

Medical Council, or a committee nominated by it, the work would gain in importance, and eventually be recognised through the empire as the official nomenclature. Just as the *Pharmacopeia* now emanates from the General Medical Council, so should the *Nomenclature*.

Quite apart from the above matter, one might here suggest that when the Government want any medical opinion on quarantine, epidemics, or other medical question, it seems to me the General Medical Council should be referred to. To-day such questions are often referred to the Royal College of Physicians of London, but in doing so the State seems to ignore the more important General Medical Council.

UNUSUAL EFFECT OF MORPHINE INJECTIONS.

H. S. B. writes: I think the symptoms are to be explained by the direct entry into a vein, and by the immediate action of the drug on the capillaries of the parts when the tingling, etc., is felt (the capillaries being specially abundant in those parts), and probably by the action of the excess of acetic acid in the morphine.

SHIP SURGEONS.

MR. C. H. LEET, F.R.C.S. (Bootle, Lancashire), writes that he has forwarded a copy of his pamphlet *The Ship's Surgeon of To-day*, with reprints of his letters on Ship Sanitation, to all the medical schools in the United Kingdom, but that, as some have not been acknowledged probably through miscarriage, he will be glad to supply others on application.

DILATATION AND SUPPORT OF THE PERINEUM.

MR. EDWIN PASMORE, M.B.Lond. (University College, W.C.), writes: Dr. Praeger, of Nanaimo, B.C., seems to think his remarks quite original, and not described in books. I must refer him to Dr. Galabin's excellent treatise on *Midwifery*, the edition for 1888, where, at page 417, he will find a pithy account of the treatment of a rigid perineum.

THE TITLE OF "ESQUIRE" FOR PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS.

DR. JAMES GAGE PARSONS, F.R.C.S. (Bristol) writes: Titles and rank may have no intrinsic worth, but so long as they are used and valued in society it is only right that the members of the medical profession should have their fair share, otherwise they are debarred from taking their proper position. Now, I find all artists being members of the Royal Academy, the Royal Society of Painters and the Royal Institute of Painters, are *bond fide* esquires by diploma, thus taking rank with barristers, and above the Fellows of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons; surely this is placing the physician and surgeon in a very undignified position, who should rank at least equal to the artist.

I think if some movement were set on foot to obtain the like rank for physicians and surgeons it could not well be denied them. The advantage would not be limited to the civil practitioner, but would tend greatly to facilitate the obtaining of the just rank and titles of our brethren in the army and navy; in fact it would do much to prevent the snubbing of the doctor both in civil and military circles which now bebars the army medical officers from his legitimate rank.

Extract from *The Year's Art*, 1888: "The honour of a diploma under the Royal Sign Manual, was given to the Members (of the Royal Institute of Painters) by Her Majesty on August 29th, 1884, by virtue of which they rank as esquires."

THE LONDON SMOKE NUISANCE AND THE LONDON HOUSEHOLDER.

DR. EDWARD HAUGHTON writes: In view of possible legislation with respect to the nuisance caused by private houses using badly constructed grates, allow me to point out that no Act which only affects newly built houses will be sufficient to deal with it.

On the other hand, the ordinary householder will consider himself to be hardly used if he is subjected to anything like severe penalties for doing what he has always been accustomed to do without any previous objection being made to it.

In a great community we have to humour public opinion somewhat, in order not to spoil our chances of carrying out a much needed reform. Having thought the matter out many years ago, I still adhere to my original proposition, which is to have a public inspector whose certificate shall be necessary in respect to all grates, whether in new or old houses; and, that where practicable, the landlord and not the tenant shall be held responsible for their proper construction. As I am not a copyist of any of the schemes recently put forward, I will simply restate my first idea of repaying to the community a small sum on account of the loss and injury inflicted on it by the pollution of the atmosphere. You, Sir, from your official position, must be well aware how great this injury is, and under how many heads it might be calculated. But I purposely refrain from calling the licence to use open grates any hard name at present. We must not make the present generation of householders answerable for either the ignorance or selfishness of their forefathers; but we may fairly ask them to refund, in the form of a rate, a small sum on each open (or other unscientifically constructed grate), in order to diminish general taxation, and to satisfy their own consciences. If I injure society (by pouring out soot into the air) to the value of, say, 20s. per annum, it would ill become me to grumble at a rate of 6d. per annum on every grate in my house which (by its incomplete combustion) puts my neighbour to unnecessary expense, and tends to deteriorate the value of almost every article which he possesses.

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BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED.

Hernies Internes Rétro-péritonéales. Par T. Jonnesco. Paris: G. Steinheil. 1890.

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Transactions of the American Pediatric Society. Edited by Wm. Perry Watson, A.M., M.D. Vol. I. J. B. Lippincott Co. 1890.

Diseases of the Nose and its Accessory Cavities. By W. Spencer Watson, F.R.C.S. Eng., M.B.Lond. Second Edition. London: H. K. Lewis. 1890.

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