

spiritual life were sown. Unless ideas of home were spread and deepened in the next hundred years the outcome must be the decay of the people.

AT a well-attended dinner of the medical profession of Wigan and district held on May 8th, Dr. Monks, J.P., in the chair, a cheque for £50 was presented to Dr. Campbell, who has acted as secretary of the Local Medical Committee since the passing of the Insurance Act, and has expended much time and energy in securing equitable treatment for the medical profession in the area. As the chairman pointed out, the cheque would but barely recompense Dr. Campbell for the out-of-pocket expenses which he has incurred on behalf of his colleagues. Amongst those present were the Chairman and ex-Chairman of the Division (Wigan) of the British Medical Association, the Chairman and Honorary Secretary of the Wigan Medical Society, and Dr. John Campbell, Assistant Lecturer on Anatomy at the University of Liverpool, and brother of the guest of the evening.

THE members of the Dover Division of the British Medical Association entertained Dr. F. B. Hulke at a complimentary dinner on May 8th, when the Chairman, Dr. Charles Wood, presented to him a silver rose bowl, subscribed for by members of the Division as well as other members of the profession in the district, as a recognition of their gratitude to him for the ungrudging manner in which he had given his time and services, on their behalf, as a member of the Kent County Medical Committee since its formation. The toast having been duly honoured, Dr. Hulke thanked the subscribers and said he would always most highly value the gift and the feeling which had prompted it. After referring to the struggle through which the profession had passed during the last two years, a struggle which he believed was still in its infancy and likely to become more strenuous, Dr. Hulke urged on those present the necessity for perfecting their organization and binding themselves together, each individually supporting his neighbours. In the meantime they must remember that, though they were few in numbers, and their votes were not likely to turn any election, and that, for this reason, they were liable to be overlooked by both sides in party politics, still the profession possessed immense influence, if it only took the trouble to use it. The great mass of the people, the insured and their families, and the employers as well as the employed, must be won over.

DR. NEVILLE CROWE, Honorary Secretary of the Worcester Division, was entertained at a complimentary dinner on Friday evening, May 9th, and presented with a purse of gold and a silver salver bearing the inscription, "Presented to H. Neville Crowe by members of the Worcester Division of the British Medical Association in recognition of his services as their Representative. May 9, 1913." Dr. Stretton (Kidderminster), who presided, in making the presentation said that Dr. Crowe, who had carried on the duties of secretary in troublous times with such remarkable success, must have inherited his capacity from his father, who for twenty-six years had been honorary secretary of the Worcestershire and Herefordshire Branch. The improvements effected in the conditions of medical benefit as compared with those laid down in the bill as introduced, and the increased remuneration, were due to the action of the various Divisions and their secretaries throughout the country, and among those officers no one had worked harder than Dr. Crowe. Seventy-seven members of the Division had subscribed in order that Dr. Neville Crowe should have some tangible reminder of the work he had done. Dr. Crowe, in acknowledging the compliment and the gift, said that members of the Association had reason to congratulate themselves upon having been able to convince Mr. Lloyd George that he had underestimated the amount which should be paid to the medical profession for the work it was required to do. Even now, however, although the profession had undertaken to carry out the work at a certain price until January, 1914, the Government, as represented by the Insurance Commissioners, was trying to make certain deductions from the amount agreed to be paid. There were, however, two sides to every contract. Dr. Crowe also said that certain Insurance Committees seemed to consider that they had no responsibility to pay the doctor for those persons who had not yet exercised their right of choice, but the profession was responsible for the treatment of any person who presented the insurance card, and would therefore expect to be paid for every insured person from January 15th, 1913. It was essential that every doctor should keep the records required by the Government, for there might be an attempt to cut down the contract price in the future.

Letters, Notes, and Answers.

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS.—The telegraphic address of the EDITOR of the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL is *Articulate, Westrand, London*. The telegraphic address of the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL is *Articulate, Westrand, London*.

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Queries, answers, and communications relating to subjects to which special departments of the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL are devoted will be found under their respective headings.

QUERIES.

OMEGA asks for suggestions as to the etiology and treatment of pain in the back experienced by a patient on rising and throughout the day. Its locality can be covered by placing the hands over and on either side of the spine about the level of the waist belt. The kidneys are not movable, and all organs, as well as the spine, are apparently healthy. The patient, a domestic servant aged 35, presents no evidence of hysteria or of rheumatism of the joints, and though spare and of poor muscular development seems otherwise healthy.

LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.

A MEMBER of the British Medical Association, who died not long ago, left behind him a complete series of all the issues of the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL from 1874 to 1910. They are well bound in half-yearly volumes, and the administrator of the deceased member's estate is willing to present them to any medical man or institution desirous to possess them. His name and address can be obtained on application at the office of the Association.

THE WATERS TESTIMONIAL FUND.

THE Honorary Secretary of the Bootle Ward of the Liverpool Division of the British Medical Association (Dr. J. Walker) forwards the following letter of thanks for publication:

On behalf of Mrs. Waters and the trustees of this fund, we beg to acknowledge with grateful thanks the liberal response of the members of the Liverpool Division to the appeal which we circulated last month. Subscriptions amounting to £53 6s. have been received since the issue of the circular, which, added to the amount previously subscribed, makes a total of £243 7s. 6d. It is proposed to use the fund for the education of the children of the late Dr. Waters, both girls, aged 11 and 6 years respectively.

E. J. CLAXTON.
J. DUNN.
J. WALKER.

MEDICAL EVIDENCE.

LAWYERS are in the habit of scoffing at medical evidence, unless it happens to be on their side. It cannot be denied that doctors sometimes cut a sorry figure under the ordeal of cross-examination by a keen-witted counsel. Sometimes the tables are turned, as when a much-badgered physician said, in reply to a suggestion that the mistakes of doctors are often buried underground, that the mistakes of lawyers were sometimes hung above it. We have come across another instance of a doctor scoring off counsel in the *South African Medical Record*. A medical witness in a Western State of America was giving evidence in a case of murder. One of the jurors asked him whether the accused "had anything wrong with his head." "Yes," said the doctor, "he was the subject of old-standing and severe alopecia praesensilis." Counsel did not press the examination on this point further, and although the case for the prosecution was conclusive the accused was acquitted by the jury, who were under the impression that the man was not responsible for his actions.

CORRECTION.

IN the report of a case of abdominal aneurysm by Dr. J. Rupert Collins and Mr. C. Braine-Hartnell, published last week, it was stated, under the heading "Post-mortem Examination" (p. 988), that "The lower end of the wire was tucked away inside the aneurysm immediately outside the end of the liver." For "end of the liver" read "endothelium."

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