

Intra-uterine Disease, with special reference to the best mode of making appliances for the intra-uterine surface. Dr. Atthill's masterly paper was chiefly remarkable for recommending the injection of iodised phenol into the uterus in the treatment of suitable cases. Papers on the same subject were also contributed by Dr. More Madden and Dr. John W. Byers; and in the discussion which ensued Drs. Kidd, Smyly, and Reid took part.

In this section the President demonstrated the plan of using his four-bladed perforator, and Dr. Kidd showed his method of decapitating the child. Several other interesting papers were read.

PUBLIC MEDICINE.

In this section, the only one to which the public were admitted, there was a great deal of work done.

The President, Dr. Cameron, M.P., delivered a very able, exhaustive, and thoughtful address on the Cholera Microbe, and how to meet it. Papers were read by Dr. Johnston on the Prevention of Epidemics, by Dr. Cullimore on Quarantine, and by Dr. Hunt (New York) on Infectious Diseases. Dr. Kirkes read a very interesting paper on the Visit of the Egyptian Cholera Epidemic of 1883 to Port Said. Prof. Charles A. Cameron (Dublin) read a paper on Inspection of Meat Markets, which excited considerable interest. The discussion on Over-pressure in Schools was closed by the President, who remarked that something might be done by legislation to prevent the evils complained of, not by cutting down education, but by placing education on somewhat more rational lines.

PHARMACOLOGY AND THERAPEUTICS.

Dr. MacLagan, the President of this newly formed section, delivered an opening address on Methods of Therapeutic Research, after which there was an interesting discussion on the British Pharmacopœia, in which Dr. Shoemaker gave an account of the state of the Pharmacopœia in America. A resolution was passed calling for an improvement and revision of the present Pharmacopœia.

The Patent Medicines Stamp Act was brought under the notice of the section by the President, and eventually the following motion, proposed by Professor Hay (Aberdeen), and seconded by Dr. Leech, was unanimously carried:—"That in the opinion of this section the Patent Medicines Stamp Act should be abolished."

Dr. Shoemaker (Philadelphia), a delegate from the American Medical Association, gave a demonstration on New Oleates; and in the discussion which followed Dr. Finny and Dr. Walter Smith of Dublin took part. There was also a debate on Antipyretics, introduced by Dr. Collie (Homerton Fever Hospital), who dwelt on Cold Baths. Dr. Quinlan followed, speaking in reference to salicin, salicylates, quinine, and kairin. Dr. Ord and Prof. Gairdner also took part in this interesting and animated debate. There was finally a debate on Aspiration as a therapeutic agent; and a demonstration of the action of certain drugs on the frog's heart. There can be no doubt that this new section was a marked success.

PHYSIOLOGY AND PATHOLOGY.

In this section Dr. M'Vail read a very able paper on the Pathology of Pulmonary Emphysema, which was criticised by Professor Gairdner and others.

Dr. Alexander (Liverpool) gave a very scholarly address in opening the discussion on the Influence of the Nervous System on Normal and Abnormal Nutrition. Numerous papers were read in this section.

OPHTHALMOLOGY.

After the President had given his opening address on Mature Cataract and its Treatment by a new Operation,

Dr. Wolfe opened a discussion on the following question:—"Does the position of the section in Cataract operations influence Suppuration of the Cornea? If so, what part is played by Septic Infection?"

Dr. Brailey opened a discussion on the Explanation of the Advance of the Iris Periphery in the late stages of Glaucoma. A number of papers were read, and other discussions took place in this section.

PSYCHOLOGY.

Among other matters of interest in this section, Dr. Hack Tukey read a paper on Alcoholic Beverages in British Asylums, in which he narrated the result of an inquiry into the use of alcohol in asylums. Several superintendents

approved of beer, while many did not. Alcohol was used as a medicine only in 22 asylums in England, in 13 in Scotland, and in 15 in Ireland—50 in all. Dr. Norman Kerr said that nearly one half of the English asylums had either wholly or partially discontinued the use of alcohol; there were 63 such institutions in all, and there had been either an entire or partial reduction in 29.

THE ANNUAL MUSEUM.

The annual museum, owing to the great exertions of Dr. O'Neill, was a decided success. The purely medical and surgical exhibits were shown in the anatomical rooms, while in the gymnasium and exhibition hall of the gardens appliances relating to sanitary science and public health were to be seen. The show of drugs and instruments was very extensive, Arnold and Sons, Coxeter, Weiss, Marr, Mayer and Meltzer, Wilson and Sons (Harrogate), Allen and Hanburys, Burroughs, Wellcome and Co., Calvert, Corbryn, Stacey and Co., Essinger and Neuberger, Sanitas Co., &c., being among the exhibitors. There was some very good hospital furniture, and filters, tricycles, a doctor's gig, carriage, &c. Dr. Clement Godson exhibited a thermostatic nurse for the bringing up of prematurely born infants, an account of which appeared recently in our columns. This apparatus excited great curiosity, and its mechanism was frequently explained by Dr. Godson to visitors to the museum.

LAST GENERAL MEETING.

At this meeting, after the adoption of various reports, special votes of thanks were passed to the President of Queen's College for allowing the use of the College for the meetings; to the Mayor; to the members of the Belfast and North of Ireland Branch, and the inhabitants of the town and neighbourhood; to the National Telephonic Company; to the honorary secretaries and others who had assisted in the entertainment of the members; and, lastly, to Dr. Cuming, the President of the Association.

The annual dinner was held in the Examination Hall of Queen's College, Professor Cuming presiding, on Thursday evening, July 31st; while on the Friday night the Mayor of Belfast, Sir David Taylor, gave a very brilliant reception in the Ulster Hall, at which there was a very numerous attendance. Dancing was commenced at half-past ten, and was continued into the early hours of Saturday.

On Saturday, which was a beautiful day, there were three excursions—one to the Giant's Causeway (at which there were between two and three hundred), another to Garun Tower, and a third to Newcastle.

The numerous social reunions have been a marked feature of the Belfast meeting. There were garden parties, "at homes," and other entertainments, to which the members of the Association and their friends were freely admitted.

"THE WASTE OF THE PROFESSION."

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Without attempting to guess what the average annual waste of the profession may be, permit me to point out a waste that has not been referred to either by Sir Lyon Playfair or by you. I mean the large loss caused by the retirement of medical men from active practice on account of age, ill-health, or other causes, and whose names would not of course figure in the annual return of deaths. I have no idea what this waste is, but no doubt it is considerable. Perhaps some of your correspondents could enlighten me; for so far as the public are concerned, it is a very important matter to know.—I am, Sir, yours, &c.,

T. F. O'DWYER, M.D.,

Surgeon-Major, Army Medical Department.

Junior United Service Club, August, 1884.

* * We quite agree with our correspondent that the mere deaths do not express the whole loss of active members of the profession in any year; but it requires little knowledge of either the circumstances or the disposition of medical men to be convinced that the number who retire is a comparatively small one.—ED. L.

THE Local Government Board for Ireland have sanctioned an increase in the salary of Dr. Agnew, of Lurgan Dispensary, by £20 yearly.