

## MEDICO-PARLIAMENTARY.

**HOUSE OF LORDS.—Thursday, July 5th.**

*Habitual Drunkards Act (1879) Amendment Bill.*—This Bill passed through Committee.

*Victoria University.*—This Bill was read a second time.

*Friday, July 6th.*

*Regulation of the Sale of Foreign Meat.*—Lord LAMINGTON asked permission to bring in a Bill, consisting of one clause, divided into two sections, to compel tradesmen honestly to declare distinctly what they were selling in respect to the sale of meat, as was compulsory on them in regard to other articles of food.—The Earl of ONSLOW believed the law as it stood gave ample power for inflicting penalties on those who sold foreign for English meat.—The Bill was read a first time.

*Tuesday, July 10th.*

*Habitual Drunkards Act (1879) Amendment Bill.*—This Bill was read a third time and passed.

**HOUSE OF COMMONS.—Thursday, July 5th.**

*Deficient Hospital Accommodation, etc., on Board Ocean-Going Steamers.*—Dr. TANNER (the House being in Committee of Supply on the Civil Service Estimates) called attention to the incomplete medical provision and insufficient hospital accommodation on board ocean-going steamers, which had been made the subject of comment by the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL. He had in previous years called the attention of the Board of Trade to the subject, but no efficient action seemed to have been taken. Last year it was officially stated that there was a special cabin always fitted up as a surgery. He however could say such was not the case. In about 96 per cent. of the large steamers crossing the Atlantic there was no such thing as a special surgery.—Sir M. HICKS-BEACH said he had gone into the question, both with the representatives of the shipping companies and also with the inspectors of the Board of Trade. He had been unable to find in the statements of the inspectors, any corroboration of the allegations made by the hon. gentleman, who, he thought, did not make a distinction between emigrant ships and vessels engaged in the ordinary passenger traffic. The regulations of the Board of Trade applied only to the former. It might be that after the ship left port, having passed the Board of Trade inspector, the accommodation referred to was utilised for other purposes. That was contrary to the law, but he would point out that it was only by the sanction of the medical officer of the ship that the hospital accommodation could be diverted to other uses. Therefore, what the hon. member alleged was, that the medical officers absolutely neglected their duties.—Dr. TANNER said that, on the contrary, he maintained that they did their duty as well as they could. If they attempted to report the breaches of the Board of Trade regulations which occurred on board their ships, they would be dismissed from their employment.—Sir M. HICKS-BEACH asked why the emigrants did not complain.—Dr. TANNER went on to urge that they were peasants unaccustomed to cities. The proper course would be to do what was done in respect of emigrants from England to Australia—to pay the medical officers a small stipend and make them responsible for the health of the emigrants.—Sir M. HICKS-BEACH said he would undertake that any statement placed before him should be thoroughly investigated. It would be impossible to institute any inquiries into these charges unless the names of the ships were given, though he should be sorry to publish anything which would injure the medical officers of the ships.

*Charges Against a Public Vaccinator.*—Mr. RITCHIE, in answer to Mr. M'LAREN, said the attention of the Local Government Board had been called to the charges against Mr. Loane, as public vaccinator in the hamlet of Mile End. The guardians, as soon as they were made aware of the charges in question, suspended Mr. Loane from the performance of his duties, and Mr. Loane had since relinquished his office of public vaccinator. It was not the practice of the Board to institute an inquiry into charges against a person who had ceased to be under their jurisdiction, but in deference to the wishes which the guardians had expressed, and in consideration of the gravity of the charges alleged, he had determined to institute an inquiry into the case.

*Monday, July 9th.*

*The Local Government Bill.*—Mr. BRADLAUGH (the House being in Committee on this Bill), on Clause 23 (Payments by County Councils in Substitution for Annual Local Grants out of

Exchequer in Aid of Local Rates), moved to omit words which stated that the County Council should pay to the guardians or to the proper local authority such sums as the Local Government Board certified in substitution for local grants "towards the cost of drugs and medical appliances for payments to public vaccinators under Section 5 of the Vaccination Act, 1867." This amendment was negatived by 249 to 123.—Mr. BRUNNER moved an amendment to leave out of Clause 24 all the words from "but if" to the end of Subsection *b*. He said that by the Bill if a medical officer of health did not send in his returns to the Local Government Board, the latter might require the County Council to withhold half the salary to which he was entitled. That provision practically enabled a medical officer of health or inspector of nuisances who had quarreled with his District Council to fine them to the extent of one-half of his salary, as they were given no power to refuse him his salary if he did not send in his returns. The amendment, after being discussed, was by leave withdrawn.—Mr. RANKIN moved an amendment affecting the three Subsections relating to the payments to be made in respect of pauper lunatics. He proposed that the County Council should pay to the guardians a sum of not more than 3s. a week, and in no case exceeding the actual relief granted for each pauper lunatic chargeable to the county who should be certified to be a lunatic by the proper medical authority. The sum of 4s. contained in the Bill was, he argued, too high. It was the opinion of many competent and experienced persons that in a great number of cases imbeciles who were sent to asylums would be better off if they were in the homes of their friends. This amendment, after being discussed, was negatived.

*Tuesday, July 10th.*

*Contagious Diseases Acts in India.*—Sir J. GORST, in reply to Mr. W. M'LAREN, said the orders of the Government of India for the suspension of the Contagious Diseases Acts in Madras, Bombay, and Bassein were issued on May 9th. The Secretary of State had been informed, in answer to an inquiry made by him, that in Bombay the suspension did not take place till June 30th, but that the Government of India was making inquiries into the reason for the delay.

## UNIVERSITY INTELLIGENCE.

VICTORIA.

THE CHAIR OF SURGERY AT OWENS COLLEGE.

A VERY largely attended meeting of the Manchester medical students was held at the Infirmary on Thursday, July 5th, to consider what action should be taken to acquaint the Council of Owens College with the view taken by them of the recent appointment to the Chair of Surgery in the College. The following memorial was unanimously adopted, and it was further resolved to forward copies to the members of the Council:

*To the Council of the Owens College.*

GENTLEMEN,—We, the students of the Manchester School of Medicine, desire unanimously to express to you, the Council of the Owens College, our regret and disappointment that you have deemed it necessary to withdraw the teaching of surgery in the Owens College Medical School from the hands in which it has been placed for several years past.

To the public medical careers of our teachers we must not here advert, for you have already reviewed the evidence relating thereto; but we respectfully represent to the Council our conviction that the present teachers have, in their past professional relations with us, acquitted themselves with much credit and honour, and that by their expulsion we are deprived of the extensive practical experience gained by many years of surgical practice in the Manchester Royal Infirmary, which, with the exception of the London Hospital in the East End, holds the first position in Great Britain in regard to the material of its surgical practice.

EDINBURGH.

IMPORTANT ALTERATION IN MEDICAL CURRICULUM.—An alteration of considerable practical importance for students has been made in the regulations for graduation in Medicine, having been approved by order of Her Majesty in Council. The alteration relates to the First Professional Examination, and provides "that students who profess themselves ready to submit to an examination in the first division of these subjects may be admitted to examination therein at the first period of examination after they have completed their attendance on the necessary classes; provided always that it shall be lawful for students to proceed to examination in the said subjects under the following alternative sub-divisions, namely (1) botany and natural history; (2) chemistry (including practical chemistry); (3) botany and