

Françoise d'Aubigné, he had lost the power of movement except in his hands, tongue, and eyes. M. Poncet's diagnosis of his disease is generalized tuberculous ankylosing rheumatism. Couthon, he says, before he became the subject of Pott's disease with consecutive paraplegia, had suffered from polyarticular tuberculous rheumatism.

### CONTRACT MEDICAL PRACTICE.

NOTICE AS TO DISTRICTS IN WHICH DISPUTES EXIST.

*A notice as to places in which disputes exist between members of the medical profession and various organizations for providing contract practice will be found among the advertisements, and medical men who may be thinking of applying for appointments in connexion with clubs or other forms of contract practice are requested to refer to the advertisement on page 79*

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

### MANCHESTER.

*Arrangements for Feeding Underfed Children in Manchester.—Lead in Water Supply at Mossley.—Misleading Symptoms in a Supposed Case of Typhoid Fever.—President of the Pharmaceutical Society and the Sale of Drugs by Limited Liability Companies.—Diseased Meat.*

THE Manchester Guardians have approved of arrangements being made with proprietors of eating-houses situate within a convenient distance of the several public elementary schools, to supply dinners on five days of the week at a charge of 3d. per meal for children who are in course of attendance at public elementary schools, and to whom the guardians have resolved to give relief under the provisions of the Relief (School Children) Order, 1905. Tickets will be issued to the children, entitling them on presentation of the same at the appropriate eating-house, to have dinner served to them. The eating-houses will be frequently visited by an officer of the guardians during the dinner hour.

In Mossley some nine months ago there were several cases of lead poisoning, due to the water supply. Assurances were given subsequently that the water supply was good and potable. At an inquest, however, held on the 11th instant, on the body of a woman who died suddenly, the medical man who attended her stated that she had the typical blue line on the gums which indicated lead poisoning. Death was not due to lead poisoning, but to syncope. It was mentioned incidentally that there have been many other cases of lead poisoning, and, indeed that it was a very common complaint in Mossley. The medical men did not report these cases to the medical officer. No remuneration is given for any cases reported. The coroner was asked to communicate with the local authority, calling attention to the extent to which lead poisoning existed in the town.

The City Coroner on October 11th had occasion to investigate the cause of death in a case where the symptoms during life seemed to have been misleading. It was that of a young man who was taken to Monsall Infectious Diseases Hospital on September 14th, against, it was stated, the will of his father. The case at the time was diagnosed as one of enteric fever, and its removal to hospital ordered accordingly. Subsequently, and while in hospital, it was discovered that the patient was not suffering from enteric. The Medical Superintendent stated that the symptoms were compatible with enteric. The cause of death was inflammation of the brain. The jury returned a verdict, "Death from natural causes."

The President of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, at a meeting of the Manchester Branch held in this city on October 11th, did an important public service by directing the attention of the community to the great danger there is of the safeguards provided by the Pharmaceutical Act of 1868 being over-ridden or disregarded by persons usurping the business of chemist, and using the title without passing an examination. The title "chemist and druggist" is, so far, a protected title, and is obtained after a technical training and statutory examination. The House of Lords some years ago decided that a limited liability company of

unqualified persons, whether as shareholders or directors, did not come within the restrictions of the Pharmacy Act, on the ground that a company was not a person. Thus what it is illegal for one person to do, seven persons formed into a company could do without infringing the Act. It was not a sufficient answer that the company employed qualified assistants; the real intention of the Act was that the keeper of the business—the owner—should be a properly qualified chemist. A private Bill will be reintroduced into Parliament to better protect the title of chemist. While a registered chemist and druggist is subject to the regulations of the law, a limited company can evade these regulations; therefore it is plain that there exists a danger to the public. As Professor Wild remarked, "It is as much to the danger of the public to have poisonous drugs and substances distributed amongst the community by irresponsible hands as it is to have an untrapped sewer. The regulation of the sale of poisons is as much a part of public-health legislation as are the regulations relating to sewers or to infectious diseases. The directors of a company that carried on a pharmacy department should have the necessary qualification."

The Stockport magistrates had before them at the beginning of the month two butchers who were found in possession of diseased meat—stated to be tuberculous, and intended for human consumption. The decision of the magistrates will, we think, meet with general approval. The case was a very bad one. The culprits were not given the option of a fine, but were sent to prison with hard labour. Imprisonment is the only punishment that fits so serious an offence against the public wellbeing. This conviction has brought home the fact that Manchester has no power to deal with parties sending beef unfit for food to Manchester. The commission salesmen will not sell before the consignments have been examined and passed by the inspectors. It has been found impossible to prosecute successfully the senders of these disease-laden supplies for sale, as the consigning party did not offer them for sale. The evil is a serious one when one takes into account the fact that of about 100 tons of unwholesome meat condemned at the abattoirs last year, over 25 tons which had been carefully "dressed" in the country was confiscated. Even four cases of anthrax were detected. During the last two years there have been sent to the Manchester market from the country ten carcasses affected by anthrax. Of six persons who assisted in dressing these carcasses and were attacked with anthrax, two died. In a proposed new omnibus bill the Corporation will seek powers to prosecute the consignee of diseased carcasses. Power should also be obtained to prohibit dressed meat being sent in from the country unless accompanied by a detailed statement why the animals were slaughtered. During the last few days four cases of anthrax have been reported in the Marton district of Cheshire.

### LIVERPOOL.

#### *Annual Service for the Medical Profession.*

THE annual service for the members of the medical profession, held at St. Luke's Church on October 15th, was in many respects the most successful that has taken place since the service was instituted a few years ago. The attendance was unusually large, in spite of the fact that many had to come from a distance, and the weather showed a pronounced foretaste of winter. The Lord Mayor and the Lady Mayoress were present and were received by Councillor Dr. Caton and Mrs. Glynn. The service was conducted by the Venerable Archdeacon Madden, assisted by the Rev. F. Chantler. The lesson was read by the Bishop of the diocese.

The preacher, the Bishop of Ripon, took as his text Revelations x. 8. He said they were sometimes under the impression that the age in which they lived was an age in which the presence of the problems of life was felt with peculiar acuteness; but, as a matter of fact, the solution of these problems must have seemed far more hopeless in the Apostolic age, when the world lay at the feet of such men as Nero. He thought it would be a mistake if they were to imagine that their lot was cast in an especially painful age, seeing that in all times the problems of life had pressed very heavily upon the hearts of men, but he acknowledged that life was very often a closed book, a riddle of the universe. Though he acknowledged that the book was closed, yet through it all there ran a kind of glorious optimism which refused to surrender itself, and was determined to believe in the domination and pre-eminence of good. It seemed to him that there were two things which were set out as essential to

the solution of life's problem. One was that man must be ready to face facts of all kinds just as they are, symbolized by the angel standing with one foot upon the earth; the other that he must be a participator in the spirit from which the whole universe took its being, symbolized in accordance with the imagery of the ancient Hebrews, by the other foot being placed upon the sea. It was by careful observations of the inexorable facts of life that the world had progressed as it had, and it was the way with the honourable profession of which they were members to carry out such observations. They who lived in the enjoyment of the great advances which had been made in medical and surgical science of late years knew very well that it was the diligence, patience, and observation of those who had made it their business to try to understand the great and strange phenomena around them which had resulted in so many blessings to the sick and suffering. The progress of the world had not, however, arisen solely from the observation of external physical facts. They must bring into line the soul of man, his imagination, and that wonderful poetic deity which they carried in their bosoms. In his further remarks the Bishop of Ripon said that it was in the participation in the right spirit in the two features he had mentioned that lay the real power of reading the book which was to solve the riddle of life. The possession of knowledge was not the capacity to heal. The man counted for something beside his knowledge. It was the spirit that was in the man more than the knowledge he possessed that was requisite to make a true success in life.

The offertory, which will be given to the Medical Benevolent Fund, amounted to £32 16s, the largest collection which has ever been made at any of these services.

#### LEEDS.

*The Supply of Pure Unsterilized Milk to the Poor.—Annual Dinner of the Members of the Dental Profession of Leeds and District.*

SOME weeks ago the Lord Mayor, after taking legal advice on the subject, ruled, at a meeting of the City Council, that the Corporation had no power to enter into any arrangement with dairymen to purchase milk from them with the object of selling this to the public. This, it appears, is a form of municipal trading which the powers of the Corporation do not sanction. The Lord Mayor, however, felt so strongly that the scheme, which the Council desired to see carried out, and which was referred to in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL on July 1st, should not be allowed to fall through, that he suggested it should be carried out by voluntary effort, and set an excellent example by generously giving £100 to assist in starting the work. A further step was taken when, at a meeting called last week by the Lord Mayor, a committee was appointed to carry on and extend the undertaking. The work, which has up to now been carried out by the temporary Committee, has consisted in the purchase, at slightly above the ordinary wholesale market price, of the milk from the farm of a dairyman in the Potternewton district. The dairy is under strict conditions as to cleanliness; the sterilization, as far as possible, of the hands of the milkers; and the cleansing of the udders of the cows. The milk is at once cooled and bottled. It is then conveyed to the dépôt in Kirkgate and to several subsidiary centres, where it is sold at the ordinary retail price to those who are provided with tickets given by the Association. Should any others desire to purchase the milk, a somewhat higher price is charged. The favourable terms on which those supplied with tickets may obtain the milk enables a system of supervision by the female sanitary inspectors of the Corporation to be imposed as a condition, and it is gratifying to learn that the advice and assistance given to the poor by these inspectors as to the manner of dealing with the milk has been willingly accepted.

The annual dinner of the Leeds and District Section of the North Midland Branch of the British Dental Association was held at the Hotel Métropole, Leeds, and was attended by about 50 members and guests. The chair was occupied by the President of the Section, Mr. Percival Leigh, and among the guests were the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine of the University, Professors Wardrop Griffith and Littlewood, other members of the medical profession, and Dr. Forsyth, head master of the Higher Grade School. The speech of the Dean in proposing the toast of "The Society" was of especial interest, as he was able to allude to what has been commented on in this column on more than one occasion—namely, the establishment and satisfactory equipment at the Leeds Public Dispensary of a dental department meeting all

the requirements for the clinical side of a dental school. He stated that the University authorities had viewed this development with the greatest interest, and that the whole subject of the establishment of a complete scheme of dental education was already engaging their attention. While deprecating prophecy as being a dangerous indulgence, the Dean ventured to predict as probable that by next October, if not at an earlier date, the dental school would be in full operation. Replying for the guests, Dr. Forsyth, the head master of the largest educational institution in the city, speaking, of course, as a layman, but as one who came much in contact with the young, made a most eloquent appeal to the medical and dental professions to influence public opinion towards securing by legislation that in all schools systematic, periodical, and skilled examinations should be made as to the condition of the teeth in the case of all the scholars. It is well known to the medical men of Leeds that Dr. Forsyth has always had a keen eye for anything in the way of physical handicap among his scholars, and has in numerous instances pointed out to parents and guardians the necessity of consulting their medical men as to their children's health. Dr. Forsyth seemed to consider the infant schools of the country as doomed to extinction, and felt that in consequence the schoolmaster would in future be prevented during the most important years of a child's life from taking his part in assisting in the great work of educating the public as to the importance of looking to the development of the children's teeth.

#### SHEFFIELD.

*Opening of Session.—Medico-Chirurgical Society.—Lectures to Teachers.*

THE Medical Department is in full swing at the new University buildings, and the students are having the advantages of the well-equipped laboratories. This year there was no formal opening of the session, but the annual dinner of the Medical School, now the Medical Faculty of the University, was held on October 2nd, at the Victoria Hotel, and was well attended. Dr. Cocking, Dean of the Faculty, was in the chair. Besides honouring the King and Queen, there was only one toast, that of the University, proposed by Mr. Simeon Snell, and responded to by the Vice-Chancellor, Sir Charles Eliot.

The Medico-Chirurgical Society, which has been provided with a room for its library and its meetings in the University, holds its opening meeting on October 19th. A large attendance is anticipated, as the anatomical, physiological, pathological, and bacteriological laboratories are to be open for inspection under the guidance of Professors Patten, MacDonald, Hall, and Dr. Charles Porter.

Evidence of the life which has been imparted into educational matters by the University movement is afforded by the interest shown by the elementary teachers in school hygiene. Dr. Charles Porter, who has in the past delivered two lectures on School Hygiene to the Sheffield Branch, and to the Chesterfield Branch of the Teachers' Guild, has been appointed by the Educational Committee of the City to give a series of lectures to the teachers on the same subject. To a request that those desirous of attending the lectures should give in their names, an affirmative response has been received from no fewer than 685, a result which, whilst surprising in such large numbers, must be very gratifying to the authorities and pleasing to the lecturer, as showing that his previous efforts have met with so much appreciation.

#### SOUTH WALES.

*Welsh University.—Cardiff Infirmary.—The Tramp Plague.—Rhondda Miners and Doctors' Poundage.—University Settlements.—Tenby Cottage Hospital.—Sanitary Inspectors' Association.*

AT the meeting of the Standing Executive Committee of the Welsh University to select the short list for the registrarship, some little difficulty was experienced with regard to the terms of the advertisement. The advertisement stipulated that candidates must have academical qualifications, and the Committee were not in a position to decide whether that meant an academical degree, or experience in academical routine. This point has been referred to the University Court to decide when the final selection will be made. Three of the candidates in the short list are Welshmen, and another, Professor Angus, is an acclimatized Welshman, having been

for thirty-three years at Aberystwith. Of the two remaining, one is a Scotchman, and the other an Englishman.

Arrangements for the concert at which Madame Patti has so generously promised to sing in aid of the Cardiff Infirmary are now practically complete. The concert will be held at the Park Hall, Cardiff, at which the Baroness Cederström will be assisted by a highly-talented company. Lord and Lady Bute and party have notified their intention of being present.

At the meeting of the Cardiff Board of Guardians held on October 14th the Chairman said they had no fewer than 217 tramps, a great number of whom came from the neighbouring unions of Merthyr, Bridgend, and Newport. This was becoming a very serious question; he did not know what should be done to remedy the evil, but he suggested that the Guardians might turn the matter over in their minds. They had not had such a serious state of things for many years. At a meeting of the Newport Board of Guardians it was reported that for the week ended October 13th 367 males, 11 females, and 10 children were returned as vagrants. They had been obliged to send 185 of these to the lodging-houses.

The ballot on the doctors' poundage question at the collieries in the No. 1 Rhondda District of the Miners' Federation has resulted as follows: For the establishment of a Medical Committee, comprising officials and workmen, 18 615; against, 5,391—majority for, 13 224. Six collieries, representing 5 550 workmen, were unable to take a ballot, but of the 33,000 ballot papers sent out 25,868 were distributed. There were 1 179 unrecorded and 683 spoilt votes. The proposed committee, which will have control of the poundage, will be substituted for the present system, whereby the doctors are being paid by the colliery proprietors direct. It is, however, understood that further action will be held in abeyance until after the negotiation of the new agreement has been completed.

Under the auspices of the Cardiff University Settlement a public meeting was held at Cardiff on October 14th, at which Sir John Gorst, M.P., delivered an address, the chair being occupied by Sir Alfred Thomas, M.P.

At a half yearly meeting of the Committee of Management of the Tenby Cottage Hospital, held on October 14th, the secretary stated that the subscribers to the institution were decreasing, the number now being 112, a decrease of 23 since January, 1904. The question of building a new operation ward was brought forward and a resolution passed to the effect that the House Committee be empowered to obtain plans and estimates, to be submitted at the annual meeting.

At the meeting of the South Wales and Monmouthshire Branch of the Sanitary Inspectors' Association of Great Britain, Dr. W. Williams, County Medical Officer for Glamorgan, was re-elected President of the Branch. Dr. Williams has been President of the Association since its inception.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

### THE PERPLEXITIES OF SECRETARIES.

SIR,—I think the Honorary Secretary of the Truro Division has touched on an important point in referring to the amount of medico-legal business which is offered for the consideration of Divisional meetings.

Speaking for my own Division, I may reply to his first question as to whether members as a whole take any interest in medico-legal matters by a qualified negative. In matters of paramount importance to the profession they certainly do take interest, and are in no way behind their brethren in wishing to maintain a high ethical standard in the profession; but they would, I think, suffer from some amazement, and perhaps weariness of spirit, if they sat through the endless deliberations over the hundred odd items on the agenda paper of the Annual Representative Meeting.

Many of these items have been, or should have been, laid before every Division before this meeting; many more are the individual efforts of certain Divisions which seem to take their pleasure in "standing orders" and "amendments." I do not know how often these Divisions meet, or what their average attendance may be, but I do know that if in our Division discussion was invited over all the material that I receive from head quarters our meetings would need to be far more frequent, and would certainly be very thinly attended.

In answer to Dr. Taylor's second question as to the attendance being in the inverse ratio to the amount of medico-legal matter on the agenda paper, I would state that the "Oxford Division" carries on the tradition of the old

"Oxford Branch," which was instituted mainly for the purpose of clinical and scientific discussion. We hold four meetings in the year, including the annual meeting, and a conjoint meeting with the Reading Branch, held alternately at Reading and Oxford. All of these are clinical and scientific meetings, except the annual, when I take the occasion of placing on the agenda paper the more important matters of ethical or medico-legal business. Should the opinion of the Division be required on any such matter before the date of the annual meeting in June it would be asked for on the agenda paper of one of the ordinary meetings; but, so far as possible, the discussion arising therefrom would be kept within bounds and not be allowed at the expense of the time allotted for the reading of papers and showing of cases.

By these means we secure a very fair average attendance, and members from the surrounding counties never fail to offer material and to take a keen part in the discussions.—E. am, etc.,

W. DUGGAN,  
Honorary Secretary, Oxford Division.

Oxford, Oct. 12th.

### THE BRITISH MEDICAL BENEVOLENT FUND.

SIR,—In the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL of October 14th letters appeared advocating an annual levy on all the members of the British Medical Association for the above. I would also suggest that all on the *Medical Register* be appealed to. We have the necessary organization to work it thoroughly and successfully in our wide network of Divisions, and can in this way get into personal touch with all medical men in and outside of the Association. From personal conversation with medical men I feel sure that the Central Council, if they will promote a scheme which will provide for the pressing needs of the widows and orphans of medical men, that they will respond to the appeal. The question is an urgent and pressing one. It is high time that the British Medical Association dealt in a practical manner with this charitable aspect of our moral obligations to those who need our help.—I am, etc.,

Bacup, Oct. 17th.

JNO. BROWN, M.D. Vict.

### TRACHEOTOMY UNDER LOCAL ANAESTHESIA.

SIR,—If I read Dr. StClair Thomson's communication correctly, he claims a certain amount of novelty for this form of procedure.

Surely it must have been performed any number of times, as tracheotomy, I should imagine, would be one of the first operations to commend itself to the surgeon as eminently adapted to the use of local anaesthesia. I tried it first in 1898 on a patient in the Brighton, Hove, and Sussex Throat and Ear Hospital; and again on March 25th, 1899, for a case of malignant disease of the tonsils. In both cases (adult males) it was perfectly successful.

With regard to the use of adrenalin and eucaine, I am more than satisfied, never having had more than two minutes to wait, provided care be taken to inject it strictly subcutaneously.—I am, etc.,

EDWARD TREWKS,  
Honorary Consulting Surgeon to the Brighton, Hove,  
and Sussex Throat and Ear Hospital.

Hove, Oct. 16th.

SIR,—The most interesting portion of Dr. StClair Thomson's article in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL of October 14th in my opinion lies in the P.S. Since reading Mr. Barker's notes in the JOURNAL of December 24th, 1904, I have done a large number of operations both large and small under the influence of beta-eucaine and adrenalin, and the results have been uniformly satisfactory.

I had already almost discarded the use of cocaine owing to several untoward circumstances which had occurred after its administration even in very small quantities, but since using Mr. Barker's formula, I have injected the full 3½ oz. on more than one occasion, and have never experienced an anxious moment.

The time required for its full effect is rather longer than that of cocaine; but allowing for the application of the pure carbolic and the injection of the cocaine solution drop by drop, the time required to produce insensibility by beta-eucaine is probably less.—I am, etc.,

Kendal, Oct. 17th.

ROBT. W. LEBMING.

### SYNCOPAL BRADYCARDIA.

SIR,—Dr. Gossage, in his letter published in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL of October 14th, criticizing the conclusions arrived at by Dr. Maynard, agrees with me that the evidence—