

urban districts, all the others to remain as part of the adjacent rural district.

In our opinion, the better plan would be to abolish the distinction between urban and rural districts both in England and in Ireland. This would be most easily effected by establishing uniform local sanitary authorities in all unions under the name of sanitary committees. In Ireland, there might be also dispensary committees. The appointment of such sanitary committees is permitted by the English Act. It ought to be made compulsory in both countries.

In every union which contains a town having not fewer than 10,000 (? 5,000 in Ireland) inhabitants, and a town council, or improvement commissioners, or local board, such council, board, or commissioners, should be required to appoint a certain number* of their members to unite with the sanitary committee of the Board of Guardians, and to constitute a joint committee, which shall be the local sanitary authority, and by which all provisions of the Public Health Act, Diseases Prevention Act, Dispensary and Vaccination Acts, and other sanitary Acts mentioned in the Bill, relating to the cure or prevention of disease or removal of nuisances, shall be carried into effect.

The only differences, then, between what are called "urban" and "rural" authorities would be, that the former would contain an important element nominated by the town governing body. This would get rid of all useless and mischievous enactments concerning the separation or alteration of sanitary districts.

To prevent the urban portion of such joint committee from interfering with the management of parts of the union lying outside of the town, it would be advisable to limit their joint action to the town or borough, leaving matters which affect merely the rural districts to that portion of the sanitary committee which is appointed by the Guardians. At the same time, many important sanitary provisions, limited at present to towns, should be extended to all local authorities, subject, in disputed cases, to the approval of the Local Government Board. The Diseases Prevention Act should be applied to all sanitary authorities, including the joint committees proposed for towns. Clause 8 should, therefore, be struck out.

We quite approve of the proposed amendment in Clause 10 (page 4, line 42), also of those in page 5 (lines 4, 5, and 10). Inspectors of nuisances should be required to attend to the directions of the medical officer of health, and to show cause for default in this respect.

The Dublin Sanitary Association suggest that Clause 5 be altered, so as to coincide with section 22 of the English Act of 1872.

The College of Physicians suggest the addition of the Diseases Prevention Act to the Acts mentioned in Clause 7. The Dublin Sanitary Association, again, maintain that the corresponding provisions of the English Act are better.

If a large number of urban districts be created, Clause 8 will lead to endless confusion.

In Clause 10 (page 4, line 42), all the bodies are unanimous in substituting for "a sanitary officer" the words the "medical officer of health". The Irish Medical Association maintains that the "inspector of nuisances" should be under the control of the medical officer. All the bodies agree that the word "medical" is required after "superintendent" in line 5 and line 10. Special qualifications should be required for this office of superintendence.

Clause 11 is quite defective. The bodies are unanimous in advocating that provision should be made for skilled medical and engineering supervision or inspection. To the Irish Local Government Board no medical or engineering or legal department is attached. There is no Simon, no Buchanans, Radcliffe, Thorne, etc. This is most important. The medical member of the Local Government Board (Dr. M'Donnell) does no more medical work than his colleagues; and the four inspectors, who are medical men, differ in no way from the other inspectors as regards their duties.

As to Clause 11, it may be a question whether the superior medical or engineering officers should not be appointed by the Local Govern-

ment Board, and be fully empowered to act everywhere as scientific assessors to the inspectors of the Local Government Board. This, in Ireland, would be better than, on the one hand, leaving the appointment of such superior officers to combinations of local authorities; or, on the other hand, following the example set in England, where the Local Government Board has virtually excluded Mr. Simon and his inspectors from local superintendence, except when they are "called in" to act, by authority of the President.

As to Clause 18, the Irish College of Physicians considers that the Local Government Board should have power to make provisional orders for the union of districts of their own motion; and the Dublin Sanitary Association holds that the ratepayers representing one-tenth of the rateable property of the district should have the right of applying for such union of their district with those surrounding it. (See recommendations of the Royal Sanitary Commission on this latter suggestion.) On this point we agree with the College of Physicians.

The Dublin Sanitary Association objects to the transfer provided for in Clause 27, as the Local Government Board possess no staff for the carrying out of the Alkali Act. The few chemical works in Ireland would scarcely justify the formation of such a staff in connection with the Local Government Board. The objection of the Dublin Sanitary Association would, however, be removed by the power proposed to be conferred on the Local Government Board for the appointment of superior scientific officers as assessors. The scientific staff might, of course, contain at least one member fully qualified to carry out the Alkali Act, and other such Acts.

The time mentioned in Clause 34 (two weeks) is unanimously deemed insufficient. We recommend an extension.

In Clause 37, the Dublin Sanitary Association maintains that all towns should be subject to it, and that the few exemptions (Cork, Kilkenny, Waterford, Blackrock, and Rathmines) at present existing should be dispensed with.

Regarding Clause 40, the Dublin Sanitary Association suggests that the principle of the English Borough Fund Act should be extended to Ireland, so as to prevent members of municipal bodies from conducting legal business on behalf of those bodies.

We quite agree with the recommendations as to Clauses 34, 37, and 40.

At a public meeting held last week at the Town Hall, Droitwich, convened by Dr. Roden, the Mayor, and at which he presided, it was unanimously resolved to establish a self-supporting dispensary.

MR. SCLATER-BOOTH, the President of the Local Government Board, obtained leave on Tuesday to bring in a Bill to amend and extend the Sanitary Acts. The Bill has not yet been printed.

IN consequence of preparations for the *conversazione* to be held on Tuesday, June 9th, the library of the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society will be closed on Monday and Tuesday.

DR. J. B. POTTER (late Assistant Obstetric Physician) has been elected Obstetric Physician, and Dr. W. Chapman Grigg Assistant Obstetric Physician, to the Westminster Hospital.

MR. CALLENDER will bring his course of lectures on the Formation and Early Growth of the Brain of Man to a close this day (Friday); and on Monday Professor Holmes will commence his course of six lectures on the Surgical Treatment of Aneurism, in continuation of his course of last year.

A PARLIAMENTARY return recently published states that the total number of pauper lunatics in the United Kingdom is 69,982, of whom 43,367 are in county, borough, royal, district, parochial (Scotland), and private licensed asylums, and 26,615 in workhouses and elsewhere. The estimated annual amount of the proposed grant of 4s. per head per week towards the maintenance of the former class is £451,017.

* This number might be fixed by the Local Government Board.

ACCORDING to the advices brought by the Brazil and River Plate mail, yellow fever causes a daily average of nine deaths at Rio Janeiro.

MEDICAL PROMOTION IN THE BRIGADE OF GUARDS.

ATTENTION has been once more called to the block of medical promotion in the Brigade of Guards. It is pointed out that this is due to the prolonged retention of office by the senior surgeon-major, who has already overstayed the limit of age by three years, and is thus depriving his juniors of the professional advancement which they have a right to expect after unusually long service in subordinate rank. This condition of matters is rendered more difficult to explain by the rigid way in which the clause of the Royal Warrant enforcing retirement at fifty-five has recently been enforced both in the Indian and home services.

SCIENTIFIC EXPEDITIONS.

THE Government having decided to send out expeditions to various points in the Indian Ocean, for the purpose of observing the transit of Venus, have, through the instrumentality of the Royal Society, agreed to the appointment of three naturalists to accompany the expeditions, representing geology, botany, and zoology. The selection has been made in favour of Mr. Henry Sclater, B.A., nominated by the University of Cambridge, as geologist; Mr. Balfour, a son of the celebrated Professor of Botany in the University of Edinburgh, will take that department; and Mr. George Gulliver, B.A., son of the late Hunterian Professor of Comparative Anatomy and Physiology at the Royal College of Surgeons, England (1861), has been nominated in the interests of zoology and zootomy by the University of Oxford. Liberal grants, it is to be hoped, will accompany these several appointments for the elucidation of science.

WORKHOUSE BUTTER.

WE learn from the *Poor-Law Chronicle* that, at the last meeting of the Guardians of the Hackney Union, the stores committee reported the receipt of a certificate from Dr. Tripe, the public analyst, giving the result of an analysis of a sample of the butter supplied for the use of the workhouse. He stated that it contained 84 per cent. of butter and foreign fat, 12.2 of water, and the remainder salt. He was not prepared to state the precise proportion of foreign fat, but in his opinion it was not less than 40 per cent., and the quantity of water 6 per cent. more than was found in good butter. The committee, under these circumstances, advised that notice be given to the contractor of the termination of his contract, and that he be informed that the guardians would not accept any tender from him in future. The Chairman said it was open to the board to direct legal proceedings if they thought proper to do so, but the committee did not think that it was for them to advise such a course. Mr. Prince thought they ought to call upon the contractor to pay a contribution of £20 to the Hackney Benevolent Pension Society, or some other local charity. Mr. Rumney suggested that he should be summoned to attend before the guardians. Eventually, the motion for the adoption of the report was agreed to unanimously.

WEEKLY WAGES AND PROVIDENT DISPENSARIES.

A FEW weeks ago, we noticed the conference which was lately held at the East End of London, with a view to placing some of the existing free dispensaries upon the provident footing. The proceedings of the conference have now been published in the form of a pamphlet. The most important statement, and to the readers of this JOURNAL the most novel, is contained in an addendum, supplied by Dr. Ford Anderson. Indeed, the facts and figures mentioned by Dr. Anderson are so interesting, and it is of so much importance that they should be generally known, that we reproduce them entire.

Addendum.—The statistics quoted by Dr. Ford Anderson may be thus summarised. He took 100 cases of provident dispensary patients, as they happened to come, and found the total wages, in the 100 families which they represented, £120:2:8 per week, giving an average per family of £1:4:0½. Of these 100 heads of families, 50 were small tradesmen, mechanics, or skilled workmen, earning, on the average, £1:9 a week; 27 were labourers, earning £1:1:10

a week; and the remaining 23 were widows, laundresses, or domestic servants, earning, on an average, 15s. 6d. a week.

Again, he took 100 instances of free dispensary cases, furnished from the books of the Holloway and North Islington Free Dispensary, as they came, and found that the total earnings of the 100 amounted to £111:12, giving a weekly average of £1:2:8. Of these 100, 49 were small tradesmen or mechanics, earning £1:16:3 a week; 23 were labourers, earning £1:0:6; and 28 were labourers, earning 17s. 4d. a week.

From a comparison of these two sets of cases, it would appear: (1) that the better class of workmen and artisans avoid the free dispensaries; and (2) that it is possible for persons earning so moderate a wage as 15s. a week to belong to provident dispensaries. The penny a week paid by adults, and the halfpenny a week (or less) for children, are cheerfully contributed to render the family independent of gratuitous medical attendance, and are much less than the value of the time spent in seeking governors' letters, and in waiting till their cases are called at the free dispensaries.

It is often said, by those who are but little acquainted with the facts of the case, that those who attend the free dispensaries, and the out-patient departments of hospitals, are too poor to join provident dispensaries. It is said that their earnings are so small, and so precarious, that they could not be expected to pay even three halfpence a week for themselves; and hitherto, however strong our conviction was that they could well afford to contribute towards their own medical relief, we have had no statistics to adduce in support of our opinion. Now, however, Dr. Ford Anderson has enabled us to point out, that even persons earning so moderate a wage as 15s. a week, find it for their advantage to belong to provident dispensaries. With such facts as these before us, it is difficult to resist the conclusion that the provident system ought to be the rule, and the eleemosynary system the exception, in the administration of out-door medical relief.

ROYAL MEDICAL BENEVOLENT COLLEGE.

AT the annual election of Foundation Scholars, on the 28th ultimo, the following candidates were successful, viz.: Morris, Bowe, Lambden, Godley, Webb, Allinson, Savery, and Hoskins. The successful pensioners were: Mrs. Mathias, Mrs. Barnes, Mrs. Howell, Mrs. Meredith, Mrs. Phillips, Mrs. Jenkins, and Mr. King.

A "BLACK HOLE" IN LANCASHIRE.

SOME astounding statements, the *Manchester Examiner* says, have been made at a meeting of the Oldham magistrates, respecting the condition of the cells for the confinement of prisoners at the Town Hall. It appears that the cells, both in number and construction, are quite inadequate for the purpose they were designed to serve. There are only four cells, and in them, on Friday night, sixteen prisoners were stowed away. In the morning, the air was so bad that the police officials, who had to bring out the prisoners, were almost overpowered by the impure air, while some of the prisoners were in a state described as "heaving at the heart". Though the state of the cells has been frequently mentioned before the magistrates, nothing has been done to improve them, but there is now a prospect that action of some sort will be taken without further delay.

BASTARD CHARITY.

WE have received from Dr. Campbell Black a pamphlet "On Medical Charities". It is of local rather than of general interest; but it serves to show that in Glasgow, as in many other large towns, the legitimate medical charities are sadly abused, and that some bastard charities have been set on foot, which, in truth, are no charities at all, but merely professional speculations. These faults are too apparent to escape notice, and they have been often pointed out in this JOURNAL. It has now become a serious question how they ought to be met. Possibly, it might be well for the Colleges to express some opinion as to the limits of charitable practice; thus protecting the public against misleading enterprises, and, at the same time, defending the sphere of remunerative practice which is open to their *alumni*. Or, it has been proposed that all charities—medical and non-medical alike—should be obliged to register themselves. The mere publication of such a register would be

advantageous to all *bonâ fide* charities, while it would have a deterrent effect upon such as were speculative or fraudulent. Dr. Campbell Black's style is rather wanting in dignity, and calculated to give unnecessary offence; but, in a great battle, even the lightest skirmishing is useful.

PROVIDENT MOVEMENT AT HASTINGS.

A PUBLIC meeting, called by the Mayor, was held at Hastings, on Tuesday, the 26th ult., to take into consideration the propriety of forming a provident dispensary for the borough. Many influential clergy and medical men attended, and took part in the proceedings. The chairman explained that the proposal had arisen from a desire to relieve the demands upon the existing charities, as well as to foster a spirit of independence amongst those who were in a position to make some payments for medical assistance. A resolution in favour of establishing a provident dispensary was moved by the Rev. Dr. Crosse, and seconded by Dr. Greenhill. The latter mentioned that Mr. Brassey, M.P. for the borough, had expressed his willingness to subscribe £100 for the purpose of the new dispensary. Altogether, the utmost unanimity prevailed, and a committee was appointed to carry out the necessary arrangements. In closing the meeting, the mayor expressed his conviction that such a dispensary would not merely be beneficial in itself, but that it would be the means of improving the general state and condition of the other charitable institutions in the town.

THE LEVÉE.

THE following members of the medical profession were presented at the levée held on Monday, by His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, on behalf of Her Majesty: Surgeon C. A. Atkins, 7th Royal Fusiliers, on return from the Gold Coast; Dr. Bushell, Physician to Her Majesty's Legation, Peking; Deputy Surgeon-General A. Barclay, M.D.; Surgeon-Major R. S. Bateson, Bombay Army; Assistant-Surgeon Owen Coleman, M.D., 3rd Royal Surrey Militia; Surgeon-Major S. C. Courtney, Bengal Staff Corps; Surgeon-Major F. Collins, M.D., Army Medical Department; Dr. William Cormick, Physician to the Persian Legation; Staff-Surgeon A. G. Colquhoun, R.N., on return from the Gold Coast; Surgeon-Major R. C. Chandra, Bengal Army; Dr. Concanon, Hampshire Artillery Militia; Staff-Surgeon Richard Eustace, R.N., on return from the Gold Coast; Surgeon-Major Max Grant, M.D., Army Medical Department; Surgeon-General C. A. Gordon, M.D., C.B., on promotion; Surgeon-General Thomas Hastings; Deputy Surgeon-General Sir A. D. Home, V.C., on being made a K.C.B.; Surgeon A. R. Hall, Army Medical Department; Surgeon-Major R. W. Jackson, C.B., Army Medical Department, on return from the Gold Coast; Surgeon-Major W. R. Kerans, Army Medical Department; D. P. Kavanagh, Assistant-Surgeon, Oxfordshire Militia; Surgeon-Major G. McNulty, Army Medical Service, on promotion; Staff-Surgeon F. H. Moore, R.N., on promotion, and return from the Gold Coast; Deputy Surgeon-General W. A. Mackinnon, C.B., on promotion; Sir W. M. Muir, K.C.B., M.D., on appointment as Director-General of the Army Medical Department; Professor Owen, on being made a C.B.; Surgeon-Major J. O'Nial, Army Medical Department; Surgeon-General W. Rutherford, M.D., C.B., on promotion; Staff-Surgeon Walker Reid, M.D., R.N., on return from the Gold Coast; Deputy Inspector-General John Watt Reid, M.D., R.N., on return from the Gold Coast; Surgeon A. Turner, M.D., Army Medical Department, on return from the Gold Coast.

PRISON CELLS.

Two inquests (says the *Pall Mall Gazette*), were held on Friday, in last week, on the bodies of two prisoners, who died in the House of Correction, Coldbath Fields, Clerkenwell. In both cases, the cause of death was shown to have been disease of the lungs. There does not appear to be any ground, in either of these cases, for attributing the disease from which the prisoners died to any fault in the arrangements of the prison; but it is a question, well worth the consideration of prison reformers, whether improvements are not urgently required in

the system of warming and ventilating the cells in most of the prisons in which prisoners are confined in this country. No one can inspect a prison, without being painfully struck by the damp and gloomy appearance of the cells generally, and the wan, unwholesome looks of their occupants. It should be remembered that life in a prison is carried on under abnormal conditions, and that the change from an existence of fresh air and hard exercise to one of close confinement, aggravated by mental depression, must of itself prove, in nine cases out of ten, a severe trial to the constitution. A prisoner cannot promote or restore the circulation of his blood by hard walking or running. His daily exercise in the prison yard is no substitute for hard bodily labour or a brisk "constitutional"; he is, therefore, far more liable to get "chilly", and to imbibe the seeds of lung-disease, than those outside the prison walls, and probably requires far more warmth than if he were free to pursue the usual occupations of a free man. Nor should it be forgotten that the gloom of his cell is never cheered by the rays of the sun, or enlivened by the glow of a coal fire.

ST. MARYLEBONE GENERAL DISPENSARY.

A MEETING of the Board of Directors of this Dispensary was held on June 3rd, 1874, to consider proposals of a subcommittee, specially appointed for the purpose, for placing the above institution on the provident system. It was resolved to place this dispensary forthwith under a partial provident system for a six months' trial; and, if the result be favourable at the end of that period, to establish the provident system permanently. All patients without letters of recommendation have now to pay a stated sum.

RECENT METEOROLOGICAL RETURNS.

DURING the twenty-three days ending with Thursday, May 21st, the mean temperature at the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, averaged only 46.4 deg., which was 5.1 deg. below the average for the corresponding period in fifty years. During the nine following days, which ended on Saturday last, there was a daily excess of temperature to the extent of 4 deg. above the average. During the former cold period, easterly winds prevailed continuously; during the latter warmer season, the general direction of the wind was from the W.S.W. The rainfall measured at the Royal Observatory amounted to but 0.15 of an inch in the five weeks ending Saturday, May 23rd; and during last week no rain was measured, except on Monday, when, in the thunderstorm, rather more than a quarter of an inch of rain fell. The rainfall in England was very variable: in Bristol, only the hundredth part of an inch was measured during the seven days, whereas the fall in Birmingham was 2.20 inches.

LIVERPOOL LADIES' CHARITY AND LYING-IN HOSPITAL.

FROM the fifth Annual Report of these amalgamated charities, it appears that their fusion has not been attended with the satisfactory results which were anticipated, either as regards their financial position or the amount of relief afforded. With respect to the former, we learn from the concluding paragraph that "there is a considerable falling off in the subscription-list, which is much to be regretted, and compels the Committee to fall back on their invested funds, so much as £1,000 having been called in during the last three years". The following table, given in the same report, speaks for itself.

Number of Patients during Five Years.

	In-patients.		Out-patients.	Dispensary patients.
	Labour.	Special.		
1869	199	29	1594	5903
1870	235	85	1841	7426
1871	155	113	1777	7496
1872	189	141	1758	8014
1873	150	99	1584	8190

Thus, with the exception of the dispensary, in which there is a slight increase, there is a considerable falling off in all the other departments. The first Annual Report of the amalgamated charities, issued in 1870, gives the balance-sheet of the individual charities separately, and enables us to ascertain the financial position of each prior to their

fusion. From it we learn that, in the Ladies' Charity, the total cost of each case of labour attended, including midwives' fees, relief and allowances, matron's salary, house-rent, etc., was only 9s. 10½d. For this small sum, each patient was attended in her confinement at her own home by a trained and experienced midwife, medical attendance being procurable gratuitously when required; an allowance of half-a-crown in money was given, and, in addition, certain comforts, such as tea, sugar, etc. Making all allowances, the cost of patients confined in hospitals is considerably greater than of those delivered at their own homes; for we have an expenditure of £835 for 199 labour and 28 special patients, or £46 more than the whole expenditure of the 1,594 home-deliveries. Now, the object of all charities is to do the greatest amount of good at the smallest expenditure, due regard being had to efficiency; and it appears to be a matter for serious inquiry, as to whether the 199 patients of 1869 and the 720 patients of the four following years could not have been attended equally well at their own homes, and at considerably less cost. Still more is this suggested by what we are told in the fourth Annual Report; viz.: "There appears to be a difficulty in bringing in cases for confinement at the hospital, owing mainly to the disinclination of the patients themselves, the applicants for relief preferring to be treated at their own homes." Such being the case, and the cost of in-patients being (as we have seen it is) at least six times as much as that of out-patients, it is less remarkable that the numbers have decreased now to a lower figure than for many years past, than that they should be so high as they are, or, indeed, that the indoor labour department should be kept up at all. And, when we consider the relative mortality of in- and out-patients, there can be no doubt that in every respect it is better for patients to be confined at their own homes by properly educated midwives; hospital accommodation being reserved for those only where, from distortion of the pelvis, previous flooding, or abnormal presentation, unusual attention is requisite, or operative manipulation demanded.

HOSPITAL SATURDAY AND SUNDAY AT ROCHESTER.

It is gratifying to know that the response made to the appeal of the trustees of St. Bartholomew's Hospital at Rochester has been of a very satisfactory nature. On both days, the sum realised amounted to considerably more than that collected on former occasions. Last year, Hospital Saturday realised £66 : 1 : 7; whereas, on the late occasion, the sum collected amounted to £129 : 7 : 5. So also with Hospital Sunday: last year, the sum collected amounted to £191 : 19 : 1; while on the late occasion it rose to £287 : 1.

THE LONDON TEMPERANCE HOSPITAL.

THE anniversary meeting in support of this institution was, a few days ago, held at the London Tavern, Bishopsgate Street, under the presidency of Sir Walter C. Trevelyan, Bart. The first report of the committee of management states that the first in-patient was admitted into the hospital, 112, Gower Street, on October 6th last, and down to the end of April the total number of admissions was, in-patients seventy-three, of whom sixty were perfectly cured; and out-patients 482. Some of the cases were very severe, and the board had every reason to believe that the whole of the patients were well satisfied with the attention and treatment they received. It had been found desirable not only to exclude all intoxicating beverages and alcohol, not prescribed as a drug, except under stringent conditions, but to lay down the rule that the medicines should be compounded, if possible, without any spirituous menstruum or vehicle. This had been found practicable in nearly every case, and without detriment to the efficacy of the medicines. Attached to the report were statements from the medical officers, supplying particulars of the leading cases, with statistical details. Up to March 25th, the receipts were £2,510, and the expenditure £1,960, of which £1,231 was applied to preliminary or permanent outlay. The report earnestly appeals for additional pecuniary help, the board being of opinion that provision should be made for the reception of fifty in-patients. The Rev. Dawson Burns, after announcing that the report would be printed and distributed, read letters from the Dean of Car-

lisle and Mr. Samuel Morley, M.P., regretting their inability to attend. The chairman congratulated the meeting upon the success already obtained, and expressed his firm conviction that the non-alcoholic treatment of disease would eventually become generally recognised by the medical profession. Resolutions, in furtherance of the movement, were heartily adopted, the speakers to them being Dr. Grindrod (Malvern), Rev. Canon Ellison, Dr. Edmunds (of the Medical Staff), Mr. S. Bowly (Gloucester), Major-General Eardley Wilmot, Mr. J. R. Raper, Mr. T. Cash (chairman of the board), Mr. J. Hughes (the treasurer), Mr. F. Wright, and others. The meeting, which was very much crowded, closed in the usual manner.

THE ADULTERATION OF DRUGS.

AT the Worship Street Police Court, recently, Mr. Hannay had before him two summonses, taken out by direction of the authorities of Hackney parish, against two chemists and druggists, Mr. Nicholls, of 99, Wick Road, South Hackney, and Mr. Maizey, of 2, Market Road, Cassland Road, South Hackney, charging them with selling as unadulterated, milk of sulphur, which was adulterated, contrary to the statute.—Mr. Watts, the sanitary inspector, said that, on behalf of the parish, he desired to be allowed to withdraw. Notice of intention to make this application had been given to the defendants.—Mr. Wontner, jun., thought that if the parish, having taken out the summonses, now desired to withdraw, they should at least pay the costs. The question raised in the case had been already decided before Mr. Arnold, at the Westminster police court. His clients were not charged with the adulteration, but, in fact, with not manufacturing in accordance with the *British Pharmacopæia*. The decision of Mr. Arnold, given last November, expressed the great hardship to which, in his opinion, the defendants were put, and the authorities appeared anxious to lay down the law that drugs should be manufactured according to the *British Pharmacopæia*, or not at all. He desired to publicly protest against such hasty proceedings on the part of such public bodies, who desired to hold up the drugs of the *British Pharmacopæia* as the only good drugs.

AMERICAN DIPLOMAS.

AT the Wolverhampton Police Court this week, Mr. William Fellows, a chemist and druggist, of North Street, in that town, was charged, on the complaint of Mr. Freeman, with using the title of "Doctor", his name not being upon the *Medical Register*. It appeared that the defendant had an American diploma, and that he had a brass plate on his shop-door bearing the inscription, "Dr. W. Fellows, Member of the Medical College of Philadelphia". The defence was, that he had never claimed to possess an English degree. The stipendiary held that the defendant had falsely and wilfully attempted to obtain credit from the public by his American diploma, and pronounced the fraud to be a gross one, but did not see why the case should not be dismissed on the defendant's undertaking not to practise as a physician, and paying the costs. The case was adjourned for this to be done. The defendant then said he should apply for a summons against Mr. Freeman for using on his brass plate the title of "Doctor", to which he had no more right than the defendant. The stipendiary said, "Let me tell you that you will not have the slightest chance, for his name is on the *Medical Register*."

THE BROMPTON HOSPITAL.

THE thirty-third annual meeting of the Governors of the Brompton Hospital for Consumption and Diseases of the Chest was held under the presidency of the Rev. Sir H. Foulis. The report of the committee of management, which was read by the secretary, stated that the number of patients in the hospital during the year ending 31st December, 1873, had been 1,211, of whom 896 had been discharged greatly benefited, 93 had died, and 222 were still in the institution. In the out-patients' department no less than 11,955 new cases had received treatment. Financially the year had been a good one, and legacies to the amount of £4,793 had been received. A suit in the administration of Miss Read's estate was still pending, so that the full amount of her bequest had not

been received. Special application, however, had been made to the Court of Chancery, and the sum of £61,938—being part of the legacy—was obtained. This money it was intended to devote to the purchase of freehold premises on the other side of the Fulham Road, for the extension of the hospital. Since this time last year the south wing of the institution had been increased by 36 beds in the purchase of two houses opposite, and this gave a total of 240 beds altogether in use at the hospital. The report was unanimously adopted, and, the report of the chaplain having been read and the auditors elected, the proceedings terminated.

THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

THE twenty-fifth annual session commenced in the city of Detroit, Michigan, on Tuesday last, June 2nd, at 11 A.M. The following are the sections and their officers. *Practice of Medicine, Materia Medica, and Physiology*: Dr. N. S. Davis, Chicago, Chairman; Dr. George E. Frothingham, Ann Arbor, Secretary. *Obstetrics and Diseases of Women and Children*: Dr. Theoph. Parvin, Indianapolis, Chairman; Dr. Montrose A. Pallen, St. Louis, Secretary. *Surgery and Anatomy*: Dr. Samuel D. Gross, Philadelphia, Chairman; Dr. Alonzo Garcelon, Lewiston, Secretary. *Medical Jurisprudence, Chemistry, and Psychology*: Dr. A. N. Talley, Columbia, Chairman; Dr. E. Lloyd Howard, Baltimore, Secretary. *State Medicine and Public Hygiene*: Dr. A. N. Bell, Brooklyn, Chairman; Dr. A. B. Stuart, Winona, Secretary. The bye-laws state that papers appropriate to the several sections, in order to secure consideration and action, must be sent to the Secretary of the appropriate section, at least one month before the meeting which is to act upon them. It shall be the duty of the Secretary, to whom such papers are sent, to examine them with care, and, with the advice of the Chairman of his section, to determine the time and order of their presentation, and give due notice of the same. The following committees are expected to report. *On Cultivation of the Cinchona-tree*: Dr. L. J. Deal, Pennsylvania, Chairman. *On the Treatment of Fractures*: Dr. Lewis A. Sayre, New York, Chairman. *On Gynaecology*: Dr. M. A. Pallen, Missouri, Chairman. *On some Diseases peculiar to Colorado*: Dr. John Elsner, Colorado, Chairman. *On Rank of Medical Corps of the Army*: Dr. J. M. Keller, Kentucky, Chairman. *On Prize Essays*: Dr. G. K. Johnson, Michigan, Chairman. *On the Progress of Otology*: Dr. D. B. St. John Roosa, New York, Chairman. *On American as compared with Foreign Winter Cures*: Dr. H. R. Storer, Massachusetts, Chairman. *On Railroad Injuries*: Dr. W. F. Peck, Iowa, Chairman. *On the Therapeutics of Ammonia*: Dr. P. J. Farnsworth, Iowa, Chairman. *On the Relation of Physiology to the Practice of Medicine*: Dr. E. W. Gray, Illinois, Chairman. *On Puerperal Fever*: Dr. W. O. Smith, Kentucky, Chairman. *On the Legal Relations of Moral Insanity*: Dr. E. L. Howard, Maryland, Chairman.

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE.

THE Museums and Lecture Rooms Syndicate, in their eighth annual report, state that the Regius Professor of Physic has again called their attention to the urgent need of better accommodation for the medical examinations. They think also that steps should be taken to provide a better room for the use of the Regius Professor of Medicine, as the present room is quite unsuited to the purpose to which it is now appropriated. A most interesting collection of human crania, made by the late Dr. Thurnam, of Devizes, has been presented to the Museum of Human Anatomy, through the liberality of Professor Humphry. A series of Devonian fossils, of great beauty, presented by Lady Burdett Coutts, deserves special mention, as also does the contribution of several hundred specimens of palæozoic and other fossils by Professor Hughes, and the gift of five hundred sterna of birds by Professor Newton and Mr. E. Newton, and of a skeleton of the extinct bird "the great Auk" by Professor Newton. The building of the Cavendish Laboratory is now finished, and the Laboratory is open for practical instruction in physics. The reports of Professors Humphry, Newton, and the Superintendent, Mr. J. W. Clark, give details of the past year's

work, and the additions made to the various collections. Professor Newton says:—"I have with gratitude to acknowledge the liberality of the Senate, in establishing a Demonstratorship of Comparative Anatomy. To this post I nominated Mr. T. W. Bridge, and the nomination having been confirmed by the Vice-Chancellor, I have the pleasure of informing the Syndicate that his practical class has been well attended, and, as I learn from his pupils, with much profit to them. The want of accommodation, however, for such men as avail themselves of the demonstrator's instruction, is thereby made more apparent than ever, and I must again earnestly request attention to the proposals for new buildings which were submitted to the University in the autumn of 1872."

CLUB CERTIFICATES.

AT the Salford Hundred intermediate sessions last week, the Chairman of the General Finance Committee said (*Pall Mall Gazette*) that it had come to the knowledge of the Committee that there was a practice among certain medical men who were called "club-doctors"—men who were paid a salary for looking after members of sick clubs—of sending medicine frequently to sick persons whom they had never seen, and of whose particular malady and symptoms they had no information except such as could be obtained from the persons who appealed to them to visit the case. Instance after instance had occurred to the knowledge of the coroners where this had been done, and the patient had died. The medicine had been administered, but the doctor had never visited the case. He (the Chairman) thought this was a practice which would be considered derogatory to the medical profession and most dangerous to the public. The coroners had remonstrated on several occasions, but without effect. There were some cases of a very suspicious nature indeed, where a person had died almost immediately after taking the medicine and surely if the only excuse were that the medicine sent was no medicine at all, but merely an excuse, it looked very like a fraud. But, on the other hand, if it were a drug, and was suited for a particular malady of the sick person, it was a most dangerous practice to send it without investigation and without inquiry. It certainly seems a strong measure to prescribe for patients without knowing their ailments.

THE CONTAGIOUS DISEASES ACTS.

THE agitation for repeal of the Contagious Diseases Acts has, we imagine, largely faded away; and, probably, if left severely unnoticed, it will die the natural death to which it seems foredoomed. But meetings are still held, here and there, at which the old misstatements are violently put forward. From time to time, also, medical men are assailed by persons who repeat them. A sensible little leaflet has been forwarded to us, which epitomises neatly some of the answers to the main propositions. It may be useful, therefore, to quote some of the paragraphs. After referring to the gross misstatements, by which signatures to monster petitions for the repeal of the Acts are obtained, it proceeds:

"Thus much for the manner in which these well-meaning people go about their work, and now for a few of their arguments.

"They tell us that these Acts 'indirectly admit prostitution to be a necessity'. It would be truer to say that they recognise it as a fact, for they no more recognise the necessity of prostitution than does the surgeon who treats the diseases resulting therefrom.

"But we all do know that prostitution is so deep rooted and wide spread, that practically it must be dealt with as if it were a necessity, just as we deal with alcoholic liquors.

"For, just as surely as drunkenness increases or decreases, in the same proportion as public-houses increase or decrease, so prostitution must increase or decrease as prostitutes increase or decrease. What will the hardened frequenters of brothels tell us? 'That they first yielded to the temptation as timid youths in the public streets'; and we cannot but believe that thousands of these would never have deserted the paths of virtue, had legislation but swept away the enticing harlots from our streets and byeways.

"We are next told that the Acts 'legalise an enormous vice'.
"This, again, is exactly the wrong way of putting it, for the effect and result of the enactment is assuredly not to legalise vice, but

to put strict restrictions upon it, and thus to bring it into smaller compass.

"None but medical men can see the fearful ravages of disease resulting from illegitimate prostitution; and when we know that this horrible disease is visited equally upon the pure and innocent wife and children, surely it is time that the Legislature should take the question in hand. 'To sacrifice the health and vigour of unborn creatures to the "rights" of harlotry to spread disease without interference, is a doubtful contribution to the progress of the race'.

"And now for the great argument that these Acts are framed 'to protect men while in the pursuance of vice'. There can be no doubt that the Act would protect the sensual man from receiving disease, but would it, therefore, encourage him in his wickedness? We believe not; but it would prevent the further spread of contagious disease, and if retribution does not follow a course of vice in this world, it must be reserved for the world to come.

"That 'virtuous girls are liable to apprehension, and subsequent examination as prostitutes', is a very exaggerated and narrow result of looking into the matter. The style and bearing of a loose prostitute is too apparent to allow of mistake, and woe to the policeman that dares to overstep his authority. We believe such a case could not occur; but granting that it might, is the possibility of it sufficient to form a barrier to a great and noble enactment for the good of thousands of our fellow-creatures? No. It would be as logical to say that that there should be no railway travelling, because accidents sometimes occur.

"Let us then, heart and soul, fight for the right, and try to influence all well-meaning people to go with us and support the Legislature in this great proposed remedy for the social evil. We are aware it does not go far enough, but it is a step in the right direction."

EMIGRANT SHIPS TO NEW ZEALAND.

We have reported some strong complaints from surgeons of defects in the emigrant ships to New Zealand, and now the *Pall Mall Gazette* makes the following remarks.

According to accounts from New Zealand, there seems to be much room for improvement in the arrangements made for the transport of emigrant families to the colony under the recent Loan Act. Formerly, the passage to the antipodes was regarded as a healthful and beneficial change, it being common for inferior vessels to bring out 300 or 400 emigrants in perfect health. But of late we learn, by the colonial papers, that the arrival of a vessel without quarantine to be performed is rare, and the reasons for this precaution are but too clear. The *Mongol*, a steamer only fifty days out from England, lost sixteen of her passengers, and had ninety-six cases of scarlet fever, measles, and other such disorders on board. A local inquiry showed that "the immigrants put on board this ship were in a sickly condition, and that the doctor shipped in London for her was discharged at Plymouth for misbehaviour". The *Scimitar*, arriving shortly afterwards with a fine passage out, had lost twenty-six of her 450 passengers; a fact not difficult to explain when it is added that, before starting, two families were put on shore who had been brought on board suffering from fever of a virulent type, resulting from half-recovered cases of measles, and that there was fever in the general dépôt in which the emigrants had been gathered. A third vessel, the *Inverne*, following these with a slow passage out, lost sixteen passengers out of 270. When it is added that, to one province, at least, men and women have been shipping as French vine-growers and domestic servants who, on arrival, hired a theatre and exhibited themselves in the cancan, it is not surprising that some dissatisfaction is expressed with the results obtained under the new system, and that the Agent-General is appealed to in the colonial press "to nip the growing mischief in the bud, so that the whole character of the New Zealand immigration should not be deteriorated".

POISONOUS SODA-WATER.

THE following is taken from the *Australian Medical Journal* for January 1874.

The subjoined letter was lately addressed to a daily contemporary. "If you consider the following facts worth inserting, I would feel obliged by your according me a small space in your valuable paper. A short time since, I was served with a bottle of soda-water at the bar of an hotel in Melbourne; almost immediately after, I had a violent retching, and threw off what I had just drunk, leaving a nasty metallic taste in my mouth. Being in good health at the time, I could not account for this sudden illness, and on the following day called again and got another bottle of the same beverage, which I took home and in a rude manner analysed, when, to my great surprise, I found it to con-

tain a very large portion of copper. On making some further inquiries, I learnt that the manufacturer of this beverage uses copper cylinders for the generation of gas used in the manufacture of the same, and that those cylinders have been in use for a number of years. I can assure my teetotal readers and others who like to indulge in a bottle of soda, that some of this hitherto considered innocuous beverage contains an ingredient quite as injurious to health as cocculus Indicus, fusel oil, or any of those materials said to be used in the adulteration of ales and spirits retailed in Melbourne." The subjoined, on the same subject, was addressed to an up-country journal about the same date. "Very lately I was requested to analyse some aerated water suspected of not being 'all right'. The drinking of a glass of it had been attended with unpleasant effects, similar in every respect to those experienced by your correspondent. Subjecting the sample I received to the proper analytical processes, it was soon proved that copper was present in proportion sufficient to render the soda-water unfit for use. Indeed, I have beside me a needle pretty thickly coated with copper extracted from one bottle of the water. Thinking that probably a mishap had caused this batch to be contaminated, some time after samples from the same source were obtained. Copper was again present, but in less quantity. The same is the result attendant upon testing another maker's aerated waters. Such experience leads me to the belief that soda-water, as made in Melbourne, is liable to be found at any time contaminated more or less with copper. But, while stating this, I have no desire to be an alarmist. To most people a minimum of copper in solution will cause no inconvenience. The manufacturers can control the amount, and sufficient care will reduce it to *nil*."

SCOTLAND.

CHAIRS OF CLINICAL MEDICINE AND SURGERY IN GLASGOW UNIVERSITY.

DR. MCCALL ANDERSON has been appointed to the newly instituted chair of clinical medicine, and Dr. George Buchanan to that of clinical surgery. These appointments leave two vacancies in the Andersonian University, where Dr. Anderson was Professor of Practice of Medicine, and Dr. George Buchanan of Anatomy.

IRELAND.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF IRELAND.

THE election of President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Council of this College took place on Monday last, June 1st. Mr. Joliffe Tufnell was elected President; and the contest for the Vice-Presidency terminated in the election of Mr. Edward Hamilton, who obtained 123 votes, whilst his opponent, Dr. Mapother, secured 72. All the members of the Council who offered themselves for re-election were returned with the exception of Mr. Archibald Jacob, who was unsuccessful. There were twenty-seven candidates for nineteen vacancies. The following are the office-bearers selected for the ensuing year. *President*: Joliffe Tufnell; *Vice-President*: Edward Hamilton; *Secretary*: William Colles; *Council*: Robert Adams, William Colles, John Hamilton, Frederick Kirkpatrick, Richard G. H. Butcher, Alfred H. McClintock, George H. Porter, B. G. McDowel, Albert Walsh, Edward Ledwich, Rawdon Macnamara, John Morgan, George H. Kidd, John Denham, M. Harry Stapleton, John K. Barton, Philip C. Smyly, William Stokes, Samuel Chaplin. The last five are new members.

CONJOINT EXAMINING SCHEME.

AT a meeting of Fellows of the College of Surgeons of Ireland, held on May 25th, it was resolved that no further steps should be taken to carry out this scheme until the Council has submitted the same to a specially convened meeting of the Fellows.

ROYAL MEDICAL BENEVOLENT FUND SOCIETY OF IRELAND.

THE annual meeting of this excellent institution was held on Monday last, at the College of Physicians in Dublin, the chair being occupied by Dr. Duncan, President of the College. The chairman referred to the satisfactory condition of the Society, there being £1674 available

for distribution for the year; and alluded to the branches in Belfast and India, which had contributed most liberally. Two legacies were received during the year, amounting to £220, and numerous donations, including £100 from Dr. Tagert; Lady Johnston, £100; Surgeon Johnston, £50; Dr. W. J. Purdon, £25; Dr. Whitaker, £25, etc. The total amount of subscriptions came to £663. The number of applicants this year was 94, 15 of whom were fresh cases; of the entire, 10 were medical practitioners, 73 widows, and 11 orphans. A vote of thanks having been passed to Dr. Duncan, the meeting separated.

IRISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

THE annual meeting of this Association was held on June 1st, at the College of Surgeons, Dr. Wharton, President, in the chair. The annual report stated that the Council congratulated the Society on an increase of pay having been conceded to the medical officers of the Royal Irish Constabulary; and alluded to the Public Health Bill now before Parliament, stating that representatives from the College of Surgeons, College of Physicians, Dublin Sanitary Association, Poor-law Medical Officers' Association, and their own Association, had been selected to watch the Bill, and the Council hoped that, by their suggestions and exertions, an efficient and useful measure might be obtained. The members, to the number of about seventy, dined together in the evening in the Albert Hall of the College of Surgeons.

THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF IRELAND.

THE Council has printed and circulated its report for the past year. The report contains the usual routine details about income and expenditure, attendance of members of Council, the condition of the library, museum, etc. Besides these, there are some points of special interest from a medico-political point of view. An opinion of the late Solicitor-General for Ireland informs the Council that "it cannot, with propriety, pay any sums of money out of the corporate funds, by way of gift or presentation, to retiring members of Council or professors". This decision was given about a year ago, when it was proposed by the Council to present, in accordance with a practice which had become ordinary, sums of money from the College fund to Drs. Hargrave and Benson on their retirement. On the same occasion, the Solicitor-General gave another opinion, which is also mentioned in the report, and seems to be rather severe; namely, that the Council "are not at liberty to pay the members of the Council who attend the examinations any fees for such discharge of duty". This is rather hard law, for, undoubtedly, the attendance of the members of Council is a useful supervision over the examinations, and entails considerable expenditure of valuable time, which has scarcely been compensated for by the small fee paid for such attendance. The report refers also to the Conjoint Examining Scheme, and contains the following resolution, passed by the Council on March 23rd, 1874, after the consideration of the resolutions of the College, of the 17th of the same month, referred to by us some time since: "That the Council of the College, elected in 1871, 1872, and 1873, agreed with the University of Dublin, the King and Queen's College of Physicians, and the Apothecaries' Hall, to form a Conjoint Scheme of Examination for Ireland, which Scheme has been confirmed by the existing Council; and as the Council of 1872 has, in the most direct manner, conveyed its sanction and approval of the Scheme above noticed to the General Medical Council, which body has delivered its approval of it, it is not competent for this Council to recede from its obligations to the medical authorities above named, and to the General Medical Council, without incurring a charge of breach of faith. That, under such circumstances, this Council, as the Executive of the College, feels bound most respectfully to dissent from the recommendations of the College, at its meeting held on the 19th instant." The Council, nevertheless, willingly considered such objections as the College might from time to time raise. We consider this was the only honourable course open to the Council. Yet the section of the College, who recently passed a resolution condemning the Conjoint Scheme, reiterated their opinions last week, although in a slightly modified form. May we ask, was the Coun-

cil asleep during the years 1871, 1872, 1873, when the Conjoint Scheme was constructed, agreed upon, and brought under its notice by the Council Report? Why is it that gentlemen, who were on the Council when the Scheme was agreed to, have suddenly come out of "the cave" to oppose it, after three years of long silence? There is a wonderful show of zeal for the interests of the Irish College of Surgeons suddenly developed, and now "Opposition to the Conjoint Examination Scheme" has become an electioneering banner—one not likely, we may suppose, to lead the Irish College to successful competition with its elder sister in London. Another sudden development of zeal for the College is in the wonderful influx of new Fellows. Surely something must have happened to the Licentiates of the Irish College, for they have become wonderfully anxious to obtain the Fellowship before the next election. There are unpleasant reports as to the source of the funds by which the heavy fees on the fellowship are paid. We hope the reports are untrue; but reports have reached us, and we feel bound to notice them, true or false, that candidates for collegiate honours are assisting in making votes, and we should be glad of a substantial denial as soon as possible. We thought our remarks about the railway tickets, and the action of the Council thereon, had prevented the possibility of even a report of this kind.

THE RIVER LIFFEY.

NOW that the warm weather has come, this disagreeable subject has again been placed in a prominent position. At present, the river is an eyesore and a nuisance, and at low water emits an effluvium which one would imagine could not be permitted to assail the olfactory nerves of the citizens, more especially of those resident along its quays, for a moment longer than was necessary; but years have now elapsed since this matter, a most important one in a sanitary point of view, has again been ventilated and brought forward in every possible way. The Corporation possess powers authorising them to adopt the plan of intercepting sewers recommended by Mr. Bazalgette for the drainage of Dublin; but that gigantic undertaking will take years before it is completed, and in the meantime some temporary arrangement might assuredly be constructed pending the formation of that system. At present, the sewage of the city falls along both sides of the Liffey; and when the tide is low, these shores are uncovered; the sun, acting on the deposited matter, causes most noxious and distressing exhalations to be eliminated, prejudicial to the health and the comfort of those who inhale them. A Mr. Warren has lately suggested that two side-water channels should be made along the walls; whilst between tidal gates, of a self-acting kind, water could be accumulated during the upflow; and, when the tide recedes, the natural downflow would open the gates, and the water would enter the side channels, flushing them and sweeping down the sewage, and leaving the bed of the river covered by the water. The plan seems a feasible one, and it or a similar temporary expedient is undoubtedly wanted without further delay.

A FEVER-NEST.

IN the return of the Irish Registrar-General for the week ending Saturday, May 23rd, is the following paragraph.

"The Deputy-Registrar of No. 1 South City District (Meath Street) states that 'a house in Braithwaite Street is a perfect fever-nest, and for the last two years has never for any lengthened period been without a case of febrile disease of some sort. A case of scarlatina has just ended fatally; another from it is in hospital; a case of fever has just been sent to hospital from it; and two of the inmates have only just returned from hospital, having had fever.'"

SURGERY BY TELEGRAPH.—A professional contemporary records a tale from Australia, of a fight between a few white men and a number of blacks at an outlying station. Several of the white men being wounded, instructions for dressing the wounds were sent by telegraph from a surgeon in Adelaide.

DR. ROLLESTON ON MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS AND THEIR PREREQUISITES.

AFTER the recent distribution of prizes at St. Mary's Hospital, Dr. Rolleston, who was in the chair, delivered an address. After some introductory remarks, he said :

I take it that a person who is put into the honourable position which I this day hold has generally something which he is glad to have the opportunity of saying from so good a standing point. And I wish to say a few words upon a subject to which I have of late devoted a very considerable amount of my very fully occupied time—to wit, the Examination System and the Prerequisites of Candidature. The system of requiring certificates of attendance at lectures and upon other courses of instruction, and the examination system, are two very distinct means intended to co-operate towards one end—that, namely, of securing to the public that its future physicians and surgeons shall, firstly, have had certain opportunities, and, secondly, have made certain use of them. I must not fail to add, what will disabuse any, either old or young, of the idea that I have anything very revolutionary to propose—namely, that these two systems are necessary as much in the interests of the future doctor as in those of his future patients, and that without some such apparatus and machinery as that which they represent many a man would lose chances of forming in himself habits of attention indispensable for any success, or indeed any virtue, which chances may never recur. Indeed, it is a matter of common observation, at least of possible common observation, and I would it were matter of more common remark, that it is necessary not only for the acquirement of habits which belong only in part to our intellectual nature, but even for the acquirement of purely intellectual accomplishments, that certain kinds of work should be done at certain times and fixed periods in a boy's, in a young or in an older man's life. Languages can be gained with greater facility before the age of twenty-five than they can ever afterwards; and the same may, I am inclined to believe, be said of the power of recognising and recollecting specific differences in zoology and botany. It is well that the same natural restriction does not invariably exist as to the power of mastering that of which, however, it is of more importance that early mastery should be gained than of almost any other subject—to wit, mathematics. These are the words of a man whose experience and success as an educator has been great, not intended for the particular case we deal with, and applying only in the way of analogy, but forcible in that way and appropriate.

There is but a certain time allotted for each thing to be done that we have to do, whether it belongs to this world or the other, and if we pass the allotted time it is too late for that work to be done. If you are idle here at school, it may for a short time make little difference, perhaps no perceptible difference at all. But you know perfectly well that that is not so always. After a time it becomes too late to recover what you have not chosen to take when it was within your reach. There are things which can be learnt when you are not twelve which can never be learnt so well afterwards; there are still more which must be learnt before you are seventeen or eighteen, or you can never really learn them at all. You may afterwards wish very much that you had not missed the chance; but your wishes will not give you back the power that is gone; you are too late. And the same holds good long after. Each time of life, as it comes, marks off the foundations of certain studies as done with; if you have not laid them by that time you never can. And precisely the same thing is true of other things besides studies. (*Temple Sermons*, ii, Ser. 15, p. 308.) So much for the good to be expected and attained by the observance of a regular curriculum. It admits no question. What does, I think, admit question, and what is, I think, capable of improvement, is the method for securing such observance. The method at present in vogue for this end is known as the "signing up" of certificates of attendance at lectures. Now, such a certificate can only really depose to the fact that a student was present at the delivery of particular sets of discourses or demonstrations; it cannot depose to his having profited by them. What the public wish to be assured of is the latter matter, and its results, in the shape of the possession by him of a certain amount of attainments and dexterity. But this can only be done by an examination held by one set of authorities or another; and the very first and the very last principle of any and every examination which deserves the name is the principle of English law—*De non existentibus et de non apparentibus eadem est ratio*. Nothing in the words of the examination statutes of any one university should influence the result of the examination, except what arises during or directly out of the examination itself. I do not question the good to be had from attending lectures;

I am well assured that good lectures, not over numerous, bless both him who gives and him who takes. The giver is benefited by having to put his knowledge into a compact form, so as to be readily transmissible and communicable in public; the hearer is benefited by obtaining orally, or rather auditorially, what it would have cost him more time to obtain, if indeed he could obtain it at all, by reading or otherwise. Besides, hearing is what is known as a "natural process", and no improvement in the way of printing can ever entirely supersede it or make it a barbarous anachronism. I say nothing of the advantage to be drawn from contact with a living personal source of knowledge, though it is clear that a few striking expressions, delivered by an earnest man *visâ voce*, may awaken more thought and create more lively interest than a whole volume of print, however well illustrated. For as iron sharpeneth iron so man the face of his friend. I see, know, and gratefully recollect the benefits of lectures; but the more excellent an institution is the more is it likely to be injured by compulsory enactments intended to govern or protect it. Attendance at morning or evening chapel, or both, is an excellent practice; but the making it compulsory has a very sure, I do not say an invariable, tendency to rob it of its beneficial effect. It is a more edifying sight to see a single individual going to such a service spontaneously, as I am told a very distinguished statesman, the junior member for a constituency not a hundred miles hence, may be seen doing in all weathers, than to see a whole college of young men hurrying to Divine service to have their attendance upon it entered as upon a roll call. I am glad to think that the answering a roll call, pure and simple, is allowed in some of our colleges to stand as an alternative for attendance in chapel. Now compulsory attendance at lectures, like compulsory attendance at chapels, aims at attaining something which I believe to be distinctly good, but which I also know to be as distinctly not securable by it.

I cannot see the wisdom of aiming at the unattainable, and as testimony to bodily attendance is the only result really attained by the process of signing up, I should distinctly limit the bearing of the documents I refer to to the scope really attainable—to wit, the scope of a roll call. I am informed that in one of the largest of continental countries the system of signing for students is entirely given up, it having been so much abused, and that if a student only passes his examinations well he need not have attended a single lecture. Hereby, however, I submit that the public are robbed of some of the security which they have a right to demand. No examination, however large a factor of it the practical part may be, can give entirely satisfactory proof that a man knows his subject thoroughly and practically: the elasticity of words, the power of verbal memory, the possibility of "preparing" and "grafting" a candidate for examination, as, in America and elsewhere, a mine is "prepared" and "grafted" for unwary speculators, are not all the heads under which sources of fallacy to examination might be enumerated. Hence, I should wish to secure for the public what a system of roll calls can secure—namely, the attendance of a student in a particular spot where particular opportunities for learning particular things should be available for him in a particular order and succession. This system of requirements should be made to tally with the system of examinations, and thereby teachers and pupils, examiners and candidates, would all alike be relieved from much that is onerous, unreal, and a snare. The examination system would dignify the system of the roll call, which, indeed, as aiming at something definitely attainable and attaining it, even if nothing more, would at any rate possess the dignity which faith possesses, that of "incorrupta fides nudaque veritas". Common sense would consider the advantage, sense of duty would enforce the necessity, of using opportunities whilst they were available and the two systems, that of examinations and that of the prerequisites for them, would be brought into a more harmonious and less burdensome solidarity than they at present enjoy.

I have been speaking of the duties of young men and of learners, but do not suppose that I think that older men and teachers, like myself, have not their duties too. I know that I have mine, and that I often perform them very much otherwise than I should, and wish to. One hears talk sometimes which makes one think that the talker supposes that morality belongs to one sphere and science to another, and that the two may impinge upon or collide with one another, but cannot otherwise influence each other. This is an entire mistake. "Faith" and "duty" are words which may, when on the outside of a tract, prepare us for finding ethical and other disquisitions *in pari materie* within its covers; but faith and duty, faithfulness and thoroughness, are also things which can no more be left out of the world of scientific work than they can or ought to be left out of "that other world" to which I have just alluded. Examining is scientific work; indeed, in these days, it is a work which occupies a very large portion of the time of many a scientific man, whether to his benefit or to that of science I do not stop to discuss. But I submit, and without any fear of contradic-

tion, that there is no work which calls for more exercise of conscience; no work—not even that of judge on the bench—which, when well done, illustrates more completely the truth of the old doctrine, “In justice all moral virtue lies involved”. An examiner has many temptations to strive against: the temptation to idleness; to give way to weariness; to treat the sameness of his subject-matter with perfunctoriness in dealing with it; to give way to feelings of pique when he finds that his own pet views or papers are entirely unknown to the examinee. Of course, a strong and upright man resists all these temptations; but strength and uprightness are largely or entirely moral qualities. I need not labour, however, at what is self-evident. Let me say a few words about the way in which a man’s moral nature is, or ought to be, called into activity, not when he is engaged in testing, but when he is engaged in communicating or acquiring knowledge. As regards the duties of a teacher when teaching, he is bound to beware of leaving any one side of a question, any one set of facts, in neglect and inadequately expounded. Imperfection of exposition in a teacher not only produces, in the second generation, so to say, imperfection of investigation in the hearer, but—as words terribly shoot back, like the Tartar’s bow, mightily entangling and perverting the judgment—such imperfection and want of fulness in the communication reacts by producing imperfection and want of fulness in investigation in the teacher himself. It is (trite remark) difficult to estimate the consequences of any one action; but it is easy to see that an example set by a person, himself set in authority, of slovenliness and inadequacy in his methods of work may hurt the consciences of his younger brethren, and have widely and lengthily ramifying consequences in neutralising chances for neutralising evil and suffering.

Having said thus much about the responsibilities of students and teachers *in presenti*, Dr. Rolleston concluded with some remarks upon the responsibilities which will gather round the student *in futuro*.

THE IRISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

THE annual public meeting of the Irish Medical Association was held on Tuesday last, Dr. Wharton, the President of the Association, in the chair. In his opening address, the President called attention to the great importance that some regulations should be enacted for the limitation of the sale of intoxicating drinks. He expressed his belief that howsoever admirable might be the provisions of the new Public Health Bill (Ireland), yet they would be of comparatively small practical importance unless means be devised to check the vice of intemperance. Dr. Wharton then alluded to the efforts of Sir Dominic Corrigan to close public-houses on Sundays, a measure which has hitherto not met with legislative success, but has been carried into practical effect by Archbishop Leahy in the town of Thurles with the happiest effects. Dr. Wharton pointed out how much of the broken-down health seen in hospital wards and dispensaries is traceable to intemperance; and threw out a suggestion whether the same cause does not, to some extent at least, contribute to the spread of enteric fever and zymotic disease generally. He also alluded to the baneful practice of sending children to fetch intoxicating drinks in open vessels, thereby giving them an early taste for drink; and concluded by exhorting his hearers and all who have the public good at heart to put forth their best efforts to render sanitary legislation as prohibitive as possible of intemperance. The Honorary Secretary then read the report which stated, amongst other matters, that the result of the inquiry by the Civil Service Commissioners into the complaints of the medical officers of the Royal Irish Constabulary has resulted in an increase of pay of two shillings per month per man. The same report, which allowed this increase, also recommends that the office of medical Poor-law commissioner should be abolished, and the Poor-law medical officers thereby deprived of the professional supervision provided for them by the Medical Charities Act, a step which has been protested against by the Council of the Irish Medical Association. Petitions from that body, together with the College of Physicians and College of Surgeons, were presented to Mr. Gladstone, who replied that there was no desire to exclude the medical element from the Local Government Board. The prosecution of defaulters in vaccination having been productive of a vast amount of annoyance and trouble to some of the dispensary medical officers, and doubts having arisen as to their right to the usual fee, the Local Government Board have stated that, if the justice before whom the proceedings are laid certify that expenses ought to be allowed, and ascertain the amount, the medical officer is entitled to be paid out of the poor-rates. The Chief Secretary for Ireland, having obtained leave to introduce a Public Health Bill, a conjoint committee, formed of the Irish Medical Association, the College of Physicians, the Royal College of Surgeons,

the Dublin Sanitary Society, and the Poor-law Medical Association, have prepared a measure which it is hoped will prove efficient, useful, and satisfactory.

Dr. Morgan, in the course of his remarks, referred to the tenth and eighteenth clauses of the new Public Health Bill as the most important, the first enacting that the medical officer should be, without option of refusal, the sanitary officer of that district, the dispensary district being taken as the limit of area by Sir M. H. Beach. The eighteenth clause of the Bill referred to the amalgamation of districts, where it was found that certain districts were, from their smallness or other causes, unable to provide for the working of the Act.

PASS AND PLUCK FOR THE FELLOWSHIP EXAMINATION OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.

AT the pass examination for the diploma of Fellow, which was brought to a close on Saturday last, it is stated that only six out of the nineteen candidates were successful. We publish a letter from a teacher in reply to the observations we were constrained to make last week, and we shall be pleased to see the subject further discussed. Several old anatomical teachers have, however, added testimony confirmatory of the correctness of our observations. From some of these, it appears that at Guy’s and St. Thomas’s Hospitals, former demonstrators attended as early as eight o’clock every morning; at the Charing Cross, we remember seeing Mr. Hancock at 8.30, his successor Mr. Hird attended at the same early hour. This, we believe, was also the case at St. Bartholomew’s, an old pupil of which writes that he was “always in the dissecting-room at eight, and soon afterwards met his teacher there”.

ASSOCIATION INTELLIGENCE.

BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION: FORTY-SECOND ANNUAL MEETING.

THE Annual Meeting of the British Medical Association will be held at Norwich, on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, August 11th, 12th, 13th, and 14th, 1874.

President—Sir WILLIAM FERGUSSON, Bart., F.R.S., Surgeon to King’s College Hospital, London.

President-elect—EDWARD COPEMAN, M.D., Senior Physician to the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital.

The business of the Association will be transacted in four Sections, viz.:—

SECTION A. MEDICINE.—*President*: Dr. Eade, Norwich. *Vice-Presidents*: Dr. Sydney Kinger, London; Dr. Durrant, Ipswich. *Secretaries*: Dr. Bradbury, Cambridge; Dr. Lowe, Lynn.

SECTION B. SURGERY.—*President*: Sir James Paget, Bart., F.R.S., London. *Vice-Presidents*: T. W. Crosse, Esq., Norwich; Dr. Macnamara, Dublin. *Secretaries*: F. Worthington, Esq., Lowestoft; Reginald Harrison, Esq., Liverpool.

SECTION C. OBSTETRIC MEDICINE.—*President*: Dr. Churchill, Dublin. *Vice-Presidents*: Dr. W. S. Playfair, London; Dr. Steele, Liverpool. *Secretaries*: Dr. Edis, London; F. Image, Esq., Bury St. Edmunds.

SECTION D. PUBLIC MEDICINE.—*President*: W. H. Michael, Esq., London; *Vice-Presidents*: Dr. Bateman, Norwich; Dr. Ransome, Bowden. *Secretaries*: Dr. Bond, Gloucester; Dr. Leech, Manchester.

The Honorary Local Secretaries are:

Dr. J. B. PITT, Norwich.

H. S. ROBINSON, Esq., Norwich.

Dr. BEVERLEY, Norwich.

TUESDAY, August 11th.

10.30 A.M.—CATHEDRAL SERVICE.

1 P.M.—MEETING OF COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL.

3 P.M.—MEETING OF THE COUNCIL, 1873-74.

8 P.M.—GENERAL MEETING—President’s Address, Annual Report of Council, and other business.

WEDNESDAY, August 12th.

9.30 A.M.—MEETING OF COUNCIL, 1874-75.

11.30 A.M.—SECOND GENERAL MEETING.

11.30 A.M.—ADDRESS IN MEDICINE.

2 to 5 P.M.—SECTIONAL MEETINGS.

9 P.M.—SOIRÉE AT ST. ANDREW’S HALL.