

THE GENERAL MEDICAL COUNCIL ELECTION (ENGLAND AND WALES).

SIR,—We desire to thank the registered practitioners of England and Wales for their support in the election of direct representatives on the General Medical Council. It will be our duty and pleasure to take a full share in the work of the Council. In the general interest, that of the practitioner no less than that of the public, we shall watch carefully the conditions under which medical service to the community is given, and we shall help to direct the training of the student so that it may conform to the needs of social and scientific progress.—We are, etc.,

R. A. BOLAM.
J. A. MACDONALD.
E. B. TURNER.
T. JENNER VERRALL.

November 25th.

ANOTHER COMPLAINT OF THE SPECIAL RESERVE.

SIR,—The Director-General, A.M.S., in his address published in the JOURNAL of October 11th, paints a glowing picture of life in the regular R.A.M.C. after the war. He has not overpainted his picture, for when the army has been combed out, when the sick and wounded have been pensioned off and the auxiliary medical officers have retired into civil life to look after them, the regular officer will lead a sheltered existence and be able to devote his time, if he be so inclined, to the pursuit of knowledge, encouraged by every facility and the certainty of an increasing income and pension.

There is one thing, however, which the Director-General forgot to mention. There will be no Special Reserve of Officers to fall back upon in times of stress; at least, not until a generation arises which "knew not Joseph."

Possibly it is the intention of the authorities to let this Cinderella of the Service die out, for nothing has ever been done to remedy the injustice which has embittered us for the last five years. It has been the subject of many letters in the JOURNAL, among them a very able one from Dr. Gordon Ward in the issue of May 31st, 1919. Dr. Ward pointed out that he was about £300 out of pocket by being so foolish as to train for an emergency. This was in May, and for those of us who are still serving the loss is even greater.

All we ask for is equality. Presumably our work is of value equal to that of the temporary officer, and in some cases, at any rate, to that of the regular officer. It is said that we get the same pay and allowances as the regular—but we do not. The pay of the regular is pensionable, and ours is not.

When the new Warrant for Pay was issued we expected to find that we had been put on equal terms with the temporary officer. Comparing the two rates, we find that a captain T.C. now gets £650 a year (with rations or ration allowance, in addition) whereas a captain S.R. now gets £522 a year, rations included, on the top of which he loses his allowance if he is unlucky enough to fall sick or get leave.

I had the misfortune to be wounded, and spent three months in hospital. In the same building there was a temporary officer suffering from "myalgia." He was my junior, and had less than half my service; yet for the two months he was in hospital he drew 8s. 6d. a day more than I did.

We listened to the emissary from the War Office and joined the Special Reserve with our eyes open, believing it to be the right thing to do. We mobilized at short notice at the beginning of the war, and have borne the mutual trials and mutual work. We do not claim to be a set apart, but we do claim that equal service demands equal rates of pay.—I am, etc.,

October 13th.

SPECIAL RESERVE.

PORTRAITS OF ANDREAS VESALIUS.

SIR,—Being engaged upon a work on the iconography of Andreas Vesalius, I should be grateful if you will allow me to appeal to those of your readers with whom I have not already corresponded on the subject, and who own or know of any such portraits, painted or sculptured, to have the kindness to communicate with me.

It is believed that certain of the portraits which at

present are regarded as untraceable are to be found in institutions—in universities, medical schools and the like, or in semi-public or private galleries.

I may add that the book, which is to contain all the accessible portraits of the Father of Modern Anatomy, will be worthily produced under the authority and with the support of the *Annals of Medical History*.—I am, etc.,

The Athenaeum, Pall Mall, S.W.1,
November 25th.

M. H. SPIELMANN.

PARLIAMENTARY VACANCY IN ST. ALBANS DIVISION.

SIR,—May we through your columns invite the attention of all medical practitioners in the St. Albans area to the candidature for Parliament of Lieut.-Colonel F. E. Fremantle? The desirability of increasing the number of medical men in the House of Commons is admitted by all, and there can be no doubt that the return of Colonel Fremantle will be of the utmost value in the representation of medical interests.

The ways in which medical practitioners can assist in the election are by lending their cars, certainly on the polling day, and, whenever possible, before the election; by showing their patients that it is to their interest to return a doctor to Parliament; by taking care to vote for the candidate; and by speaking in his support whenever it can be arranged.

We hope that every medical practitioner in the St. Albans constituency who can help in any of these ways will place himself in communication with Colonel Fremantle's agent, Mr. A. E. Cockerell, 17, St. Peter's Street, St. Albans.—We are, etc.,

CHARLES BUTTAR,

Honorary Secretary.

N. HOWARD MUMMERY,

General Secretary.

British Federation of Medical and Allied Societies,
5, Vere Street, Cavendish Square, London, W.1,
November 24th.

LIFE OF SIR LAUDER BRUNTON.

SIR,—In response to requests I propose to publish shortly a memoir of the late Sir Lauder Brunton. All profits from the sale of this book will be given to the sustentation fund of St. Bartholomew's Hospital. I should be very grateful for any communications from old friends of his, or for any letters of interest written by him. These would be carefully preserved and returned.—I am, etc.,

7, Poole Road, Bournemouth,
Nov. 25th.

THOMAS BODLEY SCOTT.

Medico-Legal.

LIABILITY UNDER THE LUNACY ACT.

ATTENTION is called by a recent case in the High Court to the position of magistrates, medical practitioners, and others who may be called upon to exercise the duties imposed upon them under the Lunacy Act, 1890, with regard to the reception of lunatics.

A reception order under the Act can, of course, be made in a number of ways, but the order itself is invariably made by a magistrate or other judicial authority, who must act only upon the certificate of a medical practitioner. In the case of a summary reception order the certificate of two medical practitioners is required. In addition to the medical certificate a magistrate or other judicial authority must, in the case of a lunatic found wandering at large, himself examine the alleged lunatic and make such inquiries as he thinks advisable in order to satisfy himself that the alleged lunatic is in fact a lunatic, and a proper person to be detained as such.

It may, perhaps, be noticed with regard to this duty of the magistrate that there is no obligation upon him to examine the alleged lunatic in the presence of the certifying medical practitioner, nor need the examination be held with the knowledge of the alleged lunatic so that he should have an opportunity of explaining, if he can, what would otherwise appear to be signs of insanity. The examination need be only such as is reasonably sufficient to enable the magistrate to form a bona fide judgement as to the man's mental condition. The same observation applies to the examination by the certifying medical practitioner.