

former, then it is a legal duty; if the latter, a moral duty and no more.

As was stated in the article on "The Duties of Medical Practitioners in Cases of Criminal Abortion," in the JOURNAL of February 5th and the note to our correspondent's previous letter which was published in last week's issue, there is no legal machinery by which the duty which rests upon ordinary citizens to give information to the authorities in cases where a criminal offence has been committed can be enforced. We therefore called such duty a moral one, and in this we have no doubt.

The position of barristers and solicitors to which our correspondent refers is this: Unlike any other class, barristers and solicitors are "privileged" in that they are not legally compellable—and, indeed, are not by law entitled—to divulge in the witness-box information which they have obtained from their clients. It therefore follows that the ordinary moral duty of the ordinary citizen to inform the authorities does not apply. But for the legal "privilege" which the barrister and solicitor enjoys in the witness-box, his position would be precisely similar to that of any one else. He might or might not be under a moral duty to inform the authorities.

The central fact, however, which emerges from this discussion, and which we wish once again to emphasize, is that it is now established that medical practitioners who obtain information in their professional capacity as to the commission of a criminal abortion are under no duty of any sort or kind to divulge that information to the authorities, and that their duty to their patients enjoins them to preserve professional confidence and secrecy.

Universities and Colleges.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.

MEETING OF THE SENATE.

A MEETING of the Senate was held on January 20th.

Clinical Clerks and Surgical Dressers during the War.—It was resolved to admit students who have performed service as clinical clerks or as surgical dressers for not less than six months during the continuance of the war, to the M.B., B.S. Examination after an interval of not less than two and a half years from the date of their passing the second examination for medical degrees in anatomy and physiology, provided that they be not admitted within five and a half years from the date of their matriculation.

Anatomical nomenclature.—The examiners in anatomy were instructed that no change should be made in the existing nomenclature as used in examination papers without the sanction of the Senate.

The University Medal in Branch IV (Midwifery and Diseases of Women) of the M.D. Examination, December, 1915, has been awarded to Lillias M. Blackett, B.S. (London Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine for Women).

The Lindley Studentship of £100, offered every third year, and a University studentship in physiology, valued £50 for one year, are offered. Full particulars can be obtained from the Academic Registrar.

The Rogers Prize of £100, open to all persons whose names appear on the *Medical Register* of the United Kingdom, will be awarded for an essay or dissertation on "The Nature of Pyrexia and its Relation to Micro-organisms." Essays and dissertations addressed to the Vice-Chancellor must reach the university by 4 p.m. on April 29th.

UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN.

At the meeting of the University Court on February 8th the Senate was requested to draw up conditions of appointment and regulations relative to the lectureship in pathology with special reference to malignant diseases, recently instituted by Sir Alexander M'Robert. Colonel Scott Riddell, senior surgeon to the Royal Infirmary, was appointed general council assessor, in room of the late Dr. Westland.

UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW.

At the meeting of the Glasgow University Court on February 10th the Principal, Sir Donald MacAlister, said that 110 women students and graduates at Queen Margaret College had been training to take certificates under the St. Andrew Ambulance Association, in order to act as part-time nurses at hospitals so as to relieve fully trained nurses on military service. A register of women students and graduates, formed to discover reserves of educated women prepared to take on the work of educated men training for military service, showed that 407 out of 438 students had registered themselves. The students and graduates of the university working on munitions numbered 423, and of that number 300 were engaged for the period of the war, many being either unfit for military service or exempted by reason of special circumstances.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.

An ordinary council was held on February 10th, when Sir William Watson Cheyne, president, was in the chair.

A vote of condolence was passed to the relatives of the late Mr. Stanley Boyd, a member of the council.

Diplomas were granted, jointly with the College of Physicians, to four candidates found qualified for the diploma in public health at the recent examinations.

Mr. C. H. Golding-Bird was re-elected to represent the college on the Central Midwives Board.

CONJOINT BOARD IN ENGLAND.

THE diplomas of L.R.C.P. and M.R.C.S. have been conferred upon the following candidates:

J. Andrew, *Mary N. Andrews, G. F. V. Anson, K. L. Bates, T. A. P. Benbow, A. W. C. Bennett, K. H. Bhat, J. T. Bleasdel, E. S. Bowes, *Isabel F. Buckle, A. O. Courtis, D. Crellin, R. G. Dani, P. A. Dargan, L. M. Davies, L. ap I. Davies, H. M. Drake, A. N. Drury, C. Y. Eccles, M. Elias, H. H. Elliot, C. A. L. Evans, D. J. Evans, M. D. Evans, W. J. Evans, C. Gould, H. E. Griffiths, A. B. Gunasekara, C. G. W. Bahr, A. E. Hamlin, W. L. A. Harrison, G. E. Heath, V. R. Hirsch, E. L. Hopkins, *Helen Ingleby, V. C. James, J. G. Jones, L. W. Jones, *Ivy Keess, C. E. Kindersley, M. E. A. Latif, H. Lewis, K. T. Limbery, G. A. S. Madgwick, R. H. Maingot, L. A. Malik, F. W. Maunsell, *Gladys M. Miall Smith, R. D. Moyle, N. R. Nalliah, H. M. Oddy, *May Olivera, *Edith W. Paul, P. R. O'R. Phillips, A. C. Pickett, D. S. Pracy, D. Rees, E. D. Richardson, M. K. Robertson, G. C. Robinson, J. T. Samuel, F. J. P. Saunders, R. J. Scarr, C. P. Sells, G. B. Sellwood, *Edith A. Shaw, *Elsie Stansfeld, A. Sunderland, G. T. Symons, H. J. H. Symons, A. H. Taymour, W. H. Thomas, J. A. Tippet, R. S. Topham, H. M. von Mengershausen, H. J. Wallace, H. A. Whyte-Venables, H. G. E. Williams, A. Wilson, G. C. N. Younger.

* Under the Medical Act, 1876.

The Services.

EXCHANGE DESIRED.

MEDICAL OFFICER attached to Squadron of Royal Engineers wishes to exchange with medical officer holding hospital appointment in England or France.—Address No. 750, BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL Office, 429, Strand, W.C.

Obituary.

DR. GEORGE KIRKWOOD died at his residence in Peterborough on January 30th, after a long illness. He was the son of Mr. James Kirkwood, of Dunbar, where he was born in 1852. He was educated in that town and afterwards at the university and the College of Surgeons, Edinburgh. As resident medical officer at the Royal Infirmary he enjoyed the advantage of witnessing the establishment of antiseptic surgery under Lister. He afterwards held the appointment of house-surgeon to the Cumberland Infirmary, Carlisle, and before settling in practice was clinical assistant in the eye wards in the Edinburgh Infirmary. In 1876 Dr. Kirkwood joined Dr. Walker, sen., and Dr. T. J. Walker in Peterborough, and in the following year entered into a partnership with Dr. T. J. Walker which lasted for forty years. He became surgeon to the Peterborough Infirmary, and throughout his long professional career threw his whole heart into his work, more especially attending to the ophthalmic department. Dr. Kirkwood's services to the institution were recognized by a resolution passed, within a few hours of his death, at the hundredth annual meeting of the governors. He was a member of the British Medical Association, and had held the office of President of the Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire Branch. Dr. Kirkwood was dextrous as an engineer, a good photographer, and an accomplished pianist, and played on the French horn. He was most liberal in assisting all enterprises, especially musical societies, in which he took part. The funeral, which took place on February 4th, was very largely attended.

WE are indebted to Dr. John Craig for the following notes of the life of Dr. MIDDLETON, who passed away at his residence, 152, Bruntsfield Place, Edinburgh, on February 7th. Robert William Middleton was born at Symington, Lanarkshire, on May 13th, 1853. For a short time he attended school at the neighbouring town of Biggar, and on his parents' removal to Thornhill, Dumfriesshire, continued his school career at Closeburn and at Dumfries Academy. He thereafter studied medicine at Glasgow University, where he received the degrees of M.B., C.M. in 1878. After acting as assistant to the late Dr. John Kello, of Biggar, he spent nine months in Paris

in post-graduate work. In 1888 he settled in London, where he gained a large practice. In 1892 his health gave way, and he was reluctantly compelled to give up work. After spending some time in endeavouring to recover his health at Southsea and at Reigate, he went to reside in Edinburgh about fifteen years ago, and had since been confined to the house and almost entirely to his bed. He was unmarried. Dr. Middleton was beloved by all who knew him. In his retirement he drew around him a small circle of friends who delighted to visit him. His keen appreciation of a good story and his hearty laugh will long be remembered by those who knew him. He was patient during his long illness, and although at frequent intervals he suffered great pain he never complained. On February 10th he was laid to rest beside his parents and grandparents in the quiet churchyard of his native village of Symington under the shadow of the hills he loved so well.

SURGEON-MAJOR-GENERAL JOHN PINKERTON, I.M.S.(ret.), M.D., who died on February 11th, at the age of 83, took the qualifications of M.D.Glas. and L.R.C.S.Edin. in 1855, and became F.R.C.S.Edin. in 1907. He entered the Indian Medical Service in 1855, and served in the Persian war, 1856-7. During thirty-eight years' service in India he held many important posts. From 1868 to 1876 he was superintendent-general of the vaccination department of the Bombay Presidency, and drafted the first Vaccination Bill in India, which became law in 1877. He was in charge of the European General Hospital, Bombay, from 1876 till 1882. He was the first president of the Bombay Branch of the British Medical Association, and had twice held the post of Dean of the Medical Faculty of the University of Bombay, of which university he had been a Fellow since 1868. He was honorary physician to Queen Victoria, and continued as such to King Edward VII and King George V. For five years preceding his retirement he was at the head of the I.M.S. in the Bombay Presidency. At the time of his retirement, in 1893, he was a member of the Legislative Council of the Bombay Presidency. He was the recipient of the good service pension of £100 for meritorious services. In 1894 he was elected F.R.F.P.S.Glas. for distinction in medical science. General Pinkerton lost his only son, Dr. John Pinkerton, in the Russo-Turkish war of 1878. He is survived by an only daughter, the wife of Dr. Ebenezer Duncan, president of the Royal Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons, Glasgow. The funeral took place at Cathcart Cemetery on February 15th.

COLONEL CHARLES FREDERICK POLLOCK, R.A.M.C.(ret.), died at Cowheath, Dumfries, on December 19th, 1915, aged 71. He was born on December 24th, 1844, educated at Trinity College, Dublin, where he took the M.B. and M.Ch. in 1867, and entered the army as assistant surgeon on October 1st, 1867. He became surgeon on March 1st, 1873, surgeon-major on October 1st, 1879, attained the rank of colonel on August 3rd, 1898, and retired on September 7th, 1898. He served in the Egyptian war of 1882, was present at the battle of Tel-el-Kebir, and received the medal with the Khedive's bronze star.

BRIGADE SURGEON JOHN NORMAN DAVIS, R.A.M.C.(ret.), died at Clondarragh, Foxrock, co. Dublin, on December 30th, 1915, aged 77. He was born on October 15th, 1838, the son of the late James Davis, of Millbrook House, Galway, educated at Queen's College, Galway, and took the M.R.C.S. on July 30th, 1862, the M.D. of Queen's University, Ireland, on October 16th, 1862. Entering the army as staff assistant surgeon on April 14th, 1863, he became surgeon on March 1st, 1873, surgeon-major on March 18th, 1877, and retired with a step of honorary rank on April 18th, 1885. The *Army List* assigns him no war service. A great part of his service was spent in India. Since his retirement he had lived for twenty-six years at Clondarragh. He had been a member of the British Medical Association since 1880.

THE LATE MR. STANLEY BOYD.—Lieutenant S. G. Vinter, R.A.M.C., calls attention to Mr. Stanley Boyd's work as a member of the council of Epsom College. He took a keen interest in the success of the school, and did much to raise it to the high position it now holds.

Medical News.

M. GODART, Under Secretary (Health) in the French War Ministry, has addressed a letter to the Wounded Allies Relief Committee, thanking it for the valuable work it has done for wounded French soldiers, especially in maintaining hospitals at Limoges and Dieppe.

A COMMITTEE, with Viscount Hambleden as chairman and Captain H. S. Tunnard as secretary, has been formed to erect a memorial in the chapel of King's College Hospital to Miss Katharine Monk, who was for twenty-one years sister-matron of the hospital.

La Nipologia (we presume from *νῆπιος*, an infant) is the title of a new Italian quarterly review devoted to the scientific study of childhood, with special reference to the hygiene and medicine of early infancy. The editor is Professor Ernesto Cacace of the University of Naples.

STATISTICS published in German journals show that, as might be expected, there has been a great falling off in the number of foreign students in the universities of Germany owing to the war. Whereas the number in the second semester of 1914 was 4,750, that for the corresponding period of 1915 was 1,305.

THE next course of lectures and discussions arranged by the Child Study Society, London, will begin at 90, Buckingham Palace Road, S.W., on Thursday next at 6 p.m., when Mr. Cyril Burt, psychologist to the London County Council, will speak on psychological problems arising out of the war.

AT the meeting of the Harveian Society of London on Thursday next, at the Stafford Rooms, Titchborne Street, Edgware Road, at 8.30 p.m., a discussion on the treatment of gunshot wounds will be opened by Sir Berkeley Moynihan, and continued by Mr. d'Arcy Power, Mr. Burghard, Mr. Percy Sargent, Mr. Clayton-Green, Dr. Fleming, and others. All members of the profession who may be desirous of hearing the discussion are invited to be present.

THE propaganda of the Pure Food Society is in abeyance during the war, but the National Milk Hostels Committee is doing excellent work, we are informed, in providing poor war mothers with pure milk under the certificate of the society. Medical men and their wives who desire to join the society should apply to the honorary secretary at 67, Jermyn Street, London, S.W.

THE nature and scope of the *Athenæum Subject Index to Periodicals* were described in a note which appeared in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL of November 27th, 1915 (p. 799). The first two of the series of class lists, which are later to be incorporated into the annual index for 1915, have appeared. One of these, containing forty-eight pages, relates to the economic, political, and military history of the war, and was issued in January. The other, containing eighty pages, deals with science and technology with special reference to the war. The index, which is issued at the request of the Council of the Library Association, is published by the *Athenæum*, Bream's Buildings, Chancery Lane, W.C.

A STIRRING appeal for funds on behalf of the French Red Cross has been written by Mr. Dion Calthrop in France. It is entitled *The Wounded French Soldier*, and contains a number of little pictures of French life as it has been transformed, tortured, and ennobled by the war. It is illustrated by a number of photographs showing the ruin of war in all its phases. Mr. Calthrop is a sentimentalist, quick to feel for the sufferer, quick to recognize the virtue of the armour of laughter and firm fortitude with which the French nation has armed itself in the desperate stress of modern warfare. The book, which costs 1s. 6d., should be widely read; the French Red Cross can and does make good use of every penny it receives, and its address is 9, Knightsbridge, London, S.W.

VOL. XV of the clinical series of the *Archives of the Middlesex Hospital* (London, Macmillan and Co.) contains the statistics of the patients treated in the various in-patient departments for the year 1913. In addition, it has an account of a case of systemic haemolysis with haemoglobinuria in a rheumatic woman of 56, by Drs. Pasteur and Whittingham; no note is made as to the presence or absence of Wassermann's reaction. Dr. Ward contributes a paper on the use of the electrocardiograph in the study of the heart muscle, with illustrative electrocardiograms. Brief notes on a few unusual or particularly interesting cases are appended to the report by the pathologist. The volume would, perhaps, gain by the inclusion of a table of its contents.