

work, and, though she well knew that the end was inevitable and could not be long delayed, she resolutely remained at her post until further work was physically impossible. She never thought of herself, but was always anxious to be of service to others. She was one of the most delightful and loyal of colleagues, and will be greatly missed by those with whom she worked at the Welsh Board of Health and by the medical officials of local authorities in Wales.

Colonel HENRY STOKER died on December 1st at the Royal Military College, Duntroon, Federal Territory, Australia. Dr. Stoker came of a very old professional family of three generations; he was the fourth of seven sons of the late Dr. E. A. Stoker of Dublin, all of whom followed their father's lead, with the exception of one, who selected dentistry. His grandfather (1773 to 1845) and father were leaders of professional thought in their time. Dr. Stoker was educated at Bective College, Trinity College, and the Royal College of Surgeons (Ireland); he obtained the diplomas of L.R.C.S.I. in 1884, L.R.C.P.I. and L.M. in 1885, and the F.R.C.S.I. and D.P.H. in 1895. He early decided to make his home under the Southern Cross; he was appointed sanitary officer to the Port of Melbourne, and his pioneer work in connexion with fly-borne diseases was valuable. His bent, however, was to surgery, and, settling in Wagga Wagga, he developed a large surgical practice, and became one of the leading operators in New South Wales. On the outbreak of war he joined the Australian Army Medical Corps and saw foreign service; he attained the rank of colonel, and after the cessation of hostilities the Federal Government marked its appreciation of his work by appointing him to the Royal Military College, Duntroon. Interested in all forms of outdoor sports, he will be remembered by contemporaries as a prominent member of the Wanderers Rugby Football Club, playing with his brothers, two of whom reached international standing, while he himself just missed this distinction, being selected for the reserves. Colonel Stoker took an active part in the work of the various medical societies of the Antipodes, and made an excellent president, being materially helped on the social side by his wife (a daughter of the late Mr. James Poe of Kilkenny), who was unhappily killed twelve months ago in a carriage accident, in which he also received injuries. He could not be induced to curtail his activities, but continued his work with a fine courage in pain and sorrow. Colonel Stoker leaves two sons.

Dr. WILLIAM ALEXANDER WADSWORTH, who died on November 21st, was educated at Galway, Belfast, and the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland. He graduated M.D.R.U.I. in 1884, and obtained the diploma L.M.R.C.P.I. in the same year. Four years later he received the B.Ch. He then commenced private practice in Belfast, and later succeeded his two brothers. He was a magistrate of the city, and was keenly interested in the work of the Carlisle Memorial Methodist Church, of which he was a trustee and a member of the quarterly board for over thirty years. He was a member of the British Medical Association.

## Medical Notes in Parliament.

[FROM OUR PARLIAMENTARY CORRESPONDENT.]

As mentioned last week, Parliament was prorogued on December 15th. The following notes refer to medical matters which arose during the last day. A list of Acts of medical interest which were passed and of bills which for various reasons were abandoned is first given.

### New Acts.

Acts which received the Royal Assent on December 15th and came into force immediately included:

Housing (Rural Workers) Act, empowering local authorities to give, with the approval of the Ministry of Health, assistance by grant or loan for reconditioning houses in rural areas provided that for twenty years such houses are occupied by agricultural workers or the like.

Births and Deaths Registration Act, requiring stillbirths to be registered; adding safeguards to the law of registration of death and of the disposal of bodies; enabling local authorities to arrange, in certain instances, for the medical inspection of a dead person.

University of London Act, setting up a body of commissioners with power to draft certain statutes for the University.

Wireless Telegraphy (Blind Persons Facilities) Act.

Workmen's Compensation (No. 2 Act), extending the period during which a review is possible of compensation payments to workers under 21.

Penal Servitude Act, increasing the maximum penalties for certain sexual offences.

Judicial Proceedings (Regulations of Reports) Act, restricting the reports of divorce proceedings and redefining the law against the publication of indecent details in other cases, including indecent physiological details.

The following statutes, which became Acts on December 15th, come into force later:

Coroners (Amendment) Act, regulating the qualifications, appointment and resignation of coroners and deputy coroners, requiring coroners to have either medical or legal qualification, and giving power in certain additional circumstances to hold an inquest without a jury and increasing the fees of medical men for attendance at inquests and *post-mortem* examinations. Comes into force May, 1927, with the exception of Section 4 (abolishing franchise coronerships), which is to be enforced at once.

Lead Paint (Protection Against Poisoning) Act, imposing fresh regulations from January 1st on the use of lead paint on internal work, and prohibiting, from November 19th, 1927, with special exceptions, the employment of women and young persons in such work.

Legitimacy Act, providing for legitimization by subsequent marriage.

Public Health (Smoke Abatement) Act, abolishing the obligation to prove the objectionable smoke is "black" and giving power to take proceedings against the emission of grit, gritty particles, and noxious vapours.

The following Acts of medical importance obtained the Royal Assent earlier in 1926:

Economy (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, reducing by £2,000 annually, from January 1st, the State grant to the Health Insurance Fund, and transferring to the Exchequer a surplus of £1,100,000 from the Navy, Army, and Air Force Insurance Fund.

Unemployment Insurance Act, extending the present system of unemployment insurance till December 31st, 1927.

Boards of Guardians (Default) Act, authorizing the Ministry of Health to supersede boards of guardians who do not observe the law.

Adoption of Children Act, authorizing adoption by sanction of the court.

Midwives and Maternity Homes Act, providing for the registration and inspection of maternity homes, amending the Midwives Act, and authorizing a revision of the register of midwives.

Chartered Associations (Protection of Names and Uniforms) Act, enabling associations to register uniforms and making the wearing of such uniforms without authority an offence.

Bills abandoned include:

The Factories Bill, Mental Deficiency Bill, Dentists Bill, Offices Regulation Bill, Protection of Animals Bill, Vaccination Bill, and Venereal Disease Act (1917) Amendment Bill. The first was a Government measure.

*Dental Benefit.*—In a reply to Sir Frederick Hall, on December 15th, Sir Kingsley Wood said it was proposed to appoint regional dental officers in connexion with dental benefit treatment as administered by approved societies. Applications for the posts had been invited by advertisements which did not restrict candidature to dentists holding any particular diploma. A Selection Committee had been set up, but appointments had not yet been made.

*Spahlinger Treatment.*—In a reply to Sir Charles Cayzer, on December 15th, Sir Kingsley Wood said local authorities were not encouraged to make use of the Spahlinger treatment for tuberculosis; it was not one of the special benefits to which insurance societies could apply their surplus, and no estimate could be given of the money needed to introduce the system of treatment on an extended scale in this country. The materials for a scientific investigation of the treatment in this country were not forthcoming.

### Notes in Brief.

Out of 11,650,000 persons in Great Britain who are insured against unemployment, 600,000 to 650,000 are estimated to be aged 60 to 69 years.

The use of "brynite" is to be permitted in sausages and sausage meat.

The Home Office will consider whether the Introduction to Criminal Statistics should again give particulars of the apparent causes of murders. This return was discontinued in 1905.

Mr. Amery has stated that in Uganda vaccination was compulsory for all natives over 6 months. Exemption was allowed to persons who previously had small-pox, had been successfully vaccinated within five years, were certified to be unfit for successful vaccination, or were found insusceptible of successful vaccination.

Sir William Bull asked Mr. Chamberlain whether he had been advised on the exact legal position under the Venereal Diseases Act of chemists selling material for prevention together with printed or written directions for its use. Mr. Chamberlain replied, "Yes, Sir."