

with a degree of response which encourages the hope that a substantial sum will be raised, and that the scheme of medical providence worked out by the medical men on the spot will be started with good prospects of ultimate success. As will be seen, the question of the relation of the medical men to clubs and medical aid societies was one of the subjects discussed at the important meeting of members of Scottish Branches of the British Medical Association, held at Perth on June 10th. The resolutions then adopted express very clearly the opinion held as to the proper course which all members of the profession of medicine should take in their relations with workmen's clubs, and as to the unprofessional nature of the system of practice carried on in the interests of medical aid societies. It is essential to the welfare of the profession, and in the highest interests of the public, that abuses of the class indicated should be remedied. The action of the medical profession in Liverpool is particularly valuable at the present time, because it shows how, and how only, the desired result is to be obtained—that is, by a united front in face of a common danger.

OUR Dublin correspondent telegraphs that the Council of the Royal College of Surgeons, Ireland, has declined to act on the suggestion of the General Medical Council to enter into a new conjunction with the Apothecaries' Hall, Dublin.

LADY REYNOLDS wishes it to be announced that any member of the Association desiring to have a copy of Sir Russell Reynolds's address as President of the London meeting last year, can obtain one on application at the office of the Association, 429, Strand, W.C.

OWING to the pressure upon the space of the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL caused by the large amount of official matter in connection with the Association, we are compelled to hold over a large number of letters as well as other matter.

THE annual dinner of the Cambridge Medical Graduates Club will take place at 8 P.M. at Limmer's Hotel, Conduit Street, W., on July 2nd, the first day of the inter-University cricket match. The president, Sir G. M. Humphry, being unfortunately prevented from presiding, Dr. W. H. Dickinson will be in the chair. The annual general meeting will be held half an hour before the dinner.

THE Emperor of China has conferred the Order of the Double Dragon, carrying with the rank of Mandarin, on Surgeon-Major Heuston, of the British Army Medical Staff, in recognition of professional services rendered by him to the wounded in the recent war with Japan. Surgeon-Major Heuston was appointed First Professor in charge of the Chinese Imperial Medical College at Tientsin, the port of Peking, about two years and a half ago.

EDINBURGH ROYAL INFIRMARY.

THE plans for the proposed new gynæcological department of the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary have now been prepared. This addition is to be made on the site of the old Children's Hospital close to the West Meadows. It is proposed that there should be a large ward of twenty-two beds on each floor, while on the west side of the corridor leading to the ward there should be an operating theatre, two small wards of two beds each, a waiting room, a lecture theatre, and a physician's room. On the east side there would be a kitchen, bathroom, isolation room with one bed, a sitting room for the staff nurse, etc. It is proposed that the waiting room

and lecture theatre should be used as convalescent rooms when not otherwise required. It is proposed that the ground floor of the new pavilion be used as an ordinary and general ward, and that the first and second floors be used for the gynæcological department. The basement area might be used for bathrooms, etc. An upper floor would provide additional rooms for the new nurses. The proposed plans have been generally approved of.

THE GENERAL MEDICAL COUNCIL.

THE University of Dublin has appointed Dr. E. H. Bennett as its representative on the General Medical Council, in the place of the Rev. Dr. Haughton, whose resignation we announced last week. The new member is the well-known Professor of Surgery in the Medical School of Trinity College, Dublin.

THE EAST ANGLIAN AND CAMBRIDGE AND HUNTINGDON BRANCHES.

A PARTICULARLY interesting feature of the combined meeting of the East Anglian and Cambridge and Huntingdon Branches of the Association at Dersingham on June 18th was the visit paid by members and the ladies accompanying them to Sandringham at the special invitation of the Prince of Wales. The party strolled about the park and gardens with much enjoyment, and were handsomely entertained by their royal hosts. During the meeting the following telegram was received from His Royal Highness to Dr. Manby, the new President of the East Anglian Branch:

DR. MANBY, Dersingham.—Let me express through you my earnest hope that at the annual meeting to-day the labours of the members of East Anglian and Cambridge and Huntingdon Branches of the British Medical Association may be crowned with success, and that members and their wives may afterwards spend an enjoyable afternoon in my grounds at Sandringham. To one, and all I give a hearty welcome.—ALBERT EDWARD.

This was read aloud and received with hearty cheers, and a dutiful and grateful answer was returned.

THE ELECTION AT THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.

WE understand that vigorous attempts will be made by the Fellows who received their education at Guy's Hospital to ensure the return of their candidates at the coming election at the College of Surgeons. This is as we anticipated last week. It appears that Mr. Davies-Colley in particular is standing at the express desire of his surgical colleagues. He is known to have gained much administrative experience in connection with the work of committees at Guy's. Mr. Davies-Colley is in favour of a new charter. The other representatives of Guy's who are candidates are Mr. Thomas Bryant and Mr. Clement Lucas.

THE PARKE MEMORIAL.

THE Committee of the Parke Memorial are happy to be in a position to state that they have obtained from the sculptor the statue of the late Surgeon-Major Parke, which they feel confident will be regarded as a work of art of the highest merit and at the same time as embodying a perfect presentment in heroic form of the distinguished object of the memorial. The Committee have also secured, by favour of the Board of Works through the courteous assistance of the late and of the present Director of the National Museum, a site for the proposed monument in Leinster Lawn, which, in their opinion, is unrivalled in Dublin. They therefore appeal with confidence for the funds still necessary to complete the memorial in a satisfactory manner. They have entered into an arrangement with a contractor for the erection of a pedestal within a period of two months, and they hope to have the monument completed and the statue unveiled within three months from the present time. For this purpose they still require a sum of £203, and they feel assured that the many friends who admired Surgeon-Major Parke in his life and

mourned his too early death will quickly come to their aid, and enable them to finish worthily the work which they undertook in order to preserve the memory of one who died "too young for friendship, not too young for fame." This is the only statue to an army surgeon in the United Kingdom, and it is earnestly desired that it should be made worthy of the corps to which Surgeon-Major Parke belonged. Subscriptions are urgently needed to complete the work, which can be made payable to the British Medical Association, 429, Strand, London.

METROPOLITAN COUNTIES BRANCH.

A CONVERSAZIONE was given by the Metropolitan Counties Branch of the British Medical Association at the Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, S.W. (by permission of the Trustees of the British Museum) on June 18th. About 1,500 persons attended, and were received in the Central Hall by the President (Sir W. Priestley, M.D., M.P.) and Lady Priestley, Dr. Leonard Sedgwick and Mrs. Sedgwick, Mr. and Mrs. Butlin, and the officers of the Branch. Amongst those who accepted invitations were Dr. Ward Cousins, President of the Council of the Association, Cardinal Vaughan, the Japanese Minister, Lord Balfour of Burleigh, Lord Ashcombe, the Bishop of Worcester, Sir Ralph Thompson, K.C.B., Sir W. H. Wills, M.P., Sir Edward Hill, M.P., Sir John Evans, Sir Charles Stirling, Dr. R. Farquharson, M.P., Major-General Sir John Donnelly, Dr. Samuel Wilks, Mr. Christopher Heath, Sir W. H. Flower, Mr. C. E. Fagan, Canon Duckworth, Canon Page Roberts, Colonel Somers Lewis, Dr. Thorne Thorne, C.B., Professor Burdon Sanderson, Mr. Alma Tadema, R.A., Mr. Horton Smith, Q.C., Mr. Pembroke Stephens, Q.C., Mr. H. Harben, and Mr. O'Halloran, most of whom were accompanied by ladies. The Central Hall, Gallery of British Zoology, and Bird Gallery on the ground floor, and East and West Corridors on the first floor, were open. The band of the Second Life Guards, under the leadership of Mr. Charles W. Hall, played at first in the Gallery of British Zoology, and afterwards in the Central Hall, and an entertainment was given by the Edelweiss Alpine singers and instrumentalists in the Bird Gallery. The noble proportions of the building itself, the splendid collections contained in it, under the charge of Sir W. H. Flower, the admirable arrangements made for the comfort of the guests by the Conversazione Committee, and especially by the Honorary Secretaries of the Metropolitan Branch; the good music, and ample creature comforts dispensed during the evening, all tended to the enjoyment experienced by those who were so fortunate as to be able to accept invitations.

SMALL-POX AT GLOUCESTER.

MR. T. S. ELLIS writes from Gloucester: I am happy to inform you of a continued diminution in small-pox here, and the completion of our new supply of water so far that it has been turned into the main, and will be available for use in a few days. Although statements made (as explaining the epidemic) that we have been using Severn water have been denounced as "false" by our surveyor, and are, beyond doubt, wholly untrue, the fear that we might have to resort to it has been a great cause of anxiety. Our new supply is obtained by pumping from a natural store in the new red sandstone ten miles away, and formed in a synclinal axis of the inclined beds of rock which collect from a large area, and afford, as the engineers predicted, an inexhaustible quantity of excellent quality. The epidemic first showed a decline in the cases notified for the week ending April 16th, which, of course, represented the infections of a fortnight earlier. Since then the decline, with two exceptions so slight as to be disregarded, has been continuous from the maximum for the week ending April 9th, 211, down to 16 for that ending June 18th. The proportion of persons vaccinated and revaccinated has been very large. Taken with those who have had small-pox and the cases notified, and with those who have been slightly and even unconsciously

affected, or which, for any reason, may be regarded as insusceptible, we have a population so unfavourable for the spread of the disease that any large outbreak may be regarded as impossible. With the abundant means of isolation in a hospital having a staff and having accommodation more disproportionate in the way of excess than it was in the way of deficiency, there would be no difficulty in bringing the whole epidemic to a speedy termination if everyone would consent to take advantage of the means provided. We still, however, have reason to fear that without isolation there is just enough of the unvaccinated element to be a source of danger, and to render a continuance of a few cases possible for a long time to come, especially as new views of infection, opposed to all experience, are widely circulated and accepted.

A GROUNDLESS CHARGE.

At the Dublin Police Court on June 19th, a charge of criminal assault was brought against Dr. Hugh Auchinleck, Physician to Mercer's Hospital, and Professor of Medical Jurisprudence in the School of the Royal College of Surgeons. The date of the alleged assault was February 1st, and the delay in the proceedings was explained by the statement that a writ for damages was served on February 10th, but that the action was discontinued on the advice of counsel on June 6th, and that that criminal proceedings were then instituted. The plaintiff was a young married woman, without children. She consulted Dr. Auchinleck, who examined her and prescribed for her, but received no fee. She alleged that on the occasion of her last visit the defendant criminally assaulted her. The defence was an absolute denial by Dr. Auchinleck. The maidservant was in the hall at the time, and there was no indication in the plaintiff's appearance that anything of the kind alleged had occurred. Dr. William Smyly, Master of the Rotunda Hospital, was called, and swore that this charge was a common symptom of the plaintiff's disease, and this was corroborated by Dr. More Madden. The magistrate believed that no jury would convict on the evidence, and accordingly dismissed the case.

A LADY EXAMINER.

THE Council of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland has had before it the question of the election of Miss Winifred Dickson as one of the examiners in midwifery, the subject having been raised by students who object to being questioned by a woman. The Council has replied that the election was duly made according to charter, and that it is impossible to interfere.

THE CONTEST AT THE UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.

THE result of the election at the University of London on June 23rd, by which Mr. Walter Rivington was elected against Sir Joseph Lister, will be a matter of regret but not of surprise to those who have followed recent events at the University of London. The election was fought on purely party lines, and it is, of course, not to be denied that among the graduates of Convocation, taken as a whole, there is a majority against the reform desired by the London graduates and teachers. The country graduates—especially, it is believed, those engaged in school teaching and tuition—are disposed to look upon their degree, obtained often under great difficulties, owing to straitened circumstances, as a valuable asset. They fear that if the University is reconstituted on a wider basis their asset will lose some of its value. This is a very intelligent attitude, though it is, we believe, thoroughly shortsighted; and in this belief, which we have ventured to express many times during the last ten years, we have been confirmed by the findings of two Royal Commissions. On this occasion the majority of the candidates of the party who are opposed to the changes desired by the London educational institutions of University rank, including the medical schools, is smaller than on some previous occasions. In May, 1895, for instance,

Mr. T. B. Napier, LL.D., the candidate of the party who have now carried Mr. Rivington, polled 1231 votes, while Mr. Cozens Hardy, Q.C., received only 733, a majority of 498. The total vote on the present occasion was only about 150 fewer, but Mr. Rivington's majority was only 117. The decrease in the majority is an encouraging sign for those who hope for the early appointment of a Statutory Commission, since the Lord President of the Council based his disinclination to bring in the necessary Bill mainly on the ground that there was a large majority of graduates opposed to the desired reforms.

THE CIVIL RIGHTS DEFENCE COMMITTEE.

MR. TIMOTHY HOLMES, as Chairman of the Select Committee on Medical Defence of the Civil Rights Defence Committee, has addressed a letter to the President of the General Medical Council asking that a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Council may be summoned to receive a deputation to point out how the interpretation of the law in the case of Mr. Anderson "affects seriously the nature and value of every certificate of registration issued; and gives to every man entering the profession, as well as to those who have already been admitted, the right to ask you, 'Have I under this certificate the right to recover reasonable charges for work and services rendered, and the right to render or refuse my services? Or can I for withholding or withdrawing my services be punished by damages, costs, and imprisonment, and be arbitrarily and maliciously denied all right to recover reasonable charges for services actually rendered?'" It is urged that this is a question in which the Council and every member of it is concerned, and the request is made that after the meeting of the Executive Committee a special meeting of the Council itself may be summoned to consider the case. A deputation from the Civil Rights Defence Committee, which will be headed by the President, Lord Stamford, will wait upon the Society of Apothecaries on Tuesday next to lay the facts of the case before it. This is stated to be an innovation on the customary procedure of the Society which the special circumstances of the injustice done to one of its Licentiates fully justifies.

OUTBREAK OF SMALL-POX IN ISLINGTON.

DURING the past four weeks the number of small-pox cases under treatment in the Metropolitan Asylums Hospitals and in the Highgate Hospital has shown a continuous increase. At the end of May there were 19 small-pox patients in these hospitals, and at the end of the first three weeks of this month the numbers have been 25, 27, and 41 respectively. The admissions of new cases into these hospitals, which had been 3, 8, and 9 in the three preceding weeks, further increased to 18 during the week ending Saturday last, June 20th. This marked increase in the number of admissions is chiefly owing to an outbreak in Islington, no fewer than 11 of the 18 admissions last week being from this parish alone. Campbell Street appears to be the centre of infection, nearly all the cases having occurred in this street. It is satisfactory to note that the outbreak is being most promptly dealt with, all the cases having been at once removed to hospital.

ALLEGED ADULTERATION OF BEER AND SPIRITS.

THE evidence given before the Select Committee of the House of Commons by Mr. Barrington, Deputy Principal of the Inland Revenue Branch of the Government Laboratory, concerning the alleged adulterations of beer and spirits, confirms in all respects that which we have collected during a series of years from independent analyses. He divided the chief adulterants into two classes—those used before 1880, and those after 1880. The former class included cocculus indicus, grains of paradise, chiretta, gentian, and a number of other substances; the second class consisted practically of sugar. The most injurious adulterant was cocculus indicus, which was formerly used as a substitute for hops, and contained a bitter principle—picrotoxin. A considerable quantity was

imported, but a careful inquiry had proved to demonstration that the bulk of it was re-exported to Italy, and the rest used for poisoning fish and killing parasites on sheep in the West of England. Since 1880 the adulterants discovered were almost entirely sugar and water. The adulteration of spirits consisted in dilution by water. In 1876 they had a sample of whisky containing oil of vitriol—1 ounce to the gallon; but the quantity was so large that no one could drink it, and it was evidently a mistake. An elaborate inquiry, carried out by the department for the Select Committee on British and Foreign Spirits of 1891, resulted in failure to find any injurious ingredients in the spirits examined, although many samples were collected from the lowest quarters. Old spirits did not contain less fusel oil than new. The inquiry showed that current statements on this subject were quite erroneous. Such harm as people got from drinking was caused by the pure spirit taken in excess. In the inquiry of 1891 it was found that the spirits drunk in public-houses were made in patent stills, and therefore contained hardly any fusel oil. The compound ethers and higher alcohols remained practically unchanged after six years, maturing in bond, but minute changes in the flavouring matters took place. There was practically no adulteration of foreign wines in this country. Many temperance drinks not only contained a considerable quantity of alcohol, but were of an unwholesome character. In view of the abuses he had mentioned, he thought these drinks ought to be brought into line with other intoxicating liquors.

PRIZE FOR LIFE-SAVING APPLIANCES.

THE Council of the Society of Arts announce that they are prepared to award, under the terms of the Benjamin Shaw Trust, a gold medal or a prize of £20. The medal under the conditions laid down by the testator, is to be given "for any discovery, invention, or newly-devised method for obviating or materially diminishing any risk to life, limb, or health, incidental to any industrial occupation, and not previously capable of being so obviated or diminished by any known and practically available means." Intending competitors should send in descriptions of their inventions not later than December 31st, 1896, to the Secretary of the Society of Arts, Adelphi, London, W.C. The judges will be appointed by the council. The council reserve the right of withholding the prize or of awarding a smaller prize or smaller prizes, if, in the opinion of the judges, nothing deserving the full award is sent in.

HOSPITAL BURIAL GROUNDS IN LONDON.

MRS. BASIL HOLMES has issued a most interesting and carefully-prepared volume on London burial grounds. The report of the Select Committee of the House of Commons on these grounds (in 1842) is one of the most gruesome volumes ever published, and shows what death traps these burial grounds were, and what scant respect was paid to the bodies of those who found sepulture in them. The volume contains some very interesting information as regards the old burial grounds of the London hospitals. Mrs. Holmes thinks it probable that, when St. Bartholomew's Hospital was far smaller than it is now, burials took place in the cloisters, or rather in the large space in the middle of which the western wing was built. Later the hospital used the Bethlem burial ground; the ground set aside eventually as the hospital graveyard is in Seward Street, Goswell Road. This was first used about 1740, and, after being closed for burials, was let as a carter's yard. It is now a children's recreation ground maintained by St. Luke's Vestry. The burial ground of St. Thomas's Hospital is at the corner of Mazepond; on part of it St. Olave's Rectory and Messrs. Bevington's leather warehouse were built; the remainder is leased to Guy's Hospital, and contains the treasurer's stables and an asphalted tennis court for the use of the students. Guy's Hospital burial ground is in Snow's Fields, Bermondsey, and is now a builder's

yard; but there is hope, Mrs. Holmes tells us, of its being secured as a recreation ground. At the London Hospital the unclaimed bodies were buried in an enclosure of about an acre and a half close to the hospital; this was closed by an Order in Council in 1854. The medical school, the chaplain's house, and the nurses' home have been built on part of this land. The old Bethlem burial ground is now covered by part of Liverpool Street Station and the Great Eastern line. The Metropolitan Public Gardens Association is now making strong endeavours to use closed burial grounds as lungs and playgrounds. It was on behalf of this Association that Mrs. Holmes first began her work in this direction; afterwards she drew up for the London County Council a report of all the burial grounds existing in the County of London. The book, which contains a well-deserved tribute to the pioneer work of "Graveyard Walker," may be looked upon as an authoritative one on the subject of which it treats, as Mrs. Holmes has made a personal examination of all the places. These visits were not paid without considerable difficulty, and it is impossible to read the book and not admire the public spirit and pluck of this lady in carrying out her self-imposed task, often at considerable trouble and some risk. Between 1882 and 1895 the Metropolitan Public Gardens Association has carried through upwards of 320 successful undertakings, has 60 other works on hand, and has made offers and attempts without success respecting about 200 schemes. In addition to these results the Association has had a beneficial effect on public opinion.

A JACOBAN "CURE" FOR HYDROPHOBIA.

PHILIP M'GOVERN, who claims to be the sole possessor of a secret cure for hydrophobia, which has been in the possession of the family from the reign of James I, and is successful in all cases treated, recently brought a process against the Ballymena Board of Guardians to recover £6. This was the amount of the fees and expenses of the treatment of a woman sent to him on December 8th last in accordance with a resolution of the guardians on the previous day. The county court judge, in summing up, observed that the plaintiff constituted himself in the civil bill as a medical practitioner, and yet was simply a farmer. His Honour, according to the report from which we quote, observed that guardians were bound by the Medical Acts and the Poor Law Acts, and added that he was unable to comprehend how such a resolution as that to send a woman for treatment to an unqualified person could have been passed. He found that there was no liability attaching to the guardians as a body, and dismissed the process. It will be remembered that we have already called attention to the action of Boards of Guardians in sending patients to the M'Governs, for, as a matter of fact, there are two M'Governs who profess to be the sole possessors of the secret, and we have pointed out its illegality. The legal decision now obtained is one of considerable importance, and will, it is to be hoped, put a stop to this practice on the part of guardians.

STATE MEDICAL AID IN INDIA.

THE *Times* of June 22nd has the following as part of the able weekly articles which it publishes on Indian affairs: "The journey of medical observation which Mr. Ernest Hart lately made through that country raised questions of importance to the profession alike both in India and at home. The impression left by the subsequent discussion is that the present system of State medical aid in India does not keep pace with the demands upon it. That system is based upon the diversion of a certain number of military medical men to civil employment. The number thus available is necessarily limited, and Mr. Ernest Hart contends that the Indian civil officer is so overwhelmed with statistical returns and office cares as to leave him neither time, nor energy, nor strength for his strictly medical work. Such statements, although containing a large element of truth, may be overestimated. In

India almost every civil officer is overworked. The whole system of Indian administration is one of high pressure. It is provided with all the safety valves of furlough, sick leave, and compulsory retirement at a comparatively early age, which such a high-pressure system requires. But the complaint against the methods of recruiting the civil medical staff in India does not arise alone from its inadequacy in regard to numbers. It is urged that the method of selection not only tends to drain the military medical staff of its best men, but also to discourage medical education throughout India itself. For full forty years a succession of trained medical men has been issuing from the Indian medical colleges. During the second half of that period many of these doctors have been very highly trained, while many others have come to England for a further training and a British degree. The present system, it is complained, provides an inadequate number of expensive officers diverted from their military work, and ignores the large supply of less expensive but perhaps not less competent medical men trained in the Indian medical colleges. The question of medical administrative reform becomes more pressing with the development of municipal sanitation and public hygiene in India. Influential meetings have been held in the various provinces, and a delegate has been appointed to represent the case in England. This gentleman, Dr. K. N. Bahadurji, M.D., completed a distinguished academic career in India by taking the degree of the London University. If he can establish to the satisfaction of the profession at home the points put forward at the public meetings in India, he may render no unimportant service to both countries. He is, at any rate, sure of a fair and courteous hearing." It will be necessary to ascertain the opinion of our Indian Branches upon any detailed scheme which this gentleman may bring forward.

MEDICAL DEFENCE.

EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING OF THE BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

ATTENTION is called to the notice which is published in the official pages of the *BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL*, p. 1575, of an extraordinary general meeting of the Association, which is called for the consideration of a special resolution to alter the Memorandum of Association, with the view of undertaking the duties of medical defence. The meeting is called for Monday, July 13th, in the large theatre of the Midland Institute, Birmingham, at 3 o'clock in the afternoon.

THE WRIGHT DEFENCE FUND.

MR. WILLIAM BERRY, Great George Street, Wigan, Honorary Secretary, writes: In addition to previous lists, will you kindly allow me to add the following:

Dr. J. Ellis Jones, Chorley	...	...	...	£0	10	0
Mr. T. Brayton, Hindley (additional)	...	...	...	1	1	0
Dr. Prebble, Blackburn	...	...	...	0	5	0
Mr. Hannah, Ashton-in-Makerfield	...	...	...	0	10	6
Mr. Bradbury, Wigan	...	...	...	1	1	0
Mr. Price, Crewe	...	...	...	0	5	0
Previous list...	...	...	...	52	16	6

£55 9 0

The list is now closed, and the balance (after expenses) has been handed to Mr. Wright, who is grateful to the contributors. The Committee desire me to thank the Editor of the *BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL* for inserting the appeal.

CHOLERA IN EGYPT.

CHOLERA is reported to be somewhat decreasing at Cairo and Alexandria, but increasing in the provinces. The available returns, however, are by no means complete. The disease has reached Korosko, where 14 attacks and 7 deaths are reported amongst the Egyptian soldiers. Since the recrudescence of the disease in Egypt in September last 4,776 deaths have occurred throughout the country, but it is impossible to form a reliable estimate of the total number of attacks that have occurred, as concealment, except in the fatal and severe cases, has been the rule rather than the exception.