

THE POOR-LAW MEDICAL SERVICE OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

POOR-LAW MEDICAL SERVICE.

DARLINGTON.—The Guardians have appointed Mr. W. H. Arrow-smith to be medical officer of the Union in the room of Mr. S. E. Piper, resigned.

WEST HAM.—The Guardians received a letter from the Poor-law Board, urging them to increase the salary of Mr. Kelland, the medical officer for Plaistow Marsh; but they preferred to divide the district, and appoint an additional medical officer.

ST. LUKE'S.—A letter has been received from the Poor-law Board, sanctioning a re-arrangement of the medical district, with a view of rendering the work more equal.

SHOREDITCH.—The Infirmary and Dispensary Committee submitted a report describing the alterations they proposed to make at the suggestion of the medical officers, in order to render the work more equal. The recommendations were adopted.

SHEFFIELD.—The Chairman (Alderman Saunders) has given notice of motion that the assistant vaccination prosecutors be no longer continued, but that instead the chief inspector's whole time be engaged. He maintained that a saving to the Union of £300 a year would be thus effected.

ISLINGTON.—The Poor-law Board regret that the Guardians have not appointed one vaccinator for the whole parish; but they will now make no opposition to the appointment of four, as resolved upon by the Guardians. Drs. Ducat, Simpson, and Greenwood, and Mr. Harston, the four district medical officers who lose their office as vaccinators under the new arrangements, attended the Board to point out the loss they sustain, and to complain of the office of vaccinator being given to those medical officers who had sent in the highest vaccination returns during the year. They maintained that this was no test of diligence, as the Guardians supposed, but resulted from the character of the population of each district. The Guardians replied that they came too late, and no action was taken.

ST. PANCRAS.—Dr. Saul has been temporarily appointed medical officer of the Workhouse.

HOLBORN.—The Guardians have appointed a committee to carry out the Dispensary Clauses of the Metropolitan Poor Act 1867.

MEDICO-PARLIAMENTARY.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—Tuesday, May 11th, 1869.

THE CORONER'S INQUEST.—Lord KINNAIRD called the attention of the House to the state of the law in Scotland as to inquiring into the causes of sudden death by accident or violence. In Scotland, he showed, there was nothing analogous to the English coroner's inquest, but only an occasional inquiry by a procurator-fiscal. The Scotch law required amendment.—Lord MORLEY thought the Scotch system of secret precognition succeeded in producing practically the same useful results as the public procedure in England by means of coroners' inquests. A comparison of the criminal statistics of the two countries showed that the secret system was perhaps even the more successful. It was certainly more benevolent, protecting as it did persons finally turning out to be quite innocent against the invidiousness of a public inquiry.—Lord DALHOUSIE thought the Scotch system, on the whole, a good one, but that some compulsory means were required in order to secure that all cases of sudden death should be reported to the procurator-fiscal.—The Duke of MONTROSE objected to any compulsory machinery.—Lord MINTO thought there was always a danger of abuse, and still more danger of suspicion of abuse, where the procedure was secret, as at present in Scotland.—Lord COLONSAY highly praised the existing jurisdiction of public prosecutors in Scotland, and pointed out the danger of meddling with so successful a system. There might be inefficient officials, but so there would be under any system. He justified the refusal of the Commission now sitting on Scotch legal procedure to consider this subject directly. Incidentally, it had considered it.—Lord KINNAIRD concurred in commending the institution of public prosecutors. But there were defects in the existing system. One was, that those officers were now allowed to practise privately.

OBITUARY.

JAMES S. CLUFF, M.R.C.S.!

WE regret to record the early loss of a surgeon of the highest promise (James S. Cluff, Esq., M.A., Trinity College, Dublin), who was drowned on the 7th instant near Belfast, while bathing. Mr. Cluff was Demonstrator of Anatomy at University College, where his career as a student of medicine had been most brilliant. His untiring pursuit of knowledge led him to study every minutia of his profession. He was a singularly painstaking dresser and physician's clerk, and subsequently an admirable house-surgeon. Mr. Cluff had taken the member's diploma of the College of Surgeons, and had passed the anatomical and physiological sections of the examination for the fellowship with extreme credit; at the first M.B. examination of the University of London, he carried off the three exhibitions for anatomy, physiology, and chemistry. He was a most successful teacher, endearing his pupils to him by his gentle patient disposition and happy faculty for adapting his explanation to their comprehension. Though possessed of copious information on all subjects, his unusual modesty and pleasant manners rendered him a charming companion for men older than himself. Had he lived, his integrity, talents, and industry would have raised him to a most conspicuous and honoured position in our profession.

MEDICAL NEWS.

BRISTOL MEDICAL SCHOOL.

THE annual distribution of prizes at this institution took place recently. Dr. MARTYN addressed the students. He commented on the tedious introductory addresses with which the *annus medicus* is commenced at almost all English schools of medicine, and the custom in Bristol on meeting at the end of the winter's work, to give a few words of encouragement and farewell wishes to those whose studies are over. It was the custom just now very much to disparage the system of teaching by lectures, as opposed to the experimental, practical, and clinical methods. Without detracting from these modes of study, there were great advantages in the lecture or professorial system. The number of lectures had been sufficiently reduced, and every one now, in chemistry, physiology, botany, anatomy, or medicine, etc., was illustrated practically throughout in various ways. All science, as a body of general truths, must be taught a good deal in abstract form; while medical literature is now so enormous as to make the *resumé* in lectures a positive saving of labour. In the educational system of Prussia, mere crammed results, as tested by final examinations, are now being abandoned in favour of an exact curriculum. There was also much good in the sort of regular drill of daily attendance and collegiate study. Dr. Martyn combated the tendency to discourage gratuitous medical advice in hospitals, etc., though no doubt some received it who could afford to pay. The profession was not like an ordinary business in its commercial relations, for it tolerated no secret remedies, nor any exaggerated puffing in advertisements. The medical man must identify himself with his clients' interests, though his own often suffered by so doing. All good done in putting down disease resulted in loss to the profession. As to a precise money *quid pro quo*, there could be none for medical advice any more than for good legal advocacy, religious ministrations, or labour in fine arts; and the best work in science, art, and literature had been very poorly remunerated. All workers in these things must be somewhat careless as to accurate adjustment of payment. It could not be too strongly urged that life did not "consist" in things which a man possessed, neither in the accumulation of intellectual nor material wealth, but rather in knowing how to do something, and in doing it so as to conduce to the good of man's estate. On behalf of the medical faculty, he congratulated the students on the warm competition for the prizes and the general excellence of their papers, concluding by wishing God speed and a successful, useful career to those about to leave. The following is a list of the adjudications:—*First year's prize* (books to the value of £3), Mr. W. A. Sturge. *Certificates of Honour*, Messrs. A. B. Rees, A. E. A. Lawrence, B. J. Massiah, and W. J. Cole. *Second year's prize* (books to the value of £5), Mr. W. T. Benham. *Certificate of Honour*, Mr. A. E. Prockter. *Third year's prize* (books to the value of £7), Mr. L. W. Marshall. *Certificates of Honour*, Messrs. E. T. Hale, H. M. Chute, and W. Hodges. The prizemen of the first and third years are pupils at the General Hospital. The prizeman of the second year is a pupil at the Royal Infirmary.