

Camoens, the author of the *Lusiad*, the national epic of Portugal, met the fate that has so often befallen genius, and died in circumstances almost as miserable as our own Edmund Spenser, who is said to have perished of hunger in King Street, Westminster. Fray Joseph Indio, of the Convent of Descalced Carmelites of Guadalupe, says:

I saw him die in a hospital in Lisbon, without a sheet to cover him, after having triumphed in the East Indies, and sailed 5,500 leagues over the sea.

In an article on the death of the poet which appeared in *A Medicina Contemporanea* in March last, the records of Camoens's death are critically examined. It appears that the poet contracted malaria in the East, and in 1580, when the authorities of Lisbon were in fear of the plague, they appointed an official with large powers for the safeguarding of the public health. There is reason to believe that these powers were exercised for political purposes, being found highly useful for the removal of inconvenient persons, and it is hinted that Camoens, being obnoxious to the party in power, was thus put of the way. It is certain, however, that he was very ill, and it is also certain that plague was prevalent in Lisbon in 1580. An error of diagnosis is therefore admissible as a more charitable explanation of the manner in which he was dealt with. He was declared to be suffering from plague, and in March or April ordered to be segregated among the other victims of the disease. In the pesthouse he died in the following June, and was buried in the cemetery of Santa Anna attached thereto, without inscription or anything to mark the site of his grave.

Medical News.

A VERY successful bazaar in aid of the sanatorium at Fort Augustus was held recently in the grounds of Beaufort Castle, the seat of Lord Lovat, whose sister, the Hon. Margaret Fraser, has taken so large a part in raising funds for the building of this sanatorium. The two days' bazaar realised £3,400.

ON August 21st, Dr. H. F. Cameron was presented with a purse containing seventy-five sovereigns on the occasion of his leaving Invergordon, where he had been in practice for the past thirteen years, for Brechin. Provost MacDonald presided, and referred to the regret all felt at the departure of Dr. Cameron. Mr. Perrins, of Ardrross, made the presentation.

MESSRS. THOMAS COOK AND SON announce that the various services on the Nile between Cairo, Assuan, and the Second Cataract will be worked this winter by twelve steamers, and that by agreement with the Egyptian and Soudan Railways combined tickets will be issued. A new steamer, the *Egypt*, possessing all the latest improvements, will be introduced this year.

THE centenary of the school of medicine and pharmacy at Clermont-Ferrand was celebrated during the recent meeting of the French Association for the Advancement of Science in that town. There was a public meeting in the Hôtel-de-Ville, at which Professor Landouzy conveyed the felicitations of the Minister of Public Instruction, who is the head of all the universities and technical schools in France, and afterwards a marble tablet, bearing a suitable inscription in letters of gold, affixed to the wall of the school was unveiled. In the evening a banquet was given at Royat, the well-known mineral spa in the immediate neighbourhood of Clermont-Ferrand.

AFTER the luncheon given at the Royal Infirmary to ophthalmic surgeons in Sheffield during the annual meeting of the British Medical Association by Mr. Simeon Snell, President of the Association and Ophthalmic Surgeon to the Infirmary, a photograph of those present was taken by Mr. R. S. Henderson, 35, Fargate, Sheffield. It is a very good photograph, and includes excellent portraits of Mr. Snell himself, Sir Henry Swanzy, President of the Ophthalmic Section, Professor Fuchs of Vienna, Dr. Argyll Robertson, and Mr. Pridgin Teale, to mention only the veterans. Copies can be obtained from the photographer.

SIR ALFRED JONES is, we learn from the *Times*, making arrangements to dispatch an expedition to Jamaica to investigate tropical diseases and the insect life of the island, which is responsible for carrying disease. It is intended to send Mr. Robert Newstead, Lecturer in Economic Entomology and Parasitology at the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, to Jamaica in the first week of November to undertake the investigation of the ticks

there responsible for certain diseases in animals, and of disease-bearing insects. He may be accompanied by a medical research investigator, whose duties would be to investigate indigenous diseases of the island.

THE city of Chicago employs 100 medical men in the work of school inspection, and during the ten months of the school year ended June 26th, 1908, 406,919 pupils were examined and 12,240, or 3.0 per cent., were excluded on account of contagious, infectious or parasitic diseases. The number of children excluded on account of infectious diseases was 2,311. Of this number, 419 were in a condition to spread the infection of scarlet fever; 368, diphtheria; 1,259 measles, and 265 whooping-cough; 1,125 were excluded on account of chicken-pox; 360, mumps; 22, tuberculosis; 2,556, tonsillitis; 1,680, impetigo contagiosa; 860, scabies; 334, purulent sore eyes; 1,644, pediculosis; and 1,348 for other affections of less importance. Vaccination was performed on 47,875 school children and all pupils were examined as to their vaccinal condition.

G. ARNDT AND A. LAQUEUR (*Berl. klin. Woch.*, August 3rd, 1908) have inquired into the question as to the effect of De Keating-Hart's high-frequency and high-tension currents on the functions of the vital organs. They have experimented both with long sparks and by direct application of the currents, and come to the following conclusions: Deep anaesthesia is not necessary for the treatment by fulguration, provided the skin is adequately protected with some dry material. Fulguration of the skin exercises a slight stimulatory effect on the heart and respiration, while that of muscles or bone exercises scarcely any such effect. The currents may be applied to the brain and dura mater for long periods without effecting any direct changes. Short sparks do not produce any signs of irritation, while long ones do, when applied to the dura. The changes are attended by increases in blood pressure. The application of the sparks to the heart produces arrhythmia and lowering of blood pressure, and it is therefore wise to exercise care in applying the treatment to the organs of the thorax. Carbonic-acid cooling should not be employed to the inside of the chest. The damage produced on the heart is especially marked with bipolar application. Fulguration only causes marked increase in the peristalsis of the intestines and bladder when the sparks are directly applied, and the skin adequately protects these organs against any deleterious effect. No histological changes were discovered in portions of normal tissue or of tumours removed immediately after fulguration. The physiological action of direct monopolar application without sparks often exceeds that of true fulguration. This suggests that fulguration does not owe its action to the discharge of the sparks but to the high-frequency currents as such.

PATTON has published (*Scientific Memoirs by Officers of the Medical and Sanitary Departments of the Government of India. The Development of the Leishman-Donovan Parasite in Cixex Rotundatus*. Second Report by Captain W. S. Patton, M.B., I.M.S. New Series, No. 31. Calcutta: Superintendent of Government Printing, India. 1907. Med. 4to, pp. 24. Rs. 1, or 1s. 6d.) a second report on the development of the Leishman-Donovan parasite in the bug (*Cixex rotundatus*). Further facts are brought out in addition to those contained in the first report; for example, the author states that there is no evidence at present to show that the development in the bug depends on variations in the temperature, nor is there any evidence at present to support the view that the infection is inherited by the bug. It is not quite clear how the parasites escape from the bugs back to man, but the author hopes later to solve this problem and also to study the final stages of the development of the parasites. As the males of this species of parasite also suck blood they must be considered to be as dangerous as the females.

MEDICAL STUDENTS IN AUSTRIA.—The total number of students registered in the universities of Austria on May 31st, 1908, was 21,499. Of these, 1,399 were students of theology, 3,270 of medicine, 9,771 of law, and 7,059 of philosophy (Arts). Vienna headed the list with a total of 6,881, of whom 1,428, including 60 women, belonged to the medical faculty. Innsbrück had 1,051, of whom 180 were students of medicine; and Graz had 1,761, of whom 290 were medical students. In the German University of Prague there were 1,474, of whom 244 belonged to the medical faculty; of these 8 were women. In the Czech University of Prague there were 3,449 students, of whom 446 belonged to the medical faculty; of these 8 were women. Of a total of 3,517 students at Lemberg, 242, including 34 women, belonged to the medical faculty. At Cracow the total number was 2,567, of whom 440, including 38 women, were students of medicine.

washed large quantities of tar into a neighbouring pond. After the rain-storm forty or more carp in the pond were found dead, with their eyeballs protruding from the sockets and glazed over with a white film. The same thing happened in a pond in the village Y, and on this pond two cygnets, in addition to the fish, died. In neither case did I see the fish, but I have visited the ponds and have every reason to believe the accuracy of the descriptions given me.

In a third instance I have seen the fish myself. The eyes showed corneal opacities resembling the opacities resulting in the human eye from ulceration of the cornea. It is not desirable that we, as a profession, should condemn tar on insufficient evidence, when the dust nuisance without it is so great. It is even less desirable that we should recommend it indiscriminately if it is in fact dangerous to fish life.

In a question of this kind, combining as it does problems in pharmacy, chemistry, and pathology, the medical profession should be qualified before others to give an authoritative opinion and to help both the motorist and the pedestrian on the right path, and for this reason I appeal with confidence to the readers of your JOURNAL for further light on the properties of tar.—I am, etc.,

September 3rd.

S. E. J., M.D.

SIR,—I should like to say a few words with reference to "Wayfarer's" letter under the heading "Motor Cars and Dust" in your issue of August 29th.

It is somewhat difficult to pick out definite points in this wail of complaint, though it does occupy a column and a half; but one gathers that, owing to the presence of motors,

(1) "The liberty of the road has been lost."

(2) "Everything has to give way to the motor car."

(3) The roads which were "meant for the many have been wrecked by the few," for "owing to the action of the motor tyres the binding of the road has been removed, and there is nothing left but loose stones in the centre."

Now as regards (1). The liberty of the road has certainly been lost to the idlers and loiterers and to the children, who had latterly come to regard it as a convenient playground. But the liberty has been regained for the travellers upon it. "Wayfarer" asks "To whom is the right of the road?" And I say emphatically, "To the users." The roads as originally made were intended as through routes; the advent of railways put an end to this, and they became mere links from village to village. Now we hope to restore to them their proper function.

(2) So far from everything giving way to the motorist, "Wayfarer" would speedily find, if he did any motoring, that very much the converse pertains. As a matter of fact, by right the slower traffic should give way to the faster, but the average country carter no more thinks of hurrying to get off the centre of the road to make room for a passing car than he does of flying. To such "rules of the road" are an unknown quantity, as I fear they are to a good many cyclists.

(3) As regards the "wrecking of the roads" count, I can only ask "Wayfarer" to compare our main roads now with what they were ten years ago. Surely it is obvious that the hammering of horses' feet, the cutting action of narrow iron-shod wheels, and the crushing effect of heavy traction engines must be infinitely more destructive than pneumatic tyres.

"Wayfarer" also offers some suggestions for further taxing the already overtaxed motorist and still further hampering through traffic by means of toll-gates. I should like to point out that the motorist, besides being usually a heavy ratepayer in the ordinary way, has to pay £1 registration on his car, from 2 to 5 guineas carriage tax, and 5s. for each person who may wish to drive.

Toward the end of his letter "Wayfarer" startles us with the announcement that dust-laying experiments "have been made on the Riviera," and that sprinkling with tar or calcium salts "has been recommended." Where has "Wayfarer" been all these years? Surely it is common knowledge that the most extensive experiments have been made by the Royal Automobile Club and Motor Union for several years toward this end. Surely, also, the results of these experiments (made, let it be remembered, at the expense of the motorists themselves) are fairly

evident in the miles and miles of dustless roads which we already possess. Let me give as instances the Hastings, Worthing, and Portsmouth roads from London, and many others too numerous to mention in the Midland counties.

All decent motorists are, of course, in full accord with "Wayfarer's" strictures on the reckless driver (I do not include under this heading the man who drives fast on open roads, but rather the man who drives dangerously, irrespective of speed, where other traffic is about). The only way to treat such is to deprive him of his licence.—I am, etc.,

Reading, Sept. 7th. W. BERNARD SECRETAN, M.B., F.R.C.S.

THE MEDICAL REGISTER.

SIR,—May I ask you, in the interests of the profession, to draw attention once more to the importance of notifying changes of address to this office for insertion in the *Medical Register*? Omission to do this sometimes leads to a temporary removal of the name, with its consequent inconvenience. The *Medical Register* is the official publication, and should not be confused with any of the medical directories which issue circulars annually.

I might add that if the signatures are written clearly, and the full names, or at least the full initials, are given, much trouble will be saved.—I am, etc.,

H. E. ALLEN,
Registrar.General Medical Council Office,
299, Oxford Street, London, W.
Sept. 3rd.

Universities and Colleges.

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH.

The following candidates have been approved at the examinations indicated:

FIRST M.B.—J. W. E. Adkins, W. A. Alexander, J. C. Anderson, L. L. Armstrong, P. Baillie, E. B. Barton, F. J. H. Begg, R. C. Begg, J. H. Boag, S. Bolton, W. N. G. Boxer, J. W. Bruce, C. P. Carlsson, J. F. Chalmers, F. C. Davidson, A. E. Delgado, Janet S. Doak, G. A. C. Douglas, R. Fawcett, W. R. Gardner, J. J. Gilchrist, R. Grant, M.A., A. C. V. Green, R. Hay, W. J. G. Henderson, T. P. Herriot, T. H. Horrax, T. W. Jackson, D. H. Jones, M.A., I. W. Jones, Janet S. Laird, Christine Larsen, D. P. Lindsay, Isabella M. Little, F. W. Mackenzie, *J. C. M'Kerrow, Gertrude D. MacLaren, J. S. M'Laren, Rosanna E. Macmillan, J. Macqueen, H. Mahmud, A. W. Mather, J. M. Matheson, A. Means, W. Mitchell, Sarah O'Flynn, *G. F. B. Page, L. J. D. Pawan, W. W. Phillips, A. C. Price, *E. D. Pullon, A. Radford, G. C. Ramsay, A. C. Renton, A. A. Rutherford, B.A., LL.D., E. R. Ryner, Dorothy M. Scott, E. Sharpe, H. W. Smith, *R. W. Smith, S. A. Smith, J. E. Snodgrass, W. Stewart, F. Thompson, R. Thomson, C. V. Thornton, W. G. Thwaytes, H. F. Rogers-Tillstone, C. J. Tisdall, G. D. E. Tullis, G. Walker, R. W. W. Walsh, C. S. Wills, P. C. Woudberg, H. T. Young.

SECOND M.B.—C. R. White, E. Anderson, G. J. Carr, B.A., F. O. Clarke, T. F. Craig, Jemima B. Dickie, W. A. Dunn, J. M. Elliot, A. C. England, A. G. Forbes, M. E. Goode, Annie C. Greenep, D. S. Harvey, S. Hodgkinson, D. van V. Hoffman, N. J. Hofmeyer, B.A., G. de C. Hugo, A. J. G. Hunter, J. S. P. Knight, J. J. Levin, R. M'Adoo, H. J. M'Gaw, J. D. M'Ewen, M.A., A. T. Mackenzie, Elizabeth Macleod, G. V. T. M'Michael, A. B. Robertson, H. C. Robbins, Lizzie Rose, Charlotte D. Schaeffer, K. R. Shah, D. R. B. Sivright, B.A., N. W. Stevens, G. H. Stevenson, J. D. G. Stewart, O. H. Blacklay, J. C. Brash, M.A., B.Sc., A. G. Brown, L. D. Callander, W. D. Chambers, A. Cochran, J. Daneel, M. R. Drennan, M.A., J. M. Drew, B.A., J. Erlank, A. Galletly, R. Govan, M.A., J. D. Gunn, C. A. Keegan, J. C. J. Khambatla, W. D. Kirkwood, R. C. Lowther, D. J. M'Affee, G. Macdonald, K. B. MacGlashan, Marion Macintyre, J. M. Mackinnon, W. P. Murray, L. T. Poole, K. A. Rao, M. W. Ruthven, T. M'C. Sellar, J. W. Senter, Daisy L. Shawyer, B.A., J. C. Smith, M.A., D. L. Theron, R. Thorp, H. C. Todd, J. A. Tomb, F. L. Tulloch, R. C. Wallace, A. M. Warwick, F. H. C. Watson, W. L. Webster.

THIRD M.B.—J. R. Adam, T. A. Adams, Janet Armstrong, C. A. Bignold, W. Bisset, M.A., B.Sc., A. Campbell, J. A. H. Carter, P. Chalmers, R. B. Chamberlain, J. P. Charnock, B. R. Chopra, W. F. Christie, Gladys H. Cook, G. M. Coughtrey, G. C. Dalton, R. B. Davidson, J. Davie, W. N. Davies, F. A. Duffield, J. Eaves, H. G. Feltham, J. B. Ferguson, G. H. Garnett, C. Grant, T. E. Guthrie, R. W. Hauman, J. B. Haycraft, W. C. Jardine, A. M. Jones, J. H. Jones, Janet Leiper, L. Leslie, Mary Low, M.A., W. H. Lowe, A. J. M'Connell, W. Macdonald, R. B. Macfie, J. Mackail, M.A., D. Mackinnon, Mary Macmillan, A. J. Macvie, C. G. Marais, W. A. Miller, Rhoda M. Murdoch, W. J. Nisbet, J. E. R. Orchard, J. A. Pienaar, J. P. du Plessis, Ella F. Pringle, J. M. Scott, M. B. Smith, B.Sc., T. C. Smith, R. H. Tait, L. W. Owen-Taylor, W. A. Todd, A. Watson, T. Welsh.

*With distinction.

By the will of the late Mrs. Sarah Flower, of Stratford-on-Avon, bequests of £500 each are made to the hospital and to the nursing home in Stratford-on-Avon, to the women's hospital and the ear and throat hospital in Birmingham, and to the London Hospital and University College Hospital.