

satisfaction requests his own family or other doctor to visit the patient and report to him thereon, it is the duty of the deputed practitioner to point out to the employer or other interested party their respective ethical obligations in the matter; and, prior to making such visit, to solicit and obtain the sanction of the medical attendant in the case; otherwise he will commit a grave breach of professional etiquette, and entail upon himself a just rebuke." *Ethical Code*, chap. ii, sec. 5, rule 15.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.

FIBULA.—When impracticable to notify personally the change of residence, the most effective and unexceptionable mode is to transmit an autograph note, or a well-executed *facsimile* thereof, on notepaper to *bond-fide* patients; or to enclose an ordinary address card, with "Change of Address" inserted at the top, the old address in the lower right corner being defaced by a black line, and the new one engraved in the left hand corner, or *vice versa*.

A KNOTTY POINT.

F. W. L. writes: A. and B. are two general practitioners living in the same town. A. sees one of B.'s patients in consultation with B. The patient is a retired coastguardsman, B. being the coastguard doctor for the district. A few weeks later a daughter of the patient calls on A. and wishes him to attend her, telling him that, with the exception of a married sister, the father is the only member of the family who has been attended by B. A. declines on the ground that he was introduced to the family as a consultant, but promises to state a case for the Editor of the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, and to be guided by the opinion he expresses.

. In view of the alleged fact that B. is not regarded as the family medical attendant of the retired coastguardsman, we incline to the opinion that A., under the circumstances related, would be fairly justified in assuming charge of the would-be patient in question. At the same time, we think that, as a reasonable judicious mark of courtesy, he would act advisedly and in the true ethical spirit by calling upon B., and solicit an expression of his views and wishes on the point.

UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES.

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE.

ELECTORS OF PROFESSORSHIPS.—The vacancies on the Board of Electors to the chairs of Human Anatomy, and Zoology and Comparative Anatomy, caused by the death of Professor Huxley, have been filled respectively by the appointment of Sir William Turner, F.R.S., Professor of Anatomy in the University of Edinburgh, and of Lord Walsingham, F.R.S., High Steward of the University of Cambridge.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.

M.B. EXAMINATION PASS LIST—First Division.—B. L. Abrahams, B.Sc., University College; H. L. Barnard, London Hospital; V. J. Blake, University College; S. W. Brook, Owens College and Manchester Royal Infirmary; S. A. Bull, Westminster Hospital; A. R. Cook, B.Sc., Cambridge University and St. Bartholomew's Hospital; J. H. Cook, University College; F. G. Crookshank, University College; Rosina Clara Despard, London School of Medicine for Women; A. Dimsey, University College; L. E. V. Every-Clayton, Guy's and London Fever Hospitals; S. Gillies, St. Bartholomew's Hospital; W. S. Handley, Guy's Hospital; R. Hopton, Yorkshire College; E. Playfair, King's College; W. T. G. Pugh, Middlesex Hospital; A. J. Kodocanachi, B.Sc., University College; A. Salter, Guy's Hospital; H. B. Shaw, University College; G. H. Sowry, St. Bartholomew's Hospital; T. M. Thomas, Guy's Hospital; and H. J. Walton, St. Bartholomew's Hospital.

Second Division.—E. B. Allan, University College; J. A. Belcher, University College; F. L. Bienkingsop, University College; J. H. Bodman, University College Bristol and St. Bartholomew's Hospital; J. N. Brown, University College; P. K. Byrne, B.A., University College; F. B. Carter, University College; J. J. Coleman, Guy's Hospital; F. J. Counts, University College; G. A. Crace-Calvert, St. Bartholomew's Hospital; C. S. De Segundo, St. Bartholomew's Hospital; Adele Isabella De Steiger, London School of Medicine and Royal Free Hospital; P. W. Dove, St. Bartholomew's Hospital; G. L. Eastes, B.Sc., Guy's Hospital; P. J. Edmunds, B.Sc., University College; H. P. Ferraby, Guy's Hospital; A. P. Gibbons, London Hospital; A. C. Gurney, St. Bartholomew's Hospital; E. F. H. Hardenberg, Guy's Hospital; R. S. Hardman, Owens College and Manchester Royal Infirmary; C. J. Harnett, Guy's Hospital; P. H. Haylett, Guy's Hospital; J. Horan, Guy's Hospital; Charlotte Elizabeth Hull, London School of Medicine and Royal Free Hospital; A. Hunnard, University College; T. H. Hunt, Owens and Yorkshire Colleges; A. W. Jenkins, University College; W. H. Jewell, Guy's Hospital; B. H. Kingsford, St. Thomas's Hospital; R. G. Kirton, London Hospital; E. Knight, Owens College and Manchester Royal Infirmary; E. Miskin, St. Thomas's Hospital; T. G. Nicholson, B.Sc., St. Thomas's Hospital; J. P. O'Hea, St. Bartholomew's Hospital; M. G. Pearson, B.Sc., St. Bartholomew's Hospital; H. J. Scharlieb, University College; S. R. Schofield, University College; H. Sinigar, Mason College; J. C. Smellie, St. Mary's Hospital; F. A. Smith, St. Bartholomew's Hospital; J. C. Spillane, London Hospital; Florence Ada Stoney, London School of Medicine for Women; Margaret Marion Traill-Christie, London School of Medicine and Royal Free Hospital; P. N. Vellacott, Guy's Hospital; M. Wilks, University College.

UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW.

At the November graduation in Glasgow University there were ten graduands to the higher degree in Medicine, three with commendation; and seven the ordinary degree of M.D. there were also twenty-four graduands in M.B., C.M., and one Doctor of Science.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.

The following gentlemen passed the First Professional Examination in Anatomy and Physiology for the diploma of Fellow at a meeting of the Board of Examiners on Thursday, November 14th:

C. J. Heaton, L.R.C.P.Lond., M.R.C.S.Eng., of St. George's Hospital; C. Ryall, L.R.C.P.Lond., M.R.C.S.Eng., of Westminster Hospital; and King's College, London; R. T. FitzHugh and A. J. Cleveland, of Guy's Hospital; A. G. Wilson and G. Hutcheson, of London Hospital; A. W. Dickson, of St. Bartholomew's Hospital; S. H. Berry, of Charing Cross and St. Bartholomew's Hospital. Eight gentlemen were referred for six months.

CONJOINT BOARD IN SCOTLAND.

The quarterly examinations for the triple qualification of the Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh, the Royal College of Surgeons, Edinburgh, and the Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons, Glasgow, took place in Edinburgh during October, with the following results:

First Examination: Four Years' Course.—Of 18 candidates the following 12 passed: B. R. Roberts, J. Barkley, D. Wilson, T. H. O'Reilly, Farmer, E. R. S. Hale, W. C. Brown, J. J. Minihan (with distinction), Ellen Maud Wood, and J. Carruthers. Three candidates entered for divisions, and two passed. **Five Years' Course.**—Of 21 candidates the following 16 passed: A. B. Timms, J. Fulton, K. Hannah, M. King, W. A. Pitt, O. Green (with distinction), E. K. Cox, W. J. O'Sullivan, G. B. M'Kendrick, T. M. O'Driscoll, A. D. Cameron, J. E. Kerr, Mary Jane V'Vaz, J. A. Scotland, W. Pattullo, and W. H. Wharton. Fifteen candidates entered for divisions, and 11 passed.

Second Examination: Four Years' Course.—Of 56 candidates the following 25 passed: J. J. Curtain, M. P. Rogers, R. H. Munro, J. S. D. Robertson, W. Mangan, J. C. Mackenzie, O. L. Appleton, S. H. Smith, W. M. Harry, P. J. F. O'Sullivan, P. J. H. Mulholland, T. J. Enright, W. Campbell, T. Donovan, H. T. Wright, R. E. Russell, A. B. Hood, C. E. Proctor, D. Riordan, J. J. S. Healy, M. F. H. Gamble, C. H. Harris, E. Frost, M. G. Wilkins, and H. W. J. J. G. Cattell. Eleven candidates entered for divisions, and 7 passed. **Five Years' Course.**—Of 8 candidates the following 5 passed: W. Hibbert, W. J. Morgan, D. Heron, G. Potts, and Harriette Frances Bailey.

Third Examination: Five Years' Course.—Of 8 candidates the following 4 passed: J. G. Murray, E. C. Macintosh, Georgina Catherine Hogg, and Mary Ariel Stewart. Five candidates entered for divisions, and 4 passed.

Final Examination.—Of 132 candidates the following 68 passed and were admitted L.R.C.P.&S.E. and L.F.P.&S.G.: C. A. Francois, J. B. Chadwick, P. Bayley, W. D. Shunker, A. F. Thomas, Mary Harmar, C. H. B. Adams, Mary Helen Cruickshank, J. Young, J. G. Glen, J. R. Shotton, S. F. Blakely, N. Pinto, F. W. Martin, T. Gallacher, J. Barry, G. R. Leighton, J. L. S. Sherlock, W. O. R. Loft house, Annie Caroline Smith, Josephine Cunin, W. H. Dixon, R. J. Black, A. A. Bartholomew, D. A. Porter, P. Wykesmith, W. G. J. Graham, E. H. Swan, J. Matson, A. G. Kewley, W. Hamilton, D. J. Duhig, V. N. Chitale, A. Lees, D. de W. Quay, H. S. O'Connor, J. H. Abrahams, J. Hartley, F. R. B. Quinn, R. Irvine, T. B. Hewson, A. MacGregor, G. Fowler, F. G. R. Grosett, Rosa Turner, Gertrude Keith, G. C. Henry, J. Johnston, R. A. Bowen, W. R. Forbes, W. J. Sturges-Davis, K. E. Master, M. M'Manus, J. G. Mylan, G. O'Toole, M. Kochmann (with honours), H. M. Pereira, J. O'Sullivan, Isabella Hardie Curr, Margaret Feroza Macnaughton, M. Luby, J. F. Stevenson, R. J. Erskine, E. H. Phillips, L. C. Saldanha, T. J. Perkins, J. V. Pratt, and G. Mason. Twenty-two candidates entered for divisions, and 5 passed.

CONJOINT BOARD IN IRELAND OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS IN IRELAND. The following gentlemen have passed the examination for the Conjoint Diploma in State Medicine:

E. G. Annis, M.R.C.S.Eng.; G. W. Dawson, L.R.C.P. and S.I.; W. J. Greer, F.R.C.S.I.; J. J. G. Murray, L.R.C.P. and S. Edin.

PUBLIC HEALTH

AND

POOR-LAW MEDICAL SERVICES.

HEALTH OF ENGLISH TOWNS.

In thirty-three of the largest English towns, including London, 6,295 births and 3,876 deaths were registered during the week ending Saturday last, November 16th. The annual rate of mortality in these towns, which had increased from 19.1 to 22.1 per 1,000 in the four preceding weeks, declined again to 19.1 last week. The rates in the several towns ranged from 10.0 in Huddersfield, 12.2 in Brighton, and 13.0 in Derby to 26.2 in Bolton, 30.8 in Liverpool, and 34.4 in Blackburn. In the thirty-two provincial towns the mean death-rate was 19.9 per 1,000, and was 2.0 above the rate recorded in London, which was 17.9 per 1,000. The zymotic death-rate in the thirty-three towns averaged 2.6 per 1,000; in London the rate was equal to 2.6 per 1,000, while it averaged 2.5 in the thirty-two provincial towns, and was highest in Liverpool, Salford, Blackburn, and Wolverhampton. Measles caused a death-rate of 2.5 in Salford, 3.7 in Oldham, and 9.0 in Blackburn; scarlet fever of 1.1 in Gateshead; whooping-cough of 1.3 in Newcastle-upon-Tyne and 1.8 in Wolverhampton; and "fever" of 1.3 in Salford, 1.5 in Oldham, 1.6 in Burnley, and 1.6

in Sunderland. The 107 deaths from diphtheria in the thirty-three towns included 61 in London, 8 in West Ham, 5 each in Wolverhampton, Birmingham, and Liverpool, and 4 each in Manchester, Salford, and Newcastle-upon-Tyne. One fatal case of small-pox was registered in West Ham, but not one in London or in any other of the thirty-three large towns. The number of small-pox patients under treatment in the Metropolitan Asylums Hospitals and in the Higgate Small-pox Hospital, which had been 114, 108, and 78 at the end of the three preceding weeks, had risen again to 86 on Saturday last, November 16th; 23 new cases were admitted during the week, against 12, 29, and 14 in the three preceding weeks. There were 2,845 scarlet fever patients under treatment in the Metropolitan Asylums Hospitals and in the London Fever Hospital on Saturday last, against 2,833, 2,841 and 2,847 at the end of the three preceding weeks; 298 new cases were admitted during the week, against 269, 215, and 349 in the three preceding weeks.

HEALTH OF SCOTCH TOWNS.

DURING the week ending Saturday last, November 16th, 821 births and 535 deaths were registered in eight of the principal Scotch towns. The annual rate of mortality in these towns, which had increased from 18.9 to 21.4 per 1,000 in the three preceding weeks, declined again to 18.5 last week, and was 0.6 per 1,000 below the mean rate during the same period in the thirty-three large English towns. Among these Scotch towns the death-rates ranged from 14.2 in Leith to 26.8 in Greenock. The zymotic death-rates in these towns averaged 1.8 per 1,000, the highest rates being recorded in Greenock and Perth. The 248 deaths registered in Glasgow included 1 from small-pox, 14 from whooping-cough, 3 from scarlet fever, and 2 from diphtheria. Three fatal cases of scarlet fever were recorded in Edinburgh.

MEASLES v. SMALL-POX, FEVER INTERVENING.

A CASE of no small obscurity, and, as far as we can make out, one of no small importance, has been decided by Sheriff Guthrie at Glasgow. The obscurity is in the reports from the *North British Daily Mail* and other papers which have reached us, and which agree in most points, including the omission of certain details essential to any clear understanding of the case. The published particulars were reported in the *BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL* of November 16th, p. 1267, and amount to this: That a patient under treatment by one medical man for measles was reported to the sanitary authority by another medical man (not called in to attend him) as suffering from small-pox, and thereupon removed in "the small-pox and fever van" to a small-pox hospital, and subsequently developed "fever." There ought to be no such thing as a small-pox and fever van, but this implied reflection upon the authorities is perhaps due to a flight of imagination on the part of the reporter. A letter from the "defender" (Dr. Stewart) to the *Glasgow Daily Record* clears up much of the mystery which had been imported into the case. It seems that Dr. Stewart was called in after the retirement of the practitioner first in attendance. He diagnosed typhus, and wrote to the acting medical officer of health, who took the view that it was malignant small-pox, and had the patient removed to the hospital. The next day the diagnosis of typhus was confirmed and the patient was placed in the fever ward. This explanation seems to exonerate the ambulance and supplies abundant reason for the dismissal of the action, but how the patient of many diagnoses came to be so ill-advised as to commence proceedings against Dr. Stewart remains to be explained.

A MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR CHESHIRE.

At the last quarterly meeting of the Cheshire County Council it was resolved, after some discussion, to appoint Dr. Vacher, of Birkenhead, medical officer of health for the county at a salary of £300 per annum. Dr. Godson, in opposing the motion, said there was no necessity to make the appointment, as the work of medical officer was already efficiently performed by the district medical officers, and that an appointment like that suggested would tend to cause friction between the local and the central medical authorities. He did not think the council should assume an air of superiority towards the district authorities, or sanction what seemed like a proposition to authorise an official to go all over the district, rummage about, and make a disturbance wherever he could. In the end the resolution was adopted by 38 to 20.

AÉRIAL DISSEMINATION OF SMALL-POX.

J. B. L.—The subject of hospital spread small-pox is very fully treated by Mr. W. H. Power, of the Medical department of the Local Government Board, in the report *On the Use and Influence of Hospitals for Infectious Disease* issued from that department in 1882, and since reprinted. The hospital dealt with was the Western Hospital of the Metropolitan Asylums Board at Fulham; the story was carried on in the annual reports of the medical officer for 1884 and 1885. As regards the metropolis generally, three years later the same writer presented a summary statement of much interest. Dr. Priestley made a valuable report to the Town Council of Leicester in regard to the year 1893; and Dr. Niven has written papers of interest on the subject in recent years, and reference might be made to those gentlemen at Lambeth and Manchester respectively, where they are now health officers. Another official report bearing on the matter is that by Dr. Bruce Low, issued by the Local Government Board, on small-pox at and near Hastings, and procurable, we believe, from Messrs. Eyre and Spottiswoode, East Harding Street, London.

INDIA AND THE COLONIES.

MAURITIUS.

QUARANTINE.—It is not creditable to our character for intelligence and consistency, or calculated to inspire other people with a belief in our sincerity, that quarantine of the crudest and most antiquated type should be still maintained in Crown Colonies, the administration of which is controlled by the Home Government, and which do not enjoy the legisla-

tive independence of our American and Australian dependencies. We have often had occasion to comment on the detention of cholera-smitten vessels in the stagnant, land-locked harbour of Malta, moored close along shore, and discharging the evacuations of the sick into the foul water of the port, and we now have before us a letter from a surgeon in the British India Steam Navigation Company exposing the stupidity and abuses of the system as carried out in Mauritius, which, though possessing some semblance of local government, is none the less a Crown colony. The medical officer is, he says, not allowed to inspect a ship until the Board of Health have met and decided on the course of action. Meanwhile no communication with the shore is permitted, and several days may elapse before even medical aid can be obtained. On one occasion a man died in port, without having been seen by a medical man, though there was no infectious disease on board; and on another a seaman with a fractured skull remained twelve hours without medical aid. The inconsistency and want of uniformity in the treatment of vessels arriving from cholera-infected ports in India and elsewhere, though no cases may have occurred during the three weeks' voyage, is suggestive of corruption of some kind, and it is but a natural result of the system that, with a view of evading the regulations, fraudulent concealment of actual disease should be sometimes practised by the captains. Thus about four years ago the concealment of a case of small-pox led to an epidemic in the island, which entailed a heavy expense on the community. The health of the colony is not good, but the deaths exceed the births; the death-rate of the towns varies from 40 to 70 per 1,000, 33 per cent. of the deaths being those of children under 5, and that of St. Louis, the capital, with 62,000 inhabitants, has, during the last six years averaged 48 per 1,000, as against 26 per 1,000 for the same period in Calcutta with its population of little under a million, though its site and surroundings are by no means so favourable by Nature. Nor is this high mortality confined to the denser populations of the town, for the death-rate of the entire island is generally over 40 per 1,000, a figure probably unapproached by that of any similar civilised and European or semi-European people.

HOSPITAL AND DISPENSARY MANAGEMENT.

THE SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ASYLUMS COMMITTEE OF THE LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL.

THE general work of the year at the five large institutions under the control of the Council has been efficiently carried out unmarked by any event of importance, but the steady increase of insane persons in the county area still continues, so that the number at the end of the year was 18,541 lunatics chargeable to parishes and unions within the county, as compared with 18,041 at the end of the previous year, showing an increase of exactly 500. Taking the result of the five years' work 1890 to 1895, the Committee think this rate of increase indicates the correctness of their estimate given in their last report, and that without some permanent change occurs in the conditions which have prevailed since 1890, this estimated number must now, at the ascertained rate of progression, be taken to stand at an increase of about 600 lunatics per annum.

Although one huge asylum after another has been provided, and a sixth one will be immediately commenced at a cost of £350,000 (exclusive of site and equipment) on January 1st of this year, there was a deficit of beds amounting to 1,317, after allowing for the 600 beds at Barming Heath held by agreement, so that the population of the new asylum is practically already provided, and if the County Council hope to bring their accommodation up to a level with their requirements they will not only have to erect two asylums instead of the one they contemplate, but have a third one well in hand before the first two are completed. This would entail an expenditure of one million sterling, exclusive of the cost of sites and equipment, a truly formidable programme. The Committee fully recognise the gravity of the question; they say in their report: "The deficiency of accommodation is still a most serious question; every bed is occupied, and the only vacancies available are those caused by deaths or discharges." There are 1,106 patients boarded out in different asylums throughout the county, for whom the ratepayers are paying at the rate of 12s. 6d. to 14s. per head per week, while the cost of maintenance in the asylums belonging to the county is 10s.

The boarding-out of insane persons from their homes and friends inflicts great hardships upon them, and nothing short of the gravest necessity should justify it. Yet contracts are contemplated for the reception of patients as far off as Dorchester and Plymouth. The seriousness of the position is enhanced by the fact that there is little hope of materially increasing the number of patients boarded out in consequence of lack of room throughout the country. The appointment of a pathologist was stated to be under consideration when the report was published. Happily, the appointment has since been made, and the Committee have been fortunate in securing the services of Dr. F. W. Mott, whose work in neuropathology is so well known.

Facilities have been afforded for the clinical teaching of mental diseases, and several of the London hospital medical schools have taken advantage of the offer of the Committee.

The total number of cases under treatment during the year was 13,176; 3,122 were admitted and 2,813 were discharged or died. The percentage of recoveries calculated upon the number admitted was 42.09, and the death-rate calculated upon the average number resident was 9.44 per cent.

There is an important point to be observed in connection with the recovery rate, and it is this: Under the London County Council there are five of the largest hospitals for the insane in the kingdom, and that for the last ten years the recovery rate in these asylums, including transfers, has been over 37 per cent., calculated on the admissions; and during the last year, excluding transfers, it was 44.51 per cent., a result which compares very favourably with other and smaller institutions.

MEDICAL MAGISTRATE.—Dr. Arthur Flint, of Westgate-on-Sea, J.P. for the Cinque Ports, has been placed on the Commission of the Peace for the County of Kent on the nomination of Earl Stanhope, Lord Lieutenant.