

pointed Professor of Anatomy in the Academy of Fine Arts, but his first university chair was that of Physiology in the University of Königsberg, a position to which he was appointed in his 28th year. Before this, and while still discharging the routine duties of a junior military surgeon, he had written and published a remarkable essay on the Conservation of Energy, which, though anticipated in time to some extent by the work of Mayer and of Joule, must be regarded as having been an important factor in determining the trend of modern scientific thought.

As a physiologist Helmholtz early turned his attention to physiological optics, and published a work bearing that title. At an early stage of his investigation he presented surgery and medicine with the ophthalmoscope, an invention which was made public by him in 1851. This instrument has been one of the most powerful agencies in bringing about the immense advance which has taken place in ophthalmology, and has rendered hardly less service in the study of diseases of the nervous system. In 1856 he was called to Bonn as professor of physiology, and in 1859 accepted the chair in the same subject in the University of Heidelberg. While incumbent of the last-named post he accomplished most of the work which has rendered his name famous as a physiologist. He continued his researches into physiological optics, made numerous contributions to the physiology of the organ of hearing, and passed by a natural transition to a study of acoustics and the physiology of voice production. In each one of these complicated departments of physiology he accomplished work of the first order, not only in the way of observation and experiment, but through the lucidity of thought and the wide knowledge, not only of physiology, but also of physics, which he brought to bear upon every subject which came under his notice. Indeed, as time went on Helmholtz became more and more devoted to physics and mathematics, and finally in 1871 accepted the chair of Physics in the University of Berlin. It was, in the peculiar circumstances of the time, an extraordinary evidence of the intellectual supremacy which Helmholtz had acquired that in this same year he was elected a Corresponding Member of the French Academy of Science (Physical Section). In 1873 the Copley medal of the Royal Society was conferred upon him; and ten years later the German Emperor recognised his national eminence by conferring upon him the nobiliary prefix.

Helmholtz remained connected with the University of Berlin to the end of his life, and no great university function was complete without his presence, but he never took any active part in the public life of Germany, remaining to the last a typical example of a man who devotes the highest intellectual gifts to the furtherance of scientific research.

His funeral took place on September 12th at Charlottenburg, and was attended by representatives of many universities and scientific societies, and by Dr. Lucanus on behalf of the Emperor, and by Major-General von Pfuhlstein on behalf of the Empress Frederick.

WE greatly regret to have to record the death of Dr. THOMAS DUNCAN, which took place at his residence at Richmond on Sunday, August 26th. The deceased gentleman took the degree of M.D. Aberd. in 1854, and in the same year qualified as M.R.C.S. Eng. He went to Richmond some forty years ago. In the course of time he succeeded in building up a large practice. Among his patients he numbered the late Duchess of Cambridge, the Duke and Duchess of Teck, and the Comte and Comtesse de Paris. He took little part in public affairs, preferring to devote himself to the work of his profession. He was for some time an honorary consulting surgeon at the Richmond Hospital, a post which he resigned a few years ago. Dr. Duncan, who was in his 63rd year, leaves a widow, three sons, and two daughters. The funeral took place at Petersham churchyard on August 31st.

WE regret to announce the death of Professor FRIEDRICH HEINRICH BIDDER, one of the most distinguished teachers of the University of Dorpat in its pre-Jurjev days, which took place on August 27th at the age of 83. Born at Landohn in Courland in 1810, he entered the University of Dorpat as a student of medicine in 1828, and graduated Doctor of

Medicine in 1834 with a thesis *De Graviditatis vi Medicatrice*. After studying at Berlin under Johannes Müller, Ehrenberg, and Henle, he was appointed Extraordinary Professor of Anatomy at Dorpat in 1836. In 1842 he became Ordinary Professor, and in 1843 he exchanged the chair of Anatomy for that of Physiology and Pathology. From 1857 to 1864 he filled the post of Rector of the University of Dorpat. In 1869 he resigned his professorship. His scientific work, which was of a very high order, was chiefly in the domain of microscopical anatomy and physiology, especially of the nervous system. Professor Bidder leaves two sons, both of whom have achieved high distinction in different provinces of medical science. One, Ernest Friedrich, is Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology in the University of St. Petersburg, the other, Alfred, is a well-known surgeon in Berlin.

By the death of Mr. GEORGE WILSON, M.R.C.S., for twenty years Medical Officer of Health to the Clutton Sanitary Authority, Bristol and the district has, says the *Bristol Mercury*, lost one of those far-seeing sanitarians who have been in advance of their time. We have already noticed the prominent part he took in the deplorable outbreak which led to the *Bristol Mercury* articles on "Sanitation in Somerset." But as long ago as 1878 Mr. Wilson was contributing to the columns of the *Mercury* a series of thoughtful and most valuable articles on sanitation and labourers' dwellings in Somerset, arising out of some lamentable discovery of the housing of a labourer and his family at Nempnett. Mr. Wilson in that series of articles not only spoke with the startling boldness so characteristic of him, but treated his subject in the most comprehensive manner, and foreshadowed legislation for which men of light and leading have since struggled, and not without encouraging signs of ultimate success. Like his father, the late Colonel P. P. Wilson (Bombay), who was shot down in battle, Mr. Wilson was one of the bravest of men, and in his younger days, when called upon by the Board of Health, he, without a moment's hesitation, went to take charge of a village in Essex which was ravaged by cholera. He was an ardent student from his early youth, and in the course of his studies had won three gold medals and numerous high-class prizes.

THE death is announced of Dr. HENRI COUTURIER, of Vienna. He was from youth an intimate friend of Diday, of Lyons, by whom he was encouraged to devote himself to medicine rather than to the law, which would have been more in accord with his father's wishes. He was possessed of independent means, and devoted the greater part of his life to the forwarding of plans for the amelioration of the lot of the working classes. Fifty years ago, when such schemes were novelties, he urged the erection of a convalescent hospital for patients discharged from the hospitals of Lyons after suffering from acute diseases. Later he established and maintained a children's "colony" in Algeria. He was an ardent believer in co-operation, and established co-operative societies for the industrial classes. He was at one time a member of the Chamber of Deputies, and at the time of his death was a Senator.

## MEDICAL NEWS.

THE total sum now received on behalf of the Hospital Saturday Fund for the present year from all sources reaches nearly £13,000.

THE customary annual smoking concert will be given this year by the medical staff of the Brompton Hospital for Consumption on Tuesday evening, October 2nd.

DR. KEIRLE recommends, in the *New York Medical Journal*, the selection of the house mouse as a test animal for inoculation in cases of suspected rabies. The inoculation may be made by injection into the subcutaneous tissue at the root of the tail. The symptoms are stated to be very marked and unmistakable.

At a recent meeting of the Académie de Médecine Dr. Petit related three cases of sudden death in velocipedists suffering from heart disease. In one case the victim, a man

aged 60, had not yet succeeded in learning the art of riding a bicycle, and died suddenly during a lesson. Another case was that of a physician who had recently suffered from typhoid fever.

### MEDICAL VACANCIES.

The following vacancies are announced:

- BETHLEM HOSPITAL.**—Two Resident Clinical Assistants. Apartments, rations, and attendance provided. Applications, endorsed "Clinical Assistantship," to the Treasurer by October 1st.
- BRIDGWATER INFIRMARY.**—House-Surgeon. Salary, £80 per annum, with board and residence. Applications to Mr. John Coombs, Honorary Secretary, Bridgwater Infirmary, Bridgwater, by September 27th.
- CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY.**—John Lucas Walker Studentship. Applications to Professor Roy, New Museums, Cambridge, by September 30th.
- CANCER HOSPITAL (FREE),** Brompton, S.W.—Two House-Surgeons. Salary at the rate of £60 and £50 per annum respectively, with board and residence. Applications to the Secretary by October 5th.
- CARLISLE DISPENSARY.**—House-Surgeon. Salary, £130 per annum, with apartments. Applications to the Honorary Secretary, Mr. G. A. Lightfoot, 14, Bank Street, Carlisle, by September 21st.
- CORNWALL COUNTY ASYLUM, Bodmin.**—Junior Assistant Medical Officer; unmarried. Salary to commence at £100 per annum, increasing annually to £120 per annum, with board, lodging, washing, and attendance. Applications to the Medical Superintendent by September 15th.
- COVENTRY PROVIDENT DISPENSARY.**—Surgeon; must be fully qualified medical practitioners. Applications and testimonials to W. Sleath, Honorary Secretary, by September 17th.
- DENTAL HOSPITAL OF LONDON, Leicester Square.**—Assistant Dental Surgeon. Must be Licentiate of Dental Surgery of one of the licensing bodies recognised by the General Medical Council. Applications and testimonials to J. Francis Pink, Secretary, by October 8th.
- GENERAL INFIRMARY, Birmingham.**—Resident Surgical Officer and House-Physician. Salary, £130 and £70 per annum respectively, with residence, board, and washing. Appointments for one year, but candidates will be eligible for re-election for two subsequent years. Also two Assistant House-Surgeons, appointment for six months, but eligible for re-election for another six months. No salary. Residence, board, and washing provided. Applications to Howard J. Collins, House Governor, by October 6th.
- GREAT YARMOUTH HOSPITAL.**—House-Surgeon; must be doubly qualified. Salary, £90 per annum, with board and lodging. Applications and testimonials to Richard F. Ferrier, Honorary Secretary, by September 22nd.
- LEITH HOSPITAL.**—House-Physician, House-Surgeon, and Surgeon for the Outdoor Department. Appointments for six months. Salaries at the rate of £50 a year each, with board in the hospital. Applications to the Secretary, Mr. George V. Mann, 33, Bernard Street, Leith, by October 1st.
- NEW HOSPITAL FOR WOMEN, 144, Euston Road, N.W.**—Female Assistant-Physician; appointment for two years. Also two Clinical Assistants for Out-patient Department; appointment for one year. Applications and testimonials to Margaret M. Bagster, Secretary, by September 26th.
- PLYMOUTH PUBLIC DISPENSARY.**—Physician's Assistant; doubly qualified. Salary, £60 per annum. Appointment for one year, but eligible for re-election. Applications to the Honorary Secretary before September 18th.
- ROYAL SURREY COUNTY HOSPITAL, Guildford.**—Assistant House-Surgeon. No salary, but board, residence and laundry found. Applications and testimonials to the Honorary Secretary, by September 17th.
- ROYAL UNITED HOSPITAL, Bath.**—House-Surgeon. Candidates must be M.R.C.S.Eng. and registered. Salary, £60 per annum, with board, lodging, and washing. Appointment for one year. Applications and testimonials to W. Stockwell, Secretary-Superintendent, by September 18th.
- ST. MARYLEBONE GENERAL DISPENSARY, 77, Welbeck Street, Cavendish Square, W.**—Resident Medical Officer, doubly qualified. Salary, 100 guineas per annum, with an annual increase of 10 guineas to a maximum of 120 guineas, with furnished apartments, attendance, coal, and gas. Applications to the Secretary by October 1st.
- SUSSEX COUNTY HOSPITAL, Brighton.**—House-Physician; unmarried and under 30 years of age. Salary, £60 per annum, with board, residence, and washing, rising to £80. Applications and testimonials to Lieutenant-General E. F. Bouchier, Secretary, by September 19th.
- SWANSEA GENERAL AND EYE HOSPITAL.**—Clinical Assistant. Appointment for six months. Remuneration, board, lodging, and washing. Applications to the Honorary Secretary of the Medical Staff by September 20th.
- THE GENERAL INFIRMARY AT GLOUCESTER AND GLOUCESTER-SHIRE EYE INSTITUTION.**—Assistant Surgeon; must be F.R.C.S. or M.R.C.S.Eng., or F.R.C.S. or L.R.C.S. of Ireland or Edinburgh, or graduate of University recognised by the General Medical Council. Applications and testimonials to Henry T. Pike, Secretary, by October 10th.
- WALSINGHAM UNION.**—Medical Officer for the Raynham District. Salary, £38 per annum, exclusive of extra medical and vaccination fees. Applications to W. M. Rumbelow, Clerk, Bridge Street, Fakenham, by September 18th.

**WEST LONDON HOSPITAL, Hammersmith Road, W.**—House-Physician and House-Surgeon. Appointments for six months. Board and lodging provided. Applications to R. J. Gilbert, Secretary Superintendent, by September 19th.

**WOLVERHAMPTON UNION.**—Medical Officer for the Workhouse. Salary (including all fees for surgical midwifery and all other extra cases) will commence at £175, rising £5 every year to £200 per annum. Must reside within one mile of the workhouse. Applications to Edward Pritchard, Clerk to the Guardians, Clerk Office, St. Peter's Close, Wolverhampton, by September 18th.

**VICTORIA HOSPITAL, Burnley.**—Resident Medical Officer. Salary, first year, £80; second year, £90; third year, £100. Applications to Joshua Rawlinson, Honorary Secretary, by September 17th.

### MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS.

**BENSON, H. Thos., L.R.C.P.Lond.,** appointed Medical Officer and Public Vaccinator for the Market Deeping District of Bourne Union, *vice* W. B. Deacon, resigned.

**BOYD, J. Wood, M.B., C.M.Glasg.,** appointed Assistant Surgeon to the Liverpool Dispensaries.

**COLCLOUGH, W. Frank, B.A., M.B., B.C.Cantab., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,** appointed Medical Officer to the British Hospital, Oporto, Portugal.

**CHRISTIE, W. Ledingham, M.D., F.R.C.S.,** appointed House-Surgeon to the Bristol Hospital for Sick Children and Women, *vice* Dr. Alexander Jamison, resigned.

**CURWEN, Eliot, M.A., M.B., B.C.Cantab.,** appointed to the London Mission Hospital, Peking, North China, *vice* E. T. Pritchard, M.B., C.M.

**ELLIOTT, T., M.D., L.R.C.S.I.,** appointed Medical Officer for the Frant District of the Ticehurst Union, *vice* R. F. Dennis, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S. Eng., resigned.

**EVANS, Chas. Walter, M.D.Lond., M.R.C.S.Eng.,** reappointed Medical Officer of Health for the Bakewell Urban Sanitary District.

**FUSSELL, E. F., M.B.Aberd., M.R.C.P.Lond.,** reappointed Medical Officer of Health to the Seaford Local Board.

**GAMGEE, Leonard Parker, F.R.C.S.Eng., L.R.C.P.,** appointed Assistant Surgeon to the General Hospital, Birmingham.

**GREENWOOD, Arthur, L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S.Eng.,** appointed Medical Officer for the Haggerston District of the Shoreditch Union.

**HASLAM, Mr. W. A.,** appointed Assistant Medical Officer of the Infirmary of the West Derby Union.

**HODSON, Frederic, M.R.C.S.Eng., L.S.A.,** reappointed Medical Officer of Health to the Hornsea Local Board.

**JOSEPH, James J., L.R.C.S.I., L.K.Q.C.P.I.,** appointed Medical Officer and Public Vaccinator to No. 2 District St. Mary's Parish Battersea of the Wandsworth and Clapham Union.

**JONES, T. H., M.B., C.M.Edin.,** appointed Assistant House-Surgeon to the Infirmary for Children, Liverpool.

**LYLE, H. Willoughby, M.R.C.S.Eng., L.R.C.P.Lond.,** appointed House-Surgeon to St. Peter's Hospital, Henrietta Street, Covent Garden.

**MOLYNEUX, Harold Joseph, L.R.C.P.Edin., M.R.C.S.Eng.,** appointed Medical Officer for the Billinge District of the Wigan Union.

**SHAW, J. Hepworth, M.B., Ch. B. Viet., M.R.C.S.Eng., L.R.C.P.Lond.,** appointed Head Surgeon to the Liverpool South Dispensary, *vice* Dr. E. P. Manby, resigned.

**SKIPWORTH, Herbert, L.R.C.P.I., M.R.C.S.Eng.,** reappointed Medical Officer of Health to the Quorn Local Board.

**STEWART, J. S., L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S.I.,** appointed Medical Officer of Health to the Kinross Urban Sanitary District, *vice* H. L. Harrison, M.B. Camb., M.R.C.S.Eng., resigned.

**VINCENT, Hy. Bird, M.R.C.S.Eng., L.S.A.,** appointed Medical Officer of Health to the Cromer Urban Sanitary District, *vice* S. T. Taylor, M.B., resigned.

### DIARY FOR NEXT WEEK.

#### TUESDAY.

**THE CLINICAL MUSEUM, 211, Great Portland Street.**—Open at 2, Lecture at 4.

### BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

*The charge for inserting announcements of Births, Marriages, and Deaths is 3s. 6d., which sum should be forwarded in post-office order or stamps with the notice not later than Wednesday morning, in order to ensure insertion in the current issue.*

#### BIRTHS.

**AIRD.**—On September 6th, at Thorn Bank, Wallington, Surrey, the wife of T. Wilson Aird, L.R.C.P.Lond., M.R.C.S.Eng., of a son, stillborn.

**DAVEY.**—On September 6th, at 167, Bedford Street South, Liverpool, the wife of W. H. Carthew Davey, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.Lond., of a son.

**OXLEY.**—On September 4th, at the Ferns, Buckhurst Hill, the wife of Fredk. J. Oxley, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., of a son.

**UMNEY.**—On September 7th, at Heatherbell, Crystal Palace Park Road, Sydenham, the wife of William F. Umney, M.D.Lond., M.R.C.S.Eng., of a daughter.

**WEAVER.**—September 5th, at Southport, the wife of John J. Weaver, M.R.C.S., L.S.A., of a daughter.

#### DEATH.

**LYM.**—On July 7th, at Overton Villa, Granville, N.S.W., late of Manor House, Houghton-le-Spring, Walter Lym, M.A., M.D., of acute pneumonia, aged 49.