

greatly engaged in branches of industry away from homes; where consequently these homes are ill kept; where the children are little looked after; and where infants who should be at the breast are improperly fed or starved, or have their cries of hunger and distress quieted by those various fatal opiates which are in such request at the centres of our manufacturing industry.

"Means do not exist for appreciating at all accurately the proportionate influence of these two sets of causes. That the second of them is of great importance cannot be denied; and it is on this account, as well as on other accounts, a thing greatly to be desired, that the large manufacturing employers of female labour should address themselves to counteracting, as far as possible, the domestic evils which result from that system of industry. But lest the proportionate influence of this cause should be exaggerated, it is necessary to observe that the highest death-rate among infants, not only from the diseases here spoken of, but likewise from infectious diseases, exists in a large town where the population is not manufacturing. Taking together the common infectious disorders of infancy with those nervous and diarrhoeal and respiratory diseases which have last been spoken of—an annual total of more than 100,000 deaths—we find that they are distributed in different places according to an aggregate death-rate which ranges from about 1,303 to about 9,044; that the low rate belongs as an average to three of the healthiest districts of England, and the high rate to the one unhealthiest district; that the last is not a manufacturing town; and that the causes in operation there to produce its immense infantile mortality must presumably be those unwholesome conditions of dwelling which local authorities, under the Nuisances Removal Act and other sanitary laws, are specially empowered to counteract."

THE MEDICAL COUNCIL.

SINCE our last publication, we have learned the names of three new members of the General Council.

Dr. H. J. H. BOND, Regius Professor of Physic in the University of Cambridge, was elected on October 29 to represent that University.

Dr. D. EMBLETON was elected to represent the University of Durham in November 2nd.

Dr. JOHN STORRAR was elected by the Senate of the University of London, on November 3rd, to represent that institution.

For the appointment of General Medical Registrar and secretary to the Council, rumour states that there are many candidates in the field. So far as we can ascertain, however, the only gentlemen who have formally announced their candidature are Dr. Cormack; Mr. Booth Eddison, of Nottingham; Dr. Greenhill, of Hastings; Dr. Francis Hawkins; and Dr. Henry Holmes, of Over, Cheshire. But, as the Council may not meet until the first week in December, it is quite possible that other candidates may yet urge their claims to fill this important post.

THE WEEK.

We have no liking for specialties in medicine or surgery, and would apply to them the saying of the ungallant old caliph Abu Bekr regarding the ladies—"They are great evils; but the greatest evil of all is, that they are necessary." Admitting, then, to some extent at least, the necessity for specialties, it is always satisfactory to observe the adoption of any plan which has for its object to prevent the degeneration of specialty into the mere disconnected mechanical study of some part of the body. In our last number, we quoted the regulations adopted by the College of Dentists of England, in which it is

provided that all persons who are desirous of entering that institution, after a certain date, must come provided with the diploma of the Royal College of Surgeons, or of a surgical licensing body. We now desire to call attention to the announcement of the Council of the College of Dentists, in our advertising columns, that they have made arrangements with Dr. B. W. Richardson for the delivery of a course of twelve Lectures on "the Medical History and Treatment of Certain Diseases of the Teeth and Adjacent Structures". The following are the subjects, several of which we do not remember to have seen properly treated on in their reference to dental surgery:—1. Introductory—The Constitutional and General Causes of Certain Diseases of the Teeth and the Adjacent Structures; 2. The Hæmorrhagic Diathesis, in its Bearings on Dental Practice; 3. Neuralgia in relation to Toothache and Diseases of the Teeth; 4. Hysteria, and allied condition, in reference to some forms of Dental Affection; 5. Dyspepsia, Rheumatism, and Gout, in relation to some abnormal states of the Teeth and neighbouring organs; 6. Diseases of Infancy and of Childhood, as dependent on, and as influencing, Dentition; 7. Purulent Affections of the Gums and adjacent structures; 8. The Pathological and General History of Exostosis, Necrosis, and Caries; 9. The History of Malignant Diseases involving the Organs of Mastication; 10. Diseases of the Teeth and Maxilla arising from the administration of Mercury, Phosphorus, Lead, and other Poisons; 11. On Diet and Modes of Life, in their influence on the Organs of Mastication; 12. On Chloroform and the Narcotic remedial series, their Physiological action, and their applications to Dental Practice.

The town of Bradford, in Yorkshire, has this week been the scene of a wholesale poisoning by arsenic, sold in mistake for another article. On Sunday last, the rapid death of two children, and the illness during the day of many other persons, led to an inquiry being made, when it was ascertained that they had all partaken of lozenges which they had purchased in the market on Saturday night. This led to further inquiry, and it was found that the lozenges had been sold by a person named Hardaker, a confectioner, who keeps a stall in the market, and who had bought them from a wholesale confectioner named Neal. It appears that in the manufacture of lozenges a composition named "daff" (*i.e.*, sulphate of lime) is extensively employed, and about a fortnight ago Mr. Neal purchased 12 lb. of it from a druggist named Hodgson, in Shipley. He was served by a young man named William Goddard, aged about 18, an assistant to Mr. Hodgson. The latter was ill in bed at the time, and Goddard, who had asked him where the "daff" was kept, went into the cellar for it, but by mistake brought the arsenic cask instead, and from it weighed 12 lb., which was subsequently mixed with the lozenges which had been ordered by Hardaker. On these facts being ascertained, the most prompt measures were taken by the chief constable of police, to prevent, as far as possible, further harm. At least fifteen deaths, however, were produced; and nearly two hundred persons suffered from the poison. The lozenges were found on analysis to contain each about nine grains of arsenic. The matter is undergoing investigation; so that there may be occasion to again return to it.