

PROFESSOR OSLER'S VISIT TO NEWCASTLE.

Meeting in the Connaught Hall.

Address on the Hospital Unit in University Work.

The annual address in connection with the Northumberland and Durham Medical Society was given yesterday afternoon in the Connaught Hall, Y.M.C.A. Buildings, Blakett Street, Newcastle, by Professor W. Osler, F.R.S., Regius Professor of Medicine, Oxford, the chair being occupied by Dr. A. C. Burnell, the president of the Society. Others on the platform included Sir Thomas Oliver and Sir G. Hare Philipson, and there was a large attendance.

The Chairman expressed their indebtedness to Professor Osler for coming among them, and remarked that as a writer, teacher, and thinker his reputation was world wide.

Professor Osler, who was given a cordial reception, dealt with the subject, "The Hospital Unit in University Work." He said that our universities had a dual function—to learn and to advance learning. Out of the laboratories as the result of work done by men absorbed in studies, and usually without the slightest bearing upon practical problems, had come the three great revolutions of modern science—the annihilation of time and space, the substitution of the machine for the hand, and the conquest of disease. Physics, chemistry and biology had given us control of the forces of nature. The university of to-day, in ministering to the advancement of learning was also ready to teach how best that learning could be made profitable. Of the old faculties which made up the "studium generale" medicine had been one of the most profoundly affected by the growth of modern science. His contention was that we must so extend university work in our medical schools as to include all branches of the curriculum—medicine as well as pathology, surgery as well as anatomy, midwifery, and gynecology as well as chemistry. But here came in the difficulty. The practical schools which dealt with these important subjects and their sub-divisions were not under the control of the university, or at best had a very feeble affiliation. In this country the hospitals were either independent corporations, as in Newcastle he believed, or the hospital itself had evolved the medical school, as in London, or there was a mutual arrangement between the university and the hospital such as existed in Edinburgh. What did a hospital stand for in the community? Primarily for the cure of the sick and the relief of suffering; secondly for the study of the problems of disease; and thirdly for the training of men to serve the public. The last two came directly within the sphere of university work. Good work was done under the present system. Good work had been done in Newcastle, which was recognised everywhere as a thoroughly practical clinical school. At the same time there were bad features about the system, particularly in small hospitals where there were too many physicians and surgeons for the number of beds, and discontent was consequently bred in the outside men who claimed the privilege of attendance in the hospital. The university claimed first that the subject of hospital work came within her province, and second that certain hospitals should be rearranged to meet the demands of scientific treatment and study. The hospital unit met the condition—a department under the complete control sometimes, but more often under the joint control of hospital and university. Professor Osler went on to sketch the organisation of a hospital unit which, he said, should be under the head and directly paid by the university, and paid a salary which would enable him to devote at least one-half of his time in connection with the hospital. It was very unfair to ask busy men, who had to earn

greatest living masters of medicine. Long before he left Canada he had achieved a reputation, which was world wide, not only as a scientist but as a great teacher, thinker and writer. He had gained many honours not only in this country but abroad. He was a man of vast knowledge and great erudition, and he had an intense and consuming love of his fellow men. (Cheers.)

THE GENERAL PRACTITIONER.

Professor Osler, who was received with great enthusiasm, said he was glad to be with them and especially to meet his friend, Dr. Hadow, who was looking so well. They in Oxford did not know how they in Newcastle would be with Dr. Hadow. Oxford was a nice, easy, quiet, righteous, civilised sort of place, very different from the wilds up in the north. (Laughter.) They were really a little doubtful whether they really could stand them. They did not know whether he was just a bit too good for them (Laughter.) Dr. Hadow, however, had told him after a year's experience that he was not quite certain whether they were not quite too good for him. He saw from his appearance that they had treated him well, and he (the professor) came from the University of Oxford to tell the people of Newcastle that if they did not treat Dr. Hadow well they would not keep him long for they would take him back again. (Laughter and applause.) Proceeding the learned professor said the general practitioner was really the man who did the work of the profession. The status of the general practitioner in the country was the stamp of the profession. The greatest glory of any country was to have a well-educated, highly-trained, thoroughly responsible group of men such as general practitioners in contact with the people of the country. These were the men who did the work of the country and for the benefit of the community. (Applause.) There were two things they could do in this part in connection with the general practitioner. They had a great centre here, a fine medical school, and a good hospital. What were they doing at the Royal Victoria Infirmary for the general practitioner? They might do a great deal; they might do nothing. He could tell them what they could do. They could make the general practitioner in this city and count feel that the infirmary was his best friend. Often a general practitioner, when in the immediate neighbourhood of a hospital, felt that it was not his best friend. (Hear, hear.) He had always taken care to get general practitioners to feel that hospitals were their best friends. They ought to do what was done in several of the large towns in Germany, where there had been organised a scheme of post graduate instruction for the general practitioner, without any cost to him. He claimed that the general practitioner should have an opportunity of going to the hospital and there see the new things and receive instructions in any department of medicine which he needed, without money and without price. That had been done in many hospitals and to the great benefit of the staff, to the great benefit even of the patients, and to the very great benefit of the general practitioner, who came to those courses of instruction. He hoped to see established throughout the country these post graduate centres. (Applause.) The professor went on to urge that where they were assembled that night they ought to make it their home, and by doing this they would still further cement and unite the bonds of fellowship, which after all were most important for the members of a medical society. They would have there also a library and the place could serve as a club-house for the profession in the counties of Northumberland and Durham. To bring about this would take time, energy, and money, and the most important of these was energy, for this would enable them to get the money. (Applause.)

Principal Hadow toasted "The Northumberland and Durham Medical Society," and enlarged upon the part played by the profession of medicine in history and literature. The Society, he said, had always carried out a very valuable and useful work. (Applause.)

Dr. J. Adamson suitably acknowledged the toast on behalf of the Society, and the proceeding shortly afterwards ended.

ne said, should be under the head and directly paid by the university, and paid a salary which would enable him to devote at least one-half of his time in connection with the hospital. It was very unfair to ask busy men, who had to earn their living, to devote as much time as they did to the education of medical students and indirectly to the service of the public for little or nothing. As for the medical students, he would make them serve 2½ years in the hospital and 2½ years in the medical school. He would make them understand that a hospital was an organisation that went on perennially. The beds had no holidays; neither should the medical students. (Laughter and cries of "Shame.") Well, he would give them a few days at Christmas and a few days at Easter, and he was sure they would not want more than a couple of weeks in the summer. Continuous work was really a necessity to keep a student in good condition mentally. A three months' holiday was a very bad thing for him. Units such as he had suggested would entail enormous expense, but it was an expense which the modern university had to undertake. The hospital could not undertake it. At present the university did not pay enough towards hospital work because, after all it had to be remembered that fully half of the education of the medical student was provided by the hospital trustees, and it was only fair to ask the university to liberally support the scientific side of the work. Hospital trustees were rather timid and poor, and they had not met the development of scientific medicine with the necessary financial aid. They had had as much as they could do to provide beds and food and medicine. With the lack of laboratory facilities it was impossible to do justice to their patients to-day. In conclusion, Professor Osler said this was not a counsel of perfection but a practical question for practical men, and it might be solved through the universities. It would take time and much money, but it could be accomplished, and it was necessary if British medicine was to maintain its splendid traditions (Applause.)

On the motion of Dr. James Drummond Prof Osler was cordially thanked for his address.

BANQUET IN THE KING'S HALL.

Professor Osler was the chief guest at the annual dinner of the Society last night in the King's Hall of the Armstrong College, Newcastle. The President, Dr. A. C. Burnell, occupied the chair, and those present included: Dr Hadow (Principal of the Armstrong College), Sir George Hare Philipson, Dr. T. C. Squance, Dr. E. H. Davis, Dr. J. Drummond, Dr. Anderson Canon Boot (Vicar of St. George's, Jesmond), Dr. H. Armstrong, Dr. R. S. Peart, Dr. N. Burnett, Dr. E. J. Burnett, Mr. T. Bell, Dr. T. Beattie, Mr. W. B. Reid, Dr. T. McDowall, Dr. A. Moller, Dr. R. A. Bolan, Mr. Joseph Reed, Dr. Dewar, Mr. A. F. Ericsson, Dr. A. H. Hobbs, Dr. Jas. Hudson, Dr. Cromie, Dr. J. Adamson, Mr. T. Wood, Mr. E. S. Wood, Mr. A. S. Watson, Dr. J. Chalmers, Dr. W. Waterson, Dr. Crisp, Dr. J. MacDonald, Mr. F. H. Pruen, Mr. Brackenbury, Mr. Horseman, Dr. R. S. Robson, Professor Lye, Dr. Haultain, Prof. McDonald, Mr. J. D. Wardale, Mr. Fred E. Forster, Mr. S. S. Whillis, Mr. T. Gowans, Dr. Gowdie, Mr. Cackett, Dr. Modlin, Dr. D. F. Todd, Mr. A. M. Martin, Dr. Evers, Mr. Weir, Mr. Waugh, Mr. W. O. Wood, Dr. Ruxton, Mr. A. S. Percival, Mr. T. G. Ouston, Dr. J. W. Smith, Dr. A. Smith, Mr. W. G. Richardson, Dr. A. Smith, jun., Dr. Millar, Dr. L. Bulkeley, Dr. Young, Dr. S. Robson, Dr. Stuart, Dr. J. W. Smith, jun., Mr. H. B. Angus, Mr. Orde, Dr. W. D. Arnison, Dr. Duke, Professor Howden, Mr. Temperley, Dr. Beatler, Mr. G. G. Turner, Mr. W. S. Dickie, Mr. A. E. Morison, Dr. Melvin, Mr. Harvey, Dr. Alex. Baker, Mr. J. Clay, Dr. G. A. Atkinson, Dr. A. Campbell, Mr. R. J. Willan and Dr. W. E. Hume (hon. secretaries of the Society), Mr. V. T. Thompson, Dr. G. E. Lloyd, Dr. Dodgson, Dr. W. A. McKellar, Mr. W. Sutton, jun., Dr. W. Rollin, Mr. J. W. Heslop, Capt. A. H. Proctor, Dr. P. A. Charlton, Dr. Gover, Dr. F. G. Armstrong, Dr. G. H. Spencer, Mr. J. Collingwood Stewart, Dr. Forsyth, Dr. Forrest, Dr. D. W. Patterson, Dr. T. M. Allison, Dr. T. C. Hunter, Dr. W. J. Harrison, Mr. G. F. Bell, Dr. Geo. Foggin, Dr. A. Parkin, Mr. F. C. Pybus, Mr. Ogle, Mr. Weeks, Mr. Fairclough, Mr. R. W. Smith, Mr. H. T. Hunter, Mr. Bramley, Dr. C. Burman, Dr. G. Walker, Dr. J. G. Campbell, Dr. Sykes, Mr. H. Drummond, Dr. Badcock, Professor Hutchens, Dr. Laws, Dr. Howson, Dr. Sewell, Dr. C. McCullagh, and Dr. Cunningham. During the dinner music was rendered by the

toast on behalf of the Society, and the proceedings shortly afterwards ended.

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After the toast of "The King" had been loyally honoured,

The Chairman gave the toast of the evening, "Our Guest—Professor Osler," and said they felt highly honoured at having with them such a distinguished man, whose name was a household word. Professor Osler was one of the