

to give it up at once, stating that he never looked at it, and regarded it as a "farrago of miscellaneous trash."

I am, Sir, yours, &c.,

THE HON. SEC. TO NEW SYDENHAM SOCIETY.

Cavendish-square.

THE CERTIFICATES OF UNQUALIFIED PRACTITIONERS, AND THE REGISTRAR-GENERAL.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Under the above heading I have read in THE LANCET of February 12th letters which have passed between Mr. J. Brown and the Registrar-General, relative to uncertified deaths. I am led to communicate with you, lest it should be imagined the Medical Officers of Health for Battersea had neglected their duty in not bringing before the notice of the Board of Health such cases. I may tell you that for years we have brought the matter under the notice of the Board, and last Session the Board petitioned Parliament in favour of Dr. Lyon Playfair's amendment to the Registration of Births and Deaths Bill. With respect to the case represented to you, I have referred to the duplicate of the Registrar's returns, and find that the death was registered as follows—"January 23rd, F., four days—Tumour of scalp, certified." Uncertified deaths are nothing new in Battersea; in one year 197 were so registered; and the Registrar-General has shown in his weekly return, ending January 8th, 1876, which probably Mr. Brown has not read, that he is fully aware of the fact, and is powerless to prevent it. He further points out the remedy as follows—"Unless the Legislature enact that inquests shall be held in all cases where no certificate of a registered Medical Practitioner is forthcoming, due certification of causes of death in all cases cannot be obtained."

The Registrar of Battersea has always been to me most obliging, and very ready to afford me every information in his power.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

JOSH. OAKMAN,

Medical Officer of Health, West Battersea.

The Priory, High-street, Battersea, Feb. 14th, 1876.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Nothing can be more explicit than the Registrar-General's instructions to the Registrars, as the following extract shows:—

"Throughout these regulations the words 'Medical certificate of the cause of death,' mean the certificate of a registered medical practitioner. No certificate given by a medical man, whatever his qualifications otherwise may be, is to be recognised, unless his name is on the Medical Register. The Registrar will, of course, ordinarily accept the statement of a medical practitioner that he is duly registered, but in any case of doubt the circumstances must be reported for the instructions of the Registrar-General thereupon."

I think these instructions convey all that is necessary to the Registrar, but if anything further is needed, it would be that each Registrar should be furnished with a Medical Register by the Medical Council, who do so little for the fees we are called on to pay for registration.

It is otherwise impossible for the mass of Registrars to know when a man is qualified or not.

It is evident from Section 40 of the Registration Act that an unqualified practitioner is liable to a penalty of 10*l*. for giving a false certificate. The words are (Section 40, No. 2): "Wilfully makes any false certificate or declaration, under or for the purposes of this Act, or forges or falsifies any such certificate or declaration, or any order under this Act, or knowing any such certificate, declaration, or order to be false or forged, uses the same as true, or gives or sends the same as true to any person."—Your obedient servant,

W. FAULKNER, M.R.C.S.,

Registrar, St. Giles, London.

PRESENTATION.—On Friday, February 12th, the officers of the Sarn Miltynr Friendly Society, and other friends met at the residence of R. H. Owen, L.R.C.P., Bottwnog, to present him with an address and a testimonial. The secretary presented, for the members and friends, the testimonial, which consisted of a handsome timepiece, set of tea and coffee service, pair of candlesticks, and chimney-piece ornaments, as mementos of professional service rendered by Mr. Owen to them.

TESTIMONIAL TO STROMEYER.

A PRIVATE meeting of hospital surgeons was held on Monday last at 18, Park-street, Grosvenor-square, to consider the propriety of joining in the movement now going on in Germany to celebrate, on April 6th next, the fiftieth anniversary of Dr. Stromeyer taking his degree in Göttingen. The following gentlemen were present:—Sir James Paget, Messrs. Prescott Hewett, Hilton, Curling, White Cooper, Spencer Wells, J. W. Hulke, J. E. Erichsen, H. Liebreich, John Gay, T. Holmes, W. Adams, W. MacCormac. Dr. Little in the chair.

An explanation of the preliminary steps taken having been made by Mr. MacCormac, and letters from several gentlemen, very cordially supporting the movement, having been read, it was moved by Sir James Paget, and seconded by Mr. Erichsen, and unanimously resolved—

1. That an address be presented to Dr. Stromeyer, expressing the congratulations of the signatories to it on his long, active, useful, and honourable professional career, as shown by the results of his discovery of the value and safety of subcutaneous surgery, by the high tone of his surgical writings, and by his persistent efforts to improve the principles and details of surgery, especially as applied to gunshot and other wounds received in war, as well as of military hygiene.

2. That Dr. Stromeyer be requested to sit for his bust, to be executed in marble by the most able German sculptor he may select.

3. That a subscription list be opened to defray the expense of carrying out the above objects; that no single subscription shall exceed two guineas; and that subscriptions be not received from persons who are not members of the medical profession.

4. That the substance of the proceedings and of the resolutions that may be adopted on February 14th be announced to the profession at large by advertisement in the Medical Journals, and that the support and contributions of the profession be solicited.

5. That W. J. Little, M.D., and William MacCormac, Esq., F.R.C.S., be requested to act as joint treasurers and secretaries.

It was further moved by Mr. Prescott Hewett, and seconded by Mr. Curling, and unanimously carried, that the gentlemen present be requested to act as a committee, together with Sir William Fergusson, Messrs. Bowman, Erasmus Wilson, Baker of Birmingham, C. Bader, and Dr. Hermann Weber, who had previously signified their desire to co-operate.

Dr. Little, Mr. Spencer Wells, and Mr. MacCormac were requested to act as an executive committee to give effect to the resolutions agreed to, and to receive the subscriptions of those desirous to contribute.

PARLIAMENTARY INTELLIGENCE.

ARMY MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.

Replying to Dr. Lush, Mr. HARDY said it was true that for forty vacancies in the Army Medical Department there had been only twelve candidates; and in consequence the examination, which should have taken place to-day, had been deferred. He had laid before those departments which must be consulted before he could bring any measure under the consideration of the House a proposal which he believed would remedy a great many if not all the present difficulties in connexion with the Army Medical Department.

MERCANTILE MARINE HOSPITAL SERVICE.

Captain PIM introduced a Bill to provide for the organisation of a mercantile marine hospital service and the medical examination of seamen.

SCURVY ON BOARD THE "ROYAL SOVEREIGN."

In reply to Dr. Ward, Sir C. ADDERLEY said: An immediate inquiry was ordered and commenced at Falmouth as soon as the *Royal Sovereign* was forced to put in there from scurvy. It will be continued to-morrow morning, as the ship has arrived in London. The report will be laid on the table, with other papers relating to scurvy in the mercantile