

native district as a member of the Prussian Landtag. He was born in 1813 of humble parentage, and his studies were pursued under many privations. Although his inclinations originally turned more to philological studies, in which he was always remarkably proficient as an amateur, the healing art was to him a holy duty, which he followed with ardent devotion, even to the last days of his life.

WITH much regret we have to announce the death of Dr. JOHN H. RAUCH, the distinguished American sanitarian. Dr. Rauch, who was 65 years of age, was found dead in his bed on March 25th. He served during the Civil War, and at one time occupied a Chair in Rush Medical College, and also in the College of Pharmacy of Chicago. He organised the first Board of Health of Chicago, and was at one time Superintendent of Public Health in that city. He was one of the founders of the Illinois State Board of Health, of which he was at different times President and Secretary. Dr. Rauch was a recognised authority on medical education.

WE regret to report the death of Mr. D. W. CROMPTON, which took place on March 31st at his residence in Edgbaston. In 1829 he became M.R.C.S.Eng., and F.R.C.S.Eng. in 1843. Some sixty years ago he began practise in Temple Row, Birmingham, and he was afterwards appointed Surgeon to the General Dispensary. In 1835 he joined the staff of the Birmingham Eye Infirmary, but resigned this appointment in 1843, on being chosen to fill a vacancy at the General Hospital, of which institution he was consulting surgeon at the time of his death.

MR. J. H. KIMBELL, of Knowle, who died recently at the age of 74 years, became M.R.C.S.Eng. in 1842, and F.R.C.S.Eng. in 1864. He was Honorary Consulting Surgeon to the Midland Counties Idiot Asylum, Knowle, a medical officer under the Factory Acts, and a justice of the peace for the county of Warwick.

WE regret to announce the death of ALEXANDER KNIGHT, M.D.Glasg., which occurred on March 23rd, at Clones, in his 72nd year. In the district around Rosslea, where for about thirty-five years he had acted as dispensary doctor, his name will long be remembered with respect and reverence.

DEATHS IN THE PROFESSION ABROAD.—Among the members of the medical profession in foreign countries who have recently passed away are: Dr. Lhéritier, who was private physician to Napoleon III, and *médecin-en-chef* of Plombières, aged 85; Dr. Anton Loeff, of Vienna, formerly Chief of Department 14 in the Austrian Imperial Ministry of War, aged 74; Dr. Hampton E. Hill, of Saco, Maine, U.S.A., an excellent surgeon, especially in the sphere of abdominal surgery, aged 44; and Dr. Fritschi, of the University of Freiburg, the oldest *Privatdocent* in Germany, aged 82.

MEDICO-PARLIAMENTARY.

[SPECIALLY REPORTED FOR THE "BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL."
HOUSE OF COMMONS.]

The Water Supply of East London.—The discussion on the second reading of the East London Water Bill resulted in the motion for the second reading being carried against the Government by a majority of 1. Professor STUART, who led the opposition to the Bill, argued that the company was already able to give a supply that would be adequate for several years to come, and that the Bill tended to prejudice the question of the water supply of London in future. The promoters of the Bill had spoken of the alarming increase of population in the district served by the company, but the fact was that while 40 million gallons per day were now required, the supply was such that the increased population five years hence would receive 42 million gallons, and ten years hence 44 million gallons per day. As things were the company had on many occasions supplied 37 million gallons per day from the Lee, 10 million from the Thames, and 7 million from their own wells—54 million gallons without additional provision, or 10 million gallons more than were expected ten years hence. The storage, too, of this company was not a six days' supply like that of most companies, but was of 910 million gallons, equivalent to fourteen or fifteen days' consumption; and its filtering appliances also were above the above average. For these reasons the Bill was, in his opinion, unnecessary.—Mr. BOULNOIS insisted on the necessity of ample storage and efficient filtering before the delivery of water to the consumers. The Bill was intended to provide money for

these purposes.—Mr. SHAW-LEFEVRE objected to the Bill that its proposals were not in accordance with the recommendations of the Royal Commission. A short delay was unimportant, and in another year the London County Council would be in a better position for dealing with the subject.—The subsequent discussion turned mainly on the urgency of the application for further powers, and on the policy of the County Council as regards the water supply. Ultimately the second reading was carried by 228 votes to 227.

Lunacy Administration in Ireland.—In reply to Mr. MCCARTAN, Mr. MORLEY said that 41 deaths had occurred in Belfast workhouse since November 1st, and 10 inquests had been held. Epileptics were still kept in the lunatic department, but occupied separate dormitories, day rooms, and sick rooms, and associated with the lunatics only in the eating room. A Bill had been prepared dealing with the whole subject of lunacy reform; but as some of its provisions were contentious, he saw no prospect of carrying it into law this session.

Retired Army Medical Officers.—In answer to Mr. R. G. WEBSTER, Mr. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN said that a medical officer who had retired voluntarily from the army was not eligible for reinstatement in the service, although up to the age of 55 years he was liable to be recalled for duty in case of emergency. At present there was no such emergency, and no paucity of medical officers for service either in India or elsewhere.

Seaports and Cholera.—It will be remembered that last session Mr. HENEAGE and other members for seaport towns, particularly on the East Coast, made urgent representations to the Government for assistance in defraying the serious expenditure which had been incurred by their constituencies in taking special precautions, by order of the Local Government Board, to prevent the introduction of cholera, precautions taken in the interest, not only of the seaports, but of the country at large. Mr. HENEAGE renewed his appeal to the Government on Monday, but the CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER again stated his view that the ports had established no special claim to assistance, and saw no reason to depart from that opinion.

Sanitary Inspectors and Irish Gaols.—Mr. T. M. HEALY asked the Chief Secretary had his attention been called to the directions given by the prison's board to the Governor of Dundalk Gaol not to admit the sanitary inspector of nuisance (under the Public Health Act) within the gaol; had the local magistrates fined the governor in consequence; would the Prisons Board pay the fine; and what steps would be taken for the protection of public health where it was alleged to be imperilled by nuisance within gaol walls.—Mr. J. MORLEY said his attention had been drawn to the case referred to, and to the fact that the governor of the prison had been fined for refusing to obey an order of the magistrates to admit the sanitary inspector to the prison premises for the purpose of inspecting an alleged nuisance. The Prisons Board would, he presumed, under the circumstances, pay the fine. With regard to the last paragraph, the board informed him that it was not possible that any dangerous nuisance could exist in a prison with the existing precautions taken, and having regard to the statutable duties required to be performed by the medical officer and the governor.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND POOR-LAW MEDICAL SERVICES.

AS OTHERS SEE US.

DR. HEWITT, the Secretary of the Minnesota State Board of Health, in a recent number of the official organ of the Board, has some remarks to offer as to the persistency of small-pox in England, and he as matter of first instance lays blame on the use of lymph other than that of the National Vaccine Establishment at Whitehall. Why blame attaches hereto we cannot quite understand, since wherever the distribution takes place the sources of collection must always be numerous and themselves widely distributed. But Dr. Hewitt goes on to twit the anti-vaccinators—impersonated by "the Editor of a Leicester newspaper"—with creating panic with the view of repealing the compulsory clauses of our vaccination law after having themselves secured the personal protection of vaccination, probably also of revaccination. We do not doubt that such regard for personal safety is much in vogue among these agitators. Again, Dr. Hewitt lays stress on the fact that whilst great store is placed, and rightly placed, on infantile vaccination, the English law lacks in the absence of compulsion as regards revaccination. Very true; and Mr. Ernest Hart has not been slow to show up this fatal omission from our statutes in the recently issued Essays on State Medicine relating to the subject. Again, Dr. Hewitt looks upon our health officers as being in nowise masters of the situation as regards disease prevention, they being far from possessing the "responsible" powers laid upon them in the United States, where they are virtually vested with the sole power of control; but we look forward to the time when our local health officers shall be emancipated from those intolerable petty hindrances to independent action which now too often thwart their best efforts.

We really cannot refrain from quoting a few words of reference to the Royal Commission on Vaccination from Dr. Hewitt's pen. He says: "This Commission has been some five years officially at work and not yet through, though it has published a library of testimony, much of it beside the question, some for no other purpose than strife, a mass of rubbish and evidence upon which it is expected to base its judgment and advice, if it ever gets to an opinion."

There is, however, one point of vast importance which Dr. Hewitt fails to notice—namely, the enormous amount of private scratching which is legally dubbed "vaccination," those ever-growing cases whereby the letter of the law is fulfilled and its spirit entirely evaded. To our mind it is this accepted farcical method of offering so-called protection against small-pox which more than anything else casts a slur upon vaccination, and leads to spread of infection by slight attacks in the victims of the "sixpenny doctor."