

demand 5s. for women's clubs. The present attitude of Manchester men is that clubs at any rates are an unavoidable evil, though of course as long as they exist they will be sought after, and provided they are only taken at rates generally agreed on as consistent with proper treatment of patients, it would be folly to ban those who hold them. But none of these half-exuses can apply to the sixpenny doctor. We deny the necessity for such practice in Manchester districts; we are confident that the collector system described, and even the objectionable 4s. club system for adult males, are both more remunerative and more consistent with proper treatment of patients than the sixpenny practice, and, what is not the least important thing, they are free from the taint of underselling and unfair competition which unavoidably attaches to the sixpenny doctor in Manchester.

## South Wales.

### DAIRY FARMS AND THE MILK STANDARD.

At the quarterly meeting of the Carmarthenshire Chamber of Agriculture at Carmarthen Professor C. Bryner Jones, the newly-appointed Professor in Agriculture at the University College of Wales, Aberystwith, initiated a debate on Some Problems relating to Milk Production. He commented on the regulations of the Board of Agriculture, which declared that milk sold as such must contain 3 per cent. of butter fat and 8.5 per cent. of solids other than butter fat, and attempted to show that circumstances sometimes arose which had a considerable influence on the natural constitution of milk. It was of equal importance to dairy farmers and local authorities to know what those circumstances were. In the law courts occasionally milk producers had been prosecuted when, if an investigation had been made into the cases, probably this would not have taken place. Reference was made to the various causes affecting the quantity and quality of milk—amongst others, the breed of the cattle, the time of the year, the time of calving, feeding, the weather, and some other causes. He then dealt with some experiments carried out under his supervision at the Armstrong College, Newcastle-on-Tyne (where he was previously engaged as lecturer), on the feeding of dairy cows. It was found that increasing the ration of concentrated food did not increase the milk on the whole, except temporarily; neither did it improve its quality. The use of concentrated food on grass was not to be recommended, except towards the end of the season, when the grass was becoming stale. Brewers' grains were found to increase the yield of milk considerably, and there were certain indications that they somewhat decreased the quality at first. It was shown that when the intervals between milking were equal the morning milk of the herd was of much better quality than when the intervals were unequal.

Mr. Walter Jones, Bangor, urged farmers to make the most of the experimental farm of the college at Aberystwith, and not to look upon such institutions with suspicion.

The Chairman said the farmers would have a great deal of trouble with the local authorities in respect of their milk. Unquestionably a great deal had been said in error by inspectors. One of them recently stated that 30 per cent. of cows that were milked, and whose milk was consumed in towns, suffered from tuberculosis. Sweeping assertions like that did farmers a good deal of harm. A dairy association for the county, if worked like the Farmers' Co-operative Society, would be successful. Thirty milk churns, where there used to be one fifteen years ago, now daily travelled up and down the line; therefore, it ought to be possible to co-operate effectively.

Professor Jones, in his reply, said that the statement as to tuberculosis referred to the country generally, and strongly urged dairy farmers to co-operate as the Chairman had suggested. The Board of Agriculture had now in its possession a very considerable amount of evidence in regard to milk, and in consequence of representations from Newcastle-on-Tyne and elsewhere the Board had issued an order that authorities should not prosecute in any case without making a very careful inquiry into the circumstances under which the milk was produced.

## Ireland.

### THE JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE IRISH LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD.

We referred recently to the objectionable Continental system adopted at inquiries by certain inspectors of the Irish Local Government Board, and we now propose to give some further examples.

An inquiry upon oath was held on July 11th, at the Dunshaughlan Workhouse, regarding the death of a labourer named Lynch in that institution from pneumonia. The inquiry was called for by the guardians. Dr. Dickinson was acting as temporary medical officer of the workhouse, and we presume of the dispensary district as well. He was called to see this man on May 11th. The person who came for him had no ticket, but, as is usual in Ireland, the dispensary doctor did not send him for one, but attended at once. Some days later, as the friends said the man was delirious and unmanageable, he advised them to send the patient into the workhouse infirmary, and said he would make arrangements with the nurse to have a bed ready for him.

The family, having the usual horror of the workhouse hospital, objected, and the doctor seems to have taken no further steps, but after his departure they sent the patient on an outside car accompanied by three other men to the workhouse some five miles distant.

On his arrival there without any official order for admission, his conduct was so extraordinary that the master regarded him as a lunatic whose friends wanted to be rid of the trouble of him, and he refused to admit him. The man remained outside for three hours until the arrival of a Mr. Duffy, who knew the circumstances, and he was then admitted, but died two days later.

What we complain of is that at the inquiry the inspector tried to fasten upon Dr. Dickinson the responsibility for not having ordered the workhouse master to send out the ambulance, and put a series of questions to him just such as a French examining magistrate would put to a prisoner to induce him to incriminate himself. Dr. Dickinson may not have known, but the inspector ought to have known, that patients can only be admitted to an Irish workhouse infirmary in one or other of two ways, either on an order from the relieving officer, or, in a case of sudden and urgent necessity, by the master upon his own responsibility—a responsibility which workhouse masters are not fond of assuming.

Absurd as it may seem, no medical officer of the union, not even the medical officer of the workhouse, can direct a patient to be admitted. The most he can do is, if he think fit, to send a note to the relieving officer stating that such a person is a case for hospital treatment and is fit for removal; but woe betide him if that patient should die on the way or soon after his admission, he will then have to stand a sworn inquiry conducted in the usual manner, yet he has no authority to order the workhouse master or any one else to send out the ambulance. We hold that it is most unconstitutional for an inspector to try to fasten blame upon a medical officer for not doing what he has no legal power to do.

According to the press report, the inspector also heckled the master into admitting that he had committed an error of judgement in not taking the man in at once. Here again we join issue. We regard the master's action as justified, or at least excused, by the fact that the man was brought on an outside car with three men to control him, and could not only walk, but run and smoke his pipe.

It must not be forgotten that these courts have the power to deprive the accused of his means of livelihood without right of appeal; there is, therefore, all the more reason why the proceedings should be conducted on the principle of British law, which presumes a man to be innocent until he is found guilty by his peers. We are also of opinion, from what we have seen of these inquiries, that many an Irish Poor-law official has been found guilty and punished upon evidence which no judge would admit or jury convict upon.

A few months ago the porter of a certain workhouse was charged with neglect of duty. The charges were investigated at a meeting of the guardians, at which an inspector of the Local Government Board was present. Having heard the evidence, the inspector is reported to have