

undoubted value. The conduct of the scientific adviser of the Government in this way comes in close contact with public opinion as declared by its elected representatives. We are taught to believe in these democratic days that the rule of Demos is the best. While the path of an executive thus placed in direct coaptation with the will of the people is not infrequently thorny, it cannot be gainsaid that after all it is the best position. Undoubtedly now and again history will be repeated, and Pilate will yield to the cry of the populace, but after all the sacrifice makes for good, and, from the pyre of one, another will rise better able to help on the car.

I have no intention to rail at or praise direct appeal to the people but simply to draw attention to the fact that the experiment urged by Dr. Bushnell has been tried and found not only workable but successful in this sunny and energetic portion of Greater Britain. The Minister in charge of this department is the able and popular Postmaster-General Sir Joseph Ward.

Compulsory notification of tuberculosis, prohibition of spitting in streets, and many other of the reforms urged by sanitariums at home have been enforced here for years past. To any one interested in these outpost aspects of Public Health I shall be delighted to forward copies of our Health Acts and regulations.—I am, etc.,

September 17th.

J. M. MASON,  
Chief Health Officer for New Zealand.

## THE WILLIAM CADGE MEMORIAL.

SIR.—We shall be obliged if you will insert the following final list of subscribers to the above memorial.—I am, etc.,

Norwich, 2<sup>nd</sup> Nov. 9th.W. H. DAX,  
MICHAEL BEVERLEY.SECOND LIST.  
London.

|  |                                  |
|--|----------------------------------|
| Sir Henry Thompson, Bart.                        | Dr. Sidney Ringer                |
| Sir Joseph Dalton Hooker, C.B.                   | Dr. J. Hughlings Jackson         |
| Sir Victor Horsley                               | Mr. Alfred Willett               |
| Mr. John Tweedy (President, College of Surgeons) | Dr. Preston Lewis                |
| Mr. Edgcombe Venning                             | Mr. H. Lambert Lack              |
| Mr. Richard Barwell                              | Mr. Douglas Harmer               |
| Mr. C. A. Ballance                               | Dr. F. J. Harvey Bateman         |
| Dr. E. L. Keyes, New York                        | Dr. John Skrimshire, Holt        |
| Dr. H. H. A. Beach, Boston, U.S.A.               | Mr. B. Maurice Hughes, Wymondham |
| Dr. Gibson, Edinburgh                            | Mr. H. Back, Acle                |
| Mr. Palgrave Simpson, Weymouth                   | Mr. Hopson, Dereham              |
| Mr. F. S. Goulder, Dudley                        | Dr. H. Blake, Yarmouth           |
| Mr. W. Ranson, Ashburton                         | Dr. John Bately, Gorleston       |
| Dr. Andrews, Norwich                             | Dr. Plowright, Lynn              |
| Dr. Crook, Norwich                               | Mr. Prior, Loddon                |
| Dr. Muir Evans, Lowestoft                        | Mr. Deacon, Hethersett.          |
| Mr. A. Marshall, Lowestoft                       |                                  |

## THE ASEPTIC PRACTITIONER.

SIR.—Having read with much interest the correspondence on beards and aseptic silence, I venture to point out that the clothes worn by a medical man are an even more serious source of infection. Medical men may shave their faces (? and their heads), but they must wear clothes. Why then should they not, when visiting their patients, clothe themselves in mackintosh? The coat should be not much longer than an Eton jacket, thus obviating the danger to their patients of the contact of the full skirt of the frock coat with the bed and furniture of the apartment. On leaving the sick room the physician could be sponged down with some antiseptic solution from head to foot by the nurse or housemaid. He would then leave the house in a thoroughly aseptic condition and proceed on his rounds without doing further mischief.—I am, etc.,

November 11th.

AN INVALID.

## THE SOCIETY OF MEDICAL PHONOGRAPHERS.

SIR.—May we be permitted, as President and officers of the Society of Medical Phonographers, to bring the continued existence of the Society and its usefulness under the notice of any practitioners or students of medicine who make use of shorthand? Of late, the Society has not come much under the notice of the profession, but its work continues. Its organ, the *Phonographic Medical Record*, is published monthly, and affords the means of obtaining familiarity with medical shorthand, together with definite information on practical medical subjects. The Society has also issued a series of small original works in lithographed shorthand with the same object, as well as an extensive vocabulary of convenient out-

lines and guides to the use of shorthand both by the student and the practitioner. It has also held periodical examinations for students in order to encourage their acquisition and use of shorthand.

The invaluable aid which it can give in medical work, practical and theoretical, in case taking and note making, is realized by all who have used it, as it cannot be by others, and the importance of its acquisition before medical studies are commenced is so great that the Society has endeavoured by every means to encourage this. But many practitioners who make constant use of shorthand have acquired it long after being engaged in practice. To all students and practitioners alike, the Society is open and its members ready to give all possible help to those who are endeavouring to obtain the assistance of this time-saving art. The subscription to the Society is very small, amounting only to 5s. per year for students and 7s. 6d. for practitioners.

The Honorary Secretary, Dr. Fletcher Beach, will be glad to give any further information; and to receive applications for membership.—We are, etc.,

DAVID FERRIER, *President*.

E. B. GRAY

W. THOMPSON, C.B.

W. R. GOWERS

G. SIMS WOODHEAD

NORMAN PORRITT, *Treasurer*.FLETCHER BEACH, *Secretary*.

Winchester House, Kingston Hill, Surrey, Nov. 6th.

## FORENSIC MEDICINE.

SIR.—I have been requested by Messrs. Churchill to edit a new edition of Taylor's large work on the *Principles and Practice of Forensic Medicine*. Might I appeal through the *BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL* to the profession to send me accounts of interesting and instructive medico-legal cases that have been recently decided? Dr. Stevenson has with the greatest generosity and kindness placed at my disposal a rich collection of poisoning cases, so that I am more particularly anxious for other criminal reports, such as rape, strangulation, etc. Might I ask that dates and references to the trial should accompany any reports sent to me?—I am, etc.,

138, Harley Street, W., Nov. 9th.

FRED. J. SMITH.

## OBITUARY.

SURGEON-MAJOR-GENERAL J. DAVIS,  
Army Medical Staff.

WE regret to have to record the death of Surgeon-Major-General J. Davis, Army Medical Staff, retired, which occurred suddenly at his residence, Broxholme, Waverley Road, Southsea, on November 8th, from angina pectoris.

Surgeon-General Davis studied at the College of Surgeons, Dublin, and entered the army on March 10th, 1858. He was posted as assistant surgeon to the 57th Regiment, which he joined in India in the same year. Whilst the transport in which he had arrived was lying in Bombay harbour he jumped into the sea and swam to the relief of a private of the 33rd Regiment, who had fallen overboard, and who, on the ebbing tide, was being rapidly carried out to sea. He succeeded in reaching him and keeping him afloat until both were picked up by a boat from the transport. For this act of gallantry he was awarded the silver medal of the Royal Humane Society. Proceeding with the 57th Regiment from India to New Zealand, he served in the wars of 1861 and 1865, and received the medal. Rising through the various ranks of the Army Medical Service, he was promoted Surgeon-Major-General on January 19th, 1894, and posted as Principal Medical Officer to the Southern District, and finally retired, under the age clause, on April 15th, 1895.

Though not a contributor to medical literature, he was a keen student of his profession, and possessed admirable judgement and resource. Whilst serving in India he introduced a remedy which he designated "camphorodyne," so that a mixture whose constituents were thoroughly known might be available to replace a proprietary preparation. This camphorodyne has for some years been adopted by the Government for use in all the hospitals in India.

Throughout his long service he gained the affection and esteem of all who served with him, and proved himself the firm friend and trusted adviser of all who required his assistance. The news of his death will, we feel sure, be received with much sorrow and regret by many an old comrade.