

specialist imagination. Even now knowledge on this subject has not thoroughly leavened the mass of the profession, and it is too certain that for many persons childhood is made miserable and adult age a failure, by a condition which is easily recognisable when looked for, and perfectly curable when rightly treated.

CHOLERA.

At a recent meeting of the *Comité Consultatif d'Hygiène Publique* in Paris, M. Brouardel stated that cholera is on the increase at Constantinople. There are from five to six cases a day. The Greek population suffers the most, the Mohammedans very little, the Europeans not at all, the Armenians and the Jews more than the Mohammedans. Three-fourths of the people who have indulged in large quantities of mussels have been attacked by cholera. Dr. Nicolle declared that there is no doubt that the epidemic is one of cholera; Koch's cholera bacillus was present in the stools. The Sultan has decided that the following measures be adopted: Mohammedan dealers who fail to notify cases will be fined from £9 to £39; foreign doctors will be forbidden to practise. Houses surrounded by the *cordon sanitaire* shall be thus isolated during ten days. The sale of mussels shall be forbidden, likewise all molluscs, and such fruit and vegetables as are likely to disturb the digestion. Notwithstanding the expense that has been incurred for sanitary improvements, the sanitary condition of Constantinople is no better than formerly.

The most recent news from Hedjaz and the Red Sea and the Camaran stations is satisfactory. Nearly 15,000 pilgrims have stopped at the Camaran lazaretto; they arrived there and left free from cholera. Bagdad and Erzeroum are free from cholera.

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 on April 11th, Mr. GEORGE POLLOCK, President, in the chair. There was a large attendance.

The Honorary Secretary, Mr. PERCY DUNN, reported that in accordance with the instructions of the subcommittee he had issued a circular letter to the Fellows. He further reported that as the result of this statement of the work of the Association to the Fellows, he had received several communications from Fellows expressing their desire to join the Association. The Honorary Secretary also reported that having observed that Mr. Rushton Parker had taken an active part in the promotion of the new Society of Fellows, he had written to Mr. Parker to inquire whether it was his intention still to remain a member of the Association. Mr. Rushton Parker, in reply, wrote tendering his resignation, which was accepted with regret.

Mr. TIMOTHY HOLMES reported that he had attended the meeting of Fellows called on April 5th at St. Martin's Town Hall in reference to the formation of a new Society of Fellows, with the result mentioned in his letter published in the *BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL* of April 14th.

It was decided to hold the annual meeting on Thursday, June 14th next.

The list of names of the new candidates on the Association, having been proposed and seconded, was carried unanimously.

Some further matters relating to the organisation of the Association having been dealt with, the Committee adjourned.

INDIA AND THE COLONIES.

INDIA.

THE CALCUTTA M.D. DEGREE.—An agitation has been raised by medical graduates for the purpose of rendering the acquisition of the degree of M.D. of the Calcutta University more easy than it is at present. The University of Calcutta, which is an examining institution, incorporated on the model of the University of London, grants three medical degrees—a licence in Medicine and Surgery, the degree of M.B., and the degree of M.D. The regulations and examinations for these degrees are separate

and distinct. The licence is in reality a diploma analogous to those granted by British colleges; but, as no incorporated colleges exist in India, the function of granting medical diplomas entitling to practise has been assigned to the universities. The examination for the diploma is as nearly as possible on a level, in point of education, general and special, demanded and standard with those of British colleges and corporations. The rules and examinations for degrees have been framed with a view to ensuring a higher grade of general and scientific culture in the candidate, and thus rendering them a sign of superior capacity, deeper and more extensive study, and greater scientific and professional attainment than are necessary for a mere licence. Accordingly it has been ordained that the possession of the degree of B.A. is an indispensable requisite for aspirants to the degree of M.D., for which a special examination in medicine, surgery, midwifery, hygiene, and pathology is held, and a period of from two or five years spent in hospital or private practice after passing the L.M.S. or M.B. required. It is contended that only two British Universities (Oxford and Dublin) require the possession of the degree of B.A. for the M.D. degree; that, as a matter of fact, those B.A.'s in Calcutta who have studied medicine have not succeeded better than undergraduates; that it is a mistake to encourage or require men to pursue literary studies after having commenced their professional studies; that an inordinate time of study is necessary for attaining the M.D. degree, and that the higher degrees in arts, law, and engineering can be got without sacrifice of so many years. It is also a fact that since the incorporation of the Calcutta University in 1857 only eight persons have obtained the degree of M.D. This result may be due either to the difficulty or expense of the necessary course of study and examination, or to the absence of ambition or effort to secure a high and select degree—probably the latter. The present agitation is a manifestation of a constant endeavour in India to lower standards, and render the attainment of literary and scientific distinction easy. The signs of such distinction are the same as in this country; the social and educational circumstances of India differ much from those of Great Britain; and it was the object of those who drew up rules for these degrees to render the conditions of their possession as nearly equal to those required elsewhere as possible. The First Arts Examination of the Calcutta University implies a fairly good general education, and suffices for the lower degrees, but it is idle to contend that it calls for the measure of literary and philosophical cultivation which the holder of an M.D. degree should possess. The period of time required for securing this degree is overstated in the graduates' memorial. It may be gained after nine years of study, two of which may be passed in practice. The University permits an L.M.S. or M.B. to proceed to the B.A. Examination without two years' study in a college after passing the First Arts Examination, and if the candidate elects the B.A. course he need only be examined in English, mathematics, and physiology, or chemistry, or physics, or geology, subjects the study of which can very advantageously be pursued during the five years of the medical curriculum without serious hindrance to the latter—rather the reverse. In this country very many students find it to their benefit to take literary degrees before entering on the study of medicine, and an ordinance which requires a similar course for the highest medical degree in India is salutary if not necessary, if the degree is to retain the value and respect which have hitherto been accorded to it.

For these and other reasons which might be advanced, we hope that the present agitation to lower the Calcutta M.D. degree will fail. Aspirants for this coveted distinction ought rather to work up to its requirements, which are by no means difficult or prohibitive, than endeavour to drag it down to a lower level, and thus deprive it of its present worth and honour.

TESTIMONIAL TO DR. STOPFORD TAYLOR.—It is an appropriate, as well as an exceedingly pleasant, incident that the late medical officer of health for Liverpool should, on his retirement after a long and valued public career, receive a memento of respect from the leading corporate officials who were so long associated with him in the discharge of his important duties. The chiefs of the various corporate departments have presented, in the shape of a testimonial, a magnificent vase to Dr. Taylor on the occasion of his retirement from the public service. The accompanying letter expressed the esteem and regard entertained for him by the officials of every class during the many years he occupied the important position of medical officer of health.

SOCIETY FOR THE RELIEF OF THE WIDOWS AND ORPHANS OF MEDICAL MEN.—The Quarterly Court of Directors of the Society was held on Wednesday, April 11th, in their new offices, 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, Mr. Aikin, Vice-President, in the chair. Four new members were elected, and the deaths of five were reported. A fresh application from a widow was considered, and a grant at the rate of £30 per annum was made. It was resolved that a sum of £1,236 be divided among 56 widows, 9 orphans, and 4 orphans on the Copeland Fund at the July quarterly court. The following members were nominated for election as officers of the Society at the annual general meeting—namely, Mr. Merriman as a Vice-President, Dr. Church as a Treasurer, to fill the vacancies caused by the death last year of Mr. Fuller; Dr. Braxton Hicks, Dr. Russell Reynolds, Dr. Morison, Mr. Langton, Mr. Rouse, Dr. Wharton Hood, and Dr. Oswald as directors in place of Dr. Church and the six senior directors who retire. The annual general meeting was fixed to be held on Friday, May 25th, at 5.30.