

we are bound to obey any by-laws, however unreasonable, I would reply that a railway company has often contended that the receiver of a railway ticket is similarly bound by its by-laws, but such by-laws have often been set aside on their merits by a court of equity. Personally I take no interest in the Royal College of Surgeons as such, but I do believe that when the Members are represented in its government the perspective of the Council will be enormously enlarged—so much so as to take in the welfare of the profession at large. When this is done there will be less certainty that every useful measure which may be brought forward for the good of the profession will be defeated or emasculated by the jealousies of competing corporations, and then also we may hope that those individuals who have duties at our College, whether as prosecutors giving their gratuitous services to the examiners, or as candidates wishing to pay their fees, will be treated by the officials with courtesy and consideration.

With reference to the penalty which it is proposed to inflict, I can only observe that an unjust law often remains unenforced until it is enforced.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

W. DONALD SMALLPEICE.

To the Secretary, Royal College of Surgeons, Lincoln's Inn Fields.

#### REMARKS ON A POINT OF SCRIPTURE HISTORY.

DR. FITZJAMES MOLONY (Porlock, Somerset) writes: In carefully reviewing the account given in the Gospels of our Lord's crucifixion, one is struck by the unusual rapidity (three hours) with which death occurred. Death by crucifixion was usually the slowest of deaths from the avoidance of injury to vital parts; it was not uncommon for persons crucified to remain on the cross for many days, dying at last from actual starvation. I think that the Gospel narrative points to the probability, humanly speaking, of physical illness being one cause of the early death, and the pouring out of blood and water shows the presence of serous effusion in the pleural cavity. The following facts tend to this conclusion: (1) Every night previous to His betrayal He remained in the Mount of Olives when the nights, as we learn, were bitterly cold. (2) It was customary for the person crucified to carry his own cross; He was unable to carry it to the place of execution, probably from physical illness and exhaustion. (3) He died within three hours. (4) After death His side was pierced, and there came out blood and water, or, as we would now call it, blood-stained serum.

The facts recorded are few, but they tell of prolonged exposure to cold, of physical exhaustion, and a condition after death which, unless we look on it as miraculous, is only found in cases of pleuritic effusion.

#### BATHS OF BATH.

A COMPLETE tariff of the charges for baths in Bath is being published in a handy form. It will be sent to medical men throughout the kingdom.

#### IS SYPHILIS INCURABLE?

ERRATUM.—In the sixth paragraph of Mr. Le Gros Clark's letter on the curability of syphilis, published in the JOURNAL of March 23rd, p. 680, for "predilection" (line 5) read "free dilution."

#### TO CORRESPONDENTS.

OUR correspondents are reminded that prolixity is a great bar to publication, and, with the constant pressure upon every department of the JOURNAL, brevity of style and conciseness of statement greatly facilitate early insertion. We are compelled to return and hold over a great number of communications, chiefly by reason of their unnecessary length.

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

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#### BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED.

The Treatment of Epilepsy. By William Alexander, M.D., F.R.C.S. With nine illustrations. Edinburgh and London: Y. J. Pentland. 1889.  
Modern Cremation. By Sir H. Thompson. London: Kegan Paul, Trench, and Co. 1889.  
The Student's Textbook of the Practice of Medicine. By Angel Money, M.D. London: H. K. Lewis.  
Bournemouth as a Health Resort. By A. Kinsey-Morgan, M.R.C.S. Eng. London: Simpkin, Marshall, and Co. 1889.  
Shelley and Co.'s Complete Press Directory for 1889. Third edition. Price, 1s. London: Shelley and Co.  
Cosmic Evolution, being Speculation on the Origin of Our Environment. By E. A. Ridsdale. London: H. K. Lewis. 1889.

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