

The Johns Hopkins Hospital is the recipient of a gift of the greater part of a million dollars from Mr. Henry Phipps, whose name is so well known in connexion with his efforts against tuberculosis. The object of this donation is to build, equip and maintain for a stated period a psychiatric hospital and clinic for the treatment and study of acute mental diseases. The *Lancet* states that in no small degree the stimulus of this gift has come from Professor William Welch. The donor and the recipient alike are to be congratulated upon so excellent a use of great wealth.

Recent honours of interest to the medical profession are the conferring of Baronetcies upon Dr. T. Lauder Brunton, and Professor W. Watson Cheyne; and of Knighthoods upon Colonel David Bruce, Dr. R. W. Burnet, honorary physician to the Prince of Wales, Mr. Peter O'Connell, of Belfast, and Dr. W. H. Power, of the General Medical Council.

Sir Henry Alfred Pitman, who was at one time Registrar of the Royal College of Physicians, recently celebrated his 100th birthday, and on that occasion, was waited on by a deputation from the College who presented him with a memento of the unusual event.

Retrospect of Current Literature.

OBSTETRICS.

UNDER THE CHARGE OF DRs. CAMERON, EVANS AND LITTLE.

SEMONS, J. M., and GOLDBOROUGH, F. C. "The Obstetric Significance of the Blood Pressure and its Relation to the Work of the Heart." *Zeit. f. Gyn.*, No. 21, 1908.

Through Erlanger's discovery of a sphygmomanometer, with which it is possible to obtain a record of the systolic or the maximum as well as the diastolic or minimal arterial tension, it is possible to take observations on the blood pressure in obstetric conditions. The difference between the two he designates the pulse pressure. From this latter and from the diastolic pressure the average arterial tension can be calculated according to the method recommended by Dawson. By this means it is possible to get some index of the work of the heart.

The authors' observations were carried out on ten normal pregnant women, five primiparæ and five multiparæ. They were enabled to obtain in all 279 records during pregnancy. The observations were made both