

was born in Thenford, Northampton, Eng., on December 23, 1794. She was twice married, and became for the second time a widow in 1873. She leaves 13 children, the oldest of whom is eighty-two years of age, 38 grandchildren, 52 great-grandchildren, and 33 great-great-grandchildren. Up to within a short time of her death she enjoyed excellent health, and even assisted in the work of the house.

A LOW MORTALITY RATE.—Were it not for the fatality of pneumonia, which, as usual at this season, is very prevalent, the death-rate in the city of New York would be exceptionally low. As it is, the mortality has been lower thus far than for some winters past. During the week ending February 27th the deaths from pneumonia amounted to 140, an increase of thirty-nine over the week ending February 6th. In the same weeks the deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis numbered 106 and 109 respectively. While there has been a slight increase in the mortality from scarlet fever and whooping-cough, the number of deaths from diphtheria has decreased from 38 in the week ending February 13th, to 21 in that ending February 27th. During the latter week eight deaths from influenza were reported, the largest mortality from that disease as yet recorded this season. The total number of deaths in the city for the week was 787, against 782 in the week ending February 13th, and 741 in the week ending February 6th.

Miscellany.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR TRAINING IN PHYSIOLOGY.

THE Department of Physiology in the Harvard Medical School offers to four qualified men positions in which training in physiology may be obtained.

It is expected that these men will give the mornings of the collegiate year to research and the afternoons to the direction of under-graduate students in experimental physiology, under the supervision of a professor in the department.

Every effort will be made to instruct the holders of these positions in the ways of framing problems for investigation, in the principles of criticism, in the technical methods of research, and in the manner in which the results of an investigation should be put together for publication. Instruction will be given also in methods of teaching, including the arrangement of lectures, the division of subject matter between the systematic course, covering the entire field and the advanced special lectures, the physiological conference, the Journal Club, the use of the projection lantern in physiological demonstration, and the demonstration of physiological experiments to large and small classes.

The direction of laboratory work will be an important part of the training. The first-year class in the Harvard Medical School is divided into sections of thirty-two. Each section works twenty-four afternoons in experimental physiology, making more than one hundred experiments, such as the influence of temperature on the form of the muscle curve, the phe-

nomena of electrotonus, the compensatory pause of the heart, the use of the artificial eye, the ophthalmoscope, laryngoscope, sphymograph, etc. The repetition of fundamental experiments in this course, and the great variety afforded by so many experimenters working at the same time, secure to the directors of the work a thoroughness and a breadth of training in elementary physiology scarcely attainable in other ways.

The administration of a large department will be carefully explained. Attention will be given to the cost of apparatus for instruction and research, the problems of construction and maintenance of plant, the care of storage-batteries, the making of lantern-slides, the cataloguing of physiological literature, the importation of apparatus, and many other details essential to the successful operation of a physiological laboratory. Men intending to devote themselves to clinical medicine will, of course, give less time to these things and will concern themselves chiefly with matters bearing directly on their chosen work.

It is evident that these appointments will afford an admirable training to those intending to make physiology or any other of the biological sciences a profession. To the physician they offer a training not less valuable in the opinion of those who believe that research in the fundamental sciences is the best introduction to the higher walks of medicine.

Applicants for these positions should possess an elementary knowledge of physiology and a sufficient training in one or more of the biological sciences to enable them to profit by the instruction offered. Successful applicants are required to take twelve half-days' instruction in the details of the course in experimental physiology, before October 1st of their year of service.

No charge of any kind will be made for the year's training.

The Harvard Medical School will give successful applicants the title of "Assistant in Physiology," and for the direction of the classes in Experimental Physiology will pay each Assistant four hundred dollars.

Applications may be sent to Prof. H. P. Bowditch, Harvard Medical School, Boston, Mass.

Obituary.

EDWARD PAYSON ABBE, M.D.

ON Monday, February 25th, Edward Payson Abbe, M.D., of New Bedford, Mass., died, aged sixty-nine.

At a special meeting of the Staff of St. Luke's Hospital, of New Bedford, held Monday, February 25th, the following Resolution was adopted:

The Staff of St. Luke's Hospital desire to place on record their sense of inestimable loss in the death of their colleague and President, Edward Payson Abbe. It is largely due to him that New Bedford has a hospital, and it is largely owing to his zeal and discriminating wisdom that our hospital has reached its present high plane of efficiency. His fidelity to his patients, his loyalty to his *confrères*, his genial hospitality, and his solicitude for the best interests of the community endeared him to all. We wish to assure his family and the public of our heartfelt sympathy.

For the Staff of St. Luke's Hospital,

GARRY DE N. HOUGH, M.D., *Secretary*.