

of sixty years ago, and said that too much mechanical restraint and seclusion was still the rule of practice.

Dr. J. CARSWELL read a paper on the occurring lunacy in the Parish of Glasgow, and said he believed lunacy was actually decreasing.

Dr. MILSON RHODES read a paper on the provision of accommodation for chronic and incurable mental disorders, comparing the conditions on the Continent and those prevailing in Great Britain.

The proceedings then terminated.

### CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD.

A MEETING of the Central Midwives Board was held on July 21st at 6, Suffolk Street, Pall Mall.

#### DUTIES OF LOCAL SUPERVISING AUTHORITIES.

A letter was read from the Town Clerk of Brighton, enclosing a suggestion from Dr. Newsholme, Medical Officer of Health, on the working of the Midwives Act. The correspondence contained serious charges against two midwives admitted on the Roll. The suggestion submitted for the consideration of the Central Midwives Board was that the medical officers of health should be consulted before the names of midwives who produced evidence that at the passing of the Act they had been for at least one year in practice as a midwife, and that they bore a good character, were inscribed on the Roll.

Dr. WARD COUSINS observed that the Central Midwives Board were bound to administer the Midwives Act as it stood, and on his suggestion the Board decided to write to the Town Clerk of Brighton, quoting Section VIII of the Midwives Act, detailing the duties of every council of a county or county borough as local supervising authorities over midwives. It was evidently the opinion of the Board that the local supervising authority in the case of these two midwives should have suspended them from practice; and on the motion of Dr. Ward Cousins it was agreed that the Town Clerk of Brighton should be asked to procure a report to the Board of the circumstances attending the charges against the two midwives concerned.

Mr. PARKER YOUNG and Dr. WARD COUSINS both expressed the opinion that an inquiry into the charges against the midwives might result in the local supervising authorities becoming better acquainted with their duties under the Midwives Act.

#### INSPECTORS UNDER THE CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD.

Dr. WARD COUSINS moved:

That registered members of the medical profession only shall be eligible for appointment as inspectors under the Central Midwives Board.

He said that one of the duties of the inspectors under the Board would have reference to the regular training institutions for midwives. At the well-appointed institutions he alluded to, where there was a regular system of instruction with lectures, and where the midwives were taught by the principal midwife and by the medical staff of the institution all that was necessary for them to know in regard to disinfection and nursing, there was no need, in his opinion, for the same kind of inspection which was necessary in regard to the training of candidates as midwives who simply presented themselves for examination under the rules framed by the Central Midwives Board, which allow a candidate to be examined if she has a certificate signed by a resident medical practitioner that she has attended and watched twenty labours and attended a sufficient course of instruction. Dr. Ward Cousins contended that, if large, well-appointed institutions were inspected, it should be by qualified medical practitioners, but inspection by qualified medical men was much more necessary of the instruction given to candidates coming up for examination after attending twenty cases and a course of lectures certified by a general practitioner. These candidates would be instructed in the technical training in nursing and in midwifery duties by the gentlemen who delivered the course of lectures, but the lecturer would not be able to give his pupils the necessary practical instruction. The twenty labours, moreover, required by the Midwives Board would be "extern" cases. It appeared to Dr. Ward Cousins that the general practitioners in the country, when certifying the attendances of women on these cases, would not consider it necessary to attend the cases with these women and teach them the normal signs of labour, nor did he think it likely that the medical men certifying would attend the lying-in women during the ten days fol-

lowing labour with the candidate to see that the nursing was properly carried out, and give instruction in the way in which the child was to be looked after and fed. Dr. Ward Cousins asked the Board to consider what the general practitioner would do to satisfy the Board that these women in their twenty cases had been sufficiently instructed in ordinary midwifery and in nursing. What would happen would be that a large number of medical men would be glad to give these women the twenty cases, and if all went well the medical men would not go near these women. Dr. Ward Cousins wanted to know what was the inspection that the Board required. It seemed to him that for these women the best instruction would be received from qualified midwives who would undertake to attend the cases and give the candidates instruction at the case. He urged the members of the Board to consider that before the Board accepted the proposed certificates from the medical men in the country stating that these women had been properly supervised, the Board ought to have some definite understanding as to what amount of supervision and instruction those who signed those certificates ought to give these candidates.

Mr. PARKER YOUNG did not consider that all the inspectors should be registered medical men; and after some further discussion Dr. WARD COUSINS withdrew his motion, saying that he understood that the Board would expect that the doctors who signed the certificates for the candidates would guide, conduct, and help these women in their work. He feared, however, that these women would, as a matter of fact, not receive efficient instruction.

After the transaction of some formal business the Board adjourned to September 29th.

## MEDICAL NEWS.

HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF FIFE, K.G., Lord Lieutenant of the County, has appointed Dr. Ralph Gooding, Chairman of the Blackheath Bench of Justices, a Deputy Lieutenant of the County of London.

RECURRENCE OF SMALL-POX IN EDINBURGH.—During the week ending Saturday last, July 23rd, two fresh cases of fairly severe small-pox came under the cognizance of the Public Health Authorities. They were those of tramps who had come into the city from an outside infected area.

THE SPITTING NUISANCE.—Moline, Illinois, has adopted an ordinance prohibiting spitting in public places, under penalties varying from 1 dol. to 5 dol. for its violation. Notices are to be posted to warn all persons, whether residents or visitors, against spitting on pavements.

THE STUDY OF TUBERCULOSIS AT JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY.—It is announced that the Johns Hopkins University is about to undertake systematic work on the subject of tuberculosis. With the help of a gift of £4,000 from Mr. Henry Phipps, of Pittsburg, it is proposed to erect a dispensary building so arranged as to combine the treatment of patients with adequate rooms for investigation.

MEDICAL MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT IN PORTUGAL.—In the newly-elected Portuguese Chamber of Deputies there are ten members of the medical profession, namely, Drs. Clemente Pinto, Sabino Coelho, Sousa Avides, Moraes Carvalho, Almeida Dias, Agostinho Lucio, Egas Moniz, Lima Duque, Libanio Fialho and Moreira Junior.

CENTENARY OF SIR RICHARD OWEN.—It is always well to recall the memory of those who have by their researches advanced our knowledge. July 20th was the hundredth anniversary of the birth at Lancaster of Sir Richard Owen, where an inscription on a house in Thurnham Street records the place of his birth. Owen died in 1892.

THE TRAINING OF MIDWIVES.—A centre for the training of young women desiring to become midwives has been established in connexion with the Cardiff Medical School. Three courses of lectures and demonstrations are to be given each year, each course lasting three months. The Cardiff Corporation and the Glamorgan County Council are taking a keen interest in the training of midwives, and the former body has already voted a substantial sum towards the upkeep of the centre, and the Glamorgan County Council, in all probability, will vote a still larger sum for the same purpose. A deputation headed by Professor Hepburn, of University College, Cardiff, recently explained the scheme and its objects to the Monmouthshire County Council.

Munich; in 1880 the University of Cambridge conferred on him the degree of LL.D., and in 1882 he received a like distinction from the University of Edinburgh; in 1887 he was made M.D. *honoris causa* of the University of Dublin. In 1853-4 he was a member of the Royal Commission of Inquiry into the Causes of Cholera in Newcastle-on-Tyne, Gateshead, and Tynemouth; in 1854-5 he was a member of Sir Benjamin Hall's Medical Council; and in 1881 he was a member of the Royal Commission appointed to inquire into the constitution of the medical profession. In 1896 he was awarded the Harben Medal of the Royal Institute of Public Health, and in November, 1897, the Buchanan Medal of the Royal Society.

Sir John Simon's public career entitles him to be regarded as one of those who did the State most service in the Victorian era. In his private life he was as happy as such a man deserved to be. He had all that should accompany old age—honour, love, and troops of friends. He had spent a morning with Wordsworth in his garden and heard the poet read to him twice from his manuscript a sonnet which he had just written on Haydon's picture of Wellington revisiting Waterloo. He was on terms of intimate friendship with Arthur Helps, Charles Kingsley, Edward Burne Jones, John Ruskin, Charles Darwin, Robert Lowe; he was acquainted with Thackeray, Buckle, and, indeed, with all his contemporaries in various spheres of activity who were best worth knowing. He had travelled much, with sympathetic appreciation of all he saw, and his intellectual interests included Art as well as Nature and Science.

It has been said—and with too much truth—that the evil which men do lives after them, while the good is oft interred with their bones. Sir John Simon in his long life did nothing but good, and it is some consolation for the inevitable loss of such a man that the vast good which he did in laying the foundations of enlightened sanitary administration will last as long as civilization.

## PUBLIC HEALTH AND POOR-LAW MEDICAL SERVICES.

### HEALTH OF ENGLISH TOWNS.

IN seventy-six of the largest English towns, including London, 8,565 births and 4,142 deaths were registered during the week ending Saturday last, July 23rd. The annual rate of mortality in these towns, which had been 13.5, 13.5, and 13.7 per 1,000 in the three preceding weeks, further rose last week to 14.1 per 1,000. The rates in the several towns ranged from 3.1 in West Bromwich, 5.5 in King's Norton, 7.1 in Willemsden and in Leyton, 7.4 in Northampton, 8.3 in Hornsey, and 8.6 in Hastings, to 18.2 in Birkenhead, 18.6 in Bootle, 19.3 in Sunderland, 19.6 in Rhondda, 19.7 in Burnley, 20.0 in St. Helens, and 20.3 in Liverpool. In London the rate of mortality was 14.8 per 1,000, while it averaged 13.9 in the seventy-five other large towns. The mean death-rate in the seventy-six towns from the principal infectious diseases averaged 2.7 per 1,000; in London this death-rate was equal to 2.9 per 1,000, while among the seventy-five large provincial towns the rates ranged upwards to 4.8 in Stockport and in Wigan, 4.9 in Huddersfield, 5.1 in Leeds, 5.2 in Wallasey, 5.8 in Liverpool, 6.8 in Bootle and in Rhondda, and 7.8 in Aston Manor. Measles caused a death-rate of 2.0 in Leeds, 2.1 in Rhondda, 2.2 in Bradford, 2.4 in St. Helens, 3.2 in Birkenhead, 3.3 in Huddersfield, and 5.1 in Bootle; scarlet fever of 1.5 in Warrington and 6.1 in Hanley; whooping-cough of 2.0 in Blackburn and 4.0 in Burton-on-Trent; and diarrhoea of 2.6 in Rhondda, 2.7 in Birmingham, 2.8 in Tottenham, 3.1 in West Ham and in Liverpool, 3.5 in Wallasey, 4.3 in Stockport, and 7.1 in Aston Manor. The mortality from diphtheria and from enteric fever showed no marked excess in any of the large towns. Two fatal cases of small-pox were registered in Newcastle-upon-Tyne, and one each in London, Rochdale, and Gateshead, but none in any other of the large towns. The Metropolitan Asylums Hospitals contained 51 small-pox patients on Saturday last, July 23rd, against 74, 71, and 62 on the three preceding Saturdays; 6 new cases were admitted during the week, against 10, 10, and 7 in the three preceding weeks. The number of scarlet fever cases in these hospitals and in the London Fever Hospital, which had been 1,631, 1,685 and 1,698 at the end of the three preceding weeks, had further risen to 1,754 at the end of last week; 234 new cases were admitted during the week, against 254, 269, and 229 in the three preceding weeks.

### HEALTH OF SCOTCH TOWNS.

DURING the week ending Saturday last, July 23rd, 1,000 births and 518 deaths were registered in eight of the principal Scotch towns. The annual rate of mortality in these towns, which had been 16.3, 15.8, and 14.8 per 1,000 in the three preceding weeks, rose again last week to 15.7 per 1,000, and was 1.6 per 1,000 above the mean rate during the same period in the seventy-six large English towns. Among these Scotch towns the death-rates ranged from 11.0 in Leith, and 12.3 in Perth to 18.7 in Greenock and 21.1 in Paisley. The death-rate from the principal infectious diseases averaged 2.1 per 1,000, the highest rates being recorded in Glasgow, Paisley, and Greenock. The 243 deaths registered in Glasgow included 2 which resulted from small-pox, 2 from measles, 3 from scarlet fever, 13 from whooping-cough, 3 from "fever," and 10 from diarrhoea. Six fatal cases of measles, 2 of whooping-cough, and 4 of diarrhoea were recorded in Edinburgh. Two deaths from whooping-cough, and 4 from diarrhoea occurred in Dundee; 2 from whooping-cough and 3 from diarrhoea in Aberdeen; 3 from whooping-cough in Paisley; and 3 from measles in Greenock.

## MEDICAL VACANCIES AND APPOINTMENTS. VACANCIES.

*This list of vacancies is compiled from our advertisement columns, where full particulars will be found. To ensure notice in this column advertisements must be received not later than the first post on Wednesday morning.*

BRIGHTON THROAT AND EAR HOSPITAL, Church Street. Non-resident House-Surgeon. Salary at the rate of £75 per annum.  
COVENTRY AND WARWICKSHIRE HOSPITAL.—Assistant House-Surgeon, resident. Salary, £80 per annum.  
DEVONPORT: ROYAL ALBERT HOSPITAL.—Assistant House-Surgeon, resident. Salary at the rate of £50 per annum.  
HOSPITAL FOR SICK CHILDREN, Great Ormond Street, W.C.—(1) House-Surgeon; (2) House-Physician. Salary, £20 for six months, and £2 10s. washing allowance each.  
MANCHESTER: VICTORIA UNIVERSITY.—Junior Demonstrator in Physiology.  
MOUNT VERNON HOSPITAL FOR CONSUMPTION AND DISEASES OF THE CHEST, Hampstead and Northwood.—Resident Medical Officer, Honorary, £80 per annum.  
PLAISTOW: ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL FOR SICK CHILDREN.—Assistant Resident Medical Officer. Salary at the rate of £50 per annum.  
ROTTERHAM HOSPITAL AND DISPENSARY.—Senior House-Surgeon, resident. Salary, £110 per annum.  
SALFORD ROYAL HOSPITAL AND DISPENSARY.—Honorary Physician.  
WISBECH: NORTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE HOSPITAL.—Resident Medical Officer. Salary £100 per annum.

## APPOINTMENTS.

ALLAN, John, M.B., Ch.B. Edin., House-Surgeon to the County Hospital, Ayr.  
BAILLY, B. E. G., M.B.C.S., L.R.C.P., Medical Officer of the Workhouse of the Midhurst Union, vice A. E. Peters, M.B.C.S., L.R.C.P., resigned.  
CLARK, G. G., M.B.C.S., L.R.C.P., District Medical Officer of the Wakefield Union.  
DONALD, G. W., M.D., F.R.C.S.E., Surgeon to Cumberland and Westmorland County Constabulary.  
EAMES, E. S. B., M.B.C.S., L.R.C.P., Certifying Factory Surgeon for the Uffculme District, Devonshire.  
FARQUHARSON, D. A. R., M.B., C.M. Aberd., District Medical Officer of the Chester-le-Street Union.  
FLOYD, S. G., M.D., M.R.C.S., Certifying Factory Surgeon for the Grays District.  
FRITH, Walter S., M.B., B.C. Cantab., Resident Medical Officer to Felsted School and Head of the Junior House.  
LONGDEN, E. W., L.R.C.P. and S. Edin., L.F.P.S. Glasg., District Medical Officer of the Luton Union.  
LYALL, W. Leslie, M.B., C.M., reappointed non-resident Clinical Assistant to the Victoria Hospital for Consumption, Edinburgh.  
MARAIS, David P., M.B., Ch.B., Resident Physician to the Victoria Hospital for Consumption, Edinburgh.  
MAXWELL, William H., M.A., M.B. Camb., F.R.C.S. Eng., Senior Resident Medical Officer to the London Temperance Hospital, Hampstead Road, N.W.  
OAKLEY, Adam L. H., L.R.C.P. Edin., Third Honorary Anaesthetist to the London Throat Hospital, Great Portland Street.  
ROPER, G. L.S.A., District Medical Officer of the Chester Union.  
TODD, C., M.D. Cantab., Director of the Serum Institute of the Egyptian Sanitary Service, Cairo, Egypt.  
TURNER, F. D., M.B. Lond., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., Medical Officer to the Post Office and Medical Examiner to the Board of Education at Huddersfield.

## BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

*The charge for inserting announcements of Births, Marriages, and Deaths is 3s. 6d., which sum should be forwarded in post-office orders or stamps with the notice not later than Wednesday morning, in order to ensure insertion in the current issue.*

### MARRIAGES.

JONES—STEELE.—At St. Peter's Church, Blaenavon, Mon., on July 26th, W. Llewelyn Jones, F.R.C.S.E., of Mer. by Tyddil, to Alice Mary, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. O. Steele, Parkside, Blaenavon.  
THOMAS—ATKINSON.—On July 20th, at St. Mary's Church, Wandsworth, Yorks, by the Rev. Francis Atkinson, M.A., Rector of St. Mary's Birm., N.B., uncle of the bride, assisted by the Rev. Cyril Walker, M.A., Curate of Aberham, Notts., and by the Rev. James Mowat, M.A., Rector of the Parish, George Grewdon Thomas, M.D., M.R.C.P., of Synthon, only son of George B. Thomas, of Swansea, Glam., to Eveline Mary, elder daughter of William Atkinson, The Birklands, Bandsworth.

## LETTERS, NOTES, AND ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

COMMUNICATIONS respecting Editorial matters should be addressed to the Editor, 2, Agar Street, Strand, W.C., London; those concerning business matters, advertisements, non-delivery of the JOURNAL, etc., should be addressed to the Manager, at the Office, 429, Strand, W.C., London.

ORIGINAL ARTICLES and LETTERS forwarded for publication are understood to be offered to the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL *alone*, unless the contrary be stated.

AUTHORS desiring reprints of their articles published in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL are requested to communicate with the Manager, 429, Strand, W.C., on receipt of proof.

CORRESPONDENTS who wish notice to be taken of their communications should authenticate them with their names—of course not necessarily for publication.

CORRESPONDENTS not answered are requested to look at the Notices to Correspondents of the following week.

MANUSCRIPTS FORWARDED TO THE OFFICE OF THIS JOURNAL CANNOT UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES BE RETURNED.

IN order to avoid delay, it is particularly requested that ALL letters on the editorial business of the JOURNAL be addressed to the Editor at the Office of the JOURNAL, and not at his private house.

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS.—The telegraphic address of the EDITOR of the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL is *Atiology, London*. The telegraphic address of the MANAGER of the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL is *Atiology, London*.

TELEPHONE (National).—EDITOR, 2631, Gerrard. GENERAL SECRETARY AND MANAGER, 2630, Gerrard.

Queries, answers, and communications relating to subjects to which special departments of the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL are devoted will be found under their respective headings.

### QUERIES.

B. R. would be glad to be directed to any book on kindergarten instruction for a child.

W.F.M. would be glad to hear of a home where a case of elephantiasis (female) could be admitted on payment of from 2s. 6d. to 5s. per week. Near Boston (Lincol.) preferred.