years after leaving the association. The following clauses defined his duties:—

The medical officer is to examine all candidates for admission into the amalgamated societies and give all certificates then required; he shall also sign all certificates of members when declaring on or off the funds or while receiving relief.

The medical officer will be allowed to attend members' wives at their confinements and shall charge the said member 10s. 6d. for each case; a fee for vaccination is also provided for in the rules.

The medical officer will not be allowed to engage in any private practice whatever, but be required to give his exclusive services to the members of the association and their families according to the rules.

The medical officer will have to see patients at the dispensary from 8.30 to 10.30 A.M. and from 6 to 8 P.M. daily except on Sundays, when the hours will be from 9 to 10 A.M. only.

When any member is taken suddenly ill or is physically unable to attend at the dispensary the medical officer, on receiving notice that his services are required, shall attend such member, if he reside within three miles of the registered office of the association.

REFORM NEEDED FROM WITHOUT.

"HOPEFUL," who is a surgeon to a Medical Aid Association, conducted by "a fairly reasonable set of workmen," hopes that medical men not connected with such associations will make themselves acquainted with the real facts, and help to bring about a reform. He believes that most of the surgeons are "creatures of circumstance," not "blacklegs." Wholesale druggists, he suggests, ought to cease to supply scheduled poisons to unqualified persons without observing the forms which a retail chemist must follow. In the association which he serves there is a rather large number of well-to-do members, but they joined when in less affluent circumstances, and the clubs have no power to turn them out; and "Hopeful" frankly admits that he cultivates them with ulterior views to private practice.

"A MOURNER" says that in his locality the National Medical Aid Company, Limited, employs a tout, but its medical officer also touts. At one time he issued circulars. The fees charged are one halfpenny a week for persons under 14, and one penny for those over. Few houses are exempt from a call from the tout. Our correspondent thinks that it would be well to form a list of names of medical men who aid and abet such methods of obtaining practice.

OVERWORK AND UNDERPAY.

"ALPHA" recalls that in 1880 he addressed a letter to the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL on the subject. He was junior medical officer to a medical aid association, which had almost exactly one fourth of the population of a northern city on its books. He was paid £150 a year, and his senior £200. The yearly subscription averaged 3s. for a man and his wife, and 1s. for each child; every female dependent in her parents' house was charged as a child, but lads over 18 were reckoned as men. The maximum midwifery fee was 10s. 6d., of which 2s. 6d. was paid to the association; vaccination free. There were three sittings at the dispensary daily, each medical officer sitting once and twice on alternate days. Visits had to be paid at a distance of six miles. The work night and day averaged eighteen hours out of the twenty-four. He broke down in eight months; his senior held out a little longer, and was then, he believes, taken to a lunatic asylum.

THE OXFORD MEDICAL SOCIETY.

ADDRESSES BY SIR JAMES PAGET AND PROFESSOR BURDON SANDERSON.

THE first meeting of the newly-formed Oxford Medical Society was held on November 11th, under the presidency of Sir HENRY ACLAND, who in a brief address recalled the fact that a small medical society had been formed in Oxford some fifty years ago, but had languished. He prophesied a more assured career for the new Society under modern conditions of medical life in Oxford.

Sir JAMES PAGET delivered an address, in which he dwelt on the value of such a Society in encouraging the common work and mutual help of those who were engaged, some in the practice and some in the scientific study of medicine. Practice and scientific study were sometimes regarded as wide apart, and in fact almost incompatible; their methods were distinguished by different terms—in medical science, "the process of experiment;" and in practice, "empirical," a word which had been degraded to the worst meaning. Yet the method of acquiring knowledge by experience did lead to a knowledge of real facts. If they could not be founded on first principles, that was a defect of science at least as much as of practice. There should be a clear consciousness that each method of work was essential to the progress of the other; that science could not make its whole progress unless helped by the facts discerned in practice, and that practice could not advance to greater certainty except by the help of science laying bare its defects and helping to their remedy. Practitioners would work more generally as men of science through the increase in the teaching of science in the medical schools and universities. Already it might be noticed that the works published by practitioners displayed a more definite clearness

of scientific observation, and a wider range of knowledge brought to bear upon facts. A vast increase in this direction might be looked for. As years went on, those who had been educated in science would carry the spirit of science into their ordinary practice. The practitioner would then be able to fulfil his duty to his patients much better; he would know how to look carefully, definitely, and determinately into every particular, and might be able to turn some of the results of the scientific man to immediate utility. To attain this the two must be given opportunities for frequent converse and consultation, such opportunities as would be afforded by the Oxford Medical Society. It might be asked what was there remaining of which men in practice should be carefully observant; but the range of our ignorance of pathological processes far surpassed the range of our knowledge, and the future would show that there were within the range of our ignorance facts which were really within our grasp. The whole history of science showed that amongst the greatest discoveries had been those which when made were seen to be so clearly based upon obvious things that each man might say that had he been a little more observant he might have been the discoverer.

Professor BURDON SANDERSON said that the new Society did not intend to interfere with the Oxford Branch of the British Medical Association; the object of its founders was the advancement of scientific study, and to draw closer the bonds of union between the medical profession in Oxford with the scientific work of the University which bore immediately upon medicine. The University had witnessed in the most unmistakable way its interest in medicine, and had welcomed the medical student. The University also had provided for medical studies a building which when finished would be equal in completeness—would probably surpass—any similar institution in the United Kingdom. As soon as they were able to establish the systematic study of pathology from the scientific side, it might be hoped that the school would exercise a most beneficial influence on the medical profession.

MEDICAL MAYORS.

THE number of medical men who have this year been elected mayors of the boroughs in which they reside appears to be somewhat in excess of that which has been customary in recent years. Members of the medical profession are competent to render important services to the cause of good municipal government, and in various directions and in many towns and cities they are rendering such services. It is pleasant to see the character and importance of these services recognised by election to the highest municipal honours. We may anticipate that in the future the number of the members of the medical profession who will take part in the labours and share the rewards of municipal government will increase. We give below a few biographical details of mayors elected this month.

Dr. Joseph Ewart, of Brighton, took the degree of M.D. St. And. in 1853, the diploma of M.R.C.S. in the same year, and that of L.R.C.P. Lond. in 1876. He was twenty-five years in the Indian Medical Service, and retired in 1879. Dr. Ewart was formerly Professor of Physiology, Professor of Medicine, Principal of the Calcutta Medical College, Surgeon to the European General Hospital, Presidency Surgeon to the Municipal Commissioner, and President of the Bengal Social Science Association. He settled at Brighton about 1879, and entered the Town Council in 1884. He was appointed an alderman in 1890, elected Mayor for 1891-92, and re-elected for 1892-93. Dr. Ewart is a Justice of the Peace for Sussex and Cumberland, and Chairman of the Electric Light Committee of the Brighton Corporation.

Dr. Croucher, elected Mayor of Hastings, was educated at the London Hospital, and obtained the diplomas of M.R.C.S. Eng. in 1857, M.D. St. And., L.M. Eng. in 1858. He practised in East London till 1865, when he removed to Upper Norwood, where he stayed till 1868, going then to Hastings. He was an alderman of Hastings from 1874 to 1880, Chairman of the Sanitary Committee of the Hastings Town Council from 1876 to 1880, fourteen years Vice-President of the Sanitary Aid Association, and a Justice of the Peace for the borough in 1885.

Dr. William James Clegg, who has occupied the Mayoral chair for Baccup on two previous occasions, was unanimously re-elected for the third time. He studied at Edinburgh and Paris, and took the degree of M.D. St. And. in 1854. Dr. Clegg is a certifying factory surgeon, Poor-law medical officer, and vaccination officer of the Rochdale Union.

Dr. William Robinson Hill, who has been in practice at Lynton for thirty years, was elected Mayor of the extended borough in 1891, and unanimously re-elected Mayor this year. He received his professional education at Edinburgh University, and was twice elected President of the Royal Medical Society. He was House-Physician at the Royal Infirmary under Dr. Warburton Begbie, and House-Surgeon under Dr. Gillespie, and afterwards Resident Physician's Assistant at the Brompton