

seas. It should be noted that the above figures do not include those for post-graduates who have come to the office for advice on all matters connected (and sometimes unconnected) with post-graduate work. The records also show that 6,277 tickets for courses have been taken out; there is evidence that in 1919-20 other tickets were issued besides those mentioned above, but no accurate records were kept at that time.

In the same period, eleven years, the Fellowship has paid over to the hospitals the sum of £16,750.

The Fellowship of Medicine is in a position to provide information on the dates of the various examinations for degrees and diplomas, as well as on the facilities for special courses of instruction in London. In addition, the Fellowship has collected information on the post-graduate facilities offered in other parts of England, in Scotland, in Ireland and in Wales.

Many overseas post-graduates coming to this country hope to obtain resident appointments, so that it is as well that the conditions under which these posts are held should be understood. The majority of appointments in London are tenable for six months, and renewable for a further six months, so that there is a tendency to appoint candidates who can give twelve months' service. Records are kept at the office of the Fellowship of Medicine showing the dates, duration, and opportunities for securing resident posts in London hospitals. These appointments are purely competitive.

Above all, however, the Fellowship endeavours to help, in every way possible, medical practitioners requiring advice and assistance, by acting as a central bureau of information and, of course, no charge is made for this service.

POST-GRADUATE TEACHING IN SPECIAL SUBJECTS.

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SPECIALISM in medicine and surgery has been a very marked feature in the development of medical practice during the last fifty years or so. Whereas previous to that time it was of relatively little importance, the practice of medicine and surgery now covers such a vast field of knowledge that no single individual can hope to be really expert in more than one or two branches of his profession. While at the same time, the concentration of very large numbers of people in comparatively small areas and the increased facilities which exist in moving about from one place to another, have all added to the growth and popularity of specialism. Indeed specialism is not confined to the medical profession, it is rapidly finding its way into the legal profession and into the arts and sciences. Apart from these considerations there can be no doubt that if a physician or surgeon is able to specialise on the diseases and abnormalities of a single part of the human body, or upon a single type of disease, provided always that he has facilities in the way of practice to make a close and concentrated study of large numbers of these special types of cases, he will almost of necessity become particularly expert both in diagnosing such cases and more particularly in treating them, since his experience will be relatively much greater than could possibly be the case with the man who has to deal with all and sundry in the way of patients.

This is, I think, now a well recognized fact and London is at the present day the headquarters of the best class of specialism. There are numerous hospitals devoted entirely to the study and treatment of one type

of disease. As for instance the Brompton Hospital for Diseases of the Chest, St. Peter's Hospital for Genito-Urinary Diseases, St. Mark's Hospital for Diseases of the Bowel, The Heart Hospital, hospitals for the study of Nervous Diseases and various children's hospitals and hospitals for the study of diseases in women, not to mention others. At any of these hospitals an observer or student will see more of the special class of case dealt with on one day than he could hope to do in a large general hospital in a month.

While many people deplore the growth of specialism there can be no question that it will continue to increase both in fact and in importance, and that in the future consulting practice will be almost, if not entirely, confined to specialists. The chief argument used against the specialist is that he tends to concentrate his attention too much upon his own particular aspect of the case and to neglect or overlook other factors outside his particular province, which may be equally or more important. While this is certainly true where men are trained purely as specialists, it is seldom true in England where all the well-known specialists have had a thorough training in general medicine and surgery and as a rule take good care to keep themselves well up to date not only in their own subject but in other subjects outside their own particular province.

From the point of view of a post-graduate student the special hospitals and departments in London afford unparalleled opportunities for study. There is the very obvious advantage that the post-graduate student can see many cases illustrating a single branch of medicine or surgery demonstrated by an expert in that particular line, and that he is afforded an opportunity of comparing different cases, and see at the same time and in the same place the different stages and degrees of the same disease. A certain disease, or aspect of disease, is presented to him as a whole rather than in scattered parts, and in these busy days it is an advan-

tage to be able to concentrate one's learning, and the attendance for even a single week at a series of special demonstrations on one subject in a special hospital will enable him to learn more than he could do in three times the time at some general clinic.

At St. Mark's Hospital for Diseases of the Bowel in London there have for some years been special post-graduate classes which last for a week and are held twice yearly in July and November. There are demonstrations of operations and clinical treatment, diagnosis, X-rays, pathology and laboratory methods, together with the routine examination of out-patients, all arranged that every aspect of diseases of the rectum and colon can be demonstrated. The cases are shown both before treatment, during treatment or operation, and cases illustrating after and ultimate results of such treatment are all shown at the same time. Especially interesting cases are, of course, reserved, or got up to the hospital especially for the occasion, and post-graduates attending these classes have unrivalled opportunity of really learning something about diseases of the bowel, and the methods of diagnosis and treatment. The following, which is the programme for the session which has just terminated, will give a good idea of the subjects dealt with.

Monday, June 30.—Operations and Lecture: "Perineal Excision of the Rectum for Cancer," with cinematograph demonstration.

Tuesday, July 1.—Lecture-Demonstration: "The Hereditary Factor in Polyposis Intestini." Operations and Lecture: "Some Out-patient Methods." Out-patient Demonstration.

Wednesday, July 2.—Museum Demonstration. Operations and Lecture: "Colostomy."

Thursday, July 3.—Wards. Lecture: "The Relationship of Fistula-in-ano to Pulmonary Tuberculosis." Operations and Lecture: "Radium in the Treatment of Cancer." Out-patient

Demonstration and Lecture: "Modern Treatment of Diseases of the Rectum."

Friday, July 4.—Demonstration in X-ray Department of Barium Enemata.

Lecture: "Diathermy in Rectal Work." Out-patient Demonstration.

Saturday, July 5.—Operations and Lecture: "Difficulties and Dangers of Surgical operations on the Colon." Out-patient Demonstration.

Similar and equally popular classes are running in connection with the Fellowship of Medicine at the Heart Hospital, the Hospital for Diseases of the Chest at Brompton, St. John's Hospital for Diseases of the Skin, and in other special subjects, such as nervous diseases, diseases in children, orthopædics, diseases in women, radium treatment of cancer, &c.

The popularity of these special demonstrations has steadily increased, and they are now easily the most popular feature of London post-graduate teaching. I am of opinion that post-graduate teaching in special subjects at special hospitals or departments is going to prove to be the really important feature of post-graduate study in the near future, and I am sure that London is able to afford facilities in this respect that are unrivalled in any other city in the world.

THE FUTURE OF POST-GRADUATE TEACHING IN LONDON.

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IN the past, the opportunities for post-graduate instruction in London have not been equal to the demand, so that many of those who have come to London from abroad in order to secure post-graduate teaching, have felt compelled to seek further opportunities in Germany, Vienna and elsewhere.

The possibilities of London as a great post-graduate centre were emphasized after the War, when some hundred medical officers returning from the front visited London to obtain post-graduate instruction. As a result of this peaceful invasion, the Fellowship of Medicine was founded in 1918, through the influence and energy of the late Professor William Osler, Sir Arbuthnot Lane, and the late Sir John MacAlister.

In 1921, the Minister of Health (The Rt. Hon. Christopher Addison, M.P., M.D.) appointed a Committee "To investigate the needs of the general practitioner and other graduates for further education in medicine in London." Although the Committee completed their work with such commendable dispatch that the report was published within four months, no action was taken, and the task of carrying on this important work was continued by the Fellowship of Medicine.

In 1925, the Minister of Health (The Rt. Hon. N. Chamberlain, M.P.), at the suggestion of one of the Hon. Secretaries of the Fellowship of Medicine, appointed a Committee "To draw up a practicable scheme of post-graduate medical education centred in London." This Committee, over which at first Mr. Neville Chamberlain, and later, the present Minister of Health (the Rt. Hon. Arthur Greenwood) presided, has presented a unanimous report which, with the cordial approval of the Minister of Health, has been accepted by the Government, who have promised to contribute £250,000 towards the capital cost of the scheme, so that at long last there is every reason to believe that in the near future London will have an up-to-date, fully equipped hospital and medical school devoted to post-graduate teaching, worthy of the Empire of which London is the centre. This happy issue is due mainly to the interest and enthusiasm of the present Minister of Health (the Rt. Hon. Arthur Greenwood) and his immediate predecessor (the Rt. Hon. A. Neville Chamberlain, M.P.).