

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.