

commencing cancer of the sigmo-rectal pylorus, the situation where cancer of the lower part of the bowel usually commences. Cancer along the alimentary canal from mouth to anus attacks by preference those parts where a narrowing occurs—the lips, throat, upper and lower ends of the oesophagus, pylorus of stomach, ileo-caecal aperture, upper and lower sigmoid pyloruses, at the insertion of the levator ani and at the anal orifice. The frequency of stricture, both simple and malignant, at the junction of the sigmoid and rectum is an everyday clinical feature; and the reason of this part being the seat of a lesion of the kind is consistent with the clinical records of the alimentary canal generally in regard to this disease.

TREATMENT.

As for treatment of intestinal flux when due to stricture of the sigmo-rectal pylorus—

1. In all cases examine the bowel per rectum by the sigmoidoscope.

2. Attempt to gauge the calibre of the aperture of the sigmo-rectal pylorus by soft tubes.

3. When there is no evidence of malignancy, treat the stricture of the bowel as one treats a strictured urethra, namely, by the passage at intervals of bougies (oesophageal tubes suit well) of gradually increasing calibre.

I would repeat that attempts to pass tubes through the sigmoid flexure even in health for the purpose of washing out the bowel, etc., can be rarely accomplished, although it is constantly being attempted and believed to be accomplished; when the bowel is narrowed from congestion or congestive stricture of the sigmo-rectal pylorus, it is impossible to pass anything through without the help of the sigmoidoscope. By the passage of bougies of increasing size through the sigmoid flexure, it will be found that the pain, which at first is usually sharp, gradually lessens, that the diarrhoea and mucus disappears, and a healthy bowel results.

ONE HUNDRED CASES OF LIVER ABSCESS.

By JAMES CANTLIE, M.B., F.R.C.S.,

London.

OF 100 cases of liver abscess I have operated upon in China and in England, during the past fifteen years, 82 recovered and 18 died. The patients came from China, Manila, Annam, Singapore, the Straits Settlements, Malay Peninsula, Ceylon, India, Egypt, Somaliland, West Coast of Africa, Nigeria, West Indian Islands, Brazil, and Mexico. I have also operated on three patients for abscess of the liver who had never been out of England. According to the situation of the pus, I classify hepatic abscesses into suprahepatic, intrahepatic, and infrahepatic or subhepatic. Of the 100 cases dealt with, 47 were suprahepatic, 50 intrahepatic, and 3 subhepatic. The suprahepatic abscesses seldom give a history of dysentery, nor have any bowel lesions been found *post mortem*. Intrahepatic abscesses are always associated with, and probably caused by, dysentery. Subhepatic abscesses are not due to dysentery.

The pus in most hepatic abscesses is sterile, a fact I established some twelve years ago, but which has only lately been generally accepted.

The operation I prefer (a) *when pus is deep seated over or in the right half of the liver*, is evacuation by siphonage, the siphon tube being introduced through a cannula. Search is made first by the needle of an aspirating syringe—in length not more than 3½ in., so as to avoid wounding the inferior vena cava. Where the pus is localized a large trocar and cannula is introduced transthoracically; the trocar is withdrawn, and a drainage tube, 12 in. long, stretched on a long steel rod, introduced through the cannula to the bottom of the cavity. The cannula is then withdrawn over the tube whilst it is still stretched, the steel rod by which it is stretched is also withdrawn, and a long rubber tube fitted to the drainage tube protruding from the side by means of a short glass tube. The siphonage is kept up until the pus ceases to flow, or until bile appears in the discharge. The original tube is then removed from the side, and a shorter and smaller tube substituted. The wound is gradually allowed to close. (b) *When the pus is superficial*—that is, close beneath the right ribs, an advanced condition a hepatic abscess should never be allowed to attain—

the trocar and cannula and siphonage may be used, or the abscess may be cut down upon by a scalpel. The removal of a piece of rib may or may not be necessary. If the knife happens to enter the lowest point of the abscess cavity, removal of a piece of rib is unnecessary; but if not, it is well to do so. (c) *When the pus is in the left half of the liver*—a rather rare occurrence—do not attempt to confirm the diagnosis by introducing an exploratory needle, nor use the trocar or cannula, but cut down upon the liver through the abdominal wall and evacuate the pus in the usual way. In 90 of the 100 cases I have operated upon I employed the trocar and cannula and siphonage method of treatment; and from a long experience I look upon this method of treating deep-seated liver abscesses of the right half of the organ as not only the most easy of performance (an important point if one is single-handed, as one is in many tropical countries) and most successful, but the only justifiable operation when the pus is deep-seated in the right side, that is, three or more inches from the surface.

MEMORANDA: MEDICAL, SURGICAL, OBSTETRICAL.

SIX SUCCESSFUL HYSTERECTOMIES FOR FIBROID DISEASE IN ONE FAMILY.

In the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL of February 13th, 1904, I published some remarks on a series of five successful hysterectomies for fibroid disease in one family.

It may be of interest to state that a sixth sister, aged 46, consulted me this year for a similar condition, and last June I removed the tumour and uterus by subperitoneal hysterectomy. She also made an excellent recovery.

It is not merely the frequency of this uterine affection that is worthy of note, but the character of the tumour causing symptoms which rendered operation imperative in each of the patients.

J. MACPHERSON LAWRIE, M.D.,
Senior Physician, the Princess Christian
Hospital, Weymouth.

TÖPFER'S REAGENT AS A TEST FOR HYDROCHLORIC ACID.

In the EPITOME of the JOURNAL of October 5th the Summer-Fischer method of estimating the free, combined, and total hydrochloric acid in fluids withdrawn from the stomach is referred to and praised. This method depends upon the use of Töpfer's reagent—dimethyl-amido-azo-benzol—as an indicator, and this reagent is also referred to in two such important recent works as Emery's *Clinical Bacteriology and Haematology* and Vaughan Harley and Goodbody's *Chemical Investigation of Gastric and Intestinal Diseases by the Aid of Test Meals*, as the simplest and most delicate test for the presence of hydrochloric acid, free or combined with proteid.

An important fact concerning Töpfer's reagent has escaped mention in these works—namely, that it gives a positive acid reaction (changing to a pink colour) with lactic acid and other organic acids, even in considerable dilutions. I have obtained a positive reaction with a solution of 1 part of lactic acid in 30,000 parts of water. This fact, of course, completely destroys the utility of Töpfer's reagent as an indicator for estimating hydrochloric acid, and renders great care necessary in using it as a qualitative test, confirmation of a positive result by the use of other tests being essential. Inasmuch as most clinical investigators adopt tests described in the textbooks without themselves confirming them, it seems advisable that this fact concerning Töpfer's reagent should be more widely known.

R. C. ELSMLIE, M.S., M.B., F.R.C.S.

Pathological Laboratory, St. Bartholomew's Hospital.

THE Government of Greece, following the example of that of Italy, has made the sale of quinine a State monopoly, with the object of cheapening its price, and, where necessary, distributing it gratuitously to the poor. Any profit that may be derived from the sale of the drug will be applied towards the sanitation of malarious districts.

to the profession and the public health. It is felt that the transactions of such a body should be recorded, but at present there is no organ in existence which could adequately fulfil this function. Hence the Association has determined to create one for itself, and at the last meeting a Committee was appointed to report upon the feasibility of the project. This Committee is composed of Dr. J. F. Young and Dr. F. N. G. Starr (Toronto), Dr. Murray MacLaren (St. John), Dr. O. M. Jones (Vancouver), Dr. John McCrae and Dr. Andrew Macphail (Montreal), all of whom have had experience in the publication of medical journals; indeed, four of them are actually so engaged. Whether the scheme decided upon will be a fusion of all the existing journals, or whether two or three of them will combine, or whether the Association will found a new journal for its own purposes are questions that will doubtless receive the fullest consideration.

THE MIDWIVES ACT.

THE PAYMENT OF MEDICAL MEN SUMMONED TO ASSIST MIDWIVES.

At an inquest on the body of a newly-born child, held by Mr. Troutbeck at the Wandsworth Town Hall last week, it appeared that the midwife who was in attendance, finding that the child began to turn blue about three hours after birth, gave the father a note to take to a doctor; the note was written on the form prescribed under the Midwives Act, and contained the statement, "Requires medical assistance on account of cyanosed baby." Two medical practitioners were applied to, but did not respond, and after one of these gentlemen, who was present at the inquest, had made a statement, and had replied to certain questions, the coroner summed up as follows: The case, he said, revealed a very undesirable condition of things. As they all knew, the Midwives Act was passed in order to ameliorate the conditions under which women were attended in their confinements, but, as might have been expected, all these Acts in their actual working were found to be accompanied by difficulties that had not been foreseen. Under the Midwives Act the midwife had no power to call in a doctor or pay the fee, nor was there any public fund out of which a fee could be paid, unless it was a Poor-law case. Practically it amounted to this, that a doctor might be called up and never be paid at all for his services. That was wrong. He knew there was a feeling that doctors were supposed to attend a case at any time, but they had to earn their living. They were not public servants, and they were entitled to their fee. He had not the slightest doubt that they would meet any effort made to end the difficulty. It was a serious difficulty, and one that ought to be considered, for he was afraid it was a difficulty that might frequently occur. The result might be that in many cases lives might be lost that might otherwise have been saved.

INDIAN SANITARY REPORTS.

The Punjab.

THE report of the sanitary administration for 1905 includes a thorough review by the provincial government of the excellent report submitted by the Sanitary Commissioner, Lieutenant-Colonel C. J. Bamber, D.P.H., and the sanitary engineer, Mr. C. E. V. Goument, to which are appended the usual statistical tables. The early months of the year were cold and wet, the hot season unduly prolonged, and the monsoon rains scanty. The prices of food grains were higher than usual. The birth-rate was 44.4, an advance on that of 1904, and the death-rate exceeded it, being 47.5, the highest provincial rate of the year. Infantile mortality was 234 per 1,000 births. More diligent verification and prosecution are rendering registration more accurate. Malarial fevers, cholera, and small-pox were less intense than usual, and the mortality of the year would have been very moderate but for plague, which caused 334,897 deaths, or 16.65 per 1,000 of population. The aggregate was rather lower than that of 1904, and the Government considers that the events of the year furnish some faint grounds for hoping that a natural subsidence of the disease is within sight. Females died of plague in larger numbers than men, and infants and old people were relatively exempt. Large towns have been comparatively immune. Explanations are suggested for these circumstances on the rat theory. Evacuation, disinfection, and rat destruction are the measures chiefly resorted to for prevention, and the people are said to accept their value; 83,593 persons were inoculated without mishap, but the

effects of the proceedings were not ascertained. Over 18,000 deaths were caused by the earthquake in Kangra. The record of sanitary work is good. The Sanitary Board met four times, and important schemes of water supply and drainage were considered and approved, grants-in-aid being with the sanction of Government made in many instances. A scheme of rewards for village sanitation has not been as successful as was expected. Useful public works tending to improve public health were constructed by private individuals, costing Rs.113,877. On the whole, the report indicates substantial progress.

MEDICAL NEWS.

An "At Home," to which members of the medical profession will be welcomed, is to be held at the Mental Nurses' Co-operation Rooms, 115, Edgware Road, on Wednesday, November 27th, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., in order to make the objects of the Co-operation better known.

At the annual meeting of the Pathological Society of Manchester on October 9th Dr. J. J. Cox was elected President for the coming year. The other principal officers appointed were: Drs. W. Milligan and R. T. Williamson, Vice-Presidents; Dr. A. Sellers, Treasurer; and Mr. C. Roberts, Secretary. Auditors and a committee of eight were also elected.

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain will hold its first evening meeting for the session at 17, Bloomsbury Square, London, W.C., on Tuesday next, at 8 p.m. There will be a discussion on the *British Pharmaceutical Codex*, and recent additions to the museums and library will be on view. Medical friends of members and student-associates will be welcomed.

A EUGENIC and Moral Education Society is to be formed at a meeting at Caxton Hall, Westminster, on Friday next, at 3 p.m., under the presidency of the Earl of Lytton. The objects of the society will be to impress upon parents and teachers the necessity of bringing up children in a pure and simple knowledge of the moral and physical laws which govern life, and to raise the standard of public opinion on eugenic and moral questions.

SINCE the reconstitution of the University of London the interest in the proceedings of Convocation has declined so much that on several occasions during the last year or two a sufficient number of members have not attended to permit business to be conducted. This happened on October 8th, and the chairman had to adjourn. The adjourned meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 19th, at 5.30 p.m.

DR. D. J. CUNNINGHAM, Professor of Anatomy in the University of Edinburgh, presided over the dinner of the Edinburgh University Club of London last Monday, which was largely attended. Professor Cunningham, in proposing the toast of "Alma Mater," observed that the encouragement of original research was perhaps easier in new colleges and universities than in the old with their traditional methods; but he was glad to say that the output from Edinburgh, owing to the many young workers who had been enlisted, was very considerable. Dr. G. Ogilvie proposed the health of "The Chairman" in a humorous speech full of reminiscences of the University some thirty odd years ago.

CROCODILES AND SLEEPING SICKNESS.—Professor Koch, who has apparently now completed his local study of sleeping sickness, has been interviewed on his way home by a correspondent of the *Lokalanzeiger*. He related that he had spent his eighteen months in East Africa on one of the Sesse islands, in Lake Victoria Nyanza, with a sergeant of the German Army Medical Staff as his sole white companion. Throughout their stay there they had seen only three Europeans, two of them being medical men from Vienna, and a third an official of the German Government. Professor Koch had much to say about the special object of his journey, but the only novel point in his remarks concern the habits of the *Glossina palpalis*. He appears to have found reason to believe that its natural victim is the crocodile, and that something towards abolishing sleeping sickness might be done by destroying crocodiles or removing the bushes and undergrowths where they lurk on land. The *Glossina* gets between the plates covering the crocodile's skin, sucking the blood where the epidermis is comparatively thin.

should express an opinion upon the amount of remuneration that is to be paid for the work. I suppose in most boroughs the medical officer of health will be responsible, with assistance where the numbers need it. This will mean that in many places the medical officer of health will have to be a whole-time official, and I think that it would be only reasonable to make the salary paid at least equal to a fee of 2s. 6d. for each examination of each child. This would apply to the ordinary entry examinations and also to special examinations of eyes, throat, mentally and physically defective children. The lowest joint salary for such work should be £800 per annum, and provision should be made for periodical increases in the salary.

All officers appointed under these new appointments might well have half the total salary paid through the county councils, and should be given fixity of tenure. From the very comprehensive wording of the Act all these requirements can, I think, be made by the Education Department. The grouping of rural districts will be more difficult, but if vaccination were included there seems no reason why this opportunity should not be seized for beginning the foundation of a public health service with whole-time appointments throughout the country.—I am, etc.,

A MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES.

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD.

Board of the Faculty of Medicine.

THE Board of the Faculty of Medicine has co-opted J. S. Fairbairn, M.A., B.M., Magdalen College (F.R.C.S., M.R.C.P., etc.), as a member of the Board for the statutable period of two years, from November 1st, 1907.

Professorship of Engineering Science.

In a Congregation held on Tuesday, October 29th, the form of Statute establishing a Professorship of Engineering Science was promulgated, and the Preamble thereof approved on a division (placet, 152; non-placet, 20).

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE.

R. C. PUNNETT, M.A., Fellow of Caius College, has been re-elected to the Balfour Studentship for one year.

A grant of £50 from the Balfour Fund has been made to W. E. Agar, Fellow of King's College.

The following degrees were conferred on October 24th:

M.D.—H. F. Tod, Trinity.

M.B.—R. G. Elwell, Trinity.

Amended forms of certificates in Practical Midwifery have been issued by the Special Board for Medicine for students who commence medical study after October 1st, 1907.

APPOINTMENTS.

H. H. Clutton, M.A., M.C., of Clare College, has been appointed an Elector to the Professorship of Surgery, in place of the late Mr. Timothy Holmes.

The following Examiners have been appointed for the First and Second M.B.:

Elementary Physics.—C. T. E. Wilson, M.A., Sidney College.

Elementary Chemistry.—R. H. Adie, M.A., Trinity College.

Elementary Biology.—A. E. Stiple, M.A., Christ College.

Human Anatomy.—Dr. Duckworth, Jesus College; Dr. Denyer, Queen's College.

Physiology.—J. Barcroft, M.A., King's College; Dr. Noel Paton, B.Sc., Glasgow University.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF LONDON.

AN ordinary quarterly Comitia was held at the College on Thursday, October 31st, the President, Sir R. Douglas Powell, in the chair.

Membership.

The following gentlemen were admitted members of the College: Maurice Alan Cassidy, M.A., M.B.Cantab., L.R.C.P.; Charles Wilberforce Daniels, M.B.Cantab.; Samuel Ernest Dore, M.D.Cantab., L.R.C.P.; John Prescott-Hedley, M.A., M.B.Cantab., L.R.C.P.; Reginald Charles Jewsbury, M.A., M.B.Oxon., L.R.C.P.; Herbert Wm. George Macleod, M.D.Edin.; George Basil Price, M.D.Lond., L.R.C.P.; Robert Fraser Standage, L.R.C.P.; Harold Waterlow Wiltshire, M.A., M.B.Cantab., L.R.C.P.

Jenks Scholarship.

The Jenks Scholarship was awarded to William Henry Price Saunders of Epsom College.

Licences.

The Licentiatehip of the College was granted to 112 gentlemen.

Communications.

The following communications were received:

1. From the Secretary of the Royal College of Surgeons,

reporting proceedings of their Council on July 25th and October 10th.

2. From the Secretary of State for India, forwarding copies of reports by the Indian Governments on the suggestions of the College with regard to plague measures in India made to Mr. Brodrick in 1905, and of a dispatch by Mr. Morley to the Government of India of July 26th, 1907, on the same subject.

3. From the Chairman of the Home Office Committee on the London Ambulance Service, inviting the College to appoint a Representative to give evidence before the Committee. The invitation was accepted, and, on the nomination of the President, Sir Wm. Church was appointed to represent the College.

4. From the Clerk of the Privy Council, forwarding a copy of a note received from the Austro-Hungarian Ambassador, in which the British Government is invited to send Representatives to the Sixteenth International Congress on Medicine, to be held at Buda-Pesth in 1909. The nomination of Representatives was deferred until some future Comitia.

Accounts.

The audited accounts for the year ending September 29th last were laid before the College.

Fellowship.

On the motion of the Registrar, Daniel Colquhoun, M.D.Lond., and George Edward Rennie, M.D.Lond., who were elected Fellows on April 25th, residing in New Zealand and Australia respectively, were admitted *in absentia*.

Restoration of Membership.

An application from Charles E. P. Forsyth, M.B.Aberd., was considered for the second time, and the Membership which he resigned in April, 1906, was restored to him, as he is now practising in accordance with the by-laws.

Imperial Cancer Research Fund.

On the nomination of the President, Dr. Andrewes was elected a member of the Executive Committee of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund, in place of the late Sir William Broadbent.

Committee of Management.

Dr. Frederick Taylor, who retired by rotation, was re-elected a member of the Committee of Management.

Dr. Wm. Ewart moved the following resolution: "That the question be considered of the expediency of securing some permanent reproduction, by photography or otherwise, of the most valuable among the ancient deeds, documents, and art treasures, the property of the College, with a view to their perpetuation in the copy in the event of loss or destruction of the originals." The matter was referred to the Library Committee to consider and report on to the College at a future Comitia.

Reports.

The following reports were received:

1. From Sir William Church and Dr. Heron, who represented the College at the International Congress on School Hygiene in August last.

2. From Dr. Michael Grabham, who represented the College at the Centenary Commemoration of the Geological Society in September last.

3. From the Committee of Management, dated October 7th, with the following recommendations:

a. That Mr. Edmund Owen be appointed visitor to the Examinations of the Egyptian School of Medicine for the examinations to be held in December next.

b. That Giggleswick School, Settle, Yorkshire, be added to the list of institutions recognized by the Examining Board in England for instruction in chemistry and physics.

c. That Wyggeston School, Leicester, which is already recognized by the Examining Board for instruction in chemistry and physics, be also recognized for instruction in biology.

The recommendations were adopted.

4. The quarterly report of the Finance Committee, dated October 17th, was received.

5. The quarterly report of the Examiners for the Licence on the results of the July examinations was received.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, ABERYSTWITH.

ON November 1st Mr. Asquith formally opened the Edward Davies Chemical Laboratories, recently erected and equipped as a department of the University College of Wales, Aberystwith. It was in 1903 that Mrs. Edward Davies, the Misses Davies, and Mr. David Davies, M.P., of Llandinam, jointly promised to contribute £20,000 towards the project, in memory of the late Mr. Edward Davies, formerly one of the College treasurers. The Council secured a suitable site on an eminence commanding the town, known as Buarth Mawr, and a substantial structure of simple Georgian style has been erected.

The day was made an occasion of much local rejoicing. A procession left the College shortly before noon for the new laboratories (about half a mile distant), consisting of a detachment of undergraduate volunteers, the members of the Students' Representative Council, men students, the College staff and Court of Governors, the staff of the Theological College, head masters and mistresses of Welsh intermediate schools, old students, the Mayor and corporation, members of

Parliament, special guests, and the donors. The route was lined with spectators. The alumni wore their academic robes. Within a reserved space in front of the building, after a verse of the College song had been sung, Mrs. Davies formally presented Lord Rendel with the deed of gift, and the architect handed a key to Mr. Asquith. The handle was a representation of the College coat-of-arms surmounted by a Welsh harp, and the reverse side bore a heraldic shield. Mr. Asquith then unlocked the door of the main entrance and, accompanied by Lord Rendel and numerous guests, inspected the interior of the structure, and completed the ceremony with the formula, "I have the honour and pleasure of declaring the laboratory open."

Luncheon was subsequently served in the New Market Hall. Lord Rendel gave the toast of "Mr. Asquith," whom he described as a statesman, scholar, and a tried friend of Wales. The toast was most enthusiastically received. Mr. Asquith, in responding, paid a tribute to the splendid self-sacrifice of the Welsh people as regards educational matters. On the motion of Sir John Williams, the right hon. gentleman was thanked for his address.

TRINITY COLLEGE, DUBLIN.

The following candidates have been approved at the examinations indicated:

INTERMEDIATE (Part II).—H. H. James, W. E. Adam, V. W. T. M'Gusty, H. Fleming, W. H. Hart, D. J. Stokes.
FINAL (Part I).—*D. J. Miller, *E. J. H. Garstin, *A. K. Cosgrave, W. A. Nicholson, R. J. Attridge, W. H. Sutcliffe, H. S. Sugars, E. B. Bate, J. E. M'Causland, J. D. Murphy, R. D. FitzGerald, H. S. Millar, F. R. Sayers.

* Passed on high marks.

Medico-Ethical.

The advice given in this column for the assistance of members is based on medico-ethical principles generally recognized by the profession, but must not be taken as representing direct findings of the Central Ethical Committee.

SUPERSESSION.

FAIR PLAY writes that being a newcomer in the district, he occasionally acts as *locum tenens* for a brother practitioner who pays him four guineas a week for his services but on the condition that under no circumstances will he accept any patient so seen as his own. Our correspondent complains of this arrangement, and illustrates it by quoting the case of a lady, a patient of his colleague, whom he had seen in this way and who has since asked him to attend her, and has told him that whatever his decision may be she will under no circumstances return to her former medical adviser. "Fairplay" says: "May I ask you if the conditions laid down for my doing his work are fair, and am I correct in attending patients who refuse to go back after I have tried to persuade them as to the right course? Of course, I should advise my professional brother by letter or by word of mouth as to any patients who come to me in such a way. It seems to me that any man in the district could ask me to take their work on such conditions, and that I should gradually debar myself from all chance of succeeding in making a living."

* * Our correspondent cannot have his bread buttered on both sides. He was not bound to take the position of a paid substitute, but as he did so he must fulfil the conditions under which he was engaged. It would be a breach of good faith if he were now under any circumstances whatever to accept as his own patients people to whom he has been introduced in his capacity of substitute for his colleague.

Medico-Legal.

POLICE CALLS.

DR. W. DICKSON recently sued a police-constable at the Hungerford County Court under circumstances thus stated by the judge; that a man named Brake cut his throat; that a neighbour called a police-constable, who saw Mrs. Brake, who told him that she wanted a doctor; a messenger was found, who told the doctor that he had been sent by the police-constable, without mentioning the fact that Mrs. Brake had told the police constable to call a doctor. The counsel for the plaintiff submitted that he was entitled to judgement on these findings, because the constable was acting as an agent for an undisclosed principal. The judge would not accept this interpretation, and in giving his decision said that he had to decide whether the constable was liable; he could only be liable as principal or as acting for an undisclosed principal; if he had simply told the messenger to go for a doctor, he would have been acting as agent for an undisclosed principal, but the messenger had stated that the police-constable told him to go for a doctor for Mrs. Blake; the police-constable could not be made liable because the messenger gave the wrong

message; if the constable had sent for the doctor not disclosing who the principal was, or had himself sent for the doctor, he might have been liable as an undisclosed principal; the judge found that he was not so liable.

At Greenwich County Court recently, before His Honour Judge Willis, K.C., Dr. J. P. O'Hea, of Catford, sued Mr. Wool, of Bromley Road, Catford, for one guinea and a half. The claim was for medical attendance to defendant and two friends after a motor car accident, which occurred in the middle of the night at South End, Catford. Plaintiff, who was called by the police, said that defendant was a man of means, and he did not consider it fair to look to the Police Fund for payment. For the defence it was stated that Wool and his friends were attended subsequently by their own doctors, at their own homes. His Honour held that the constable calling plaintiff acted as defendant's agent, and gave judgement in plaintiff's favour for the amount claimed and costs.

UNREGISTERED DENTISTS.

At Old Street Police Court, London, on October 31st, three dentists were prosecuted by the London and Counties Medical Protection Society for using styles and titles implying that they were registered dental practitioners under the Dentists Act. The Society was represented by Mr. G. H. Young, solicitor.

Evidence was given by Dr. Hugh Woods, Secretary of the prosecuting Society, as to visiting the business premises of the respective defendants. Mr. Hanreck exhibited at his shop, which was also a hairdresser's, the name, "H. Hanreck, Surgeon-Dentist"; above the door, and inside, "G. Hanreck, Practical Dentist." Lechem, who is a chemist, exhibited the words, "Surgeon-Dentist," but Weinberg only exhibited a frame with the word "Dentist," and a quantity of teeth in the window.

Mr. Robinson, defending Hanreck, said the signs were put in during the time of his client's father, who was a registered dentist, and had been left there since his death in 1889. He had no idea he was infringing the Act.

Lechem, defending himself, said he was qualified in Vienna and Berlin, and thought the qualifications were sufficient in England.

Mr. A. J. David, barrister, defending Weinberg, submitted that the use of the word "dentist" alone was no suggestion that the plaintiff was registered.

Mr. Cluer overruled the point. He fined Hanreck and Lechem each the full penalty of £20 under the Act, and further ordered them to pay three guineas costs each. Having regard to the fact that Weinberg had been carrying on his business since 1872—before the passing of the Dentists Act—the magistrate imposed a fine of £10, with three guineas costs.

VALUE OF PARTNERSHIP DEBTS.

ALBINO writes: A. and B. are partners, and A. intends to buy B.'s share, together with the book debts, at 15 per cent. reduction. Should fees due from an insurance company for examining cases and money due from an industrial school be classed as book debts, or should they be treated differently and divided equally between the partners?

* * All money due at the time of the sale for professional work, and not paid, must be included under book debts. It is not usual to reckon under this category debts of more or less uncertain value.

A. K. B. T.—In estimating the value of a practice by taking the average receipts during the last three years, all professional receipts during that period must be included. It matters not whether those receipts were the payments for work done during those three years or for work done anterior to that period. In every practice, especially in those of long standing, a considerable portion of the receipts is made up out of the payment of book debts of past years.

PAYMENT FOR POLICE CALLS.

LUX writes that some six weeks ago he was called by the police to attend a woman and her daughter, who had been murderously attacked by the woman's husband with a hatchet. He spent an hour or an hour and a half in dressing the wounds and injecting strychnine, etc. The patients were then sent to hospital and recovered, and last week the man was brought up at the police-court and sent for trial at the assizes. Our correspondent was not called at the police-court, nor does he expect to be at the assizes. He asks: (1) Can I recover a fee for this attendance? (2) If so, from whom is it recoverable? (3) What would be a fair fee to ask for under the circumstances?

* * (1) Our correspondent is certainly entitled to a fee for his attendance. (2) As to who should pay, if the husband is able to do so he should certainly be called upon; if not, application might be made to the police authorities. (3) In the metropolitan police district the fee for each case, if the attendance was at night, would be 7s. 6d., or a special fee of one guinea for both might be allowed.