

batants. Is there any sense, therefore, in talking, as some do, of a military caste? The idea is repugnant to our country and Constitution.

MEDICO-LEGAL AND MEDICO-ETHICAL.

THE LAW OF SANITATION.

In the Queen's Bench Division last week the proprietor of a house was sued by his tenant for damages for "breach of warranty," the plaintiff contending that a guarantee had been given that the sanitary arrangements were perfect. The evidence on the point showed that the landlord had written a letter to his prospective tenant, in which the following passage occurred: "Touching the sanitary arrangements, I feel I am justified in saying that they are perfect, inasmuch as during the fifteen years we have had the property no tenant has even so much hinted that they were otherwise." It appeared that the tenant agreed to take the house on the faith of the assurance thus implied, and that during his occupation he had an attack of typhoid fever, which incapacitated him from the conduct of his business for a period of five months. The learned Judge held that the letter referred to did not constitute a warranty, and directed the jury to find a verdict for the defendant, granting a stay of execution with a view to an appeal.

A QUESTION OF CONTRACT.

REFERRING to our reply to the questions raised under the above heading in the Medico-Legal columns of the JOURNAL of June 13th, we have since been furnished by our correspondent with the letters and telegrams sent to him, but we have not received the letters or telegrams written or sent by him. We think, however, that the telegrams of April 23rd and 24th sent to A. are quite sufficient to show that there was a distinct engagement for one month, and for which the sender of the telegrams would be liable to pay, or its equivalent in damages for breach of contract.

INSURANCE FEES AFTER SALE.

B. B. asks advice under the following circumstances: He has recently sold his practice, and has since been applied to by an assurance society for information in reference to a former patient; he is not required to see or to make any professional examination of the latter, but he will receive a fee from the society for furnishing the information desired. Has he a right to this fee, or should it be handed over to the purchaser of his practice?

. We are advised that our correspondent is justified in retaining this fee. The information for which he is paid has reference entirely to the past, and is such as his successor could not furnish. He is only under a moral duty to make no sort of profit out of the practice he has sold that the purchaser might presumably make for himself.

CLAIM FOR DAMAGES BY MEMBER OF ODDFELLOWS' LODGE.

A CORRESPONDENT asks our opinion on the following point: It appears that he, as medical officer of an Oddfellows' lodge, declined to give a certificate to a member of the lodge to enable him to obtain sick allowance, on the ground that the man was suffering from occasional epileptic fits, and was otherwise strong and robust. The latter now threatens our correspondent with an action for damages unless he pays to the member a sum equivalent to six weeks' and two days' sick allowance.

. Having regard to the rules of the lodge, of which our correspondent has furnished a copy, and on these and the statement of facts submitted, we are advised that any proceedings by the member in question would probably not be successful.

Our correspondent acting *bona fide* and in conformity with the rules, was of opinion that the member referred to was not entitled to sick pay, and declined to give him a certificate, and under the circumstances we can only regard the member's letter as *brutum fulmen*, of which no notice need be taken.

MEDICAL ADVICE IN NEWSPAPERS.

D.—We are unable to accept the views of our correspondent in relation to the above subject, referred to in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL of July 4th, p. 50. He alleges that "if personal advertisement be avoided, neither lack of dignity, improper medical work, nor sacrifice of the interest of the profession are involved by answering professional queries in the lay press." We apprehend that there is a fallacy in this view. His contention, also, that a *Code* is merely "a summary of the highest ethical practice at the time it was prepared, and must be varied according to circumstance," renders it expedient to note that the existing one, and each previous edition, was by emendations and additions brought up to the date of publication, and primarily received, among many others, the *imprimatur* of the late Sir T. Watson, Sir R. Christison, Sir G. E. Paget, and Sir G. Johnson. The true reason for seeking medical advice through the medium of the lay press is that personally it is gratuitous. In identifying himself with such a custom the practitioner not only acts unjustly towards his professional brethren, but to the patient and himself also, by prescribing *in absentia*.

PRESENTATION.—Miss Catherine M. Wickham, L.R.C.P. and S. Edin., has been presented by the members of the ambulance class held at the Honor Club, Fitzroy Square, in connection with the St. John Ambulance Association, with a gold pencil and seal as a token of appreciation of her services as lecturer.

UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS IN IRELAND.
PRIZES, SUMMER SESSION, 1896.—The Barker Anatomical Prize has been awarded to C. T. Hilton, and a Special Prize to A. S. Greene; and the Mayne Scholarship to A. I. Eades. The Preliminary Examination for the commencement of Medical Study for the Diplomas of the Royal Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons will be held on Tuesday and Wednesday, September 29th and 30th, 1896, when the Schools of Surgery will open after the summer recess.

CONJOINT BOARD IN ENGLAND.

The following gentlemen passed the Second Examination of the Board in the subjects indicated:

Wednesday, July 8th.
Passed in Anatomy and Physiology: J. Atkins, T. J. Wright, E. J. Tongue, W. G. Stewart, C. H. Brangwin, C. J. Hewlett, and J. D. Bridger, of Guy's Hospital; H. Z. Stephens, G. Black, N. Unsworth, G. W. Harrison, St. Thomas's Hospital; C. Powell, St. Thomas's Hospital and Cambridge University; C. B. Wagstaff, S. W. Garne, Charing Cross Hospital; D. G. R. S. Baker, C. M. Ekins, W. B. Mayne, and H. S. Capper, University College, London; F. C. Borrow, C. V. Cornish, and P. Tatchell, St. Bartholomew's Hospital; E. C. Austin, St. Mary's Hospital; G. E. Cope, Westminster Hospital; J. Evans, Cambridge University and St. George's Hospital.

Passed in Physiology only: H. A. Ahrens, King's College, London; and T. Morgan, Guy's Hospital.

Ten gentlemen were referred in both subjects, and 2 in Anatomy only. Thursday, July 9th.

Passed in Anatomy and Physiology: F. H. Sprague, A. Freear, H. C. Tayler, and T. H. Vickers, St. Mary's Hospital; H. S. Greaves and J. D. Hartley, St. Bartholomew's Hospital; D. S. Graves, H. R. H. Denny, and E. W. H. Shenton, Guy's Hospital; A. R. G. Pocock and J. C. Bell, University College, London; C. B. Moss-Blundell, St. Thomas's Hospital; and W. F. Panckridge, Middlesex Hospital.

Twenty-three gentlemen were referred in both subjects, and 1 in Anatomy only.

Friday, July 10th.

Passed in Anatomy and Physiology: S. Neave, J. J. S. Scrase, and A. H. Hayes, St. Bartholomew's Hospital; J. W. Hunt, W. A. Trumper, B. H. H. Tripp, St. Mary's Hospital; E. FitzG. Ellis, G. A. Herklots, W. Dick, and C. H. Wood, University College, London; W. W. Halsted, St. Thomas's Hospital; E. J. R. Bartlett, King's College, London; C. A. Lower, Guy's Hospital and Mr. Cooke's School of Anatomy and Physiology, and G. M. Eastment, Middlesex Hospital.

Twenty-two gentlemen were referred in both subjects.

Saturday, July 11th.

Passed in Anatomy and Physiology: F. R. Barwell, University College, London; W. B. Watson, H. R. Nutt, W. E. Gribbell, and G. D. Winston, St. Mary's Hospital; N. R. Phillips, P. R. Blake, E. A. le Maistre, London Hospital; S. d'A. Corbett, St. George's Hospital; and W. H. Harland, Middlesex Hospital.

Passed in Anatomy only:—J. A. Mellish, St. George's Hospital; and W. E. Nelson, Cambridge University and St. Thomas's Hospital.

Passed in Physiology only:—J. H. Tripe, London Hospital; A. H. Safford, King's College, London; and S. J. Welch, London Hospital.

Thirteen candidates were referred in both subjects, 2 in Anatomy only and 1 in Physiology only.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.

The following gentlemen, having passed the necessary examinations and having now conformed to the by-laws and regulations, were at the quarterly meeting of the Council on Thursday, July 9th, admitted Fellows of the College:

G. Templeton, M.B., C.M. Edin., L.R.C.P. Lond., Edinburgh University and London Hospital, Member August 1st, 1892.

S. W. F. Richardson, M.B., B.S. Lond., L.R.C.P. Lond., St. Thomas's Hospital, Member July 27th, 1893.

MEDICO-PARLIAMENTARY.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

BARRACK SCHOOLS: THEIR INSPECTION.

MR. JAMES STUART asked the President of the Local Government Board whether he would take such steps as might be necessary to secure that Poor-law schools should, where the guardians applied, and where the Local Government Board assented, be placed, so far as the education of the children was concerned, under the inspection of the Education Department of the Privy Council.—MR. CHAPLIN: Subject to the concurrence of the Education Department, I shall be quite willing and very glad to facilitate the transfer to that Department of the inspection of Poor-law schools, so far as the education of the children is concerned.—MR. MUNDELLA: Has the right hon. gentleman secured the consent of the Education Department, or endeavoured to do so, because there is a strong feeling amongst the Poor-law guardians of the country in favour of the suggestion.—MR. CHAPLIN: I am aware the Board of Guardians are strongly in its favour, and I am in communication with the Education Department.—MR. STUART asked if the President of the Local Government Board would look at certain memorials that had been addressed to the Local Government Board, and take into account the fact that the year before last the Education Department was willing to undertake the inspection of Poor-law schools.—MR. CHAPLIN replied in the affirmative.—MR. James Stuart has given notice of the following question: To ask the Vice-President of the Committee of Council on Education whether he will take such steps as may be necessary to place under the inspection of the Education Department the education of the children in those

Poor-law schools where the guardians desire to transfer such inspection from the Local Government Board to the Education Department, and where the Local Government Board assents.

MORTALITY ON THE GOLD COAST.

Dr. FARQUHARSON asked the Secretary for the Colonies whether his attention had been directed to the exceptionally heavy recent rate of mortality among European officials on the Gold Coast; and whether anything was being done, or would be done, to remedy this unsatisfactory state of matters.—Mr. CHAMBERLAIN: Yes. My attention has been directed to the exceptionally large number of deaths which occurred among the European residents, unofficial as well as official, in the early part of this year, and on March 11th I wrote to the Governor begging him to consider what further steps would be taken to improve the conditions of life on the coast. It cannot be hoped that all the causes of malarial fever will be removed; but much has been and is still being done by the erection of new buildings in better situations, and providing means of recreation to keep the European officers in good health, and attempts are being made by boring to obtain a supply of good water, which will be of immense benefit to the whole community. The Governor, Sir William Maxwell, is giving the most careful attention to the subject, and will be supported by me in any improvements he may be able to introduce.

THE LONDON WATER BOARD BILL.

In reply to Mr. COHEN and Sir FREDERICK DIXON-HARTLAND, Mr. CHAPLIN said that his information did not lead him to the conclusion that the home counties interested were utterly opposed to the London Water Board Bill, but rather to an opposite conclusion. In the present state of public business, unless the Bill was absolutely uncontentious, it would be hopeless to pass it into law during the present session. He did not, therefore, propose to proceed with the second reading. The Government, however, were fully alive to the importance of this question, and they hoped to take an early opportunity of dealing with it next session.

LECTURES ON FOODS AND DRINKS IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

Sir JOHN GORST, in response to Sir W. HART DYKE, said: Under Article 17 of the Code, the Committee of the Council have sometimes allowed lectures to be given during school hours, and the attendances to be counted, provided that notice is given of the alteration of the time table, by an entry in the log book. As regards the particular subject referred to by the hon. member, the Committee of Council sanctioned lectures on the use and abuse of food and drinks, but have declined to allow "temperance lectures," commonly so-called.

ANTHRAX.

In reply to Mr. FORTESCUE FLANNERY, the HOME SECRETARY said: Three deaths from anthrax were recorded in the West Riding during 1895, and three more in the same district have come to my knowledge already during the present year. The conditions of work in those industries in which anthrax principally occurs have been under the consideration of one of the Committees on Dangerous Trades now sitting, and on a recommendation which they have made to me in view of the most recent fatal cases, I propose to certify the process of wool-sorting as dangerous under Section VIII of the Act of 1891, and to take immediate steps to establish special rules, which will follow, with some modifications, the voluntary rules to which the hon. member refers, and which are already carried out by the majority of employers.—Mr. FLANNERY asked how soon this modification of the law would take effect.—The HOME SECRETARY replied as soon as he could get the rules made.

OBITUARY.

We regret to have to record the death, at the age of 83, of Mr. THOMAS O'CONNOR, F.R.C.S., of March, Cambridgeshire. Mr. O'Connor, who had practised for more than half a century in March, was one of the oldest members of the British Medical Association. He received his medical education at the Westminster Hospital, and obtained the diploma of L.S.A. in 1841, and that of M.R.C.S. in 1844. He became a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of England by examination in 1860, and was a Fellow also of the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society. He contributed several papers to the columns of the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, and in 1865 issued as a separate publication an essay on Ergot, which he had read before the Cambridge and Huntingdon Branch of the British Medical Association.

HOSPITAL AND DISPENSARY MANAGEMENT.

CHARING CROSS HOSPITAL CONVALESCENT HOME.

The convalescent home in connection with the Charing Cross Hospital, which has been built at Limpfield, was opened on July 11th by the Prince of Wales. The cost of the building has been entirely defrayed by Mr. Passmore Edwards. The site on which it stands was given, at a cost of £1,000, by Mr. G. J. Drummond, one of the treasurers of the hospital. The home is 532 feet above sea level, and abuts on Limpfield Common, and contains accommodation for 50 convalescents, 20 males and 20 females, and 10 children. Its administration will be subject to the control of the Council of Charing Cross Hospital. The annual maintenance will entail a cost of something like £2,000, which is not provided for by any endowment, and for this the Council will have to depend upon the generosity of their subscribers.

PUBLIC HEALTH

AND

POOR-LAW MEDICAL SERVICES.

THE REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD, 1894-95.¹

I.

THE report just presented to the President of the Local Government Board by Dr. Thorne Thorne, on the proceedings of the medical department in the year 1894-95, contains much valuable information in its 500 pages. The year in question saw the resignation of Dr. Airy, the promotion of Dr. Barry to fill his post of senior inspector, and the appointment of Dr. Geo. Seaton Buchanan to the inspectorate.

VACCINATION.

Dr. Thorne has again to deplore the growing amount of default under the Vaccination Acts, the percentage of default reached in respect of children born in the year 1892 being 14.9 for the whole country, and 18.4 in the metropolis, and 14.3 in the provinces. Both these latter rates are more than double those which obtained six years previously, when the progressive failure on the part of the vaccination authorities to carry out their duties may be said definitely to have set in. In other words, the appointment of the Royal Commission on Vaccination and widely and ever more widely organised opposition to the law are contemporaneous. Looking at the detailed figures, first as county data, we find such examples as defaults of 50.5 in Bedford, 7.4 in East Riding, 55.3 in Northampton, 5.7 in Cheshire, 65.7 in Leicester, and 4.3 in Glamorgan. In the metropolis we see in Hackney, 49.5; in St. George, Hanover Square, 3.4; in Bethnal Green, 53.1; in Whitechapel, 4.4; in Mile End, 58.8; in Lewisham, 6.6 per cent. In the provinces in the same counties in each instance, we find: Luton, 83.8; Ampthill, 6.6; Derby, 48.1; Belper, 3.7; Weymouth, 43.1; Bridport, 1.9; Gloucester, 86.9; Cirencester, 9.1; Oldham, 79.2; Barrow, 3.0; Leicester, 80.1; Lutterworth, 9.1; King's Lynn, 79.5; Thetford, 2.4; and we could multiply these instances, taken quite haphazard from the pages of figures.

The point which arises on these comparative data is, why the one case in each of the county examples taken should show such deplorably bad results, and the other such relatively excellent results. The point needs no discussion. The matter is simply one of tact and due enforcement in the best way of the beneficent clauses of the Vaccination Acts.

INSUSCEPTIBILITY TO VACCINATION.

Dr. Cory is able to show his usual excellent percentage of vesicular marking in the case of children vaccinated from calf to arm; and as regards the vaccination of calves he had 94.6 per cent. of successes with fresh calf lymph, and only 68.1 with the few cases where stored calf lymph was employed. But in the matter of alleged insusceptibility to vaccination the latest figures from the National Vaccine Establishment stations show that in a long series of years and through 88,875 vaccinations there has not been a single case of "insusceptibility," as against no fewer than 1,983, alleged by the several vaccinators, of the total of 665,640 children submitted to vaccination in the country of those born in 1892 alone. At the same rate the cases of insusceptibility in the children operated on by the Government vaccinators should have been considerably over 250, instead of *nil*, as has been the case.

OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS.

Dr. Thorne sets out briefly the multitudinous matters which came before his department in the course of the year, in the shape of hospital conferences and inspections, inquiries as to disease prevalences, local administration, and other cognate matters. He also deals at length with certain of the reports of his staff, which he reproduces, such as

¹ Sold by Messrs. Eyre and Spottiswoode, East Harding Street, London, E.C.; Messrs. John Menzies and Co., Edinburgh; and Messrs. Hodges, Figgis, and Co., Dublin. C. 7,906. 1896, pp. 546, price 6s. 11d.