

number of cases not finally accounted for amounted to 26.4 per cent., whereas in the previous year the percentage of default was 24.9. In several of the unions the percentage of cases not finally accounted for was exceedingly high. For instance, in Bethnal Green it was 76.8; in Hackney, 63.6; in Mile End, 62.6; and in Shoreditch, 55.5. In the provinces the percentage of children unaccounted for was 22.3, as compared with 19.8 for the previous year (1895), and with regard to the counties, the greater proportion of default appears in Leicestershire, Bedfordshire, and Northamptonshire, with figures of 79.0, 78.9, and 65.7 respectively.

EXTENSION OF THE NOTIFICATION ACT.

It is, in conclusion, both interesting and significant to note that, up to the date of the Report, the Infectious Diseases Notification Act has been extended to measles in 110 cases, to röteln in 7, to whooping-cough in 26, to chicken-pox in 3, and to mumps, hydrophobia, yellow fever, and plague in 1. But in 38 of these cases the sanitary authorities have subsequently revoked the addition of measles, in 1 that of röteln, in 7 that of whooping-cough, in 4 that of chicken-pox, and in 1 that of hydrophobia; while in 1 case the Act was extended to measles only for a limited period, which has now expired.

HEALTH OF ENGLISH TOWNS.

In thirty-three of the largest English towns, including London, 6,085 births and 4,551 deaths were registered during the week ending December 9th. The annual rate of mortality in these towns, which had been 19.3 and 18.9 per 1,000 in the preceding two weeks, rose again to 20.8 last week. The rates in the several towns ranged from 13.1 in Croydon, 13.4 in Norwich, 13.5 in Oldham, and 14.3 in Cardiff, to 23.4 in Hull, 25.3 in Preston, 25.9 in Liverpool, and 26.4 in Plymouth. In the thirty-two provincial towns the mean death-rate was 19.7 per 1,000, and was 2.7 below the rate recorded in London, which was 22.4 per 1,000. The zymotic death-rate in the thirty-three towns averaged 2.2 per 1,000. The London death-rate was equal to 2.1 per 1,000, while it averaged 2.3 in the thirty-two provincial towns, among which the highest zymotic death rates were 4.3 in Salford, 5.0 in Blackburn, 5.2 in Sheffield, and 6.0 in Hull. Measles caused a death-rate of 1.0 in Sheffield, 1.2 in Salford, 1.3 in Preston, 1.3 in Birkenhead, and 2.0 in Hull; whooping-cough of 1.0 in Leicester, in Liverpool, and in Salford, and 1.5 in Blackburn; and "fever" of 1.0 in Bolton, 1.3 in Nottingham, 1.5 in Derby, and 2.9 in Wolverhampton. The mortality from scarlet fever and from diarrhoea showed no marked excess in any of the thirty-three large towns. The 113 deaths from diphtheria in the thirty-three large towns included 43 in London, 16 in Sheffield, 11 in Leeds, 6 in Liverpool, 4 in Manchester, 4 in Blackburn, 4 in Preston, and 4 in Norwich. Eleven fatal cases of small-pox were registered last week in Hull, but not one either in any other of the thirty-two provincial towns or in London; and only one small-pox patient was under treatment in the Metropolitan Asylums Hospitals on Saturday last, December 9th. The number of scarlet fever patients in these hospitals and in the London Fever Hospital, which had been 3,578, 3,593, and 3,445 at the end of the three preceding weeks, had further declined to 3,200 on Saturday last; 278 new cases were admitted during the week, against 334, 293, and 294 in the three preceding weeks.

HEALTH OF SCOTCH TOWNS.

DURING the week ending Saturday last, December 9th, 343 births and 611 deaths were registered in eight of the principal Scotch towns. The annual rate of mortality in these towns, which had increased from 17.0 to 20.5 per 1,000 in the four preceding weeks, declined again to 20.0 last week, and was 0.8 per 1,000 below the mean rate during the same period in the thirty-three large English towns. Among these Scotch towns the death-rates ranged from 14.1 in Leith and 17.6 in Edinburgh, to 21.9 in Dundee and 37.6 in Greenock. The zymotic death-rate in these towns averaged 2.3 per 1,000, the highest rates being recorded in Dundee and Greenock. The 278 deaths registered in Glasgow included 6 from measles, 3 from diphtheria, 3 from whooping-cough, 4 from "fever," and 8 from diarrhoea. Seven fatal cases of measles and 7 of diarrhoea occurred in Dundee; 3 of "fever" in Paisley; and 13 of measles in Greenock.

OBITUARY.

EDWARD HAMILTON, M.D., F.R.C.S.I.,
Surgeon to Steevens's Hospital, Dublin.

WE regret to have to announce the death of Dr. Edward Hamilton, of Dublin, a surgeon of great distinction in that city.

Dr. Hamilton was born in Dublin in 1824, and graduated M.B. in the University of Dublin in 1846. In the same year he became a Licentiate of the Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland, and in 1852 a Fellow. When the school attached to Steevens's Hospital was established, he became a Lecturer on Anatomy there, and soon after he was appointed to the visiting staff, his colleagues being the late William Colles and

Robert McDonnell. He became President of his College in 1875, and he again served in that capacity from 1892 to 1894. In 1884 he became one of the Professors of Surgery in the College School. At various times he was the President of the Dublin Branch of the British Medical Association, of the Pathological Society, and of the Irish Medical Association. He was one of the Surgeons-in-Ordinary to H.E. the Lord Lieutenant.

Dr. Hamilton was one of the most popular members of the profession in Ireland, and he enjoyed the confidence of his brethren in an eminent degree. He was a highly informed surgeon, an excellent teacher, and a skilled operator. His many pupils carried with them into life a knowledge of his wisdom, and he gradually succeeded in establishing a large practice, which he retained until a short time ago, when owing to illness he retired from active work. Dr. Hamilton contributed many papers to the medical journals, and he published a series of lectures on diseases of the rectum. He gave the Address in Surgery at the annual meeting of the British Medical Association in Dublin, 1887, when he took for his subject Tissue Resistance and Antisepticism, and discussed questions which since that time have received much attention from all surgeons. He was an excellent speaker, and although he seldom took part in the debates at the Surgical Section of the Royal Academy of Medicine, he was always interesting and informing, and was listened to with the greatest satisfaction. The profession in Ireland deeply regrets the death of one who held so high a place in their esteem and the general public, by an immense attendance at his funeral, testified to their respect and affection for him.

PROFESSOR THEODORE PUSCHMANN, M.D.,
University of Vienna.

DR. THEODORE PUSCHMANN, Professor of the History of Medicine in the University of Vienna, who died lately in his 56th year, was born at Löwenberg in Prussian Silesia, in 1844. He studied at Berlin, Munich, Vienna, and Marburg, taking his Doctor's degree in the last named of these universities in 1869. After graduation he travelled extensively in the East, and practised for a short time in Cairo. But he did not care for the routine of professional work, and he again became a wanderer, travelling for a considerable time in Italy, France, and England. Wherever he went he worked in the libraries, and studied whatever records of medical history were available. In 1878 he qualified as Docent of the History of Medicine in the University of Leipzig, whence he was called in 1880 to Vienna as Extraordinary Professor, becoming Ordinary Professor in 1888. Dr. Puschmann was the author of numerous publications on subjects relating to the history of medicine, and was a frequent contributor to *Virchow's Archiv*. One of his earliest publications was an essay on circumcision, which was translated into several languages, including Turkish. The most important of his works was his German translation of the works of the Greek physician, Alexander Tralles, in which he proved himself not only a historian but a philologist. Among his other writings was a *History of Medical Education*, which has been translated into English by Mr. Evan H. Hare. One of his last works was a history of the Vienna Faculty of Medicine.

Puschmann was an indefatigable worker, and went to the original records for his material. Only a few years ago he ransacked the libraries of Spain and the archives in the old Spanish monasteries. He was a many-sided man, and as a teacher had the power of exciting interest in his subject, and of making dry bones of erudition live.

Professor Puschmann died of old-standing kidney disease. He was Dean of the Faculty during the last year, but the progress of his disease compelled him to resign his office some months ago.

PROFESSOR CAMARA PESTANA,
Lisbon.

PROFESSOR CAMARA PESTANA, whose tragic death from plague recently excited such general sympathy, was born in 1863, entered the medical school of Lisbon in 1885, and after finishing his studies in 1889 devoted his attention to bacteriology. In 1891 he went abroad, commissioned by the Portuguese Government to study bacteriology, and in 1892 he was appointed Director of the Lisbon Bacteriological Institute. He

was a member of various sanitary commissions, and was the recognised leader in bacteriological research in Portugal.

Among his publications are an inaugural thesis on the Microbe of Cancer, a report on the Antirabic Service of the Lisbon Institute in 1893, a report on the Epidemic of Lisbon in 1884, and reports on certain outbreaks of typhoid fever, the serumtherapy of diphtheria, bubonic plague, etc.

When the outbreak of plague was reported in Oporto, Camara Pestana was sent by the Government to make an inquiry. He conducted the investigation with characteristic energy and devotion, and in the discharge of this duty he met his death. In examining the body of a patient who had died of the disease he accidentally inoculated himself under the fingernail. During his illness he noted his own symptoms, and even when delirious his ravings showed how full of the subject his mind had been. He refused to see his brother for fear of transmitting the disease, and in every way, even in making arrangements for his own funeral, he showed his anxiety to prevent the spread of the infection. He left a letter addressed to the Queen of Portugal, who is known to take a keen interest in medical science, bespeaking her influence in favour of his colleagues at the Lisbon Bacteriological Institute. His end was truly heroic.

In his investigations in Oporto, Pestana had as collaborators Drs. Gomes de Rezende and Carlos Franca, who in conjunction with Drs. Bello Moraes, Salembini, Annibal Bettencourt, and Moraes Sarmiento have undertaken to complete his work.

The medical profession of Portugal in a generous impulse was about to raise a subscription for Pestana's mother and daughter; but the king, of his own motion, wrote to the President of Council asking him to place before the Cortes a proposal to grant them a pension.

It is the truest glories of the medical profession that it tends to foster such sublime self-sacrifice as that of Camara Pestana.

THE death of Dr. SAMUEL JOHNSON, at the age of 53, which occurred on November 15th at his residence Cliff Bank House, Stoke-on-Trent, has caused general regret throughout the district of North Staffordshire. After studying in Galway and Dublin he took the degree of M.D., Ch.M.R.U.I. in 1870, subsequently practising very successfully in England. He held for many years the appointments of Medical Officer of Health for the borough of Stoke-on-Trent, and Medical Officer and Public Vaccinator for the Stoke district of the Poor-law Union. The funeral took place on November 18th, and was of a public character, being attended by the mayor and corporation, and representatives of all the public bodies of the town. His place will not easily be filled. His never-failing sympathy with those in trouble and ever-ready help to the needy have endeared his memory to all classes, especially to the poor, for whom he laboured without thought of reward.

A GREAT loss has fallen upon Whitehaven, Cumberland, where Dr. THOMAS JACKSON died, at the age of 65, at his residence on December 4th. He had been ill for a fortnight suffering from pneumonia, with complications of a septic character, probably contracted by his being nearly all night with a severe case of pneumonia not long before his initial rigor. He was born at Whitehaven in 1834, received his medical education at Guy's Hospital, became qualified in 1863, and in that year started in practice in his native town. He married Miss Dover of Sedbergh, and two years later being out of health he took a voyage to North America. He remained there five years, but never practised in America. Returning in 1871 he resumed practice in Whitehaven. In 1873 he was left a widower with two daughters and a son (Dr. T. L. Jackson), who survive. Six years later he married Miss Whitehead of Stockport, who also survives. He was a staunch advocate of temperance, a Congregationalist, and in politics a Liberal. He was noted through life for consistency and thoroughness, and his pursuit of a high ideal in daily life and conduct. He was a frequent speaker at public meetings, and four or five years ago he received a handsome testimonial from friends and admirers in recognition of his services in the cause of temperance and philanthropic movements. He was at the time of his death President of the West Cumberland Medical Society, and Senior Surgeon to the Whitehaven and West Cumberland Infirmary, where he will be greatly missed, and he held several important positions of trust in the town.

MEDICO-LEGAL.

WHAT IS A "PREPARATION"?

A CASE in which the Pharmaceutical Society summoned a firm of wholesale seed merchants, under Section XVII of the Pharmacy Act, for selling a poisonous vegetable alkaloid "called nicotine" without the precautions prescribed by the Act, raised a rather curious point which will be argued on appeal. The stuff was sold for the fumigation of green-houses. Dr. Thomas Stevenson stated in evidence that it contained 37.3 per cent. of nicotine. Part I, Schedule A, of the Act includes "strychnine and all vegetable alkaloids and their salts." The point was taken that the fumigating fluid was not a poisonous vegetable alkaloid nor the salt of such, but a preparation containing a poisonous vegetable alkaloid, and nicotine was not one of the poisons the preparations of which were included in the schedule. The Lord Mayor, before whom the case was heard, said that he was quite satisfied that the thing sold was a poison within the meaning of the schedule, but consented to state a case.

AN ETHICAL QUESTION.

M.D. asks the following questions: A. sells his practice, and there is a clause in the bond of transfer prohibiting him from practising within a radius of four miles from his late residence. An old patient of A. requests A. to visit him at a distance of sixty miles from the locality of his late practice as a consultant. Is A. justified in reserving for his own use the fee for his services? A. resides just within the aforesaid four miles radius; supposing old patients residing beyond the four miles elect to send for him or to seek his advice, is he justified in prescribing for them in his capacity as consultant or otherwise? In other words, is A. prohibited only from seeing patients within the four-mile radius, or is he precluded from practice altogether whilst residing within the prescribed circle?

. In the first mentioned case there would not appear to be any objection to the fee being retained, but, in the second case, the course suggested is certainly against the spirit of the bond, though whether from the legal point of view it would be a breach of the bond it is impossible to say without a fuller knowledge of the circumstances of the case, such as might be given to our correspondent's solicitor.

INDIA AND THE COLONIES.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

Insanity.—The annual report for 1898 by Dr. Eric Sinclair, Inspector-General of the Insane, on the state and condition of the hospitals and other institutions for the insane, gives a series of valuable tables respecting insane persons. Those under official cognisance were 4,073, of whom 2,479 were males, 1,594 females. The proportion of insane to population was 1 in 330.5, against 1 in 308 in England. Nearly 48 per cent. of all the patients under treatment were between 30 and 50 years of age. Delusional mania and melancholia were the most prevalent forms of mental disorder. The admissions during the year were 730, giving a ratio of "occurring insanity," in proportion to the general population, of 1 in 1,844. The deaths were 246 in number, a percentage of 6.20, the rate for men being 6.58, and for women 5.81. Extra accommodation for 305 patients is now being built; and Dr. Sinclair advocates the establishment of a pathological department, similar to that in operation at Claybury, England. The average weekly cost per patient in the hospitals was 11s 0½d.

JAMAICA.

The Medical Service.—The annual report of the Superintending Medical Officer for the year ended March 31st, 1899, contains the reports on the Public and Lying-in Hospitals, the Lunatic Asylum, and the Lepers' Home of the island. At the end of March last there were 44 medical officers in the public service. During the year 8 cases were tried at the instance of the constabulary for violations of the Drugs and Poisons Law (of 1894); and most of the defendants were fined or imprisoned. The value of the drugs, surgical appliances, and stimulants issued during the year to the hospitals, Lepers' Home, and the medical districts amounted to £2,348. At the Public Hospital Dispensary School 8 pupils passed in the twelve months. The successful vaccinations, which were 16,465 in the previous year, fell to 13,566. For this decline several causes are assigned, but the report states that "it is to be regretted that the peasantry apparently attach little value to this highly protective measure." The general health of the island in almost all districts compared favourably with that of the previous year, and this improvement was apparently due to the greater attention bestowed by the local authorities on all sanitary questions. Disease of an infectious nature was rarely met with; and in the opinion of some medical officers leprosy seems to be gradually dying out. The reports on the Lepers' Home are interesting, and shows the benefit resulting from different treatments. Yaws proved troublesome, and it is remarked that many parents still expose their children to infection under the impression that their offspring must pass through the disease. Syphilis seems very prevalent, and the death-rate therefrom has rapidly increased since 1890, two years after the repeal of the Contagious Diseases Act. It is noted that the varieties of climate obtainable at different altitudes constitute the island a most favourable and enjoyable resort for Europeans in search of health, whilst the comparative ease with which visitors can proceed from one health centre to another is an extra inducement for tourists to visit the island. The Santa Cruz Mountains, an elevated plateau some 2,000 feet above sea level, are noted for their dry climate and equable temperature, the climate being an ideal one for tuberculous subjects in the early stages of the disease.

DR. QUINCKE, Professor Ordinarius of Internal Medicine of the University of Kiel, has been elected Rector of that seat of learning.