

St. Mary's Hospital. Our female student is also recommended (p. 156) to apply to the Warden, St. Bartholomew's Hospital and College, London. There we are advised as to the curriculum at Oxford—the lady student is told there are two degrees in medicine and two in surgery to be obtained there—and so on. The special reports on individual hospitals are written by the nearest civil surgeon in most cases, conclusively proving that the hospitals are either not purdah or that the lady doctor is incapable. We are glad to hear that the condition of the fund is prosperous. We begin on Rs.300 or Rs.350, and after ten or fifteen years' service we receive the same, and no prospects of pension. As a "lady doctor" recently pointed out, "it was well to marry before it was too late," as the Dufferin Fund would do nothing for you, and the salary was not enough to save anything out of, and, to the credit and foresight of the 550 students educated by the fund, I must remark that they usually *do* marry before the Dufferin Fund receives its own again in the shape of work.

The whole of the fund needs reorganization, and should be taken out of inefficient hands. Why we may not manage our own work passes my comprehension. Men have done it—to the best of their ability, no doubt—for the past twenty or thirty years; and look at the state of things. Preference is given in many cases to those with inferior qualifications, because, as they cannot operate, they do not wish to, and so give the civil surgeon no trouble when he wishes to take over all their surgery. They look at the report. No one with any medical knowledge could have issued anything so useless and inaccurate.—I am, etc.,

KATHLEEN O. VAUGHAN, M.B.Lond.

The Monastery, Mussoorie, Sept. 16th.

THE UTERINE STEM AS A DRAINAGE TUBE.

SIR,—I am glad to see that Dr. Alexander Duke has called attention to the fact that his spiral wire uterine stem is as effective an instrument as that designed by Professor Bossi. It is certainly as safe as any uterine stem can be, and acts admirably as a means of treating certain cases of dysmenorrhoea and as a uterine drainage tube. Whether any form of uterine stem favours drainage of the tubes is a question upon which there may be two opinions.—I am, etc.,

Belfast, Oct. 10th.

JOHN CAMPBELL.

THE ADMISSION OF WOMEN TO THE EXAMINATION OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.

SIR,—It appears to me that the Council of the College cannot in justice take any action on the published results of their postcard poll of Fellows and Members until the accuracy of these results is established, and this is far from being the case.

Last July the Honorary Secretaries of the Society of Members pointed out that the official poll was incomplete, as the College had only sent out 13,812 postcards to Members, whilst the Society had found 14,633 Members to send the Society's postcard to. On this showing, we find that 821 Members who should have had the opportunity of voting on this important matter of principle were not given a chance.

But the *College Calendar* contains the names of 17,544 Members. Therefore no less than 3,732 Members of whom the College has record did not receive the official postcard, and lost the privilege of expressing their opinion on a subject vital to their own interests and the future of the College.

Yet the gross inaccuracy of the official results is not confined to the particulars above stated. Worse remains to be told. A few days ago, I chanced to be in company with seven other members of the College, when inquiry showed that three out of that little group had each received *two* polling cards from the College and that, in at least one case, *both* had been used. On this basis, we can say that *over 37 per cent.* of those members who did receive their official polling cards received *two each*.

I am not aware if the gentlemen holding the licence in Dental Surgery have been consulted as to their views, although Mr. Clinton Dent is about to move at the October meeting of the Council, "That women be admitted to the examination for the Licence in Dental Surgery." Are the

Licentiatees to be treated with even more contempt than the Members? If so, I hope the dentists will make a point of joining the Members at the annual meeting to be held at the College in Lincoln's Inn Fields next month.

It would be easy enough to make other unfavourable criticisms of the Council's methods of carrying out this postcard plebiscite and their dealing with the figures resulting from an incomplete and inaccurate poll, but out of consideration for your space I refrain—for the present.—I am, etc.,

London, N., Oct. 12th. SIDNEY C. LAWRENCE, M.R.C.S.Eng.

ESPERANTO FOR MEDICAL STUDENTS.

SIR,—My critic misses the point raised in my letter. No objection was taken to the learning of German, French, or any other language by medical students in the pursuit of literary pleasure. Nor need any one fear that such learners will ever cease; for while the "love of lovely words" endures, perceptive men will gladly go through the labour that fits them to enjoy Homer and Virgil and Dante and Villon and Goethe and Ibsen in the original.

My point is this: Scientists, more than most men, require an expressional medium which shall enable them to pool all their knowledge, which shall enable them to give and take all facts at will. Hitherto no language has met this requirement. Esperanto has arrived, and it is just what is needed. It is so easy that the average man can learn to read and write and talk it in six months. It is so adequate, that all sorts of human affairs, between all sorts of human races, have been, and are, transacted by its aid. It is so neutral that no international jealousy can ever arise.

Thus the question is, Shall the medical student spend much time in attempting two languages, which are seldom mastered, and which, when mastered, give him access to comparatively few scientific minds; or shall he spend a little time in acquiring a language, which any one can master, and which, when mastered, will give him access to scientific minds in any nation under heaven?

As one result of my letter, inquiries have come to me from far and near. Please let me say that information as to books and classes and correspondence courses will be gladly furnished by the Secretary of the British Esperanto Association, 133-6, High Holborn, London, W.C.—I am, etc.,

London, N.W., Oct. 10th.

W. WINSLOW HALL.

SIR,—I agree with your correspondent Mr. Shee that Esperanto might appear nothing more or less than a "barbarous hotchpotch" to those who have a "smattering" of the classics, etc., but I feel confident it would appear quite otherwise to most of those having an intelligent knowledge of the classics, or any of the more generally used modern languages. Indeed, some knowledge of comparative philology is necessary to appreciate fully the great work of Dr. Zamenhof, and then the student is apt to be lost in admiration of this wonderful language, as comprehensive as any known tongue, and competent to express ideas and thoughts with an exactness and precision which might be the envy of any of them.

Dr. Winslow Hall thinks that Esperanto may be mastered in six months. I think he is probably right, but I am sure that a week's study would, as a rule, prevent an unbiased student from forming such an opinion of it as would seem to be held by Mr. Shee.—I am, etc.,

London, N.E., Oct. 10th.

MAJOR GREENWOOD.

SIR,—I cannot help being amused by the letter of Mr. Shee in your issue of October 13th. Can Mr. Shee, with his "smattering of classics and the more generally used modern languages," communicate freely on all sorts of topics with the people of forty different nations, as we Esperantists can? Can he express his most recondite thoughts intelligibly in any one of those languages of which he has a "smattering"? But, apart from that, I am wondering why he should object to Esperanto as a "barbarous hotch-potch"; for what is English itself but a barbarous hotch-potch of Latin, Anglo-Saxon, Norman-French, and a few other languages?—I am, etc.,

Mossley, Oct. 12th.

A. W. HARRISON, M.D.

SIR,—It would be a pity to leave uncontradicted the statement regarding Esperanto expressed in a letter to the