

Two questions; I think, might be profitably discussed at Association Branch meetings:

1. *Fees Paid by Insurance Companies.*—It is pitiful to think that medical men can be got to make a visit, medical examination (often including examination of urine), and write a long report for a 2s. fee.

2. *The Form of Death Certificate.*—The "duration of disease" column I always leave vacant (except in acute diseases). It is impossible in many cases to be accurate, and if not that it is worse than useless for statistical purposes. Moreover, it is used by many insurance companies as an excuse for evading their lawful obligations to their clients.—I am, etc.,

J. MCK.

MEDICINE AND THE MERCANTILE MARINE.

SIR,—With reference to your suggestive article on the above subject, it may be of interest to note that the "chest" carried by German merchant ships is of a more up-to-date character than our Board of Trade chest, though there is room for improvement on the lines you indicate even in the Teutonic chest.

German ships' officers have, I believe, to pass a very thorough "first aid" examination and to show some knowledge of the principal drugs and their uses. I was much struck, on visiting professionally not long ago a German barque which had been encountering heavy weather, by the careful and efficient way in which the second mate had treated injured members of the crew. One man had sustained a very severe scalp wound fifteen days before the ship reached harbour; the scalp had been shaved, the wound thoroughly cleansed, seventeen sutures applied, and the result was that it had healed by first intention. The mate told me it had taken him two hours "to do the job," and I do not doubt it.—I am, etc.,

Plymouth, March 12th.

CHARLES J. COOKE.

THE PROPOSED BILLS TO LEGALIZE THE PRACTICE OF OPTICIANS.

SIR,—Having drawn attention by a letter which appeared in your issue of January 6th, p. 52, to the unexpected and unexplained inactivity of the Ophthalmological Society of the United Kingdom with regard to the above matter, it is now only fair to state that at the next meeting which was held after my letter appeared the Society decided to appoint a Committee to consider, inquire, and report concerning the Bills.—I am, etc.,

Norwich, March 5th.

ARTHUR GREENE.

OBITUARY.

HENRY MATTHEWS TUCKWELL, M.A., M.D.,
F.R.C.P.LOND.,

CONSULTING PHYSICIAN TO THE RADCLIFFE INFIRMARY, OXFORD.

DR. TUCKWELL, who died recently at Oxford, was a native of the city, his father having for many years been one of the leading medical men there. Henry Matthews Tuckwell was educated at Bromsgrove School under the late Canon Collison; he passed thence to Lincoln College, taking a first class in Natural Science in 1856. After leaving Oxford he studied medicine at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and became M.R.C.S.Eng. in 1858. A year later he won a Radcliffe Travelling Fellowship, and continued his medical studies at Paris, Berlin, and Vienna.

In 1866 he was appointed Physician to the Radcliffe Infirmary, which post he held for twenty years. With such a training, and possessing as he did a most courteous and sympathetic manner, he quickly acquired a great reputation as a physician, and for many years enjoyed a large consulting practice in Oxford and the neighbourhood.

It was in the very prime of life, and at the most successful period of his career, that a great misfortune overtook him, for in 1886 he suddenly found that he was developing glaucoma, and was advised to give up all work immediately. His retirement from practice under such circumstances was the occasion for all the medical men in the district and his old teachers and friends at St. Bartholomew's to present him with a testimonial as a mark of their sympathy and esteem. It took the form of a beautifully-illuminated address and a gold chronometer. The address bore the signatures, among others, of Sir George

Burrows, Sir James Paget, Sir William Savory, Dr. Andrew, etc., and was much valued by Dr. Tuckwell.

Keenly interested in the advances in his profession, busily engaged in an extensive and interesting practice, to be suddenly debarred from all work and from the consolation of his books must have been a heavy burden indeed to bear. His friends, however, never heard one word of complaint pass his lips, and he appeared always cheerful and contented. Indeed, he set a noble example of Christian patience and resignation to all around him. His great love of music was a source of immense consolation to him, and fortunately Oxford afforded him ample opportunity of indulging it. In his earlier years at Oxford a good deal of his leisure time was spent in drawing up a most admirable description of the pathological specimens of the Van der Kolk Collection, which had been purchased for the University. He also contributed several articles of great interest to the various medical periodicals, notably one to the *St. Bartholomew's Reports* on the probable connexion of chorea with embolism.

THOMAS DUDDINGSTON WILSON, M.A., M.B., C.M.,
F.R.C.S.E.
CHAIRMAN OF THE SOUTH EDINBURGH DIVISION OF THE BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

WE regret to record the death from pneumonia on March 8th, at his residence, West Newington House, Edinburgh, of Dr. T. Duddingston Wilson. He was the eldest son of Dr. David Wilson, who for many years had a large practice in the northern districts of Edinburgh. He was educated at the Edinburgh Academy, the University of Edinburgh, and in Paris. He graduated M.B. in 1875, and became a Fellow of the College in 1879. On his return home he became Resident Physician in Leith Hospital, and later, Medical Superintendent of Craiglockhart Hydropathic Institution, near Edinburgh. In 1883 he settled in general practice in the south side, where he soon acquired a considerable *clientèle*. He was a kindly and sympathetic man, and did much good work without ostentation. He was not robust, and frequently suffered from asthma. He lays down his work at the age of 55, leaving behind him a widow to mourn his loss. He was a keen politician, was President of the Newington Unionist Club, Chairman of the South Division Unionist Association, an able organizer who worked hard for his party at the recent general election. At the time of his death he was Chairman of the South Edinburgh Division of the British Medical Association. He was thus a distinct force in the district in which his work lay.

WILLIAM MOXON, M.R.C.S., L.S.A.,

VICE-PRESIDENT ROYAL VICTORIA DISPENSARY, NORTHAMPTON.

WE regret to have to record the death of Mr. William Moxon of Northampton, which took place on January 15th, in his 74th year.

Mr. Moxon was a native of Rugeley, in Staffordshire, and was educated at King's College, London, taking the Membership and Licence in Midwifery of the Royal College of Surgeons, England, and the Licence of the Apothecaries' Society in 1854.

In 1856, or thereabouts, he settled at Northampton, where he was soon appointed on the staff of the Royal Victoria Dispensary, and in time established one of the largest general practices in the town and neighbourhood, which he carried on for a period of nearly fifty years, relinquishing it a few years ago.

Though of a retiring disposition, and not appearing to come to the front in connexion with the social and public business of the town, Mr. Moxon nevertheless, in a quiet and unostentatious manner, got through an enormous amount of work. After his retirement from practice he gave his time and interest unsparingly to various public institutions, where his thoroughly business habits, general ability, and genial manner were thoroughly appreciated. This was instanced by his appointment as Vice-President of the Victoria Dispensary, Chairman of the Union Bank, Vice-Chairman of the Nursing Institution, Orphanage for Girls, and various other philanthropic bodies. More recently still he was made a Justice of the Peace, his services in that capacity being greatly valued by his brother magistrates.

Mr. Moxon was President of the South Midland Branch of the Association in 1877, when he gave an address on