as permitted in the case of all other examiners of the College, and that Clause 1, Section XIV, of the Regulations of the Council now limiting their period of office to three consecutive years should be altered by the substitution of the word 'five' for 'three.'

The following list of examiners was adopted by the Council on the recommendation of the Committee:

Elementary Biology.—Peyton T. B. Beale, Frederick Gymer Parsons, Thomas William Shore, Thomas George Stevens.

Anatomy (Membership).—Stanley Boyd, William Bruce Clarke, George Henry Makins, Arthur Robinson.

Physiology (Membership).—John Rose Bradford, Leonard Erskine Hill, Walter George Spencer.

Anatomy (Fellowship).—William Frederick Haslam, James Ernest Lane, Charles Barrett Lockwood, Frederick Gymer Parsons.

Physiology (Fellowship).—Thomas Grigor Brodie, D'Arcy Power, Ernest Henry Starling, William Henry Thompson.

Midwifery.—William Radford Dakin, Arthur H. N. Lewers, Amand Routh, Herbert Ritchie Spencer.

Public Health.—Part I: Arthur Pearson Luff. Part II: Edward Seaton.

ELECTION OF REPRESENTATIVES ON THE GENERAL MEDICAL COUNCIL.

A letter of June 6th was read from Mr. R. B. Anderson, F.R.C.S., stating that he intends to take proceedings to establish his right and that of all Fellows and Members, to exercise the franchise conferred on them by the Medical Acts for the purpose of choosing a member of the General Medical Council, and asking whether the Council would treat such proceedings as a friendly suit, and pay the costs of both sides with the College funds. It was resolved that Mr. Anderson be informed that the Council are not prepared to accede to his proposition.

THE LATE MR. THOMAS ALCOCK.

The PRESIDENT reported that he had accepted on behalf of the Council an oil portrait by Benjamin Robert Haydon of Thomas Alcock, M.R.C.S., father of the late Sir Rutherford Alcock, K.C.B., presented to the College by Lady Alcock.

The donation was acknowledged with the best thanks of the Council.

COURT OF EXAMINERS.

The PRESIDENT stated that the vacancy on the Court of Examiners occasioned by the expiration of Mr. R. J. Godlee's period of office on July 7th next, and the vacancy on the Board of Examiners in Dental Surgery occasioned by the expiration on the same date of Mr. J. H. Mummery's period of office, would be filled up at the quarterly meeting of the Council on July 14th. The President also stated that Mr. Godlee and Mr. Mummery were both candidates for re-election.

AN APPEAL.

SIR,—We venture to bring a pitiable case to the notice of the medical profession. Mr. James McGregor Laing, a surgeon in the employment of the Coolie Emigration Service, died in Calcutta on July 6th, 1889, leaving a widow and four children—a girl and three boys—totally unprovided for.

Assisted by friends, the widow took a boarding house in Bayswater, but eventually failed to make ends meet. In the last few months she has lived in a small office in 16, Colville Road, W., a tiny place, without fireplace of any kind. The rent of this has been paid up to the end of this month by some generous Freemasons. She has tried to get dressmaking work, but has not succeeded in doing so. Since her failure she has had grants of £10 and £12 from the Medical Benevolent Fund, £10 from Grand Lodge, and small amounts from other Masonic lodges.

Her children's ages are—the girl 14 years, the boys 12, 11, and 9. The girl is at a school, by the kindness of the teachers, obtaining tuition without charge. The eldest boy has been elected into the Masonic school, but is too ignorant to be admitted; the second is a candidate for Epsom. The boys go to the Westbourne Park schools at present, helped to do so by the clergy of All Saints, Notting Hill. For a long time the providing of food for these hungry young mouths has been an intense anxiety to the mother; indeed, there actually has not been a sufficient supply of proper nourishment. Mrs. Laing will have to leave her present abode at the end of this month, as she has no money to pay the rent.

We can personally guarantee the urgency of this poor lady, and are desirous of placing her in a small shop to enable her

to gain a living for herself and her children. We strongly recommend the case to the generous consideration of your readers.

It is proposed to form a small committee to administer any moneys forwarded for Mrs. Laing's benefit, and we have agreed to act as treasurer and secretary.—We are, etc.,

J. PICKETT, M.D.,

26, Colville Square, W.

REGINALD HARTLEY, M.D.,

68, Porchester Terrace, W.

THE PLAGUE IN THE EAST.

Bombay.—The most recent telegram from Bombay, dated June 10th, brings the welcome news that the death-rate on that day was normal. With this information we assume that plague has practically disappeared. We dare hardly to hope that Bombay can be congratulated on having finally got rid of the disease. With the yearly recurrence in Hong Kong, ever since 1894, plague must be expected to recur in Bombay, and that, too, in a form as virulent as heretofore. We have yet to learn how Hong Kong was reinfected (if, indeed, it is a reinfection and not a recrudescence) before it is possible to state definitely what steps ought to be taken to try to prevent the same thing happening elsewhere.

Karachi.—Up to June 1st plague showed no signs of abatement, but since then a marked diminution is evident. Several of the hospitals are closed, and trade is reviving.

Punjab.—Equally favourable reports are to hand from the infected districts beyond Lahore. The telegrams have it that "plague accounts from the Punjab are reassuring."

Central India.—The epidemic is said to be increasing in the Mahratta country, but no virulent outbreak is reported.

Calcutta.—On June 10th four fresh cases were announced as having occurred in Calcutta. The Europeans affected are progressing favourably, and for days together no cases occur. In consequence of the example set by several leading members of the native community, many of the latter are now voluntarily submitting to inoculation, and over 1,500 have been so treated.

Hong Kong.—Plague still causes many deaths a day, and the neighbouring districts of China are widely affected.

LITERARY NOTES.

MESSRS. CHAPMAN AND HALL will shortly publish a volume entitled *Medical Works of the Fourteenth Century*, by Rev. Professor George Henslow, M.A., F.L.S., etc., formerly Lecturer on Botany at St. Bartholomew's Hospital Medical School. The work is described as consisting of transcripts, with notes, from four MS. volumes, dating from a period contemporary with the works of Wiclif and Chaucer, three of which are in the British Museum and one in the possession of Professor Henslow. The volumes are collections of recipes for ointments, drinks, and remedies of different kinds for various complaints, diseases, and wounds. Professor W. W. Skeat has provided introductions and notes calling attention to philological points of interest to students of Early English. The work will also contain an alphabetical list of upwards of 700 medical and other plants mentioned in works of the fourteenth century, compiled and identified with their modern English and Latin equivalent names by Professor Henslow.

The *Inquiry into the Relative Efficiency of Water Filters in the Prevention of Infective Disease*, by Drs. Sims Woodhead and Cartwright Wood, which appeared in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL of November-December, 1894, and January, 1898, has been reprinted in convenient form, and can be procured at the office of the Association, price 2s. In their preface the authors state that as the outcome of the investigations made by them they believe they are warranted in concluding that they have been able to settle the principle on which must be based the method of testing the efficiency of filters in preventing the transmission of waterborne infective disease. The method, they add, had already been suggested by Gruber and his pupils, but they were able to carry out experiments on so many types of filters, and over such prolonged periods, that they hope that this vexed question has