

MANY DOCTORS: NO DEATHS.

IN the parish of Eastwood, County of Renfrew, during two weeks of October, namely, from October 11th to October 25th, there were no deaths recorded at the registrar's office. This is noteworthy, as it is the first time it has occurred since the Registration Act came into force. The parish embraces a population of 15,000, and includes the Burgh of Pollokshaws. The usual death-rate is from 15 to 17 per 1,000. Another coincidence in connection with the above is, that for years past the medical wants of the inhabitants have been attended to by four medical men, but during the last year no fewer than three other gentlemen have started practice, thus making seven where previously there were only four. Is this a coincidence, or a cause?

MEDICAL TITLES FOR ENGLISH STUDENTS.

M.R.C.P. writes:—Were anything wanting to emphasise the urgent need of the medical titles' question being settled once and for all, perhaps the following personal experience (I fear a very common one) may be of use.

On leaving a London hospital, to commence private practice in a town of about 60,000 inhabitants, I was given an introduction, by an eminent surgeon attached to the said hospital, to one of the leading men there. Following his example, as also the example of, I believe I am correct in saying, every other man in the place, holding the qualification of M.R.C.P. or L.R.C.P., I used the title Doctor.

Some years after, I had occasion to leave this town, and to settle in a larger and more fashionable one, where I now have a good and select practice. In this latter town I find that those who hold the M.R.C.P., use the title Doctor, and a few of those holding the L.R.C.P., but that it causes those who do so to be looked upon with a certain amount of suspicion by some of their medical brethren, and to the ill-natured it gives an opportunity of disparaging them to the public, or even to their own patients, by asserting that you are not a Doctor, but forgetting to state that you are a Physician; a distinction which the public, at any rate, might fail to understand. This is not an enviable position, or one which any but the ignorant would choose.

The title Physician, as now understood, used upon the door-plate, is impossible, as it is supposed to entail a guinea fee.

The title Surgeon is misleading, and inappropriate, for all those who, like myself, hold that it is next to impossible to carry on both branches of the profession with success, and choosing medicine, have long since ceased to take any but the most trivial surgical cases.

ERRATA.—Mr. H. T. Butlin's name appears in error, as having been present at the meeting at the Apothecaries' Hall, on Tuesday, November 16th.—Surgeon-Major J. W. L. Hodder requests us to state that, in his Surgical Memorandum, published in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL of November 20th, p. 971, under the title of "Retention of Urine: Aspiration with the Guarded Needle," the size of the needle is wrongly given as equal to a No. 4 catheter, instead of a No. 4 aspirating needle.

COMMUNICATIONS, LETTERS etc., have been received from:

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BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED.

- The Diagnosis and Treatment of Diseases of the Kidney amenable to Direct Surgical Interference. By W. B. Clarke, M.A., M.B. Illustrated. London: H. K. Lewis. 1886.
- Sanitary Examinations of Water, Air, and Food. By C. B. Fox, M.D., F.R.C.P. Second Edition. Illustrated. London: J. and A. Churchill. 1886.
- Rupture of the Perinæum, its Causes, Prevention, and Treatment. By Michael Joseph Molony, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S. Dublin: Faunin and Co. London: Baillière, Tindall and Cox. 1886.
- Wellerisms from Pickwick and Master Humphry's Clock. Selected by C. F. Rideal. Edited, with Introduction, by Charles Kent. London: G. Redway. 1886.
- Subjective Symptoms in Eye-Disease. By G. A. Berry, M.B. Edinburgh: Oliver and Boyd. 1886.
- Transactions of the Society of Medical Officers of Health: Session 1885-86. London: Shaw and Sons. 1886.
- Sputum: its Diagnostic and Prognostic Significations. By Dr. F. Troup. Edinburgh: Oliver and Boyd. 1886.
- Poems, Songs, and Sonnets. By W. M. Stenhouse, M.D. Glasgow: A. Stenhouse. 1886.
- Alpine Winter in its Medical Aspects, with Notes on Davos Platz, Wiesen, St. Moritz, and the Maloja. By A. Tucker Wise, M.D. Third Edition. London: J. and A. Churchill. 1886.

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