

daughter of Peter Pearce, a well-known city solicitor, and had three sons and two daughters. One son is a fleet surgeon, R.N., and another, who followed his father in practice, is a temporary lieutenant in the R.A.M.C.

DR. CHARLES CARTER SHEPHERD, who died recently at Cardiff, was born at Barbados and received his medical education at St. Bartholomew's Hospital and the University of Aberdeen. He graduated M.B., C.M.Aberd. in 1879, and M.D. in 1890. He had been in practice at Cardiff since 1891, was a member of the Cardiff Division of the British Medical Association and of the Cardiff Medical Society. He leaves a widow and eight children.

THE death is announced of Dr. W. AWUNOR RENNER of Freetown, Sierra Leone. He studied at University College, London, and at Liverpool and Brussels. He took the diplomas of M.R.C.S.Eng., L.R.C.P.I. and L.M. in 1880, and the M.D.Brux. in the following year. He became an assistant in midwifery to Professor Briggs of the University of Liverpool, and also assistant in surgery to Professor Rushton Parker, and worked under the late Sir William Mitchell Banks. Dr. Renner was in the Government service of Sierra Leone for over twenty-nine years. After serving at first as assistant colonial surgeon, he, on the formation of the West African Medical Service, became P.M.O., and was commended by the late Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, then Secretary of State for the Colonies, for the manner in which he carried out his duties. Dr. Renner retired from the Government service in 1913 and devoted himself to public affairs. He was appointed a councillor, and in November, 1916, mayor, of Freetown, which position he held at the time of his death.

Medical News.

SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG-JONES has been placed upon the Commission of the Peace for the County of London.

DR. L. A. TAYLOR, Honorary Secretary of the Dudley Division of the British Medical Association, and Dr. J. Reidy, a member of the Stepney Borough Council, have been appointed to the Commission of the Peace for the County of Stafford and the County of London respectively.

It has been brought to the notice of the Ministry of Pensions that a number of pensioners are appealing to the charitable on the ground of insufficient means. The Local War Pensions Committee, whose address is obtainable from the nearest Post Office, have ample powers for dealing with all deserving cases of this nature from public funds, and the charitable public are therefore urged to refer such applicants to this body.

THE Imperial Nurses Club, 137, Ebury Street, London, S.W.1, was opened last November by Lord French. It forms a resting-place for members of the military and civil nursing profession passing through London. It has been of special value to those proceeding to or from active service abroad. Funds are needed to place the club on a firm footing, and donations may be sent to the honorary secretary.

THE annual meeting of the Medico-Psychological Association of Great Britain and Ireland will be held at 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, London, on Wednesday, July 25th, at 2.45 p.m., under the presidency of Lieut.-Colonel David G. Thomson, M.D., when the usual reports will be presented and the regulations and syllabus for the training and examination of candidates for the certificate of proficiency in nursing and attending on the mentally defective will be considered. A paper by Dr. Mercier on madness and unsoundness of mind will be read for him by Sir Bryan Donkin.

SIR A. GARROD THOMAS, M.D., of Newport, has been elected to represent South Monmouth in the House of Commons by a majority of 6,042, which is the largest on record. Sir Garrod Thomas stood in support of the Government. He is an ex-president of the South Wales and Monmouthshire Branch of the British Medical Association, and was vice-president of the Section of Diseases of Children when the Association held its annual meeting in Swansea in 1903.

THE *Dictionary of National Biography* has been presented to the University of Oxford by the family of the late Mr. George M. Smith, and will in future be published

by the Oxford University Press. Mr. George M. Smith undertook the great work at his sole risk and expense in 1882; during fifteen and a half years, 1885-1900, under the editorship of Sir Leslie Stephen and Sir Sidney Lee, the original promise of quarterly publication was faithfully kept; the sixty-third volume, which completed the *Dictionary*, was published in 1900, and three volumes of supplement, bringing the record down to the death of Queen Victoria, were published in 1901; Mr. George M. Smith died on April 6th in that year. In 1908-9 these sixty-six volumes were reissued in twenty-two volumes, now the current edition. In 1912 Mrs. George M. Smith, to whom the *Dictionary* had been bequeathed, published the second supplement of three volumes, containing the lives of all notable persons who died between January 22nd, 1901, and December 31st, 1911.

Letters, Notes, and Answers.

AUTHORS desiring reprints of their articles published in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL are requested to communicate with the Office, 429, Strand, W.C.2, on receipt of proof.

THE telegraphic addresses of the BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION and JOURNAL are: (1) EDITOR of the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, *Attitology, Westrand London*; telephone, 2631, Gerrard. (2) FINANCIAL SECRETARY AND BUSINESS MANAGER (Advertisements, etc.), *Articulate, Westrand London*; telephone, 2630, Gerrard. (3) MEDICAL SECRETARY, *Mediseera, Westrand London*; telephone, 2634, Gerrard. The address of the Irish Office of the British Medical Association is 16, South Frederick Street, Dublin.

The address of the Central Medical War Committee for England and Wales is 429, Strand, London, W.C.2; that of the Reference Committee of the Royal Colleges in London is the Examination Hall, 8, Queen Square, Bloomsbury, W.C.1; and that of the Scottish Medical Service Emergency Committee is Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh.

Queries, answers, and communications relating to subjects to which special departments of the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL are devoted will be found under their respective headings.

LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.

A STATE MEDICAL SERVICE.

DR. FERDINAND REES (Wigan) writes: From the article on a State Medical Service in your last issue one must infer that the British Medical Association considers it its duty to tackle the advocates of a State medical service wherever they may venture to appear. The medical profession has always been very conservative in its ideas, probably because the majority of its wealthy customers have belonged to that political party. The aim of the keen medical shopkeeper has always been never to offend his wealthy customers. The majority of the medical profession have always been the flunkies of the wealthy. The squire, the parson, and the doctor have always run in harness; but the squire has always determined the direction and the pace. Dr. Brackenbury (the champion of the British Medical Association) has an epigram about treating men, women, and children which reminds one of the advice, which the successful medical tradesman is so fond of giving to the young practitioner, "Treat the patient." Keep the patient on your visiting list as long as possible and run up as big a bill as possible. Of course there may be some tradesmen who make big incomes by "small profits and quick returns." Some sixpenny doctors have been most successful from the monetary point of view. The Robin Hood maxim of robbing the rich to give to the poor has been very popular with some practitioners. To be the amuser of fashionable ladies has proved very lucrative to other practitioners. No wonder that Christian Scientists and quacks flourish! Is disease a reality? Is scientific medicine a myth? From the way the Brackenburys talk one would imagine that every one nowadays had free choice of doctor. Why is the specialist so increasingly popular? Is the present method of remuneration essential to the happiness of patient and doctor? Would not the community obtain more efficient doctoring if there were collective action against disease? Why should the doctor be bothered with bills and book-keeping and a study of the arts of trade and advertisement? Let your champion deal with a few of these questions.

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NOTE.—It is against the rules of the Post Office to receive *postes restant* letters addressed either in initials or numbers.