

opinion. As regards the means by which the help of medical skill may best be obtained there is, however, some room for disagreement, as recent events have shown. In the opinion of the bench, a practitioner of medicine should be in constant service in court in case of need. The police executive, on the other hand, prefer to exercise the power of enlisting medical assistance from without in any given case by special order. There is, we admit, reason in both views. We should probably be right in associating with the latter the advantage of State economy, while it must also be allowed that the settlement of many ordinary questions in dispute would thus be provided for. Such an arrangement, however, can never be equal in absolute efficiency to that approved by the magistracy. The appointment of a medical adviser in regular attendance implies of necessity the creation of a new office with a fixed salary attached. It also ensures at the same time a definite return in the quality of work done. Much valuable time would be saved. The official referee could at once be found if required. His familiarity with the procedure of courts could not but facilitate the conduct of business, and his opinion, strengthened as it must be by more particular study and experience of a variety of medico-legal cases, would be proportionately reliable. This, therefore, is clearly the more practical though perhaps also the more costly of the two plans proposed. We will not say that it is indispensable, since hitherto it has been done without, but it is for the Legislature to determine whether the more perfect and expeditious action of law thus guaranteed is or is not worthy of the special effort which it entails. Perhaps a tentative experiment carried out in one or two selected police courts would be the best means of arriving at a decision in the matter.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS.

IN consequence of the attendance of the President, Sir Andrew Clark, Bart., being required at Cambridge on Tuesday, the 10th inst., when it is proposed by the University to confer on him the honorary degree of LL.D., Professor Ferrier's second Croonian Lecture, which had been fixed for that day, stands postponed to Thursday, the 12th inst.

"VACCINATION" FOR YELLOW FEVER.

DR. DOMINGOS FREIRE, of Rio de Janeiro, has been prosecuting his experiments in "vaccination" for the "vomito nigro," and has recently published an account of their results. His "vaccinations" were carried out with attenuated cultures of a microbe, which he believes to be the pathogenic agent of the fever, and the opportunity of which he availed himself was the epidemic of that disease prevailing in 1888-89. The number of those vaccinated amounted to 3525, and the general mortality did not exceed 0.79 per cent. From 1883 to 1889 Dr. Domingos Freire has vaccinated for the "vomito nigro" 10,518 persons, and of these the percentage of deaths was only 0.4.

THE NATURE OF "NONA."

FROM his observations of two cases of so-called "nona," both of which were fatal, Dr. Tranjen of Sistova (Bulgaria) believes that the affection popularly described under that name is really infective cerebro-spinal meningitis (*Berlin. Klin. Woch.*, No. 22). Both these cases exhibited coma rather than symptoms of cerebral irritation or paralysis. So-called "nona" would then be nothing but a cerebro-spinal meningitis of abnormal type; and the occurrence of such atypical cases after epidemics of influenza and pneumonia is, Dr. Tranjen thinks, easy of explanation. Even if the view put forward by A. Kühn, that influenza is not a disease *sui generis*, but only a rudimentary or larval form of pneu-

monia, be not accepted, it is yet a fact that pneumonia is always largely increased during influenza times. It may be that influenza has the power of modifying micro-organisms or their soil, so that the diseases excited by it are often nearly unrecognisable. Hence cerebro-spinal meningitis, which is, in its etiology, closely allied to pneumonia, may *a priori* be expected to be, like that affection, influenced more or less by influenza.

THE UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.

THE Senate had under consideration on Wednesday the scheme of their special committee for the reconstitution of the University, and made several amendments therein, which will be forwarded to University and King's Colleges and the Royal Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons.

THE BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

THE arrangements for the fifty-eighth annual meeting of the British Medical Association (under the presidency of Dr. W. F. Wade, senior physician to the Birmingham General Hospital), to be held in Birmingham on July 29th, 30th, and 31st, and August 1st next, are making satisfactory progress. There will be three addresses: an address in Medicine, by Sir W. Foster, M.D., M.P., of Birmingham; an address in Surgery, by Mr. Lawson Tait, F.R.C.S., of Birmingham; and an address in Therapeutics, by Dr. W. H. Broadbent of London.

MAY SUNSHINE IN 1890.

THE amount of sunshine in the unusually brilliant month recently ended has naturally been the subject of general comment, and it has been noted that at Eastbourne 266.9 hours of bright sunshine were recorded in May, exceeding the average for the corresponding month in the preceding five years by more than forty-five hours. It may, however, be pointed out that even at the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, well within the zone of London smoke, the recorded amount of bright sunshine was 223.9 hours, and was equal to more than 47 per cent. of its possible amount—that is, of the hours during which the sun was above the horizon. This amount at Greenwich exceeded the average amount in the corresponding month of the previous ten years by more than forty-one hours; and since 1877, when the amount of sunshine was first recorded, has only been once exceeded—namely, in 1882, when the May record was 237.8 hours.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS IN IRELAND.

THE election of President, Vice-president, Secretary, and Council took place on June 2nd. The two candidates for the presidency were the Vice-president, Mr. H. Gray Croly, and the outgoing President, Mr. Austin Meldon, the former being elected by a majority of 37 votes. The new President, Mr. Croly, is a most distinguished surgeon, and in every way fitted to fill the high position to which he has been elected by the Fellows. He is senior surgeon to the City of Dublin Hospital, consulting surgeon to Monkstown Hospital, ex-President of the Irish Medical Association, &c. A contest also took place for the vice-presidency between Mr. Moore and Mr. Carte, J.P., the latter being successful by 20 votes. Mr. Colles was re-elected Secretary without opposition, and the only addition to the Council was the name of Dr. C. Ball, who fills the vacancy caused by the retirement of Mr. Robert Moore. There were 242 votes recorded at this election, being one more than at last year's election, three being spoiled votes. The result of the election for President and Vice-president having been declared, Dr. Jacob (Maryborough) proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Meldon for the able and dignified manner in which he filled the office of President during the year. This was seconded by Mr. Wheeler, and adopted amid applause.