THE MEDICAL PROFESSION AND CONTRACT PRACTICE.

EVESHAM.

SIR,—We notice in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL of July 2nd a communication that you have received *re* Court Vale of Evesham, 4648 A.O.F., and being severally the proposer and seconder of the resolution carried on June 7th last, we wish to correct the misstatements which you have published.

1. That no proper resignation was tendered.
2. The reduction of salary could not take place until registered by the Registrar of Friendly Societies, and it was not our intention that it should take place until a quarter's notice had been duly given.
3. Mr. Martin's so-called immediate resignation was not accepted, as no resolution was put to that effect.
4. All the medical men in the town have not been approached on the subject.
5. That the Management Committee have never refused to pay the salary due, our treasurer having offered to call out a Management Committee in proper course, and before that could be done a county court summons was served on our secretary, claiming payment due for the previous quarter.

We would point out that our rules provide "that if our medical men should refuse—which they did—or neglect a sick member, so that another surgeon should be required to attend, what sum may be due to the surgeon from the court shall be applied in liquidation as far as it will go of the expenses the sick member shall incur for the services of another surgeon."

The resolution for the reduction of salary would never have been proposed had not the majority of the medical practitioners in the surrounding towns been receiving 4s. per member per annum, and had our court been in a sound financial condition.

We would ask you in common fairness to our court to give publication to these true facts contained in our letter.—We are, etc.,

C. H. JONES, P.C.R., { Proposer and
DAVID HARKER, P.C.R., { Secunder of
Resolution.

Evesham, July 6th.

LITERARY NOTES.

THE Rebman Publishing Company's new books include a work on the *Ferment Treatment of Cancer and Tuberculosis*, by Mr. Horace Manders, F.R.C.S.; and *Atlases of Internal Medicine and Clinical Diagnosis*; of *Legal Medicine*; and of *Laryngology*, in the Lehmann Series of Medical "Hand Atlases" which they are publishing in conjunction with W. B. Saunders, of Philadelphia.

We have received a new edition of the *Catalogue of Lewis's Medical and Scientific Library*, which forms a substantial 8vo volume of 333 pages. A particularly valuable feature of the Catalogue is the classified index of subjects with the names of authors who have treated of them. This index has been carefully revised to the end of 1897, and cannot fail to be of use to those who wish to read up any subject.

Dr. William Findlay of Paisley ("George Umber"), author of *In My City Garden* and of *Ayrshire Idylls*, is about to publish by subscription a work entitled *Robert Burns and the Medical Profession*. Among the many intimacies and friendships formed by Burns with professional men in his own day, and among his equally numerous admirers of the same class since, none are more distinguished for the soundness of their views on his character and their generous and enthusiastic loyalty to his memory than those belonging to the medical profession. *Burns and the Medical Profession* is an attempt to gather together for the first time the story of the poet and his medical friends. Dr. Finlay has endeavoured to trace the nature, course, and extent of these medical friendships, whether of intimates and correspondents during the poet's lifetime or of biographers, critics, and panegyrists after his death, from the time he made the acquaintance at Lochlea of Mr. John Mackenzie, surgeon, Mauchline, who attended his father in his last illness, down to the

present day. Extending over this period of fully a hundred years, there are laid under contribution between thirty and forty doctors, Scottish, English, Irish, American and colonial, who have all paid greater or smaller tributes to the genius and character of the bard. The volume will be illustrated with full-page portraits of the more notable among these intimates and contributors, such as Dr. John Mackenzie; Dr. James Gregory, Professor of Practice of Physic in Edinburgh University; Dr. Alexander Wood ("Long Sandy Wood"), the surgeon who attended the poet with his bruised limb during the period of the Sylvander and Clarinda correspondence; Dr. John Moore, London, formerly of Trongate, Glasgow, father of Sir John Moore, the hero of Corunna, author of *Zeluco*, etc.; Dr. William Maxwell, Dumfries, the physician who attended Burns in his last illness; Dr. James Currie, Liverpool, whom Carlyle designated Burns's "first and kindest biographer;" Dr. David Macbeth Moir (Delta), of Musselburgh, author of *Casa Wappy*, *Mansie Waugh*, and a *Commemoration Poem on Burns*; Dr. Francis Adams, Banchoy, Aberdeenshire, the translator of the works of Hippocrates, etc., and author of *A Discourse on the Writings of Burns*; Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes, the genial Autocrat of the Breakfast Table, and author of a centennial poem, etc., on Burns; Dr. John Brown (*Rab and his Friends*); and Dr. James Adams, Glasgow, vindicator of the character of Burns's "Chloris" (*Jean Lorimer*). The work will be issued to subscribers at the price of 5s. nett. The names of subscribers sent before July 15th, 1898, will be inserted at the end. The publisher is Alexander Gardner, of Paisley.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

PARIS.

Liquefied Air on Draught.—Lunatics at Large.—Improvements at the Morgue.—General News.

At a public dinner the other day, at which M. d'Arsonval was present, the guests were astonished by having liquefied air poured into their glasses of champagne. A year ago the Emperor of Germany was offered a glass of liquefied air. He raised the glass in honour of science, but refrained from putting it to his lips; the liquefied air in it would have burned them like hot coals. The liquefied air poured into the champagne became dispersed in white clouds, and mingled with the surrounding atmosphere. A bottle of air, if liquefied, can bear a transit of sixty hours without volatilisation taking place.

The question how to protect the public from lunatics is now as pressing as that of the prevention of hydrophobia once was. A police commissary is in a state of anxiety; he had taken measures to keep a whole family for a certain time confined to their house. Violent scenes had taken place in the house. The husband accused the wife of having lost her senses through hypnotism. The wife said her husband was mad. A few days ago a more than usually violent outbreak occurred. The husband escaped half naked, and appeared at the Commissary's office, exclaiming that his wife had tried to kill him. The Commissary went to the family dwelling; as soon as the door was half-opened, a bullet whizzed past his ear without hitting him. Discretion being the better part of valour, he left the premises, and stationed two policemen outside the door to prevent the family from leaving the house. During two days relays of policemen succeeded each other, but no one passed the door. The family preferred making their escape through the window; the mother, two young children, a girl aged 15, and a boy aged 14 are now at large. The father is also wandering about, a probable danger to the public safety. A farmer has lately been shot by a mad neighbour; the murderer has not yet been arrested.

It is feared that several years may pass before the medico-legal institute which it is proposed to establish in connection with the "Morgue" will be organised. The General Council has adjourned the discussion of the proposition. The "Morgue" is in such a dilapidated condition that it requires to be immediately put in order. The well-