

MEMORANDA:

MEDICAL, SURGICAL, OBSTETRICAL,
THERAPEUTICAL, PATHOLOGICAL, ETC.TREATMENT OF PAPILLARY EROSION OF THE
CERVIX.

THE treatment of papillary erosions of the cervix by applications of carbolic acid, pyroligneous acid, sulphate of copper solutions, etc., has proved very disappointing in my hands, and no doubt I am not singular in this experience. For this reason I venture to direct attention to the good results I have obtained when treating this condition by swabbing the eroded cervix with saturated solution of picric acid in methylated spirit.

The application should be made two or three times a week, and the swab should not remain in contact with the cervix for more than two or three minutes. The well-known cornifying effect on epithelium of both picric acid and methylated spirit first suggested to me their use in erosions.

I may also point out that red buttocks seen in infants who are suffering from green diarrhoea are greatly benefited by applications of this solution. It should be applied to the raw surfaces three times daily for the space of one or two minutes, and then the parts should be covered with dry absorbent cotton.

E. HASTINGS TWEEDY,
Master, Rotunda Hospital, Dublin.

TREATMENT OF UTERINE HAEMORRHAGE.

RECENTLY I was called to a case of severe haemorrhage after complete abortion in a multipara, who said she always lost great quantities of blood after her labours. I plugged the vagina, and gave ergot, but bleeding recurred about seven hours after the plug had been removed. I then placed her on her back, with the pelvis raised on two pillows; it was a firm flat bed, not a sagging wire mattress. The bleeding, which had been free, ceased immediately, and she had no discomfort from this position, although I kept her in it for twenty-four hours. I continued the ergot in more frequent doses, but I attribute the cessation of the haemorrhage to the elevation of the uterus.

Accock's Green.

H. L. DONOVAN, M.D.

VARICELLA GANGRENOSEA.

SEVERE cases of chicken-pox are so rare that the following account of one in which local gangrene occurred may be of interest:

I was called to see the five-months-old daughter of a sergeant in this garrison on June 14th, and found the child in a somewhat critical condition. Her temperature was 104°, and she was covered with an eruption presenting all the characteristics of varicella except that about a dozen spots were of exceptionally large size. The child had been quite well from birth until about two days previously, when she became feverish and developed a rash.

A few cases of chicken-pox had previously occurred in the station, and four other children in the same family had been suffering from "little blisters on the skin," which, as they had caused very little inconvenience, the mother had attributed to the hot weather.

At my next visit I found several of the vesicles had increased considerably in size, while the constitutional symptoms continued to be severe. During the following three days the larger pocks became purulent, and a dusky red areola formed round them. Finally they developed into brownish scabs covering a circular ulcer, with sharply-cut edges and a sloughy, indolent base.

The pyrexia continued to be considerable, and on the seventh day of the illness the child developed an abscess in the anterior portion of the right axilla, which was apparently the result of streptococcal invasion of the lymphatics from a large pock in the anterior axillary line. The abscess was incised and healed slowly, but two or three of the ulcers which formed on the sites of the larger pocks were very intractable to treatment. There were, however, no further complications, and the child has now quite recovered, with some half-dozen very large pock-marks, which fortunately, owing to the predilection of varicella for covered parts and the hairy scalp, are in places where they will not disfigure her.

Since this case I have had two others in which the disease ran an unusually severe course, and in which, notwithstanding Osler's dictum that "the fever in varicella is slight," pyrexia was a marked symptom, but neither case was at all comparable with the foregoing in the amount of local gangrene or general constitutional disturbance. In one of these cases, however, the irritation produced by the rash was so intense that it kept the patient—a candidate for the Royal Military Academy—awake for two nights, so that a hypnotic had to be administered and various soothing lotions, of which the most successful was a combination of liquor picis carbonis and linimentum calcis, were required.

ROBERT J. BLACKHAM, D.P.H. Lond.,
Captain, R.A.M.C., Bullford Camp, Salisbury.

REMARKABLE CASE OF FRACTURE OF THE FEMUR
AND ULNA.

P. K., a bootmaker, aged 76 years, had been very healthy all his life until three months ago, when he suffered from rheumatism in his hip; also sciatica. The acute pains improved under treatment, but a great deal of stiffness remained in the right hip-joint.

On February 5th he got out of bed to relieve his bladder, and in order to get into bed again he sat on the edge of the bed and his wife gently lifted his feet in order to help him. As she raised his feet and legs a crack was heard, and a lump formed in the leg above the knee. They sent for me, and on examination I found an oblique fracture of the right femur at the junction of the upper and middle thirds of bone. I fixed the femur with four splints and extension for a fortnight, allowing the patient an upright position, and much to my surprise redundant callus was formed and union took place. I then fixed him in plaster-of-paris and allowed him to turn on his side.

On August 1st he was dosing asleep and another crack was heard in his left arm, and when I saw him I found a fracture of the left ulna near the elbow-joint. Fourteen hours after the second fracture he became collapsed, and died the following day.

W. T. MILLS, L.R.C.P. and S.I.,
Medical Officer, Rhode Dispensary, King's County.

PROLAPSE OF THE FUNIS.

On the afternoon of August 19th I was called to attend Mrs. P. in her second confinement. The membranes had ruptured about half an hour previously. On making an examination I found the presentation normal, but about 4 in. of the cord prolapsed, and although I endeavoured to push it up again I was not successful in doing so, and the labour at that time not being sufficiently advanced, I was also unable to use the forceps.

I therefore explained the state of affairs both to the patient and her husband, adding that it was very unlikely that the child would be born alive. In the meantime, not detecting any apparent pulsation in the cord after further examination, and the labour advancing rapidly, I left the case to Nature, and a male child (apparently dead) was born with about half a yard of pulseless cord first presenting, just one hour and twenty minutes after I had been in attendance.

I then employed artificial respiration in combination with a hot bath for thirty-five minutes when the child showed symptoms of life and finally recovered. It is now doing well.

The points of interest in this case are: (1) The length of time of prolapse (one hour and twenty minutes) before delivery took place. (2) The apparent absence of pulsation in the cord during that period. (3) The possibility of saving a child by artificial means when apparently moribund.

Bristol.

W. HOWARD CORY, M.R.C.S. Eng.

POST-PARTUM HAEMORRHAGE AND ANTEFLEXION
OF THE UTERUS.

I ATTENDED a confinement in which the labour was normal but the child was born dead. In a few minutes most violent haemorrhage set in, and the patient became pulseless and collapsed. Pressure on the fundus, ergot, etc., had no effect, and I found on placing my hand on the vagina that the uterus was acutely anteflexed and the os wide open. By external and internal manipulation I brought the uterus into its normal position. The os immediately closed and the haemorrhage ceased. To prevent a recurrence I carefully plugged the vagina, and especially Douglas's pouch, with lint dipped in antiseptic. I removed the plug next day, and the patient

made a good recovery. Since making these notes she has been confined again, and there was no haemorrhage.

CATHERINE SMITH, M.B., Ch.B.

Collingham, Newark.

British Medical Association.

CLINICAL AND SCIENTIFIC PROCEEDINGS.

NORTH LANCASHIRE AND SOUTH WESTMORLAND BRANCH.

Lancaster, Wednesday, October 25th.

J. MASON, M.D., President, in the Chair.

Address.—Mr. STEPHEN PAGET delivered an address on Aural Cases in General Practice.

The Pineal Eye.—Mr. W. H. COUPLAND (Lancaster) made some remarks explanatory of a dissection of the human brain showing the pineal gland, and of slides and drawings illustrating points in the morphology of the pineal eye. It was shown that the pineal gland was a vestigial structure, and in lower groups of animals, such as the trout and dog-fish, was to be found on the surface of the brain, its presence being shown in certain lizards by a bright scale on the head in the parietal region. Clinically in man tumours of the gland might cause symptoms of internal hydrocephalus by pressure on the iter, or if affecting the quadrigeminal bodies anomalous symptoms of disturbances of sensation, vision, etc. Mr. Coupland next mentioned that the New Zealand lizard, *Sphenodox punctatum*, Hatteria or Tuatera (only prevented from complete extermination by the action of the Government) was one of the most interesting animals to zoologists on account of it being the sole representative of a great group of fossil reptiles, the Rhynchocephalia, who, as demonstrated by their skulls, possessed a parietal foramen through which came a pineal eye. The "beaked" lizard, their present-day survivor, possesses a parietal eye, of type like that of the higher invertebrates; it is not, however, functional. Mention was made of the way the lizard lives in a burrow with petrels, and profits by the fish that the birds bring in, the entry of other Tuatera leading to a fight. Slides of various great reptile fossils were exhibited, and it was explained that the Great Karoo region in South Africa had produced animal skeletons like *Pariasaurus*, which had a well-marked parietal foramen, and that this was to be found in the fossil groups known by the name of *Ichthyopterygia*, and *Labyrinthodontia*, but not in the skulls of the great monsters called Dinosaurs, a fine specimen of which Mr. Carnegie had had reproduced, and placed in the Natural History Museum in London just lately.

Cases.—Mr. A. S. BARLING showed a boy, aged 13, from whom he had excised the left scapula four months previously. A very useful limb resulted. He also showed a boy, aged 10, who, three months before, had had pus in the knee-joint and septicaemia following upon a wound by a needle. The joint was drained and treated for ten days by continuous irrigation. The movements were seen to be perfect.

Specimens and Exhibits.—The following were on the tables: Mr. C. W. DEAN: (a) Three mounted eyes removed for sarcoma of choroid, (b) subserous myoma of uterus—weight 8½ lb.—removed by abdominal section. Dr. R. W. LEEMING: Very large nasal polypus. Mr. A. S. BARLING: Two breasts affected by Paget's disease. The following microscopic preparations were exhibited—Dr. W. H. COUPLAND: Section of pineal gland. Mr. C. W. DEAN: Three sections of sarcoma of choroid. Many new books and new editions were also shown.

ULSTER BRANCH.

Belfast, Thursday, October 26th.

LEONARD KIDD, M.D., President, in the Chair.

Cases.—Dr. J. S. DARLING (Lurgan) showed a patient suffering from a chronic affection of the tongue, and also one suffering from a tumour in the orbit.

Detachment of Iris.—Mr. J. A. CRAIG showed a patient with a complete detachment of the iris, caused by a blow on the eye. The dislocated lens and iris lay in the vitreous, and V. corrected = 5. Mr. Craig also read notes of a case of detachment of the retina successfully treated by operation.

Cerebral Gumma.—Dr. W. B. McQUITTY showed a patient,

aged 30, suffering from a cerebral gumma of four months' duration. The points of interest in the case were (1) the history of untreated syphilis nine years ago; (2) the presence of the typical signs and symptoms of intracranial tumour, namely, double optic neuritis, headache, vomiting, and convulsions; (3) the absence of local signs; (4) the satisfactory improvement under antisyphilitic treatment.

Strangulation of Uterine Appendages in Inguinal Herniae.—Mr. ROBERT CAMPBELL read notes of three cases of strangulation of the uterine appendages in the sacs of inguinal herniae. All three occurred in infants. He drew attention to the fact that strangulation was the result of twisting of the broad ligament, and not of constriction by the neck of the sac or abdominal wall. In all cases the ovary was enlarged and cystic, and in one the uterus and bladder occupied the upper part of the sac. These were the only cases of strangulation in female children he had met with, and they showed that hernia of the uterine appendages was particularly prone to strangulation.

Pneumococcal Meningitis.—Dr. H. B. FLEMING (Omagh) read a paper on a Recent Remarkable Cerebral Case. The patient was a young medical man, well known to many of those present, and the illness from which he suffered, and which eventually proved fatal, was apparently a meningitis. The remarkable point was that it appeared in recurrent attacks at intervals of several weeks, the intervals being passed in perfect health, as far as could be seen. A *post-mortem* examination was permitted, the brain examined, and the report was that it showed signs of a pneumococcal meningitis. Remarks were made on the case by Drs. CALWELL, CRAIG, and E. C. THOMPSON, and Professors LINDSAY, SINCLAIR and SYMINGTON, several of whom had seen the patient. In the course of his remarks Dr. THOMPSON spoke very strongly of the folly often shown by medical men when ill in not submitting to the same restrictions as they would impose on their patients as precautionary measures.

Oil of Cinnamon in Typhoid Fever.—Dr. CALWELL gave a short account of the treatment of typhoid fever by the essential oil of cinnamon, and gave a synopsis of six consecutive cases in which the treatment was carried out. The abdominal symptoms were perhaps less marked than usual, and the temperature of a lower level; but the most noticeable feature was the drowsiness and the diminished suffering that were apparent. He urged that the routine dilute acid treatment be abandoned as useless, and that all suspicious cases be at once put on this treatment, or some equally good antiseptic one, before a positive diagnosis was arrived at. In cases with much mental unrest, the cinnamon treatment was especially valuable. In none of the cases was alcohol used.—Sir WILLIAM WHITLEY thought the treatment worthy of trial, but did not believe that any benefit that might be derived from it came from the feeble antiseptic powers of the cinnamon.—Dr. McKISACK said that he had tried the treatment, and that though the number of his cases was too small for him to be dogmatic, he was certainly encouraged by the results he had obtained to persevere with it. The meeting was adjourned till Wednesday, November 29th, at 4 o'clock.

NORTHERN COUNTIES OF SCOTLAND BRANCH.—The autumn meeting of the Branch was held at Dingwall on Friday, October 13th. In the absence of Dr. Sclanders, Nairn (the President), Dr. CRUICKSHANK was called to the chair.—Dr. BRUCE (Dingwall) read a paper on case-taking. He said that medicine was distinguished from other sciences by making too little progress, because physicians, as a rule, had to take to money-making; hence the need of endowment of research in medicine. Meantime, in order to help the advance of the art, they ought to take systematic notes of cases, and the best way of recording these was by cards, the one kind dealing with the patient and his medical history, and others with his disease as an entity, particulars, treatment, etc. Such a plan allowed of shuffling, so to speak, and rearrangement for any particular inquiry. It was readily available when the physician wanted to refer back to a particular patient's case, and might even be kept as a record of fees paid or due. Examples of the cards were shown by Dr. Bruce.—Dr. MANN (Nairn) read a paper on inebriety as a physical disease. After a brief allusion to the chief causes and pathology of inebriety, he referred to the treatment of this condition by the hypodermic injections of atropine combined with strychnine in doses varying from $\frac{1}{100}$ to $\frac{1}{50}$ of a grain of the former, with $\frac{1}{100}$ to $\frac{1}{50}$ of a grain of the latter, and, with the addition of a cinchona mixture (tinct. cinchonae co. $\frac{1}{2}$ drachm, ol. cinnamon 2 min.,

LITERARY NOTES.

A CHAIR of the History of Medicine is to be founded in the University of Rostock. It has been offered to Dr. Hugo Magnus, Extraordinary Professor of Ophthalmology in the University of Breslau, who is well known as an authority on medical history. Professor Magnus has, however, declined the invitation.

In the *Colliery Guardian* of October 20th there appeared the first of a series of articles on ankylostomiasis. It is stated that these articles are written specially for our contemporary by a London physician, and are intended to form, when completed, the standard work on miners' anaemia for its province.

Two new medical journals have recently come into existence in Portugal. Both are published in Lisbon. One, entitled *Polytechnia*, occupies itself with medical science in general; the other, as its name—*Archivos de Hygiene e Pathologia Exotica*—imports, takes tropical medicine.

Sir Benjamin Stone, M.P., has for two score years devoted himself to the formation of a collection of pictorial records of our national life and history. To enable him to carry out his purpose, he became an expert in photography. He has lost no opportunity of portraying a quaint custom, a rare curio, or a historic building. He has gone up and down England to secure subjects for his camera. His sun pictures now number between twenty and thirty thousand, and his work is very highly valued by competent judges. He has determined to give the public the benefit of his collection by means of reproductions. These are to be published in parts by Messrs. Cassell and Co. The first part, which has just been issued, contains excellent representations of the Corby Pole Fair, the ceremony of Picking-up Sixpences in the Churchyard of St. Bartholomew, Smithfield, on Good Friday morning; the Knutsford May Day Festival, the Stratford-on-Avon Mop, Swan Upping on the Thames, and the Horn Dance, Abbot's Bromley. The idea of the collection is original, and the publication will appeal strongly to folklorists and antiquarians, to lovers of old customs, and, indeed, to all interested in the history of the English people.

It would seem that the newspaper of the future will be considered incomplete without the addition of some extraneous attraction. It is to be hoped that this will not take the form hinted at by Mr. Justice Darling of a supply of milk. The offer of books either on loan or for purchase appears to us a kind of enterprise which may legitimately be undertaken by those whose professed function is the instruction of the public. The proprietors of *Lloyd's Weekly News* acting in conformity with the *Zeitgeist* are offering for purchase by easy instalments a library of twenty volumes contained in a handsome bookcase. It is claimed for the library that it comprises "the thousand best things ever written." Every branch of literature is included—the ancient classics, fiction, poetry, history, essays, science, philosophy, religious writings, and children's literature. The greatest authors are represented by their most interesting works, writers of the present day being very liberally drawn upon, as well as the authors of the past, and 500 full-page pictures appear in the volumes. The Editor-in-chief is Dr. Richard Garnett, who was for many years at the head of the British Museum Library; his name is a guarantee of judgement in the selection of material and sound work in preparing it for the digestion of that somewhat vague, but real entity, the general reader.

In a paper reprinted from the *Medical Magazine*, Mr. Henry Rundle gives an interesting account of a short holiday in northern climes. In Copenhagen he visited the Light Institute a few weeks before the death of Finsen. It is a handsome building in the suburb of Rosenvaengets. When you get into the suburb, says Mr. Rundle, you will be following the stream of people with bandages and dressings on their faces, easily find your way to this medical Mecca, which is visited by doctors and patients from all parts of the world. The staff consists of four doctors and sixty nurses. At Stockholm he visited the gymnastic institute established by Gustav Zander in 1865. The system of active movement consists in overcoming a certain amount of muscular resistance by an adjustable weight attached to a graduated lever, whereby the strength of the resistance at every step of the movement can be measured in figures. In the Institute Mr. Rundle saw upwards of seventy different appliances for stretching the capsules of joints and the ligaments, and for the treatment of curvature of the spine. The Central Gymnastic Institute, founded by Linz ninety years ago, was also visited. Upsala, the seat of a famous university, struck Mr. Rundle as a pleasant little country town

which does not give the impression of antiquity. The new university is a handsome building. The medical course is a long one, and on an average candidates for the profession do not take their degree till they are about 30. This may help to explain the survival of the barber-surgeon, who, after studying for a year and passing an examination, is allowed to treat wounds and to give first aid in cases of accident. The barber-surgeon is, however, doomed to extinction, for no fresh licences are now granted. Mr. Rundle evidently enjoyed his trip to Scandinavia, and he gives a lively account of what he saw.

In the *Echo Medical du Nord* of July 22nd, Dr. H. Folet discusses pleasantly on an old work on surgery which once had its place on the book shelves of Victoire Marie Ann, Duchess of Savoy, a princess famous for her love of letters at the end of the seventeenth and the beginning of the eighteenth centuries. The author is Augustin Bellosté, who is described on the title-page as surgeon to Her Royal Highness Madame Dowager of Savoy, and formerly surgeon-major of the hospitals of the King's army in Italy. It is entitled *Le Chirurgien d'Hôpital* and professes to teach a "gentle and easy method of curing promptly all manner of wounds and a sure way to prevent the exfoliation of bones." Bellosté was born in Paris in 1654, and died at Turin in 1730. The book with which we are concerned, and a treatise on the effects of mercury from his pen, ran through many editions not only in France, but in Holland and in Italy. He was one of those writers whom Verneuil called the minor prophets of surgery. That distinguished surgeon said that if one had the curiosity to look into forgotten old books, it would be found that the majority of important discoveries, the fruits of which we now enjoy, belong not to the celebrities of the profession, but to men of whom the world knew little while they lived, who worked far away from the great centres of intellectual activity, and who never wore the professorial purple. In Bellosté's day the practice in dealing with wounds was to keep them widely open with tents so that discharges might escape and remedies might be applied to every nook and cranny in their depths. Where suppuration was profuse the dressing was changed every day, sometimes twice a day, to the grievous distress of the patient. Bellosté strongly denounces these "cruel methods," and teaches that wounds should be dressed "gently, quickly, and seldom." He observed that the admission of air to wounds had a bad effect; this he explained by the fact that the atmosphere was full of very subtle particles or atoms which he suggested might produce "very dangerous corruptions, when they attach and agglutinate themselves to sensitive parts." "Evidently," he says, "the 'corpuscles' of the air in hospitals are more charged with subtle and caustic particles than that of other places; and owing to them, unless great care is taken, wounds become chancreous, putrid, and often fistulous and incurable." Hospitals long retained the foul smell engendered by patients. The cause of this, in Bellosté's opinion, could be nothing else than the "impure atoms" which adhered to the walls, and which obliged those who wished to live in the same place to cover them with plaster or chalk for the purpose of preserving themselves from the infection that might arise from their "morbific ferments." If, he argues, these atoms have sufficient tenacity, consistence, and fermentative virtue to attach themselves to a hard, even body, such as a wall, and to remain there several months without losing their foul smell or their disposition to erode and putrefy, what will they not do in exposed wounds, where the fibres are always moist, glutinous, delicate, and without support? With the substitution of the word "germ" for "atom," these passages seem to show that Bellosté's prophetic soul dreamed dimly indeed and vaguely of things to come.

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 83.

DR. DAVID CRAWFORD LAURIE, formerly of South Kensington, who died in August last at the age of 84, left personal estate of the value of £49,605.

MEDICAL NEWS.

THE meeting of the Pathological Society of London fixed for November 7th has been postponed.

THE annual dinner of the Harveian Society is to be held at the Great Central Hotel on November 23rd.

DR. C. M. O'BRIEN, Honorary Physician to the City Hospital for Diseases of the Skin and Cancer, Dublin, has been elected a corresponding member of the Société Française de Dermatologie.

FOR the session of 1905-6, the Midland Medical Society has elected Dr. Joseph Quirke, President; Mr. J. Garner, Treasurer; and Messrs. Leonard P. Gamgee and J. Jameson Evans, Honorary Secretaries.

BY way of assisting the Seamen's Hospital Society the Peninsular and Oriental Steamship Company placed its new vessel, the *Mooltan*, on exhibition in Tilbury Dock last week, making a small charge for admission to the many visitors.

THE first scientific meeting of the Zoological Society of London this session will be held at 3, Hanover Square, on Tuesday, November 14th, at 8.30 p.m. Among the papers to be read on that occasion will be one by Dr. Walter Kidd on the papillary ridges in mammals, chiefly primates.

A CURIOUS instance of municipal trading is afforded by Bournemouth, which was the first borough to provide golf links; the experiment has been from the financial point of view so satisfactory that the corporation has now laid out a new and, it is said, a better course in the Queen's Park.

THE Society of Anaesthetists held its annual dinner at the Imperial Restaurant on October 20th under the chairmanship of the President of the Society, Dr. Edgar Willett. The toast of "The Guests" was acknowledged on behalf of the numerous visitors present by Mr. Tweedy, President of the Royal College of Surgeons.

THE winter session of the Association of Medical Diplomates of Scotland will be opened by a *conversazione* to be held at 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, London, W., on Tuesday next, November 7th, from 9 to 12 p.m.; ladies are invited. Further particulars can be obtained from Dr. David Walsh, 18A, Hanover Street, W.

THE Incorporated Society of Trained Masseuses (12, Buckingham Street, Strand), having been applied to by the War Office to organize an examination in massage of nursing orderlies of the Royal Army Medical Corps, an examination was held at Netley Hospital on September 29th, when seventeen candidates satisfied the examiners. Now that the powers of this Society have been extended by the Board of Trade to meet this application, it has been arranged that this examination will in future be held twice yearly at Millbank.

THE St. John's House of Rest at Mentone is open from November 1st to May 1st, and is intended for clergy and professional laymen possessed of only small means, who under medical advice desire to winter abroad. The inclusive charge for board is 20s. a week, and the Committee are prepared to give consideration to the case of persons not able to pay this moderate sum or the railway fare to Mentone. The house is not intended for confirmed invalids, or incurables, or those who need professional nursing. Persons under the age of 23 and over 65 are ineligible. Further particulars can be obtained from the Rev. W. H. Oxley, Petersham, Surrey.

THE FINSEN MEMORIAL.—The amount collected in Denmark for the erection of a memorial to the late Professor Niels Finsen is said to be 100,000 crowns. King Edward has subscribed £50 and Queen Alexandra £100 to the fund.

FRENCH CONGRESS OF MEDICINE.—The French Congress of Medicine will hold its ninth meeting in Paris in 1907 under the presidency of Professor Debove. The General Secretary is Dr. Bezançon. The following questions are proposed for discussion:—(1) The part played by the thyroid body in pathological anatomy; (2) haemophilia; (3) treatment of ulcer of the stomach.

THE CARE OF INFANTS IN NEW YORK.—A philanthropic society to be called the Infants' League is being organized in New York. The administration is to be entirely in the hands of women. The object of the League is to provide for the care of infants whose mothers are too poor to supply what is required. Women leaving the maternity and other hospitals will be furnished free with a sanitary crib, linen, bed-clothing, nursing bottles, and a supply of milk for the infants.

YELLOW FEVER AT PANAMA.—The *Medical Record* of October 21st says that it is reported that yellow fever has virtually been stamped out on the isthmus. During the first two weeks in October there was but one case, in a non-employed who was taken ill on September 29th. The quarantine at Punta Arenas, Panama, Port Limon, and Colon has been raised, and the work of sanitation is said to be progressing in a very encouraging manner.

THE TREASURY AND MEN OF SCIENCE.—The Earl of Crawford has been moved to write to the *Times* to make public the meanness of the Treasury in its dealings with Dr. Copeland, Astronomer Royal for Scotland, whose death occurred last week. Lord Crawford points out that formerly, as is well-known, when a man distinguished in science was brought into a high position in the Civil Service he was credited with a certain number of years ranking for pension. This equitable system was abolished nobody knows why, and now a man of science who accepts Government employment without driving a bargain must trust to the tender mercies of the Treasury. In the case of the late Astronomer Royal for Scotland this Treasury tenderness was represented by an offer of half a crown a week. Lord Crawford tells us that he was so indignant and ashamed of his Government that he induced Dr. Copeland not to resign, as he had intended, feeling he was no longer able to carry on the duties of his post. But this is no new story. The late Professor Huxley had, we believe, to encounter a similar piece of meanness. The warning does not perhaps apply to many men, but it ought to be noted.

THE HEALTH OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY.—The annual report of the Surgeon-General of the United States Army recently issued, states that the health of the army has shown a steady improvement during the fiscal year which ended on June 30th, 1905. During the year there were 406 deaths from all causes. This is at the rate of 6.75 in 1,000, which compares favourably with 8.64 for the previous year and 17.93 for the years 1898-1902. The percentage of men constantly non-effective also showed a material decrease. Pneumonia stands highest as a cause of death, the rate in a thousand being 0.65. Tuberculosis comes second with 0.37, and typhoid fever next with 0.33 per 1,000. During the year there were 226 cases of gunshot wounds, 44 of which proved fatal. Twenty-one men were killed in action, 45 were drowned, 27 committed suicide, and 10 lost their lives through homicide. Among the native troops in the Philippines, 56 soldiers were killed and 25 wounded. The unusual proportion of killed to wounded, there being fewer wounded than killed, is explained by the fact that 47 of the killed were victims of hand-to-hand fighting with edged weapons. The Surgeon-General says that the result of operations on wounded men shows that the army has a corps of capable surgeons, only two deaths attributable to operations having occurred.

MEDICAL SICKNESS AND ACCIDENT SOCIETY.—The usual monthly meeting of the Executive Committee of the Medical Sickness, Annuity, and Life Assurance Society was held at 429, Strand, London, W.C., on October 27th, under the Chairmanship of Dr. de Havilland Hall. The lists presented to the Committee showed a satisfactory falling-off in the sickness claims. During the last few weeks only a small number of new claims have come forward, and there have been several unexpected recoveries amongst those members who seemed about to join the chronic list. In one case a member has resumed professional work after more than three years' continuous incapacity, and on the whole the sick claim list shows a gratifying shrinkage. The Society has been in existence for over twenty-one years, and of necessity many of the members are now reaching the limiting age of 65. All who do so are entitled, under a recent resolution of the members, to a substantial cash bonus, and the letters sent in acknowledgement of these bonuses, usually amounting to 40 guineas, show that this is an excellent plan of allotting the surplus which the economical and careful working of the Society has produced. Every year a larger number of the members will be entitled to receive this bonus, but an ample reserve exists from which they can be paid. The Society has been able to obtain during the last two years several investments at remunerative rates for its constantly-growing surplus funds. This is a matter of no small importance with regard to the future, for it furnishes the management with a substantial sum to add each year to the investment fluctuation reserve. Prospectuses and all particulars can be obtained on application to Mr. F. Addiscot, Secretary, Medical Sickness and Accident Society, 33, Chancery Lane, London, W.C.

News has been received from Japan of the death last September of Dr. GEORGE DANIEL SMITH at Kobe. Dr. Smith was born at Stockton-on-Tees in 1852, and studied medicine at Edinburgh University, where he graduated M.B., C.M., in 1875, and seven years later proceeded to the M.D. degree and to the Membership of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh. He practised at Bonnington, near Edinburgh, until some four years ago, when a severe illness undermined his health so completely that he was compelled to give up any idea of continuing to practise in the British Isles. About this time he was asked to go to Japan to take charge of the work of an old friend who desired to go away for a long holiday, and acceding to this request, he went out there and had remained in that part of the world ever since. He regained there a considerable measure of his old activity, but this spring had a further illness. It left him in such a debilitated condition that even a long stay in the hills proved unavailing to restore him to health, and returning to Kobe, he died there on September 11th. Dr. Smith, while in practice in Scotland, made many friends and gained a reputation for ability and conscientiousness in the treatment of his patients, and in his work in the Far East he appears not to have been less successful. He was buried at Kasugano Cemetery, the ceremony being performed by Bishop Foss and attended by the majority of the foreign residents in Kobe. Dr. Smith was accompanied to Japan by his wife, and thus had the advantage and comfort of her devoted attention throughout.

By the lamented death of Dr. JOHN M. SMITH the medical profession of Cheltenham is distinctly poorer. A native of Perth, John Macdowal Smith graduated from Glasgow University, and became House-Physician to Sir William Gairdner. After a short period of residence at Cramond Dr. Smith entered into practice at West Calder, and soon became a favourite on account of his integrity and uprightness of character and professional skill. He found time amid his many duties to send in a thesis for the degree of M.D., and was awarded honours by his university. He also took the D.P.H. Edin. In 1893 Dr. Smith removed to the Ayrshire parish of Dundonald, but there was not sufficient scope for his energy there, and two years ago he decided to settle in Cheltenham. He had begun to make his mark there when he was struck down by the illness which has cut him off at the age of 50. Dr. Smith was a man of marked ability and originality, careful and painstaking to a degree, and of unflinching straightforwardness. He was possessed of great artistic skill, and many a clever sketch came from his ready pencil and brush. He leaves a widow and two children to mourn his loss.

DEATHS IN THE PROFESSION ABROAD.—Among the members of the medical profession in foreign countries who have recently died are Dr. E. Ménière, Senior Surgeon to the National Institute for the Deaf and Dumb in Paris; Dr. Jules Guyot, formerly Surgeon to the Paris Hospitals; Dr. Akos Fuky, Senior Surgeon to the Red Cross Hospital, Buda-Pesth, and Lecturer on Surgery in the University of that City; Dr. R. A. Ruge, a prominent practitioner of Berlin, and a member of the Town Council of that city, aged 71; Dr. Florschütz, for a long time Physician in Ordinary to Dukes Ernest and Alfred of Saxe-Coburg, aged 92; and Dr. Carl Seiler, for twenty years Professor of the Nose and Throat in the University of Pennsylvania, aged 56.

INDIA AND THE COLONIES.

TASMANIA.

(Continued from page 1159.)

Hospital for the Insane, New Norfolk.

The Commissioners found at this hospital a very satisfactory state of affairs as to cleanliness, general appearance, and demeanour of the patients and their management, but found many conditions requiring remedy. They found that the official visitors appear to have had an undesirably large share in the internal executive of the hospital, and that the disciplinary powers of the medical superintendent were weakened thereby, to the detriment of the management of the hospital. They also found the male attendants to be in too low proportion to patients (1 to 15 by day, 1 to 60 by night), and that in consequence of this and serious defects of building, mechanical restraint had to be too frequently employed.

"Owing to the absence of facilities," they say, "which are recognized by all authorities as an essential part of the humane and skilful treatment of the insane, it was necessary in the course of a single twelve months (1904) to subject 64 persons, of whom 43 were women, to a degrading and even harmful process, for a total period of 163,222 hours, or over eighteen years in all; the average number of days' restraint per individual for the year being 106." The table, supplied by the medical superintendent, Dr. Macfarlane, from which these figures are culled, forms, they say, a serious reproach upon the State system of dealing with the insane in Tasmania. Another point incurring the disapproval of the Commissioners is the performance of *post-mortem* examinations on patients by a medical officer of the hospital when ordered by the coroner. The medical superintendent should, in their opinion, have power to order on autopsy in any case dying in the hospital, but "*all examinations of this nature should, for obvious reasons, be made by a medical practitioner not connected in any way with the hospital, as is the practice in most other places.*" The italics are our own. From the summary of recommendations we extract the following:

1. Reorganization of the duties of official visitors.
2. Investment of the medical superintendent with further powers, and to be directly responsible to the Minister.
3. Removal of non-professional clerical work from the medical superintendent.
11. Recommendation as to *post-mortem* examination as above.
12. Boarding out, or allowing out on trial with friends, suitable cases selected by the medical superintendent.
14. The erection of a suitable criminal division.

Many other recommendations are made which have only local interest, but enough has been said to show that administrative changes were urgently called for, and that the recommendations of the Commissioners have been made with the greatest attention to detail and breadth of view.

With regard to changes in lunacy administration, the Commissioners say that they are aware that certain of these dealing with executive arrangements are not in accordance with—or, indeed, possible under—the existing lunacy statutes, but that they are of opinion that these require amendment and amplification. In this connexion we note their desire to establish a boarding-out system in Tasmania. We trust that this plan will meet with the success it deserves, and that this example will be followed by other States.

UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES.

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE.

DR. DONALD MACALISTER has been appointed Chairman, and Dr. Laurence Humphry Secretary, of the Special Board for Medicine.

The following degrees were conferred on October 26th: M.D.: A. C. Dutt, Corp. Chri.; D. G. P. Ellis, Cath. M.B.: A. M. Simpson, King's; T. Drysdale, Jes.; R. N. Hart, Sid. Suss. B.C.: T. Drysdale, Jes.; R. N. Hart, Sid. Suss.

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH.

University Court.

THE Edinburgh University Court met on Monday, October 23rd. There were present Principal Sir WILLIAM TURNER, who presided, the Hon. Lord Stormonth Darling, the Hon. Lord Dundas, Professor Sir Thomas R. Fraser, Professor Crum Brown, Professor Rankine, Professor Pringle Patterson, Dr. R. McKenzie Johnston, Dr. Joseph Bell, Mr. J. Campbell Lorimer, Dr. D. F. Lowe, and Bailie Menzies.

It was reported that the draft commission to the new Professor of Midwifery had been duly revised and adjusted on behalf of the Court. The Court resolved to make request to the managers of the Royal Infirmary for a continuance of the use of the ward hitherto placed at the disposal of the University for purposes of clinical teaching in connexion with the Chair of Midwifery.

Dr. William McLachlan was appointed assistant in the Usher Institute in connexion with the bacteriological work of the city.

The gift to the University by Professor Crum Brown of a collection of over 2,000 specimens of pure chemical substances was accepted with thanks to the donor.

Autumn Graduation Ceremonial.

The usual autumn ceremonial of the University of Edinburgh was held in the McEwan Hall on Saturday, October 21st. Principal Sir WILLIAM TURNER presided, and was supported by a considerable number of the professors, and there was a large attendance of the public. As usual, Mr. T. H. Collinson, organist to the University, gave a programme of music on the grand organ during the time of waiting for the beginning of the ceremony. The following degrees were conferred:

Doctor of Medicine.—L. W. Davies, Wales, M.B., Ch.B., 1897.

Bachelor of Medicine and Master of Surgery.—A. E. White, England.

Bachelor of Medicine and Master of Surgery.—D. C. Alexander, Scotland;

W. F. Archibald, India; W. Basson, Cape Colony; A. J. Beattie, Scotland; E. J. Black, Scotland; G. Britto, India; R. B. Caldwell, Ireland; D. C. Crole, Scotland; F. H. Dickson, Scotland; J. Dundas, Scotland; G. Dunn, Australia; J. P. P. Inglis, Scotland; J. F. James, England; G. P. Joy, England; D. F. Mackenzie, England;

K. W. D. Macrae, England; F. C. Mills, M.A., England; O. M. Myrlees, Scotland; K. E. U. Newman, Ireland; H. J. Norman, England; H. V. Taylor, England; R. B. Thomson, Scotland; J. H. du Toit, South Africa; A. N. J. Vizarat, India.

Special University Certificates in Diseases of Tropical Climates—S. J. Bhaishena, L.R.C.P. and S. Edin. (in absentia); E. J. Black, M.B., Ch.B.; J. R. Holgate, M.B., Ch.B. (in absentia); R. R. Murray, M.B., Ch.B.; A. N. J. Vizarat, M.B., Ch.B.; Frances M. Wakefield, M.B., Ch.B. (in absentia).

Principal Sir WILLIAM TURNER, addressing the graduates, said it was not the custom to have a formal address at the October graduation, but nevertheless they felt that they ought not to part without expressing to them their congratulations on having received the degree conferred by the University. They wished the graduates all prosperity in the pursuit of their respective professions. They wished them to keep in mind that as graduates of that University they inherited a noble tradition, and they trusted they would do their utmost to live up to that tradition, so that the honour of the University might be preserved and might never suffer at their hands.

General Council.

The statutory half-yearly meeting of the General Council of the University of Edinburgh was held in the Examination Hall of the University on Friday, October 27th, at 3 p.m. The Chancellor of the University, the Right Hon. A. J. Ballour, presided. There was an unusually large meeting, some three or four hundred being present. This was doubtless due to the unusual event of the presence of the Chancellor in the chair. He was given a very cordial reception as he took his place, supported by the Vice-Chancellor, Sir William Turner, the Rev. Professor Patrick, Mr. A. Traill, LL.D., W.S., Convener of the Business Committee; David Buchan, LL.B., S.S.C., Convener of the Finance Committee, etc.

The CHANCELLOR said the most important business which had to be transacted was the selection of assessors. On the present occasion there were two vacancies and three candidates, and the choice would therefore rest with this meeting; but if it did not indicate by a clear voice who were the successful candidates a poll would then have to be taken, in which, according to the statute, all members, present and absent, would be able to take a part.

The names of the three gentlemen proposed were James Campbell Lorimer, M.A., LL.B., K.C.; David Fowler Lowe, M.A., LL.D.; and John Arbuthnot Traill, M.A., LL.D., W.S.

On a show of hands there was a large majority of those present in favour of Dr. Lowe, but for Mr. Lorimer and Dr. Traill there was a fair number.

The CHANCELLOR said he was prepared to say that Dr. Lowe had been chosen to one of the vacant places. As between Mr. Lorimer and Dr. Traill he must ask for another show of hands.

This having been taken.

The CHANCELLOR said that, so far as he was able to judge, he thought Dr. Traill had a majority of votes.

Dr. BERRY, the seconder of Mr. Lorimer, asked for a poll of the entire constituency.

The poll, of course, will take place on the claims of all three candidates. The report of the Business Committee was then given by Dr. Traill. The Finance Committee was reappointed.

Principal Sir WILLIAM TURNER said he did not think they should allow this meeting to end without expressing their great thanks to the Chancellor for being present.

The CHANCELLOR said: I am not sure that the proposal of my friend on my left is in accordance with strict academic tradition. I should rather doubt the fact. But he is in conformity with tradition or not, I most gratefully accept this mark of goodwill from him and from you which the resolution so clearly indicates. I do not admit for a moment that my presence here is a just cause for gratitude on anybody's part. I greatly regret that the fact that the House of Commons and the University of Edinburgh chose to conduct their respective business at the same time of the year makes it extremely difficult for me to take the part I should otherwise like to take in the business of the University with which I have been so closely and so long connected. Were it possible for me, I assure you, to be present more often on occasions such as the one on which we have met to-day, I should welcome that possibility. I am very sorry that the opportunities I have to meet members of the University are so few and far between; but as long as it is understood that it is merely pressure, not of more important, but of very different work, carried on hundreds of miles from here, which prevents me being present, so long I am sure I shall obtain the forgiveness of members of the University who might otherwise be inclined to think that their Chancellor took an inadequate share of the burden of university work upon his shoulders. Gentlemen, I beg most sincerely to thank you.

ROYAL UNIVERSITY OF IRELAND.

Travelling Medical Scholarship.

The Travelling Medical Scholarship of the Royal University of Ireland has been won by Miss Isabella G. A. Ovenden, B.A., M.B., B.Ch. It is of the value of £100.

Degrees for Veterinary Surgeons.

At the last meeting of the Senate of the Royal University it was resolved to create degrees in veterinary medicine, the degrees of Bachelor and of Doctor will be conferred, after examination, upon candidates who have pursued the recognized courses of study.

UNIVERSITY OF WALES.

MEETING OF UNIVERSITY COURT.

At a meeting of the Court of the University of Wales, held at Shrewsbury on October 20th, and presided over by Lord Kenyon, the Junior Deputy Chancellor, the sole business was the appointment of a registrar of the University in succession to Mr. Ivor James, who retires on a pension of £200 a year. The salary of the new registrar is fixed at £500 per annum.

Lord KENYON said that the Prince of Wales, as Chancellor of the University, had deputed to the Senior Deputy Chancellor, Sir Isambard Owen and to himself (the chairman) his duties during the period his Royal Highness would be absent in India.

Six candidates were selected to appear before the court. The court having interviewed the candidates, a vote was taken, the result of which was that Professor Angus received 40 votes, the Rev. Owen Thomas 25, Mr. James Evans 8, and Mr. Sturton 1.

Professor Angus was declared duly elected. Professor J. Mortimer

Angus, M.A., the new registrar, is by birth an Englishman, but by adoption a Welshman, for he has been professor of Latin and Comparative Philology on the staff of the University College of Wales, Aberystwith, since September, 1873.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, CARDIFF.

Annual Meeting of Governors.

There was an unusually large attendance at the annual meeting of the Court of Governors of the University College, Cardiff, held on October 19th. The chair was occupied by Sir ALFRED THOMAS, M.P.

A vote of condolence was passed with the family of the late Mr. Louis Tylor, for many years Treasurer of the College, references being made to his valued services as a member of the Court and the Council.

The Council submitted a scheme for the following additional representation on the Court of Governors: (1) Lords-Lieutenant of South Wales and Monmouthshire; (2) the Jesus Professor of Celtic, Oxford; (3) the Warden of the Guild of Graduates of the University of Wales; (4) the President of the South Wales Institute of Engineers; (5) a representative of the Association of Past Students of the University College of South Wales and Monmouthshire, provided that the effective subscribing membership be not less than 200, and an additional representative of the Association for every 100 subscribing members beyond the first 200 subscribing members. The scheme provided also that six representatives be elected to represent the head teachers of the public elementary, public schools, etc., in South Wales and Monmouthshire, three of the six to represent the head teachers of the public elementary schools in South Wales and Monmouthshire and three to represent the head teachers of recognized public secondary schools in South Wales and Monmouthshire. The scheme caused considerable discussion, and it was eventually decided to refer it back for reconsideration and report.

The PRESIDENT moved that an address be presented by the Court to the Marquis and Marchioness of Bute welcoming them to their Welsh home.

Mr. HERBERT THOMPSON, the treasurer, who was absent, sent a statement showing that last year the income account showed a credit balance of £55, which was more than discounted by an expenditure of about £122 on renewals, etc. This year the result was much more favourable, the income surplus being £385, against which they had only about £106 renewals on the capital account. Moreover, a sum of £37,135. 6d. interest on the sustentation fund should be added to the surplus. This good result was largely due to the increase in grants from the Board of Education, which were about £318 better than last year. There had been a decrease in fees from general students, but this had been more than made good by those from normal and other classes of students, so that there was a total increase under the head of fees of £318. The large development in college work had necessitated an increase of staff in various directions, so that the salaries had risen £668 and wages £144. On the whole, however, the statement for the year was an encouraging one.

On the submission of the Principal's report attention was called to the small number of mining students at the college. There were about a thousand students attending the various mining classes in Glamorgan-shire, and large numbers attending similar classes in Monmouthshire and Carmarthenshire, and yet only ten or a dozen students were attached to the mining department of the college. The Principal replied that close attention had been given to the mining department. He hoped the Governors would not think because there was no outward visible signs of progress that there was any real neglect. He hoped the time was near when the Governors would have evidence that there had been no neglect or remissness in this matter. The subscriptions towards the new college fund of the University College, Cardiff, amounts to £28,488 19s. 6d.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF LONDON.

An ordinary quarterly comitia was held at the College on Thursday, October 26th, the President, Sir R. DOUGLAS POWELL, in the chair.

Harveian Oration.

The PRESIDENT announced that he had nominated Professor Osler as Harveian Orator for the year 1906.

Jenks Scholar.

Mr. Eric A. C. Fazan, formerly of Epsom College, and now of Middlesex Hospital was elected Jenks Scholar.

Membership.

The following gentlemen were admitted Members of the College: Alexander George Gibson, B.A., M.B.Oxon., Joseph George Harrant, M.D.Lond., Ernest Bosdin Leech, M.A., M.B.Cantab., L.K.C.P., John Cyril Holdich Leicester, M.D.Lond., L.R.C.P.

Licences.

In conjunction with the Royal College of Surgeons, licences to practise were granted to 113 gentlemen.

Communications.

The following communications were received: 1. From the Clerk to the Privy Council on August 2nd, announcing the appointment of Dr. H. Lewis Jones, on the nomination of the College, to represent His Majesty's Government at the International Congress on Physio-Therapeutics at Liège in August last. 2. From the same, August 2nd, inviting the College to nominate a Fellow to represent His Majesty's Government at the International Congress on Tuberculosis at Paris, October 2nd to 7th, 1905. Dr. Theodore Williams was nominated by the President, and attended the Congress. 3. From the same, August 20th, announcing the postponement for a year of the International Congress on Gynaecology at St. Petersburg, fixed for September last. 4. From the Secretary of the College of Surgeons, reporting certain proceedings of their Council on July 27th last. 5. From the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Edinburgh, announcing the award of the Murchison Scholarship to Mr. John Foul McGowan, M.A., M.B. 6. From Mr. George P. Baker, of Cambridge, United States, asking leave to have the portrait of Dr. Cadogan in the college photographed for a work which he is editing. Leave was granted on condition that the photograph was merely used for the specified purpose.

Finance.

The audited accounts for the year ending September 25th last were laid before the College.

By-Laws.

The Registrar proposed that a Committee of College officers be appointed to prepare a revised edition of the College By-laws, the last being out of print. This was agreed to.

Appointments.

Dr. E. Liveing was re-elected a member of the Committee of Management; Sir William Church re-elected a Representative on the Council of University College, Bristol; and Dr. P. Smith re-elected a member of the Executive Committee of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund.

Reports.

The following Reports were received:
1. From the Visitors appointed by the two Colleges to report upon the course of study and upon examinations in tropical medicine. After discussion, it was resolved to appoint delegates to confer with those from the College of Surgeons, and to report further to the College.

2. From the Committee of Management, October 9th, 1905, recommending that the West Ham Hospital for Infectious Diseases be added to the list of fever hospitals recognized by the Examining Board in England. This was adopted.

3. The Quarterly Report of the Finance Committee, and the Quarterly Report of the Examiners for the Licence on the results of the July examinations, were received and adopted.

Library.

Books and other publications presented to the Library during the past quarter were received and thanks returned to the donors. Special mention was made of the gifts by Professor Osler, Mr. Harper, and Dr. Colman.

MEDICO-LEGAL AND MEDICO-ETHICAL.

BORACIC ACID IN MILK.

A CASE was heard in the South-Western Police-court on Friday, October 27th, in which the defendants, a firm of dairy farmers having their head quarters at Shillington in Dorsetshire, were charged, at the instance of the Battersea Borough Council, with selling milk containing boracic acid to the extent of $\frac{1}{16}$ gr. in each pint. In his opening statement the prosecuting counsel admitted the percentage to be small, but pointed out that the object of the Council was to exclude this acid from milk entirely.

For the prosecution, Professor KENWOOD deposed that in children the effect of boracic acid on the kidneys was injurious, and that it interfered with digestion. He could not accept the suggestion that the use of the acid was necessary to keep milk sweet and pure in hot weather. The fact that Professor Atwood had taken 100 gr. of the acid on one day and 45 gr. on several subsequent days without injurious effect did not show what effect would have been produced had he been a child of 6.

Dr. L. S. McMANUS, a member of the Public Health Committee of the Battersea Council, who also appeared as a witness for the prosecution, stated his conviction that each year large numbers of babies were poisoned by being fed on milk containing boracic acid. Such milk, in his opinion, contributed heavily to the infant mortality-rate. Even the quantity contained in the samples of milk under consideration of the court if taken habitually, would be dangerous to health, particularly in individuals specially susceptible to the drug.

In his final speech the advocate for the defence drew attention to the evidence of a "specialist" which had been given before a Departmental Committee; it was to the effect that it was doubtful whether boracic acid, when used as a milk preservative, was injurious or otherwise.

In summing up, the MAGISTRATE said it was a matter for regret that the Legislature had not thought fit to deal with the question under consideration once and for all, and thus remove the difficulties which always cropped up when such cases came before the courts. In the present instance it appeared that if a child a year old were given a normal amount of this milk in a day it would swallow with it such a quantity of boracic acid as would constitute a maximal dose. Such a condition of things could not be tolerated, so he would inflict a penalty of forty shillings and ten guineas costs.

THE TRUSTWORTHINESS OF DISPENSING CHEMISTS.

UNDER the heading, "Who is the keeper of your reputation?" a firm of American chemists has suggested in an advertising pamphlet circulated to the medical profession that the prescriber has no guarantee of the purity of drugs dispensed to his order except by ordering the preparation of a well-known firm, such as the publishers of the said pamphlet. A correspondent, who sends us a marked copy, protests against this as an unwarranted and egotistical aspersion upon dispensing chemists. We entirely agree that there is no justification for the suggestion that the drugs dispensed by pharmaceutical chemists in this country are not of good quality and up to the standard of the *British Pharmacopoeia*, but we suppose that this pamphlet was written originally for circulation in the United States, where the drug trade may be less under control than it is here. Moreover, it seems idle to complain of advertisers for vaunting their wares, for this is the essence of advertisement. We regret, however, that it should play such a large part in the drug trade, as we believe that by its means worthless preparations are sometimes foisted upon the public and the profession, while in other cases the public is induced to pay unnecessarily high prices for proprietary articles which are no better than those less costly articles ordinarily supplied by dispensing chemists.

OPTICIANS AS OCULISTS.

A CORRESPONDENT sends us a card which he says is circulated all over the north of Scotland by a sight-testing optician who puts F.C.S., F.S.M.C., after his name, the said card being illustrated by the photograph of a young woman to show the effect of glasses in preventing facial distortion caused by eye-strain. The card appeals to the public in the following words: "Are you quite sure that your eyes are right? Can you see both near and distant objects with equal ease? Have you to hold the paper nearer or further away than the normal 12 in.? Are your eyes weak and inflamed? Do your eyes feel tired after reading? Have you pains behind or above the eyes? Do they ache sometimes?

If so consult" the advertiser. On the back of the card he says: "On the first experience of difficulty with your sight do not wait until it becomes worse, but call in and have the eyes examined; advice is given willingly by" the advertiser, "whose qualifications include the Fellowship of the Spectacle Makers' Company and the diploma of the British Optical Association."

. This is the unqualified practice of ophthalmic surgery so far as the treatment of disease by the fitting of glasses is concerned, and the irregular practitioner does not hesitate to advertise his unwarranted pretensions. But the law permits this and until it is altered nothing can be done beyond refusing to co-operate in any way with opticians who push their trade by these means. We believe the medical profession has greater influence than is sometimes thought and that if no qualified practitioner were in any way to give his aid or support to these offenders considerable pressure would be put upon them. There seems no doubt that relations with such advertising opticians would come under the terms of the notice issued by the General Medical Council on November 24th, 1897, warning practitioners against "covering" which renders them liable to have their names erased from the *Medical Register* as guilty of infamous conduct in a professional respect.

REVIEWS OF MEDICAL BOOKS IN THE MEDICAL PRESS.

IN its issue of October 24th the *Birmingham Gazette and Express* published, under the heading "Great Medical Discovery: Remarkable New Work by a Birmingham Physician," and with all the apparatus of cross headings in thick type, a review of a book published recently through Mr. H. K. Lewis by Dr. C. W. Suckling, of Birmingham, entitled *Movable Kidney: A Cause of Insanity, Headache, Neurasthenia, Insomnia, Mental Failure, and Other Disorders of the Nervous System. A Cause also of Dilatation of the Stomach*. The book, according to our contemporary, contains the following paragraph:

From a large and varied experience of dropped kidney cases, and realizing the astounding effects upon the mental condition, I say that no man or woman should be sent to an asylum to-day without careful and repeated examination for "dropped kidneys."

This statement appears to have caught the eye of the Editor of the *Birmingham Gazette and Express*, and to have been responsible for the sensational review, and also for another notice of the book published on October 26th, under the heading "Movable Kidney: Particulars of Cures from Dr. Suckling's Case-book."

The incident has naturally caused a good deal of comment in Birmingham, and on October 28th the following appeared in the *Birmingham Gazette and Express*:

"MOVABLE KIDNEYS."

(To the Editor of the *Gazette and Express*.)

"Sir,—I am informed by one of the surgeons who operate on my cases that the statement is being widely circulated that I sent a copy of my book to your paper for review, and wrote the review myself.

Will you kindly contradict this statement officially in your next issue? 103, Newhall Street, Birmingham. C. W. SUCKLING.

[A contradiction of this kind ought really to be quite unnecessary, but in reply to the request we give an unqualified denial to both statements.—Ed. "B. G. and E."]

In the review and subsequent article in the *Birmingham Gazette and Express* the names of a number of surgeons who had operated upon some of Dr. Suckling's cases were quoted, and we have received communications from Mr. Gilbert Barling, Mr. Leonard Gamgee, and Mr. Arthur Lucas asking us to state that their names have been inserted in the article in the *Birmingham Gazette and Express* without their previous knowledge, permission, or authorization. Mr. Gamgee and Mr. Lucas add that they strongly object to reviews of medical books appearing in lay papers.

MEDICAL TESTIMONIALS IN FAVOUR OF ARTICLES OF TRADE.

M. F. puts the following query: A medical man who has formed a favourable opinion about a certain article has stated that opinion in writing to the manufacturers of that article. Has the medical man committed a breach of medical etiquette or in any other way rendered himself liable to censure by the Medical Council?

. We presume by the "Medical Council" our correspondent means the General Medical Council. That body has issued no pronouncement upon this question, but the Council of the British Medical Association is anxious to prevent the appearance of the names of medical men in trade advertisements, and deprecates the giving of such written expressions of opinion except on the distinct understanding that they are not to be used for advertising purposes.

EMPLOYMENT OF UNQUALIFIED ASSISTANTS.

RUSTICUS EXPECTANS writes: Is it legal for a medical man to employ his son, a medical student, to visit, attend, and prescribe for his patients? Should the answer to the above query be in the negative, his medical confrères hope this may meet his eye, and that he will take this as a friendly warning, and discontinue a practice which they feel is not in the best interests of the medical profession, and unworthy of a vice-president of a local medical society.

. The following is the text of the notice issued by the General Medical Council as to the employment of unqualified persons as assistants or otherwise:

Resolution adopted by the General Council on November 25th, 1897:

Whereas it has from time to time been made to appear to the General Medical Council that some registered medical practitioners have been in the habit of employing as assistants in connexion with their