

slowly from such urines as were kept for several weeks exposed to air, but they resisted putrefaction for some days.

In an extensive series of experiments the same authors showed that a small fraction of the total quantity of urine passed by a healthy adult in twenty-four hours, when injected into a rabbit weighing approximately 1 kg., sufficed to produce a powerful haemolytic serum, dissolving human red blood corpuscles rapidly, and acting even when greatly diluted. Further experiments showed that any estimation of the quantity of lysogen in any given sample of urine could only be very remotely approximate.

The object of the investigation now to be described was to ascertain whether pathological urines contained more or less lysogen than normal urines; and for this purpose we examined the urines of patients suffering from various diseases, according to the method to be described presently. In this paper, however, we shall treat only of our investigations concerning the urines of patients suffering from albuminuria due to chronic or acute nephritis.

In order to estimate the lysogen of any given sample of urine, the total quantity passed in twenty-four hours was collected, and a given proportion of it injected into an animal weighing 1 kg. approximately. Suppose, for instance, it was decided to inject one-sixtieth of the total quantity of urine passed in twenty-four hours, then 30 c.cm. were injected if the man passed 1,800 c.cm., and 50 c.cm. if he passed 3,000 c.cm. in the twenty-four hours. The quantity of urine so injected was always such that we knew that a corresponding amount of healthy urine would surely produce a haemolytic serum. Nevertheless, in all cases, we injected another rabbit with a corresponding amount of healthy human urine.

The animals were killed one week after the injection, and the serum tested by our usual method (see papers quoted above) on human red blood corpuscles.

All but two of the patients whose urine was injected were typical cases of chronic nephritis. They all had albumen in the urine, and for the most part casts also. In most of them there was considerable anaemia, together with oedema of the extremities, puffiness of the face, and occasionally ascites. Dyspnoea, high tension pulse, and irregularity of the heart were often present. Impairment of vision, anorexia and digestive troubles were also common symptoms. The two exceptions were cases of acute diphtherial nephritis.

Table Summarizing Results Obtained:

(A) Number of patients whose urine was injected	16
<i>Results:</i>			
The urine of 1 patient produced a strong haemolytic serum			
" 4 patients produced weak haemolytic serums			
" 11 did not produce haemolytic serum.			
(B) Number of control experiments...	16
<i>Results:</i>			

In every case the urine produced a strong haemolytic serum.

A weak haemolytic serum is one which in a 83 per cent. solution does not haemolyze a given quantity of red blood corpuscles, but produces slight haemolysis in more than one hour. A strong haemolytic serum is one which, added in the same proportions, dissolves blood corpuscles completely in less than one hour. As a matter of fact, however, when added in such proportions, all the strong (control) haemolytic serums but four dissolved the blood in less than five minutes; and even when diluted they acted very rapidly, generally in less than five minutes.

The only conclusion we draw at present is that the physiological action of the urine of cases of chronic and diphtherial nephritis is, in the large majority of cases, very different from the action of the same quantity of urine of healthy human beings.

On November 21st the Société Médico-Chirurgicale de Paris, which is but a few months younger than its analogue and homonym of London, celebrated the hundredth anniversary of its birth. Professor Debove, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, presided at the ceremony, being assisted by Dr. Huchard, Honorary President, and Dr. Desnos, President of the Society. Addresses were delivered by Drs. Desnos, Huchard, and Roche. In the evening the members of the Society dined together, the Minister of Public Instruction, M. Bienvenu Martin, being in the chair.

We regret to learn that Professor Albert Ladenburg of Breslau, to whom the Royal Society recently awarded the Davy Prize for his researches in the domain of organic chemistry, has had to undergo amputation of the right leg. Nevertheless, Professor Ladenburg hopes to be able to continue to discharge the duties of his Chair.

MEMORANDA: MEDICAL, SURGICAL, OBSTETRICAL, THERAPEUTICAL, PATHOLOGICAL, Etc.

A CASE OF CEREBRO-SPINAL MENINGITIS.

THE following case in a spinster, draper's assistant, an unmarried woman, aged 36, recently occurred in my practice. The day preceding her illness, the patient, being then in excellent health, went on a seaside trip, partaking in the evening, in common with several others, of some tinned salmon. The following day (August 18th) she complained of severe headache, had abdominal pain, vomiting, and diarrhoea. It continued throughout the night; she had no rigor or vertigo. At 7 a.m. on August 19th she was seen by my assistant; her condition then was as follows:

She was lying on her side in a semi-comatose condition, being only roused with difficulty, her face flushed, tongue furred, pulse 90 and somewhat bounding in character, temperature normal; abdomen moved naturally and did not appear tender; cardiac and pulmonary sounds normal; pupils equal and normal, no squint, no muscular twitchings; menstruation was in progress.

Calomel $\frac{1}{2}$ gr. was given every three hours until 2 gr. had been taken. Later in the day I visited her myself. The vomiting and diarrhoea had stopped. She took some notice but was too deaf to answer any questions. She was given a mixture containing bismuth, potassium bromide, tinct. card. co., bicarbonate of soda, and aromatic spirits of ammonia. She apparently continued improving till the evening of August 20th, when she became actively delirious and a chloral draught was given and the foregoing mixture repeated, but she did not sleep and became even more excited. On August 21st her head was found to be retracted, her back slightly concave, her legs drawn up, and the facial muscles twitching. Herpes had appeared round her mouth; pulse 100, full and bounding; temperature 100.5° F. She was still wildly delirious. Ice was applied to the head and spine; she was ordered a paraldehyde draught which was without effect; two hours later a half-grain morphine suppository being given, she slept for six hours. Her condition was then as follows:—

Head much retracted, opisthotonos well marked, pupils contracted and equal, legs drawn up, Kernig's sign present, together with marked contraction of the hamstring muscles. Knee-jerks unaltered; no ankle clonus; Babinski's sign absent. Numerous petechial spots, dark in colour, and one or two lines in diameter over the upper part of her back. Temperature (at 11 p.m.), 102° F.; pulse, 100, full; Cheyne-Stokes respiration; still acutely delirious.

She was given another morphine suppository, after which she again slept for some hours. From this time, however, she gradually sank into a comatose condition, and died at mid-day on the 22nd, the retraction of the head and spine becoming very marked towards the end. Owing to the extreme delirium of the patient, lumbar puncture unfortunately could not be performed.

The history and symptoms of this case are very instructive, and afford an almost typical picture of what in Osler's classification is termed the "ordinary" form of cerebro-spinal fever, as opposed to the "fulminant" and "anomalous" varieties. The severe vomiting and purging at the outset, following the hearty meal of tinned salmon, might possibly have led one at first sight to diagnose ptomaine poisoning, but after-events proved the true nature of the case. Hardly a symptom was wanting.

I have notes of a similar case in a girl, aged 13, whom I saw fourteen years ago, and which terminated fatally in an equally short time.

Chard.

NAPIER CLOSE, L.R.C.P.Ed., etc.

A NEW METHOD OF GIVING IRON.

I HAVE lately been trying a new way of giving iron, which seems to offer some advantages over the pill method. It was warmly recommended by Dr. Meissner at a meeting of the Berlin Medical Society in January, and as I have obtained capital results in a few cases, I thought others might like to know of it.

The constituents of Bland's pill (Pil. Ferri, B.P.) are enclosed in an airtight gelatine capsule with cod-liver oil. The idea is that the oil protects the gastric mucous membrane from irritation, as well as being useful when absorbed; that the carbonate of iron is produced in its nascent state in the stomach; and that the resulting sulphate of soda tends to counteract the constipating effect of the iron.

At my suggestion, Messrs. Allen and Hanbury have made some capsules about the size and colour of a French olive, which are quite an "elegant preparation." I find patients much prefer them to pills, their size and flexibility allowing them to be easily swallowed, much more easily than pills; for, as one patient said, "They seem to slip down comfortably, almost before you are aware of it." They contain $\frac{1}{2}$ drachm of cod-liver oil and 2 gr. each of sulphate of iron and carbonate of soda.

Meissner in his paper reported about 150 cases of anaemia treated in this way; of these, 2 complained of eructation and 2 of profuse menstruation. Excellent results were obtained in all the rest.

Bromley.

PHILIP N. RANDALL, M.B.Lond.

BILIARY CALCULUS AND INTESTINAL OBSTRUCTION. The following case occurred in a patient belonging to my partner, Dr. David Price. The part I played in it was the operation, in which I had the valuable assistance of Mr. Edwards of Wincanton.

The patient was a well-nourished, hardworking woman, aged 52, who, like many of her sex, had little regard for her peristaltic exercises, and often suffered from piles. During the past twenty years she had had such pain, in evacuation, on one or two occasions that she might have passed a stone. In 1901 and 1903 she had attacks of severe pain under the right ribs, but no jaundice nor high-coloured urine was observed.

October 5th, 1904. Pain in the old place became much worse; she vomited frequently and had tetany. For two or three days morphine (given hypodermically) and belladonna relieved the pain. Enemata failed to produce any motion.

On October 7th the distended abdomen and rectum were explored under an anaesthetic. Nothing was found.

Two days later a median incision was made, and the small intestine traced until a hard lump was found in the right loin and brought to the surface; the intestine was cut open about an inch, and a nearly spherical gall stone removed. Its longest diameter was $1\frac{1}{4}$ in. No other stones and no cicatrices could be felt near the gall bladder.

The operation resulted in relief of pain and vomiting, and the bowels acted in three days. Pus formed in the wound, 2 oz. escaping on the eighth day and a fortnight later. Much hardness was found (about 2 in. across) on the right of the umbilicus a fortnight later. It disappeared, however, when the bowels had been induced to act by an enema. Probably there was paresis of the intestine. The patient recovered rapidly. Six months after the operation a small sinus remained, but healed without finding any remains of suture or ligature.

The behaviour of gall stones is capricious. Dr. Warden of Paris (BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, September 24th, 1902) found an obstructing gall stone much longer than mine ($2\frac{3}{4}$ in.), but of the same diameter. Nevertheless, for years its presence was not revealed. On the other hand, Dr. Bridges' reported impaction of one only $\frac{1}{8}$ in. in diameter.

On section the stone, in my case, showed a spherical centre of radiating crystals of cholesterine, $\frac{3}{8}$ in. in diameter; then a layer of compressed dried mucus and epithelium, then a layer of dried bile, and another epithelial layer on the surface.

Castle Cary, Somerset.

CAREY COOMBS, M.D.Lond.

POST-PARTUM ECLAMPSIA AND GLYCOSURIA.

IN view of the late discussion on eclampsia, the following case has some interesting points: The patient, a fairly healthy woman, aged 35, was delivered normally of a healthy child; second pregnancy. An aperient given on second evening acted freely, and she gave no cause for anxiety till the fourth day, when I was called at 2.30 a.m., and found her unconscious and with typical convulsions. Between 2 a.m. and 6 a.m. she had eight fits, remaining unconscious in the intervals. She was treated with morphine injections, and had hot packs and enemata of saline solution. She had no fits after 8 a.m., and gradually made a good recovery. Urine drawn off with a catheter during the night showed a faint cloud of albumen. That examined not long after the last fit occurred was only slightly albuminous, but reduced Fehling's solution freely. On the day following that on which the fits occurred, the urine was found free from albumen, and no longer reduced Fehling's solution.

1 BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, July 2nd, 1904.

As for the antecedents of this case, for six weeks before labour I treated her for obstinate constipation and dyspepsia. I examined the urine on three occasions, the last time only two days before delivery, and never found albumen. No history of epilepsy or signs of diabetes. The amount of albumen was never more than a faint cloud. The reaction with Fehling's solution was quite characteristic, and, taken with the specific gravity, 1030, indicated a fair amount of reducing sugar. I can only suggest that it might be lactose, the breasts being very full and hard. Might not such a substance circulating in the blood be the cause of the profound nerve storms in the attack I have described?

Sunderland.

J. B. WATERS, M.B., B.S.

REPORTS

ON

MEDICAL AND SURGICAL PRACTICE IN THE HOSPITALS AND ASYLUMS OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE.

ROYAL INFIRMARY, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

THREE CASES OF INTERSCAPULO-THORACIC AMPUTATION.

(Under the care of Mr. RUTHERFORD MORISON.)

[Reported by FRED STOKER, M.B., B.S. (Durham), late House-Surgeon, Royal Infirmary, Newcastle-on-Tyne.]

DURING my term of office as House-surgeon in the Royal Infirmary, I have had the opportunity of observing the two following interesting cases, which, through the kindness of Mr. Rutherford Morison, I am enabled to report. The third case is from the Registrar's notes and is inserted for the sake of completeness.

CASE I.

M. M., a girl, aged 18 years, was admitted to the hospital with a large painful swelling in the position of the upper part of the humerus.

History.—About three months prior to admission she complained of a severe pain in the shoulder, which radiated down to the wrist. The pain was worse at night, preventing her from sleeping. Three weeks before she came to the hospital the shoulder swelled, and the pain became worse than ever, and on movement of the shoulder it was unbearable. These symptoms had since been progressive, the movements of the joint had become more and more restricted. There was no pain in any other part of the body. She did not remember having received any injury to the arm. Of late the patient had lost flesh. There was no family history of malignant disease, or indeed of any serious malady.

State on Admission.—The patient was a pale thin girl with an anxious expression of countenance. She had no abnormal temperature; the viscera appeared to be healthy. Locally, a rounded swelling the size of a newborn baby's head occupied the upper part of the right arm and encroached on the shoulder joint. The skin over it was reddened, and large veins ran over the swelling. Opposite the insertion of the deltoid the swelling was continuous with the humerus, which was normal below this point. The patient could not move the humeral head in the glenoid cavity, the movements at the elbow were quite free. On palpation the tumour was smooth and firm, surrounded the upper end of the humerus uniformly and extended into and filled up the axilla. There was a painful spot on its anterior surface. No enlarged glands could be felt.

Diagnosis.—Periosteal sarcoma of the upper end of the humerus. A radiograph was of assistance in making the diagnosis as the tumour gave a perfectly distinct shadow.

Operation.—On February 16th operation was undertaken. Every precaution was used to avoid shock; ethyl chloride was used to commence anaesthesia, and ether to continue it; $\frac{x}{6}$ gr. of strychnine hydrochlorate was administered hypodermically. The arm was first emptied of blood, and then firmly bandaged with elastic. At first the arm was applied to the side, and an incision made along the clavicle from its sternal to its acromial end. The bone was exposed, the subclavian muscle separated from beneath it, and the clavicle was divided with a Gigli's saw at the junction of its inner and middle third. The distal portion of the clavicle was elevated, and half an inch sawn from it with an ordinary saw; the periosteum was removed with the bone. The third part of the subclavian artery was now isolated, tied, and divided between ligatures, the vein immediately afterwards being submitted to the same treatment. The nerves forming the brachial plexus having been injected with cocaine (Crile), the incision was next continued from near its acromial termination downwards in front of the anterior axillary line to the inferior margin of the pectoralis major, and the skin was reflected off the chest wall. The pectoral

"It is not too much to ask the Committee of the council schools to reconsider their decision in the light of this important memorandum from the central authority."

Zymotic Diseases.

In dealing with the zymotic diseases, Dr. Reid gives the death-rate from zymotic diseases, including under this heading, according to the Registrar-General's classification, the seven principal ones—namely, small-pox, measles, scarlatina, diphtheria, fevers, whooping-cough, and diarrhoea; Dr. Reid remarks that although it was higher than the two preceding years, it cannot be said to be excessive.

In the following table the comparative figures are given for the past sixteen years, together with similar figures for England and Wales, and for the larger towns in England:

Zymotic Mortality per 1,000 of Population.

	Districts in Administrative County.			England and Wales.	Large Towns in England.
	Urban.	Rural.	Urban and Rural Combined.		
1889 ...	2.36	1.17	1.99	2.40	2.72
1890 ...	2.06	1.15	1.77	2.05	2.77
1891 ...	2.00	1.36	1.82	1.83	2.41
1892 ...	2.03	1.10	1.77	1.90	2.63
1893 ...	2.41	1.58	2.17	2.41	3.17
1894 ...	1.68	0.97	1.47	1.76	2.43
1895 ...	2.39	1.15	2.04	2.14	2.82
1896 ...	2.71	1.55	2.39	2.18	2.90
1897 ...	2.91	1.57	2.54	2.15	2.87
1898 ...	3.41	1.68	2.97	2.22	2.85
1899 ...	2.54	1.27	2.22	2.21	2.81
1900 ...	3.04	1.89	2.75	2.00	2.90
1901 ...	2.50	1.39	2.21	2.05	2.68
1902 ...	1.63	0.93	1.44	1.64	2.12
1903 ...	1.63	0.86	1.43	1.46	1.89
1904 ...	2.41	1.15	2.14	1.94	2.49

A comparison of the deaths from particular diseases in 1903 and 1904 is given. Thus in the administrative county measles caused 249 deaths in 1903, and 357 in 1904; of those in 1904, 316 were in urban and 41 in rural districts. Diphtheria, 190 in 1903, and 203 in 1904; of those in 1904, 175 occurred in urban and 28 in rural districts. Whooping-cough, 163 in 1903, and 387 in 1904; of those in 1904, 306 were urban, 81 rural. Diarrhoea caused 425 in 1903, and 758 in 1904; of those in 1904, 713 were urban and 45 rural; 757 deaths from phthisis occurred during the year 1904.

MEDICAL NEWS.

DR. J. W. GILL, D.P.H.Lond., of Llantwit Major, Glamorgan, has been elected an honorary life member of the St. John Ambulance Association for services rendered, he has also been appointed an examiner to the Association.

THE following donations have been received by the Treasurer of the St. George's Medical School Endowment Fund: Lord Iveagh, £500; Messrs. N. M. Rothschild and Sons, £210; Dr. R. A. Gibbons, £205; the Duke of Devonshire, £200.

MEDICAL BEQUESTS.—The late Lieutenant-Colonel Walter Boden of Mickleover left £100 each to the Derbyshire Royal Infirmary and the Derbyshire Children's Hospital.

A BILL is to be introduced this winter into the Massachusetts State Legislature "to prohibit all experiments under any circumstances and for any purpose whatever, with or without an anaesthetic, upon dogs or cats."

A MORNING performance in aid of the rebuilding fund of St. Bartholomew's Hospital will take place on December 11th at His Majesty's Theatre by kind permission of Mr. H. Beerbohm Tree. Sir Charles Wyndham and Miss Marion Terry, Mr. George Alexander, Mr. Charles Warner, Mr. Arthur Bouchier, and Miss Vanbrugh are among those who have consented to contribute to the entertainment.

A *conversazione* is to be given next Wednesday in the new building of the Hampstead General Hospital by the President, Vice President, and Council of the institution, to members of the medical profession and their friends. The object is to afford an opportunity of inspecting the new building, and especially the wards and rooms intended for patients under treatment by their ordinary medical attendants.

THE King has been pleased to appoint Staff Surgeon Arthur Reginald Bankart, M.V.O., R.N., M.B., to be an Honorary Physician to His Majesty.

A CHAIR of Therapeutics has recently been established in the University of Paris through the liberality of the Duc de Loubat. Dr. Albert Robin will be the first incumbent.

THE late Mr. William Ralph Smith of Uttoxeter, whose will has now been proved, bequeathed £1,000 to Derby Royal Infirmary, and £500 to the Children's Hospital in the same town.

DR. J. MILSON RHODES was unanimously elected Chairman of the Central Poor-law Committee of England and Wales, at the annual meeting on November 15th. Dr. Milson Rhodes is the first member of the profession to occupy the chair since the conferences were established thirty years ago.

At a meeting of representatives of the district councils for the national registration of plumbers, held at the Guildhall, London, last week, under the presidency of Dr. Robert Crawford of Glasgow, it was resolved that all plumbers applying for registration after the end of this year should be required to undergo practical and theoretical examination.

THE autumn dinner of the Irish Medical Schools' and Graduates' Association will take place on Tuesday next, at 7 p.m., at the Hotel Cecil. Sir William Whitla will take the chair. The dinner will be followed by an entertainment and smoking concert. Tickets can be obtained from Mr. E. Canny Ryall, 145, Harley Street, W.

WE are requested to state that Mr. F. W. Forbes Ross, M.D., F.R.C.S., of the surgical staff, Mr. A. Gordon Wilson, M.D., F.R.C.S., aural surgeon, and Mr. A. H. Payan Dawnay, assistant ophthalmic surgeon and honorary secretary to the medical committee, have severed their connexion with the Queen's Jubilee Hospital, London.

SIR JOHN W. MOORE, M.D., contributed a paper to the opening meeting of the Royal Meteorological Society for the present session on the remarkable rain storm on August 24th to 26th, 1905, which caused destructive flooding in the low-lying parts of the Bray urban district. In some places the water rose to the height of 4 ft. in the streets, flooding houses, destroying domestic animals, wrecking furniture, and covering the floors, yards, and gardens with a thick alluvial deposit. Sir John Moore said that the atmospheric disturbance which caused the torrential rainfall travelled very slowly north-west from the Scilly Isles up St. George's Channel. The rain storm was brought about, in his opinion, by the co-operation of several factors—a chill antecedent to the arrival of the rain-bearing depression, the slow progress of the depression, the fact that the counties of Wicklow and Dublin lay to the westward of the cyclonic centre and so received its north-easterly and northerly winds, and the configuration of those counties and their coastline.

MEDICAL MAGISTRATE.—Dr. R. W. Henderson (Ballintoy) has been appointed a Justice of the Peace for the county of Antrim.

ACUTE TORSION OF THE UTERUS.—Axial rotation of the pedicle of a subserous fibroid is not unknown, and a few instances have been recorded where the uterus has shared in the twisting process. An extreme case of this condition has been reported by Schou of Copenhagen (Et Tilfælde af Myoma uteri med Axedrejning af Uterus og fuldstaendig transversel Overrivning af denne, *Ugeskrift for Læger*, No. 33, 1904, and *Monatsschr. f. Geb. u. Gyn.*, November, 1905, p. 707). A single lady, aged 54, was suddenly seized with violent abdominal pains, followed by feverishness and uterine haemorrhage. Ten years earlier a large fibroid tumour was detected accidentally, but it caused no inconvenience until the acute pain set in. Abdominal section was performed. The tumour, which had for so long proved harmless, weighed over 15 lb. Its pedicle, which included the uterus, was twisted two turns and a half. The torsion mainly involved the body, which was completely divided across its lower part, replaced by a thin sheet made up of the anterior and posterior serous coats and a little connective tissue bearing very big thrombosed veins, but uterine muscular tissue and mucosa were entirely wanting. This serous band was carefully secured and divided. There were numerous fresh haemorrhages in the substance of the tumour. The patient made a good recovery. Schou believes that this is the most acute case of axial rotation of the uterus ever known. That organ, nulliparous and atrophied in this case, was actually thinner than the pedicle of the fibroid attached to its fundus.

MEDICAL CANDIDATES AT THE GENERAL ELECTION.

THE following list of members of the medical profession who are seeking re-election or election at the General Election is probably incomplete. We shall be much indebted to any correspondents who will supply omissions:

Dr. R. Ambrose, M.P.; N. (West Mayo).
 Dr. J. Court; C. (North-East Derbyshire).
 Dr. E. M. Crookshank; C. (East Grinstead).
 Dr. R. Dawson; L.U. (East Edinburgh).
 Sir Conan Doyle; L.U. (Hawick Burghs).
 Surgeon-General Evatt; L. (Hants, Fareham).
 Sir Michael Foster, M.P.; L. (London University).
 Sir Walter Foster, M.P.; L. (Ilkeston, Derbyshire).
 Dr. Alfred Hillier; L.U. (Beds., South).
 Dr. C. F. Hutchinson, M.P.; L. (Rye, Sussex).
 Dr. M. A. McDonnell, M.P.; N. (Leix).
 Dr. H. O'Neill; C. (South Belfast).
 Dr. Pollard; (Southport).
 Mr. R. J. Price, M.P.; L. (East Norfolk).
 Professor W. R. Smith; (Glasgow and Aberdeen University).
 Dr. E. C. Thompson, M.P.; N. (North Monaghan).
 Sir John Batty Tuke, M.P.; U. (Edinburgh and St. Andrews Universities).

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 87

THE PLAGUE.

PREVALENCE OF THE DISEASE.

INDIA.

DURING the weeks ended October 21st and 28th the number of deaths from plague in India amounted to 3,336 and 2,713 respectively. The principal figures were: Bombay Presidency, 2,233 and 1,596; Central Provinces and Berar, 455 and 422; Mysore State, 109 and 104. During the latter week the Punjab reported 72 deaths and the United Provinces 131 deaths from plague.

SOUTH AFRICA.

During the weeks ended October 21st and 28th no cases of plague were reported in any part of Cape Colony. Plague-infected rodents were found only at Port Elizabeth.

AUSTRALIA.

No cases of plague has occurred in the State of Queensland since the case which was reported from Townsville on September 14th. The plague hospitals were closed on October 14th.

MAURITIUS.

During the weeks ended November 9th and 16th the fresh cases of plague numbered 7 and 16, and the deaths from the disease 5 and 8.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

MANCHESTER.

Measles at Rochdale.—Ancoats Hospital: its Work and its Needs.—Self-supporting Convalescent Homes for Workpeople.—Percentage of Rejections amongst Recruits.—An Action for Libel against a Newspaper.—Meeting of the University Court.—Appointments.

THE annual report of the Medical Officer of the Education Committee of Rochdale shows that during the past year 786 children suffered from measles, of which only 51 were to be found among the scholars attending in the mixed departments. By far the heaviest percentage of infection was found among the children aged 3, 4, and 5 years.

The annual meeting of the subscribers to the Ancoats Hospital was held on November 13th, when it was stated that during the past year 24,526 patients had been treated, being an increase of 3,060 on the previous year. The cases of accidents numbered 13,562, being equal to an average of 37 per day, and an average of 43 for every working day. Over 350 patients had been sent to the convalescent home at Warford for three weeks. The cost of working this home had been £750, or £30 per bed. Towards the hospital fund the following sums were received: £1,000 from the executors of the late Councillor W. Pollitt, £450 from the executors of the late

Mrs. Silkenstadt, £1,000 from Miss M. H. Melland, £1,000 from Alderman J. Grantham, and £250 from an "Ancoats Friend." The total expenditure was £6,281, and the income £5,210. Taking the past deficiencies and the present, there is a debit balance on the working account of £2,726 due to the bank. The greatest increase of patients was in the accident class, and this and several other facts were mentioned as an incontestable proof of the value of a hospital placed in the midst of the mills and workshops of Manchester. This class of work may be expected to increase when the Royal Infirmary is removed from the centre of the city to Stanley Grove.

An earnest endeavour is being made to make provision for the addition of a convalescent home for workpeople who are recovering from illness, as this is known to be one of the pressing needs of Manchester. Hospitals for the immediate treatment of disease are available, but the provision is not so good for the convalescent stages. To this end a bazaar was held during the present week, with the laudable desire to obtain sufficient money to establish such self-supporting convalescent homes for the workpeople of Manchester, Salford, and surrounding district. The sum of £10,000 is required to erect these homes; their maintenance would come from contributions by the workpeople themselves.

The returns of recruiting in the Manchester district for the year ending September 30th show that the percentage of rejections for physical reasons was even higher than in 1904, when of 5,038 men who presented themselves for the regular army only 1,738 were finally approved, and of 5,150 who offered for the militia 1,600 were accepted. Last year the number of applicants was 4,554, and only 732 were finally approved for "the regulars"; 3,813 applied for the militia, and of these only 599 passed the physical and medical examinations.

At the assizes Dr. Fenwick, of Accrington, sought to obtain £1,000 from the Accrington Gazette Company, Limited, as damages for an alleged libel published in their newspapers. The plaintiff's case was that the defendants had publicly charged him with professional incompetence for having (it was alleged) diagnosed the illnesses of two boys subsequently found to be suffering from small-pox as chicken-pox and influenza respectively. The defence was a plea of justification, and also that the words complained of were fair comment on a matter of public interest. In view of the evidence—for Dr. Marsden and Dr. Harris testified to the difficulty of distinguishing in some cases small-pox from some other diseases in its earliest stages—the plea of justification was withdrawn. The jury awarded £1,000 to Dr. Fenwick, and judgment was given accordingly.

A meeting of the Court of the Victoria University of Manchester was held on November 16th. The Chairman of the Council, in presenting the report of the Council to the Court, referred to the completion of the arrangement by which the Professor of Pathology in the University becomes a member of the Medical Board of the Royal Infirmary, facilities being provided by the infirmary for instruction in morbid anatomy, and secondly an arrangement whereby the authorities of the Eye Hospital were offering full facilities for teaching ophthalmology. The pressing need of extension of the departments of botany and zoology were referred to. Mr. William Thorburn, F.R.C.S., and Mr. Walter Whitehead, F.R.C.S.E., were elected by the Court as members of the Council of the University.

Mr. J. E. Platt, F.R.C.S., has been appointed Lecturer on Practical Surgery (in succession to Mr. Joseph Collier, deceased), to the Victoria University of Manchester, and Mr. B. Biggar has been awarded the Junior Platt Physiological Exhibition. Mr. A. H. Burgess, F.R.C.S., has been appointed Assistant Surgeon to the Royal Infirmary.

SOUTH WALES.

Children's Eyesight at Newport.—Western Valleys Sewer (Mon.).—Hereford Hospital Dispute.—Newport's Milk Supply.—Merthyr Poor-law Relief.—Rhondda District Council.—Cardiff Medical Society.—Corporal Punishment in Schools.—Ambulance Work.—Cardiff's Garden City.—Porthcawl Rest.

THE Newport Elementary Education Committee has recommended that the Medical Officer of Health should visit all the schools to inquire into the children's eyesight and report on the number of children needing attention.

The proposed inclusion of Tredegar district in the Western Valleys main trunk sewerage scheme was discussed at a

UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.

ANNUAL MEETING OF FELLOWS AND MEMBERS.

THE annual meeting of Fellows and Members of the Royal College of Surgeons of England was held at the College on November 16th, with the President of the College, Mr. J. Tweedy, in the chair.

Report of Council.

Mr. TWEEDY, in placing before the meeting the report of the Council for the last year, described the work done by the Council. An abstract of this report was published in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL on November 18th (p. 1379).

Mr. Tweedy said that 3,069 Members and 640 Fellows of the College had applied for copies of the report of the Council.

The Title of Doctor.

Mr. Tweedy then reminded those present that at the last annual meeting of the Fellows and Members a statement was made that the Licentiates of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh were encouraged to use the title of "Doctor."

Mr. JOSEPH SMITH here informed Mr. Tweedy that he had given notice that he would move the following motion:

That, in protest against the repeated neglect by the Council of resolutions passed in previous years, this meeting declines to have the report of the Council laid before it.

Mr. TWEEDY assured Mr. Smith that in due time he would be called upon to move his motion, and, continuing his speech, said that the Secretary of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh had called the attention of the Royal College of Surgeons to the inaccuracy of the statement, and had sent a copy of the laws of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh, according to which the diploma granted by that College did not entitle the holder to assume the title of "Doctor."

Mr. A. S. MORTON informed the meeting that in spite of that law it was a fact that the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh had through its Secretary addressed its licentiates as "Dr."

Mr. F. W. COLLINGWOOD said that, although there might be existing at the present time such a law of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh, those present at that meeting should be made acquainted with the fact that such a law was only of recent date, and that for years the licentiates of that College were called "doctors."

Mr. TWEEDY then concluded his remarks by referring in detail to the several items in the report of the Council.

Mr. JOSEPH SMITH then moved the resolution printed above. It was, he said, a protest against the manner in which the Council of the College ignored year after year the resolutions passed at the annual meetings of the Fellows and Members. It was a farce for the Members to come to those meetings. He trusted that the meeting would not receive the report, as a protest against the disregard of their views. The Council agreed to submit matters concerning the College to the Fellows and Members, but the latter had no practical control over the policy pursued. If the Council continued to act as they did, the College would not exist much longer. At the present time, students did not enter for the Conjoint Examination, but went into the provinces, where they could get an M.D. degree.

Mr. W. GIBSON BOTT, in seconding the motion, said that the members had for many years attended these meetings and passed resolutions protesting against the disabilities under which they suffered, and urging that something should be done to restore to them their birthright, which had been filched away from them in the year 1843. The Members were the body corporate of the College, and no new powers which had been acquired had deprived them of that position. Their patrimony, however, had been appropriated, and was devoted to purposes about which they had no knowledge, and concerning which they had no voice. Their College had become a close borough, and only the privileged few were permitted to participate in its government or the administration of its funds. An oligarchy had been created, and had surrounded itself with such insurmountable barriers that, approach it as the Members might, their efforts were fruitless and their reward was only the contempt born of prestige and privilege. If ever the Members were to make any impression on the Council they would have to wait until the time arrived when the College, like all similar institutions constituted and ad-

ministered on such lines, was revolutionized. He invited the members of the Council to note what was going on in the provinces. He drew their attention to the fact that the large provincial towns now had their own schools, colleges, and universities, and the London hospitals were attracting a diminished number of students. He foreshadowed that that was only the beginning of the retaliation on the Council by thousands of Members in the provinces, because the Council did not think it worth while to cultivate their esteem. These Members sent their sons to the provincial medical schools, and counselled parents to avoid sending their sons to the College of Surgeons. All that meant a serious change to the College and those interested in it, and was a matter with which the Council would have to deal in the near future. It behoved the Council to pause in the course they were pursuing, and to throw open the portals of the College to all who had a claim, and allow the Members to take an interest in its welfare by permitting them to share responsibilities and participate in the administration of its affairs.

Surgeon-Major INCE then moved the previous question.

Dr. J. V. BELL (Rochester), in seconding the motion, said that 3,069 Members and 640 Fellows desired the report of the Council, and it would be discourteous to these Fellows and Members to pass Mr. Smith's motion, which amounted to saying, "Take the report away, we will not have it," merely because about 40 Members present at that meeting refused to have the report.

Mr. JOSEPH SMITH explained that the report in question had been already received by the 3,069 Members and 640 Fellows.

Dr. BELL, continuing his remarks, advised Mr. Smith to let the resolutions which were passed at the annual meetings rest for a while, and bring them out again when they were a little fresher.

Mr. TWEEDY observed that no one could believe that the Council could be guilty of discourtesy to an assembled meeting of Fellows and Members any more than it would be to any individual Fellow or Member. The annual meetings of the Fellows and Members were held in accordance with the wish of those gentlemen, and could, of course, be discontinued if the Council were given to understand that that was the wish of the Members and Fellows. He hoped it would be clearly understood that the Council desired to extend to all Members and Fellows every possible courtesy.

Mr. TWEEDY then put "the previous question" to the vote, and it was rejected by 16 votes to 10.

An amendment was then submitted by Mr. B. ROTH, and seconded by Dr. BELL, to the effect that the report should be received.

Dr. VINRACE assured the Council that the Members wished to see the College conducted in the best manner possible, and to share in its administration.

Mr. F. W. COLLINGWOOD said there must be something wrong when medical men advised intending students not to enter for the Conjoint Examination but to go to such places as Birmingham and other provincial centres so as to be able to use the title of "Dr." The Members of the College of Surgeons laboured under the disadvantages of a mediaeval constitution. The College was behind the times and its disadvantages must in the end cause a less number of students to enter for its examinations.

Mr. JOSEPH SMITH, in replying, said that he had numerous letters from Members who had become utterly indifferent as to what became of the College. He reminded Mr. Tweedy that in the opinion of many he was only the President of the Council and did not represent the College. If some of the Members were elected to the Council then the President would really represent the College.

Mr. TWEEDY then ruled that the amendment was out of order and proceeded to put Mr. Smith's motion to the vote, when it was declared lost.

The announcement of the voting was received with considerable uproar because several members of the Council had joined in the voting.

Mr. SMITH declared that for twenty-one years he never remembered members of the Council voting and he was astounded at such an occurrence. One of the Members then called out that it would be better for them to leave the meeting, and considerable confusion arose, many departing. Several expressions of opinion on the action of the Council were heard. One Member, however, went too far in declaring the voting of the Council "a dirty trick"; he was promptly called upon by Mr. Tweedy to withdraw the words, which of course was done, with an ample apology.

The meeting terminated with a vote of thanks to Mr. Tweedy for presiding.

UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL.

OPENING OF NEW MUSEUM AND LABORATORY OF ZOOLOGY.
The University of Liverpool celebrated last week the completion of the new museum and laboratories of zoology, which were formally opened on Saturday by the Earl of ONSLOW, until recently President of the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries.

It had been recognized for some years that the accommodation provided in the old college buildings was so inadequate as seriously to hamper the research work undertaken. With the partly-adjacent botanical laboratories and museum, the new laboratories form a biological institute of which the University may well be proud.

The New Buildings.

The buildings consist of a central tower containing the entrance-hall and a staircase, and some smaller rooms for the head of the department, Professor Herdman, and the demonstrators. The southern block contains the museum, occupying with its gallery two stories, a lecture theatre, and at the top of the house a large junior laboratory. The north block has five floors; the two lower floors contain extensions of the museum intended to receive special collections, a senior class-room, the senior and honours students' laboratories, a special library, and laboratories and storerooms for the use of the Sea Fisheries Department, the work of the economic entomologist, and of the Marine Biology Committee. A special department of the library has been dedicated to the memory of the late Mr. Isaac Cooke Thompson, for many years treasurer of the Liverpool Marine Biology Committee. This Committee has for twenty years been intimately associated with the Natural History Department of the University, and possesses an excellent marine station at Port Erin. The Chair of Natural History in the University was founded in 1881 by the fifteenth Earl of Derby, and the Port Erin station is under the direction of the Derby professor. Intimate relations exist also between the University Department and the Lancashire and Western Sea Fisheries Committee.

The University Association.

On Friday evening the University Association entertained a number of distinguished guests at dinner at the Adelphi Hotel. The chair was taken by Mr. Muspratt, the Pro-Chancellor, and among those who spoke after dinner were Sir Thomas Elliott, K.C.B., Secretary of the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries, Sir John Brunner, M.P., Sir John Murray, K.C.B., formerly a member of the Fishery Board for Scotland, the Rev. Spotswood Green, Chief Inspector of Fisheries, Ireland, and Mr. Deemster Kneen, representing the Isle of Man.

The Opening Ceremony.

The first part of the opening ceremony on Saturday took place in the Arts Theatre of the University before a large audience, including many ladies.

The Earl of DERBY, Chancellor of the University, who presided, said that whenever it had been shown that the University of Liverpool required new buildings or increased facilities there had not been wanting benefactors and persons of spirit and knowledge ready to help the University on the road of success.

Lord ONSLOW, who was very warmly received, congratulated the University on having acquired a museum and laboratories suitable to the needs of a zoological department. When he remembered the great liberality of the captains of industry in Liverpool he could not but be struck by the fact that there, at any rate, the application of science to commerce was thoroughly appreciated. Still, he feared it would have to be confessed that the amount devoted to the promotion of university education paled before the sums provided for the same purpose in the United States of America, where as much as seven millions had been bequeathed or given in the space of two years. He believed that the great blessing which the people of this country enjoyed in the cheapness of food was more largely due to the advance of science than to the operation of any fiscal regulations. The greatness of England in the past century had been due to its great men of science—Watt, Stephenson, Faraday, and Kelvin. He feared that at the present day all was not being done which should be done to give an opportunity to latent inventive and scientific genius, and it was only in a few favoured cases that there was

an educational ladder by which an intelligent boy at an elementary school might work his way up to a university. He hoped that the nation was awakening to the necessity of providing increased educational facilities. As recently Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, he knew that there was a very great amount of practical and useful work, especially research work, to be done through the co-operation between the University of Liverpool and the Lancashire Sea Fisheries Committee. Through that co-operation Professor Herdman and the department over which he presided had the use of a surveying and dredging vessel, which rendered it possible to make investigations, and to collect specimens from the open sea. He referred to the work done in the University in connexion between human disease and the consumption of shellfish, and expressed the hope that all who had worked in the laboratories of the University would be stimulated to still greater efforts in the new buildings.

The CHANCELLOR then read a letter from the Board of Agriculture congratulating the Liverpool University on the completion of the new museum and laboratories, and making a grant towards the work of £200.

A vote of thanks to Lord ONSLOW was proposed by the Pro-Chancellor, Mr. MUSPRATT, and seconded by Sir JOHN BRUNNER, who, referring to the gift of £200 from the Board of Agriculture, said that while he did not wish to look a gift horse in the mouth, he felt that if they had no better steed to ride upon, their concentration of cavalry would not be very effective in the battle.

Lord ONSLOW, in reply, said that he was very sorry that the gift of £200 was looked upon as such a poor pony, but the Board of Agriculture was very poor, and looked upon that little pony as the pride of the stable.

The CHANCELLOR, accompanied by Lord ONSLOW, then inspected the new buildings. In the theatre Sir JOHN MURRAY delivered an interesting address upon Oceanography. Mr. HALDANE, K.C., who is evidently a great favourite with the students, in the course of some remarks, said that he hoped that the £200 extracted from the Chancellor of the Exchequer for the laboratories would establish a principle, and would convince the Government of the necessity of supporting research work of this character.

The Medical Institution.

Although not directly connected with the University celebrations, it may here be noted that the first meeting of the Liverpool Medical Institution for the session was held on Thursday, November 16th, when a very hearty vote of congratulation was accorded to the President, Dr. James Barr, on the knighthood which the King had announced his intention to confer upon him. The PRESIDENT then delivered an inaugural address upon the treatment of arterio-sclerosis, a continuation of the address delivered by him at the beginning of last session. This address we shall hope to publish in an early issue.

At the conclusion of the address a vote of thanks was proposed by Dr. FREDERICK ROBERTS and seconded by Mr. REGINALD HARRISON, both of whom had been elected at the meeting honorary members of the Society.

On Saturday evening a *conversazione* was given in the recently renovated buildings of the institution, and for the first time we believe in the history of the Institution ladies were invited. During the evening Mr. T. H. BICKERTON, Oculist to the Royal Infirmary, gave a very interesting address, illustrated by a large number of lantern slides, upon Old Liverpool.

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD.

JOHN SCOTT HALDANE, M.A., Fellow of New College, D.M. Edin., F.R.S., has been reappointed Lecturer in Physiology for a period of three years.

The degree of Doctor of Medicine has been conferred on Francis J. Stevens, Exeter College.

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE.

MR. STRANGEWAYS, of St. John's College, has been reappointed Demonstrator of Pathology.

The following have been appointed Examiners in State Medicine for 1906:

Dr. Nuttall, Christ's College; Mr. Purvis, St. John's College; Dr. Lane Noller, Dr. Sweeting, and Dr. Newsholme.
Examiners in Tropical Medicine and Hygiene:
Dr. Nuttall, Dr. Daniels, and Professor Ronald Ross.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.

WESTMINSTER HOSPITAL MEDICAL SCHOOL.

Applied Physiology.—The date of Dr. Bertram Abrahams's next lecture on applied physiology has been changed to Thursday, November 30th, at

5 p.m. There will be an additional lecture on Thursday, December 7th, at the same time. The lectures are free to graduates and students of the University of London.

UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN.

The Recent Elections.

At the last meeting of the University Court, Principal Lang presiding, Mr. Robert Walter, Secretary to the Court, announced that he had received formal intimation of the election of Sir Frederick Treves as Lord Rector of the University. Principal Lang said: "This announcement reminds us that we have got a new head to this Court since we last met, and I am sure that it is the hope and the confidence of the Court that the new head will be not only an ornament of the University, but will also be a Lord Rector who will guide us and help us in the important matters that are committed to our charge. Sir Frederick Treves is no stranger to us; he has assisted in the work of the University, he is an honorary graduate of the University, and he takes it as a very great compliment that he has been elected by the votes of the students on non-political grounds, and I am sure we are prepared to tender him a most cordial welcome when he comes among us." The Principal then welcomed the new Lord Provost of Aberdeen, who took his seat for the first time, and referred to the excellent help they had got from his predecessor in office, Drs. Dey, Littlejohn, and Westland took their seats as Assessors, appointed at the recent election, and Dr. Lang referred to the good work Dr. Westland had done for the University in London while he lived there. On a report from the Faculty of Medicine, it was resolved to grant an application by Dr. Levack, Lecturer on Medical Electricity in the Royal Infirmary, for recognition as an extra-academical teacher in connexion with the University.

The Library.

The University Librarian reported that the new regulation, whereby under certain restrictions students are permitted to borrow books without making any deposit, had led to an increase in the number of student borrowers of about 200 per cent. Borrowers' slips were now being used at the rate of about 10,000 per annum.

TRINITY COLLEGE, DUBLIN.

PREVIOUS MEDICAL EXAMINATION.

The following candidates have been approved in the subjects indicated: *Anatomy and Institutes of Medicine*.—J. A. W. Ponton, G. F. Graham, G. Halpin, E. J. H. Garstin, G. A. Jackson, T. P. S. Eves, O. St. J. Gogarty, H. S. Millar.

Physics and Chemistry.—G. E. Craig, D. F. Hunter, W. H. M. McCarthy, W. Nicholson, T. W. E. Henry, E. B. Bate, K. E. Lee, W. A. R. Spong, E. J. Powell, J. E. McCauland, H. S. Metcalfe, W. H. Hart, V. B. Kyle, R. Charles, A. K. Cosgrave, C. P. Smyly, J. A. Yourrell.

Botany and Zoology.—R. Friel (Sch.), C. Hannan, G. E. Craig, P. H. Lemass, J. Alston, A. C. Hallows, G. B. M. Hutchinson, C. H. Pontland, W. H. M. McCarthy.

The following candidates have been approved in Section A of the Final Medical Examination:

G. F. Graham, H. J. Keane, R. G. S. Gregg, C. H. O'Rourke, F. Stevenson, E. T. Jameson, H. de C. Dillon, J. D. K. Roche, B. A. H. Solomons, F. W. H. Bigley.

CONJOINT BOARD IN IRELAND.

The following candidates have passed the examination undernoted:

Final Examination—Autumn, 1905.—J. M. Alcorn, E. J. Condon, T. W. Conway, C. Cooper, V. J. Cullen, R. F. O. Dickinson, R. F. Hayes, Florence Josephine Lardner, A. C. Lewis, T. J. Madden, W. T. Morton, R. H. Smythe, W. J. Tobin.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF IRELAND.

The following registered medical practitioners were admitted Licentiates in Midwifery of the College on November 10th:

Jehangir Cowasjee Balsara, L.M. and S. Bombay, 1904; L.R.C.P. and S. Edin., L.F.F. and S. Glasg., 1905. Maneekji Pirozshaw Kerrawalla, L.M. and S. Bombay, 1904; L.R.C.P. and S. Edin., L.F.F. and S. Glasg., 1904; M.D. Brux., 1905.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS IN IRELAND.

Dental Examination.

The following candidates have been approved at the examinations indicated:

Primary L.D.S.—N. Allann, J. E. Hogan, C. J. Hyland, P. D. McCreery, and F. C. Warren.

Final L.D.S.—E. Bermingham, J. W. Harvey, W. G. G. Quinn, and J. Walker.

SOCIETY OF APOTHECARIES OF LONDON.

The following candidates have been approved in the subjects indicated:

Surgery.—†A. Bernfeld, *†R. Heathcote, *†M. O'Brien, *†G. H. Rains, *†C. A. Sampson.

Medicine.—*H. S. Burnell-Jones, †W. G. H. Cable, *C. F. Kernot, *†M. O'Brien.

Forensic Medicine.—H. S. Burnell-Jones, R. C. T. Evans, M. O'Brien.

Midwifery.—L. C. W. Brigstocke, M. O'Brien, A. P. Wright.

The diploma of the Society has been granted to Messrs. A. Bernfeld, R. Heathcote, M. O'Brien, G. H. Rains, and C. A. Sampson.

* Section I. † Section II.

OBITUARY.

ON October 23rd, at St. Leonards-on-Sea, quietly passed away Dr. FRANCIS HENRY PARSONS, aged 69 years. For a good many years he had been living in retirement at Worthing after a long professional career. In his early life he was for several years a surgeon in the service of the P. and O. Steam Navigation Company, and in that capacity visited many parts of China and India. Returning to England,

he practised for some years at Nottingham, and at Barking in Essex. On retiring from active practice he resided for some time at Hastings, and later at Worthing. He frequently passed the winter in Switzerland, the Canary Islands, or other health resorts, as to the respective merits of which he contributed important papers to the medical journals. In 1881 he contributed to this JOURNAL an interesting paper entitled *The Health Resorts of the Engadine*. Dr. Parsons was always popular both as a practitioner and among his professional brethren. Although many of his old friends have gone before, those that survive will sorely miss him from his accustomed haunts. An ardent traveller, he would often appear unexpectedly among distant friends, to whom his kind and genial presence was always most acceptable. He was a loyal member of the British Medical Association; he rarely failed to attend the annual meeting, and not a few of his brethren will miss his well-known features at future meetings. He leaves a widow but no family.

The death occurred on the last Sunday in October of Dr. WILLIAM O'NEILL, of Lincoln. He had been resident in the city for some fifty years, and in spite of advancing age had continued his ordinary avocations until a month or two ago. Dr. O'Neill received his medical education at Trinity College, Dublin, where he had the advantage of working under such men as Corrigan and Stokes, and after holding one or two hospital appointments in the same neighbourhood joined the University of Aberdeen. There he graduated M.D. in 1859, while some ten years later he took the M.C. of the same University, and was also admitted to the membership of the Royal College of Physicians of London. In addition, he was a Fellow of the Academy of Medicine in Ireland and of the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society, and a member of the Lincoln Division of the Midland Branch of the British Medical Association. The greater part perhaps of Dr. O'Neill's work was of a consultative character, but he was for long Physician of Lincoln Lunatic Hospital and the Lincoln General Dispensary, and it was partly due to his representations that the latter institution was removed from its former inconvenient quarters to its present excellent position in one of the principal thoroughfares. Dr. O'Neill devoted much of his leisure to literary work, archaeology and china being his pet studies. He was a member of several societies which interest themselves in the former, and was a recognized authority in respect of several varieties of old pottery and china, and wrote many papers about them. His funeral at Canwick Churchyard on November 3rd was attended by many residents of Lincoln and by the majority of the leading practitioners in the city.

MEDICO-LEGAL AND MEDICO-ETHICAL.

SENSATIONAL JOURNALISM.

IN THE BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL of November 18th a note was published on chloroform syncope and direct manipulation of the heart, by Messrs. T. Rudolph Smith and W. R. Daglish, of Stockton-on-Tees. In the *Northern Echo* of the same date, which circulates in Stockton-on-Tees, the substance of this article appears under a series of sensational headlines. Mr. Rudolph Smith and Mr. W. R. Daglish ask us to state that they had nothing whatever to do with the publication in the *Northern Echo*. From inquiries we have made, with the assistance of Mr. Smith, it would appear that the substance of the article was probably telegraphed from London by one of the press agencies on Friday, November 17th, the day on which the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL is circulated in the metropolis.

From information which reaches us from other sources it appears that paragraphs founded on the note have been published in other newspapers in various parts of the country.

We understand that the general subject of the publication of the names of medical men in the general press in connexion with clinical matters will shortly be discussed by the Stockton Division of the North of England Branch. We are quite sure that any suggestions which can be made will be welcomed by the Ethical Committee of the Association, which has already had the subject under its consideration on several occasions.

INQUESTS AFTER OPERATIONS.

ATAX wishes to know if any inquest is required if a man dies one day or one week after a surgical operation; and, secondly, what the law is with regard to deaths after anaesthesia and surgical operations.

* * * There is no statutory law compelling a coroner to hold an inquest when death supervenes after a legitimate surgical operation, if performed with due skill and care, whether the patient dies a day or a week after the event. In cases of death occurring while under the influence of an anaesthetic it is usual for the coroner to hold an inquest, but there is no statute law on the subject. In the holding of inquests much discretion must be exercised by the coroner, and the circumstances of each case are considered before he determines to hold the inquiry.