

turned inwards towards the centre; there were no bedclothes, only a little straw upon the table, and a coverlet spread over the children, their body-clothes serving as pillows. Dr Keiller insisted that the children should be removed; this was done, but several died of small-pox. Of these unfortunate creatures not one had been vaccinated. The apathy which had led to such a state of matters did not arise from any indifference on the part of the medical practitioners of Dundee, who he knew had done their utmost to stay the ravages of this and other contagious diseases. Dr Keiller had, during five years, taken an active part in conducting a dispensary and vaccine institution, and during this time he had abundant proofs of the necessity for an introduction of some compulsory measure.

*Dr Alexander Wood*, after listening to the whole discussion, was glad to find a wonderful concurrence of opinion; the only difference appeared to be a matter of words. He did think that, in what Dr Andrew Wood had said, there was a tendency to forget what was due to the profession to which we belong. Was Dr Wood prepared to join in the recommendation of the Privy Council, and thereby to declare that medical men possessing two diplomas were incompetent to perform vaccination? It was said that many went from the schools who had never seen a vaccine vesicle; but this might be very easily rectified. Besides, how many go out without having seen other things. Many go into practice without having seen a case of diphtherite, and it might be asked how are they to distinguish that disease from simple superficial, or from malignant ulceration of the throat? How was this rectified? Why, in lectures they heard a description of the disease, so that when they met with it in practice, they were prepared to recognise its character. Was Dr Andrew Wood prepared to say that for every disease a special education and a special certificate were required? If this system were once introduced, where were you to stop? Is the Government justified, in the matter of vaccination, in setting aside the whole profession, with a few exceptions, as imperfectly educated? Dr Wood had been much struck lately, while examining an English candidate for the licentiatehip of the Royal College of Physicians, to find that this gentleman, though he had been several years in practice, had scarcely ever vaccinated. On inquiry, he was informed that as he did not hold a union appointment he refrained from vaccinating, as, if he did so, he would be looked upon by the union surgeon as trespassing upon his department. Dr Wood was opposed to the district system; he thought it would be easier and more efficacious to go to the houses of the poor. He was opposed, for three reasons, to the plan proposed by Dr Andrew Wood. It involved, in the first place, unnecessary expense; in the second place, the proposal of appointing salaried inspectors would be looked upon as a medical job, and would bring obloquy upon the profession; and, in the third place, Dr Wood considered that the additional machinery was unnecessary.

After some further conversation, a committee, consisting of the President, Dr Simpson, Dr Andrew Wood, Dr Keiller, Dr W. T. Gairdner, Dr Husband, Dr Little, Dr Strachan of Dollar, and Dr Alexander Wood (convener), was appointed to co-operate with committees from the Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons, in drawing up suggestions for a Scottish Vaccination Act.

#### CONVERSAZIONE AT THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.

The President and Fellows of the Royal College of Surgeons held a conversation on Thursday, January 19th, in the hall of the College, at which Dr John Gairdner, treasurer of the College, delivered an interesting address on the history of the College. There was a large attendance of members, and in addition many representatives of various public associations. The University Commissioners were represented by Lord Ardmillan, and the University by Professors Pillans, Simpson, More, Liston, and Traill. Numerous members of the College of Physicians were present, including Dr Alexander Wood (President), Dr

Renton, Dr Craigie, Dr W. T. Gairdner, Dr Haldane, Dr Sanders, and Dr C. Wilson. There were also present—of the army and Navy: Dr M'Bain, R.N., Dr Anderson, R.N., Sergeant-Major Anderson, Dr Bower (H.M.S. Edinburgh), Dr Bourke (Royal Artillery), and Mr Muscroft (West York Rifles); of practitioners from the country: Mr J. Greig (H.M. Indian Service), Dr Strachan of Dollar, and Dr Irvine of Pitlochrie; of Town Councillors: Bailie G. Russell, Convener Tibbetts, etc.; of the Merchant Company: Mr Charles Cowan (Master), Mr Robert Chambers, Mr Peter Scott, Mr James Ritchie, etc.; of the Royal Academy: Mr W. B. Johnstone, Mr James Archer, Mr William Brodie, Mr George Harvey, Mr C. Lees, Mr John Steell, Mr J. Ballantine. Amongst other gentlemen we observed Mr D Laing (Signet Library), Mr J. Leslie, C.E., Mr Joseph Farquharson, Mr D. Rhind, and the Rev. F. S. Belcombe.

Visitors were received in the library of the College by Dr MacLagan, the President, and afterwards assembled in the spacious lecture-hall.

The PRESIDENT having, on the part of the College, given a cordial welcome to the company, said he hardly thought it necessary to introduce to them so well known a friend as Dr Gairdner, who became a member of the College long before he (the president) assumed the *toğa virilis*.

Dr GAIRDNER, who was received with much applause, then commenced his interesting address, containing an elaborate account of the early history of the College.—(This valuable address will be published in the next number of the *Journal*.)

On the conclusion of the lecture, which was repeatedly interrupted by loud marks of approbation,

Lord ARDMILLAN moved a vote of thanks to Dr Gairdner, and passed a high eulogium upon the character of the address with which he had so greatly delighted the company. The interest of the lecture had been kept up without a moment's flagging, and they could not hear any part of it without being satisfied that they were under a debt of gratitude to Dr Gairdner, and he was sure they might express a hope that the address might be published, so that the public might have an opportunity of reading it.

Dr ALEXANDER WOOD, in seconding the motion, alluded to the fact of Dr Gairdner's appearing for the first time as a lecturer, and humorously expressed a hope that, as he advanced in life, in this useful capacity, he might not lose any of that liveliness of style which was so marked and pleasant a characteristic of the address he had given them. In the course of some further observations, Dr Wood said he trusted the authorities of the College would take care that Dr Gairdner's lecture was published.

The vote of thanks was then tendered to the lecturer by the President amidst loud and general applause, and the company adjourned to the library, where refreshments were served.

### SICK CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL.

We are glad to observe that the directors have secured a lease of the house, No. 7, Lauriston Lane, which is now being fitted for the purposes of the hospital, and that it will be opened for the reception of patients on 1st February next. The objects of the institution are:—

1. To provide for the reception, maintenance, and medical treatment of the children of the poor during sickness, and to furnish with advice and medicine those who cannot be admitted into the hospital.
2. To promote the advancement of medical science with reference to the diseases of childhood, and especially to provide for the more efficient instruction of students in this department of knowledge.
3. To diffuse among all classes of the community, and chiefly among the poor, a better acquaintance with the management of infants and children during health or sickness, and to assist in the education and training of women in the special duties of children's nurses.