

authority for this use can be found in the dictionary we do not consider it right.—ED. L.

A MEDICO-LEGAL SOCIETY.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—It is proposed to form a medico-legal society for the purpose of affording opportunities for discussing questions arising where medicine and law come into immediate contact. It is suggested that such a society should include all who are interested in the subject—lawyers as well as medical men—and that the discussions should embrace medico-legal questions of every description, both of everyday and of exceptional occurrence. Half a dozen meetings a year may be considered sufficient, and an annual subscription of half a guinea may be found to be enough to cover all expenses.

A meeting for the purpose of discussing the formation of the society will be held at 20, Hanover-square, W., on Thursday afternoon (5.30 o'clock), Dec. 5th. Those who are willing to assist, but unable to attend the meeting, will kindly communicate with Dr. McCallin, 20, Hanover-square.

We are, Sirs, yours faithfully,

F. J. SMITH.

W. MCCALLIN.

THE HARVEIAN LECTURES ON URINARY SURGERY: A CORRECTION.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—In my first Harveian Lecture, which you were good enough to publish on Nov. 16th, I am made to say that the average stay in hospital of Dr. D. F. Keegan's adult Indian lithotripsy cases "was only 53 days." I really said *5.3 days*. This is important, as one of the points of my argument was the short stay in hospital necessary for Indian patients.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

G. BUCKSTON BROWNE.

Wimpole-street, W., Nov. 18th, 1901.

* * We publish this letter with pleasure, but the context should surely prevent the reader from falling into error. It will also be seen by anyone looking closely at the figures as we printed them that the decimal point was properly inserted but failed to "print," only a gap indicating the place where it should have appeared.—ED. L.

NOTES FROM INDIA.

(FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

The Continued High Mortality from Plague.—Sanitary Reforms in Calcutta.—Government Report on the Recent Hackney Carriage Drivers' Strike in Calcutta.

THE total mortality from plague throughout India continues at between 8000 and 9000 deaths a week. In the Bombay Presidency there were 7199 deaths last week. The disease is spreading in the Punjab and the deaths are almost daily increasing in Bangalore and Poona. Bombay continues about the same, and elsewhere throughout India little change is recorded. For the present the epidemic is raging in the Satara, Belgaum, and Dharwar districts, and in parts of the Southern Mahratta country and the Kolhapur State.

A great change is contemplated in the health department in Calcutta. The city is to be divided into four districts, and the conservancy is to be placed under the engineer. Each district will have its health officer with a staff of sanitary inspectors, and will work to a large extent independently. The engineering department is to be divided up in the same way, and there is to be a separate building department. Each district will have, roughly, 200,000 inhabitants. Great activity is going on with regard to the improvement of insanitary *bustees* and notices have been served on a large number of owners to improve them according to standard plans. There is a chance of the main drainage being extended to the suburban districts and of the inauguration of a continuous water-supply. The waste of water at the present time is enormous and millions of gallons simply soak into the soil. Larger schemes of improvement are also talked about, and it is said that 15 miles of new and wide streets are to be carried through the town. A commencement

has already been made with model dwellings for the poor, but it is very doubtful whether they will be generally successful. A recent resolution of the Bengal Government indicates great changes in the plague department. The corporation are not to get any more money on this account, and the Commissioners are recommended to arrange for plague expenses in the same way as they do for cholera and small-pox. The long and short of this is that plague will have to be dealt with by the health department and that the separate establishment will be abolished.

The recent strike of public conveyance drivers was partly brought about through the employés of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. Not that they were too active in instituting proceedings for cruelty, but blackmailing on a large scale has been proved to have been carried out. The police have also been shown to have largely practised this abuse, so that between the two the hackney-carriage owner has had a troublesome time. The amount of cruelty done to animals is great, and if the society employed honest men for the work there would be plenty for them to do. Unfortunately, the magistrates have not supported the society's prosecutions, so that the small fines inflicted have not proved deterrent. Active measures have been taken both with the police force and with the society's men, so that it is to be hoped a better time is coming. The Belgacina Veterinary Hospital is used as an infirmary for the treatment of the animals in respect of which offences against the Act have been committed. The honorary magistrates have ignored the law and they never send cases to Belgacina. With reference to comparative pathology there is a great want for a central recognised museum. There is abundant material but it is at present nearly all wasted. The medical colleges do not attract it, the India Museum has only a few specimens, and the Zoological Gardens are unprovided with accommodation. The bulls, buffaloes, and other cattle, besides horses and elephants, which are used for draught purposes, not to speak of the multiplicity of animals, both domestic and wild, which could be utilised for investigation, offer an immense field for scientific research.

Oct. 31st.

MANCHESTER.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

The Victoria University.

A MEETING of the Court of the Victoria University was held at Owens College on Nov. 14th, when the following modification of the statutes regarding the M.D. degree was passed:—

That statute v. 22 (Cal., p. 95) shall run as follows: "Candidates for the degree of Doctor of Medicine are required to present a dissertation, embodying the results of personal observations or original research, either in some department of medicine or of some science directly relative to medicine; provided always that original work, published in scientific journals or in the proceedings of learned societies, or separately, shall be admissible in lieu of, or in addition to, a dissertation specially written for the degree. No candidate will be admitted to the degree unless his application, after report from the Departmental Board of Medicine and Surgery, shall have been recommended by the General Board of Studies to the Council for acceptance. Candidates may be required to undergo examination in any subject connected with the dissertation or other work submitted."

As a consequence of the adoption of the resolution the following regulation will be added (Cal., p. 157):—

Candidates for the degree of Doctor of Medicine are required to furnish three copies, preferably printed or type-written, of the dissertation or published work which they desire to submit to the University, together with any drawings or specimens which may be necessary for illustration. These copies shall be sent in to the Registrar not later than March 1st in the year of application. They will be retained by the University.

Education of Medical Students.

At the same meeting Professor Sheridan Delépine moved:—

That having regard to the action taken by the Conjoint Examining Boards of the Royal Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons of London with reference to preliminary examinations and the registration of medical students, the Council be requested to consider what steps, if any, shall be taken on behalf of the University in this matter and to take such action as seems desirable.

In 1898 the Conjoint Board accepted the time spent in grammar schools in studying chemistry, physics, or biology as part of the five years' medical curriculum. In June, 1899, the Education Committee of the General Medical Council reported that they did not regard such schools as institutions