

maceutical Faculty of Lille, and Dr. Tourneux has been appointed to it.

The Sanitary Council of Marseilles has received a ministerial communication stating that vessels coming from the East where cholera exists, and from intertropical countries where there is yellow fever, will undergo three days' quarantine.

The charity known as "L'Œuvre des Libérées de Saint-Lazare," has placed a great many of the unfortunate women, on leaving the Hospital Saint-Lazare, in respectable positions. The special object of this charity is to provide with food, shelter, and clothes patients leaving Saint-Lazare without any means of gaining an honest livelihood. All nations and all creeds receive assistance. The actors of the Comédie Française, Odéon, and other Parisian theatres, recently organised an entertainment for the benefit of this charity.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE LIVERPOOL POISONING CASE.

SIR,—In reply to Dr. Stevenson's letter in your issue of the 8th instant, and your comments thereon relating to Dr. Campbell Brown's evidence at the recent trial, I desire to make the following remarks. All the Liverpool papers, including the *Courier*, from which Dr. Stevenson quotes, gave only a summary of the evidence, and frequently important qualifying statements were left out. Dr. Campbell Brown did not state that if solid arsenic had been given, he would have found it; but he did state that the absence of solid arsenic in all the cases would point to its having been given in solution.

The data on which I relied to give the positive opinion that Thomas Higgins died from successive doses of arsenic were the symptoms chiefly; and also the *post mortem* appearances, and of these the important conditions were the uniform distribution of the irritation and inflammation throughout the entire extent of the intestinal tube. Had there been no evidence as to the character of the symptoms, I should have declined to formulate an opinion from the pathological appearances only.

Dr. Campbell Brown had heard my evidence, and he had made certain quantitative experiments, and from all the facts, he expressed the opinion that arsenic had been taken for several days.—I am, sir, yours, etc.,

WILLIAM WHITFORD, M.B.

Liverpool, March 10th, 1884.

THE LATE DR. A. P. STEWART.

SIR,—May we ask your valuable assistance in acquainting the friends of the late Dr. A. P. Stewart that a suitable memorial to him has been instituted in the form of a mission to perpetuate his fourteen years' devoted labour in connection with the mission in Sloane Place, North Street, Sloane Street. The proposal has been cordially taken up by those of his friends whom we have been able to reach. Mr. Hugh M. Matheson has accepted the post of treasurer, and already more than £500 has been subscribed. As we believe there are yet many that would regret to be omitted from participation, we shall be grateful if you will allow us to draw the attention of your readers to the advertisement of the memorial.—We are, sir, yours obediently,

JAMES C. NICOLL, J. MARTYN MILNE, Hon. Secretaries.

67, Cadogan Street, S.W., March, 1884.

THE POSITION OF THE "DIRECT REPRESENTATIVES" UNDER THE MEDICAL BILL.

SIR,—As the Bill has now received its second reading in the Lords, and the necessary amendments will be considered on the 20th instant, I think it right to call the attention of the profession to the humiliating position to which the Bill relegates our elected representatives, in order that immediate steps may be taken to claim for them the influence in medical affairs to which they are entitled. The Medical Reform Bill has been forced upon the attention of the public and of Parliament by the incessant demands of the profession, that they should have some voice in the settlement of their own affairs. That demand was obstructed and made the occasion for sneers at the general practitioner by the majority of the Medical Council, and by those who considered themselves placed above sympathising with the claims of the working men of our profession; but, in spite of this hostility, the point has been carried, and now no one—not even the Medical Council—ventures to challenge the clauses of the Bill which decree the election of "direct representatives." But the same influences have been used,

and are still being used, to clip the wings of our future delegates, and prevent them exercising due authority in medico-educational affairs.

As the Bill now stands, the scheme of medical education and examination in each division of the kingdom is to be worked out in all its details—the course of education and standard of examination to be regulated; the examining bodies to be recognised, and the examiners to be appointed by the local boards; and the power of the Medical Council is limited to the registering of the decrees of these boards, or suggesting alterations, if necessary.

But these local boards are to be made up exclusively by the licensing bodies; neither the Crown nominee nor the direct representative being admitted to the conclave, and, consequently, neither of the delegates to the Central Council, who are supposed to be independent of pocket-interests, are permitted by the Bill any more authority than may be exercised during a few days' meeting of the Central Council once a year, convened to supervise arrangements already decreed by the local board.

This concentration of the power in the hands of the delegates of the licensing bodies is the evil which the Bill is constructed to remedy, and yet it perpetuates it in its worst form.

I appeal, therefore, to you, and to the organisations which are entrusted to protect the interests of the profession at large, to exercise all influence to cause each "direct representative" and the Crown nominee to be placed, *ipso facto*, on the local board for his own division of the kingdom. I have every reason to hope that, if an amendment of the Bill to this effect be forcibly urged, the Government will be willing to accede to it; and I know that the opposition is limited to a few who are interested in reducing to a minimum the power of the general practitioner. I trust you will aid me in counteracting that attempt.—I am, sir, yours, etc.,

ARCHIBALD H. JACOB, M.D. Dub., F.R.C.S.I.,
President, Irish Medical Association.

TREATMENT OF CARIES OF THE SPINE.

SIR,—In reply to Mr. Noble Smith's letter, published in the *BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL* of February 2nd, in answer to my letter published in the same, January 26th, I regret to notice that the latest literature upon the application of the plaster-of-Paris jacket in caries of the spine, as I advocate it, has not become sufficiently familiar to him in its minutest details as I now teach it. Had Mr. Smith referred to my second edition of *Orthopædic Surgery*, published in January, 1883 (London publishers, J. and A. Churchill, 11, New Burlington Street), he would there have found that the chapters upon spondylitis and lateral curvature of the spine, have been completely rewritten; as stated in the preface of the work: "In preparing this second edition for the press, I have carefully revised and rearranged the entire work in a more systematic and classified order; and some of the chapters, where new and improved methods of treatment have been developed—viz., those on spondylitis and lateral curvature, have been entirely rewritten."

In reference to the general use of the plaster jacket, both at home and abroad, it is becoming more and more popular every day with those who understand its proper application. In support of this, I would simply refer to the latest notice that I have seen upon the subject; viz., a letter written by Mr. J. Walker Downie, of Glasgow, and published in the *BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL* of February 9th.

I am very much gratified to notice, in Mr. Noble Smith's letter of February 2nd, that it is the principles of treatment in caries of the spine which he desires to advocate, rather than the application of any special instrument. But I had been led to believe, after carefully reading his paper, that the plaster-of-Paris jacket was the one method of treatment which seemed to him most objectionable. I, however, yet remain under the firm belief and assurance that if the method advocated by me in applying the plaster jacket in caries of the spine be faithfully followed out, Mr. Smith will yet find it superior to any other dressing yet devised.—I am, etc.,

LEWIS A. SAYRE, M.D.

SIR,—Mr. Noble Smith will have done good service to sufferers from Pott's disease, if he has only drawn from some surgeons their experience of Sayre's treatment by the plaster-jacket. As mine has been very large, and has extended over seven years, I hope you will allow me space for a few remarks upon the subject.

In the first place, it may be asked, How comes it that a physician should undertake the surgical treatment of patients? My answer is that, for years before Sayre's plan was known, the surgeon could not afford the space for these intractable, unsatisfactory, and often complicated cases; hence, out of pure kindness of heart, the little sufferers were taken charge of by the physicians, who, having more beds, were able to give them a haven of rest.