

THE PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE.

SIR,—Writing of the sanitary service, the lay press is generously asking that the medical profession should have power to carry out their own convictions. It behoves the profession itself, and its press, to take advantage of this spontaneous expression of feeling of a very influential portion of the community. The niggardly guardians and vestries, holding the power, insult the profession, in the first instance, by their paltry salaries; and then, regarding the medical officer as their special property, or servant, finding him too zealous in the discharge of his duties, threaten him with dismissal. Is this relative position of inferiority of the profession to be any longer admitted as the normal one? Is it well for the public weal? The leading members of our profession give their services gratuitously to the charitable institutions of the country. This, whether rightly or wrongly so designated, is called philanthropy. If they, however, were perpetually hampered in the execution of their noble calling, would they long tolerate the obstruction? Why, then, do they look on unconcernedly, and see their less fortunate confrères struggling year after year, and holding appointments as urban, sanitary, and Poor-law officers, and parish and club doctors, which, if the labour and skill were only fairly remunerated, would be worth, in many instances, four times the amount they receive. These gentlemen, duly registered practitioners, dare not take up a dignified position, and throw up their appointments; for they know too well that poorer brethren would rush in to fill the gap. (I am rather borne out, I think, in these ideas by letters in your very latest issues. It is high time something more was done to put the profession upon a higher basis. My own conviction is, that it is the "drag" of poverty that keeps us so much in the background. The educational attainments of the profession are surely on a par with the general public, and yet those of our profession filling high and honourable appointments may be counted on one's fingers. I think the profession might achieve more for itself; but, to avoid degenerating into a condition of trades-unionism, the movement should originate from the ornaments of the profession—those men whose sympathy and keen sense of justice moved them so promptly to take action in the case of Messrs. Bower and Keates.—Your obedient servant, M.B., M.A.

OBITUARY.

GEORGE DELANDRE, A.B., M.B.,

SURGEON TO BARRINGTON'S HOSPITAL, LIMERICK.

THE death of Dr. Delandre, at Rock Abbey, Cashel, the residence of his father-in-law, Dr. Russell, will be heard with great regret by his large circle of friends. Born in Waterford in 1838, he entered Trinity College at an early age, and graduated with distinction as a Bachelor in Arts and Medicine in 1859. He also studied in the Royal College of Surgeons, of which he became a Fellow in 1865. For some years he served as surgeon in the Royal Navy, but his liability to sea-sickness compelled him to resign his commission, when he entered the United States Army, as surgeon in the 158th Regiment of New York Infantry, and saw much active service in the American war. Marching through the day, and sleeping on the ground by night, enfeebled by hunger and cold, he passed with his gallant companions through the thick of many a bloody fight to endure still greater privations in the trenches before Richmond. In the official reports of the Commander-in-Chief to his Government, the bravery and coolness, no less than the great humanity of Surgeon Delandre, is the subject of marked praise. Under the murderous fire of the enemy, nothing daunted, he succoured the wounded while death beset him at every step; and where a wounded man needed his assistance, he knew no distinction of friend or foe. When Richmond fell, and the war ended, Dr. Delandre returned to his native land, and commenced practice in Limerick, where his skill as a surgeon and success as an operator soon placed him in the front rank of his profession. Dr. Delandre left Limerick just five weeks before his death, in the hope that country air, and rest from the labours of an extensive practice, would renew his failing health.

It would be impossible to speak without seeming exaggeration of the benevolence and charity of Dr. Delandre. Though his good works were done in studied secrecy, they were sounded trumpet-tongued by the poor, to whom his devotion was unbounded.

Dr. Delandre was a classical and scientific scholar. In physics and chemistry, his knowledge was as exact as it was extensive; and in botany he quite excelled. A pupil of the illustrious Professor Harvey, himself a native of this city, he caught up the enthusiasm of his master, and so obtained a surprising acquaintance, not only with the native flora to the most infrequent way-side weed, but even, while in America, with the species indigenous there.

An illuminated address from the members of the profession in this and the surrounding districts was already prepared and only awaited a fitting opportunity for its presentation. His fatal illness, however, prevented it; and it was ordained that he should not live to receive this flattering presentation from his colleagues.

His remains were interred in the family burial-place at Waterford, and many of his friends from Limerick accompanied them to the grave. Amongst those attending the funeral were Dr. M. J. Malone,

F.R.C.S.I.; Dr. Holmes, Resident Physician, Barrington's Hospital; Dr. Courtenay, Resident Physician, Lunatic Asylum; Dr. Nolan, etc.

JAMES HINDS, M.B.LOND., HALSTEAD, ESSEX.

WE regret to record the death of this amiable and respected practitioner. He died at his residence at Halstead, on December 22nd, after a short illness. Born in Birmingham in the year 1840, James Hinds pursued his medical education at Queen's College, where his uncle, the late Dr. William Hinds, was professor of botany. He was a successful and promising student; he took high honours at the University of London, and graduated as a bachelor of medicine in the year 1864. Shortly after taking his degree, Dr. James Hinds was appointed resident medical tutor and demonstrator of anatomy in the Queen's College, Birmingham. He held this office for some years, and proved himself a very popular and successful teacher. About fourteen years ago he married, left Birmingham, and settled in Halstead, where he was busily engaged in professional work up to his fatal illness, holding the appointment of local medical officer of health, and several other public offices, while conducting a large general private practice. In the premature death of James Hinds, the Association has lost a well known member, whose kindness of heart, geniality of manner, and industrious discharge of professional duty, had endeared him to a large circle of friends.

COUNT GIAMBATTISTA ERCOLANI,

PROFESSOR IN THE UNIVERSITY OF BOLOGNA.

PROFESSOR G. B. ERCOLANI, one of the most distinguished of the modern scientists of Italy, died at Bologna on November 16th. Count Giambattista Ercolani was born in Bologna in 1819, of an ancient and noble family. He was the favourite pupil of the famous Antonio Alessandrini, and devoted himself early to comparative anatomy and pathology. The revolution which swept over Europe in 1849 found in him an earnest defender of the liberties of Italy; and, as its result, he became an exile. He sought refuge in Turin, and there was appointed Professor, afterwards Director, of the Veterinary School connected with the University. He remained there until 1863, when he returned to Bologna, where he accepted a similar position in the University. By his energy and influence, new buildings were erected, and the school reorganised and greatly enlarged, and a large pathological museum established. He held the position of Rector of the University for a number of years, and was permanent Secretary of the Academy of Sciences of the Institute. Like his friend Virchow of Berlin, his reputation was not alone that of a teacher and scientist, but his early career as a defender of popular rights made him a favourite with the citizens, and he was three times elected and served in the Roman Parliament.

His publications have been numerous, and are characterised by a careful scholarship and scientific accuracy. Most of his contributions appeared originally, with illustrations of the highest order, in the *Memoirs of the Academy of Bologna*. The work by which he is best known is the *Histology and Physiology of the Placenta of Mammals*, in which he deduces a single law of anatomical and physiological modality of embryonic nutrition in all vertebrates. To his first publication upon this subject was awarded the prize of the French Academy. These publications were gathered into a completed treatise (a part of which was written by the author expressly for this purpose) by Dr. Henry O. Marey of Boston, and published in two volumes, in London and Boston, in 1880. Professor Ercolani's researches upon the pathology of the placenta are of a value and importance scarcely second to any of the brilliant demonstrations made in the entire field of physiological science. To the anatomist, the physiologist, and the biologist, as well as to the physician, the work of Ercolani will ever stand as a monument to science.

HULL GENERAL INFIRMARY.—This building is, we hear, to be entirely remodelled, and to have two new wings added to it, in accordance with the plans prepared by Messrs. H. Saxon Snell and Son, architects, London. The plan of the present structure, erected in 1784, is such that the administrative offices and sick wards are all contained under one roof, with the result that a large proportion of the officers are continually reported as suffering from hospitalism. It is, in consequence, proposed to cut two gaps through the principal front, and place the officers' rooms and kitchen offices in the centre block so formed, and the sick wards in the detached portions at each end, and, when to these are added the proposed new wings, the building will accommodate 262 patients. An out-patients' department is also to be erected as a detached building upon a site adjoining the Infirmary grounds.