

people value health, we neglect to educate the people, and thus kill out the chances of such follies spreading through the world.

In all our movements for social reform, for sanitation, or for public health, it is not our better hearts or kinder feelings which urge us on. We belong to a nation full of generous impulses, but which is simply ignorant of the right path. What urges us forward is our special knowledge of the causes of disease. To us they are apparent, but the world cannot see them until educated to our standard, or near it.

If you ask me at present what element is at work in the country, creating most regard for the medical profession, and drawing the sympathies of the world to it, I would say it is neither colleges nor universities. It is the ambulance movement which is showing to the outer world how their bodies are built up, and how injuries result. This movement, which is quite in its infancy, is creating a wide sympathy for us everywhere. Its teaching of aid to the injured is merely a small part of its work, for the world is not always breaking its bones. But every day men and women are dying of equally preventable causes, of which they are ignorant. When a man or a woman has advanced as far as the ambulance class has taught him or her, the probability is that it is merely the first step to a study of life-conditions and sanitary needs.

We need every day to become more teachers than we are; the logical function of the sanitarian is to teach each man to guard his own health, and until that teaching is given, progress cannot come to its full extent.

I beg to suggest that without in any way interfering with the existing routines of the annual meetings, that a popular lecture addressed to all classes be part of the annual programme, and that the Council of the Association nominate the lecturer.—Yours,

G. J. H. EVATT, M.D., Surgeon-Major A.M.D.

Woolwich, October, 1883.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

PARIS.

A LETTER to M. Pasteur from M. Roux, one of his pupils, describes the rapid illness and death of M. Thuiller. It appears that on Wednesday, the 14th, he went to Santah to witness the *post mortem* examination of an ox that had died of cattle-plague; he returned to Alexandria the following Saturday, and on Monday, the 17th, went to the lazaretto of the slaughter-house to collect some bullock's blood. During the morning he passed a motion which was not quite healthy, but throughout the day was in his usual good spirits, bathed in the sea, and ate his dinner with an excellent appetite. At ten o'clock he went to bed, and fell asleep immediately. At three o'clock in the morning he woke up, again had a motion, went to M. Roux's room, cried out "I am very ill," and fell on the floor. He was carried back to bed looking very pale; his face was covered with perspiration, and his hands were cold; he recovered from this state very quickly, took a small dose of an opiate and went off to sleep again. At five o'clock he passed another loose motion and vomited his dinner, which was thoroughly undigested. Afterwards he felt greatly relieved, took another opiate and slept. At seven o'clock he grew worse and complained of feeling cold; he had another motion; syncope was imminent, and he was obliged to be supported; from this time he grew rapidly worse, notwithstanding the prompt and energetic treatment administered. At eight o'clock he was past recovery, and suffering from severe cramp in the muscles of the legs, thighs, and diaphragm. The motions were passed involuntarily, the facies was considerably changed; in fact, all the symptoms of the most terrible form of cholera were present. Breathing became difficult, but owing to unceasing friction the temperature was not lowered.

Towards twelve o'clock there was a slight amelioration, and the pulsations of the radial artery could be detected. At two, breathing became more laboured, the motions were involuntary, there was also an absence of pulse. Breathing and circulation were kept up by champagne and ether injections.

The actual moment of death was warded off by careful and energetic treatment until seven o'clock on Wednesday morning the 19th. Partial asphyxia lasted for twenty-four hours, and resisted all treatment. The French colony at Alexandria intend to erect a monument to the memory of M. Thuiller. His death was an unexpected misfortune, inasmuch as there had been no cases of cholera during the last fifteen days, and the members of the Pasteur Commission were investigating the cattle plague.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND POOR-LAW MEDICAL SERVICES.

THE REPORT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD.

THE just published report of the Local Government Board contains the usual assortment of miscellaneous information on a number of matters affecting poor-law and sanitary medical practice. There is no one point that comes out into prominent relief, and it must suffice therefore to glean from the report such facts as appear to be of medical interest. Subscriptions to the amount of about £800 per annum are now paid by Metropolitan Boards of Guardians to various public hospitals and other institutions, and in some unions the guardians have found it advisable to enter into arrangements with nursing institutions to supply, from time to time, the requisite staff of nurses for the infirmary. At the close of the year 1882 there were in the metropolis 154 District Medical Officers, whose total salaries amounted to £17,568, and who secured fees amounting to £1,759. The total number of orders for medical relief was 113,354, and the average number of orders per medical officer was 736. The absence of uniformity as to the period for which medical orders are available renders it difficult to form a comparison between the different metropolitan unions in respect of the work of the District Medical Officers. The Board think it would be an advantage if all orders for medical relief were granted by the guardians for a uniform period of one month, which is the period at present adopted for this purpose in many unions. There are now 1102 authorities who obtain repayment out of the parliamentary grant of half the salaries of their medical officers of health. The Board report with satisfaction a further reduction in the number of cases in which district medical officers are employed as medical officers of health—a combination of offices which the Board, contrary to their early practice, now steadily discourage. They are coming round somewhat to a sense of the absurdity of appointing and reappointing officers every year or two; and they announce, though it must be confessed that the phraseology is ambiguous enough, that "in those cases in which sanitary authorities have had some experience of the officer, and the arrangements have, in our opinion, proved in all respects satisfactory, we shall be prepared to reappoint the officer for a longer term, provided he be not a Poor-law medical officer." Of the 881,652 children whose births were returned by the vaccination officers of England and Wales as having been registered in 1880, rather more than 85 per cent. are recorded as having been successfully vaccinated, nearly 10 per cent. as having died unvaccinated, and a minute fraction (.005 per cent.) as remaining unvaccinated on account of their having had small-pox. Something under 1 per cent. were certified as "insusceptible of vaccination," and about 0.7 per cent. were postponed by medical certificate on account of the health of the children. Thus of the entire number of children born, rather less than 5 per cent., remain unaccounted for as regards vaccination. This is a fractional improvement on the proportion in the previous year. The returns of the metropolis for 1880, though less unsatisfactory than those for 1879, still compare unfavourably with the returns for the rest of the country. The Medical Inspectors of the Board inspected public vaccination in 1,350 districts; and to the public vaccinators of 751 of these districts, awards were granted for excellence of work. The total sum awarded in this manner was £14,265, ranging from eleven shillings at Keighley, to £336 at St. Saviour's (Surrey).

The number of applications for vaccine lymph received and dealt with during the year was 10,331. The supplies of animal lymph issued were 2,872 ivory points, and 270 capillary tubes. A total of 419 persons were vaccinated at the Lamb's Conduit Street calf-vaccination establishment during the year. Excluding a number of administrative inquiries into hospitals and the like, the medical staff made 36 inquiries into the local incidence of disease, concerning more or less the districts of 62 sanitary authorities. To such of these inquiries as were of general interest we have already drawn attention, and there is no need therefore to detail their objects or results.

DR. JOSEPH ROGERS.

At a meeting of the Dorset and West Hants Branch of the British Medical Association, held at Wareham, Dorset, on Wednesday, October 24th, 1882, Dr. Williams, of Sherborne, Dorset, in the chair, the following resolution was, on the proposition of Mr. Husband, submitted to the meeting, and adopted. It was also suggested that a