

last month, the President (Mr. Henry T. Butlin) presiding.

The Walker prize of \$500, founded to encourage investigation into the pathology and therapeutics of cancer, was awarded to Dr. Ernest Francis Bashford, General Superintendent and Director of the Laboratory of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund of London.

The committee appointed by the Council to recommend for the prize, reported that they had received valuable advice and assistance from eminent American, German, French, Italian and British surgeons and pathologists regarding the work carried out in their respective countries, and had made careful examination of works and papers on the pathology and treatment of cancer written in various languages during the last five years.

In recommending Dr. Bashford for the prize, the committee drew attention to the actual amount of the work carried out during the past five years under his direction, to its systematic character, and to its far-reaching extent, in that it critically tested all the questions relating to the pathogenesis of cancer as they have arisen during this period. They also reported that many important results have also been obtained confirmatory of the work of other observers or materially extending it, and mentioned the valuable assistance which Dr. Bashford has given to investigators, whether British or foreign, outside the laboratory of which he has charge, by the unreserved manner in which he has placed material at their disposal.

The Cartwright prize, consisting of the Cartwright medal and £70, was awarded by the Council to Mr. Henry Percy Pickering, M.B., L.D.S.Eng., Professor of Dentistry and Director of the Dental School at the University of Otago, New Zealand, for his essay on "The Prevention of Dental Caries."

This prize, which is awarded every five years, was founded by the Association of Surgeons Practising Dental Surgery to commemorate the services of the late Mr. Samuel Cartwright, F.R.C.S., who induced many dentists to become fully qualified surgeons and helped to obtain the institution of a license in dental surgery by the Royal College of Surgeons. The subject for the prize for the five years ending 1915 will be "Oral Sepsis as a

Factor in the Causation of General and Local Diseases."

The Jacksonian prize was awarded to Mr. K. Macfarlane Walker, F.R.C.S., of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, for his essay on "Tuberculous Disease of the Urinary Bladder and Male Genital Organs."

The subject for the prize of 1912 will be "The Embryology and Treatment of Cleft-Palate."

A vote of thanks was given to Mr. Frank Corner, M.R.C.S., for some gifts to the museum and for his services in helping the conservator to acquire specimens, and Mr. Henry Cecil Wilson was appointed assistant prospector in the museum.

#### Dr. Andrew Wilson's Maidstone Lecture on Germs.

Lecturing at Maidstone, England, recently on the above subject, Dr. Andrew Wilson said that to a large extent the term microbe had a certain gruesome sound, but there were microbes which were good, necessary and essential. Whether we liked them or not, we had them in the world around us, and the work of science was to modify them in the service of man, thus enabling them to discharge useful duties to humanity. In the past we struggled against disease, but did not recognize its cause until the germ theory was discovered. Some 300 years ago there existed a society in Florence for the culture of science, medicine and general knowledge, and one of the subjects debated was "Where did the maggots come which were found in putrefied meat?" Redi demonstrated that they could not come from the meat, because life could only spring out of life, and further experiments showed that no case of infectious disease ever arose out of nothing. Thus had we been taught that every case of consumption, scarlet fever, and typhoid had arisen out of cases that had gone before. This was the great lesson for the world to get hold of, because if we took care of the first cases of any disease we prevented it from multiplying into thousands. He asked them, as sensible men, to think what this meant in the saving of pain, misery, money—which was the least thing—and death. The researches of Redi 300 years ago placed in the hands of the sanitary authority the means of preventing disease, saving life and increasing the sum