

## CORRESPONDENCE.

## QUEEN'S COLLEGE, CORK.

SIR,—My attention has been called to the report of observations made by me at a dinner of graduates of this College in London, which appeared in your issue of April 16th, to the effect "that the number of entries in the medical school of last year was larger than that in any other school in Ireland, save that of Trinity College, Dublin." I may at once say that the statements which, according to this account, I am represented as having made are inaccurate, and not in accordance with the ideas which I had in my own mind at the time, and which I intended to convey, but which possibly I did not express sufficiently clearly.

The shortest way to set the matter right will be if I furnish the annexed table extracted from those given by the General Medical Council in their annual lists:

	1902.	1903.
Catholic University Medical School, Dublin ... ..	72	61
School of Physic Trinity College, Dublin ... ..	45	41
Queen's College, Belfast ... ..	35	58
Queen's College, Cork ... ..	45	35
Royal College of Surgeons ... ..	25	27

At the time I made the observations in question the contents of the last column in the above table had not come to my knowledge, and when I spoke of "last year" I naturally referred to our last College session of 1902-3 corresponding so far as these figures are concerned to the year 1902 of the General Medical Council lists, and the idea I wished to convey was that in that session Cork occupied with Trinity College the second place in the list as I stated in my last report.—I am, etc.,

ROWLAND BLENNERHASSETT,  
Cork, May 5th. President, Queen's College, Cork.

## PROFESSOR DUNBAR'S ANTITOXIN AGAINST HAY FEVER.

SIR,—I receive so many inquiries with regard to the use of Professor Dunbar's hay fever antitoxin during the forthcoming hay fever season that you may, perhaps, accord me a short space to give general information so far as I am able to.

My paper on Impressions of the Efficiency of Professor Dunbar's Antitoxin in Hay Fever, which appeared in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL of July 18th, 1903, represented the sum of my observations during last year's hay fever season, and this year's season not having yet begun, I can of course not add anything from personal experience to the statements then made. Meanwhile, however, Drs. Lübbert and Prausnitz, Professor Dunbar's assistants, have published in the *Berliner klinische Wochenschrift* of March 14th and 21st of the present year a paper, in which they attribute the want of success of the remedy in the hands of several observers to the fact that it was not used nearly frequently enough during the hay fever time. They recommend that the remedy, in its fluid form for the eyes and in its new powdered form for the nose, should be used regularly as a prophylactic measure, the first application to be made immediately after waking, and further ones, particularly when the patient has been in the open air, as soon as the least irritation is felt. The frequency of the applications will thus of course vary considerably in every individual case; but it is obvious from their statements, as well as from my own experiences of last year, that as long as the applications are made to the eyes and nose only and no subcutaneous injections be resorted to the remedy is perfectly harmless. They further insist that no serum bottle ought to be used longer than one week at the utmost, as after that time decomposition of the fluid takes place.

The remedy is sold under the name of "pollantin," and by this time most chemists will very likely be in possession of it. At any rate, it is obtainable from Messrs. Bullock and Co., 3, Hanover Street, Hanover Square, W.

One point on which Drs. Lübbert and Prausnitz very strongly insist is that the patient should during the hay fever period sleep with doors and windows closed.

With regard to further details I must refer to the original.—I am, etc.,

London, W., May 9th. FELIX SEMON.

## THE FEE FOR RESTORATION TO MEDICAL REGISTER.

SIR,—In answer to your correspondent, "Index," who, in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL of May 7th, raises the question as to the legality of the fee of one pound which the General Medical Council charges for "restoration," I beg to reply as follows:

A member of the profession who for any cause ceases to be upon the Register is exactly in the same position as one who has never registered at all, and to gain access once more to the Register he has to make application for "restoration," which application however is really one for registration pure and simple.

Under Section xv of the Medical Act, 1858, the Council is empowered to claim a fee not exceeding £5 for registration and might if it so choose claim that full sum for "restoration," but fortunately for the members of the profession whose names have been erased, the sum fixed at present is the lesser amount of one pound, and that amount "Index" will find is neither illegal nor improper under the Act.—I am, etc.,

London, W., May 7th. A. GEORGE BATEMAN.

## THE STATE REGISTRATION OF NURSES.

SIR,—It is somewhat strange that Mr. Sydney Holland, who commenced this correspondence by describing the observations made by certain ladies as "silly sneers," should be so tremulously anxious to be treated "civilly" himself. He opened a discussion in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL: he has been answered; and the only rejoinder he can make is to indulge in mock heroics over some imaginary "rudeness," and an equally irrelevant and equally imaginary conversation with a hypothetical homoeopath.

It is to be hoped that the few medical men who have been persuaded to give their honoured names as opponents of the registration of nurses will compare the powerful arguments advanced by Sir Henry Acland, Sir James Paget, Sir William Savory, and others in favour of that measure of protection to the public, and of bare justice to well-trained nurses, with the sentimental suggestions and suppositions upon which the present opposition to it is apparently based. It is specially noteworthy that its opponents do not attempt to deny the very serious evils now prevalent in the nursing world, nor the consequent need for reforms: and that they tacitly admit that they have done nothing to assist, but everything they could to retard, such reforms being effected.

Permit me to add that I yield to no one in admiration for the remarkable work Mr. Sydney Holland has done for the London Hospital; and this makes me regret the more that he has not fully appreciated the public importance and professional significance of this nursing movement. It has been in progress for seventeen years; those who have been directing it have deprecated undue haste and all needless publicity; there were many novel problems to consider, many facts too grave to lightly publish. But a steady organization has been going on during those years, all over the world. In less conservative countries than this, Nursing Acts of Parliament have been already passed; and now it is believed that sufficient knowledge and sufficient support has been accumulated to render it advisable, *pace* Mr. Holland, that a Parliamentary inquiry should be held into the whole nursing question, and to make it certain that such an inquiry will be followed by legislation.—I am, etc.,

London, W., May 9th. BEDFORD FENWICK.

## BLOOD-PRESSURE INSTRUMENTS.

SIR,—I have just seen Dr. Mackenzie's criticism of blood-pressure instruments in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL of April 23rd. Dr. Mackenzie says he never could make out "by what process of reasoning the force necessary to attain the maximal excursion (of the Hill-Barnard sphygmometer) is supposed to represent the mean arterial pressure." The theory that an artery pressed upon will give a maximal pulse when the pressure applied to it is sufficient to empty it in diastole, while allowing it to fill in systole, does not seem to me a difficult one, and has not been questioned by physiologists. The only question is how far the instruments hitherto invented are capable of correctly indicating the maximal pulsation.

Dr. Mackenzie says "a little consideration will convince any thinking man that the tissues (muscles and fat, etc.) cannot act like a fluid, for if they did the pressure exercised would be reflected all over the body." This is an assertion.