NAPIER TERCENTENARY CELEBRATION.

CLOSING MEETINGS IN EDINBURGH.

The members of the Napier Tercentenary Congress met again in Edinburgh University yesterday forenoon. Professor David Eugene Smith, of New York, was voted to the chair. Professor Bauschinger, of Strassburg, made the first communication, being an account of certain formulæ and schemes of calculation for the development of a function of two variables in terms of spherical harmonics.

Professor Andoyer, of Paris, gave the history and method of construction of his recently published trigonometrical and logarithmic tables (1911.) These tables contain the logarithms of the trigonometrical functions to 17 significant figures for every hundredth of the quadrant, and to 14 figures for every 10 seconds. M. Andoyer also referred to his present calculations of natural sines to 15 significant figures, a task which he hopes to complete in about two years.

Professor d'Ocagne communicated two short historic notes, the first being to the effect that the principle of the millionaire calculating machine was invented in 1893 by a young French mechanician, Léon Bollée by name, who constructed a machine to help his father, a bell founder, in the necessary calculations. The other note had reference to the development of the modern method of nomography from the older tabulation of numbers in a table of double entry. The earliest systematic application of nomograms he had lately traced to Margett's Longitude Tables of 1791. Till then he had believed that the first user of the method was Pouchet in his *Arithmétique linéaire*, which was published in 1795.

Mrs Gifford presented her book of natural sines calculated to eight figures for every second of arc. The method of checking the results and averaging the differences were described.

THE CONSTRUCTION OF TABULAR MATTER.

After an adjournment of half an hour the members met again, Dr Glaisher being chairman for the earlier part of the meeting, and Major MacMahon for the later part. Dr J. R. Milne discussed various methods of constructing tables, and by means of lantern slides, made instructive comparisons of the methods used by different authors for facilitating work. He hoped by such comparisons to lead to a satisfactory solution of the problem how best to arrange tabular matter, on what colour of paper, and with what kind of type. Mr Hudson, of the Nautical Almanac, pointed out in this connection some devices for facilitating the work of interpolations, and the Chairman remarked that the questions raised by Dr Milne were of real practical importance, and were well worth consideration.

Mr H. S. Gay gave some simple and for practical purposes sufficiently accurate formulæ for determining the trigonometrical functions when the angle is given and conversely, without the use of elaborate tables. Mr J. C. Ferguson described his percentage unit system of measuring angles, and demonstrated how simply certain practical problems were solved. The method consisted essentially in using the tangent instead of the angle, and laying off the angle so measured from the cardinal points up to 45 degs. Mr W. Schooling showed how by use of a certain number and its logarithm, logarithms, reciprocals, and Gaussian logarithms could be calculated by a purely additive process.

Papers by Dr Hutchinson on graphic methods and on the use of the slide rule in crystallography, and by Dr Sheppard on the extension of the accuracy of mathematical tables by improvement of differences and on certain unpublished tables which he had constructed in connection with probabilities, were of a more technical character than those just named. In the absence of the authors, a few other papers which had been prepared for the Congress were held as read.

RECEPTION BY THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF EDINBURGH.

A farewell reception was given to the members of the Napier Tercentenary Congress by the President and Council of the Royal Society of Edinburgh in the rooms of the Society, George Street, yesterday afternoon, and was largely attended by the ladies and gentlemen who have taken part in the celebration. The guests were received by Professor Geikie, the president, and Mrs Geikie, and members of the Council, in the Society's hall, and an adjournment was afterwards made to the library, where light refreshments were served. Music was discoursed by Mr Dambmann's orchestra. Among others present were the Right Hon. J. Parker Smith, Sir David Paulin, Sir James Russell, Emeritus-Professor Crum Brown, Professor James Mackinnon, Professor Whittaker, Professor Westergaard, Professor F. G. Baily, Dr W. B. Blaikie, Dr J. C. Dunlop, Dr Sprague, Dr Horne, Dr F. Grant Ogilvie, Dr E. M. Wedderburn, Dr Pinkerton, Glasgow High School; Dr Somerville, St Andrews; Dr J. R. Milne, Dr Cargill Knott and Mrs Knott, Dr Drinkwater, Mr Andrew Watt, Mr A. Hewat, Mr A. G. Burgess, Mr E. M. Horsburgh, Mr and Mrs T. J. Millar, Mr G. C. Chisholm, Mr J. J. Waugh, W.S.; the Rev. J. Lamond. In the course of the proceedings congratulatory addresses were presented by representatives of the University of Strasburg, the Royal Danish Academy of Science, and the Observatory of the University of Varsovie.

EDINBURGH MATHEMATICAL COLLOQUIUM.

The success attending the colloquium held under the auspices of the Edinburgh Mathematical Society last year encouraged the Society to hold a similar meeting this year. By the courtesy of the Edinburgh University Court, the meetings will be held in the Mathematical Department of the University, and will last from to-day till Friday. The Committee have been fortunate in securing four distinguished lecturers to discuss the more recent developments of mathematical and physical science. Professor M. d'Ocagne, Ecole Polytechnique, Paris, will deliver two lectures on Nomography. It is now generally recognised that for most purposes the nomographic methods are superior to the older graphical methods of calculation, and a large number of mathematicians are taking advantage of this opportunity of hearing one who is the authority on the subject. Mr E. Cunningham, M.A., Fellow of St John's College, Cambridge, will deliver four lectures on "Critical Studies of Modern Electric Theories of the Constitution of Matter, Gravitation, Spectroscopy, &c." Mr H. W. Richmond, M.A., F.R.S., Fellow of King's College, Cambridge, will give four lectures on "Infinity in Geometry," and Professor Whittaker will supplement the lectures of Professor d'Ocagne by demonstrating the arithmetical methods of solving certain classes of equations in the mathematical laboratory.

From the list of members which has been issued it appears that nearly one hundred have enrolled, which is an increase of twenty on last year's number. It includes members from various parts of the British Isles, as well as from several European countries, America, South Africa, and India. Over thirty of these are professors or lecturers in Universities, but the majority are engaged in teaching in secondary schools and colleges. Astronomy, engineering, actuarial and statistical sciences, also send representatives.

SEQUEL TO AN EDINBURGH COURT OF SESSION CASE.

In the Probate and Divorce Division, London, yesterday, before the President, Sir S. Evans, a motion was taken in the case of Mrs M. A. V. Heriot-Hill v. the Rev. H. Heriot-Hill, which was for the confirmation of the report of the registrar allowing her £1, 5s. a week as alimony.

The applicant said her husband was only 47 years of age, and inherited money. In July 1913 she had secured a restitution order against her husband. Respondent was making £213 a year, and she alleged, in addition earned another £100 a year coaching men for ordination. He had borrowed from her and only paid her the first quarter's instalment. He had never paid any debts since 1911. From 1901 to 1910 she had had to support herself and four children. She was now too old for work. She was sure if the respondent was compelled to support her he would soon find a home for her. His letters proved that he was continually wanting her to live with him in secret, while desiring that she should earn her own living. She had been unable to work since September 1913 owing to heart trouble. He had paid no debts of hers.

His Lordship—What does he spend his money on?

Applicant—I don't know. Not on his children or on me. He is a very extravagant man and entertains a great deal. He is continually having girls to reside in the house, not for anything wrong, but he likes young society, and spends his money in that way. Applicant added that in 1906 she took action in the Court of Session, Edinburgh, for alimony, and in October of that year the action was settled out of Court. They had lived together up to June 1912, and had had a holiday on the moors costing £25. Her husband was a clerk in holy orders, and she had served him with a restitution order. From 1913 to January 1914 she was with Miss Snowden at Redcroft, North Berwick, but as her health had now broken down she had to give up work. She was now nearly 48. Her daughter Muriel had had indifferent health, but was now well. Another daughter lived at home during holidays. The youngest boy was now working on a farm. She now lived at Birkenhead.

Mr Willock, for the respondent, said the respondent had never been served with a restitution order. He was on holiday at the time.

His Lordship held that it had been properly served.

Mr Willock said his client found it impossible to live with his wife. Case after case had been brought against him. He had an invalid daughter to look after and another one who made her home with him. He had his position to keep up as a gentleman, and all he had was £200 a year. He was willing to allow his wife 17s. 6d. a week.

Applicant alleged that her husband had refused to pay her chemist's bill when she was ill. Her medicine cost her 3s. 6d.

His Lordship—Don't you get medicine free under the Insurance Act.

Witness said no, as she had a husband who could keep her. She had had to work hard since 1901, and as she was not now able to do so her husband should keep her.

In the end his Lordship confirmed the report of the registrar.

CONVICTED PRIEST'S APPEAL.

New York, July 27.

Hans Schmidt, the Roman Catholic priest, convicted of the murder last summer of his servant, Anna Aumuller, whose dismembered body was discovered in the Hudson River, has appealed for a new trial on the ground that the girl was not murdered, but died after an operation. Schmidt now declares that he cut up the body to prevent a scandal, and to protect the surgeon who performed the operation.—Reuter.

BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

DISCUSSIONS ON INSURANCE ACT.

TREATMENT OF INSURED PERSONS IN HOSPITALS.

The representative body of the British Medical Association resumed sittings yesterday in the Mitchell Hall, Marischal College, Aberdeen.

MEMBERS OF COUNCIL.

Dr Verrall, Bath, Chairman, who presided, intimated that the following had been elected members of Council:—Dr E. B. Turner, London; Dr W. G. Greer, Newport; Sir James Barr, Liverpool, a past president, and Dr Wallace Henry, Leicester.

Resolutions giving the Scottish Committee increased powers of representation on the Council were passed unanimously.

METHODS OF PAYMENT.

Dr Macdonald, Taunton, chairman of Council, submitted the report on National Insurance, which included a model scheme for the treatment of tuberculosis.

Dr Giles, Scarborough, moved, and Dr Alexander, Elgin, seconded the deletion of a clause dealing with the method of payment of members of honorary medical staffs of voluntary tuberculosis dispensaries and voluntary institutions. It was suggested that from all moneys received by the governing body of a voluntary tuberculosis dispensary or voluntary medical institution in respect of the tuberculosis medical service, a proportion to be agreed upon between the governing body and the medical staff should be placed to a special fund which shall be distributed as the medical staff shall decide.

Dr Fothergill, Brighton, said the policy of the Association had definitely been announced, that if the State paid into a voluntary institution the medical staff must be paid. It seemed to be a guard, the amount of money the State gave to the hospital, directly or indirectly. It was infinitesimal as regarded the services rendered by physicians and surgeons. A surgeon might well ask a round fee of ten guineas for every case, and more than swamp all the money got from the State or the local Insurance Committee.

Dr Henry asked what would happen in the event of the members of a staff refusing the money.

Dr Fothergill said that if the money was refused, gradually more work would be put on the hospitals, and the staff in the end would be asked to do the whole of the work for nothing, just as they had been doing it.

"THIN EDGE OF GOVERNMENT CONTROL."

Dr Haslip, London, said this was the thin edge of Government control. They had to face the question that the Government meant to have control of the hospitals and the health of the nation in the future. (Hear, hear, and "Shame.") Who asked the Government to interfere with the health of the nation? Their own profession in pointing out that certain diseases were of such a nature that those suffering from them should be isolated from others. The same policy would be applied to other diseases as time passed.

Dr Macdonald emphasised that their policy was not to give gratuitous aid to those who were assisted by the State. (Applause.)

Dr Larkin, chairman of the Organisation Committee, Liverpool, said they must stick to the principle that all payments for services must go into the pockets of the medical profession.

Dr Pockin, Oldham, objected to what he described as the dangerous precedent that would be created. They would be having amputations done for 10s. His division on that account objected to any payment being made at all.

Dr Giles's amendment was rejected, and the section allowed to stand.

WHOLE TIME OR PART TIME.

The question of whether a chief tuberculosis officer should be whole time or part time was next discussed.

Dr Fothergill, opposing a part-time amendment submitted by Dr Picton, Holmes Chapel, said that the part-time officer would be a general practitioner who would be regarded as a specialist, and injure the practice of the doctor in the next street.

The amendment was defeated.

The point again came up when the assistant officer appointments were discussed.

Dr Macdonald said the time was bound to come when the counsel of perfection would be whole-time medical men properly qualified. Meantime experienced men were lacking.

Sections approved of were that the chief tuberculosis officer should be a whole-time officer, and should receive not less than £500 per annum, or £400 if resident; and that assistant officers should be whole-time officers at a salary of not less than £350 per annum, or £250 if resident; but tuberculosis officers whose duty, whatever their designation, included the charge of the clinical arrangements concerning tuberculosis cases, and whose position as regarded such cases to the local profession would be that of consultants, should receive not less than £500 per annum, the salaries in each instance to be exclusive of travelling, office, and clerical expenses.

The model scheme for the treatment of tuberculosis was finally approved, and it was resolved that it be circulated to Municipal Councils, Insurance Committees, and other bodies whom it might concern, with a view to obtaining their cooperation.

On the motion of Dr Fleming, Trowbridge, it was resolved that the present Local Government Board report was unsatisfactory, and might with advantage be simplified and improved.

DOMICILIARY TREATMENT.

Dr Morrison, St Pancras and Islington, moved that the meeting, while recognising that there was a place for the co-operation of sanatoriums and hospitals in the treatment of tuberculosis, was strongly of opinion that the domiciliary treatment of tuberculous persons, as well as that carried out in local dispensaries, ought to be entrusted to the fullest possible extent to practitioners engaged in general practice.

The motion was approved with the deletion of the words "as well as that carried out in local dispensaries."

It was referred to the Council to consider in what way voluntary hospitals could be supplied with material.

FEDERATION OF LOCAL MEDICAL AND PANEL COMMITTEES.

Provisional recommendations of the Council as to the relation of the Association to the proposed Federation of Local Medical and Panel Committees were submitted.

The Chairman explained that the draft constitution had not been considered by either party, and that they therefore were not in a position to submit it to the representatives.

Dr Fothergill moved that it be an instruction to the Council to issue as soon as possible to the divisions, panel and local medical Committees a memorandum placing before them the effect of the proposals to establish a Federation of Local Medical and Panel Committees. He said the Federation was practically a new British Medical Association, and they must go very cautiously. There would be two bodies in the profession, and the result would be chaos and defeat.

Dr Farquharson seconded, and said they were not in a position constitutionally to settle the terms of the contract, and the question should go, in the first place, to the divisions.

SEVERAL ENEMIES TO FIGHT.

Dr Todd, Sunderland, said the Association was not dealing with the men outside the ranks, and the Federation would accomplish that by showing them the crying necessity for union in the profession. They recognised that the profession had a great fight in front. They had several enemies which they would have to fight and overcome. They had the Approved Societies; they had the Government Departments, which had certain ideas; those who were going for whole-time service; and, last, but not least, they had the brethren within their own ranks.

Dr Fothergill, replying on the discussion, said they would be pandering to the discontented members of the profession. If they could not deal with outsiders, he was certain nobody else could. Why form a Federation for that purpose? It would be admitting that the Association was an impotent body if they said the Federation was a necessity.

The amendment of Dr Fothergill was adopted.

Dr Macdonald, chairman of Council, then moved as an amendment to Dr Fothergill's amendment:—"That the Council be instructed to submit to the divisions a memorandum on the constitution of the proposed Federation of local medical and panel committees, after that constitution has been approved by the constituent bodies, calling a special representative meeting if necessary after the replies of the divisions have been received."

Dr Turner seconded, and this was unanimously agreed to.

It was resolved to appoint an Insurance Act Committee for the forthcoming session 1914-15, and that the reference to the Committee should be to deal with all matters arising under the National Insurance Acts, and watch the interests of the profession in relation to the Acts.

MATERNITY BENEFIT.

It was decided that women entitled to maternity benefit under the National Insurance Act should not be regarded as eligible for full treatment except on the recommendation of a medical practitioner. All women receiving treatment through the obstetric department of a voluntary hospital or similar institution who are entitled to maternity benefit should be required to pay such sum to the hospital or institution as should be determined upon by its governing body. From each such sum an amount to be agreed upon between the governing body and medical Board should be placed to a special fund, which should be distributed as the medical Board decided.

Discussion took place on a motion that in all cases where the medical officer of any voluntary hospital was required to attend insured members of the staff of such an institution, the moneys paid by the Insurance Committee, in respect of the attendance and treatment of such insured persons, exclusive of drugs and appliances, should be paid to the medical officer of the institution who was responsible for such attendance and treatment, irrespective of any salary paid to such officer.

On a vote, 81 voted for the motion and 44 against, and as it required a two-thirds majority, the motion was lost.

Italian Elections.—A Reuter Rome telegram states that the administrative elections, which were held on Sunday have resulted in a victory for the Constitutional party, although the Socialists were successful in many places.