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increase during the twenty-third week. So large a number of deaths (24) has not been caused by this disease in any one week for 19 years. More than a third of the fresh cases occurred in the Montmartre and Villette quarters.

LIVERPOOL.

Dinner to Civil Surgeons returned from South Africa: Dr. Craig Dun on his Experiences and the Medical Arrangements.—The Royal Infirmary Annual Report and Annual Medical and Pathological Report.—The Epileptic Home at Maghull.

ON June 20th a number of Liverpool medical men who have served as civilian surgeons with the forces in South Africa were entertained at dinner in the Exchange Station Hotel by the members of the profession in Liverpool. The chair was occupied by Mr. Edgar Browne, President of the Medical Institution, and the vice-chair by Sir William M. Banks. The guests were Mr. J. M. Aldred, Mr. T. T. Bark, Mr. W. B. Bennett, Dr. R. Craig Dun, Mr. A. M. Dodd, Mr. Arthur Evans, Mr. T. H. Moyles, Mr. J. Owen, Mr. E. Roberts, Mr. Arthur Walker, and Mr. J. H. Willett. Amongst those present were Sir Edward Russell, and there was a large and representative gathering of the members of the profession in the City and the neighbourhood. After the customary loyal toasts had been honoured, the Chairman proposed the health of the guests, and said that owing to their having only civilian rank, they had been allowed to return to this country without receiving any public acknowledgment; but their professional brethren were of opinion that their success in the field merited as much recognition as though there were no such thing as red tape; that evening they were delighted to honour the patriotism and self-sacrifice which had cost one of them—Dr. Edgar Smith—his life. They at least would never forget what these gentlemen had done for their country and for their profession.

Dr. Craig Dun, who responded, said that when he offered his services to the War Office he had an interview with an official of the Army Medical Department, who showed him the names of between 800 and 900 other medical volunteers, and told him that the War Office might perhaps accept the services of three or four. Soon afterwards the order was issued to raise twelve regiments of Yeomanry. He heard nothing further for six weeks, and had dismissed the matter from his mind, when he received a telegram one Friday night telling him he had been appointed medical officer to the 2nd Regiment of Yeomanry, with the temporary rank of captain, and that he must sail on the following Tuesday. He went to London and saw the same official as to the medical equipment of his regiment. He was told that he must "requisition" for it. He did not then know what a requisition meant. The result was that in spite of every effort he had to sail with 550 officers and men, but without either a drug or a bandage. Thanks to the better medical arrangements of the navy, he found what was necessary for the voyage out on the transport. At Capetown the difficulty as to getting medical equipment for the corps again cropped up. He was told that, though the regiment was ordered to the front, there were no medical or surgical necessities available for it. However, by dint of the exertion of influence, he eventually got an equipment which, to judge by the age of the drugs, had been out in the Crimea. It was plain that the War Office might have appointed the surgeons for the yeomanry regiments at the time the order to raise them was given, so that the medical equipment might have been obtained. The fact that the regiment must go to the front without medical equipment did not seem to impress the official concerned at Capetown. On arriving at De Aar he found a hospital, staff, and equipment for eighty men. Soon afterwards they had to deal with 245 patients, nearly all too severely wounded to be sent down to Capetown. Subsequently his corps went up the country with Lord Kitchener, and were in action. They had seventy casualties. The dressings gave out in 48 hours, and they had to tear up the sheets commandeered from Boer farm-houses. Three months afterwards he was back at De Aar, and he found that the state of unpreparedness was precisely the same as before. When he arrived at Bloemfontein the stress of work was over, and the hospitals were doing fairly well. At Kroonstad there were three hospitals, one civil and two military. One civil and one military hospital were perfect. In

the second military hospital—in the church—the men were lying on their mackintoshes, covered only with blankets and without either sheets or pyjamas. That could not be accounted for by the exigencies of war. At Pretoria there was an excellent Irish civil hospital in the Law Courts. As to the field hospitals, they were splendidly equipped for the work they had to do according to the army regulations, but not for dealing with enteric and dysentery patients as well as with wounded. Besides, the sick had to subsist on bully-beef and biscuit. Were these things the fault of the system or of the men? He had no hesitation in saying they were wholly the fault of the system. The Army Medical Corps had done splendid work under the greatest possible difficulties. In the face of the existing regulations he could not honestly advise any graduate in medicine to look to service in the army as a fair field for his activity. In concluding, Dr. Dun made one or two suggestions. At present promotion in the Army Corps, he said, depended not on professional ability, but on a man's filling in his return sheets accurately. The medical men at the front spent a great deal of their time filling up return sheets. He would relegate this clerical work to non-commissioned officers. He also advocated a return to the old system of regimental doctors.

The annual report of the Royal Infirmary for the year 1900 shows a deficit of £2,800. There is a constant tendency to increased expenditure, the increased price of coal alone involving an addition of £200 to the year's outlay. As the Treasurer observes in his report, however, if the institution is to keep pace with the constant advance in surgical and medical requirements such as in the interests of the community the Committee maintains to be the just function of a first-class teaching hospital, this cannot be otherwise. The annual reports of the Medical, Surgical, and Pathological Registrars of the same institution have also been published, constituting the fifth yearly issue. The volume contains twelve pages more than the issue of last year. These reports represent a vast amount of labour in analysing and tabulating cases, and will doubtless be found of great value by clinical and pathological investigators.

The Committee of the Epileptic Home at Maghull, in their twelfth annual report presented to the annual meeting held recently, state that the general health of the patients, apart from their special ailment, has been very satisfactory. During the year 21 patients have been discharged and 3 have died, and on December 31st there remained in the home 69 males and 54 females. Land has been purchased for the purpose of erecting a villa for first-class patients, and to provide accommodation for the nursing staff of the male home. The building, roads, and drainage are estimated to cost in all £5,500, towards which the Committee have funds in hand or promised amounting to £3,500, leaving an amount of £2,000 still to be provided. A friend has generously promised £500 towards the cost of furnishing the villa, and another friend has intimated her willingness to furnish a suite of rooms. An attempt is being made to secure a suitable farm on which patients can be employed for wages. The medical report states that there are epileptics in the home who can plough, hoe, reap, milk cows, and perform household duties; in fact, the homes are blocked by these trained cases who occupy the ground necessary for developing the faculties of the new patients. Mr. A. L. Jones, in moving that the report and the treasurer's statement be adopted, said that he felt the greatest sympathy with the efforts of the Committee, and that he believed they wanted something like £10,000 to carry out the work properly. He would consider it a very great pleasure to contribute £1,000 provided they got the whole sum required within, say, six months. Subsequently an exhibition of the patients' work was inspected with interest by those present.

CARDIFF.

Funeral Customs.—Midwives and Puerperal Fever.—Paraffin in Diphtheria.

THE progress of medical science has swept away many superstitious rites and insanitary practices, but still they linger in out-of-the-way places, especially in many parts of rural Wales, and in that Principality recently several examples have been brought into prominence. A custom