

Natal Medical Council.

The monthly meeting of the Natal Medical Council was held in Pietermaritzburg, on August 12th.

Present: Dr. James Hyslop, D.S.O. (President of the Council), Drs. Arch. McKenzie, Dumat, Pearson, D. Campbell-Watt (Secretary), W. Russell Strapp and Mr. C. E. Mountfort (Dental Member).

Regulations for the training of nurses were considered and finally approved. The main stipulations are these: Three years' experience in an hospital, the person to be engaged for the whole of that period in actual nursing of patients. Attendance at twelve lectures per annum, the lectures to be delivered by a registered medical practitioner, the minimum attendance allowable to be three-fourths of the possible, *i.e.*, at twenty-seven lectures. A knowledge of the action and composition of simple drugs. The hospital at which satisfactory training can be obtained must have no fewer than twenty beds; and recognised training institutions must be conducted by a Board of Management, of which at least one registered medical practitioner shall be a member.

Enquiries, it was agreed, should be made into the circumstances prevailing at a large manufactory on the coast, where there is a small three-roomed hospital, to which disabled workers repair and are ministered to by an unqualified person, who, it is suspected, renders something more than "first aid."

British Medical Association.

C. G. H. (EASTERN PROVINCE) BRANCH.

The ordinary meeting was held on August 10th.

Present: Drs. Dru-Drury (in the chair), Bruce-Bays, R. C. Mullins, and R. T. Harrison, and Mr. Louw (Hon. Member).

Letters of apology were read from Drs. Jones-Philipson and Grenfell.

Correspondence read from Mrs. J. Louw and A. and C. Collis, thanking for election as Hon. Members and from Dr. Greenlees, Dr. Barcroft Anderson, and the Secretary of the Organising Committee of the Central Council.

Drs. Bruce-Bays and Mullins were elected to represent the Branch at the forthcoming Congress. The Branch recorded its opinion in favour of the formation of a South African Medical Association, with a South African medical journal.

The meeting recorded its regret at the departures of Dr. C. S. Purvis for Calcutta and Dr. C. F. Lillie for Salisbury.

Mr. Micklem, Provincial Council candidate for Stellenbosch, has spoken in favour of the transfer of public health to the Provinces, urging, as we fear will be often urged, that it must be under the same authority as local government.

Cape Province Medical Council.

The regular meeting took place on the 6th.

Present: Drs. C. F. K. Murray (in the chair), Gregory, Wood and Darley-Hartley.

The business was either *in camera* or not of general interest.

Notes on New Preparations.

"EMPIRE" LINEN MESH UNDERWEAR.

This form of underwear is a knitted elastic linen yarn wear, with more or less open meshes, and, whilst very absorbent, has a "fluffy" characteristic which obviates the chilly feeling which unmeshed linen gives when worn next to the skin. We have personally tested it, and can testify to the comfort in wear, to the warmth, and to the fact that perspiration passes freely away, as shown by the non-existence of stains on the material. To us it seems an ideal wear for hot weather in this country, most especially, perhaps, in the warmer coast districts with a humid atmosphere. Of course, there has been much controversy as to the comparative merits of woollen and linen clothing, and we would refer our readers to an interesting little paper on this subject by Dr. W. W. Stoney, appearing in the RECORD in May, 1906. The arguments there used seem to us unanswerable. The essential advantage of the much greater absorbent power of linen cannot be gainsaid.

These linen mesh garments can be obtained from Messrs. J. W. Musher and Co., 21, St. George's Street, Cape Town, and summer is the special time at which we would advise our confreres to give them a trial.

Passing Events.

Dr. and Mrs. W. A. Soga, of Miller, Bomvanaland, celebrated their silver wedding last month.

A Malay ambulance brigade has been formed in Cape Town, under Dr. Omar Dollie, and has already attained a remarkably high standard of efficiency.

We have received from Dr. R. R. Rentoul, a copy of his address at the B.M.A. London, meeting, on "Sterilization of Degenerates," with a request for publication. We regret that we cannot break our usual rule of reserving our columns exclusively for South African contributions.

Mr. Runciman, Assembly candidate for the South Peninsula Division, the other night expressed himself as strongly in favour of a Ministry of Public Health.

Dr. Boyd, of Potchefstroom, returned from Europe on the 6th.