

took the degree of M.D. in 1864. He was admitted a Fellow of the Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow in 1872. Of the forty-four years during which he was engaged in active professional work, thirty-three were spent in a large general practice in the south side of Glasgow. In 1897 he left Scotland and settled in Rome, where, although he gave up practice six years ago, he remained to the end of his life. While a student he worked in the old Glasgow Infirmary as dresser under Lister, for whom he retained unbounded love and admiration. At the Lister dinner in London in 1907 he and the late Dr. Ramsay occupied the places of honour on Lister's right and left, being the only survivors of that time who were present. Dr. Fenwick had greatly endeared himself by his kindness of disposition and genial manner to the British colony in Rome, and he will be much missed on account of the great interest he showed in all matters affecting its welfare, and of the capacity and common sense he always brought to bear on whatever he took in hand. He was a very old member of the British Medical Association. He leaves a widow.

COLONEL HARRY STRICKLAND MCGILL, Army Medical Staff (ret.), died on October 20th. He was the only son of the late Captain William Strickland McGill, of the 79th Cameron Highlanders, and was educated in Dublin, where he took the L.R.C.S.I. in 1880, and the L.R.C.P.I. and the L.M. of the Coombe Hospital in 1881. He entered the army as surgeon on July 29th, 1882; became surgeon-major on July 29th, 1894; lieutenant-colonel on July 29th, 1902; was placed on the selected list from September 17th, 1908; and promoted to colonel on June 8th, 1912. He was placed on half-pay on December 4th, 1913, and retired so recently as July 8th last. During his service he devoted much attention to sanitary matters, taking the D.P.H. at Cambridge in 1887, and the diploma in tropical medicine and hygiene there in 1906. He filled the post of Assistant Professor of Pathology in the Army Medical School, Netley, for some time, and was at one time sanitary officer with army head quarters in India. During his last tour of Indian service, from 1906 to 1911, he commanded the station hospitals at Poona and at Secunderabad successively. His war services comprised Burma, 1887-89, medal with clasp; Chin-Lushai expedition on North-East frontier of India, 1889-90, clasp; Burma, 1890-92, clasp; the Isazai campaign on the North-West frontier of India in 1900; and the China war of 1900, medal.

## Public Health

AND

### POOR LAW MEDICAL SERVICES.

#### URGENCY ORDERS.

M.—The giving of a medical order is legally at the discretion of the relieving officer, but where "urgency" is alleged he would be unwise to take the responsibility of refusal at any hour of the day or night. Quite recently a circular was issued by the Local Government Board specially enjoining that there should be no delay in granting medical orders in the first instance, so that a relieving officer's statement that "he has no option in these cases" is in the circumstances practically correct. This has always been a grievance to Poor Law medical officers, as many of the cases for which "urgent" orders are issued are found to be trivial. It is, however, held that it is only by general arrangements of this kind that the occasional serious cases can be safeguarded.

## Medico-Legal.

### ACTION UNDER THE APOTHECARIES' ACT AGAINST A HERBALIST.

AN appeal was heard by the Divisional Court of the King's Bench Division on November 2nd from a judgement given by the Deputy County Court Judge of Worcester on May 13th, 1914, in favour of the society against the defendant for having acted and practised as an apothecary in breach of S. 20 of the Apothecaries' Act, 1815. It appeared that the defendant, Burden, kept a herbalist's shop in the city of Worcester. In August, 1913, he was consulted by a Mrs. Rosina Daniels, who was ill. He attended her, stating she was suffering from an internal abscess, prescribed for and gave her medicine, and

remained in attendance upon her up to the date of her death on February 6th, 1914. At an inquest subsequently held upon Mrs. Daniels it was shown by the medical evidence that she died of kidney disease. Upon the facts being brought to the notice of the society proceedings were instituted against Burden in the Worcester County Court, and judgement was given for the society for the statutory penalty of £20 and costs. The defendant appealed against this decision. The court, after hearing counsel on both sides, dismissed the appeal with costs, and refused leave to appeal further.

## Medical News.

DR. W. COLLINGRIDGE, late Medical Officer of Health City and Port of London, was on November 17th called to the Bar as a member of the Honourable Society of Gray's Inn.

THEIR Majesties the King and Queen graciously sent a message of sympathy to Dr. and Mrs. Cuthbert, North Queensferry, on the loss of their son, Henry Kenmore Duff Cuthbert, Mid. R.N.R., who died in action on the Chilian coast on H.M.S. *Good Hope* on November 1st.

SINCE the outbreak of war the Public Health Department of Poplar Borough Council, through the medical officer of health, Dr. F. W. Alexander, has been arranging for the visitation of cases of expectant maternity amongst the wives of soldiers and sailors serving with the colours. In view, however, of the issue by the Local Government Board of suggestions for the administration of the parliamentary grants in aid of provision for maternity and child welfare in respect of the general population the scope of the Poplar scheme is to be somewhat extended, so that local associations taking part may be entitled to share in the Government grants. The Poplar Infant Care Association, the School Care Committees, and the College of St. Katharine, which is now established in the borough, have agreed to co-operate with the borough council in visiting suitable cases both before and after the birth of the infant, continuing until school age is reached. The School Care Committees will forward to the Public Health Department the names of mothers expecting to be confined, a card index will be maintained, and the cases distributed to the voluntary associations according to locality. Midwives practising in the borough will be asked to co-operate by sending the names of suitable cases for visitation. The borough council has asked the Local Government Board to make diarrhoea a notifiable disease during certain months of the year.

IN a lecture on the after-care of mental defectives, delivered by Miss Evelyn Fox at a meeting of the Child Study Society held on Thursday, October 29th, at the Royal Sanitary Institute, she said that with the passing of the Mental Deficiency Act the State had for the first time formally recognized the fact that mental defectives were entitled to its protection. The feeling, which seemed to be widespread, that the Act so far had done little or nothing towards improving the status of the mentally defective, was probably due to the fact that under its provisions a large section of those mentally deficient children who had hitherto remained in their own homes were now eligible for admittance into institutions, and that as yet there were not a sufficient number of these establishments to receive them. If the Act worked properly the larger proportion of defective children would in time be placed under restraint. The only way of dealing effectually with the "higher grade" defective was by establishing an efficient system of after-care, by means of which the defective child on leaving school would be well looked after and prevented from losing ground or drifting into bad habits. The value of a systematic system of visiting by persons of skill and knowledge was very great, and should not be confined to the ex-pupils of special schools. The society hoped to see the foundation all over the country of voluntary associations, including every kind of social worker, whose object would be the care of defective children who had not attended special schools. They should possess "observation homes," where difficult borderline cases could be watched in order to discover whether they were capable of profiting by a period of training in some home or institution, or whether they were only fit to pass the rest of their lives under restraint. One such association had just started an "occupation centre," where children who had left school and were unfitted for ordinary work were kept employed for several hours every day; this not only kept them out of the streets, but relieved their families of what was sometimes a very heavy burden. A number of such centres started in connexion with special schools would enable a large proportion of these children to remain in their own homes and prevent the overcrowding of institutions.