

momentous interests dealt with by small and irresponsible councils, self-elected, or elected by some small constituency, of which the general practitioners, who form the immense majority of the profession, and who are the backbone, have no share. We should add that Mr. C. G. Wheelhouse of Leeds has consented to act as president, and that Dr. Alfred Carpenter (Croydon), Dr. Dolan (Halifax), Mr. Hugh Massey, Mr. George Ord (Brixton-hill), Mr. Wickham Barnes, Dr. Danford Thomas, Dr. Richard Paramore, Dr. Richard Neale, Mr. G. W. Crowe, Dr. Morris (Spalding), Mr. Gubb (London), Mr. Corner (Poplar), and Dr. Maurice Davis, are among the first members of council. It has not been thought advisable to complete the list of officers at this comparatively early stage of proceedings, but these names, among others, will afford adequate assurance that our objects and methods of proceeding will be guided by a single eye to the welfare of the profession.

We earnestly hope to be favoured by the personal adhesion of all who concur in these views.

We are, Sir, your obedient servants,

H. WALTER VERDON,
410, Brixton-road, S.W.

W. GIBSON BOTT,
414, Clapham-road, S.W.

Nov. 1886.

THE MICRO-ORGANISM OF BERI-BERI.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Having read in the *Medical Press and Circular* of July 28th that Dr. Wallace Taylor, in Japan, has recently discovered in the blood of many sufferers from kakké, or beri-beri a micro-organism which he cultivated and inoculated, or administered internally, in monkeys, rabbits, rats, dogs, &c., producing in these animals the symptoms of kakké, and as it appears that these facts have been received as a novelty, I judge it my duty to recur to your journal to show that such facts, demonstrative of the cause of beri-beri, have already been produced by me in Brazil since 1883. I not only isolated the micro-organism from the blood of beri-beripatients, but cultivated it according to the methods of Koch and Pasteur, and, inoculating it in animals such as monkeys, rabbits, and guinea-pigs, I saw appear in these animals the symptoms of beri-beri, all dying after a greater or less time. Proceeding afterwards to a histological study of the viscera by the methods of colouring of Weigert and of Gram, I demonstrated the existence of the same micro-organisms in great quantities in the nerves, spinal medulla, heart, liver, spleen, and kidneys. In 1883 I published my first paper on the subject under the title of "Etiologia et Genesis de Beri-beri," which was the subject of a verbal communication to the Academy of Medicine of Paris by Dr. Jules Rochard, in the session of Jan. 29th, 1884. The *Journal d'Hygiène* of Paris of Feb. 7th, 1884, published a leading article on the subject of that communication, giving at the same time an analysis of my work. In order to continue my investigations on beri-beri, I shall start in a few days, at the head of an official commission, for the northern provinces of the empire—the principal centres of the disease in Brazil.

In presenting these facts and documents, Mr. Editor, I have only in view to save my right of priority in the discovery of the true cause of beri-beri.

I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,

J. B. DE LACERDA,

Director of the Laboratory of Experimental Physiology
at the *Museo Nacional* of Rio de Janeiro.

Rio de Janeiro, Oct. 27th, 1886.

THE SANITARY SCIENCE CERTIFICATE AS AN ADDITIONAL REGISTRABLE QUALIFICATION.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I see the Medical Council have been occupied in discussing the desirability of having a uniform title for the certificate in Sanitary Science, so as to register the same as an additional qualification. I do not think their time was unprofitably spent in doing so. I think it is desirable to have some uniformity in registering this qualification, and would suggest that Sanitary Science Certificate is the most convenient and the most elegant form. Certificate in Public Health does not abbreviate so easily; and besides, we have already the first term in common use by the Cambridge Sanitary Science Certificate holders. For instance—S.Sc.C.

Camb.; S.Sc.C. R.C.P. Lond. or Edin., as the case may be; S.Sc.C. Fac. Glasg., or S.Sc.C. F.P.S. Glasg., and S.Sc.C. Durham. All these are much neater than Cert. Pub. Health Lond., or R.C.P. Lond., as the case may be. Then for the B.Sc. Edin. or Glasgow, you would have it as follows: B.Sc. Ed. (S.Sc.), or B.Sc. (S.Sc.) Edin. There would be no difficulty for the corporations to change their certificate from Public Health to one of Sanitary Science; and we have the additional advantage of the Cambridge men using this form for the last ten years.—I am, Sir, yours truly,
Wigan, Nov. 22nd, 1886. WM. BERRY.

THE CHARTER OF CHARLES I.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—It appears that some Members of the Royal College of Surgeons of England believe that they have a right to the collegiate electoral franchise under the provisions of the Charter granted by Charles I. in 1629 to the Company of Barbers and Surgeons, and that this right has since then been, and still is, unjustly withheld from them. From this reading of the Charter I entirely dissent. But the point is a purely legal one—for lawyers, and not for medical men, to decide upon. I would therefore suggest, as the most reasonable way of speedily and definitely settling this question, that those Members who believe that they are entitled to this right under the Charter of the 5th Charles I. should petition the Council of the College to take counsel's opinion on this point, or, better still, should institute a friendly suit against the College for the restitution of the alleged right.

I am, Sir, yours &c.,

Nov. 20th, 1886.

JOHN ERIC ERICHSEN.

THE DENTAL CURRICULUM.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Will you kindly allow me in your pages to call the attention of all those interested in dental education to the recent decision of the Council of the Royal College of Surgeons, which materially affects the dental curriculum. At the last meeting of the Council it was resolved, on the recommendation of the Dental Board, that eighteen months of the three years' mechanical work required of candidates for the "L.D.S." may be taken before registration as dental students—i.e., before the preliminary examination has been passed. It, however, makes no change with regard to the four years' professional work required in the schedule, which must still be taken subsequently to registration. Under the old regulation the three years' mechanical work had to be taken subsequently to registration, and candidates who had through error done that work previously to passing the preliminary examination had to do it over again, but now one half of it will be recognised and the other half only has to be taken after registration. This is an important concession, and affects a large number of dental students, and will enable in the future those candidates who are unsuccessful at their "preliminary" to proceed with their apprenticeship during the time they are preparing themselves for re-examination.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

MORTON SMALE.

Dental Hospital, Leicester-square, Nov. 21st, 1886.

THE ENGLISH CONJOINT BOARD.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In your editorial note to my letter in your issue of Nov. 13th, page 949, you say: "A student can pass his final examination in three years and a half after entering a medical school." The rules do not permit a student to enter for his second examination until he has spent eighteen months' professional study at a medical school; and these are sessional months, and take up two winter sessions of six months each, and two summer sessions of three months each, or, together, two educational years. These two years must elapse before the student can go up for his final examination, thus making four years' study at a medical school. This any student can do who goes direct to a London school at the commencement of his studies. We contend that a first year spent in work as dresser at a large provincial hospital, during which time he gets more practical work than four-fifths of the London dressers, is worthy of