considerable doubt remained as to its accuracy. With complete rest in bed and large doses of potassium iodide the swelling decreased slightly, and the patient gained 9 lb. in six weeks. On November 23rd an exploratory laparotomy was undertaken, when the provisional diagnosis was proved to have been correct. The wound healed well by first intention, but the tumour gradually increased in size, and the pulsation became more marked. He complained of numbness in the left thigh and left iliac region. He became very weak, and died suddenly on December 22nd.

Autopsy.—The cicatrix of the operation wound was found adherent to a large tumour which projected forward between the liver and the stomach, the latter forming a U-shaped loop round it. The tumour occupied fully one-third of the abdominal cavity. One or two minute perforations were present on the anterior aspect of the tumour, and the abdomen contained 4 pints of blood. The sheath of the left psoas muscle was filled with clot, showing that the aneurysm had been leaking in this direction for some time. The sac was filled with laminated clot which was extremely hard. The bodies of the eleventh and twelfth dorsal and first and second lumbar vertebrae on the left side were much eroded, almost, if not quite, into the spinal canal, while the cartilaginous discs remained intact. The specimen, being rather a remarkable one, was dissected out, with all its relations to the surrounding parts kept as complete as possible. The affected vertebrae were also removed. The whole was sent to the University Museum at Edinburgh. The aneurysm had arisen in the usual site at or near the origin of the coeliac axis, but it seemed a hopeless task to trace the branches of this axis, as the relations were so disturbed.

The case is of interest from the large size of the aneurysm, and from its hard nodular character, absence of bruit, and expansile pulsation, all of which favoured a diagnosis of new growth in front of the aorta. The rapid growth following laparotomy is also noteworthy.

I am indebted to Dr. Martland for permission to publish this case.

Warrington.

J. S. MAXSON, M.B., Ch B.

REPORTS

ON

MEDICAL AND SURGICAL PRACTICE IN THE HOSPITALS AND ASYLUMS OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE.

SOMERSET HOSPITAL, CAPE TOWN.

TWO CASES OF OBSCURE AORTIC ANEURYSMS.

(Reported by A. MARIUS WILSON, M.D. Durh., Visiting Physician.)

THE following cases of aneurysm of the aorta both present points of interest beyond the obscurity by which their diagnosis was surrounded. The first patient, aged 23, a European cabdriver, was admitted on Sep-

MEDICAL NEWS.

THE Harben Lectures before the Royal Institute of Public Health will be given by Professor George H. F. Nuttall, F.R.S., in the theatre of the institute, Russell Square, on Wednesdays, June 10th, 17th, and 24th, at 5 p.m. Further particulars will be found in the advertisement columns.

THE annual general meeting of the Medical Officers of Schools Association will be held at 11, Chandos Street, on Wednesday, June 17th, at 3.30 o'clock. Mr. John Hayward will open a discussion on the recent memorandum passed by the Board of Education to Local Education Authorities re the medical inspection of elementary schools.

It is doubtful whether many medical men have sufficient leisure to pursue the apianian cult, but the happy few may be interested to learn that a large gathering of well-known bee-keepers is expected at the Franco-British Exhibition on June 25th. It has been organized by the British Bee-keepers' Association, and will be attended by representatives from the Colonies and the Continent. Lord Avebury will preside.

THE exhibition connected with the International First-Aid Congress was opened at Frankfort-on-Main on June 6th. At that time 900 members from different parts of the world, including China and Japan, had entered their names. The representatives of Great Britain include Mr. H. Cunningham, of the Home Office; Sir Francis Oppenheimer, British Consul-General, representing the British Government; and Lieutenant-Colonel Macpherson, of the Royal Army Medical Corps, representing the War Office.

It has been arranged to hold the Triennial Dinner of the Old Epsomian Club at Epsom College, on Tuesday, July 7th. The cricket match against Surrey Club and Ground will be in progress. The Head Master and Mrs. Smith Pearce will entertain the club at tea, about 4.30; the Council will entertain it at dinner at 7 p.m. Owing to the accommodation, the number of those dining must be limited to 50. All members intending to dine must send notice before Thursday, June 25th, to Mr. Edred M. Corner, Hon. Secretary.

A MEETING took place at 20, Hanover Square, on Thursday, June 4th, to discuss the proposed dinner to the French medical men who are expected in England in July. Dr. Theodore Williams occupied the chair. It was decided that a dinner should be given at the Exhibition on Thursday, July 16th, to 150 of the French visitors. The subscription was fixed at a sum of not less than two guineas to defray the expenses of the subscriber's own dinner and that of a French guest. The following executive committee was elected: Drs. Ogilvie, Leonard Williams, Leonard Mark, and Dundas Grant (Treasurer), and Mr. Macleod Yearsley. Gentlemen who wish to take this opportunity of showing hospitality are requested to communicate with a member of this committee without delay, as the banqueting accommodation at the Exhibition is limited to 300. As the visitors include some ladies, it was decided that a limited number of English ladies should likewise be admissible to the dinner.

On June 2nd Dr. J. C. T. Nash gave a farewell luncheon at the Palace Hotel, Southend, to the members of the South Essex Division of the British Medical Association. Among those who accepted the invitation were: Dr. Grosvenor Hinks, J.P., Chairman of the Division; Dr. W. Cardy Bluck, Honorary Secretary for the Division; Drs. Allott, Brigger, Cleveland-Smith, J.P., Day, Forsyth, Grayson (M.O.H. Rochford District Council), Hodgson, Silva Jones, John Hopkins, L. Gordon Hopkins, Leigh, Maxwell, Morgan, Norman, Poole, Pooler, Raper (M.O.H. Shoebury) Sellers, Smellie, Tomblinson, Watson (M.O.H. Leigh), Whitcombe-Brown, and Weakley. Dr. Hinks proposed the health of Dr. Nash in a felicitous speech. Dr. Nash, in reply, referred to the success of the Association in the district and paid a tribute to the work of the Chairman, Dr. Hinks, and the Honorary Secretary, Dr. Bluck. Apologies for non-attendance were received from Sir James Crichton-Browne and Dr. Thresh, County Medical Officer of Health for Essex. Dr. Nash proposed the "South Essex Division," for which Dr. Bluck responded. Subsequently Dr. Nash toasted Dr. Pugh, the new Medical Officer of Health. On the evening of the same day Dr. Nash entertained the staff of the Public Health Department to dinner at the Palace Hotel.

PROBABLY few capitals have increased lately so much as Rome, and the British Consul, Mr. Morgan, in his recently issued report to the Foreign Office, points out that the troubles with which the city has lately been contending are due more to the needs of its rapidly enlarging population than to any monetary crisis. The house accommodation for the lower middle and labouring classes is utterly

inadequate, while articles of food are exorbitant in price and the supplies insufficient. The sanitary condition of the city, however, continues to improve, and the death-rate compares very favourably with other Italian towns. Thus, while Naples shows a death-rate of 25, and Venice of 28 per mille, Rome has only 21.2, which in a crowded city of some 700,000, speaks well for the work of the sanitary authorities. Malaria no longer occurs in the city, the few cases recorded in the hospitals being imported from the country. The energetic measures employed in the Campagna for the stamping out of the disease have been fully described in these columns, and the stringent laws in connexion with them will find ample justification when the Agro Romano is once more at the height of agricultural prosperity. The most unsatisfactory feature of the report is the record of increasing emigration. The population of Italy appears to be shifting to the New World at the rate of 750,000 per annum, and of these the district of Rome supplied 18,000. Rome more than ever depends upon the foreign visitor nowadays.

THE third International Congress on the Care of the Insane will be held at Vienna this year from October 7th to 11th. Professor Obersteiner is the President of the Organizing Committee; the General Secretary is Professor Alexander, Pilcz, xlii/12, Vienna. In the list of the "International Propaganda Committee" we fail to find any representatives of England or Ireland, but Scotland is represented by Dr. W. W. Ireland, of Musselburgh; Dr. J. H. Macdonald, of the Govan District Asylum, Hawkhead, Paisley; and Dr. Alexander Urquhart, of Perth. Other countries seem to be taking a more active interest in the congress, Portugal, for instance, being represented by a committee of twelve. Austria-Hungary, Belgium, France, Italy, Germany, and Brazil each have large committees. The United States, however, seems not to have one. The programme includes a general report on the existing provision for the care of the insane in different countries, by Dr. Bresler, of Lublinitz, with special reports on the lunatic asylums of Hamburg, by Dr. Buchholz; on the provision for criminal and dangerous lunatics at Amsterdam, by Dr. J. Deventer; on the care of the insane in Portugal, by Drs. M. Lemos and J. Mattos of Oporto; on the best type of provision for the care of lunatics in hot countries, by Dr. J. Moreira of Rio de Janeiro; on the finances of lunatic asylums of Lower Austria, by Dr. Starlinger of Mauer-Oehling; and on the provision for criminals who become insane in prison, by Dr. Rixen of Breslau. Other subjects on the programme are the medical treatment of lunatics; progress in the technical part of establishments for the insane; lunacy administration; the care of lunatics and insurance; lunacy legislation in different countries; the provision for the care of idiots, epileptics, and degenerates, and for lunatics in armies. A report of the International Committee by Dr. Frank of Zurich, recommending the foundation of an international institute with the view of studying and preventing the causes of mental disease, will be discussed. Arrangements are being made for a number of excursions and other festivities in connexion with the congress.

SOCIETY FOR THE DESTRUCTION OF VERMIN.—The Society for the Destruction of Vermin was formed in January, 1908, to organize a national movement for the extermination of vermin noxious to man. Among the vermin included within the scope of the Society's operations are rats, mice, sparrows, ticks, fleas, mosquitos, and flies. Owing to the proof that the rat is the main agent in diffusing plague action is being taken against this animal in various countries, as, for example, in Denmark, where a special law has been enacted with the view of destroying these rodents. The fly, also, is receiving attention. In New York a special committee has just handed in its report giving some very valuable suggestions as to the best way of dealing with the fly question. In this country reports have been drawn up by the Public Health Committee of the London County Council and the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine. A Scientific Committee is in process of formation for the purpose of collecting and sifting information. The following gentlemen have already agreed to act on this Committee: Sir Patrick Manson, K.C.M.G., M.D., F.R.S.; F. M. Sandwith, M.D., F.R.C.P.; Frank E. Beddard, F.R.S.; R. T. Pocock, F.Z.S.; E. E. Austen, F.Z.S.; James Cantile, M.A., M.B.; Sir T. Lauder Brunton, M.D., F.R.S.; Carl Prausnitz, M.D.; Louis W. Sambon, M.D., F.Z.S.; W. P. Pyecraft, A.L.S., F.Z.S.; Professor John Oshene, C.B., M.D., F.R.S.E.; F. V. Theobald, M.A.; Professor H. E. Annett, M.D., D.P.H.; Professor F. Hobday, F.R.C.V.S., F.R.S.E.; Robert Newstead, A.L.S., F.E.S.; A. E. Shipley, M.A.; C. J. S. Thomson, F.R.S.M.; A. V. Sewell, M.R.C.V.S.; Kenneth Goadby, D.P.H., M.R.C.S.

box ; there he should appeal to the judge, who will not direct him to answer any question unless he considers it necessary in the interests of justice.

UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES.

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

The following degrees were conferred on May 28th :

M.D. : H. M. Davies, Trin. ; W. Morley Fletcher, Trin. ; J. S. Pearson, Trin. ; E. D. Macnamara, Pet. ; F. H. Edgeworth, Gonv. and Cai. ; A. H. Style, Emms.
M.B., B.C. : F. W. W. Griffin, King's.
M.B. : J. McIntyre, King's ; L. H. L. Mackenzie, Trin.
B.C. : A. Wilkin, King's ; P. E. Smith, Pemb. ; E. G. Wheat, Christ's ; A. J. May, Sid. Suss.

PUBLIC HEALTH

AND

POOR-LAW MEDICAL SERVICES.

ST. PANCRAS SCHOOL FOR MOTHERS.

The first annual meeting of the St. Pancras Mothers' and Infants' Society will be held at the Town Hall, Pancras Road, N.W., on Monday, June 15th, at 3 p.m., to render an account of the first year's work of the School for Mothers and Babies' Welcome. The report states that the St. Pancras School for Mothers was first projected at a representative meeting held on May 1st, 1907. Dr. Howard Barrett took the chair. An account by Mrs. W. E. Gordon was read of the Chelsea dinners for nursing mothers, and the School for mothers at Ghent was described by the Hon. Mrs. Bertrand Russell. It was decided to organize and carry out a scheme comprising features of both institutions for the benefit of mothers and infants of the Somers Town district of East St. Pancras, and to invite inhabitants of the neighbourhood and other friends to subscribe. For several years past it has been the aim of Dr. Sykes, the St. Pancras medical officer of health, to encourage the natural feeding of infants, as against any system which should make bottle-feeding appear more easy or more desirable. With the help of devoted lady health visitors a great deal has been done in this direction, and the infant mortality during the summer months has been gradually reduced in St. Pancras. This experience has sufficiently proved that the encouragement of the natural feeding of infants is the thing most worth working for, and the St. Pancras scheme aims at promoting this in various ways, whilst endeavouring also to cover a wider field.

The school was opened as an experiment on July 1st, 1907, at a conference over which Lord Robert Cecil, K.C., M.P., presided. Sir Thomas Barlow, Bart., Dr. Paramore, Mrs. Scharlieb, M.D., and others spoke to various resolutions bearing on the prevention of infantile mortality. Suitable premises were taken at 6 and 7, Chalton Street, Euston Road, N.W., consisting of a large, well-lighted ground floor and basement. "Mothers' and Babies' Welcome" was painted up across the building. The work of the "Welcome" is divided into the following departments: (1) Infant consultations, (2) dinners for nursing mothers, (3) classes, (4) provident maternity club, (5) home visiting, (6) fathers' evening conferences.

The honorary medical officer attends on two afternoons a week to examine babies and their mothers, and to give advice on their feeding, clothing, and general management. The babies are weighed periodically, and careful record is kept of their condition. Mothers who come regularly join the club and pay 1d. a fortnight. Non-nursing mothers are also encouraged to join, and are instructed how to proceed. They are assisted, as circumstances and experience dictate, in procuring pure milk, in the mode of feeding, in periodical weighing, etc. Cases of illness are referred to doctors, dispensaries, or hospitals.

Two hundred and eighteen babies under 12 months of age have been brought to the consultations in the ten months to which the report refers; an opinion has been given also on several who were over age. Of the whole 218, 119 attended only once or twice, 10 of them being referred at once for further medical advice; others lived too far away or moved out of the district.

Three children are known to be dead; one died in the country; the other two, twins, were never strong, and they died of marasmus. Three pairs of twins and two of a set of triplets have been brought. Only one pair was in good condition; the mother had been a children's nurse. Seventy-two of the babies born before March 31st, 1907, have now passed out of the consultation department as being over age. Only a few were lost sight of before attaining their first birthday. In 62 cases the mother attended with her first child.

There is no doubt that the children whose mothers have come to dinner regularly and attended classes have benefited all round. With the special design of promoting natural

feeding of infants, dinners for underfed nursing and expectant mothers are regularly provided on the premises. A mother, for the sum of 1½d., can obtain a good meal, day by day, for from two or three months before the birth of her child to as long as nine months afterwards, provided she is herself nourishing the child, so that two persons are fed at the expense of one. The dinners are also utilized as object-lessons in the economic provision and preparation of nourishing food.

The lady superintendent reports that 1,933 dinners have been provided from June 25th, 1907, to March 31st, 1908, at an average cost (for actual food) of not quite 2½d. per head for the entire period (the cost per head is now under 2½d.). Where possible the mother has herself contributed 1½d. of this; in other cases the women have been sent and paid for by private individuals or charitable associations; the remainder have been provided free by this society in cases which close investigation has proved to be deserving as well as needy.

The educational side of the work of the School for Mothers has, it is held, been attended by most gratifying results. The cookery class, where practical teaching of simple nourishing dishes is given, is a very valuable feature, and the newly started cutting-out class is much appreciated.

A provident maternity club has been started, which expectant mothers are urged to join in good time. They lay by money under four headings: (1) Doctor or midwife; (2) baby-clothes; (3) extra help during confinement; (4) extra nourishment. The committee has hitherto added a penny to every shilling laid by. It is proposed in future to give an increasing bonus of a half-penny for each completed month of joining before childbirth so as to encourage early enlistment. These mothers are entitled to attend the classes and demonstrations.

The lady superintendent follows up special cases where teaching is badly needed by visiting the homes and giving the mothers practical lessons on baby's bath, feeding, etc. Fathers are often seen on these occasions. Cases of unemployment are investigated, and, as far as possible, helped by recommendation to labour agencies, or by the actual finding of situations.

For the purpose of stimulating fathers to think out the best mode of securing the health and welfare of their wives and babes, and the comfort of their families and homes, informal addresses are given and discussed on certain evenings during the winter session.

When the School for Mothers was first opened, a rough reckoning was made that it would cost £300 a year. In the balance sheet, which covers a period of ten months only, it will be seen that £269 had been spent. Deducting expenses such as the purchase of weighing machines, oil-cloth, furniture, and some house repairs, which are not an annual cost, it may fairly be said that the estimate was above the mark.

ROYAL NAVY AND ARMY MEDICAL SERVICES.

INCORPORATION OF THE BRITISH RED CROSS SOCIETY.

The *London Gazette* of June 5th announces that a petition has been presented to the King in Council for the grant of a charter of incorporation of the British Red Cross Society. The application has been referred to a committee, and notice has been given that all petitions for and against such grant should be sent to the Privy Council Office before July 6th.

SERVICE ON THE WEST COAST OF AFRICA.

The Army Orders for June contain a Royal Warrant entitled, "Service on the West Coast of Africa." It expresses the royal will and pleasure "that when tours of duty on the West Coast of Africa have been terminated in the interests of Our service earlier than the normal period of twelve months (4) Any period actually served on the West Coast shall reckon double towards voluntary retirement or retired pay in the case of an officer. (ii) Leave, pay, and lodging allowance shall be granted in due proportion to the scale now laid down for twelve months' service." The warrant sets out in detail the particulars in which the Royal Warrant of August 30th, 1907, is to be amended in regard to the pay, appointment, promotion, and non-effective pay of the army on the West Coast of Africa.

INDIAN MEDICAL SERVICE.

ACCIDENT TO LIEUTENANT-COLONEL SHORE.

A TELEGRAM from Secunderabad, dated May 18th, says: An unfortunate accident has happened to Lieutenant-Colonel R. Shore, Indian Medical Service, who only recently took up his new appointment as Residency Surgeon at Hyderabad, resulting in the loss of one eye. It appears that Colonel Shore, who is short-sighted, was assisting at an operation in which some stitching was involved, when he got his eye affected by the prick of a needle. The needle penetrated the interior chambers of his eye, carrying with it a virulent poison. An operation became necessary, and Lieutenant-Colonel Shore is getting on fairly well.