

SCHOOLMASTER'S RESPONSIBILITY FOR FEES.

AN action of some interest was tried recently in Clerkenwell County Court, the defendant being the principal of a school, and the plaintiff a medical man who at his request had attended one of his pupils. The guardian of the latter was resident in Paris, and on being informed of the boy's illness replied, "Spare no expense. Have everything necessary." The boy's illness was very serious, but he recovered. A nurse had been in attendance, and her bill being sent on by the principal, the guardian paid it forthwith, but took no notice of applications subsequently made for payment of the medical man's bill. The principal of the school would not pay the bill himself, and when giving evidence said that he disclaimed responsibility. When the doctor first came he told him that the boy had a guardian in Paris, and that he (the principal) must communicate with him. The Judge said that a school principal was in a peculiar position. If a boy living with him was taken ill he was bound to call in assistance, but he could rid himself of further responsibility by giving full notice to the doctor that he would not be responsible for any future attendance. But to make such a notice a valid defence it must be quite clear that the doctor had agreed to accept some one else, and in this instance he was not satisfied that this was the case. Judgement, therefore, must be for the plaintiff.

MEDICAL FEES AT INQUESTS.

"MEDICAL PRACTITIONER," residing in Hertfordshire, writes to ask whether he is not entitled to more than £2 2s. for making a *post-mortem* examination and attending an inquest, also an adjourned inquest, and giving evidence. He thinks also he ought to be allowed his expenses for travelling from Southampton, as he was taking a holiday there when the adjournment took place. He then wrote a letter to the coroner, expressing his views, and suggesting that if the coroner himself had no power to pay more than the two guineas he would forward his letter to the public authorities having control of such matters. This the coroner did, enclosing the letter sent to the county council of Hertfordshire, and received the following reply from the Clerk of the Peace: "I am directed by the Hertfordshire County Council to advert to your letter of the 7th inst., and in reply thereto to inform you that the fees paid to the medical witnesses are fixed by the Coroners Act, 1887, Sec. 22, and there is no power to increase the same. I am to return you herewith Dr. H.'s letter."

* * * By the section of the Act above referred to, the medical fee allowed in this case is 2 guineas, and there is no mention of travelling or other expenses. In the majority of counties the bare travelling expenses are paid to witnesses living over two miles from where the inquest is held and compelled to attend, but this is paid under a schedule of fees and allowances made by the county or municipal authorities, as they may think fit. In the present case our correspondent went to Southampton doubtless with a knowledge of the date of the adjournment, and the journey from his residence was to suit his own convenience. We do not think that under the circumstances he can make any claim for travelling expenses, supposing they were allowable. Any number of adjournments are all considered as one inquest, no extra fee to the medical witness for attendance being allowable under the Coroners Act.

Medico-Ethical.

The advice given in this column for the assistance of members is based on medico-ethical principles generally recognized by the profession, but must not be taken as representing direct findings of the Central Ethical Committee.

MEDICAL ADVERTISING.

A CORRESPONDENT sends a cutting from the *Penistone Stocks-bridge Hoyland Express* for May 16th, which contains the portrait and notice of a doctor who has recently taken up his residence at a village in the district. It is said that "his extensive experience will inspire confidence with those who seek his advice"; that he has "an attractive personality"; that "he will become as popular as _____ as he has been with the patients at the hospitals at which he has practised"; and that he "served in the Boer war."

Such notices are, of course, objectionable from a professional point of view, and if responsibility for them could be brought home to the practitioner concerned his conduct would be open to grave censure.

A DISCLAIMER.

DR. G. NIXON BIGGS (London, S.W.) desires to state that the notice which appeared in the *Daily Telegraph* of May 26th with regard to a recent appointment received by him was inserted without his knowledge or consent.

POPULAR HEALTH LECTURES.

T. O. H.—The delivery of popular lectures on personal hygiene and public health has been so general throughout the country that it may be said to be sanctioned by custom. In a relatively small number of cases exception has been taken to these lectures, sometimes on account of the subject but more often because of the way in which they were advertised, and we think that any lecturer should be careful, in giving his consent, to make it a condition that he shall see the proposed form of advertisement so that he may be able to prevent the publication of anything which would be likely to offend professional opinion. The opportunity afforded to a medical officer of health to address the public on some subject included under "public health" is one of which, we think, he may properly take advantage to teach those lessons which the medical profession has much at heart and thereby be doing good service to his profession while he is endeavouring to enlighten the public.

PATIENTS AND PRACTITIONERS.

INQUIRER asks: A. was called to a new patient, but before he got there B. was summoned and was in attendance when A. arrived. Should B. retain the case or hand it over to A.?

* * * As A. had not attended the case before and as the patient apparently sent for both he should be left to decide which of them should continue in attendance, but the practitioner who is not chosen is entitled to be paid for his visit.

UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES.

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE.

IN consequence of a report by the Special Board for Medicine it has been decided to change the dates of the Third M.B., Part II, from April and December to June and December. The Board is of opinion that hardship is experienced by candidates, especially in the case of failure at the examination, owing to the unequal intervals between the examinations under the present system. The December examination will, therefore, remain as at present, but the first examination next year will be held in the Easter term on the last Tuesday but one before the end of the term.

Mr. Shipley, M.A., of Christ's College, has been reappointed the representative of the university on the Council of the Marine Biological Association.

Professor Liveing has announced his intention of resigning the Professorship of Chemistry on June 20th next. The council of the senate has recommended that the degree of Doctor of Science be conferred upon him.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE.

Medical Entrance Scholarship and Exhibitions.

ELECTIONS will take place in September to the following Medical Entrance Scholarship and Exhibitions:

Backnill Scholarship, value 135 guineas, entitling the holder to the Intermediate Medical Course (including Part II of the Preliminary Scientific) at University College, and the Final M.B., B.S., at the University College Hospital Medical School.

Two exhibitions of the value of 55 guineas each, entitling the holder to the Intermediate Medical Course (including Part II of the Preliminary Scientific) at University College.

Next week will be foundation week. The new athletic ground will be opened by the Vice-Chancellor of the University of London on Wednesday, June 3rd, when the annual athletic sports will be held, and Lady Collins will distribute the prizes. On Thursday, at 8.30 p.m., Mr. J. Lewis Paton, high master of Manchester Grammar School, and formerly head master of University College School, will deliver the foundation oration on the University and the Working Classes, and afterwards the President, Mr. S. J. Willcox, will receive the guests of the Union Society. On Friday the annual smoking concert for the benefit of University College Hospital will be held at Holborn Restaurant at 8.30 p.m. The tickets of admission on these several occasions can be obtained on application, stating the date of period of study, to Mr. P. V. Thomas, Honorary Secretary of the Union Society at the College.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.

ON May 21st the president and council of the Royal College of Surgeons of England entertained at dinner among others Viscount Selby, Lord Aldenham, Mr. Justice Phillimore, Mr. Justice Eve, Sir R. Douglas Powell, Sir William Church, Sir William Collins, M.P.; Sir William Matthews, Sir James Reid, Sir Mackenzie Chalmers, Sir Phillip Magnus, M.P.; the Master of the Apothecaries Society, Sir Thomas Crosby; Dr. James Porter, C.B., Director-General of the Medical Department of the Royal Navy; Sir Alfred Keogh, K.C.B., Director-General of the Army Medical Service; Sir Herbert Ellis, K.C.B., late Director-General of the Medical Department of the Royal Navy; Sir Thomas Smith, Mr. Thomas Bryant, Sir John Tweedy, Sir William Bennett. The members of the council present were Mr. Mayo Robson, Mr. H. T. Buitin,