

year, but that the only limitation will be that of failing to pass the examination?

The signatures of nearly 300 medical men have already been sent in to the Senate, but as fresh signatures keep arriving, it will be necessary to forward another batch towards the end of the month, and names will be gladly received by me until that date.

PROPOSED ANNUAL LICENCE TO PRACTICE.

LOCUM writes: At a time when medical men are disturbed in their minds by the proposed tax on horses, it may appear unseasonable to suggest another tax on incomes reduced by agricultural, manufacturing, and trade depressions. However, whereas the horse tax is undoubtedly a grievance, the tax I would beg to propose would be a protection, and would not necessitate the elaborate discussions of the Medical Council concerning unqualified practice, at the same time being much more effective.

If each qualified registered man paid a yearly tax—a nominal one—anything from half a guinea upwards, and if the collection of such tax devolved upon the excise, the excisemen in each district would have a list of all so paying, and should they discover any man practising in their district not having paid his tax, and therefore presumably not registered, they could take legal proceedings against him.

At present, when an unqualified man is in practice, although the medical men in his neighbourhood often find him a formidable opponent, no individual cares to "bell the cat."

Considering the late enormous additions to the *Medical Register*, the number of qualified men unemployed, and the number of men who, never having set foot in a hospital or ever having attended a lecture, hold good assistances or act as principals keeping qualified assistants, it is time something more sweeping should be done than picking out isolated cases, and after a long and expensive investigation letting transgressors off with a caution.

. The principal objection which occurs to us is that the proposal leaves out of account the expense which prosecutions of unqualified practitioners involve. Where successful, the prosecutor frequently has to bear the costs in full, through the insolvent circumstances of the defendant, and the consequent loss of the penalty recovered. Under the arrangement proposed, which we notice gives an option to the Government to prosecute or not, the Government would be only very indirectly interested in suppressing unqualified practice; they would only be interested in doing so so far as its suppression would increase the number of registered men, and so augment the tax. Now the cost of suppressing unqualified practice would, it seems to us, very far exceed any benefit of this kind, and, if that were so, the Government would prefer to leave unqualified persons unmolested. The nation would get the tax, but the profession who are to bear it would derive no advantage in return.

On the other hand, even if the Government were to undertake, in return for the tax, to prosecute all cases of unqualified practice, the tax, reduced by the costs of prosecutions, would provide the Chancellor of the Exchequer with a poor substitute for the horse tax.

ACETIC ERGOT.

DR. C. R. ILLINGWORTH (Accrington) writes: Permit me to thank Dr. Francis most heartily for the boon he has conferred upon the profession by drawing attention to the value of acetic ergot. I have used the drug according to his formula, and I have found it to prevent collapse in a marvellous manner. The patient remains strong, and the face is flushed instead of pale, as is generally the case with ordinary treatment. There is less hemorrhage, also, and a more firm uterine contraction. Those who use the mixture prescribed by Dr. Francis will never use an ammoniated preparation again, I think; for what is rapidity of action with subsequent tendency to collapse, compared with rather less rapid action with the complete absence of that dangerous symptom?

COMMUNICATIONS, LETTERS, etc., have been received from:

Messrs. Burroughs, Wellcome and Co., London; Mr. F. Hollinshead, Selly Oak; Mr. G. Meadows, Hastings; Mr. G. Barling, Birmingham; Dr. T. R. Bradshaw, Liverpool; Mr. W. W. Walter, Stoke-under-Ham; Mr. Carl Lawinski, London; A. Y. Morton, M.B., Drymen; Sir William Stokes, Dublin; Dr. Barnardo, London; Mr. W. R. Stewart, London; Mr. T. H. Bickerton, Liverpool; Dr. P. M. Deas, Exeter; Mr. J. E. Peirce, Redditch; Mr. D. M. Edwards, Taffs Well; Mr. J. H. B. May, Bath; Mr. A. W. Nankivell, Chatham; Dr. Holman, Reigate; Dr. J. Addison, London; Mr. R. Bevan, Lydd; Dr. W. V. Lush, Weymouth; Dr. W. J. Simpson, Calcutta; Mr. C. B. Keetley, London; Mr. H. J. Dimmock, Shirkarpur, India; Surgeon-Major Quilland, Woolwich; Dr. Maxwell, Woolwich; Dr. A. T. Myers, London; Sir J. W. Reid, Lansdowne, Bath; Mr. F. Hawkins, London; Dr. J. H. Aveling, London; Dr. J. Lindsay, Belfast; Mr. H. Sewill, London; Mr. W. G. Hill, Fermoy; Mr. C. Lovegrove, Blundel Sands; Army Medical Officer, Madras; Mr. R. H. A. Hunter, London; Mr. J. Lewis, Birmingham; Dr. Suckling, Birmingham; Dr. M. Skerritt, Clifton; Dr. N. Kerr, London; Mr. T. A. Aird, Wallington; Mr. R. Torrance, Newcastle-on-Tyne; T. E. W.; Mr. E. H. Fern, London; Dr. R. Saundby, Birmingham; Dr. E. Haughton, London; Mr. G. Black, Keswick; Mr. W. J. Tivy, Clifton; Mr. R. Jones, Liverpool; Dr. R. Rentoul, Liverpool; Mr. T. B. Browne, London; Dr. R. A. Jamieson, Shanghai; The Right Hon. D. Plunket, M.P., London; Mr. G. Eastes, London; Messrs. May and Baker, London; Dr. Alfred Carpenter, Croydon; Alma Mater; Mr. S. B. Groves, London; Dr. E. Holland, London; Dr. Clippingdale, London; Mr. F. E. Parsons, London; Mr. D. Scrymgeour, Liverpool; Dr. S. Davies, Woolwich; Our Berlin Correspondent; Dr. J. L. Chambers, London; Dr. R. Cory, London; Mr. J. Williams, Brecon; Mr. T. Sinclair,

Mr. H. W. Higgins, London; Dr. G. H. Mackenzie, Edinburgh; Mr. E. Cross-hill, Halifax; Mr. F. A. Castle, New York; T. D.; Dr. F. Hewkley, London; The Registrar of the King and Queen's College of Physicians of Ireland, Dublin; Mr. F. Palmer, London; Mr. F. M. Pierce, Manchester; Dr. C. R. Illingworth, Accrington; Dr. Mickle, London; Mr. S. Townsend, Netley; Miss J. Thorne, London; Mr. J. A. Feeny, Nottingham; Mr. E. Casey, Windsor; Mr. J. T. Neech, Oswestry; Mr. R. C. Morris, Birkenhead; Dr. J. T. Windle, Ovenden; Dr. F. T. Heuston, Dublin; Mr. G. M. A. Rudkin, Teignmouth; Mr. F. P. Nichols, Hounslow; the Secretary of the Sanitary Institute, London; Mr. W. Milligan, South Tottenham; Surgeon-Major O. Baker, Calcutta; Dr. W. L. Symes, Birkenhead; Mr. F. W. Mann, Edinburgh; Mr. W. Anderson, Punjab; Mr. E. Cureton, Shrewsbury; Surgeon-Major S. Deakin, Mean Mir, Punjab; Dr. Davis, Maestag; Dr. W. B. Gowans, Perth; Mr. D. W. Byers, Milford Haven; Sanitary and Police; Vigilant; Dr. C. E. Shelly, Hertford; Mr. J. Lloyd Roberts, Denbigh; Dr. J. Mackenzie, Tighnabruach; Mr. G. Rendle, London; Dr. Caton, Liverpool; Mr. A. Edington, Edinburgh; Mr. J. Smith, Streatham Hill; Dr. Tatham, Salford; Our Glasgow Correspondent; Dr. H. Tomkins, Leicester; Dr. J. Macrae, Laggan, N.B.; Mr. Shirley Murphy, London; "Nom de Plume," Dr. Farquharson, M.P., London; Mr. G. Parker, Clifton; Dr. Malcolmson, Middlesbrough-on-Tees; Mr. A. Lingard, London; the Secretary of the Queen's Jubilee Hospital, London; Mr. J. H. Moore, Coote-hill; Our Liverpool Correspondent; The Medical Officer, Medical Department, Local Government Board, London; Dr. Macpherson, London; Mr. J. Hickman, Sheerness; Mr. T. Blair, Leeds; the Secretary of the Hospitals Association, London; etc.

BOOKS, etc. RECEIVED.

- A Practical Textbook of the Diseases of Women. By A. H. N. Lewers, M.D., London, M.R.C.P. Lond. With Illustrations. London: H. K. Lewis. 1888.
- A Handbook of the Diseases of the Eye and their Treatment. By H. R. Swanzy, A.M., M.B., F.R.C.S.I. Second edition; with illustrations. London: H. K. Lewis. 1888.
- Anæsthetics and their Uses and Administration. By Dudley Wilmot Buxton, M.D., B.S. London: H. K. Lewis. 1888.
- On Cancer of the Uterus: being the Harveian Lectures for 1886. By John Williams, M.D., F.R.C.P. With plates. London: H. K. Lewis. 1888.
- A Junior Course of Practical Zoology. By A. Milnes Marshall, M.D., D.Sc., M.A., F.R.S., assisted by C. H. Hurst. Second edition. London: Smith, Elder and Co. 1888.
- A Manual of General Pathology. By J. F. Payne, M.D., F.R.C.S. London: Smith, Elder and Co. 1888.
- The Surgeon's Handbook on the Treatment of Wounded in War. By Dr. Frederick Von Esmarch. Translated from the third German edition. By B. Farquhar Curtis, M.D. An entirely new edition. London: Sampson Low, Marston and Co. 1888.
- The Principles of Cancer and Tumour Formation. By W. R. Williams, F.R.C.S. London: John Bale and Sons. 1888.
- Irregularities of the Teeth and their Treatment. By Eugène S. Talbot, M.D. London: H. K. Lewis. 1888.
- Memory; its Logical Relations and Cultivation. By F. W. Edridge-Green, M.B. London: Baillière, Tindall, and Cox. 1888.
- The Origin of Floral Structures. By the Rev. G. Henslow, M.A., F.L.S., with 88 Illustrations. London: Kegan Paul, Trench, and Co. 1888.
- Baths and Wells of Europe. By John Macpherson, M.D. Third Edition. London: Edward Stanford. 1888.

SCALE OF CHARGES FOR ADVERTISEMENTS IN THE "BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL."

Seven lines and under	...	...	...	£0 3 6
Each additional line	...	...	...	0 0 4
A whole column	...	...	...	1 15 0
A page	...	...	...	5 0 6

An average line contains seven words.

When a series of insertions of the same advertisement is ordered, a discount is made on the above scale in the following proportions, beyond which no reduction can be allowed.

For 6 insertions, a deduction of	...	...	10 per cent.
" 12 or 13 "	...	...	20 "
" 26 "	...	...	25 "
" 52 "	...	...	30 "

Special terms for occasional change of copy during series:

20 per cent. if not less than 26 pages be taken	...	or their equivalent
25	52	in half or
30	104	quarter pages.

For these terms the series must, in each case, be completed within twelve months from the date of first insertion.

Advertisements should be delivered, addressed to the Manager at the Office, not later than noon on the Wednesday preceding publication; and, if not paid for at the time, should be accompanied by a reference.

Post-Office Orders should be made payable to the British Medical Association, at the West Central Post-Office, High Holborn. Small amounts may be paid in postage-stamps.