

Medical News.

PROFESSOR WILHELM WUNDT, the distinguished physiologist of Leipzig, celebrated his 80th birthday on August 16th.

THE All-India Sanitary Conference, which Sir Harcourt Butler initiated at Bombay last November, will meet in Madras this year early in the winter. The draft agenda has been circulated.

FRANKFURT is to have a university of its own. The sum of £355,600 having been subscribed, it follows that the King of Prussia will give a formal consent and the university will be built. A Governmental grant will place the new university on a sound financial basis.

THE French Urological Association will hold its sixteenth congress in Paris on October 10th and two following days under the presidency of Professor Guyon. The principal question proposed for discussion is a comparison of the results of the various treatments of tuberculosis of the kidney.

THE course of practical training for meat inspectors at the Royal Sanitary Institute will begin on Friday, October 4th, and that for school teachers, health visitors, and school nurses on Monday, September 30th. Further particulars can be obtained on application to the Secretary, 90, Buckingham Palace Road, London, S.W.

IN a dispatch addressed to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs by the Sirdar of the Egyptian Army in regard to the military operations in the South-Eastern Sudan from January to March, 1912, the name of Captain W. Byam, Royal Army Medical Corps, is mentioned "for his gallantry in attending to the wounded under fire."

THE Saxon Medical Disciplinary Court (Aerztlicher Gerichtshof) has determined that the use of the description, "Specialist in tuberculous diseases," is not permissible. This decision is based on the consideration that the public would have to make its own diagnosis of a tuberculous affection in selecting the practitioner for this purpose, and it is incapable of doing this. The court has no objection to a medical practitioner describing himself as specialist in diseases of particular organs, but it regards it contrary to the interest of the medical profession for the description of specialist applying to any pathological condition.

THE fourth International Congress of Physical Education will be held at Rome in October (24th to 27th). The programme of discussions is as follows: The organization of physical education as a preparation for military service; a rational method of physical training in primary, middle, and secondary schools; the value of sports in physical education, and their physiological limitations; the physical education of woman in relation with her function in the family and in society; respiratory gymnastics and choral singing in schools; open-air schools; the physical exercises suitable for the prophylaxis of tuberculosis.

SERIOUS objection has been taken by some medical men to the action of the income-tax authorities of Munich in raising the assessment of the individual incomes of the practitioners after they have made their full returns. In one case the increase is reported to have been as much as £750. Apart from the fact that the individuals concerned are unwilling to pay the taxes on an income which is larger than their real one, this protest is based on what, it is contended, is the unfounded assumption that the return has been made with the intention of defrauding the revenue. It has been suggested that all medical men whose assessments have been altered will combine together and refuse to pay the increased taxes.

AT Gillingham, in Dorsetshire, on Thursday, August 29th, a meeting was held for the purpose of hearing an exposition by Drs. Morgan, Hanly, and Rutter, the three medical men practising in this small town of 3,000 inhabitants, of the grounds for the present attitude taken up by the medical profession towards the National Insurance Act. The proceedings corresponded closely with those at Bromsgrove, which were recorded in our issue for July 13th. As there is undoubtedly still much misconception on the part of the public as to the relations of the Act to the medical profession these meetings are certainly of utility, especially if steps are taken to emphasize the non-political character of the medical objections to the Act by

selecting as chairman some well-known adherent of the Government.

IN his report for the year 1910, Dr. Philip, the Medical Officer of Health for Colombo, states that the year was unusually cool and dry. The health of the population, as indicated by the mortality statistics, was remarkably good; the crude death-rate, 28.8, reckoned on the corrected population, was the lowest recorded since the registration of deaths was placed on a satisfactory footing. The number of deaths from each of the principal causes was below the average. The number of births registered in Colombo was 4,819, giving a rate of 24.9 per 1,000 living. The infant mortality-rate was 295 per 1,000 births, the rate for 1910 being the lowest on record. The principal causes of infant deaths were convulsions, debility, diarrhoea and tetanus—all pointing to ignorance or lack of care on the part of the mothers, and indicating the necessity for extending the system of domiciliary visitation by health visitors instituted a year or two ago. From a table of the principal causes of death in each race in 1910, it appears that enteric fever heads the list for Europeans; pneumonia and phthisis for Burghers; pneumonia and phthisis for Cingalese; pneumonia for Tamils and Malays, and phthisis for Moors. Reference is made in the report to the occurrence of a type of fever which is locally known as "drainage fever," owing to a suspected relation to the drainage operations at Colombo. A circular letter was sent to all those practising in the neighbourhood, and the opinion of the majority was that there was no distinct type of fever in Colombo associated with the drainage operations. Most of them appeared to think that the cases of so-called "drainage fever" were in reality cases of abortive or modified enteric fever or paratyphoid, or Rogers's seven day fever, or septic sore throat, and that they were in no way associated with the drainage operations. There were 654 deaths from phthisis during the year, giving a death-rate of 3.37 per 1,000, the lowest rate since 1903.

Medico-Legal.

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION CASES.

Medical Fees for Evidence.

A CASE at Newcastle (April 12th) illustrates the hardship which the Workmen's Compensation Act sometimes imposes upon medical practitioners who are summoned as witnesses. Dr. Shepherd (South Shields), who was called to give evidence for the applicant, said: "I was brought here on a subpoena by the solicitor for the applicant, and I have foregone several important engagements. I have been here nearly all day, and yet I understand I can be given no guarantee that I will be paid."

Judge Greenwell: If that is so I shall certainly not ask Dr. Shepherd to give evidence. It is very unfair for professional men to be brought here on a subpoena and be expected to give evidence without some reasonable guarantee that they will be paid for what they do.

Dr. Shepherd: I am very sorry to have had to mention it to your Honour, but it is not as if I had been required for a few minutes only.

His Honour: It is a most improper thing to happen, and you have done quite right to mention it.

Counsel for applicant assured His Honour that that was the first he heard of this, and since he could not have Dr. Shepherd's evidence he must close his case there.

His Honour accepted Mr. Edgar's assurance, and added that Dr. Shepherd, having been brought from South Shields to Newcastle on a subpoena, certainly had a cause of action if he did not get his expenses. Whether that action lay against the solicitor it was not for him to say.

Alleged Worry from Medical Examinations.

IN a compensation case at Nottingham (April 19th) it appeared that a stable boy named Harwood was employed by Mr. Hickling in June, 1909, at a wage of 6s. a week, which by March, 1910, had increased to 10s. a week. On March 29th he met with an accident through the bolting of a horse, which resulted in a fall and his being admitted to the Nottingham General Hospital. The result was that he was unable to do more than very light work. Up to November he was paid 10s. a week compensation, and from November to March 30th 5s. a week. On April 4th his father, who was in the same employment, was given notice, and the applicant left with him.

Dr. Hogarth said that the boy was in a critical condition when in the hospital, and the spleen had to be removed. In his opinion he would be unable to do any other than light work. The insurance company had considerably worried the boy, and his nervous condition had been made worse by being continually examined by the doctor for the insurance company. Dr. Neil spoke to examining the boy with Dr. Hogarth, and to arriving at the same conclusion. Dr. Snell was then called by Mr. Campion, and said that in his opinion Harwood was quite able to do full work. Both parties subsequently agreed to an award of £100 and costs.