

Prize, a gold medal and money, will be awarded to the best biographical notice of an eminent Scotchman, including an estimate of the influence and importance of his writings and discoveries. The Neill Prize, a gold medal and money, will be given for the best paper on a subject of natural history, by a Scotch naturalist; or, failing any paper thus communicated, to the best work or treatise published within the five years preceding the time of award.

SANITARY CUSTOMS OF THE JEWS. It is noticeable that in poor neighbourhoods which have been attacked by cholera, fever, small-pox, and similar diseases, the Jews living there have in an extraordinary manner escaped visitation. The apparent causes of this sanitary fact are worthy of attention. 1. As regards food, it seems that even the poorer Jews are most particular in the food they eat. In obedience to the law of Moses, they use none of the blood or offal of animals; they are also particular in the choice of fish, and avoid both animals and fowls which are grossly or unwholesomely fed. 2. Intemperance in drink is rare amongst them; and even the very poor Jews are remarkable for their attention to moral family ties. There are, of course exceptions, but this general characteristic is certain. 3. Their religion directs them to use great personal cleanliness. Ablutions are made before visiting the synagogues, and on other occasions. Their houses are also thoroughly cleaned at certain periods from top to bottom. All the above acts are important to health, and the good effect of attention to them is evident. The rules are so simple, that they might be readily observed by the chief parts of the masses of people in the large towns amongst whom this ancient race are scattered. (*The Builder*.)

SALARIES OF POOR-LAW MEDICAL OFFICERS: CASE OF DR. MCCARTHY, OF KENMARE. In reference to the case of Dr. McCarthy (see JOURNAL, p. 801) a special meeting of the Council of the Irish Medical Association was held on September 25th. Dr. Quinan, the honorary secretary, stated that he had received several communications relative to the movement made by the Cork Association for the purpose of presenting a testimonial to Dr. McCarthy, and read letters from Drs. Armstrong, Kingsley, and others, calling upon the Council to assist in carrying out this object. The following resolution was unanimously adopted:—"We, the undersigned, viewing with apprehension the principle involved in the recent reduction of the salaries of the medical officers of the Kenmare Union, are of opinion that the efficiency and stability of such institutions are imperilled by the efforts so frequently and, in this instance, successfully, made to lower the salaries of the medical officers of dispensaries. We can conceive no proceeding more harassing, vexatious, or ungrateful, to a dispensary officer than a constant menace to deprive him of his bread, or one more detrimental to the true honour or interests of the profession to which he belongs. We beg, therefore, our professional brethren to join with us in endeavouring to secure an arrangement by which £100 per annum shall be fixed as the minimum salary to be paid to each medical officer connected with Poor-law medical relief in Ireland. We further desire to record our sympathy with Dr. McCarthy of the Kenmare Dispensary, who, after thirty years faithful service, has had his salary reduced, notwithstanding that his labours have confessedly been increased by the requirements of the Poor-law Commissioners, in writing up books, making returns, etc., and at the same time to present him with a testimonial of our admiration and respect for his able and manly defence in behalf of the dispensary surgeons of Ireland, as well as of the medical profession at large." Resolved—"That every medical gentleman in this city be called upon to attach his name to the foregoing resolution, and to join in this testimonial about being presented to Dr. McCarthy." A sub-committee was then appointed to carry out the foregoing resolution.

Meetings have also been held, and resolutions passed in disapproval of such treatment as has been received by Dr. McCarthy, by the medical officers of the Dispensary Districts of the principal unions in the South of Ireland, and the County and City of Limerick Medical Protective Association. A meeting of medical men was also held at Cork on September 25th, on the subject of presenting a testimonial to Dr. McCarthy. Numerous letters were read, approving of the object; among them was one from Mr. Griffin, the Chairman of the Poor-Law Medical Reform Association in England, inclosing a subscription. The spirit which the Poor-Law medical officers, and the profession in general in Ireland, have manifested in defence of their oppressed brethren at Kenmare, is most worthy of praise and of imitation.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

POSTAGE OF MANUSCRIPT AND PRINTED MATTER.

Any amount of manuscript or printed matter, singly or together, provided it contains nothing in the form of a letter, is transmitted through the post, in packets *open at the ends*, at the following rates: not exceeding 4 ounces, one penny; above 4 and not exceeding 8 ounces, twopence; above 8 ounces and not exceeding 1 pound, fourpence; for every additional half-pound or under, twopence.

TO CONTRIBUTORS. The Editor would feel glad if Members of the Association and others, would cooperate with him in establishing as a rule, that in future no paper for publication shall exceed two pages of the Journal in length. If the writers of long communications knew as well as the Editor does, that lengthy papers *always* deter the reader from commencing them, this great evil would never arise. Brevity is the soul of medical writing—still more than of wit.

ANONYMOUS CORRESPONDENTS should always enclose their names to the Editor; not for publication, but in token of good faith. No attention can be paid to communications not thus authenticated.

EAST YORK AND NORTH LINCOLN BRANCH. The Report, with Dr. Sandwith's Address, will be published next week.

Members should remember that corrections for the current week's JOURNAL should not arrive later than Wednesday.

NOTICE.—DR. WYNTER will feel obliged if the Associates will address all Post Office Orders in payment of Subscriptions, to the Publisher, Mr. THOMAS JOHN HONEYMAN, 87, Great Queen Street, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, W. C., "Bloombury Branch"; and he would also feel obliged by their sending all communications respecting the non-receipt of the Journal, to the same address; as both these matters are out of the province of the Editor.

Communications have been received from:—DR. HANNOTTE VERNON; DR. HERBERT BARKER; DR. JOHN R. NICHOLSON; DR. J. SLOANE; DR. C. B. GARRETT; MR. D. KENT JONES; DR. P. H. WILLIAMS; DR. H. SANDWITH; DR. S. PALMER; DR. NOBLE; DR. RADCLIFFE HALL; MR. GEORGE RIGDEN; MR. E. GARRAWAY; DR. MACKINDER; MR. T. HOLMES; MR. G. B. MASFEN; DR. C. HANDFIELD JONES; DR. D. NICOL; MR. MITCHELL HENRY; DR. J. C. HALL; DR. FAIRLESS; DR. BARNES; MR. J. A. LOCKING; DR. J. G. CROKER; MR. J. CRAIG; MR. F. SPURRELL; DR. BRYDEN; DR. A. ANDERSON; and Mr. T. P. M. O'DONOVAN.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

Testimonial to Dr. Hodgkin. —

Dr. HODGKIN having expressed his desire that the proceeds of the Subscription, in place of being expended on a Portrait, as was determined at the Meeting of the Subscribers held on the 24th July, should be applied to found a Prize in connexion with the School of the Royal Benevolent College: it has been resolved by the Committee, with a view more effectually to carry out so desirable an object, to keep open the Subscription, which at present exceeds £230, until the end of November, when a final Meeting of the Subscribers will be held.

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