

the Central Fire Station, and another, for the outlying districts, is stationed at the Old Swan Police Station. The number of turns-out amounted to 2,339 in the year.

The total strength of the police force amounts to 1,804, and of these 1,650 hold certificates from the St. John Ambulance Association, and 824 hold medallions in addition. First aid was rendered by the police in 803 times, and in 484 instances the service rendered was especially commended by the doctor receiving the cases. The police also rendered assistance other than first aid to 3,032 persons in cases of accident or sudden illness by removing them to hospital, etc., making a total of 3,835 persons assisted. These figures include 49 rescues from fire or drowning.

Instruction classes in connection with the Life-Saving Society have been recently formed, and, as a result of the examinations, 105 constables and others have received certificates from this Society of their efficiency for the rescue of drowning persons.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE SOCIETY OF APOTHECARIES OF LONDON.

SIR,—The President of the General Medical Council, in his recent address, implies that the Society of Apothecaries might, under certain circumstances, have ceased to exist as a licensing body. This is incorrect.

If the General Medical Council had on the occasion to which he refers decided not to grant assistant examiners to the Society, the Society would have appealed to the Privy Council, as the Apothecaries' Hall of Ireland did, and obtained the same relief.

The interpretation put by the Privy Council, and particularly by Lord Macnaghten, on the Medical Act of 1886 completely reversed the impression previously existing of the powers of the General Medical Council in granting or withholding assistant examiners.

I never before heard that the General Medical Council seriously thought of withholding assistant examiners from the Society, but only that there was some opposition to the application which Mr. Brudenell Carter successfully combated.—I am, etc.,

JAMES R. UPTON.

Society of Apothecaries of London, Blackfriars,
London, E.C., May 25th.

MR. LONG AND RABIES.

SIR,—Our own time, at least, has furnished no more striking instance of the prevention of disease than the effect of Mr. Long's muzzling measure in stamping out rabies. The apparent extinction of the disease in this country is the obvious and direct result of the proceeding, and he deserves the highest praise for his perseverance with it in spite of the obloquy with which it has been received by a certain mistaken class of the community. Yet abuse is still showered upon him for his wise action, which has certainly resulted in saving many lives and intense suffering both in animals and mankind.

Would it not be well for the members of the medical profession, who can estimate better than others the good that has been done, to unite in presenting to Mr. Long a memorial expressing their sense of the value of his successful action? The organisation of the British Medical Association affords the best means of making such a memorial effective. From veterinary surgeons a similar memorial might also fitly come.—I am, etc.,

Queen Anne Street, W., May 25th.

W. R. GOWERS.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS AND REMOVAL FROM THE REGISTER.

SIR,—It is to be hoped that the present protests against the methods adopted by the General Medical Council to verify its Register will result in a change being made. A week or two ago I received the usual notice, unsealed, with a halfpenny stamp, and having a form enclosed to be returned with a similar endorsement. Not considering, however, such a procedure as satisfactory, I enclosed it in an envelope and properly prepaid it, adding to my reply that, considering the magnitude of the interests involved, I did not consider a

penny an extravagant sum to pay in postage. Briefly, however, what ought to be done is this: If no reply is made in two months to the ordinary circular a registered letter ought to be sent to the same address, and if no reply within a month then the name might be erased as at present, but to remove a name, with all its attendant disadvantages, on the mere non-acknowledgment of a halfpenny circular, in these days of cheap postage, when one is inundated by circulars of all descriptions, is not fair. To cover the cost of the registered letter a shilling might be charged if the previous letter were not answered.—I am, etc.,

Leigh, Lancashire, May 26th.

B. JONES, M.D.

SIR,—I have noticed numerous complaints about erasure of names from the Registers lately in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL. May I (a dentist) be allowed to air my grievance in your paper? A few months ago I had a registered notice that, not having replied to the first notification, my name would be erased unless I replied within a certain time. Twelve months previously I had notified the Council of the change of my address. I do not believe a notice was sent me before the registered one, and does it not show a bit of carelessness to send me a notice at all?—I am, etc.,

May 20th.

DENTIST.

CUTTING DOWN SALARIES.

SIR,—Both "Observer" and "X. Y. Z." seem to think that passing examinations and thus legally qualified they are necessarily fully equipped with knowledge, and are worth their weight in gold. It would be interesting if they gave us their real monetary value.

It is well known that most men who qualify have had previously little practical experience, especially since the old-fashioned, but in many ways good and useful, apprenticeship has been done away with. The most sensible apply for appointments at their own hospitals, or, failing this, at some provincial town. The salary is not meant to pay, but just to cover, their personal expenses. No man keeps the place of house-surgeon, etc., longer than he just wants it for additional experience, or for a time necessary to work up for the Services. It would be much better if all who qualify could obtain these appointments, for there would be less ignorance and more confidence amongst all of us.—I am, etc.,

Southsea, May 26th.

C. H. NEWBY, F.R.C.S.

MEDICAL CO-OPERATION AS APPLIED TO MEDICAL AND SURGICAL REQUIREMENTS.

SIR,—Having read the article by "M.D., M.S." in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL of May 12th, it appears to me that any gentleman arguing in this way is one who has either very little consideration for the particular benefit of his patients, or has not improved with the advantages constantly being developed in connection with pharmaceutical products and instruments. If it were not for the gradual development towards perfection of both methods of administering medicines and instruments for operating that are being carried out by various enterprising firms of manufacturing pharmacists and surgical instrument manufacturers, under the directions of our advanced physicians and surgeons, the condition of pharmacy and of surgery would be to-day exactly the same as it was during the first year of the nineteenth century. Supposing, for instance, a surgeon should observe after actual experience some obvious defects in certain instruments, and go to the manufacturer of instruments asking for such-and-such an improvement to be carried out, and the surgical instrument manufacturer were to say in reply that the same instrument had been good enough for all other surgeons from time immemorial, and ought to satisfy him, it would undoubtedly prevent the advance towards perfection of the sciences of both surgery and medicine. The distinguished President of the Royal College of Physicians (Dr. Church), speaking at the dinner of the Pharmaceutical Society, said that "Every practitioner of medicine had reason to be grateful to the pharmacists for the purity, accuracy, and portability of the drugs of the present day." Like many other manufacturing chemists, the firm with the German name that your correspondent refers to address samples of their new products direct to the medical profession in order to show