

tract for the purpose of putting the names of these gentlemen on the list of contributors of the company. They were not members of the company because they were not registered as shareholders. The certificates were represented to them as being fully paid up shares, and were so accepted, involving no liability. There was no ground for putting those gentlemen's names on the list.

#### PROSECUTION UNDER THE PHARMACY ACT IN GLASGOW.

THE very common infringement of the Pharmacy Act, which has long been carried on in Glasgow, is now being dealt with by the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society, which is the body empowered by the law to take proceedings against unqualified persons keeping open for the retailing and compounding of poisons, or improperly describing themselves as chemists and druggists. The *Glasgow Evening News* of November 2nd states that a number of cases were brought before Sheriff Birnie on Thursday; and, the respondents pleading not guilty, the trial of the cases was adjourned until November 23rd.

#### ALLEGED ILLEGAL REVACCINATION.

IN the Queen's Bench Division, on November 6th, an appeal in the case of *Bramwich v. Ferraby* from the decision of the county court judge at Birmingham was heard. The case has been several times noticed in the *BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL* (April 22nd, 1893). The boy was revaccinated during a short detention in the workhouse, and the action was against the medical man for damages for assault. The jury found a verdict for the plaintiff, damages £10, but the judge, after consideration, entered judgment for the defendant. The Queen's Bench ordered the case to be retried in order that the facts might be better ascertained.

## MEDICO-PARLIAMENTARY.

### HOUSE OF COMMONS.

*The Parish Councils Bill.*—The second reading of the Local Government (England and Wales) Bill, commonly called the Parish Councils Bill, was moved by Mr. FOWLER on November 2nd. Mr. Fowler's speech was calculated to conciliate opposition founded upon details. The Government, he said, fully recognised that the Bill as it stood would require a good deal of amendment from both sides of the House. The vital principles of the Bill were to establish parish councils, efficient and undisturbed; our system of local government must be completed; the objectionable franchise under which guardians were elected must be got rid of, and boards of guardians must be popularised in their administration of the Poor-law. The main part of his speech was devoted to a discussion of the question of the grouping of the parishes, as to which he stated that the Government desired to leave to the decision of the House the point, whether 300 or 200 people, at which the process of grouping would take effect. He also discussed at great length the effect of the Bill on ecclesiastical charities. In the course of his remarks—before turning to the discussion of the part of the Bill which deals with the Poor Law—he said that no fundamental objections had been brought against the Bill in its sanitary and general local government aspects.—Mr. W. H. LONG, who followed, congratulated Mr. Fowler upon the attitude which he had taken up, and his remarks were chiefly directed to financial questions and to a criticism of the Poor-law clauses, which he recommended to be dropped for the present. He criticised the wording of Clause 8 and referred especially to the words which would empower a parish council to utilise any supply of water within the parish. He admitted that it was desirable that parish councils should have power to deal with the water supply, and he thought that the power to take private supplies might give rise to friction.—Mr. HENEGE commended to the attention of the Government the opinion expressed by Lord Playfair that the appointment of medical officers of health should not be left to district councils, but should be in the hands of the county councils, which should have been made little local government boards. They would thus have insured that sanitary work was being done in an efficient manner. Lord Playfair further proposed that all medical officers of health should be made officers of the county councils. He commended those and other remarks of Lord Playfair to the consideration of the Government, as they precisely expressed his own views on the subject. If the present number of 1,200 medical officers could be reduced to 200 or 250 with increased salaries their efficiency would, he believed, be increased.—The debate was continued by Sir CHARLES DIKE, Sir F. POWELL, Mr. COBB, Mr. JEFFREYS, Sir A. ROLLIT, and others, attention being directed chiefly to financial questions, to the question of grouping, and to the matter of the enfranchisement of women.—Mr. E. STANHOPE said that both parties were practically agreed as to the principles of the measure. Referring to the special case of London, he said that he believed the establishment of the County Council in London was only the commencement of what was required, and that it was absolutely necessary, if the scheme was to be successful in the long run, that they should on an early day approach the question of district councils.—After some further observations by Mr. H. L. LAWSON and Mr. LEIGHTON, the debate was adjourned.—The debate was continued on November 3rd, when speeches were delivered by Mr. GEORGE RUSSELL, Mr. COLLINS, Mr. STANSFELD, Mr. SHAW LEFEBVRE, Mr. GOUITNEY, and others. Mr. STANSFELD said that many persons appeared to entertain the opinion that the boards of guardians were to be abolished, and that the district councils were to take their place, but his reading of the Bill was that there would be two bodies: first the District Council, and then the Poor-law Union, and the rural district councillors would also be rural guardians. At present the rural guardians were the rural sanitary authorities. Under the Bill the district councillors would become the rural guardians as well. The sanitary functions were to be conferred on the district councils. There were no doubt inconveniences attending the proposed change, but he did not know that better could be done, unless there was to be a complete reorganisation of the Poor-law system of the country.—The debate was continued on November 6th, when Mr. ACLAND discredited the fears that parish councils would indulge in reckless or unwise expenditure, and stated that the Government regarded the Poor-

law clauses as a most important portion of the Bill.—Mr. BALFOUR believed that the Bill could be turned into a substantial improvement of our existing system of local administration, but criticised the financial provisions.—Sir WALTER FOSTER, after referring to the question of grouping and of allotments, expressed the opinion that the transfer of the duty of making sanitary regulations from the guardians to the new district councils would be a sanitary reform. Until there was some efficient sanitary authority in the rural districts it was impossible to hope for anything like the improvement in the condition of the people's health which, under the present sanitary laws, there was every right to expect. The present authorities gave, perhaps, half an hour a month to the consideration of the sanitation of a whole district one hundred miles in extent. They employed inspectors of nuisances, whose orders were to do nothing; and they employed medical officers of health at salaries so small that they were meant to do nothing. The Government believed that the new bodies, elected on the new principle by the whole of the ratepayers, would have a useful effect, and that men directly interested in the sanitary condition of the districts would be brought to serve on them.—The debate was resumed on November 7th, and continued from 4 in the afternoon till midnight. It was wound up by Mr. GOSCHEN, who urged the Government to drop those portions of the measure, such as the Poor-law clauses, that lay outside the establishment of parish councils.—After a few remarks from Sir WILLIAM HARCOURT, the Bill was read a second time.

The Bill of which Mr. Mansfield gave notice on November 2nd, and which will be introduced next Tuesday, is intended to enable testators to leave money for the purposes of scientific investigation, or for other purposes which may, under the present law of mortmain, be construed as inimical to the cause of religion. Its reception is in a great measure due to the experience of the late Mr. Charles Bradlaugh in this regard. He had a sum of money left him during his lifetime, but the provisions of this ancient law prevented him from obtaining it. That is why Mr. Mansfield has undertaken to introduce the Bill.

*Isolation Hospitals Bill.*—During the discussion on the motion of the adjournment of the House, Sir HENRY ROSCOE said he hoped time would be found for passing the Isolation Hospitals Bill, which no one opposed.

Monday, November 6th.

*Death from Anthrax.*—In reply to Mr. MACDONA, Sir WALTER FOSTER said that the attention of the Local Government Board had been drawn to the report of the inquest on William Powney, a waterside labourer of Bermondsey, who died in Guy's Hospital of anthrax. It appeared that the man was engaged in loading grain. According to the evidence of the house-surgeon at Guy's Hospital, the case was undoubtedly one of anthrax. The Local Government Board had endeavoured to ascertain whether the grain bags were made of skins or other material likely to communicate the disease, but were quite unable to say how the disease had been contracted, nor were they able to say how the disease in this instance had come into the country. Many months of careful and detailed inquiry had been devoted by the medical department of the Board to the question of the prevention of this disease and a number of useful suggestions had been made, but he regretted to say that hitherto no means of prevention had been discovered.—Mr. MACDONA asked whether there had not been a great increase of the disease.—Sir WALTER FOSTER admitted that there had been some increase of the disease, which was usually imported in skins.

## UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES.

### UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD.

**PROPOSED RESEARCH DEGREE.**—A memorial has been presented to the Hebdomadal Council in favour of a scheme for providing that in certain cases the ordinary degree of B.A. may be granted to persons who have not passed the qualifying examinations, this privilege to be granted only to students who have carried on research in Oxford, and whose work shall have been tested and approved in a manner to be prescribed. The memorial has been referred to a committee for consideration.

**THE TEACHING OF NATURAL SCIENCE.**—The demonstrators in the departments of Natural Science have addressed a memorial to the Hebdomadal Council suggesting that the appointment of a demonstrator should be a University Act, and that he should not be liable to summary dismissal, except with the consent of the Visitorial Board. The memorial was referred to a committee.

### UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE.

**THIRD M.B. EXAMINATION.**—The Special Board for Medicine have presented a report recommending that "mental diseases" shall in future be explicitly specified as a subject of the Final M.B. Examination.

**EXAMINER IN CHEMISTRY.**—Dr. W. Ramsay, Professor of Chemistry in University College, London, has been appointed an examiner in that subject.

**PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY.**—Alex Hill, M.D., Master of Downing, has been elected Vice-President of the Cambridge Philosophical Society.

**SCIENCE FELLOWSHIP.**—Mr. E. W. MacBride, Hutchinson Student and Demonstrator of Animal Morphology, has been elected to a Fellowship at St. John's College.

### UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH.

#### GRADUATION CEREMONIAL.

A SPECIAL graduation ceremony for those who had passed their examinations at this time, took place in the Examination Hall of the Old University on October 28th. The Vice-Chancellor, Sir William Muir, presided.

The following gentlemen received the degree of B.Sc. in the Department of Public Health:—C. H. Bond, M.B. (*in absentia*), J. K. Brown, M.B., W. T. Crawford, M.B., A. Mirza, M.B., and D. D. Tindal, M.B.