

say equal to those in London. There have been so many examinations; there were no fewer than nineteen examining bodies, all of which differed very much in their examinations, some being much more severe than others; those in London are by far the most severe, and afterwards those in Dublin; but as regards Edinburgh, it was the custom for men who were rejected in London to go to Edinburgh, if they were rejected in Edinburgh they went to Aberdeen, and so on; and so they got through, and then they came back to London."

SIR,—Statements have of late appeared in the medical papers specifically asserting that the qualifications and titles of the Scottish corporations are granted on insufficient, and, in some cases without, examination. Professor Struthers has already pointed out that a similar allegation referring to the University of Aberdeen is absolutely false. It is not less so in reference to the corporations. The examinations for the licence of the three corporations are managed by a committee of representatives who are not examiners. The Board of Examiners is drawn from the schools of Edinburgh and Glasgow, is composed of the men who are most distinguished in the various departments, and is at the same time the largest Board of Examiners in the three kingdoms. There has thus been secured not only a high standard, which is common enough, but also a discouragement of special cramming, and a justice and uniformity which are not easily attained.

If the value of the examinations be estimated by the average number of rejections, it will be seen by the published returns that they bear favourable comparison with all others. At the last sederunt the rejections were over 60 per cent., larger than usual by 5 or 6 per cent.

It may frankly be admitted that some of these rejections arise from the fact that statements such as those referred to induce a certain number of unprepared men from other schools to make their appearance for examination here. These men being relegated to their studies, occasionally (to their great benefit, but apparently to the mortification of the author of these statements) continue their studies in the Scottish schools, and subsequently pass.

In regard to higher titles, the Fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh is granted very rarely, perhaps once in one or two years, on the recommendation of the Council and by ballot of the College, "to men who have highly distinguished themselves by original investigations, and possess registrable surgical qualifications of a sufficiently high order" (see Laws p. 20). This is the case with most similar titles. But, with this exception, the Fellowship is granted only after examination, the stringency of which may be judged by the fact that at the last examinations, out of twenty-two candidates, twelve were rejected.

The recent action of certain provincial hospital boards has plainly been based on a narrow spirit of trades-unionism, and not upon a just estimate of the value of the higher titles granted by the Scottish Colleges.—I am, etc. JOHN DUNCAN,
Edinburgh. President R.C.S.Ed.

PEAT BATHS AT HOME AND ABROAD.

SIR,—Your article in the JOURNAL of July 5th on "Franzensbad" contains much information that cannot fail to be of value and interest to medical readers, but there is one statement or inference contained therein to which I must ask leave to take exception.

Peat or moor baths are correctly described as now in use at many health resorts in Austria and Germany, including Franzensbad, where the peat is naturally impregnated with certain minerals. Then follows the remark that these Austrian and Germany baths are not "merely peat baths such as might be easily employed in the north of England, in Scotland, and Ireland," the tacit assumption being that in none of these is, or can be, effected a proper mineralisation.

Much as we have to allow that the Continental spas surpass or have surpassed our own, surely this statement is an unwarrantable one. It is a pity to have the merited praise of one health resort coupled with the unmerited dispraise of others. I submit that any such comparison as is sought to be made must await careful analyses from the various localities.

The case is made more curious from the fact that the writer, with many good authorities, approaches the subject from a critical standpoint. He is evidently inclined, after all, to believe with them that the peat bath is only a special form of thermal treatment, in which case, it is needless to remark that the question of mineralisation is more than secondary.

I may add that the peat bath at Strathpeffer Spa, which is, so far as I know, the only one at present in use in this country, has won the approval of many experienced spa-goers who had hitherto resorted for this treatment to Austria and Germany.—I am, etc.,
Strathpeffer Spa, N.E. FORTESCUE FOX.

CHOLERA IN PERSIA: A CONTRADICTION.

SIR,—Referring to the statement in the JOURNAL of May 3rd that cholera had broken out in Meshed and Khorassan, I can report that there has been no cholera at all in these parts as yet, nor do I believe any cases have been met with in Persia east of Teheran, at least not for some years. The Russians, however, established a quarantine along this frontier some months ago for a short time, as I believe they did along the whole of their frontier bordering Persia. Reports from this part of the world are false in nine cases out of ten, in matters medical as in other things.—I am, etc.

H. R. WOOLBERT, H.M. Indian Medical Service,
Medical Officer H.M. Consulate General
and Khorassan Agency.
June 25th.

MEDICO-LEGAL AND MEDICO-ETHICAL.

CLUB PRACTICE AND PRIVATE PRACTICE.

THE case of Simpson v. Warren came recently before the Northern Circuit. The action was brought by Dr. Simpson to recover £65 for medical attendances from July 1st, 1888, to January 31st, 1890. The defendant was the executor of a man named Warren, and the action was brought to recover from him, as executor, the above sum. The substantial defence set up was that the deceased man had been a member of a club of which the plaintiff was the proprietor, and that the plaintiff had attended the deceased as such member, and had been duly paid for his services by subscriptions from time to time paid by the deceased man. The defendant also pleaded that there were no assets, but in the course of the evidence for the plaintiff it was shown that, so far from that being the case, the deceased had owned four houses, which, after his death, were sold for £375, subject to a mortgage for £250. Mr. Fleming submitted that the fact of no bill having been sent in was strong evidence of the truth of the defendant's contention that the deceased was a member of the club. A card of membership was produced, on which were recorded certain payments admittedly made by the deceased, but the contention was, on the part of the plaintiff, that these payments had been made by the deceased, not upon his own account, but on that of a friend named Allcroft. The defendant's wife gave evidence, and stated that after the deceased died the plaintiff came to the house and asked to see the card of membership, which was handed to him. The plaintiff did not then say that the deceased had not been a member of the club, nor that the payments shown by the card had been made on account of Allcroft. The plaintiff then asked permission to take the card, saying that the dates did not correspond with those in his attendance book. The card was given to him on his promise to return it within three days, which he failed to do. A card was now produced, which the witness said was very like the one handed to the plaintiff.

The learned judge said it was clear to him that the plaintiff had attended the deceased as an ordinary patient, and that he was entitled to judgment; but, looking at the circumstances of the deceased, he considered that £22 10s. was a reasonable amount, and accordingly gave judgment for the plaintiff for that amount.

AN UNQUALIFIED HOMEOPATH.

DAFKI.—If the person in question supplies medicines to his patients it is clearly an infringement of the Apothecaries' Act. Obtain reliable evidence as to this point in at least two cases, and then send full particulars to the Apothecaries' Society.

MIDWIFERY ENGAGEMENTS.

IN acknowledging as a simple act of courtesy T.'s communication in reference to our comments on the case of T. and G., which appeared in the JOURNAL of July 19th, p. 180, we deem it right to observe that as to whether or not "G.'s" letter differed from that he submitted to our correspondent, he should be best able to judge, inasmuch as it was printed in full.

It is scarcely necessary to add that if we had been cognisant that both G. and T. had submitted their dispute to a contemporary, we should have abstained from offering any comment thereon—as we now are impelled to do, with regard to the alleged unfairness of a medical man being expected to attend another practitioner's patient in view of the fact that the latter has a partner.