

legislation is necessary for that large class of children who wander in and out of the schools as may suit their parents' convenience, and to meet their needs the State Children's Aid Committee have a Bill now before Parliament which, having received the support of the Government, it is hoped will shortly pass into law. Well known facts with regard to "remanded" children lend force to the suggestion that a strong central metropolitan authority should be established and put in possession of buildings, appliances, and powers, to enable it to classify pauper children completely, so that each class might be placed under the most favourable conditions.

Increased powers should also be given to the Metropolitan Asylums Board. At present that body, though it has the right to expend large sums to provide accommodation for some 2,000 children, must depend upon the goodwill of the various Boards of Guardians to yield up such children as may belong to any of the five classes for which the Metropolitan Asylums Board has been made responsible. This the guardians are not in all cases ready to do. There is need also of more skilled inspectors, especially since the development of interest in the subject is leading to various experiments which will require to be carefully guided by experience. Receiving homes are required into which children can be drafted on becoming chargeable, as well as small emigrant training homes where the children may be free from all relation with the workhouse, and prepared to start a new life in a British colony.

The mistakes committed in the erection and in the management of the barrack schools must not be perpetuated by the erection of villages where colonies of pauper children should live in villa residences within a ring fence. A home, and not an institution is the proper place for every child. The object to be aimed at is that these children of paupers should be trained up to be useful members of society and, this can only be done if they are suitably housed, adequately fed, properly taught, and the utmost care exercised that their up-bringing shall approximate as nearly as possible to that of an ordinary child in an ordinary home.

THE UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.

A LARGE number of graduates assembled on Wednesday afternoon to witness the celebration of the presentation of degrees by the Chancellor. Lord Herschell, in an address at the conclusion of the ceremony, referred to the University of London Commission Bill, and expressed his satisfaction at the announcement of the Government that they intended to bring the subject to a discussion, and if possible to a solution, in the House of Commons. There was, he said, a very strong public opinion, in fact a conviction, that the University work of London needed some fresh organisation, and a preponderating opinion that the need should be supplied not by the creation of another University but by a reorganisation of the existing University. Beyond that, he said, was the region of controversy, for it was impossible to frame any scheme which would satisfy everybody. That being so, all parties ought to face the fact and to realise that however strong their individual views might be upon this or that point the problem must be solved. The view held by some that the existing charter gave to the graduates a right which would be infringed if any measure were passed dealing with the University except with their sanction and consent was erroneous. Since the charter was granted an important change had taken place. Parliament was not now content that the Government of the

day should have power to advise Her Majesty to grant a charter to the new university or a new charter to an old university without consultation with Parliament. Parliament was the guardian of the public interest and would not be content simply to register the determination of any university or college unless it were satisfied that the proposal was for the public good. Parliament had a distinct right of intervention with reference to the grant or refusal of a new charter and a governing and determining voice with regard to all universities in the future. The members of the University were not in a position to dictate to Parliament what change should be made when it had come to the conclusion that a change must be made in the public interest. He believed that all might agree in the hope that the controversy would not now be prolonged, and that the University, whatever changes might be made by the wisdom of Parliament, would not decline from its ancient usefulness, or sacrifice the high position which it had achieved, but in the future would be an even more potent instrument of educational good than it had been in the past. Among the graduates who received degrees were a large number of ladies. Of the 79 M.B.'s 7 were ladies, and of the 31 M.D.'s 3 were ladies.

THE ROYAL SOCIETY "CONVERSAZIONE."

THE exhibits at the *conversazione* of the Royal Society on May 11th included many relating to medicine and the more closely allied sciences. Dr. J. Mackenzie Davidson exhibited his Roentgen Ray Apparatus for Localisation Purposes. This instrument has been fully described in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL. He also showed Stereoscopic X-Ray Photographs seen in a Wheatstone Stereoscope, an arrangement which, while giving perfect stereoscopic effect, allows of adjustment of varying width between the eyes. Dr. Leonard Hill and Mr. Harold Barnard, F.R.C.S., showed a simple form of Sphygmomanometer. Mr. Alan A. Campbell Swinton showed some striking experiments upon the Circulation of the Residual Gaseous Matter in Crookes's Tube. His Roentgen Ray Camera, for showing the position, dimensions, and form of the source of the x rays in a Crookes's tube, is a useful instrument. The Roentgen rays not being capable of refraction, the use of a lens is inadmissible, but by means of a pinhole the image of the active antikathode area is thrown upon a fluorescent screen, or a sensitive plate may be substituted for the screen and the image photographed. Professor Sherrington, F.R.S., showed some beautiful specimens of Sensorial Organs. The preparations illustrated the mode of ending of the nerve fibres in tendon-organs, muscle-spindles, and some tactile corpuscles. Sir Richard Thorne, F.R.S., and Dr. Copeman demonstrated the Bacteriology of Calf Vaccine Lymph by a series of beautiful preparations, many of which were familiar from the published work of the same gentlemen in the Local Government Board's medical reports. Professors Herdman and Boyce, of Liverpool, showed a series of Healthy and Unhealthy Green Oysters, illustrating the causes of the coloration, and tracing by cultures and other preparations the bacteriology of the oyster and the connection between oysters and disease. Dr. McMunn exhibited microscopic preparations illustrating the Structure of the Digestive Gland of Mollusca and Decapod Crustacea, showing the cell inclusions in the so-called "ferment" and "hepatic" cells. An attractive exhibit was that of improvements in Hertz-wave space telegraphy by Professor Oliver Lodge, F.R.S., and Dr. Alexander Muirhead. In the apparatus as perfected the sender of the message at either end is an automatic transmitter (with specially punched tape), which is thrown in and out of action by a special switch. The receiving apparatus at one end is a siphon recorder in direct circuit with the tapped-back coherer, and displaying on its tape all the fluctuations of the current. Professor Oliver Lodge also showed some improvements in Magnetic Space-telegraphy. Two addresses were given during the evening illustrated by photographs shown by the Electric Lantern; the one by Dr. Sorby, F.R.S.,

related to the various methods which he employs for obtaining permanent preparations of marine organisms, in many cases in their natural colours, in others slightly stained. The other address was by Sir Norman Lockyer, who gave some account of the results obtained during the total solar eclipse by the party at Viziadrug. He paid a very high compliment to the admirable services rendered by the officers and crew of H.M.S. *Melpomene*, and expressed the opinion that it might be possible in the future to entrust the task of making observations on many points to one of Her Majesty's ships, if some preliminary training were given before leaving this country.

THE MEDICAL PROFESSION AND THE WAR.

MEDICAL preparations for the contingencies of war are being made on a large scale by the U.S. Government. About 20,000 dols. of the 50,000,000 dols. appropriated for the use of the President in preparation for war has been allotted to the Army Medical Department, this sum to go in the purchase of surgeons' instruments as enumerated, supplies and medicines of all sorts, sanitary mattresses, etc. Surgeon-General Sternberg made requisition for the money. The Government has set apart the naval ambulance ship *Solace* for the transportation of wounded soldiers and marines from Cuba, if that be the field of operations, and a government hospital team is to run from Tampa up to various hospitals in the State of Florida and along the Atlantic coast. Every effort is to be made to avoid hospital crowding in Cuba. A company of men "salted" against yellow fever has been organised in New Orleans. Over 800 medical men have offered their services to the army authorities, and more than 1,000 to the naval medical department. These are by no means all young men or recent graduates, for many offers are received daily from men, some of whom saw service in the Civil War on one side or the other, and others who have come on the stage since that time, but who stand in the front rank of the profession. The nurses are not behind the doctors in the ardour of their patriotic enthusiasm. Offers have been received in Washington from over 400 women, who are ready to go to Cuba or any part of the States as army nurses. Among them are sisters of charity, deaconesses of the German Lutheran Church, members of the Salvation Army, and individual trained nurses. In addition, the Red Cross Society has had many applications from women desiring commissions as Red Cross nurses. The Marine Hospital Service is making every effort to be ready for war. Large orders have been placed for surgeons' instruments with New York houses, the largest one calling for immediate delivery of the following items: 20 U.S.A. staff surgeons' capital operating sets, 50 U.S.A. staff surgeons' minor operating sets, 18 sets of amputating instruments, 950 bullet probes, 20 Otis's U.S.A. compact field sets, 20 Post's general operating sets, 35 Blackman's general operating sets, 50 Buck's general operating sets, 30 Wood's general operating sets, 18 No. 1 set Tiemann and Co.'s amputating instruments, 30 J. Willston Wright's antiseptic pocket sets, 800 folding litters, 3,700 yards of adhesive plaster, 1,150 boxes marine lint, 900 lbs. of roller bandage, 2,100 spools antiseptic ligatures, and 150 Byrd's wire gauze and Smith's splints. The number of medical officers in the army is to be increased, and the Surgeon-General has been authorised to appoint as many contract surgeons in emergencies as may be necessary at rates of payment not exceeding 150 dols. (£30) a month.

THE UNITED STATES AMBULANCE SHIP "SOLACE."

LAST week we gave an account of the plan of an ambulance ship for use in naval warfare, as suggested by Surgeon-General W. K. Van Reyppen, of the United States Navy, who first advocated the fitting out of such a ship in a paper on the Handling and Care of the Wounded in Modern Naval Warfare, read by him at the International Medical Congress held in Moscow in 1897. The following description of the

Solace (formerly the *Creole*), which has been fitted out in accordance with Dr. Van Reyppen's suggestions, is taken from an article by Passed Assistant Surgeon Charles F. Stokes, in the *New York Medical News*, of April 30th: The *Solace* is primarily a vessel adapted for the care and welfare of sick and wounded men, and all other considerations are made subservient to this end. She has a displacement of 3,600 tons, and an average speed of 14 knots, is 352 feet on the load line, and about 370 feet over all. Forward below is a tank of 27,000 gallons capacity. The ship carries powerful steam launches and barges for transferring the sick and wounded at sea. On the upper deck on both sides there are steam winches for hoisting and lowering the wounded, or boats which can be used simultaneously. On the uppermost deck are some of the officers' quarters and offices. On the next deck forward is an operating room 30 by 30 feet, well lighted and magnificently equipped with aseptic hospital furniture of the best pattern, and the outfit of instruments, sterilisers, dressings, etc., is complete in every detail. The floor is so tiled that it can be easily cleaned and slipping avoided. A dressing room and dispensary adjoin the operating room. On this deck are mess rooms for the officers of the ship, for wounded officers able to be about and for the petty officers of the ship. There is a lounging and smoking room for those able to be on deck. On the engine-room deck is a fully-equipped steam laundry, with a drying room, and a disinfecting chamber for wash clothes. An ice machine has been set up, and a cold storage room of good size is ready for use. The ship is equipped with three large formaldehyde generators. There are numerous state rooms for wounded officers, and the men will be berthed in spacious wards in the forward and after parts of the ship below, which will be ventilated by powerful blowers and supplementary electric fans. The vessel is heated by steam, and lighted by electricity throughout. There will be accommodation for about 350 patients. There are 4 medical officers attached to the ship, 3 apothecaries, one of whom is a trained nurse and an embalmer; 8 graduated nurses from the Mills Training School, Bellevue Hospital; 2 laundrymen, 1 cook, and 4 mess attendants for the sick and wounded complete the medical department of the ship. As soon as an action is over, the steam launches of the *Solace* will tow their barges alongside the ships that have been in action, and the wounded will be lowered into them, and the boats will return to the ambulance ship, when the wounded will be brought on board and placed in the surgeons' care for treatment. With the facilities at hand the results ought to be excellent. In no sense is the *Solace* a hospital ship. When it is found that a second action is not impending, she will steam to the nearest hospital and place her sick and wounded on shore for treatment, and will then rejoin the fleet. Should the army invade Cuba, it will probably fall to her lot to transfer its wounded to Key West. The vessel is more properly designated an "ambulance ship." The ship will fly the Red Cross, and will be protected by the articles of the Geneva Convention. The medical officers are Drs. T. H. Streete, C. F. Stoker, E. T. Smith, and E. S. Bogert, jun.

A COURAGEOUS GYNÆCOLOGIST.

WE frequently have to record deeds of valour by medical men in the public services. Those deeds shed lustre on the profession, but at the same time, in the case of men who are in the strictest sense soldiers, they must be regarded as "all in the day's work," for it is the business of a soldier to be brave. Civilian practitioners, though they are more exposed to dangers than most other classes of the community, are seldom called upon to show the courage of the warrior. It is therefore with pride as well as pleasure that we quote from the *Daily News* the following account of the heroic conduct of Professor Porro during the recent riots in Milan. "The mob," says the correspondent of our contemporary, "did not even respect the hospitals, but wished to invade them, and the Ospedale Maggiore was particularly threatened.

Behind the gate of that building stood Professor Porro, a Senator, a well-known doctor, and the most noted Conservative in Milan. The crowd were quick to see him. "There is Porro, our oppressor," they cried threateningly, and insults were shouted at the Professor, who now, pale but calm, resolutely opened the gates, and stood with his arms folded, saying sternly: 'Let him who has the courage advance. He will find a good revolver ready for him. I will show how a good physician does his duty.' No one accepted the invitation." The incident illustrates the power which a determined man often exercises over an angry mob. Professor Porro with his revolver recalls the sentry at Marlborough House when the mob of the "unemployed" streamed along Pall Mall with threats of pillage after one of the disorderly meetings in Trafalgar Square some years ago. The sentry in a businesslike way prepared to use his rifle, and the crowd showed its appreciation of the maxim that the better part of valour is discretion. Professor Porro's name is writ large in the history of modern gynaecology, and we have no doubt that if the hospital had been attacked he would have used his revolver as effectively as he wields the knife. We congratulate him in the name of the profession of this country on his splendid devotion to the interests of his patients and his hospital.

THE COUNCIL OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.

THE election of members of Council of the Royal College of Surgeons will take place this year on July 7th. There are three obligatory vacancies—Mr. Mitchell Banks and Mr. Langton having been elected in 1890, have served their full term, and Mr. Morris, who was elected as a substitute member on the death of Mr. Marcus Beck, also goes out of office. All these gentlemen are eligible for re-election, but in the event of one of them not seeking re-election—a contingency said to be not very improbable—Mr. F. Richardson Cross, Ophthalmic Surgeon to the Bristol Royal Infirmary, President of the Bath and Bristol Branch of the British Medical Association, and High Sheriff of the City and County of Bristol, has been asked by a considerable number of Fellows to allow himself to be nominated as a candidate. It is felt that the West of England, and in particular Bristol, with its University College and long-established Medical School, has some claim on the Fellows, more especially as all of the provincial members of the Council hitherto have with one or two exceptions come from the northern parts of the kingdom. Mr. Cross, we are informed, does not wish to be considered the representative of any party, but would stand as an independent candidate, with no pronounced opinions on what may be called college politics.

A JOURNAL OF TROPICAL MEDICINE.

WE have now from several sides gratifying evidence of a growth of interest in the study of tropical diseases. At the annual meeting of the British Medical Association in Edinburgh this year there will be for the first time a Section of Tropical Medicine. The Colonial Secretary has shown a keen interest in the subject, and an enlightened appreciation of the arguments advanced first, we believe, in these columns as to the need for suitable instruction, pathological and clinical, in tropical medicine for medical men appointed to the medical service in tropical colonies. Lastly, we have the announcement of the foundation of the approaching publication of the first number of the *Journal of Tropical Medicine*. It is to be devoted to the publication of papers on tropical diseases, and to the discussion of subjects scientific and practical affecting the interests of medical men in tropical and subtropical countries. It will be edited by Mr. James Cantlie, who for some years practised in Hong Kong, and by Dr. W. J. Simpson, who was until recently medical officer of health for Calcutta. Much advantage to pathology and medicine may be expected from the publication of this journal. Many current doctrines on the subject of tropical disease have been framed upon experience so local as to

render the basis somewhat uncertain; the special facilities given by the new journal will, it is hoped, by the increased opportunities for intercommunication afforded, in time supply a wider basis for generalisation. It is said that there are well nigh 6,000 medical men holding British diplomas practising their profession outside the British Isles, and doubtless a large proportion of these reside in tropical or subtropical countries; in addition there are the medical officers of the naval and military services, who are always liable to be called upon to serve in hot climates, and who, as a matter of fact, do spend a large part of their period of service in such countries. The promoters of the journal may therefore look forward with some confidence to establishing it on a sound basis of a long list of annual subscribers. The subscription to the *Journal of Tropical Medicine* will be 17s. annually post free, and the publishers are Messrs. John Bale, Sons, and Danielsson, Limited, Great Titchfield Street, London, W.

THE HEALTH OF EGYPT.

THE steady, systematic, and essentially solid manner in which England is accustomed to proceed in the civilisation of a country is well illustrated by Lord Cromer's report on the progress of reforms in Egypt during 1897. In every branch of the public service some distinct advance is recorded. Medicine and public health share in the general improvement, and in connection with these departments we select a few of the more salient points for comment. During the past year the alterations in the Kasr-el-Aini Hospital at Cairo, commenced in 1893, have been completed, and the hospital, which contains accommodation for 420 patients, is now, "in the opinion of competent authorities, not inferior to similar institutions in the most advanced countries in Europe." A bacteriological laboratory has also been built, and among the works in course of construction are four provincial hospitals, a quarantine park for cattle, and buildings for the reception and disinfection of Mecca pilgrims at Tor. More than 20,000 patients were received into the Government hospitals in 1897, being 1,000 in excess of the number in 1896, although the number of infectious cases fell from 4,936 to 3,472, two-thirds of which were small-pox. This scourge will no doubt rapidly diminish, as we read that about 330,000 successful vaccinations were performed, for some 50,000 of which the calf lymph was provided by the new Vaccine Institute. The medical school has now been reorganised, and a higher tone among the native sanitary officials is already noted. Sanitation in general is making rapid strides under the able direction of Rogers Pasha. The lesson of the cholera epidemic of 1895-96, and the terrible example of Bombay, have been taken to heart. A large number of private mosques have been dealt with under the law providing for their improved sanitation, and an attempt is being made to substitute reservoirs with taps for the open ablution basins in general use in the mosques. The transferment of cemeteries proceeds apace, and successful well sinking promises soon to provide the urban population with a supply of pure drinking water. The Khalig, a historic but dangerous canal in Cairo, has at length been filled up, and buried beneath an electric tramway. The Bombay plague epidemic was studied by a special commissioner, and a number of horses have been immunised in case of an outbreak; fortunately Egypt has not been invaded so far. With regard to the important question of disease affecting the domestic animals, Rogers Pasha reports that as a result of the prohibition of the importation of Syrian sheep, the deaths from anthrax have fallen from 383 in 1890 to 75 in 1897, while the cases of sheep-pox fell simultaneously from 1,307 to 57. Two outbreaks of cattle plague occurred, but the energetic measures adopted succeeded in confining them to the quarantine parks, averting thereby what might have been a national disaster. It will thus be seen that those responsible for the public health of Egypt are animated by admirable wisdom and forethought, and the same

is evident in the report of the Cairo Lunatic Asylum, ably directed by Dr. Warwick, to whom Lord Cromer pays a special tribute. More space is however required, for the admission rate is five times that of English asylums, and a number of patients must consequently be discharged in a condition only less unsafe than that of the more acute cases which replace them. This premature discharge of half-cured patients unfortunately leads to serious crimes from time to time. It is interesting to note that more than one-third of the male admissions owed their insanity to hasheesh smoking, which is, although illicit, a real danger to the country. Another most serious evil is the accumulation of refuse to the depth of several feet, which characterises almost every house in the native quarter of Cairo. The danger of this in the case of an epidemic is fully realised by the authorities, who may be relied on to combat and eventually remedy this evil with the same success that they have had in many other instances.

THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY.

WE find the names of two members of the medical profession included among the fifteen nominated this year for election to the Fellowship of the Royal Society, namely, Dr. William Osler and Professor E. Waymouth Reid. Dr. Osler is Professor of Medicine at the Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, and was formerly Professor of Physiology at McGill College, Montreal, and of Clinical Medicine at Philadelphia. He has been for many years actively engaged in the advancement of scientific medicine, and has published a large number of communications of great interest and importance chiefly dealing with clinical and pathological matters. He is also the author of several important articles in systems of medicine, and of one of the most widely-read textbooks on the *Principles and Practice of Medicine*. He has long occupied a leading position, first in Canada and now in the United States, as a scientific physician, and is well known in this country and throughout Europe as one of the foremost representatives of clinical medicine and pathology. Professor Edward Waymouth Reid, M.B.Cantab., formerly acted as assistant to Dr. Waller, and is now Professor of Physiology at University College, Dundee. He has become distinguished among the younger physiologists of the present time by the originality and painstaking care exhibited in his research work. His inquiries relate principally to absorption, secretion, osmosis, and electro-motive phenomena. To both of the successful candidates we tender our hearty congratulations on the well-earned honour they have obtained.

THE ANALYSIS OF DRINKING WATER.

At the monthly meeting of the Society of public analysts Mr. Matthew A. Adams, M.O.H. for Maidstone and Public Analyst for Kent, read a paper on Water Supply in Relation to the Recent Epidemic. He detailed facts already well known to our readers, showing how the district specially and earliest attacked by the disease was the part of the town supplied by the Farleigh springs. He advanced a theory of his own as to the probable effect of certain unusual meteorological conditions on the penetration of pollutions through the subsoil to the sources, and insisted on the necessity of frequent periodical examinations and strict supervision of all sources of supply. An interesting discussion on the aid rendered by bacteriological examination followed. Only last week we spoke of the absurdity of a chemist on the strength of a single analysis pronouncing *ex cathedra* that a particular water cannot be polluted. The absurdity of such a statement is manifest if we compare the three slightly varying analyses of the water in question with the standard for water of the immediate district which the county analyst has as the result of years of labour compiled. The water in question contained on each analysis varying quantities of solid matters, but in all three the solids were 69 per cent. in excess of the local average. The oxidised nitrogen was much in excess and was

greater in the two later analyses. It exceeded its standard nearly three times in the September and nearly four times in the December and February samples. The free ammonia also varied in each sample, being three times the local normal in the first, twice in the second, and four times on the third occasion. The chlorine varied from 3.4 to 2.7 grains a gallon; the local average being 2.3. When some years ago Dr. Cory added a grain and threequarters of typhoid motion to the gallon of tap water in one case, $3\frac{1}{2}$ grains to the gallon in another, and sent the two specimens, with a sample of the unpolluted water, to Dr. Dupré, analysis showed all three samples to contain 1.05 grains of chlorine per gallon. The albuminoid ammonia showed to some extent the amount of pollution, but even this evidence is apt to fail when nitrification has advanced, as it evidently had in the well water in question. In a report recently presented to his Council, Mr. Adams refers to the difficulty of getting magistrates to close a well on account of the evidence that can always be produced by the defence that the water is not polluted. The Irishman who was told that a witness was prepared to swear he saw him do the deed offered to bring twenty witnesses to swear they did not see him do it. It seems always to be easy to find analysts who cannot find pollution. Perhaps before agitating for an alteration of the law it might be worth while to try the effect of stronger evidence against the well. It should surely not be difficult, by selecting the psychological moment, to get samples sufficiently polluted to justify the magistrates in enforcing the section. They must, of course, act on the evidence laid before them, and when Mr. Gregory and Mr. Wanklyn declare the water all a water ought to be, and when Messrs. Bannister and Jewin affirm that from the results of their analysis "there are grounds for stating that the water is not liable to contamination from the immediate neighbourhood of the well," what are the Bench to do? We trust the Maidstone Council will not now let the matter rest, but take an early opportunity of securing a sample, which an outside analyst will have no difficulty in pronouncing contaminated.

THE PREDETERMINATION OF SEX.

WE published last week a brief summary of Professor Schenck's theory on this subject, and of its important and far-reaching practical corollaries. We propose now to make a few of the more obvious critical observations which arise from a study of his memoir. Professor Schenck is an embryologist of distinction, whose deliberate opinion cannot be laughed aside, but demands serious consideration. Nor can any objection be raised to the facts which he adduces from the animal kingdom; in fact others of a confirmatory nature readily occur to the mind. Thus the curious little crustacean called *apus* appears to get along very well indeed without males under ordinary circumstances. Generation after generation of parthenogenetic females is hatched forth as long as the environment remains favourable; but with a change for the worse in the physical conditions it becomes necessary to produce males in order, it appears, that the race may be strengthened by sexual fertilisation. This, however, occurs so seldom that a male is a great rarity, and indeed no specimen was ever described till as recently as 1857. Such facts and the well-known circumstances which he proves in connection with bees must be held sufficiently to prove Professor Schenck's first point, that the nutrition of the parents exercises an important influence on the sex of the offspring. But there is one objection which must strike everyone from the outset. Professor Schenck's study and treatment of the human subject are limited to the female sex, and it seems somewhat unreasonable to exclude the male from any participation in sex determination. If perfect metabolism in the female leads to the production of ova which tend when fertilised to produce males, surely similar conditions in the male should cause the spermatozoa to be female-procreating. The spectacle of a pædophobic man and his pædophilic wife, each endeavouring to attain perfect meta-

bolism in order to thwart the designs of the other, would certainly afford food for reflection if not for amusement. It seems probable that Professor Schenck will be compelled to extend his views so as to allow for the male element in the production of sex. Another point in which they seem to require modification is the assumption that in the human female the period of menstruation corresponds to that of ovulation. This is now certainly not the current opinion, and human menstruation appears to be a distinct thing from the æstus or rut of animals, but as the question does not bear directly upon Professor Schenck's main contention, it does not require further notice here. The same may be said of his statement that fertilisation occurs in the human uterus, whereas the general view is that it takes place in the Fallopian tube. But turning to the question of treatment, it seems only right to point out an apparent contradiction. The dietary course recommended by the author extends over a period lasting from three months before conception to three months after. Now, if the sex is predetermined by the female, by the condition of the ovum when fertilised, surely it is unnecessary to continue treatment after this has taken place. And, furthermore, what is being treated during this latter period is not the female ovum only, but the joint product of fertilisation, containing the male element as well. And if this latter can be influenced now, why should it not be susceptible of treatment before fertilisation, that is, while it is still in the reproductive organs of the male? In spite, however, of these objections, which may possibly be met by an extension of the inquiry, there can be no doubt that Professor Schenck honestly believes that he has predetermined the male sex in a certain number of cases. Whatever be the scientific value of his theory his facts can, and no doubt will, be tested, for the treatment appears to be neither onerous nor dangerous.

FRENCH CONGRESS OF MEDICINE.

THE fourth French Congress of Medicine, which was recently held at Montpellier under the presidency of Professor Bernheim, was exceptionally brilliant both in regard to the number of those who took part in it and the value of the scientific communications presented. France is the classic land of centralisation, and it was with considerable misgiving that the experiment of holding such gatherings in provincial towns was initiated. The first of them was held in Lyons, and on that occasion 262 members were present; at the second, held in Bordeaux, there were 290; at the third, held in Nancy, there were 312; at Montpellier the attendance numbered 660. Professor Bernheim took as the subject of his presidential address the Influence of Philosophy on Medicine, and the Influence of the Mind on Morbid Manifestations. The address was a vigorous plea for the recognition of psycho-pathology and psycho-therapeutics in the complexity of our functional activity. The discussions on the Clinical Forms of Pulmonary Tuberculosis, on Microbic Associations and Mixed Infections, and the Therapeutic Uses of Organs with Internal Secretion, were ably introduced, but indifferently sustained. Among the other communications was an important paper by Professor Arloing on the Antitoxic Action of Diphtheria Serum. M. Pitres read a paper on Displacements of the Heart in Pleurisy; M. Courmont discussed the Elimination of the Toxin of Tetanus by the Urine, and in another paper dealt with the question of the existence of Specific Nervous Lesions in Tetanus. Among the other papers presented were the following: M. Combemale (Lille) on Thyroid Treatment in Hæmophilic Accidents; M. Gauthier (Geneva) on the Employment of Ox-gall in Biliary Lithiasis; MM. Arnoz and Féré on Pulmonary Juice; M. Chambard-Hénon (Lyons) on the External Use of Salicylate of Methyl in Hepatic Colic; and MM. Bezançon and Griffon on the Serum Diagnosis of Pneumococcal Affections. The municipal authorities and the medical profession of the historic town of the

South, whose famous University celebrated its sex-antenary two or three years ago, vied with each other in entertaining the visitors, and the meeting was in every respect a great success.

THE LATE MR. GREIG SMITH.

AFTER the death of Mr. Greig Smith a movement was made to found some memorial in Bristol which would perpetuate his name. A subscription list was opened, and the committee decided to place a bust in some suitable place, and hand over the surplus to assist in the renovation of the operating theatre at the Royal Infirmary—a scheme in which Mr. Greig Smith was much interested at the time of his death. A small sum was also devoted to placing a medallion in the theatre. On May 5th the High Sheriff (Mr. F. Richardson Cross, M.B.) unveiled the bust in the vestibule of the museum in the presence of a large company. He spoke in feeling terms of the great loss the profession at large, and more particularly in Bristol as well as the public, had suffered in the death of his colleague about a year ago, and, in unveiling the bust of him in a place always accessible to the public, he hoped that the memory of one of Bristol's greatest citizens would be kept green. The Dean of Bristol, and Dr. J. Beddoe, F.R.S., who proposed and seconded the vote of thanks to the High Sheriff, also spoke in high terms of admiration of Mr. Greig Smith. The bust, which is of bronze, is the work of a local artist, Mr. Fabian, and was much admired and pronounced an excellent likeness.

THE DOCTOR AS A JOURNALISTIC ATTRACTION.

THE "medical column" is put forward as an attraction by various newspapers in this country, but not even the most enterprising of our journalistic impresarios has yet as far as we know offered the services of a real live doctor to his subscribers. It is announced that a well-known Paris newspaper has adopted this means of extending its circulation. It has engaged a doctor of medicine at a salary of £480 a year to give gratuitous advice at the office of the paper to all the purchasers of an illustrated weekly supplement which it publishes. Many years ago a firm of cheap tailors in London used to boast that they kept a poet; is the time coming when daily newspapers will advertise the fact that "we keep a doctor?"

THE PENSION AS A FACTOR IN LONGEVITY.

A POTENT factor in the prolongation of human life beyond the common span which has been unaccountably overlooked in recent discussions on the subject is the possession of a pension. Sir Andrew Clark has recorded the case of the chaplain to a London hospital who was pensioned off on account of heart disease, which it was thought would speedily slit the thin-spun thread of his life, and who lived for nearly half a century afterwards, doubtless praising God, and, let us hope, blessing the enlightened liberality of the committee. But probably the most striking examples in illustration of the effect of a pension in promoting longevity are to be found in the United States, where a large army of veterans who fought in the great Civil War live on in spite of most complicated ailments, which would certainly kill most people whose constitution is not fortified by the elixir that dwells in a grant of public money. Many of these veterans, like Artemus Ward, escaped a wound in battle because they were not there, but a disability contracted in the service does just as well. With a little ingenuity it is possible to devise pathological conditions of the most moving kind. The following is a copy of an actual certificate sent in with an application for an increase of pension:

Affiants discover upon the right instep of the applicant a soft and movable cicatrix, as if the integument had been ploughed up by a bullet. We find no deformity or displacement of the tarsal or metatarsal bones and no erythema or hyperæsthesia of the surface of the wounded region. Affiants also discover that the applicant's disabilities are greatly increased at times by the reaction of the described cicatrix on the higher nerve

centres. We believe that a sensory impression conveyed from the cicatrix through the second pair of cranial nerves is intensified in the cerebrum by certain processes of intellection, one of which is known as expectant attention. The impression so intensified and modified is then reflected to the region where the trauma was sustained, and the applicant's sufferings are increased many-fold. Under such circumstances, and at the time when these reflex nervous phenomena are manifested, we believe the applicant's disability is extreme, and that an increase is urgently indicated as a therapeutic measure.

The indication here referred to was recognised by Dr. Lettsom, when he prescribed "One guinea to be taken immediately" to a needy patient. Some other medical certificates in regard to pension claims, quoted in a recent number of the *Iowa Health Bulletin*, show that American practitioners are sometimes as eccentric in their spelling as in their pathology. The following is an example :

June 8, 1896.

Dear Sir,

Yours received I treted Wm. Akens after he cum Hoam from the serfis for polypup in his nosee and Running soar in his pastur. The polypup from the nite are and exposure the wonde cum from the cick of a hoars.

M. D.

Here is another in which the learned doctor appears to be confused in his dates, as well as in other elements of knowledge :

February 30, 1897,

Sur,

I surtify I treted the sed sojer fum 1888 to Date foarmerly his stumik tub was jined to his nervious sistem but now it air rotted off cosing grate expectoring and hard of breth. Your Obt. servent

M. D.

The name of the place and that of the certifying practitioner are given in each case. But the pensioner can speak for himself, as witness the following application in which another therapeutic effect of the pension is hinted at :

March 20, 1896. Presedent of Pensioners. I let you no i wor treted by a root and erb docter he give me running milk week for running soar and no avale iff my clam is loude i can voate weth a free conchents.

But the veterans of the Civil War are not the only patriots who think they have claims on a grateful country. Mr. Davis, Assistant Secretary of the Interior, who has to deal with many of these claims, says that he recently had a letter from a German, who claimed a pension because "one the 19th of Sept, 1889, I lifted a hog over a fence, and have suffered from asthma ever since." The matter has its serious side, as pointed out by Dr. John H. Girdner, in a recent number of the *North American Review*. He bluntly charges the medical profession with the part it has played "in constructing the fraudulent pension list which the taxpayers of the United States have had saddled on them." Speaking from his own experience, he estimates that at least one-third of those claiming to be disabled while in the discharge of duty are frauds. By way of remedy he proposes that a Board of Medical Examiners should be established in each State, such Board to be composed of two members, one a physician, the other a surgeon, selected solely for their eminent and acknowledged professional ability and their honesty and standing in the State. They should give all their time to this work, and be paid a salary of 20,000 dollars a year each. That such a proposal should be seriously made is a striking evidence of the magnitude of the sum paid by Uncle Sam in pensions. In view of the large additions to the pension roll of the United States likely to be made by the present war, it is clear that something will have to be done to weed out impostors from those who have really been disabled in the service of their country.

THE LATE PROFESSOR DRECHSEL.

THE late Professor Edmund Drechsel, whose untimely death in Naples last September was so great a loss to physiology, was a single-hearted man of science. As chief of the chemical Department of Ludwig's Institute at Leipzig, and latterly as Professor of Physiological Chemistry at Berne, he not only himself accomplished much important work in physiological chemistry, but inspired others, and to them with

admirable modesty he left the credit. The most important of the many papers which appeared under his own name are the series dealing with the constitution of the proteids, as studied through their products of disintegration; and especially his brilliant discovery of the production of urea from the breaking down of proteids in the absence of any process of oxidation. Though he laid science under a great debt, he had not the faculty of making money, and the post which he held in Switzerland does not entitle his widow to a pension. In these circumstances a fund is being raised by Professor Kronecker, of Berne, to contribute to the education of his two sons, and to provide a modest memorial to Drechsel in the place where he is buried. The Physiological Society at its last meeting voted 25 guineas to the fund, and further subscriptions will be received by the Secretary of the Society, Dr. Ernest H. Starling, Lecturer on Physiology at Guy's Hospital (8, Park Square, London, N.W.), by whom they will be forwarded to Professor Kronecker.

PASTEUR'S FIRST PATIENT.

THE shepherd Jupille, who was the first patient who underwent Pasteur's antirabic treatment, has been appointed *concerge* of the Pasteur Institute in Paris. At the age of 14 he went to the rescue of two children who had been attacked by a mad dog, and was himself badly bitten. He is now to be seen any day by visitors to the famous Institute of the Rue Dutot, a picture of health, wearing on the breast of his coat a silver medal awarded him for the courage which he displayed on that memorable occasion. He married some years ago, and is the father of two fine children. It may be worth mentioning for the edification of antivivisection fanatics that Jupille looks upon Pasteur as having saved his life. "Had it not been for him," he says, pointing to the group by Truffaut in front of the Institute, where he is represented struggling with the dog; "Had it not been for M. Pasteur, that is all that would now remain of me." Jupille was first sent to Garches; then, as he grew up, he was employed in the antirabic laboratory in the Rue Dutot, and afterwards under M. Roux. He is now 29, and is very proud of his office and of the neat little dwelling which M. Duclaux has given him.

A NEW CONSUMPTION HOSPITAL.

A NEW hospital has lately been opened in Glasgow for the treatment of phthisis. It is intended to erect five other hospitals and forty patients are to be treated in each. Mr. Quarrier gave a very hopeful prognosis as to the treatment which is to be carried out in these institutions. Three months, he thought, would be a sufficient time to effect a cure; some cases might require four months, and others only two months. It would be well if Mr. Quarrier would make provision for a considerably longer period of treatment if he entertains the idea of cure rather than amelioration of symptoms. The vestibule of the hospital is marble-walled. The corridor is 120 ft. long by 7 ft. 6 in. wide. The floor is made of polished pine, and there are plateglass screens to regulate the draughts. Three marble-tiled fireplaces are on each floor. The bedrooms are situated upstairs, eight are double-bedded rooms, the rest are for single beds. Everything is so arranged that lodgment of dust is impossible, and to guard against cold every window, except those for the staff, is double. All the rooms have hollow walls with air cushions, in order to secure an equable temperature in all seasons and weathers. The dining hall is on the second storey, to which there is a lift from the kitchen. The propulsion system is employed for ventilation, and in the wall of each room are apertures by which pure air enters and foul air goes out. Besides the kitchen on the top storey, there are two convalescent rooms. The propulsion system is not carried into these rooms, and there are no double windows, for in these convalescent rooms the patients who have undergone treatment are gradually hardened by breathing a

cooler atmosphere before returning to their homes. The engine-room is in the basement of the building. Russian, Turkish, and earth baths have been instituted. To the east of the main buildings are situated the parlour, kitchen, etc. Sir William Gairdner, addressing a distinguished company at the opening ceremony, said that Mr. Quarrier had carried out successfully many schemes, and the least they could do was to show gratitude to him for this new departure.

THE OXFORD MEDICAL SCHOOL.

In spite of the impoverished condition of the University chest, Convocation on May 3rd passed a decree empowering the University to expend a sum of £7,500 in erecting a new laboratory and lecture room for the joint use of the Professors of Botany and Comparative Anatomy. The Warden of All Souls, who introduced the decree in Congregation, stated that this expenditure was rendered necessary by the increase in the number of those attending the medical school, as the accommodation already provided was insufficient to meet the requirements of those pursuing their preliminary studies with a view to medicine. It augurs well for the future of medicine in Oxford that the decree should have been passed without discussion or dissent, and it is to be hoped that a like generous impulse will provide suitable laboratories for pathology and pharmacology, the claims of which, already recognised by the appointment of university lecturers, are fast becoming pressing.

THE ABATEMENT OF THE SPITTING NUISANCE.

ALTHOUGH hygiene is gradually teaching us to live cleanly, the disgusting and dangerous practice of spitting in the streets, in omnibuses and railway carriages, and in other public places is still sufficiently prevalent among us to constitute a nuisance which calls for abatement. In this matter we might well take an example from our cousins across the Atlantic. A crusade against spitting in public is now being conducted in America by the Women's Health Protective Association. The Health Board of New York has expressed special sympathy with the movement. It is said that some of the street cars in New York are in such a disgusting condition that they are not fit for human beings to enter. The President of the Women's Association has suggested that conductors should be supplied with tickets bearing the words, "Don't expectorate on the floor. By order of the Health Board," to be handed to passengers who are seen breaking the law. It is thought that this will prevent unpleasant scenes. On the other side of the ticket will be printed the words, "Keep this in your pocket," so that an offender may not be guilty of breaking another rule by scattering papers on side walks or in cars. The Association does not intend to desist from its efforts for the suppression of the habit complained of until the question is settled one way or other, either by the enforcement or the repeal of the law. In Boston the following notice has been placed on all the cars of the West End Street Railway Company: "The Board of Health adjudges that the deposit of sputum in the street cars is a public nuisance, a source of filth, and cause of sickness, and hereby orders that spitting on the floors of street cars be, and hereby is, forbidden." Above this is posted a copy of the statute stating that the fine for infringement of the order of the Board of Health is 100 dollars (£20). At Holyoke, Mass., the order runs: "When it comes to spitting on the car floor, Don't." In the village of Saranac Lake, New York, there are stringent regulations against spitting in public places. A law to the same effect was passed some time ago by the Board of Supervisors of San Francisco. A similar enactment has been made by the Board of Health of Brooklyn, Mass. At a recent meeting of the Albany Board of Health, the health officer was directed to notify the authorities of the Albany Railway that a notice must be placed in each carriage forbidding expectoration therein. That these laws are not intended to be mere expressions of a pious opinion appears from the fact

that fines have been inflicted in Philadelphia, Chicago, and elsewhere, for violation of the rule against spitting. A prominent Chicago lawyer sued a street railway company for 50,000 dollars, because he was arrested for spitting on the floor. We regret to be unable to state the result of this interesting action, but we hope that the plaintiff was nonsuited. On account of the difficulty in carrying out a similar order by the Health Department of St. Louis, it has been suggested that a few special cars should be reserved for those citizens who insist on exercising their rights of free expectoration, labelled "Spitting Cars." An American paper expresses the opinion that this would cure the "human hogs" who indulge in this practice, but we venture to doubt it. The facts which we have stated at least prove the growth of a healthy public opinion in the States in regard to the matter, and doubtless the citizens of the great Western Republic will in time cease to look upon the ejection of their sputum in public places as a manner of asserting their freedom. Here, although we do not, as Dickens said of the Americans, illustrate Dove's law of storms by promiscuous expectoration, we are too tolerant of the practice. It is much to be wished that an organised movement for the repression of this loathsome practice were set on foot.

A VICTORY FOR MEDICINE.

As no official report of the proceedings of Grand Committees is required by the House of Commons, the general public must either attend personally to hear the debates, or content themselves with the scrappy and occasional information provided in the daily press, and it is therefore more than probable that the important victory gained for medicine on May 6th may not obtain due recognition. We refer to the amendment carried by Mr. Davitt that one of the Prison Commissioners shall be a medical man skilled in mental diseases. The powerful if somewhat sombre eloquence of the member for South Mayo was vigorously aided by Mr. John Burns, whose brisk and breezy style of speaking, and evident familiarity with the necessities of the prison population, and the responsibility of those who have the regulation of their lives, materially helped to carry the proposal by 25 votes against the 7 followers of the Home Secretary. Mr. Burns had no difficulty in showing with practically unanswerable force that if we wish to treat with due regard to reclamation as well as deterrent seclusion a hapless set of folk, who are not only too often hereditarily predisposed to the crime amidst which they are afterwards brought up, we must place among the superintending body someone skilled in physiology and psychology. Many of those whom we are compelled to shut up like wild beasts behind iron bars are born with wretchedly-balanced minds, and are frequently hovering on the border line which separates the gaol from the madhouse; and in the interest of these miserable beings we hope that Sir M. White Ridley will loyally adopt the finding of the Committee, and produce in the end a Prisons Bill worthy of the great traditions of the office which he so successfully fills.

HOSPITALS OF PASSENGER-SHIPS.

DR. WELLESLEY HARRIS, in his report on the port sanitary district of Southampton for 1897, gives in tabular form an exhaustive account of an examination of twenty-eight passenger vessels in respect of their accommodation for the isolation of cases of infectious sickness occurring on board. Such examination has led him to the conclusion that there is much need for improvement as regards situation, cubic space, ventilation, lighting, and lavatory accommodation in connection with these hospitals, which, moreover, are not as a rule provided with a sufficient number of berths. A hospital far aft on the poop deck, with free circulation of air, a minimum of 200 cubic feet per berth, having complete isolation, separate offices, and means for treating two diseases in both sexes—such is Dr. Harris's claim for a passenger vessel. Wherein the ships examined failed to fulfil his views is shown in the table which he gives. His report should be of

use to steamship companies that desire to place their vessels in a condition best calculated to meet emergencies in these days of travel.

PRESENTATION TO SIR WILLIAM STOKES.

AN interesting ceremony took place in the Royal College of Surgeons, Dublin, on Saturday, May 7th, when an address and some valuable plate were presented to Sir William Stokes on the completion of his twenty-fifth year of office as Professor of Surgery in the School. The subscribers comprised many old and present pupils, his colleagues and numerous admirers, including Lord Lister, Sir James Paget, and Professor Ogston, of Aberdeen, who was able to be present. The chair was occupied by Sir William Thomson, President of the College, who made the presentation, and speeches were delivered by Sir Charles Cameron, Sir George Duffey, and Mr. Myles. Sir William Stokes made a most effective reply, marked as it was by great eloquence; and he made touching allusion to the gift to Lady Stokes which accompanied the presentation. In the evening the Professors entertained their colleague at dinner. Sir Charles Cameron was in the chair, and there were also present Sir Wm. Thomson, Sir George Duffey, Professor Ogston, Dr. James Little, Professor Frazer, Mr. Myles, Dr. J. W. Moore, Mr. Heuston, and many others.

LIQUID HYDROGEN.

ON Tuesday last, Professor Dewar, at the Royal Institution, accomplished a feat which he and many other investigators have been seeking to perform. Other experimenters have believed that they had succeeded in producing a trace of liquid hydrogen, but Professor Dewar actually produced as much as a wineglassful of the liquid gas in five minutes, and had the supply of hydrogen been larger the process would have been capable of producing any quantity. The boiling point of the liquid is placed at from 30° to 35° of absolute temperature, that is to say, at about 240° C. below zero. A tube closed at the lower end, when immersed in the liquid hydrogen was almost instantaneously filled with solid air. No fact could demonstrate in a more striking manner the extraordinary degree of cold of liquid hydrogen. The density of the liquid (0.6, water being unity) far exceeds that arrived at by calculation, a matter of great scientific interest. Using liquid hydrogen, helium was also liquefied on Tuesday last, and its boiling point is estimated to lie not very far from that of hydrogen. Professor Dewar communicated a preliminary paper on these new and important observations to the Royal Society on Thursday afternoon.

IRISH LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD.

DR. THOMAS J. STAFFORD has been appointed Medical Commissioner of the Local Government Board, Ireland, in room of Sir Francis Maccabe. Dr. Stafford is a Licentiate of the College of Surgeons and Physicians, 1882. He first served as a medical officer to the dispensary and the workhouse hospital in Boyle, co. Roscommon, and some years ago was appointed a medical inspector under the Local Government Board. He has proved himself a very capable officer, and it is hoped that he will be able to suggest and carry out some much-needed reforms in the Poor-law Medical Service in Ireland.

DEFECTIVE ARMY LITTERS.

THE Special Correspondent of the *Times* lately in Egypt, in a letter addressed to that paper, (see *Times* of May 9th) comments on the replies recently given in the House by Mr. Brodrick to Sir Alfred Hickman and Sir J. Fergusson to which we adverted in the *JOURNAL* of May 7th. In reference to Mr. Brodrick's statement that the provision of folding hoods for the litter has been "under consideration," the writer says that it must have been "under consideration since 1885," as in carrying the wounded from Metammeh to Korti exactly

the same pressing need was felt for some protection from the sun; and he urges that relatives and friends of those now out in the Soudan are entitled to ask that they shall not be told after the next fight that Roentgen rays and proper stretchers are "on the way out." It seems strange that with former bad experience of "hoodless" litters nothing has been done during the past thirteen years to remedy a grave defect in the transportation of wounded and sick in the desert.

MATERIA MEDICA.

THE newly-appointed Lecturer on Pharmacology at Oxford, Dr. J. Smith-Jerome, perhaps better known as Dr. W. J. Smith, delivered a public lecture on "Pharmacology: its Aims and Methods." In the course of an extremely interesting and eloquent address, the lecturer took the opportunity of urging that the greater part of materia medica should be relegated to its natural habitat—the druggist's shop. Such an opinion must be welcome to many when expressed by so competent an authority.

SURGEON ARTHUR R. BANKART, M.B., R.N., has been appointed a member of the Fourth Class in the Royal Victorian Order.

THE President (Dr. Frederick Wallace) and the Council of the Metropolitan Counties Branch of the British Medical Association will give a *conversazione* on June 7th. It will be held, by permission of the President and Council of the Royal College of Surgeons, in the Museum of the College in Lincoln's Inn Fields.

MR. JOHN W. TAYLOR, F.R.C.S., gave the first of the course of Ingleby Lectures for 1898 at Mason University College, Birmingham, on Wednesday, May 11th. Subsequent lectures will be given on May 18th and 25th at 4 P.M. The subject of the course is Extrauterine Pregnancy.

DR. NAPIAS, the well-known sanitarian, has been appointed Director of the Assistance Publique of Paris in the room of Dr. Peyron, who has resigned. Dr. Napias, who is a member of the Académie de Médecine, has been Inspector-General of Charitable Institutions for some years, and is the author of numerous important writings and reports on subjects of hygiene and charity administration.

SIR WILLIAM O. PRIESTLEY, M.P. for the Universities of Edinburgh and St. Andrews, presided at the dinner of the Edinburgh University Club at the Holborn Restaurant on May 11th. There was a large gathering, including Sir Samuel Wilks, Bart., Sir Joseph Fayrer, Bart., Sir George Robertson, K.C.S.I., Professor Masson, and Dr. Henry Barnes, of Carlisle. The toast of the evening was given by the Chairman, and the health of the Chairman by Sir Joseph Fayrer.

THE BUBONIC PLAGUE IN MANCHURIA.—Dr. J. J. Matignon, Physician to the French Embassy in Peking, records the prevalence last year of an epidemic disease restricted to the Valley of Solenko in Manchuria. This disease is very contagious, is nearly always fatal, has a very rapid course (thirty-six hours), and is characterised by grave typhoid phenomena, deep prostration, a temperature reaching and passing 40° C., and by the production of several buboes specially in the groins, axillæ, and behind the ears. The buboes rarely suppurate, death supervening too quickly, and sometimes they are wanting. The plague begins about the end of July, attains its maximum intensity in August or September, and disappears in October. It is believed to have been brought to the district by workmen from Charitong and the southern provinces. So far it has been confined to the Valley of Solenko, but communication with Russia may easily lead to its propagation.