

duties of which office he discharged up to his death. Mr. West was also medical officer to the Stoke Workhouse and medical attendant to the North Staffordshire Nursing Institute, Hartshill. For many years he acted as financial secretary to the Staffordshire Branch of the British Medical Association.

The deceased gentleman, who was only 45 years of age, leaves a widow, one son, and three daughters, for whom the greatest sympathy is felt. In all matters of charity Mr. West was amongst the foremost. A special meeting of the Medical Board of the North Staffordshire Infirmary was held on Tuesday, March 20th, and the following resolution was passed: "The members of the Medical Board desire to record their deep regret at the sad loss they have sustained by the untimely death of their late colleague, Mr. West. In him they feel they lost a true friend, a man of the highest honour and integrity, and one who was so universally esteemed. At the same time they wish to express their sincere sympathy with Mrs. West and the other members of the family in their painful bereavement."

DR. WILLIAM BARNARD CLARKE, senior M.D., of Edinburgh University, died on March 20th at Nostell, Yorkshire, at the age of 87. After graduating at Edinburgh, he practised for a short time in Ipswich, then at North Shields, and afterwards went to reside at Walton-on-the-Naze. During these years, as throughout life, he devoted more time to the study of natural history than to the profession of medicine. He acquired a splendid collection of natural history objects, and when the Ipswich Museum was formed he gave this collection to his native town, and filled the post of first Curator of the new institution.

THE LONDON CLERKS' ASSOCIATION.

A MEDICAL man practising in a London suburb has sent us correspondence which he has had with the secretary of the London Clerks' Association. This body, which is registered under the Friendly Societies Act, with offices at 15, Fenchurch Street, has for its objects: 1. Assistance in obtaining employment. 2. Weekly allowance when out of employment or sick. 3. Medical attendance and medicine. 4. Annuities to aged and disabled members, their widows and children. 5. Assistance in special cases of distress. 6. Insurance at death. Any clerk above 18 and under 45 years of age who is employed in any establishment within a radius of twelve miles from the city of London and has held his present situation for twelve months is eligible for membership. Any clerk who has held his present situation less than this time but who has held any previous situation twelve months or longer, may be eligible to join at the discretion of the directors. The association has among its list of patrons seven members of Parliament and some other eminent persons. It has a long list of medical officers in various parts of the outskirts of London and a board of directors.

From the correspondence before us it appears that the remuneration offered to the medical officers is 1s. each for examining candidates for admission, and a similar sum per quarter for each member placed under the care of the medical officer, in return for which the members are entitled to be treated professionally and supplied with medicine as occasion may arise. The rules contain the following extraordinary provision: "The medical men shall aid each other in consultation in any particular case without fee or reward." It is also provided that "the members shall have access to the medical man on whose list they have been placed without an order from any officer of the association." Our correspondent declined to accept the invitation to become one of the medical officers, and asks: "How is it, in view of the fact that wages of all classes are higher, and also the price of most articles, as well as the increased cost of a medical education, that we as a body are worse paid than formerly? Is there no means of forming a medical union to keep up and raise medical charges?"

We are quite disposed to agree with our correspondent that medical men should be advised not to connect themselves with this Association. The following points in the rules and arrangements seem particularly worthy of serious

consideration by the medical men who have become or may be invited to become medical officers of the London Clerks' Association:

1. The sum of 4s. per annum paid for each member, is the lowest amount offered by artisans' clubs; it is the amount fixed many years ago, and when the rise in wages and the greatly increased cost of medical education are considered it is quite inadequate even for labourers' clubs. It would require but an infinitesimal amount of self denial on the part of the members to double the sum payable for sick attendance.

2. An examination for which the sum of 1s. is payable must of necessity be a perfunctory one.

3. The proposition that the medical men connected with the Association shall aid each other in consultation in any particular case, without fee or reward, involves an unwarrantable claim.

4. In every association or club in which a contract for medical attendance is made there should be a distinct wage limit for a member when he enters, and also for the time when he obtains higher wages. Above this limit the member should either pay a larger contribution, or he should cease to be entitled to free medical attendance.

THE ASSOCIATION OF FELLOWS OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS, ENGLAND.

A MEETING of the Committee of the Association of Fellows of the Royal College of Surgeons, England, was held at 18, Great Cumberland Place, W., on March 21st, 1894, at 5.30 P.M. Mr. TIMOTHY HOLMES, Vice-President, in the unavoidable absence of Mr. George Pollock, President, was in the chair. There was a large attendance.

The minutes of the last meeting having been read and confirmed, the HONORARY SECRETARY (Mr. Percy Dunn) read letters of regret at inability to be present from certain of the members.

Mr. HOLMES then pointed out the reasons which had led to the summoning of the meeting. Within the past week all the Fellows of the College had received a circular inviting them to join a society which had been called "A Society of Fellows of the Royal College of Surgeons of England." With the view of placing all the facts of the case before the Committee, Mr. Holmes read the circular letter issued by the promoters of this new Society. Mr. Holmes further stated that he had written to a member of the Provisional Committee asking for information with respect to the scheme, and in reply he had received a communication which was as follows:

"The circular you have had endeavours to tell without reservation the reasons for forming a Society of Fellows. Of course it was impossible to hold any of the preliminary meetings without some mention being made of the Association of Fellows, but there was no reference to it at the meeting held in Chandos Street on March 8th. It cannot, therefore, be said that the proposed Society takes any attitude towards the Association other than that which is implied in the hope that members of the Association will accept the invitation to join it, which has been issued without distinction to all the Fellows of the College. If one may judge from the hearty and widespread support with which the proposal has been received, it would appear evident that the Fellows feel the need of the formation of such a society as is suggested in the circular letter, and I hope that before very long you yourself will consent to join it."

A long discussion then ensued as to the precise action which the Committee, on behalf of the Association, should take under the circumstances. In the end, however, it was unanimously decided to issue a circular letter forthwith to all the Fellows of the College stating the case for the Association. The chief points to which attention would be drawn in the letter having been drafted and agreed to, a subcommittee was appointed to arrange the final wording of the letter and for the printing and distribution of the latter among the Fellows at as early a date as possible. This concluded the business of the meeting, and the Committee adjourned.