

THE LATE DR. JOHN FRANCIS SUTHERLAND.—Sir James Barr writes: The obituary notice of Dr. J. F. Sutherland in your last issue reminds me that another of my friends has joined the great majority, and I wish to take this opportunity of fully endorsing all the kind words which the writer of the notice has said about him. Your photograph, which must have been taken at least fifteen years ago, reveals the man in his thoughtful, contemplative mood, but does not display that genial, vivacious character with which his friends were familiar. To his great natural ability, sterling merit, fearless, independent and high moral character, all who knew him can bear testimony, but unfortunately these qualities do not always count in the public service, and consequently he did not attain to that position to which he was entitled, and in which some politicians had more than one opportunity of placing him. He was lacking in that obsequious, complacent, servile temperament which usually commends itself to those in place and power. His failure to attain the goal of his ambition should be a warning to those in the present day who are keen to trust their fate to politicians. His brilliant intellect was cramped by official surroundings, and if he had had a more expansive field his great merits might have been more fully recognized and more amply rewarded. The memory of Dr. Sutherland will ever remain green in the minds of those who knew him as one whom to know was to love and esteem.

DEATHS IN THE PROFESSION ABROAD.—Among the members of the medical profession in foreign countries who have recently died are Dr. Adam Szulislawski, Lecturer on Eye Diseases and Surgeon to the Ophthalmic Department of the General Clinic at Lemberg, aged 46; Dr. F. Topinard, formerly Professor in the Paris School of Anthropology; Professor von Levschin, Director of the Morosoff Cancer Institute, Moscow, aged 73; Professor W. F. Loebisch, of Innsbruck, a pupil of Hoppe-Seyler and author of numerous works on subjects of physiological chemistry, aged 72; Dr. Alessandro Serafini, President of the Faculty of Medicine and Director of the Institute of Hygiene of Padua; Professor Pietro Giuria, one of the leading stomatologists of Italy; Dr. E. Biernacki, Lecturer on General and Experimental Pathology at Lemberg, aged 46; and Professor Franz von Winckel, the distinguished gynaecologist, for twenty years Director of the Clinic of Diseases of Women in the University of Munich.

Universities and Colleges.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.

LONDON (ROYAL FREE HOSPITAL) SCHOOL OF MEDICINE FOR WOMEN.

Department of Pharmacology.

The Council has appointed Dr. Frederick Ransom, M.D. Edin., Internal Examiner in Pharmacology for the University of Cambridge, late Assistant to Professor Behring and Professor Hans Meyer, to be Lecturer and Head of the Department of Pharmacology.

Entrance Scholarships.

The examination for Entrance Scholarships will be held on May 28th and two days following. Forms of entrance and all particulars can be obtained on application to the Secretary and Warden.

UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL.

The extramural lectures on "The Applications of Recent Research in Pathology and Bacteriology" will be given during the coming session by the Professor of Pathology at Bournemouth. The first demonstration will be held at the Bournemouth Medical Society's Rooms on Thursday, January 25th, at 5 p.m. The honorary local secretary is Dr. G. Carolin, Valerie, Southbourne Road, Bournemouth.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.

A QUARTERLY Council was held on January 11th, Mr. R. J. Godlee, President, in the chair.

Physiological Curator.

Mr. R. H. Burne was appointed to this new office in place of that known as Assistant Conservator, the latter office being now discontinued.

The best thanks of the Council were given to Mr. Burne for his valuable services to the College during the last twenty years as assistant in the museum and Assistant Conservator.

Removal of a Member.

The name of a member of the College was removed from the list, his name having been already removed from the *Medical Register* by the General Medical Council.

University of Birmingham.

Sir W. Watson Cheyne was appointed, in the vacancy occasioned by the retirement of Sir Henry T. Butlin, a member of the Court of Governors of the University of Birmingham.

Hunterian Orator.

The President, Mr. R. J. Godlee, was appointed Hunterian Orator for February, 1913.

Royal Commission on University Education.

At the request of the Commission a committee was appointed by the College to draw up a statement upon dental education in London, and to nominate a witness or witnesses to represent the College before the Commission.

National Insurance Act.

A committee was appointed to watch the interests of the members under the provisions of the Insurance Act, with power to confer with any other committee formed with similar objects, with instructions to report to the next Council of the College.

Vacancy on the Court of Examiners.

The vacancy occasioned by the resignation of Mr. J. Ernest Lane will be filled up at the ordinary meeting of the Council on February 1st. Mr. Lane will be a candidate for re-election.

Sir Thomas B. Crosby.

The President announced that the Lord Mayor, Sir Thomas B. Crosby, F.R.C.S., had accepted an invitation to be the guest of the College at a dinner to be given at the college on May 3rd.

CONJOINT BOARD IN ENGLAND.

THE following candidates have been approved at the examination indicated:

SECOND COLLEGE (Anatomy and Physiology).—J. P. Adecock, C. F. Anthonisz, Mary E. Ashton, N. K. Bal, P. W. Barnden, Z. M. Bishara, N. Brigg, M. T. G. Clegg, S. Doraisamy, H. G. Drosing, C. T. J. Drobig, J. A. Durante, A. F. El-Hakim, F. E. Fielden, H. D. Field, G. C. Gell, L. A. Graham, A. R. Hacker, A. H. Harkness, F. C. Harrison, A. H. Hiltay, T. Jones, C. G. G. Keane, M. Kingsley, F. E. R. Laborda, J. A. Liley, K. C. Mundana, A. H. Manfield, R. M. Mitra, N. F. Norman, G. W. Parry, J. M. Parry, O. G. Parry-Jones, W. L. Partridge, H. Peters, G. F. Rodrigues, H. A. Rowell, A. St. Johnston, J. T. Samuel, N. H. W. Saw, F. G. L. Scott, W. G. Shakespeare, G. D. Shann, E. B. Sunderland, L. H. Terry, R. E. H. O. Tha, M. D. B. Tonks, C. N. Vaiscey, J. R. N. Warburton.

Medico-Legal.

"NO CURE: NO PAY."

In an action for the recovery of fees for medical attendance, heard at Bloomsbury County Court on November 28th, 1911, the defence set up was an allegation of a verbal guarantee that the patient would be cured in three or four weeks. She was a young woman who, as the result of a consultation, had been placed in the charge of the plaintiff, Dr. George Herschell, to undergo a special treatment. After three weeks the plaintiff, finding that she did not improve as fast as had been anticipated, advised that the treatment should be discontinued and the patient sent to Margate. Payment of his fees being then refused the action was brought, and ended in a verdict for the plaintiff with costs.

OBLIGATION NOT TO PRACTISE.

S.—A. sells B. a practice, agreeing not to practise in the town or within a certain radius. B. dies, and what is left of his practice is sold to C. Does the agreement hold good between A. and C. as if it had been made between A. and C.?

* * * This will depend on the terms of the agreement when A. sold the practice to B. If A. agreed with B., his heirs, executors, and assigns, not to practise within the said limits, it would be binding on A. not to practise within those limits in opposition to C. Restrictive covenants of this kind are usually drawn up in this way, as the seller of a practice does not contemplate ever trying to get back again what he has been paid for in hard cash. If the agreement was only between A. and B., then C. has no rights under the restrictive covenant on the principle that *Res inter alios acta alteri nocere non debet*.

BOOK DEBTS.

C. H. W. P. writes that he was in partnership up to the end of 1910, but from that time the partnership was dissolved, the outgoing partner reserving his right to share in book debts. He wishes to know whether, in the case of payment by patients for attendance after the dissolution, where an account was due to the partnership from the same for an old

attendance, the whole of the money paid must go towards the settlement or reduction of the old debt, without any being set aside for the more recent attendance.

* It is in the power of the patient to stipulate that the payment he makes is for the settlement of the more recent debt; but if he does not, the whole of the payment must be applied to the settlement of the earlier debt. The legal aphorism is *Qui prior est tempore, potior est jure*.

Public Health

AND

POOR LAW MEDICAL SERVICES.

AMALGAMATION OF OFFICES.

THE Edmonton District Council, at a meeting on January 9th, decided to hold a special meeting in committee to define the duties to be assigned to the officer it proposes to appoint to the amalgamated offices of medical officer of health and school medical officer, and to take the same steps in regard to his assistant, and to decide also their respective salaries and the advisability of advertising the posts. At present the posts are held independently by Dr. Lawrence and Dr. Rock respectively, but a short time ago both received statutory notice of the termination of their appointments in order that the amalgamation might be brought about. The decision to hold a special meeting was preceded by a long discussion, in the course of which two letters addressed to the Council by the Local Government Board and by practitioners in the locality were read. The former, after expressing approval of the amalgamation of the two departments, added:

The Board considers that where possible this should be effected by the appointment of the same officer in both capacities, with an assistant who would do the whole or the greater part of actual medical inspection, and would also act as assistant medical officer of health. The Board would be prepared to assent to the alteration of the terms of Dr. Lawrence's appointment, so as to enable him to act as school medical officer as well as medical officer of health. But if this is the intention of the Council, the Board does not understand why it should be necessary for them to give Dr. Lawrence notice that his appointment as medical officer of health will be terminated, and desires to be furnished with the Council's explanation on this point.

The other letter stated that for the past six years the sanatoriums had worked amicably with the medical officer of health, and had found him tactful and obliging; they deprecated, therefore, the idea of advertising his post as vacant merely because it was proposed to amalgamate with his office the department of school medical inspection. With reference to the former letter, the chairman stated that he had verbally explained to the Local Government Board why the notices were given, and had added that the majority of the Council, he believed, had no wish either to damage Dr. Lawrence or to displace him from his office. He also drew attention to the motion standing in his own name for the appointment of Dr. Lawrence as medical officer of health and school medical officer, and of Dr. Rock as his assistant. This was subsequently put as a substantive motion, but on a discussion arising as to the precise alterations in salary to be made, the fairness of the projected arrangement to Dr. Rock, and the propriety of the local medical profession expressing its views, the matter ended in the decision to hold a special meeting in committee, and to defer the appointments until February 27th.

THE SANITARY CONDITION OF THE BEDFORD RURAL DISTRICT.

AFTER an inspection of the Bedford Rural District, which has a population of nearly 20,000 persons, Dr. Deane Sweeting is able to make a favourable report.¹ The District Council, he states, has shown commendable activity in sanitary administration. The officials are zealous and energetic. An infectious diseases hospital has been provided, in which, in spite of certain defects, 83 per cent. of the cases of diphtheria and scarlet fever occurring in the district have been isolated during the past eight years. Systematic efforts are being made to convert privies and middens into pail closets, and active steps are being taken to enforce the Housing Acts. In the Bedford Rural District, as elsewhere, private enterprise does not appear to be equal to the provision of a sufficient number of new cottages, and the council has accordingly decided to embark on a housing scheme for one part of its district, on which it is proposed to spend the sum of £1,100, for which sanction has been obtained from the Local Government Board. In some parts of the district water is supplied from shallow wells, dip wells, and other sources which are open to pollution. In other parts sewage disposal needs improving, while the scavenging arrangements in certain more or less populated districts are not very satisfactorily carried out, and in this connexion Dr. Sweeting recommends that the District Council should itself undertake the work. The administration of the isolation hospital is not altogether satisfactory. The patients are attended by a medical

¹ Reports to the Local Government Board on Public Health and Medical Subjects. New Series No. 58. Dr. R. Deane Sweeting's Report on the Sanitary Circumstances and Administration of the Bedford Rural District. London: Wyman and Sons. (4d.)

practitioner who is not the medical officer of health, that official apparently having nothing to do with the institution, which seems to suffer from the lack of medical administration as distinct from medical attendance. There are only five bedrooms in the administrative block for the female staff, which consists of a matron, three nurses, and four domestic servants. As a consequence one nurse sleeps in the scarlet fever block and two in the diphtheria block. The hospital was erected in 1901 at a cost of nearly £10,000, or about £528 a bed, and as there is accommodation for the treatment at one time of three diseases, Dr. Sweeting seems to have been fully justified in recommending not only an increase in the administrative accommodation, but also in the staff.

Medical News.

THE first of the course of Page May Memorial Lectures, to be delivered by Dr. Henry Head, F.R.S., at University College, London, will be given on Friday next at 5 p.m. The first of the course of lectures on the bearing of chemical physiology on certain pathological questions, to be delivered by Dr. Rosenheim at King's College, will be given at 4.30 p.m. on Monday, January 29th.

THE President of the Board of Education has appointed His Majesty's Inspector Mr. J. C. Iles, Divisional Inspector of Elementary Schools in the North-Western Division, to be Chairman of the Departmental Committee on Playgrounds of Public Elementary Schools, appointed on July 31st, 1911; and has also appointed Mr. E. B. Phipps, Principal Assistant Secretary of the Elementary Branch of the Board, to be a Member of the Committee. These changes are made in consequence of the resignation by L. A. Selby-Bigge, C.B., of the Chairmanship of the Committee on his appointment to be Permanent Secretary of the Board of Education.

A MEETING was held in York on January 10th for the purpose of making the necessary arrangements for the reception of the Congress of the Royal Sanitary Institute to be held in the city from July 29th to August 3rd. There was a large attendance, including the Archbishop of York, President of the Congress. The Lord Mayor, who presided, having welcomed those present, Colonel Lane Notter, treasurer of the institute, explained the object of the congresses of the Royal Sanitary Institute, and Mr. H. D. Searles Wood, F.R.I.B.A., Chairman of the Congress Committee, stated that it was estimated that some 1,500 persons would attend the Congress. The Archbishop of York also addressed the meeting. Local committees were appointed to make the necessary arrangements. There will be five sections of the Congress, namely: (a) Sanitary Science and Preventive Medicine; (b) Engineering and Architecture; (c) Domestic Hygiene; (d) Hygiene of Infancy and Childhood; (e) Industrial Hygiene. Conferences have also been arranged between municipal representatives, medical officers of health, engineers and surveyors to county and other sanitary authorities, veterinary inspectors, and sanitary inspectors.

A QUARTERLY court of the directors of the Society for Relief of Widows and Orphans of Medical Men was held on January 10th, Dr. Walter Rigden, senior vice-president present, in the chair. Fourteen directors were present, amongst them being the Right Hon. Sir Thomas Boor Crosby, Lord Mayor of London, one of the vice-presidents of the society. His lordship has most kindly given his consent to be nominated president of the society, to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Dr. Blandford, and the directors feel that Sir Thomas Boor Crosby, who for so many years has taken the keenest interest in the work of the society, will make an ideal president. Since the last court one of the vice-presidents of the society, Sir Samuel Wilks, has died. Three gentlemen were elected members of the society. The sum of £1,288 10s. was voted for the payment of the half-yearly grants to the annuitants of the charity. The grants to the orphans have been increased from £15 per annum to £25. The invested funds of the society now amount to £101,700. Membership is open to any registered medical practitioner who at the time of his election is resident within a 20-mile radius from Charing Cross. The annual subscription is 2 guineas, but life membership may be obtained by the payment of one sum, the amount of which depends on the age of the candidate. Relief is only granted to the widows and orphans of deceased members; letters are constantly being received from widows of medical men asking for relief, but this has to be refused as their husbands had not been members of the society. Application forms for membership and full particulars may be obtained by application to the secretary at the offices of the society, 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, W.