

numerous heterotype and homotype mitoses, as described by Farmer, Moore, and Walker. These observations confirm the view that cytological examination is likely to prove a valuable aid in differentiating the malignant from the simple growths.

ENTRANCE SCHOLARSHIPS.

St. Mary's Hospital Medical School (University of London).—The examination for entrance scholarships at this School has resulted as follows—Open Scholarship of £145: W. L. Cowardin, St. Paul's School. Open Scholarships of 50 guineas each: E. W. Archer, St. Mary's Hospital; A. B. Porteous, City of London School; T. A. F. Tyrrell, University College School. University Scholarships of 60 guineas: I.—C. H. Rothera, B.A., Emmanuel College, Cambridge; II.—P. P. Laidlaw, B.A., St. John's College, Cambridge; K. A. Lees, B.A., King's College, Cambridge, equal. The Epsom College Scholarship of £145 has been awarded to T. C. O. Evans, on the nomination of the Head Master.

St. Thomas's Hospital Medical School (University of London).—The Entrance Scholarship in Natural Science, of the value of £150 at this School, has been awarded to Mr. Ernest William Witney, and the University Scholarship, of the value of £50 to Mr. Charles Ernest Whitehead, B.A., of Caius College, Cambridge.

MEDICAL NEWS.

THE Kurhaus at Bad Nauheim will remain open this year until October 15th. The bath-houses are open all the year.

THE Education Committee of the Surrey County Council has appointed a special committee to consider a proposal to establish a residential county school for defective children.

THE annual dinner of the Association of Public Vaccinators of England and Wales will be held at the Hotel Cecil on Friday, October 28th, at 7 p.m.

A COURSE of lectures on evolution in the vegetable kingdom will be given at Gresham College, E.C., by Dr. E. Symes Thompson on October 4th and the three following days, at 6 p.m. on each day.

THE West-London Medico-Chirurgical Society will hold the first meeting of its twenty-third session on October 7th at the West-London Hospital at 8.30 p.m., when an address on progress in psychology will be delivered by the President, Mr. C. M. Take.

THE new administrative buildings of the epileptic colony at Chalfont of the National Society for the Employment of Epileptics, towards the cost of which Mr. Passmore Edwards has contributed £3,000, will be opened by Lord and Lady Rothschild on October 20th.

THE Sultan has conferred the Order of the Shefakat, first class, in brilliants, on Mrs. Watt-Smyth, wife of Mr. T. Watt-Smyth, late Judge of the High Court of the Punjab, India, in recognition of her literary work in connexion with the Turkish empire.

TRAVELLING IN EGYPT.—Messrs. Cook's steamers will begin to run between Cairo and the First Cataract in November, with connecting steamers between the First and Second Cataracts. Combined tickets are issued for steamers and railways, and tickets are issued to Khartoum and Gondokoro.

A MEETING of the South-Eastern Division of the Medico-Psychological Association will be held at The Priory, Roehampton, on Thursday, October 6th, when Dr. Chambers will entertain the members at luncheon at 1.30 p.m. At the general meeting, commencing at 2.45, papers will be read by Dr. F. W. Mott, F.R.S., on the morbid changes in the brain in sleeping sickness, by Dr. F. Graham Crookshank on the management of early and ill-defined cases of mental disorder, and by Dr. R. Hunter Steen on mental disease with exophthalmic goitre. The members will dine together at the Café Monico, Piccadilly Circus, at 7 p.m.

GOLDEN WEDDING.—At Tideswell, near Buxton, on the evening of September 21st, Dr. J. L. Parke and Mrs. Parke were presented, on the occasion of their golden wedding, with an illuminated address, a gilt bronze clock and vases, an album containing the signatures of 1,065 townspeople who had subscribed one shilling—the amount having been limited to that sum—and a copy of their marriage certificate. Both the address and an inscription on the clock testified to the high esteem and affection in which Dr. and Mrs. Parke had

been held by the inhabitants of Tideswell and the surrounding district for fifty years. The venerable doctor and Mrs. Parke were accompanied, among others, by Dr. John L. Parke (their eldest son) and Mrs. J. L. Parke, of Milnsbridge, Dr. and Mrs. Demetriadi (their daughter), of Huddersfield, and Dr. T. H. Parke and Miss Parke (their son and daughter), of Tideswell. Several speeches were made by inhabitants of long standing in the neighbourhood, including one by a lady of 86 who had lived the whole of her life in Tideswell, all voicing a deep regard. Dr. Parke, who is now nearly 80, has practised in Tideswell continuously for over 54 years.

THE West Kent Medico-Chirurgical Society will hold the first meeting of its forty-ninth session on October 7th at the Royal Kent Dispensary, Greenwich Road, S.E., at 8.45 p.m. After the adoption of the report of the Council, and the election of new officers, etc., there will be a clinical meeting at which cases will be shown. The existing executive officers are Dr. R. E. Scholefield, President, Mr. J. P. Purvis, Treasurer, and Dr. J. P. Henry, 41, Welbeck Street, Honorary Secretary.

HOSPITAL REFORM.—A general meeting of the East London Medical Society will be held on Tuesday, October 4th, at 3.30 p.m., at the King's Assembly Rooms, Cottage Grove, Mile End Road, opposite the District Railway Station of that name. The report of the committee upon the steps which have been taken, since the formation of the society in the spring, with regard to hospital abuse, especially in connexion with the London Hospital, will be presented and discussed. All medical men willing to join in the movement indicated are invited to be present.

REQUESTS TO MEDICAL CHARITIES.—The sum of £100 is directed to be paid to the York Hospital and the York Blind School by the will of the late Mr. George Whitehead, of Eserik, Yorkshire; as also to the East Suffolk and Ipswich Hospital, under the will of Mr. Charles William Sutton of Ipswich, who died on May 14th. In Bexley Cottage Hospital is to be founded a "John Best Bed" upon the decease of certain nieces of the late Mrs. Elizabeth Best of Bexley Heath. To the General Hospital, Birmingham, £2,000 has been left by Mr. Charles James Shaw of Leamington, who died on June 30th; a similar sum to the Warneford and Leamington and South Warwickshire General Hospital; and £1,000 to the Midland Home for Incurables. The Stroud General Hospital and the Gloucester Hospital each receive £300 under the will of Mrs. Elizabeth Winterbottom of Dursley, who died on July 13th.

POST-GRADUATE SCHOOLS.—A course of clinical lectures will be given during the winter term at the National Hospital for the Paralysed and Epileptic by members of the staff. The first lecture will be given on Tuesday, October 4th, by Dr. Risien Russell on anatomy of the spinal cord. Further particulars can be obtained on application to the Dean of the Medical School at the Hospital, Queen Square, Bloomsbury. —We have received a syllabus of lectures and demonstrations which are to be given in connexion with the North-East London Post-graduate College at the Tottenham Hospital. Speaking generally, the lectures or demonstrations are given twice a week throughout the year, in the winter, spring, and summer sessions, and they are open without fee to all medical practitioners who wish to attend. During the ensuing year, in addition to lectures and demonstrations on clinical medicine and surgery, obstetrics, gynaecology, and diseases of the skin, eye, nose, throat, and ear by the consulting and acting staff of the hospital, others are given by specialists not members of the hospital staff, among which are those on fevers (at the adjacent North-Eastern Fever Hospital, St. Ann's Road), tropical diseases, psychological medicine, and State medicine, while demonstrations are also given on anaesthetics and electrodiagnosis. For members of the Post-graduate School, besides personal opportunities for taking part in the clinical work of the hospital, demonstrations are given in the wards and in the out-patient department, including the special departments. The accessibility of the hospital has been recently increased by the opening of the electric tram service from Finsbury Park, the cars of which pass the door. The opening lecture of the winter session will be given by Mr. Walter Edmunds at 4.30 p.m. on Thursday, October 20th, in the lecture room at the hospital, High Road, South Tottenham, N. A syllabus of lectures may be obtained on application to the Dean of the College.—The lectures of the winter term of the Samaritan Free Hospital for Women, Marylebone Road, will begin on October 6th, when Mr. Alban Doran will give a lecture on diseases of the fallopian tubes clinically considered.

that the French Ambassador in London, who would be absent at the date of the meeting, had nominated M. Daeschner, the First Secretary of the Legation, to represent him at the banquet to be given at the Hotel Cecil on Wednesday, October 12th.

The party will arrive on October 9th, and will visit the hospitals and laboratories in London on the three following days.

The Dean of the Faculty of Medicine of the University of London (Mr. H. T. Butlin, F.R.C.S.) will entertain the visitors at luncheon on Tuesday, October 11th.

The Asylums Committee of the London County Council cordially invite the party to visit any of the London County asylums, including the newly opened working colony for insane epileptics at Ewell. The Chairman of the Asylums Committee, Dr. Cooper, and the Chairman of the Pathologist Subcommittee, Mr. F. J. Horniman, will extend an invitation to a limited party to visit the pathological laboratory at Claybury on October 12th. The visitors will be received and shown over the laboratory by Dr. F. W. Mott, F.R.S., Director, and will be entertained at luncheon by Mr. Horniman.

We are requested by the General Purposes Committee to state that several physicians and surgeons have expressed a wish to entertain a certain number of French guests at dinner or lunch; others would no doubt be glad in this way to enhance the cordiality of the reception. It is feared, however, that if the invitations are left to individual initiative there will be confusion. This may be avoided if gentlemen will at once communicate with Dr. Donald Hood, 43, Green Street, Park Lane, W., giving the names of any French visitors they would specially wish to invite, and leaving it to the General Purposes Committee here or to the French Organizing Committee to suggest a given number of others who might belong or not to any special department.

First List of Subscriptions.

	Subscriptions.			Further Guarantees.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Sir William Broadbent, Bart.	...	5	5	0	5	5
Sir Thomas Barlow, Bart.	...	2	2	0	3	3
Sir Joseph Fayer, Bart.	...	2	2	0	3	3
Sir R. Douglas Powell, Bart.	...	2	2	0	3	3
Sir Anderson Critchett	...	5	5	0	—	—
Sir Dyce Duckworth	...	2	2	0	3	3
Dr. Abercrombie	...	2	2	0	3	3
Dr. E. F. Bashford	...	1	1	0	1	1
Mr. Bidwell	...	2	2	0	3	3
Mr. H. T. Butlin	...	2	2	0	3	3
Mr. Radcliffe Crocker	...	2	2	0	3	3
Mr. George Eastes	...	2	2	0	3	3
Dr. Ewart	...	1	1	0	1	1
Dr. Ferrier	...	2	2	0	3	3
Mr. Golding-Bird	...	2	2	0	3	3
Dr. Dundas Grant	...	2	2	0	3	3
Dr. Habershon	...	2	2	0	3	3
Dr. Donald Hood	...	2	2	0	3	3
Dr. Robert Hutchison	...	2	2	0	3	3
Dr. Jobson Horne	...	2	2	0	3	3
Dr. Percy Jakins	...	2	2	0	3	3
Mr. H. Juler	...	2	2	0	3	3
Mr. Matins	...	2	2	0	3	3
Dr. George Ogilvie	...	2	2	0	3	3
Mr. H. Openshaw	...	2	2	0	3	3
Dr. Pavy	...	2	2	0	3	3
Dr. D'Arcy Power	...	2	2	0	3	3
Dr. Pasteur	...	2	2	0	—	—
Dr. Sidney Phillips	...	2	2	0	3	3
Dr. Fred. Roberts	...	2	2	0	3	3
Dr. Sandwith	...	2	2	0	3	3
Mr. Walter Spencer	...	2	2	0	3	3
Dr. Frederick Taylor	...	2	2	0	3	3
Mr. T. Wakley, jun.	...	2	2	0	3	3
Dr. A. D. Waller	...	2	2	0	3	3
Dr. Hale White	...	2	2	0	3	3
Dr. Dawson Williams	...	2	2	0	3	3
Dr. Theodore Williams	...	2	2	0	3	3
Dr. Andrew Wylie	...	1	1	0	2	2
Dr. Carvell	...	2	2	0	—	—
Dr. Colman	...	2	2	0	—	—
Dr. Knowsley Sibley	...	2	2	0	—	—

CONTRACT MEDICAL PRACTICE.

NOTICE AS TO DISTRICTS IN WHICH DISPUTES EXIST.

A notice as to places in which disputes exist between members of the medical profession and various organizations for providing contract practice will be found among the advertisements, and medical men who may be thinking of applying for appointments in connexion with clubs or other forms of contract practice are requested to refer to the advertisement on page 84.

AUTOMOBILES FOR MEDICAL MEN.

THE report upon the small car reliability trials held by the Automobile Club of Great Britain and Ireland at Hereford, which was issued by the judges thereof, was hailed by the greater part of the automobile press with much approbation; and not without reason. The writers might have contented themselves with a mere statement of the official results of the competition, but instead of this they reviewed a number of points in car construction in a masterly manner. They were in a position to do this, because after the termination of the trials they submitted each competing vehicle to a minute examination, and thus, in cars of, roughly-speaking, corresponding construction, they were able to show clearly that certain differences in mechanical detail, though small in themselves, were sufficient to explain the partial failure of some cars and the marked success of others. Valuable as the report is, it is somewhat too technical for the average purchaser, so instead of simply reproducing it, its main conclusions will be here summarised, and by way of making things clearer still the use of tables of results will, as far as proves possible, be avoided.

THE NATURE OF THE TRIALS.

Before dealing with results, however, it will be well to give some account of the trials themselves. They were limited to cars which are put upon the market at the price of £200 or less, and the conditions under which the cars were tried were designed to resemble as closely as might be those under which each car would conceivably be used by a private owner. Thus, if a car were built to carry two persons only, it carried only two persons during the runs; if four, then either four persons or the weight of four persons, the weight of one person being taken in every case as not less than 11 st.

During the whole week which the trials lasted the cars engaged were kept under the strict supervision of the club officials, but the owners were allowed to overhaul and clean them once a day. The time allowed for this varied with the state of the weather and roads, but it was always strictly limited, and was never allowed to exceed the time which any ordinarily careful car user would naturally devote to the same purpose before starting on a day's work, however perfect he might believe his car to be.

The essence of the trials was the opportunity afforded to the cars to prove their ability to perform a number of consecutive non-stop runs of considerable length, and once the day's journey was commenced it was not permissible for the cars to be stopped on any excuse whatever so far as the cars and their drivers were concerned. If a car did so stop for a single second before the out and home run was completed, its chance for that journey was at once lost, since it could no longer count a non-stop run.

Furthermore, if the cause which brought about a stoppage (unless a tyre trouble) required more than twenty minutes for its removal and the restarting of the journey, the car was at once knocked out of the competition altogether, since it became no longer eligible for any non-stop award, good or bad, however successful it had been before. This latter rule, though perfectly sound in itself, worked rather hardly in the case of one or two cars, as will be seen hereafter, and to that extent vitiated the final results.

There were two of these journeys or runs on each day, one in the morning starting at 8 a.m. and one in the afternoon at 2 p.m. Each run was a little over 50 miles in length, so that the total distance traversed during the week was about 620 miles. Each run, too, started from the same spot, Hereford market place, the cars leaving in regular succession at 20-second intervals. It must have required some ingenuity to select the journeys, but the officials of the Automobile Club are adepts at this work and managed to map out a new circular tour of the required length for each day, the same route being traversed a second time in the afternoon. The roads for the most part were good so far as surface condition was concerned, but those who know Herefordshire and the Welsh border do not need to be told that they were very hilly.

As for pace, it was not permissible, on pain of disqualification, for any car to average more than 18 miles an hour or less than 12 (in the case of two or three very cheap cars which were entered the minimum was reduced to 10). Most of the cars did their journeys at the rate of about 17 miles, or, in other words, completed their 50-mile runs in about three hours. As, however, there were in each day's tour a great number of hills and not a few straggling villages (through which the pace was ordered to be reduced to 10 miles), they must at times

SPEEDWELL, price £123, with seven non-stop runs out of twelve, for "its construction and performance considered with reference to price"; a second to the 8-horse power BROWN, price £150, with five non-stop runs, for "the quality and construction of details"; a third to the two LITTLE STARS, prices £175 and £190, with ten and eight non-stop runs respectively, for "hill-climbing and for construction with reference to price"; a fourth went to the 9-horse power OLDSMOBILE, a 3-seated car, price £200, with ten non-stop runs, "for ease of manipulation and for details of construction"; a fifth to the 8-horse power PROSPER LAMBERT, a 2-seated car, price £185, with nine non-stop runs, for "the design and construction of parts of it"; a sixth to the 8-horse power CROXTED, a 2-seated car, price £200, which completed all the runs without a stop, for "its performance and for its construction considered with reference to price." In addition to these, the CLYDE, price £175, with four non-stop runs, received honourable mention for "its low petrol consumption"; and the MOBILE, a 4-seated car, price £200, with seven non-stop runs, for "its general performance as a 4-seated vehicle."

A careful study of this report will enable would-be purchasers to gather clearly what they can expect a car, at the price of £200 or less, to do; and, taking the trials all round, it is clear that very much more can now be expected than was the case a year or two ago. In short, great progress has been made, and though, from the number of more or less marked failures, it is obvious that many, if not the majority, of cheap cars still stand in need of improvement, it is equally obvious that the man of modest aspirations can "horse" himself satisfactorily for £200 or less, provided he uses sufficient discrimination. Certainly more attention should be paid to the grounds of the medal awards than to the non-stop list, and perhaps, too, in selecting a maker rather more attention should be paid to the general repute of the firm, the frequency of the appearance of its productions in reliability trials, and the consistency of their average success than to the marked success of some one car on one particular occasion. As for the price of running—as regards petrol consumption—these trials showed it to be about $\frac{1}{4}$ d. a mile, or considerably less than has hitherto been estimated. The style in which the more successful cars surmounted Frome Hill—a climb in some cases of 1 in 8—is also noteworthy, for they went up at the rate of 10 miles an hour.

THE PELLATT FUND.

THE Treasurer, Surgeon-Colonel F. H. Welch, 8, Brandram Road, Lee, S.E., begs to acknowledge the receipt of the following sums on behalf of Miss E. B. Pellatt, L.S.A., additional to those already published:

£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Dr. H. E. Symes-Thompson ... 1 1 0	Dr. Ethel Bentham ... 0 10 6
Dr. Gertrude Keith ... 1 1 0	Dr. Ethel Williams ... 0 10 6
Mrs. Rose Stride ... 5 0 0	Surg.-Lt.-Col. E. A. H. Roe, M.S. ... 1 1 0
Rev. G. J. A. d'Arcy ... 0 10 2	Dr. Edith Neild ... 1 1 0
Dr. Mary C. Murdock ... 3 3 0	"H." ... 0 10 6
Dr. Amy Sheppard ... 2 2 0	Mr. A. T. Jones ... 1 1 0
Dr. Frances Ede ... 2 2 0	Miss Green ... 0 5 0
Dr. Caroline Sturge ... 1 1 0	Miss A. de Steiger, M.B. ... 1 0 0
Miss Margaret Joyce, M.B. ... 0 10 6	Dr. C. Hodgins Brown ... 1 0 0
Dr. W. Lyne Blight ... 2 2 0	Miss Paloe, M.B. ... 1 1 0
Dr. John Anderson ... 1 1 0	Mrs. and Misses Bell ... 1 2 6
Miss Adela Bosanquet ... 1 1 0	Mr. T. J. Bokenham ... 1 1 0
Miss Mary B. Dowie, M.B. ... 3 3 0	Miss Mary E. Rye, M.B. ... 1 1 0
Miss E. Hancock ... 0 5 0	Anon. ... 2 0 0
Mr. Cook ... 1 0 0	Capt. Crosthwait, R.A.M.C. ... 1 0 0
Dr. G. H. Keyworth ... 1 0 0	Dr. Charlotte E. Ferguson-Davie ... 1 1 0
Dr. E. Newlyn Smith ... 0 10 6	Dr. Alice H. A. Boyle ... 2 2 0
Miss Helen B. Hanson ... 0 10 6	Dr. Clara A. S. Fitter ... 3 3 0
"Lucerne" ... 0 5 0	Dr. Rose Bale ... 1 1 0
Mr. Henry T. Butlin ... 2 2 0	Anon. ... 25 0 0
Mrs. Gwyn ... 1 0 0	Mrs. Gutch ... 1 0 0
Anon. ... 0 10 6	Dr. Marion S. Linton ... 1 1 0
Miss A. Bonham-Carter ... 5 0 0	
Dr. Lucie Whitby ... 0 5 0	

THE PLAGUE.

PREVALENCE OF THE DISEASE.

INDIA.

DURING the weeks ending August 27th and September 3rd, the deaths from plague in India numbered 8,304 and 9,914, respectively. This shows an increase of over 2,000 and 3,000 respectively compared with the week ending August 20th. The principal figures are: Bombay City, 57 and 56; Bombay Districts, 4,840 and 5,257; Calcutta, 5 and 7; Bengal Districts, 345 and 368; North-West Provinces and Oudh, 395 and 634; Punjab, 90 and 73; Rajputana, 209 and 385; Kashmir, 0 and 7; Karachi, 3 and 4; Central Provinces and Berar, 194 and 313; Central India, 388 and 590; Hyderabad State, 385 and 417; Mysore State, 794 and 946; Madras Districts, 546 and 430; Coorg, 3 and 417. The increase in plague is chiefly in the Southern and Western Districts.

SOUTH AFRICA.

Port Elizabeth.—During the weeks ending August 27th and September 3rd the fresh cases of plague numbered 3 and 0, and the deaths from the disease 1 and 0. Plague-infected mice and rats continue to be found in Port Elizabeth and East London.

HONG KONG.

During the weeks ending September 10th and 17th the fresh cases of plague numbered 3 and 4, and the deaths from the disease, 3 and 4 respectively. A telegram received September 23rd announces: "Clean bills of health resumed."

MAURITIUS.

During the weeks ending September 15th and 22nd the fresh cases of plague numbered 6 and 7, and the deaths from the disease 5 and 5.

PORT SAID.

On September 20th a case of plague was declared at Port Said.

THE HOLMAN TESTIMONIAL FUND.

THE Treasurer acknowledges the following further subscriptions:

£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Robert Farquharson, M.D., M.P. ... 1 0 0	St Clair Thomson, M.D., F.R.C.S. ... 1 1 0
C. E. Douglas, M.D., F.R.C.S. ... 1 1 0	J. H. Ewart, Esq. ... 1 1 0
S. G. Sloman, Esq. ... 1 1 0	

Further subscriptions will be received by Dr. John H. Galton, Chunam, Sylvan Road, Norwood, S.E., or Mr. W. A. Berridge, Oakfield, Redhill.

THE PREVENTION OF CONSUMPTION.

DURHAM.

THE Stanhope Sanatorium, which was founded at Horn Hall by the Durham Society for the Prevention and Cure of Consumption, has evidently been much appreciated by the county in which and for which it has done such useful work. Commencing with only 12 beds, it has increased until, with the addition of a new block containing 14 beds, which was opened on September 17th, the Stanhope Sanatorium has now accommodation for 45 patients.

Mr. Samuel Storey, as Chairman of the Durham County Council, in performing the ceremony of opening the new building, drew attention to the origin of the institution, which owed its existence to the energy, enterprise, and self-sacrifice of a number of ladies and gentlemen throughout the county. Seeing, however, the importance of the work done by this and similar institutions, it did not seem right that their establishment should be left entirely to private action. The prevention and cure of consumption was a matter of such magnitude and importance that it deserved public consideration and action by the recognized authorities of the country. There were many calls upon the public purse, but money spent in this way would be well spent. Dr. Robinson, Chairman of the Committee, to whose initiation the movement for the foundation of a sanatorium largely owes its origin, mentioned that during the four years that the sanatorium had been in existence 146 early cases had been treated, out of which 113 were able to go back to work, and 99 were at work to-day. Of 122 more advanced cases, only 60 were able to go back to work, and 35 of these were still at work. These results compare favourably with those of any other sanatorium.

ASSOCIATION NOTICES.

COUNCIL.

NOTICE OF MEETING.

A MEETING of the Council will be held in the Council Room of the Association, at 429, Strand (corner of Agar Street), London, on Wednesday, the 19th of October, at 2 o'clock in the afternoon.

September, 1904.

GUY ELLISTON, *General Secretary.*

ELECTION OF MEMBERS.

ANY candidate for election should forward his application upon a form, which will be furnished by the General Secretary of the Association, 429, Strand. Applications for membership should be sent to the General Secretary not less than thirty-five days prior to the date of a meeting of the Council.

LIBRARY OF THE BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

MEMBERS are reminded that the Library and Writing Rooms of the Association are fitted up for the accommodation of the members in commodious apartments, at the office of the Association, 429, Strand. The rooms are open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Members can have their letters addressed to them at the office.

BRANCH MEETINGS TO BE HELD.

BIRMINGHAM BRANCH: COVENTRY DIVISION.—The annual dinner of this Division will be held at the Drill Hall, Queen Victoria Road, Coventry, on Thursday, October 6th, at 7.15 p.m. After the dinner the Chairman (Dr. Webb Fowler) will give his address as chairman for the year. Mr. J. Smith Whitaker, the Medical Secretary of the Association, has accepted an invitation to be present. Dinner tickets, including wine, will be 15s. each. It will be open to members to introduce guests, who must be either medical men or registered dentists. The Secretary will be obliged if members will let him know at an early date whether they will be present, and whether they will be introducing guests. Members wishing to read papers or to show specimens or cases during the current session are requested to communicate their wishes to the Honorary Secretary, E. H. SNELL, Knighton House, Coventry.

SOUTH-EASTERN BRANCH: CROYDON DIVISION.—The next meeting will be held at the Cock Hotel, Sutton, on Thursday, October 20th, at 4 p.m., Mr. G. Bower (Sutton) in the chair. The dinner will take place at 6 p.m., charge 7s., exclusive of wine. All members of the South-Eastern Branch are entitled to attend and to introduce professional friends. Papers have been promised by Mr. Dundas Grant, Dr. W. H. Tunnicliffe, Dr. A. E. Giles. The subjects of these papers will be announced at a later date. N.B.—The Honorary Secretary would be much obliged if members would kindly inform him by post-card whether they intend, if possible, to be present at the meeting, and if likely to remain to dinner. By doing so they will materially facilitate arrangements, and promote the success of the meeting.—E. H. WILLOCK, Honorary Secretary, 113, London Road, Croydon.

SOUTHERN BRANCH.—This is to give notice that in October the Branch will proceed to elect a representative on the Central Council of the Association. The names of candidates, nominated each by three electors in writing, should be sent to me not later than October 10th.—H. J. MANNING, Honorary Secretary, Laverstock, Salisbury.

BORDER COUNTIES BRANCH.—The autumn general meeting of this Branch will be held in Penrith on Friday, October 28th. Gentlemen having communications to present to the meeting are requested to inform the Secretary of their intention at their earliest convenience.—FRANCIS R. HILL, Honorary Secretary, 62, Warwick Road, Carlisle.

BORDER COUNTIES BRANCH: SCOTTISH DIVISION.—A meeting of this Division will be held in the Douglas Arms Hotel, Castle Douglas, on Thursday, October 6th, at 2.30 p.m.—GEORGE R. LIVINGSTON, Honorary Secretary.

ULSTER BRANCH.—The autumn meeting of this Branch will be held in the Medical Institute, Belfast, on Wednesday, October 5th, at 3.30 p.m., and not 3 o'clock, as previously arranged, when Professor Lindsay will deliver his Presidential Address.—CECIL SHAW, Honorary Secretary.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

MANCHESTER.

Shortage of Water Supply.—How Small-pox is Spread.—Association for Improving Unwholesome Dwellings.—Procedure for Election of Honorary Medical Staff of Infirmary.—What is "Rum"?

LAST year at this time the reservoirs contained a supply of water for over one hundred days, and in the previous year at the same period a supply for sixty days. Owing to the drought we are now reduced to a supply for less than thirty days. Notice was given by the Waterworks Committee that owing to the excessive consumption of water by the public during the present dry weather, they were forced to cut off the supply from 7 p.m. to 6 a.m. from the 25th ult. The average daily consumption of water is about 35,000,000 gallons, but recently it has reached even 39,000,000. No relief can be obtained from Thirlmere for some time, as the second pipe to Manchester has to be laid in very difficult ground in the hard rocks of Westmorland. This second pipe will add 8,000,000 to 10,000,000 gallons a day. There is a feeling abroad that with the experience of a drought three years ago the shortage should have been foreseen, or at least ample provision should have been made by this time. The shortage of the summer of 1901 extended over four months, and before the rain fell early in November the store had fallen to less than twenty days' supply. There were also serious shortages in 1870, 1884, 1887, and 1893. The only remedies applied are ceasing to water the streets and cutting off the supply at night. But "Supply, not restriction," should be the motto. In ancient Rome the supply of water per head of the population was 300 gallons per day.

There was recently an outbreak of small-pox at Hyde, and now we have a record of several prosecutions of individuals—a labourer and some mill hands—for omitting to notify cases of small-pox; another was fined for going out while ill; while one worthy lady was found working in a mill with the rash on her, but in her humble opinion the marks on her person were "blood-rash."

Important civic movements often originate outside city councils, and the well-matured opinion of those zealous in the interests of the well-being of their fellow-citizens is one of the powerful influences that help to guide the practice and policy of our City Fathers. "The Citizens' Association for the Improvement of the Unwholesome Dwellings and Surroundings of the People" has forwarded a copy of its programme to the members of the City Council, who are asked to give an expression of their views upon it. The Association is anxious to co-operate whenever possible with the members of the town councils, and, in the event of any or all of their proposals meeting with approval, the Association invites a reply as to what steps ought to be taken to carry these proposals to a successful issue. The proposals include the suggestion that

A comprehensive housing policy be formed for the whole Manchester-Salford area. Until such a policy is adopted we cannot hope for a solution of our difficulties. At present, while houses in the poorer districts are being closed, new residential districts are arising which, for lack of a real policy, will before many years be little better than slums. A comprehensive policy, as we understand it, would provide not only for the demolition of unwholesome dwellings and the statutory obligation to rehouse the occupants, but would also definitely provide for the growth of the towns, planning roads, streets, and open spaces for the new districts long before they are actually required for building. New building by-laws are needed, and the provision of these also forms part of a real housing policy.

This policy can only be carried out if the Association has the support, both material and moral, of a large body of citizens of Manchester and Salford. The project, so far, has already cost £1,000. It is proposed to form branches of the Association in the town and borough; the public opinion must be educated, and the efforts of the Association in this respect are most praiseworthy. The need is indisputable of a "comprehensive housing policy," one designed, not to meet merely local or focal needs, but a wise and bold and well-digested policy to control the ever-growing expansion of the city, and to see that in the suburbs there is not perpetuated the same condensation of houses on restricted areas—unrelieved by breathing spaces, broad streets, green sward—and ensure the erection of houses into which the sun's rays can penetrate and round which air may freely circulate. To this end the Association rightly lays stress on the need for wider legislative powers with regard to the holding of land by the municipality, and on the rating of unoccupied sites. Cubic air space within is not enough; it must obtain without as well.

The Infirmary Lay Board has approved of the names of 150 trustees, selected with every desire to make the list as representative as possible, to be submitted to the whole body of trustees, who will select from the number 30 to serve on the subcommittee for the election of the honorary medical officers. The sum of £20,000 has been paid into the infirmary rebuilding fund by the Manchester Corporation, this being part of the purchase-money of the Piccadilly site.

What is "rum"? We have recently had decisions as regards brandy, but rum, formerly beloved by the navy, is still without a legal definition as to its ingredients. A test case was heard in the Stockport Court on September 20th, in which two publicans were summoned for selling rum containing 70 or 80 per cent. of "silent" spirit. The prosecution stated that the rum had been imported from Demerara, and that, "instead of containing ether, which gave it medicinal properties, and caused it to be used as such by the medical profession and by the army and navy," it contained "silent" spirit, which might be produced from sugar, grain, potatoes, or other articles of that kind. The defence contended that the prosecution had not established any standard upon which they could judge how much potent spirit there should be in Demerara rum. The case was dismissed with costs. We are, therefore, still without a legal definition or a standard of purity of Demerara "rum"; but "rum," like some other alcoholic beverages, is no longer what it was.

SYDNEY.

The Health of Pilots.—Vital Statistics.—Bacterial Origin of Vegetable Gums.—Bubonic Plague.

As some of our readers are probably aware, one of the large P. and O. mail steamers was recently wrecked off Port Philip Heads while entering the bay in charge of one of the pilots, and she has since become a total wreck. A medical examination of the pilot revealed the fact that he was suffering from a serious defect in vision, and was also suffering from some cardiac and renal disease. This occurrence, unfortunately from the point of view of the loss of this large amount of

Section XXII (4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act, 1889, is removed the Board can enforce no measures of justice for their medical officers. The local Bumbles have unlimited power.

The Local Government Board, in their instructions to parish councils, state that "payment for lunacy certificates and quarterly visits to pauper lunatics are not to be included in the cost of maintenance, and any claim in respect of such payments will be disallowed." This does not seem to indicate that the Board have power to enforce payment of lunacy fees. No, Sir, the Local Government Board do not concern themselves whether we are paid or not; that is our look-out.

I do not say parish councils compel doctors to do lunacy work for their poor-law salary. They offer a lump sum, in which payments for lunacy work and vaccination are included. The doctor can accept these terms and stay, or refuse them and walk, just as he chooses.

"Fair Play" will remember I only refer to the existing conditions in a number of Highland and Island parishes. The whole system is a jumble, full of pitfalls for the unwary medical officer.

Until all the *may*s are expunged from the Rules, etc., of the Local Government Board, and replaced by *shall*s, the recommendations of the Board are not worth the paper wasted in recording them.

It hardly becomes us to criticize the Local Government Board too severely, nor is it politic at the present moment. I for one cannot forget their generous recommendation in regard to the difficulty we experience in getting a holiday—a concession which shows that they have some sympathy for us in our hard lot. That sympathy we cannot afford to lose. We are glad of even that crumb.

Surely "Fair Play" is a member of the Scottish Poor Law Medical Officers' Association; if not, I would refer him to the recent annual report of that institution for fuller information.

Fixity of tenure will allow us to assert our legal rights and carry out the intentions of the Legislature in regard to the poor without fear of dismissal, but it is questionable if the Local Government Board will give any consideration to those anomalies, the removal of which would make us contented public officials. In conclusion, let me thank "Fair Play" for the courteous manner in which he has criticized my letter.—I am, etc.,

September 23rd.

ANTI-BUMBLEDOM.

ALL FOR THE WORST.

SIR,—Dr. E. D. Marriott's pessimistic views of the medical profession, which appear in the *BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL* of September 24th, stingy, no doubt, the true pressure symptoms of advanced civilization; but such views are nevertheless equally applicable to other businesses of mankind generally. It is hardly a pessimistic philosophy that Dr. Marriott expresses; it is more the pessimistic views of present conditions. A man with a pessimistic philosophy is always of a cheerful disposition, for nothing makes him sadder than setting too great a value on things appertaining to philosophy proper. An optimistic philosophy disappoints at every turn. Therefore, as Dr. Marriott hints, the student who elects to go in for medicine must accept the situation in the same spirit as he accepts a wife—"for better, for worse." His pessimistic philosophy would serve him well in the long run, for things then would "pan out" better than he had expected.

It is quite true that the profession is numerically overstocked; there are now no "bare spots" for beginners. But the idea that the general medical practitioner is on the road to extinction is erroneous. You may change his name and call him a "compound specialist," but you cannot change the part he plays. Hospital organizers, specialists, medical women, municipal medical appointments, etc., are merely phases of fashion, and appear or disappear according to chance or season; but the general medical practitioner is fated to stick to the ship. The general practitioner is not driven from the field by nibbling aggressors; he is not now produced as in days past. Every branch of the profession has its special school, but no other than the school of Nature can produce a general practitioner. The school of Nature admits of no make-shift, no substitute.

The present system of medical education, therefore, tends to produce less numbers of practitioners here referred to. It would seem strange, when the number of medical men is greater than ever, that medical women should enter the arena. But "man's extremity is woman's opportunity." This is as it ever was, in war as well as in its modification—peace. When

ever men begin to fail, women appear on the scene to "support the lingering star with lessening ray." Those, therefore, who regard women as antagonistic competitors would do well to consider the shrinkage in their own capacities, and the resulting vacuum that is filled by women.

In the meantime, let the young practitioner take his "baphometric fire baptism" with that cheerfulness always afforded by pessimistic philosophy, that he may prove well seasoned when he begins to "try the world" and to "find mankind an unco' squad," lest the sweet words about "honour" and "nobility" he has swallowed at inaugural addresses return undigested from his sick understanding.—I am, etc.,

Wolverhampton, Sept. 24th.

DOBSON POOLE.

THE METRIC SYSTEM.

SIR,—There is much common sense in the remarks of your correspondent, Surgeon-Colonel Nicholson, in the *BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL* of September 24th, p. 779. To my mind the difficulty is not so much in the decimal system as in the unit. Let us by no means give up the grain for the gram, or the foot for the metre; then we might have a system readily learnt, easy of calculation, and practically free from the difficulties necessitated by such a revolution in arithmetic as would, for long, puzzle even educated people if the French system in its entirety were adopted.—I am, etc.,

Newbury, Sept. 25th.

W. T. PARKER DOUGLAS.

WRONG USE OF PRESCRIPTIONS.

SIR,—We must all be aware of the great abuse which exists in the handing of prescriptions from one to another because of some fancied resemblance in the symptoms to those which existed in the patient for whom the prescription was first written.

I would suggest as a remedy for this wrong and dangerous practice, that chemists should destroy the prescription after making it up, instead of returning it to the patient, to be by him treasured up as an heirloom. I see no difficulty in carrying out this plan, as the prescription is merely a written direction to the chemist, and has nothing to do with the patient. For purposes of repetition the chemist's entry and the number on the bottle would be quite sufficient.—I am, etc.,

Belfast, Sept. 24th.

H. NORMAN BARNETT, F.R.C.S.

UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES.

UNIVERSITY OF DURHAM.

FIRST EXAMINATION FOR THE M.B.—The following candidates have satisfied the examiners in the subjects mentioned:

Elementary Anatomy and Biology, Chemistry and Physics.—*C. F. M. Saint, †H. G. Davison, N. St. C. B. Cummins, P. Hall, I. Hodgkinson, H. R. McAleenan, S. MoZunder, J. D. Turnbull.

Chemistry and Physics.—K. B. Allan, L. F. Browne, L. W. Evans, F. H. Fawkes, R. C. H. Francis, A. C. Greene, H. C. Kellgren, Annie V. Mack, F. Rahtkens, F. A. Robinson, Matilda A. Sinclair, Rev. R. H. Smallwood, M.A., T. W. Stallybrass, B. Taylor, A. H. L. Thomas, Dorothea M. Tudor.

Elementary Anatomy and Biology.—J. M. L. F. Coquelin, I. S. Gabe, C. P. R. Harvey, E. P. L. Hughes, F. W. Melvin, C. J. Neilan, S. L. Randolph, D. Wilson.

SECOND EXAMINATION FOR THE M.B.—The following candidates have satisfied the examiners in Anatomy, Physiology, and Materia Medica:

*H. M. Levinson, †E. P. H. Joynt, †C. G. Kemp, †R. W. Pearson, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.; O. Arnott, H. H. Blake, F. W. Cheese, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., W. H. Edgar, G. R. Ellis, J. Everidge, J. E. Hanna, H. F. Joynt, S. D. Metcalfe, W. Rollin, J. W. Smith, L. H. Walker, G. Walker, L. L. Westrope.

THIRD EXAMINATION FOR THE M.B.—The following candidates have satisfied the examiners:

*N. A. Eddlestone, †R. W. Swayne, V. E. Badcock, F. W. Cheese, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., J. B. Cooke, G. Denholm, S. G. V. Harris, Florence B. Lambert, A. O. H. McCullagh, F. C. Pybus, G. R. Philipson, N. Spedding, T. L. Wormald.

* First-class Honours † Second-class Honours.

UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER.

Public Health Laboratories.—The new public health laboratories are now approaching completion, and will be ready for lectures and practical work in public health on Friday, October 14th. The courses in veterinary hygiene will start on Monday, the 17th, at the same laboratories.

Opening of Winter Session.—Professor Lorrain Smith, in his inaugural address at the opening of the medical session at the University, has chosen for the subject of his address The Study of Pathology in Medical Education.

The King has been pleased to approve of the appointment of Lieutenant-Colonel Richard Philip Samut (Chief Government Medical Officer, and Superintendent of Public Health) to be a member of the Executive Council and an official member of the Council of Government of the Island of Malta.

increase of 33 on the number for the previous year. During the year 251 cases were admitted, while 218 were discharged or died. The patients who were discharged as "recovered" numbered 84, those "relieved" 68, and there were 66 deaths. There were 872 cases under care during the year, and 635.9 was the average number in residence. The admissions this year were considerably fewer than last, but they were, on the whole, in a bad condition, and no less than 64.5 per cent. of them had been ill over a year before admission or had had similar illness before. It is also pointed out that there seems to be a tendency to an increased proportion of admissions in the period of decline (over 50 years of age), a period in which but few recoveries can be looked for. In discussing the etiology of the new cases—251 in number—Dr. Parker points out that, as usual, alcohol is at the head of the list. Alcohol was a main factor in the causation of the insanity in 88 of those cases, or 35 per cent. This is serious enough, but does not become less so when the question of hereditary predisposition is considered. A large number of intemperate persons, who may not themselves become insane through drink, are preparing a legacy for the future in the form of insane offspring to be cared for. Thus, during the past two years 96 cases were admitted to Gartloch under 26 years of age, in 54 of whom there was a history of alcoholic excess in the direct line of descent—that is, in 78.2 per cent. It is difficult to say how this large proportion of alcohol-caused insanity can be lessened; but there is no doubt that the first step must be the awakening of the public generally to the realization of the evil. Of the patients discharged, 84 were recovered, or 33.46 per cent. calculated on the admissions. A large number of those classified as relieved were boarded out, and thus much overcrowding of the asylum buildings was avoided. Of the deaths, no less than one-fourth was due to general paralysis, while tuberculosis was responsible for 8 deaths—a larger number than during the previous year. Quite a number of the deaths were at very advanced ages—one at 98.

LUNACY IN QUEENSLAND.

We have received from Dr. J. B. Hogg, Inspector of Asylums, his annual report for 1903 presented to the Houses of Parliament, and containing also the annual report of Dr. J. R. Nicoll, Medical Superintendent of the Toowoomba Hospital for the Insane. The State institutions for the insane are those of Goodna, Ipswich, and Toowoomba, and there are also reception-houses at Brisbane, Maryborough, Rockhampton, and Townsville. From the reception-houses the patients are sent to the asylums, but they also serve a useful purpose in saving the milder cases of insanity from being sent away from their districts and friends. On the last day of 1903 the total numbers under care in the State institutions were 1,852, of whom 7 were in reception-houses. This number—1,852—is an increase on the previous year of 39. This is considerably under the average increase, which for the last eight years, works out at 8. The proportion of insane to the general population, Dr. Hogg says, has been slowly but steadily increasing in all the States, and at the end of 1902 it was 3.34 in New South Wales, 3.77 in Victoria, 2.68 in South Australia, and 3.5 in New Zealand per 1,000. This, it will be noted, is in excess of the ratio obtaining in England and Wales, which for 1902 was 3.01. There were under treatment during the year 2,145 patients, the average number daily resident being 1,827. The admissions for the year numbered 337, of whom 50 were relapsed cases. Of the total admissions, 50 per cent. were natives of Great Britain—England and Wales 88, Ireland 63, Scotland 16—and 37 per cent. natives of Australia. The remaining 13 per cent. comprised native of various European States, of Asia, and the South Sea Islands. Of the causation of insanity in the admissions, intemperance in drink was assigned in 60, previous attacks in 39, hereditary influence in 32, congenital defect in 6, epilepsy in 21, diseases of brain and skull in 15, and other bodily diseases and disorders in 25. Venereal disease is given as a cause in 11, and in 93 the cause was unknown. Moral causes appear in only 11. The predominating factor, therefore, appears to have been alcohol, and in this connexion it is to be noted that of 243 cases admitted to the reception-houses 17 were cases of delirium tremens. As to the forms of mental disease, there were 176 cases of mania, 49 of melancholia, 67 of dementia, 13 of general paralysis, 22 of epileptic insanity, 7 of imbecility, 2 of idiocy, and 1 of myxoedema; 135 were discharged as recovered—a recovery-rate on admissions of 40.66; 31 as relieved, 1 as not improved, and 133 died, a death-rate on average numbers daily resident of 7.22; 31 deaths were due to disease of the nervous system, 22 to tuberculous disease of whom only 6 were noted as suffering from tubercle on admission, 18 to pneumonia, 16 to heart disease, 7 to chronic Bright's disease, 4 to dysentery, and 2 to typhoid fever. The general health is not mentioned, but the hospitals were, in common with the surrounding districts, invaded by a contagious ophthalmia from which several hundreds of the patients suffered, but without any permanent ill effects.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND POOR-LAW MEDICAL SERVICES.

HEALTH OF ENGLISH TOWNS.

In seventy-six of the largest English towns, including London, 8,234 births and 4,688 deaths were registered during the week ending Saturday last, September 24th. The annual rate of mortality in these towns, which had been 18.2, 17.5, and 17.0 per 1,000 in the three preceding weeks, further declined to 16.0 per 1,000 last week. The rates in the several towns ranged from 7.0 in Burton-on-Trent, 7.1 in Horney, 8.3 in Willesden, 10.3 in Walthamstow, 10.5 in Barrow-in-Furness, and 10.9 in Bristol and in York, to 21.7 in Warrington, 21.8 in Burnley, 22.2 in Merthyr-Tydfil, 23.1 in Sunderland, 23.2 in Rotherham, 23.7 in Salford and in Middlesbrough, 24.6 in Bolton, and 25.3 in Hanley. In London the rate of mortality was 13.7 per 1,000, while it averaged 17.0 per 1,000 in the seventy-five other large towns. The death-rate from the principal infectious diseases averaged 3.3 per 1,000 in the seventy-six large towns; in London this death-rate was equal to 1.7 per 1,000, while among the seventy-five other large towns the rates ranged upwards to 6.0 in Stockton-on-Tees and in West Hartlepool, 6.4 in Oldham, 7.0 in Hull, 8.3 in Bolton, 8.6 in Grimsby, 8.9 in Rotherham, 9.7 in Sunderland, 10.6 in Hanley, and 10.8 in Warrington. Measles caused a death-rate of 1.8 in Birkenhead; whooping-cough of 1.4 in Sunderland, 1.5 in South Shields, 1.6 in Grimsby, and 2.1 in Rhondda; and diarrhoea of 5.3 in Wolverhampton and in West

Hartlepool, 5.7 in Merthyr Tydfil, 5.9 in Middlesbrough and in Tyne-mouth, 6.0 in Hull, 6.2 in Grimsby and in Burnley, 7.2 in Sunderland, 7.4 in Bolton, 9.0 in Hanley, and 10.1 in Warrington. The mortality from scarlet fever, from diphtheria, and from enteric fever showed no marked excess in any of the large towns. One fatal case of small-pox was registered in Oldham, and 1 in Stockton-on-Tees, but none in any other of the seventy-six towns. The number of small-pox patients in the Metropolitan Asylums Hospitals, which had been 9, 8, and 5 on the three preceding Saturdays, was again 5 on Saturday last, September 24th; no new cases were admitted during the week, against 2, 2, and 1 in the three preceding weeks. The number of scarlet fever cases remaining under treatment in these hospitals and in the London Fever Hospital at the end of last week was 1,969, against 1,820, 1,816, and 1,929 at the end of the three preceding weeks; 284 new cases were admitted during the week, against 266, 234, and 340 in the three preceding weeks.

HEALTH OF SCOTCH TOWNS.

DURING the week ending Saturday last, September 24th, 883 births and 520 deaths were registered in eight of the principal Scotch towns. The annual rate of mortality in these towns, which had been 16.0, 15.7, and 16.5 per 1,000 in the three preceding weeks, declined again last week to 16.0 per 1,000, and was equal to the mean rate during the same period in the seventy-six large English towns. Among these Scotch towns the death-rates ranged from 11.2 in Greenock and 13.6 in Leith, to 17.9 in Dundee and 26.2 in Perth. The death-rate from the principal infectious diseases averaged 2.6 per 1,000, the highest rates being recorded in Dundee and Perth. The 243 deaths registered in Glasgow included 9 which were referred to whooping-cough and 30 to diarrhoea. Two fatal cases of scarlet fever, 4 of whooping-cough, 2 of "fever," and 4 of diarrhoea were recorded in Edinburgh; 2 of whooping-cough and 16 of diarrhoea in Dundee; 4 of diarrhoea in Aberdeen; 2 of whooping-cough in Paisley; and 3 of diarrhoea in Leith and 2 in Greenock.

HEALTH OF IRISH TOWNS.

DURING the week ending Saturday, September 17th, 519 births and 299 deaths were registered in six of the principal Irish towns, against 649 births and 330 deaths in the preceding period. The mean annual death-rate of these towns, which had been 15.8, 17.2, and 16.2 per 1,000 in the three preceding weeks, rose to 16.5 per 1,000 in the week under notice, this figure being 1.5 per 1,000 lower than the mean annual rate in the seventy-six English towns for the corresponding period. The figures ranged from 5.5 in Limerick and 11.3 in Londonderry to 18.5 in Cork and 27.3 in Waterford. The zymotic death-rate during the same period and in the same six towns averaged 2.2 per 1,000, or 1.3 per 1,000 lower than during the preceding period, the highest figure, 7.8, being reached in Waterford. In this town the high rate was due to cases of diarrhoeal disease. No death from small-pox was registered in any part of Ireland, but in Belfast 1 death was ascribed to typhus fever.

STORAGE OF YEAST IN A WATERCLOSET.

S. M. states that a wholesale yeast merchant in his district stores his yeast under the seat of a watercloset. Is this, he asks, healthy, and can the M.O.H. take any action?

. (1) It does not appear to be desirable or healthy to store any article used as food for man in a sanitary convenience as described, though it might be difficult to prove in what way in any particular instance it was unhealthy. (2) If the yeast appears to be unsatisfactory or "unfit," the medical officer of health may act under Section CXVI of the Public Health Act, 1875. If not, possibly action might be taken under Section XL of the same Act, on the point that the sanitary convenience was so kept as likely to give rise to injury to health. Or it may be that there are local by-laws controlling the places where food is sold or stored. If none of these courses is available, the medical officer of health might write a letter to the owner, pointing out the necessity of not storing food in such places. Probably such action would result in a discontinuance of the practice.

THE NOTIFICATION OF MEASLES IN A RURAL DISTRICT.

M.O.H. writes: The council of a rural district twenty-five miles long, with a population of 13,000, meditate making measles a notifiable disease. What would be (1) the probable number of cases per annum; (2) the effect on measles and scarlet fever epidemics; and (3) what rise of salary the medical officer of health ought to receive on £80 per annum?

. (1) Unless there is an exceptional prevalence, the cases would, perhaps, number between 50 and 100. (2) Notification of itself would exercise little, if any, effect. Such results as did accrue would depend upon ultimate measures, disinfection, isolation, etc., and upon their efficacy. (3) We can form no opinion. Mere notification in such a district would not involve much extra work for the medical officer of health.

MEDICAL VACANCIES AND APPOINTMENTS. VACANCIES.

This list of vacancies is compiled from our advertisement columns, where full particulars will be found. To ensure notice in this column advertisements must be received not later than the first post on Wednesday morning.

BRECON AND RADNOR LUNATIC ASYLUM, Talgarth.—Medical Superintendent. Salary, £450 per annum.

CHE-TERFIELD AND NORTH DERBYSHIRE HOSPITAL AND DISPENSARY.—Junior House-Surgeon, resident. Salary at the rate of £50 per annum.

CROYDON GENERAL HOSPITAL.—Junior House-Surgeon, resident. Salary, £63 per annum.

DERBY COUNTY ASYLUM, Mickleover.—Senior Assistant Medical Officer (Male), resident. Salary, £150 per annum, rising to £180.

DOVER: ROYAL VICTORIA HOSPITAL.—House-Surgeon, resident. Salary, £110 per annum.

ESSEX COUNTY ASYLUM, Brentwood.—Fourth Assistant Medical Officer, resident. Salary, £150 per annum.

GORDON HOSPITAL FOR FISTULA, ETC., Vauxhall Bridge Road.—House-Surgeon, Honorarium, £15 15s. for six months, and £40 for twelve months.

HALIFAX: ROYAL HALIFAX INFIRMARY.—Third House-surgeon, resident. Salary, £80 per annum.

HOSPITAL FOR CONSUMPTION AND DISEASES OF THE CHEST, Brompton.—Resident House-Physicians. Honorarium, £25 for six months.
LEICESTER INFIRMARY.—Assistant House-Surgeon, resident. Salary, £20 per annum.
MANCHESTER; CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL.—(1) Junior Physician; (2) Junior Surgeon. Honorarium, £50 each. Junior Physician, to act also as Pathologist, with honorarium, £25.
NEWPORT AND MONMOUTHSHIRE HOSPITAL.—Two Resident Medical Officers. Salaries, £80 and £70 per annum respectively.
PORTSMOUTH; ROYAL PORTSMOUTH HOSPITAL.—Assistant House-Surgeon, resident. Salary at the rate of £50 per annum.
ROYAL DENTAL HOSPITAL, Leicester Square, W.C.—Morning House Anaesthetist. Honorarium, £50 per annum.
ROYAL FREE HOSPITAL, Gray's Inn Road, W.C.—Assistant Anaesthetist.
ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL, N.C.—(1) Surgeon. (2) Assistant Physician.
SHAMEN'S HOSPITAL SOCIETY.—(1) Junior Resident Medical Officer, Dreadnought Hospital, Greenwich. (2) House-Surgeon, Branch Hospital, Royal Victoria and Albert Docks. Salary, £40 and £50 per annum respectively.
NORTHAMPTON GENERAL HOSPITAL.—House-Surgeon, resident. Salary, £100 per annum.
WOLVERHAMPTON AND STAFFORDSHIRE GENERAL HOSPITAL.—House-Physician, resident. Salary, £100 per annum.

APPOINTMENTS.

HUDSON, J. S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. Lond., District Medical Officer of the Watford Union.
JOHNSON, Wm. Crosby, M.B., Ch.B. Viet., Honorary Physician to the Pendleton Branch Dispensary of the Salford Royal Hospital, vice Dr. F. Craven Moore, resigned.
LOW, C. W., M.B. Durh., Medical Officer of Health, Thedwaite Rural District.
MATTHEWS, Frank, L.R.C.P. Lond., M.R.C.S. Eng., Medical Officer for the Nantwich District of the Nantwich Union, vice H. Munro, M.D. Edin., resigned.
OVERY, Harry, M.B., Ch.B. Edin., F.R.C.S. Eng., Casualty Officer and Pathologist to the Metropolitan Hospital N.E.
PETHYBRIDGE, W. L., M.D., B.Sc. Lond., Honorary Physician to the Plymouth Public Dispensary, Honorary Paedologist to the South Devon Hospital, and Ophthalmologist to the Plymouth Education Authority.
RODGEE, T. R., M.B., Ch.B. Glasg., Certifying Factory Surgeon for the Sanquhar District, Dumfries.
ROUND, John, L.R.C.P., L.E.O.S. Physician's Assistant to the Plymouth Public Dispensary, vice J. P. S. Ward, M.R.C.S., L.M.O.P., resigned.
WILCOX, H. M., M.B. Aberd., M.R.C.S. Eng., Medical Officer of Health, Fleet Urban District.
WILLIAMS, J. O., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. Lond., Medical Officer of Health, Barmouth Urban District.
BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL.—The following appointments have been made:
 House-Physicians.—(Senior): C. M. H. Howell, A. B. Neilson, J. E. Payne, C. H. D. Adams, H. V. Wenham. (Junior): E. H. White, B. Hudson, C. A. Anderson, F. A. Heyworth, C. F. Hadfield.
 House-Surgeons.—(Senior): H. D. Ledward, H. W. Wilson, R. B. Etherington-Smith, H. N. Burroughes, T. B. A. Hagard. (Junior): G. H. Colt, H. J. D. Birckett, C. E. H. Flourright, L. Cripps, J. Burfield.
 Resident Midwifery Assistant.—H. A. Gould.
 Ophthalmic House-Surgeon.—L. Worn.
 Assistant Chloroformist.—W. F. Cross and H. E. G. Boyle.
 External Midwifery Assistants.—N. Macdougall and A. H. Hogarth.
 Chief Assistants:
 Department for Diseases of Women.—H. Williamson, M.B. Cantab., M.R.C.P.
 Department for Diseases of the Eye.—B. W. Brewerton, F.R.C.S.
 Department for Diseases of the Ear.—C. E. West, M.B. Oxon., F.R.C.S.; S. R. Scott, M.B., B.S. Lond., F.R.C.S.
 Department for Diseases of the Throat and Nose.—W. Jobson Horne, M.D. Cantab.; F. A. Rose, M.B. Cantab., F.R.C.S.
 Department of Orthopaedics.—G. B. Gask, F.R.C.S.
 Department for Diseases of the Skin.—T. J. Horder, M.D., B.Sc. Lond., M.R.C.P.; H. Thursfield, M.D. Oxon., M.R.C.P.
 Department of Electro-Therapeutics.—H. Walsam, M.D. Cantab., F.R.C.P.; J. M. Flavell, M.R.C.S.
 Dental Department.—F. Coleman, M.R.C.S., L.D.S.; B. Stevenson, L.D.S. Glasg.

DIARY FOR NEXT WEEK.

WEDNESDAY.

Gynaecological Society of London, 20, Hanover Square, W., 8 p.m.—Specimens: Dr. Lookyer: Carcinoma Uteri secondary to Carcinoma of both Ovaries. Dr. Handfield-Jones and others: Paper: Dr. J. M. Munro Kerr: Certain Details regarding the Operation of Caesarean Section in Cases of Contracted Pelvis, based upon a Series of Thirty Cases.

POST-GRADUATE COURSES AND LECTURES.

Charing Cross Hospital, Thursday, 4 p.m.—Medical Cases.
Medical Graduates' College and Polytechnic, 22, Olden Street, W.C.—The following clinical Demonstrations have been arranged for next week at 4 p.m. each day: Monday, Skin; Tuesday, Medical; Wednesday, Surgical; Thursday, Surgical; Friday, Eyes.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

The charge for inserting announcements of Births, Marriages, and Deaths is 2s. 6d., which sum should be forwarded in post-office orders or stamps with the notice not later than Wednesday morning, in order to ensure insertion in the current issue.

BIRTHS.

BATTERSBY.—On September 22nd, 1904, at South Parade House, Doncaster, the wife of J. H. Battersby, M.D., of a daughter.
GOING.—On September 28th, at Erith, Littlehampton, the wife of R. M. Going, F.R.C.S. Eng., of a daughter.
LEWARN.—On Wednesday, September 21st, at Orleade, Wilts, the wife of Frank Lewarne, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., of a daughter.
MATHEW.—At Port Elizabeth, Cape Colony, on August 30th, 1904, the wife of G. Porter Mathew, M.D. Camb., of a son.

MARRIAGES.

ANDERSON-STEPHENSON.—On September 21st, at Holy Trinity Church, Seghill, Northumberland, by the Rev. C. M. O'bryne, B.A., Vicar of the Parish, James Anderson, M.A., M.B., B.Sc., of Seaton Delaval, to Elizabeth Jane, eldest daughter of John Stephenson, Delaval House, Seaton Delaval.
BERRY-ADAM.—On September 21st, at Bolton, Lancashire, Herbert Martin Berry, M.B., Ch.B. Viet., of Blackwith, St. Helens, to Julia G. Adam, of Horwich, Lancashire.
MARSHALL-BELMONT.—On September 15th, at St. Alban's Church, Teddington, by the Rev. F. L. Boyd, Vicar of Teddington, Charles de Zouche Marshall, M.R.C.S. Eng., L.R.C.P. Lond., of Thorverton, near Exeter, Devon, second son of John J. de Zouche Marshall, L.R.C.S.I., of Teddington (late of Hastings and Lamberhurst, Sussex), to Etel, eldest daughter of F. Hellard, Esq., of Strawberry Hill, Twickenham, Middlesex.

DEATHS.

BRANDT.—On September 19th, at Royal (Puy de Dome), Annie, wife of Dr. G. H. Brandt, after a very short illness.
COUPER.—On September 28th, at Avenmore, Alexandra Road, South Shore, Blackpool, Marion, the beloved daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Sinclair Couper, aged 4 years.
SILVER.—At Walmer House, Abridge, Walsall, on September 22nd (suddenly), George James Silver, M.B., C.M. Aberd.

LETTERS, NOTES, AND ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

COMMUNICATIONS respecting Editorial matters should be addressed to the Editor, 2, Agar Street, Strand, W.C., London; those concerning business matters, advertisements, non-delivery of the JOURNAL, etc., should be addressed to the Manager, at the Office, 420, Strand, W.C., London.

ORIGINAL ARTICLES AND LETTERS forwarded for publication are understood to be offered to the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL alone, unless the contrary be stated.

AUTHORS desiring reprints of their articles published in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL are requested to communicate with the Manager, 420, Strand, W.C., on receipt of proof.

CORRESPONDENTS who wish notice to be taken of their communications should authenticate them with their names—of course not necessarily for publication.

CORRESPONDENTS not answered are requested to look at the Notices to Correspondents of the following week.

MANUSCRIPTS FORWARDED TO THE OFFICE OF THIS JOURNAL CANNOT UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES BE RETURNED.

In order to avoid delay, it is particularly requested that ALL letters on the editorial business of the JOURNAL be addressed to the Editor at the Office of the JOURNAL, and not at his private house.

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS.—The telegraphic address of the EDITOR of the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL is *Asiology, London*. The telegraphic address of the MANAGER of the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL is *Articulate, London*.

TELEPHONE (National).—EDITOR, 2631, Gerrard. GENERAL SECRETARY AND MANAGER, 2630, Gerrard.

Queries, answers, and communications relating to subjects to which special departments of the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL are devoted will be found under their respective headings.

QUERIES.

W. G. would be greatly obliged if any member could indicate a line of treatment likely to prove more satisfactory than usual for leucoderma on the face of a boy of 13.

H. S. asks for information as to the state of general medical practice in Queensland, Australia.

TREATMENT OF ACROMEGALY.

QUARENS writes: I shall be much obliged if any contributor to the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL who has had experience in treating or watching cases of acromegaly will give the opinions and results he formed, or has witnessed as to the value of treatment, and especially as to the tendency to become arrested or even go on to partial recovery.

PERIOD OF ISOLATION AFTER DIPHTHERIA.

E. S. writes: I should like to have your opinion, and that of any fellow practitioner, as to whether the period of isolation in diphtheria remains the same as in the pre-serum treatment days. A case has just occurred which makes this (as it must do to other practitioners) a matter of great importance. A B., a medical practitioner, became infected by a case (subsequently fatal), and the first symptoms appeared on the evening of the 15th. On the 16th, membrane was found on the fauces, and a full dose of serum was administered, and the other usual remedies applied. The case was one of uninterrupted recovery, and on the 20th all throat and other symptoms had disappeared, and by the 25th he was in perfect health, and able to go out in the garden. Now does it not seem absurd that the old rule of at least three weeks' isolation should be enforced? If he is still infectious wherein is he so?

FEES FOR JUDGING AMBULANCE COMPETITIONS.

DR. E. JEPSON (Durham) writes: What should be the remuneration for judging at an ambulance competition—say, six teams are competing, occupying three hours: each item to be marked, and a careful decision arrived at; perhaps a journey of twenty miles to the place of competition, the whole business occupying most of one day? The St. John Ambulance Association, I am told, has suggested £2 ss. and expenses as the proper remuneration, but some of us think that this is not enough.

* The amount suggested—namely, £2 ss. and expenses—seems to be in proportion to the usual remuneration offered by the St. John Ambulance Association for ambulance examinations. It is, however, hardly adequate in this case, considering the time occupied and the responsibility of the work, as a competition differs from an ordinary examination. Three guineas and expenses would seem to be a fair remuneration under the circumstances.

ANSWERS.

S. S.—(1) On hanging up a cloth soaked with lead acetate the latter becomes partly converted into lead subacetate. When the alum is added, decomposition takes place, aluminium hydroxide, aluminium acetate, and lead sulphate being produced. The first is at once deposited on the fibre, the second loses acetic acid and also deposits aluminium hydroxide, whilst the last appears as a white powder on the cloth. The formula of the deposit on the fibre is probably $Al_2(OH)_6$ (or Al_2O_3 after drying); that of the white powder is P_2SO_4 . (2) There is no ground for assuming that glucose, if pure, is unwholesome.

ANTITYPHOID VACCINATION.

DR. SELBY.—(1) The practice of antityphoid vaccination among the troops in India and elsewhere has been suspended pending the result of the investigation into the subject now being made by a special commission. (2) There are no statistics which at present can be considered absolutely satisfactory, but those of Professor Wright himself (BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, January 20th, 1900) may well be consulted. They relate to 11,295 British soldiers, of whom 2,835 were inoculated. The subsequent attack-rate was 0.05 for the inoculated and 2.5 for the uninoculated. Dealing with 250 officers invalided for various causes from South Africa, Colonel Crombie, I.M.S., showed that 27 per cent. of the inoculated had had typhoid, against 51 per cent. of the uninoculated. (3) There is no general consensus of medical opinion either in favour of or against this method of prophylaxis. Some think it quite useless, but among those who have paid special attention to the subject, and who are entirely