

THE NEW PHYSIOLOGICAL BUILDINGS AT CARDIFF.

Sir William Osler's Wise Counsel.

In our issue of last week a *résumé* was given of Sir William James Thomas' speech on the occasion of laying the foundation stone of the new Physiological Buildings at Cardiff. If space permitted, extracts from other of the excellent speeches then delivered would prove interesting reading, but in any event Sir William Osler's remarks should be noted. Sir William said they had in Cardiff a first-class, up-to-date, modern hospital, into which they could send their medical students with a full knowledge that they would receive a thorough scientific and practical training. They had in connection with the hospital a good pathological department in charge of a whole-time professor—a department that was doing first-class work, and thoroughly equipped and established. That was as far as they had gone in this great enterprise of the medical school. Next they came to what was in sight. In the first place, the completion of the physiological buildings would give them the satisfaction of knowing that they had in this medical school as good a physiological department as there was anywhere in the kingdom or anywhere in the world. Secondly, they would have an anatomical laboratory, a splendid public health and pharmacological laboratory, and a central library, which were conditions which the donor (Sir William James Thomas) had been safe in making. If they could see these completed they would have all the equipment for a great medical school. He had spoken of what had been done, what was in sight, and the

further difficulty was what remained. They had got to face the problem of organising their departments in the hospital on university lines. They must be units in the university scheme, and they must devise some means by which the university and the hospital would work in co-operation in furthering these great necessities in a great medical school. Then there was the difficulty as to the relation of the medical school to the University of Wales and the university colleges. They had to recognise that they could not in a small Principality like Wales have these big universities. They could have three big colleges, but only one university, and in a small and comparatively poor country they must not duplicate their departments. Another question came up, and it was a very important one, as to the status and mode of appointment of the professors. He commended the system of appointing professors which was adopted at Oxford and Cambridge, where a faculty of experts from all over the kingdom met and chose the best man. If they started with the idea that they were going to have a local university with only Welsh brains, he would be sorry for the donor that day. They must in wisdom go into the market and buy the best brains of the country, because the best brains of the country were not one whit too good for Wales. Sir William considered the prospect of Treasury help favourable, as the Treasury would help those who helped themselves, and that day was an earnest of what Wales is capable of doing in that direction.

THE EDITOR'S LETTER-BOX.

War Service for Resident Medical Officers.

To the Editor of THE HOSPITAL.

SIR,—I notice in THE HOSPITAL for August 7 a reference to THE HOSPITAL of July 17 with respect to commissions to be given to resident medical officers. Am I right in assuming from what was said at the meeting reported in THE HOSPITAL of August 7, that all resident medical officers at hospitals with teaching schools attached are to be given commissions at an early date? If this is so, can you tell me whether they will be Territorial or the ordinary R.A.M.C. commissions?

I shall be obliged to you if you can supply me with this information.—Yours faithfully,

E. R. FLINT, Resident Surgical Officer.

The General Infirmary, Leeds, August 22.

[The scheme our correspondent refers to relates to hospitals with medical schools attached. Each school makes its own separate arrangement by communicating with the Director-General of Medical Services at the War Office. The Director-General of Medical Services has formulated a scheme whereby the members of the junior staff may receive temporary honorary commissions. On nomination to the junior staff the men wishing to hold commissions shall apply to the Dean of the Medical School, who issues a certificate of qualification to each officer to take to the War Office. If accepted

by the War Office the men will be given honorary commissions and an allowance for their outfit. They are next seconded for a period of three months in order to act as residents at the hospital, during which time they are liable to be called up for active service at forty-eight hours' notice. Every man is required to sign a contract that he will serve for one year at home or abroad from the time he finishes his resident appointment. Our correspondent's course is to apply to the Dean of the Leeds Medical School, and, if necessary, to move the authorities of the Leeds General Infirmary to approach the War Office so as to secure the adoption of a scheme similar to those in force in connection with some of the London hospitals having clinical schools attached.—ED. THE HOSPITAL.]

Personalia.

SIR JOHN COLLIE has been appointed to be temporary hon. major in the Royal Army Medical Corps, the appointment dating from July 30.

MISS ELEANOR S. HILL, M.B., B.S. (Lond.), has been appointed resident medical officer at the Manchester Children's Hospital, Pendlebury, and takes up her duties on September 1.