

recommended the acceptance of the scheme of apportionment between hospital and medical school for the year 1915 as satisfying the conditions attached to the grants made by the Fund. The report was seconded by Sir John Tweedy and carried unanimously. A report of the Convalescent Homes Committee, recommending that under certain circumstances a special application from the National Association's Sanatorium at Benenden for an emergency grant of a limited amount should be granted, was moved by Sir William H. Bennett, seconded by Sir W. Watson Cheyne, and carried.

In acknowledging a vote of thanks, moved by the Chief Rabbi and seconded by Viscount Mersey, the Speaker said that it must be expected that as the war continued the margin of any eleemosynary funds available for the general charities of the country must shrink to a considerable extent. Fortunately, the Fund had got through its difficulties extraordinarily well, but next autumn or a year hence a considerable shortage might be shown.

THE HOUSING OF A VIRILE RACE.

We called attention recently to two inquests held by the coroner for Southwark with regard to the death of a woman and a boy in the Tabard Street area. It appears that in February it was considered that circumstances arising out of the war justified the London County Council in not proceeding with the execution of the scheme, but the Local Government Board has now issued an order permitting a modification of the scheme so as to enable the Council to demolish some 268 buildings, in addition to those already demolished. The chairman of the Working Classes Committee has informed the Council that the total number of buildings demolished, or about to be demolished, is 420. The original scheme proposed the demolition of 503 premises, occupied by about 2,600 people. It was hoped that accommodation for 600 people would be found in September.

Correspondence.

THE HORRORS OF WITTENBERG CAMP.

SIR,—When you were good enough to publish, in your issue of April 22nd, a letter from me upon the above subject, my intention was to bring a resolution before the annual meeting of the Laryngological Section of the Royal Society of Medicine requesting the Council of the society to delete the names of all Corresponding members of German birth from the roll of the section as an outward expression of disgust with the treatment, or rather, lack of treatment, meted out to our helpless and fever-stricken prisoners of war at the hands of their professional *confrères*. A resolution to this effect was sent by me to the honorary secretary of the section, but on submission to the president of the society was held by him to be *ultra vires*. I accordingly modified the original, and sent up a fresh resolution to the secretary of the Otological Section for discussion at the annual meeting upon May 19th, couched in the following terms:

That the members of the Otological Section of the Royal Society of Medicine desire to place on record their sense of abhorrence and disgust at the conduct of Oberstabsarzt Dr. Aschenbach and his colleagues in their abandonment of British prisoners of war during the epidemic of typhus fever at the Wittenberg prisoners of war camp, and request the Council of the Royal Society of Medicine to take such steps as they in their judgement may think fit to emphasize the feelings of indignation shared by members of the British medical profession.

This resolution was accepted as in order by the President of the Section, Dr. Albert Gray, Glasgow; was proposed by myself, seconded by Mr. Richard Lake, and supported by Dr. Watson-Williams.

After a somewhat prolonged and pointless discussion the resolution was put to the meeting and lost—nine members voting in its favour, thirteen against.

The majority of the members present at the annual meeting of the Otological Section were therefore in favour of making *no protest whatever* against German barbarity to those typhus-stricken prisoners of war who in their day of health and vigour had done what lay in their power to defend our hearths and homes. *Hinc illae lacrymae*.—I am, etc.,

Manchester, May 28th.

WILLIAM MILLIGAN.

"THE SOLDIER'S HEART."

SIR,—In a letter published in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL of May 20th Sir James Barr refers, in a somewhat scathing manner, to Dr. Florence A. Stoney as "a lady of whose existence I have only been aware so recently as January 22nd, 1916," and he advises her to read "more extensively and accurately."

Without wishing to be discourteous to Sir James Barr, the same advice may be tendered to him.

Dr. Florence Stoney has an assured position among English radiologists, and read an important paper on the x-ray treatment of Graves's disease at a meeting of the British Medical Association held at Liverpool in 1912. Since that time she has been steadily working at the subject and is at present doing valuable work at a military hospital in London. In the face of these facts there seems to be no excuse for Sir James Barr's ignorance of Dr. Florence Stoney's existence prior to January 22nd, 1916.—I am, etc.,

London, W., May 23rd.

ROBERT KNOX.

HOW MEDICAL WRITINGS MAY BE GIVEN A MARKED DEVELOPMENT.

SIR,—It is gratifying to find Dr. Mercier's unjustified condemnation of the use of the words "marked" and "develop" in medical literature set at defiance by Dr. Bramwell.

Why is it incorrect to employ "marked" as an intensive to lend emphasis to a substantive or phrase, as Dr. Mercier would have us believe? Has it not been used in this sense by good English authors, and gained general acceptance? Surely Dr. Mercier's logic has run amuck when he contends that "marked" is used by writers as equivalent to slight or scanty!

The protagonist who is so jealous of the legitimate employment of words ought to have adduced some definite instances in which the much maligned adjective had been used with such an inverted meaning by a sane author.

Moreover, the scholarly "M.D." who sympathizes with Dr. Mercier in his plea for greater clearness in medical writings, and who deprecates slipshod speech, would be well advised to deliberate carefully before espousing the cause of a literary critic who, like Dr. Mercier, introduces weird and uncouth expressions in his correspondence.—I am, etc.,

Glasgow, May 30th.

I. H. LIPETZ, M.B., Ch.B.

THE MEDICAL OFFICERS, MERCANTILE MARINE.

SIR,—The suggestion made by Surgeon-General Evatt that ship's surgeons should be allowed to apply for commissions in the Royal Naval Reserve seems a good one.

He appears, however, to be somewhat "at sea" with regard to the functions of port sanitary medical officers. The duty of verification of the status and of approving the appointment of ship's surgeons lies not with the port sanitary authority, but with the Emigration or Shipping Department of the Board of Trade. As a matter of fact, all such appointments are approved at the port of clearance of passenger ships, except in very exceptional cases, when the surgeon has had to join the ship at the last moment, and then his credentials are examined by the Board of Trade emigration officer and submitted by him to the medical officer of the Board of Trade at the final port of call in Great Britain.—I am, etc.,

Plymouth, May 29th.

CHARLES J. COOKE, M.D., M.Ch.

The Services.

HONOURS.

COLONEL J. SMYTH, I.M.S., has been appointed an Honorary Physician to the King, vice Surgeon-General J. Pinkerton, deceased, February 12th, 1916; and Colonel J. Crimmin, V.C., C.B., C.I.E., I.M.S., vice Surgeon-General C. E. McVittie, deceased, February 18th, 1916.

EXCHANGES.

LIEUTENANT R.A.M.C., Regimental M.O., France, wishes to exchange appointment with officer in base hospital, casualty clearing station, ambulance train, or barge. C.C.S. preferred. Address, No. 2100, BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL Office, 429, Strand, W.C.

M.O. to Divisional Train, Army Service Corps, probably at home for some time, desires immediate exchange with M.O. in 50th Division abroad.—Apply No. 1950, BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL Office, 429, Strand, W.C.