

Forms of petition and such information as is necessary for candidates for these scholarships may be obtained from the Secretary, Royal College of Surgeons, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, W.C.
The approximate value of each scholarship will be £60 per annum.

Removal of Member.

The name of a member of the College, recently struck off the *Medical Register*, was struck off the list of members, for unprofessional conduct.

Conference on School Hygiene.

The President reported on behalf of himself and the Vice-Presidents, that, in pursuance of the authority given to them by the Council on November 10th last, they had appointed Dr. H. Timbrell Bulstrode to represent the College at the Conference on School Hygiene arranged by the Royal Sanitary Institute to be held in London from February 7th to 10th, 1905.

Donation.

Mr. Edmund Owen presented to the College, on behalf of Mr. Edward Atkinson, M.R.C.S., of Leeds, six saws invented and used by Hey for operations on the skull.

The following gentlemen having passed the necessary examinations, and having conformed to the by-laws and regulations have been admitted Fellows of the College in order of seniority as members, namely:

Messrs. J. A. Hayward, M.D.Lond.; C. E. Marriott, M.C.Camb.; F. J. Hasslacher, M.B.Lond.; J. Clay, M.B., B.S.Durh.; H. D. Pollard, M.B.Lond.; D. J. McGavin, M.D.Lond.; C. F. Walters, L.R.C.P.Lond.; R. C. Elmslie, M.B., B.S.Lond.; G. E. Waugh, M.D.Lond.; W. F. H. Coke, L.R.C.P.Lond.; E. R. Carling, M.B., B.S.Lond.; S. Hastings, M.B., B.S.Lond.; H. Davies-Colley, B.C.Camb.; H. Upcott, L.R.C.P.Lond.; N. E. Waterfield, M.B.Lond.; J. E. Adams, L.R.C.P.Lond.; H. A. Lyth, M.B., B.S.Lond.; W. A. Rees, M.B.Lond.; J. H. Burgess, M.B.Lond.; A. R. Brailey, M.B., B.C.Camb.; N. Carpmael, L.R.C.P.Lond.; C. B. Goulden, M.B., B.C.Camb.; W. L. Harnett, M.B., B.C.Camb.; A. T. Moon, L.R.C.P.Lond.; K. Black, L.R.C.P.Lond.; T. J. Faulder, L.R.C.P.Lond.; N. I. Spriggs, M.B., B.S.Lond.; F. H. Parker, M.B., B.C.Camb.; R. J. Ferguson, M.D., M.Ch., R.U.I.; A. McNab, M.B., Ch.B. Edin.; H. B. Tawse, M.B., Ch.B. Aberd.

The following gentlemen passed the First Professional Examination in Anatomy and Physiology for the Diploma of "Fellow," namely:

Messrs. S. C. Allen, M.D., B.Ch., New Zealand; M. R. Blake, M.D., C.M.Toronto; H. Blakeway, G. E. Charles, C. C. Chovce, M.D. Edin.; J. L. Falconer, M.B., Ch.B. Vict.; D. C. L. FitzWilliams, M.B., Ch.B. Edin.; A. Fleming; T. H. Foulkes, Capt. I.M.S.; W. B. Griffin, T. S. Hele, A. L. Home, M.B.Lond.; C. B. Howse, G. M. Huggins, A. R. Jordan, B. T. Lang, F. S. Mackenzie, M.B., C.M. Edin.; C. E. Marriott, M.B., M.C.Camb.; N. Patterson, M.D., B.Ch. Edin.; H. Pierpoint; D. Rankin, P. A. Reckless, R. T. Singer, M.B., Ch.B. Vict.; H. A. R. E. Unwin, J. B. F. Wilson, and E. M. Woodman.

Eighty-five candidates presented themselves for this examination, of whom 26 passed and 59 were referred.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF IRELAND.

Membership.

At a stated meeting of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland, held on January 14th, the following candidates were admitted to the membership of the College: Edward J. M. Watson, M.D.; T. Gillman Moorhead, M.D. At the previous meeting of the College, held on January 6th, Lieutenant-Colonel F. C. Reeves, I.M.S., was admitted to the membership.

PUBLIC HEALTH

AND

POOR-LAW MEDICAL SERVICES.

ALLEGATIONS OF NEGLECT OF DUTY AGAINST OFFICIALS OF A WORKHOUSE INFIRMARY.

OUR attention has been directed to the report in the *East Anglian Daily Times* of an inquest which was held recently at Ipswich by the coroner of that borough on the body of a man who had died in the infirmary of the Ipswich Workhouse. After the death of this patient reports of neglect in nursing and inattention to the ordinary requirements of the deceased during his illness became so prevalent as to lead the coroner to consider an inquest necessary. At the first sitting of the court the inquiry was adjourned in order that a *post-mortem* examination might be made, and this was directed to be done by Mr. G. S. Elliston, the Medical Officer of Health for the district, who held no official position in reference to the workhouse.

The evidence given by Mr. Elliston showed that the death of the patient was undoubtedly due to phthisis, and that there was a considerable quantity of suitable nutriment in the stomach of the deceased which he considered had been administered a few hours before death. The body was clean externally, and without marks of violence, and there were no bedsores, though emaciation was so extreme as to cause the bones to protrude through the skin. The jury, after an hour's deliberation, returned the following verdict: "That the deceased died from consumption, and that the nurses carried out their duties as laid down by the Department, and that the allegations of neglect are not borne out by the evidence." The conclusion of the jury must be regarded as highly satisfactory. Allegations such as were circulated in this case are easily made, but here, all such failed to be substantiated. It was, on the other hand, proved by evidence that the deceased was a complaining and dissatisfied patient, and was himself of very dirty habits.

We have carefully read the account of the coroner's somewhat lengthy summing-up of the evidence, and we note all the material evidence appears to have been most aptly commented on by him. He pointed out to the jury that they had met to ascertain the precise cause of the death, and it was not for them to inquire whether there had been any breach of the Consolidated Order of the Local Government Board, or whether any person had discharged his duty or not, except so far as any breach of these regulations or any neglect of duty had caused or accelerated the death of the deceased.

This verdict of the jury was supplemented by a rider to the effect that in their opinion the nursing staff of the infirmary required augmentation, and further, that pauper inmates of the workhouse ought not to be engaged as wardsmen. As to this we are in agreement with the jury, and we have good reason to believe that in all well-conducted infirmaries these faults in management are gradually, if not rapidly, disappearing, and we have every hope that in the near future, the regulations of the Local Government Board on these points will be more strictly adhered to, and if necessary made compulsory. With a full staff of efficient salaried nurses allegations such as gave rise to this scandal at Ipswich would become events of the past.

We are so often struck by the opinions expressed by coroners' juries, and by the fact that matters are discussed at length by them which have no bearing on the cause of death and which are consequently considered in error, that we gladly record our appreciation of the way in which this inquest was conducted by the coroner, who evidently allowed all reasonable latitude for remarks throughout the inquiry, but did not allow any improper questions to be put to the witnesses by any one present, not even by members of the Board of Guardians, nor even by any of the jury.

FEE FOR ATTENDANCE ON PUERPERAL CASE.

R. W. C., who is a district medical officer, writes, saying he was called to a woman on the third day after she had given birth to a child when under the care of a midwife. He found the patient suffering from septicaemia, and he treated her till she recovered. He had an order in due course from the relieving officer. Our correspondent asks (1) whether he can charge £1 for attendance, this being the usual fee for midwifery cases in his union. He appears to have a doubt on this point, as by Article 182 of the Consolidated Order only attendance at or immediately after delivery would entitle him to this fee: (2) whether boards of guardians are compelled to supply their officers, either gratuitously or on payment, with copies of contracts they may have signed.

* (1) We do not think that under Article 182 of Consolidated Order the ordinary midwifery fee could be claimed, but we consider that under Article 183 a fee of £2 may have become due to him if the attendance he gave can properly be described as of long duration, as there can be no doubt the malady was of puerperal origin. Article 183 is as follows: Provided that in any special case in which . . . long subsequent attendance in respect of some puerperal malady or affection may have been requisite, any district medical officer shall receive the sum of £2. (2) We know of no regulation which compels guardians to supply copies of contracts to any of their officials, but we believe that the latter can demand to see any contract they may have signed, and it would be only right for any officer to be allowed to copy the whole or any part of any contract he may have entered upon.

DUTIES AND CUSTOMS OF MEDICAL OFFICERS.

G. B. F.—A medical officer is quite within his rights in making a charge for professional attendance on the master of a workhouse of which he is the medical officer, but we believe that it is not usual to make such a charge. A board of guardians cannot make an order for their medical officer to attend all their meetings, but they may direct him to attend any ordinary or special meeting if his presence is required for any special purpose.

LEAD POISONING AT MOSSLEY.

THE Medical Officer of Health for Mossley has called attention to the large number of cases presumably of lead poisoning in the borough. Analysis of the water supply is being made. The severe epidemic of lead poisoning which occurred in the borough some ten years ago is still fresh in the minds of the inhabitants, and much uneasiness is therefore felt with regard to the recent development.

ROYAL NAVY AND ARMY MEDICAL SERVICES.

MILITARY OPERATIONS IN NIGERIA IN 1902-3.

AN Army Order recently issued announces that the King has been graciously pleased to approve of the Africa General Service Medal, with clasps, being granted to the forces employed in the undermentioned military operations, provided that the claims of the officers and men are approved by the Army Council. The medal with clasp, "N. Nigeria, 1902," will be granted to all officers and men under the command of Captain G. C. Merrick, Royal Artillery, at Argungu, and on French convoy duty between June 15th, 1902, and November 30th, 1902, both dates inclusive. The medal with clasp, "S. Nigeria, 1902-03," will be granted to all officers and men who between July 7th, 1902, and June, 1903, both dates inclusive, took part in the operations in Southern Nigeria under Colonel A. F. Montanaro, C.B., Royal Artillery, against the Uris and the people of Omonoha and Ebina respectively, and the operations under Lieutenant-Colonel W. G. C. Heneker, D.S.O., Connaught Rangers, against Chief Adunkaiku of Igarrs. Officers, soldiers, and others already in possession of the Africa General Service Medal will receive the clasp only. The grant of the medal and clasp, or clasp only, to officers of the regular and auxiliary forces will be confined to those who had official sanction to be present.

HOSPITAL AND DISPENSARY MANAGEMENT.

METROPOLITAN HOSPITAL SATURDAY FUND.

THE accounts for 1904 closed on January 6th, 1905. The total sum collected was £24,232, as against £23,565 in 1903, a net increase of £667. The sum received during the last seven days amounted to £5,892. The amount received from patients in part payment for surgical appliances was £2,289, as against £2,045 in 1903, an increase of £244, and in part payment for convalescent home and special hospital treatment £911, as against £931 in 1903, an increase of £10. The total sums collected for five years are as follow: 1900, £20,186; 1901, £21,455; 1902, £22,870; 1903, £23,565; 1904, £24,232.