

practised in Devonshire. Has supported herself hitherto by teaching and taking lodgers, but health has given way, and a rest is unavoidable. Voted £5 in one sum.

4. Widow, aged 46, of L.S.A., who practised in London. Since husband's death has maintained herself by keeping a small school, but health is now such that continuous work is impossible. Two children, aged 11 and 12. Voted £10, in two instalments, at intervals of six months.

5. Widow, aged 45, of L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S. Edin., who practised in Japan. Is a nurse by occupation, but has been disabled for some months by rheumatic fever. Children barely self-supporting. Voted £12, in twelve monthly instalments.

6. Daughter, aged 56, of late M.D. Lond., who practised in Sussex. Has supported herself for some years by letting rooms and giving painting and drawing lessons, but falling sight makes it most difficult to continue doing so. Voted £6 in six instalments, at intervals of two months.

7. Widow, aged 55, of M.R.C.S. Eng. Quite unprovided for at husband's death. Two children, but neither able to help. Voted £12 in twelve monthly instalments.

8. Daughter, aged 52, of late M.R.C.S. Eng., who practised in Wales. Has endeavoured to maintain herself by letting lodgings and knitting, but is no longer able to do so owing to a recent attack of haematemesis. Voted £12 in twelve monthly instalments.

9. Daughter, aged 51, of late M.R.C.S., who practised in Hampshire. Incapacitated by lateral curvature and general debility, and entirely dependent on friends. Voted £6 in one sum.

10. Widow, aged 63, of M.D. Edin., who practised in Cornwall. Has been obliged to give up a situation owing to a breakdown in health, and is dependent on a daughter earning 35s. a week. Voted £12 in twelve monthly instalments.

11. Deserted wife, aged 37, of L.R.C.P. Edin., M.R.C.S. Eng., who practised in London. Lives with a widowed mother, whose only income is a small annuity, and asks help towards providing an outfit as nurse for only child, a daughter, aged 18. Voted £5 in one sum.

12. Daughter, aged 56, of late M.D. Lond., who practised in Harley Street. Quite unprovided for, and endeavours to maintain herself by a knitting machine, health being too delicate for more active employment. Voted £12 in twelve monthly instalments.

Funds are urgently needed. Subscriptions may be sent to the Treasurer, Dr. Samuel West, 15, Wimpole Street, London, W.; to the Secretary, W. E. Sargent, M.R.C.S., St. Bartholomew's Hospital; to the Collector, Mr. Bethel, 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, W.; or to any local secretary.

THE PLAGUE.

PREVALENCE OF THE DISEASE.

INDIA.

DURING the weeks ending September 9th, 16th, and 23rd the deaths from plague numbered 2,482, 2,871, and 3,192 respectively. The chief mortality has been experienced in the Bombay Presidency, where, of the total deaths from plague, the numbers during the weeks mentioned were 1,745, 2,103, and 2,354 respectively.

In the Madras Presidency the deaths during the same periods amounted respectively to 251, 217 and 227; the Central Provinces, 124, 159 and 320 (including the Berars); in Burmah the numbers were 67, 63 and 68. Inoculation against plague in Bombay city and districts is proceeding most satisfactorily, large numbers of natives coming forward voluntarily to be inoculated.

SOUTH AFRICA.

No fresh cases of plague were discovered in any part of South Africa during the weeks ended September 9th and 16th. Rats and mice were found during the period in question to be infected at Port Elizabeth only.

HONG KONG.

During the week ending October 14th, 2 fresh cases of plague and 2 deaths from the disease were reported. For several weeks Hong Kong had been free of plague.

MAURITIUS.

During the weeks ending September 28th, October 5th and 12th, the fresh cases of plague numbered 21, 19, and 31, and the deaths from the disease 12, 11, and 16 respectively.

RUSSIAN ASIA.

In Transbaikalia, on September 26th, a Reuter telegram announces an outbreak of plague. At Chita, in that province, 20 cases of bubonic plague were reported up to September 26th, of which number 10 had proved fatal. At a Manchurian station 2 cases of plague were also reported.

BEQUESTS.—The late Mr. George Forrester of Norwich, whose will has now been proved, left £100 each to the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital, the Jenny Lind Infirmary for Sick Children, and the Norwich Asylum and School for the Blind; sums of £50 each were left to the Norfolk and Norwich Eye Hospital, the Yarmouth Convalescent Home, and the Lowestoft Convalescent Home.

MEDICAL NEWS.

DR. AUGAGNEUR, Mayor of Lyons, has accepted the post of Governor of Madagascar, vacant by the resignation of General Gallieni.

A NEW Medical Mission hospital was opened last week at Plaistow. It is to be worked in connexion with the Settlement of Women Workers in Canning Town.

DR. W. OWEN EVANS, of Pontardawe, R.S.O., South Wales, has been appointed by the Central Executive Committee of the St. John Ambulance Association one of its examiners.

At a meeting of the Special Committee for the election of members of the honorary staff of the Leeds General Infirmary **Dr. W. H. Maxwell Telling** was appointed an Assistant Physician to the infirmary.

THE Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine announces that it proposes to appoint two qualified medical practitioners to work on trypanosomiasis and spirillosis at the School. The salary to be paid is at the rate of £100 per annum.

STAFF SURGEON GEORGE GIBSON, of H.M.S. *Assistance*, has been awarded the bronze medal of the Royal Humane Society for his gallantry in jumping overboard at sea and saving a seaman who had fallen from the ship.

At a meeting of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain on Tuesday, November 7th, at 8 p.m., **Sir George Watt, C.I.E., M.B.**, will deliver a lecture on shellac, and **Mr. J. C. Umney, F.C.S.**, will contribute a paper on the chemistry and analysis of shellac.

THE November Dinner of the Aberdeen University Club, London, will be held at the Trocadero Restaurant, Shaftesbury Avenue, W., on Wednesday, November 15th, at 7 p.m., **Dr. James Galloway** will be in the chair. Members desiring to be present should communicate with the Honorary Secretary, **Dr. R. J. Collie**, 25, Porchester Terrace, Hyde Park, W., before November 11th.

CONGRESS OF CRIMINAL ANTHROPOLOGY.—The sixth Italian Congress of Criminal Anthropology will be held at Turin in 1906, the opening meeting being fixed for April 26th. There will be an exhibition in connexion with the Congress. Advantage of the occasion will be taken by the friends and admirers of Professor Lombroso to organize a public manifestation in his honour. A Committee has been appointed for the purpose, of which Professor Pagliani, President of the Medical Faculty of the University of Turin, is chairman.

GUILD OF ST. LUKE.—The annual medical service at St. Paul's Cathedral took place on the evening of Thursday, October 19th. A goodly number of members of the medical profession, some of whom were women, attended in their academical robes and walked in procession to their seats under the dome. Among those present were **Dr. S. Russell Wells** (Provost of the Guild), **Surgeon-Colonel F. H. Welch** (Vice-Provost), and **Dr. E. Symes-Thompson** (Past Provost). **Mr. J. Brindley James** (Registrar of the Guild) read the first lesson and **Mr. Andrew Clark** the second lesson. Canon **Childs Clark** intoned the service, and the choral portion, which was of a high order throughout, was rendered by the special choir of the London Church Choir Association, under the direction of **Dr. H. Walford Davies**, organist of the Temple Church and honorary conductor to the Association. The anthem was "Thou wilt keep Them in Perfect Peace" (S. S. Wesley). An impressive sermon was preached by the **Rev. A. C. Headlam, D.D., M.A.**, Principal of King's College, London, from the text "Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done" (St. Matt. vi. 10), in which he pointed out that the physician was the instrument of God. Referring to what is called Christian Science he emphatically denied that in sickness prayer could be successful without the added skill of the physician. While spiritual help was essential, nature demanded physical aid as well. The collection, after deduction for expenses, was devoted to the College Fund of that Guild, which has done much in the cause of medical mission work. The Guild, we may add, sends out voluntary missionaries, and assists medical missions with grants of money and supplies. One of its great difficulties has been to find men to undertake foreign work, and in order to supply the pressing need for foreign missionaries the Guild has fitted up a residential college for candidates. In carrying out this scheme, however, it has incurred considerable expenditure, and appeals for financial aid.

future their means of living by it. The number of the wealthy class is limited, and it is in the direction of the man of moderate means that the great increase in the trade must take place, and for it to do so in this direction he must be assured of a reliable article that he can use at a moderate cost; and no Government can justify its action in doing anything to stifle this by increasing already sufficiently heavy burdens.

The cost to me of running a $6\frac{1}{2}$ -horse power car since January last over a distance of 2,500 miles and more has been: Petrol, £3 10s. 8d.; grease and oil, 13s. 6d.; repairs, £2 5s.; new inner tube, £1 3s. 10d.; accumulator recharged, 7s. To this must, of course, be added taxes and insurance, but they have still some months to run, and, like every one else, I have bought several things not necessary; but the sum total is but a few pounds more than I have mentioned. I had much worry in having the grease thrown out of my change-gear case; the advice I got was to use thicker grease and put on screw caps to seal the bearings. I discovered for myself that I only required thick oil; this remains in, while grease is thrown out.

If possible the foot brake should never be used, as it will wear the bearings where it is worked on a drum attached to the shaft from the change gear case. It was these bearings I had to have renewed. They had previously worn rapidly, but I have run over 1,000 miles since having them renewed, and at present no wear seems to have taken place. I keep the pedal brake for emergencies. My tyres look little the worse for wear. I throw out the clutch always downhill and thus save the tyres, and always start and stop as gently as possible. As soon as I find a cut I fill with tyre cement; a piece cut out is filled up with "grippa." On one occasion only a piece was cut out down to the canvas and I vulcanized a fresh piece in. My car always stands on a wooden platform with wheels so that it can be moved about if necessary.

I should advise driving on the throttle and with as little gas as the engine will run smoothly with; set the ignition in the most favourable position and move it as seldom as possible, and this will be for hills. Use as little oil for the engine as possible for it to run well and cool; too much oil makes a nasty smell and, worse, will probably form a coat on the inside of the combustion chamber, and this being always red-hot will overheat the engine. My car has a honeycomb radiator, and I can always bear my face to touch it.

I had a glass screen fitted at an inclined angle so that the top of the screen comes just over my head; this is a great protection from wind and rain, and does not obstruct the car as an upright screen would; I have also fitted some iron bars, so that if rain comes on I can put a canopy over it. I do not think my screen in a high wind causes as much obstruction as two people sitting in the car present. It has been patented by the carpenter who made it for me to my design, and I am surprised it has not been brought forward by motor-car makers in the past, for when one sees how much even high-powered cars with screens and tops are held by a strong wind, it seems only common sense to place a screen so as to allow the wind to play along it instead of directly into it. A screen of this kind would, I feel sure, be a great boon on all cars, but to a country doctor with a small car it is essential if he values the greatly added comfort. Mine is made with ordinary window glass and at a cost of but a few shillings.

Above everything else, never take your car out without first having greased and oiled it all round. This I do, no matter how short my previous journey may have been.—I am, etc.,

Fulbourn, Oct. 17th.

F. L. NICHOLLS.

UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES.

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD.

Degree of D.M.—In a congregation held on Saturday, October 21st, the following degree was conferred:—Doctor of Medicine: Richard Warren, New College.

Examinations for the Degree of B.M.—The examinations for the degrees of B.M., B.Ch., will commence in the Examination Schools on Thursday, December 7th. Names, accompanied in each case by the required certificates, must be sent in to the Secretary to the Boards of Faculties, Clarendon Buildings, not later than 10.30 a.m., on Tuesday, November 21st.

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE.

MR. A. M. SHEILD of St. George's Hospital has been appointed an Examiner in Surgery for the Third M.B., Part II.

The number of students who have matriculated this October amounts to 1,008, a considerable increase as compared with October, 1904, when the number was 884.

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH.

Rectorial Election.

A LORD RECTOR will be elected next month. As usual, the candidates have been selected on political lines. They are the President of the Court of Session (Lord Dunedin) and the Right Hon. R. B. Haldane, M.P., K.C.

Vans Dunlop Scholarship.

The Senatus Academicus have awarded the Vans Dunlop Scholarship in Botany and Zoology, of £100 a year, tenable for three years, to Mr. George Arthur Ewart.

ROYAL UNIVERSITY OF IRELAND.

THE following candidates have been approved at the examinations indicated:

First Examination.—F. J. Ball, *W. Boyd, J. T. Brady, J. Byrne, *J. Cullen, A. J. Dempsey, J. J. Dennehy, *M. G. Devine, E. C. Fawcett, H. A. Gillespie, Blanche G. C. Griffin, W. Hamilton, J. J. Hanratty, Helen A. E. Hegarty, J. F. Hill, *J. L. Jackson, P. J. Lydon, B.A., *J. M. McCloy, A. L. McCreery, P. McGinnis, E. M. Macilwaine, S. K. McKee, W. Magner, *T. P. Maguire, H. D. Manderson, E. W. Mann, A. F. M. Mullane, *B. F. M. Neary, M. J. O'Connor, J. O'Flynn, *E. J. O'Kelly, *M. G. O'Malley, *W. R. M. Orr, *D. A. Rice, *T. G. Rothwell, T. W. Rutledge, W. J. Smyth, *W. W. D. Thomson, H. W. White, D. V. S. Willis.

* Entitled to try for honours in one subject.

† Entitled to try for honours in all subjects (Botany, Zoology, Chemistry, and Physics).

Second Examination (Upper Pass).—D. S. Clarke, B.A., M. P. Fitzgerald, A. Kidd, K. F. Mulligan, J. A. Sinton, T. Taylor.

* Entitled to present themselves for honours.

Pass.—C. Alexander, W. Browne, T. P. Carroll, J. K. P. Clarke, A. J. W. Compton, B.A., G. Deery, E. P. Dewar, E. Doherty, J. E. English, J. Ferguson, B.A., E. Forbes, P. Keelan, J. C. Macaulay, W. C. McCullough, T. C. McGowan, M. J. McGrath, R. A. McLaverty, F. I. MacMahon, H. H. MacWilliam, U. J. G. Mulligan, P. O'Callaghan, J. P. J. O'Connor, P. C. O'Donnell, S. P. Rea, R. A. Smith, A. L. Stevenson, G. J. W. Tierney, V. Wiley.

Third Examination (Upper Pass).—R. N. Berman, J. D. Cummins, R. G. Kevin, J. B. Lapsley, J. F. Neary, J. F. Neary, J. A. Shorten.

Pass.—S. Acheson, J. W. Belrne, J. H. P. Boyd-Barrett, E. B. Brooke, Mary Cowley, B.A.; R. Cox, B.A.; J. Dooley, P. Ferris, J. J. Flood, Jane M. Fulton, P. J. Grogan, C. E. L. Harding, J. B. Horgan, A. H. Joy, F. Keane, J. J. Kearney, R. R. Kerivan, T. P. Linehan, J. S. McCombe, A. P. MacMahon, G. H. Martin, C. Murphy, E. O'Reilly, C. J. X. O'Sullivan, J. J. Shell, A. L. Stevenson.

Final M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O. (Upper Pass).—F. Costes, B.A., A. G. Cummings, J. S. Dickey, J. Donnelly, R. W. Harper, W. Irwin, B.A., R. S. Kennedy, J. Macarthur, C. G. Robb, P. Steen, H. C. Watson.

Pass.—J. A. Beamish, H. W. Carson, J. Devane, J. Flack, D. H. C. Given, W. R. Hayden, R. L. Keown, A. Leitch, J. McCloskey, E. M. O'Neill, T. M. Phillips, S. B. Walsh, B.A.

M.D.—W. J. Bannister, S. H. Blakely, T. H. Delany, S. R. Hunter, F. E. McCune, A. Moss.

VICTORIA UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER.

FACULTY OF MEDICINE.

THE following candidates were approved at the September First Examination, Part I:

Estelle I. E. Atkinson, S. J. Clegg, J. F. Cocker, D. I. Connolly, C. Davies, T. A. Jordan, G. E. E. Nicholls, B. W. E. Trevor-Roper.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF IRELAND.

At the monthly business meeting, held on Friday, October 6th, the President admitted Edward Collett Hart, L.S.A. 1896, to the Licence in Medicine; and Patrick Daniel Sullivan, to the Licences in Medicine and Midwifery.

At the stated annual meeting of the President and Fellows of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland held on St. Luke's Day, October 18th, the following were elected for the coming year:—

President.—Sir William J. Smyly, M.D.

Vice-President.—Dr. E. E. Lennon.

Censors.—Dr. E. E. Lennon, Dr. A. R. Parsons, Dr. [J. H. R. Glenn, Dr. W. R. Dawson.

Additional Examiners to Take the Place of an Absent Censor or Examiner.—*Medicine:* Dr. W. J. Thompson. *Medical Jurisprudence and Hygiene:* Dr. A. N. Montgomery. *Midwifery:* Dr. T. Henry Wilson.

Examiners for the Licence to Practise Midwifery.—Dr. A. J. Horne and Dr. Henry Jellett.

Additional Examiners under the Conjoint Examination Scheme.—*Biology:* Dr. E. MacDowel Cosgrave. *Chemistry:* Professor E. Lapper and Dr. N. Falkiner. *Physics:* Dr. W. A. Winter and Dr. G. J. Peacocke. *Pharmacy, Materia Medica, and Therapeutics:* Dr. H. C. Drury and Dr. M. J. Dempsey. *Physiology:* Dr. H. C. Earl. *Pathology:* Dr. A. C. O'Sullivan. *Medicine:* Dr. J. Murphy and Dr. R. Travers Smith. *Hygiene and Forensic Medicine:* Dr. H. T. Bewley.

Examiners for the Conjoint Diploma in Public Health.—*Hygiene:* Dr. H. T. Bewley. *Chemistry:* Professor E. Lapper. *Metereology:* Dr. W. A. Winter.

Extern Examiners in Preliminary Education.—Mr. E. H. Alton, F.T.C.D.; Mr. R. A. P. Rogers, F.T.C.D.; and the Rev. Professor Murphy, M.A.

Representative on the General Medical Council.—Sir John Moore.

Representatives on the Committee of Management.—Dr. Walter G. Smith, Sir John Moore, M.D.; and Dr. James Craig.

Treasurer: Dr. H. T. Bewley. *Registrar:* Dr. James Craig. *Librarian:* Mr. R. G. J. Phelps. *Architect:* Mr. A. E. Murray, C.E. *Law Agents:* Messrs. Stephen, Gordon, and Son. *Agent to the Trust Estate:* Mr. C. U. Townshend, J.P.

CONJOINT BOARD IN IRELAND.

THE following candidates have been approved at the Examination indicated:

First Professional Examination, Autumn, 1905.—E. A. Gregg (with honours), F. J. Colgan, C. P. Corbett, F. M. Costello, P. A. Doyle, T. Duncan, J. M. Gage, H. Gray, J. T. Heffernan, J. Marmion, Miss H. MacFadden, J. T. O'Boyle, J. J. O'Connor, R. O'Connor, T. P. O'Leary, B. O'Reilly, W. P. H. Parker, W. Kahilly, C. W. K. Seaver, P. T. Warren.

Final Examination, July, 1905.—P. D. Sullivan.

D.P.H.—J. F. Stewart, M.B.

Second Professional Examination.—A. Curry, C. Daniell, E. Evans, P. Ferguson, J. Gaffney, P. Harrington, M. J. Hawkshaw, D. J. Hurley, H. Kay, T. J. Lyons, P. Maguire, K. A. P. R. Murray, P. V. O'Hagan, E. Ryan, B. Wallace, A. H. T. Warnock, J. P. Zeederberg.

The following candidates were approved at the autumn Third Professional Examination:

S. Blake, H. Burbidge, C. M. Burton, G. H. Caldwell, H. C. Carden, P. J. Cusack, J. D. Alton, P. G. M. Elvery, E. H. F. Gilligan, J. B. Hanafin, R. B. Herrick, E. M. Loughnan, F. J. Morris, J. Molyneux, P. J. Murray, C. F. Murphy, D. McCormack, J. M. O'Connell, W. R. O'Farrell, H. J. Raverty, T. Sheehy, and R. Stephens.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF EDINBURGH.

The following gentlemen, having passed the requisite examinations, were admitted Diplomates in Public Health:

H. S. Ballantyne, M.B., C.M.; L. F. Bianchi, M.R.C.P.E.; J. Jardine, M.B., Ch.B.; P. A. Harry, M.B., Ch.B.; R. C. Monnington, M.B., Ch.B.; F. L. Keisler, L.R.C.P. and S.E.; K. A. Moody-Stuart, M.B., Ch.B.; R. A. L. van Someren, M.B., Ch.B.; M. E. Sufi, L.R.C.P. and S.E.; J. W. Sutton, L.R.C.P. and S.E.; D. L. Williams, F.R.C.S.E.; R. A. Cunningham, M.B., Ch.B.; A. J. MacGregor, M.D.; and G. Wight, M.B., Ch.B.

At the same sederunt the following passed the First Examination in Public Health:

W. H. Simpson, M.B., Ch.B.; D. R. Dobie, M.D.; J. D. Munsiff, L.R.C.P. and S.E.; and F. E. Larkins, M.B., Ch.B.

The following gentlemen, having passed the requisite examinations, were admitted Fellows on October 18th:

E. N. Burnett, P. S. Clarke, H. Clifford, I. Dawson, E. Down, H. N. Fletcher, T. A. Green, R. J. E. Hanson, C. W. Hart, E. J. Hynes, W. Kelly, G. Lyon, P. F. McFarlan, T. Myles, L. T. Price, T. W. E. Ross, T. W. Scott, H. N. A. Taylor, B. P. Watson, E. C. Williams, and T. J. Wright.

ELECTION OF PRESIDENT.

Charles Watson MacGillivray, M.D., F.R.C.S.E., has been elected President of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, in room of Sir Patrick Heron Watson, whose term of office has come to an end. Dr. MacGillivray is a nephew of Sir Patrick.

SOCIETY OF APOTHECARIES OF LONDON.

The following candidates have been approved in the subjects indicated:

Surgery.—*†F. C. H. Powell, *†E. W. T. Watts, *†P. C. West.

Medicine.—†G. N. Biggs, *W. G. H. Cable, *†M. O. Dollie, *†P. L. Vawdrey.

Midwifery.—R. C. T. Evans, F. J. Macphail, J. L. Meynell, F. B. O'Dowd, C. S. Spencer, J. M. Wilson.

The diploma of the Society was granted to Messrs. G. N. Biggs, P. L. Vawdrey, E. W. T. Watts, P. C. West, and J. M. Wilson.

* Section I. † Section II.

ERRATUM.—The name of Mr. F. W. Goyder, of St. John's College, upon whom the degree of M.B. was conferred at Cambridge on October 12th, is as now printed, and not as published in the *BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL* of October 22nd.

MEDICO-LEGAL AND MEDICO-ETHICAL.

THE DUTIES OF A SUBSTITUTE.

CREDULITY writes that a patient who met with an accident to her finger, on finding that he was not at home, went to Dr. B., and told him that she was one of our correspondent's patients, but as he was not at home she had come to him. Our correspondent asks whether B. should take charge of the patient and treat the injury to the end, or should send her back with a letter explaining the circumstances and the treatment he had used?

*† Unquestionably the latter course is the right one, supposing all the circumstances to have been correctly stated, and that the patient did not wish B. to continue to treat the case to the end. A practitioner who sees a case as a substitute for a colleague during his illness or absence from home should scrupulously regard himself merely as taking his place, and should refuse to become the regular medical attendant of any patient so fortuitously introduced to him. If the patient insists upon the treatment so begun being completed, he should explain that he considers himself as acting throughout as a substitute for his colleague, to whom he should send a note of his attendances. The regular medical attendant may, of course, if he likes, waive any claim to the fees thus earned, but it is better that he should collect them and pay his substitute.

RELATIONS WITH CHEMISTS.

"FEMUR" says he is anxious to open a branch surgery in a poor neighbourhood, and has made arrangements with a chemist to do his dispensing, but is unable to find any suitable premises in the district except a room behind the chemist's shop. He wishes to know whether he may put up a plate on the chemist's premises without infringing any rule or regulation of the General Medical Council or the Edinburgh College of Physicians, of which he is a member.

*† The proposed arrangement is certainly not one which can be considered desirable, and may give rise to complaint on the part of other practitioners in the neighbourhood. We know of no pronouncement of the General Medical Council, or of any of the corporations, forbidding such an arrangement.

CONTRACTS NOT TO PRACTISE.

"DUNELM" asks whether a condition in a bond required of an assistant not to practise in that neighbourhood for ten years is unfair, and whether four years would not be more in accordance with custom.

*† The term of four years in a bond is usually quite sufficient to protect a principal from unscrupulous action on the part of an assistant, but if a longer period is insisted on, it can hardly be considered unfair.

PROFESSIONAL CRUXES.

I. CAER BRITO writes that, as medical attendant (paid entirely by the firm) to the employees of a large firm, he discovered that an employee, aged 15, was pregnant. He declined to inform her foreman of his opinion, but sent for the patient's mother, and told her what he believed to be her daughter's condition; then, with the mother's consent and in her presence, questioned the patient. She made a statement incriminating her brother, aged 17, and his subsequent conduct seemed to confirm the girl's statement. He asks: (1) Does the fact that the firm, and not the employee, pay the medical attendant give them any right to information in such cases?

*† Our answer is, Certainly not. It is the patient's secret, which her medical attendant has no right to reveal without her consent, unless compelled to do so in a court of justice.

(2) Was the course adopted the correct one?

*† Quite; the patient being a minor and having a mother, all responsibility for further action being taken was thus thrown upon her natural guardian.

(3) Is it incumbent upon the medical man in such cases to inform the police?

*† By no means; he is not bound to act as a private detective, and the fact that the parents in this case tried to shelter their son and daughter, and the police only obtained information from the Board of Guardians, who subsequently took charge of the patient, does not in the least alter our opinion.

II. Our correspondent was called in early one morning to see a young man, a complete stranger, who had a bullet in his brain. The surgeon who subsequently saw him with "Caer Brito" agreed that it was no part of their duty to inform the police, thereby exposing the patient to harassing legal inquiries. After the operation the patient informed them that the wound was self-inflicted, but the medical men suspected at the time that this might be untrue, and that he was endeavouring to shelter another person. They advised the father of the patient to consult a solicitor, and he thought no useful purpose could be served by informing the police; so the matter dropped.

*† We are of opinion that in this case also the correct course was taken.

III. An aged medical man, stranded in a large city, is approached by a medical electrician, claiming to be an M.D. of New York, who has recently opened an institute in that city, with a view to his becoming his assistant to diagnose his cases. Does the medical man lay himself open to the charge of "covering" or of "infamous conduct in a professional respect" if he accepts the medical electrician's offer?

*† Undoubtedly he does; and it makes no difference whether the electrician advertises himself by laudatory puffs in the local papers, or by the distribution of handbills or pamphlets, so far as the question of "covering" is concerned, which in itself constitutes "infamous conduct," and renders him liable to be struck off the Register.

MEDICAL ETIQUETTE AT POLICE STATIONS.

ETIQUETTE writes: (1) A man is arrested for drunkenness on licensed premises and taken to police station. A., a medical man, is asked to see him, and does so. After examination A. gives a certificate stating, "Suffering from effects of alcohol." The police are not satisfied with this, so send for B., another medical man, who gives a certificate "Drunk and incapable." Is it professional etiquette for B. to give this certificate or any certificate, having seen A.'s certificate, without consulting A.? (2) A man is arrested for drunkenness and taken to a police station. After being charged he demands a doctor, and pays him his fee for an opinion which happens to be unfavourable—namely, "Drunk." The man not being satisfied, asks for another doctor, who comes an hour afterwards, and although he sees the first doctor's certificate, pronounces him sober. Was the second doctor acting professionally without consultation with the first doctor?

*† (1) The police recognize only two conditions, "drunk" or "sober," and police work could not be carried on if consultations were to be insisted on. (2) This second case illustrates what we have said above as to the difficulty of holding consultations in police stations. The prisoner would certainly have refused to pay a fee to the doctor who had pronounced him drunk.

NOISE.

A RECENT appeal case decided by the Supreme Court of Massachusetts was quoted on p. 1063 of the *BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL*. From time to time applications are made to the English High Court for injunctions to restrain noisy people who, by the persistent and unnecessary disturbance they create, become an intolerable nuisance and annoyance to their quiet-loving neighbours who, personally, may have remonstrated in vain. It is to be expected that medical practitioners would be among those who need the assistance of the law in this particular. There are two pertinent decisions given in recent years, both in favour of the medical applicants, who in each case had been unable, after reasonable requests, to secure the silence necessary for successful auscultation. In 1900 Mr. Justice Farwell, in *Conry v. Fox*, forbade a fried-fish vendor to advertise his wares by excessive shouting; it has lately been held, however, that the smell arising from the exercise of this trade is not a common-law nuisance. The other case—*Sturges v. Bridgman*—was one in which a medical man objected to the continual noise made by a neighbouring confectioner who used a pestle and mortar for trade purposes.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL MAURICE HENRY SMITH, late Indian Medical Service, died on October 12th, aged 55. He was the only son of the late Henry Spencer Smith, F.R.C.S., and entered the Madras Medical Department as Assistant Surgeon, March 31st, 1876, becoming Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel, March 31st, 1896, in which year he retired from the service. He was with the Burmese expedition in 1885-7 (medal with clasp), and with the Chin-Lushai expedition in 1889-90 (clasp).

DEATHS IN THE PROFESSION ABROAD.—Among the members of the medical profession in foreign countries who have recently died are Dr. Emil Burckhardt, Extraordinary Professor of Surgery in the University of Basel, one of the leading surgeons of Switzerland, aged 52; Dr. Akos Puky, Surgeon-in-Chief to the Red Cross Hospital at Buda-Pesth, and Lecturer on Surgery in the University; Dr. Hess, of Mainz, well known as an ophthalmologist, and for many years Secretary of the German Ophthalmological Society, aged 74; Dr. Bayol, Representative of the Bouches-du-Rhône Department in the French Senate; Dr. Gregorio N. Chaves, Professor of Clinical Medicine in the Faculty of Buenos Aires; Dr. A. Cochez, Professor of Clinical Medicine in the Medical School of Algiers; Dr. S. Kostine, Lecturer on Physiology in the Medical Faculty of Odessa; and Dr. Henry Dorwin Didama, for many years Dean of the School of Medicine of Syracuse University, and a founder of the New York State Medical Association, aged 82.

PUBLIC HEALTH

AND

POOR-LAW MEDICAL SERVICES.

CARE AND CONTROL OF IDIOTS AND EPILEPTICS.

THE Royal Commission on the Care and Control of the Feeble-minded has resumed its meetings, although five of its members are absent on a tour of inquiry in America. The first sitting after the summer interlude was held on October 13th, when evidence was received from Dr. Francis Warner, Physician to the London Hospital; Dr. Robert Hutchinson, Assistant Physician to the same institution; Dr. W. Bevan Lewis, Medical Director of the West Riding Asylum; and Alderman J. Wycliffe Wilson, of Sheffield.

Dr. WARNER, in allusion to the treatment of feeble-minded children, said that play, games, general activity, and the prevention of leading encouraged spontaneity and variety in movement, and tended also to remove the awkward habits or repetitive "automatic actions" which were frequent among children. Imitation of the teacher's movements was most useful in early training. He believed that it was far more educative than clay modelling, drawing, and other child occupations, but it could only be practised by the child for a few minutes at a time. Exercises in hand and finger movements cultivated the faculty for mental action, appreciation of numbers, and also writing, as well as useful manipulation. All children needed training in speech. Inheritance of tendency to decadence, epilepsy, insanity might lead to defectiveness; on the other hand, a degenerate parent might have a normal child. It was not infrequently found that genius, social success, and mental degeneracy were present in members of the same family.

Dr. ROBERT HUTCHINSON discussed the causation of mental deficiency. From the study of upwards of 100 cases seen in hospital out-patient practice, he had come to the conclusion that we know nothing as to the cause of mental defect. He had not found that any of the commonly-alleged causes such as insanity in the parents or relatives, parental alcoholism, tuberculosis, syphilis, or consanguinity, were found more frequently in the family history of mentally defective children than in that of others. In the majority of cases only one child in the family was affected, the others being quite up to and often above the average of mental ability. Nor did the conditions of town life appear to play any part, for he had seen many cases born of healthy country-bred parents, and living under very good surroundings. Mongolism was the only common variety of mental deficiency of which one could speak definitely as to the conditions which favoured its appearance. It tended to occur in children born at the end of large families, or whose mothers were towards the end of the child-bearing period. As regards the great majority of cases of mental deficiency, however, he had come to the conclusion that they occurred, so to speak, purely accidentally, and might be compared to such congenital defects as hare-lip or congenital club-foot. Mental deficiency must be clearly distinguished from insanity: the latter tended to run in families, the former did not. Nor did he believe that there was any real basis for the popular belief that mentally-defective individuals, if they married would of necessity be more likely to have defective offspring than normal persons. He did not believe that there was any evidence in support of this view; it was indeed under the impression that some statistics collected at the Bicêtre Hospital in Paris tended directly to contradict it. He believed that any attempt to prevent the occurrence of mental defect in a certain percentage of children born was impracticable such deficiency must be looked upon as one of the unfavourable variations which were bound to occur from time to time, and which must be dealt with accordingly.

Dr. W. BEVAN LEWIS considered that special classes should be provided for all feeble-minded children as they were unfit to make headway in the ordinary elementary schools; and they should, at the same time, be constantly so graded and regraded, as to ensure the utmost benefit that could ensue from the system of schooling and training adopted. The intermixture of certain groups of the mentally-afflicted was absolutely inimical to their best interests and prejudicial to an intelligent treat-

ment of individual ailments. The value of segregation and differentiation was steadily kept in view at his asylum. Alderman WILSON thought some power of detention was imperatively necessary in order to deal with the feeble-minded effectively.

ROYAL NAVY AND ARMY MEDICAL SERVICES.

DENTISTRY IN THE ARMY.

ONE WHO KNOWS writes: It may be of interest to your correspondent, "Thorough," to know that his statement, "For our soldiers and sailors serving abroad nothing whatever is done," is misleading and erroneous," for I know that the senior medical officer at Standerton, South Africa, equipped a dental surgery at his station with everything to make it complete, including chair, dental engine, fillings, etc. Further, he had a dental surgeon appointed as honorary dental surgeon to the troops, arranged to have a visit each month, which was previously notified in garrison orders. All non-commissioned officers and men, with the women and children on the strength, had extractions and fillings done free, and dentures at contract rates, officers and others on payment. This system has worked during the last two years with most satisfactory results. At Pretoria and other stations dental surgeons fit soldiers with dentures, etc., at contract rates; so it would be better before "Thorough" writes again that he makes himself certain of all the facts at issue.

SALARIES OF I.M.S. OFFICERS IN THE GAOL DEPARTMENT.

A RESOLUTION of the Government of India in the Home Department, dated Simla, October 6th, is published regarding the pay of appointments in the Gaol Department held by officers of the Indian Medical Service. It states that the Government of India have now received the final orders of the Secretary of State on this subject, and are pleased to notify that the following scale of consolidated pay has been sanctioned:

Inspectors-General of Prisons.—Madras and Bombay, 1,800-50-2,000 rupees each; Bengal, 2,000 rupees; United Provinces, 1,800-50-2,000 rupees; Punjab, 1,800 rupees; Burma, 1,800 rupees; Central Provinces and Berar, 1,500 rupees.

Superintendents of Central Gaols (first and second class).—Lieutenant-Colonels (specially selected for increased pay), 1,550 and 1,450 rupees; Lieutenant-Colonels, after twenty-five years' service, 1,450 and 1,350 rupees; Lieutenant-Colonels, 1,400 and 1,300 rupees; Majors, after three years' service, 1,050 and 950 rupees; Majors, 950 and 850 rupees; Captains, after ten years' service, 850 and 750 rupees; Captains, after seven years' service, 800 and 700 rupees; Captains, after five years' service, 750 and 650 rupees; Captains, 700 and 600 rupees; Lieutenants, 650 and 550 rupees.

The Secretary of State has further decided: (1) That the scale will take effect from April 1st, 1904; (2) that officers already in the department may choose between the existing and the new scale, also with retrospective effect; and (3) that when the present pay of officers choosing the new scale is in excess of that therein laid down they may continue to draw their present salary until they become entitled to an increase under the new scale.

LONDON COMPANIES R.A.M.C. (VOL.).

ON Sunday morning last, in accordance with their annual custom, the London companies of the Royal Army Medical Corps Volunteers attended divine service at the Church of St. Bartholomew the Great, Smithfield. Having mustered at head quarters in Calthorpe Street, the corps marched to the church, accompanied by the inspiring strains of their band. The service was conducted and the sermon preached by the Rev. Sir Borradale Savory, Acting Chaplain V.M.S.O., and Honorary Chaplain to the corps. The musical part of the service was beautifully rendered by the choir, the men joining heartily in the singing. The Principal Medical Officer, London District, was present at the service, and afterwards inspected the corps at head quarters, expressing his satisfaction at the smartness of the corps, and distributing medals to those members who had earned them.

HOSPITAL AND DISPENSARY MANAGEMENT.

ROXBURGH, BERWICK AND SELKIRK DISTRICT ASYLUM.

Overcrowding.

At this asylum there has been for many years a serious condition of overcrowding, which has, in the twelve months covered by the report of the Medical Superintendent, Dr. J. Carlyle Johnstone, been followed by the exceptionally high mortality and prevalence of pulmonary consumption generally ensuing from this condition. The many ill effects of overcrowding have been so often emphasized in these columns