

the County Court is 15 per cent. This is a much larger percentage, and, is no doubt accounted for by the fact that the amounts involved are much larger and consequently more often contested.

"On the whole, it must be conceded that employers of labour have fairly met the liabilities imposed on them by the Workmen's Compensation Act, and that, whether they insure or not, singularly few claims are contested, the full compensation due under the Act being paid without question.

"The returns prove, too, as those of 1898 did, of what limited value many of the elaborate provisions of the Workmen's Compensation Act are." For instance, how small is the amount of memoranda registered in Schedule 2, Clause 8. In the United Kingdom there are only 803 registrations, of which 468 were in mining accidents. The Stokesley and Guisborough district comes out as last year, facile princes, with 228 cases. In the Middlesbrough County Court 80 were registered, these two courts having between them nearly one-half of the whole number, but these exceptions only prove the rule. Small value seems to be placed on this provision of the Act, and, considering that the registration has to be done by the Registrar of the County Court without fee, it makes this omission the more remarkable. Again, up to December, 1899, there were 321 medical referees appointed under the Act under Schedule 2, Section 13, in the United Kingdom, and the number of references to the whole of them during 1899 amounted to the insignificant total of 43."

BUSINESS A PROFESSION.

To the learned professions, theology, law and medicine, must soon be added so-called business. The tendency towards placing the ordinary pursuits of trade and commerce on a level with the learned professions is becoming more marked every year. From an article published in "The Maritime Merchant" on this subject, we glean the following:—

"To raise one's business to the standard of a profession should be the chief aim of everybody who is devoting his life to the work of carrying on trade and commerce. There never was a period in the world's history when the business man has stood so high in the esteem of society—that is of society in its broadest sense—as he does to-day. The history of the past shows a great gulf between business and the so-called learned professions which grows wider as we look backward. Coming down toward the present, the gulf becomes narrower, until to-day, when but a single step divides them. To-day, on one side of this contracted gulf stands the educated, thoughtful broad-minded business man. His polished shoes and silk hat are in keeping with his polished manners and refined tastes. His business, under the changed modern conditions, has compelled him to travel in many lands. Thus he has gained a great knowledge

of men and things. He has read widely and can converse intelligently on almost any subject. He has had years of hard work and experience, and a thorough technical training in his business. He is gentlemanly, dignified, and withal modest. His every move in business is the result of hours of deep thought and careful study. He has a knowledge of the commercial laws of his own country, and of those of many foreign countries into which his business extends. More than all he has made a careful study of human nature. Yet he is not professional. He is "only a business man," and the gulf, narrow as it has become, stands between him and the sacred territory occupied by the professions. On the opposite bank stands the professional man, vainly endeavoring to hold on to the halo by which he has been so long surrounded. The almost superstitious awe with which he was formerly looked upon by those whom he considered as occupying a lower level of human existence than himself, has taken a place amongst the things of the past. With the last glimmer of the imaginary halo fading from him, he finds himself face to face with the business man, while the gulf which has separated them is rapidly closing up. He too is educated, refined, dignified. The secret reluctance to meet the business man on common ground and on equal terms, scarcely shows itself upon the surface, but is still quite strong within him. Both are men who might well clasp hands, recognizing each other as equals, and this is what must soon take place. When it does, the usefulness of both will be increased rather than diminished. The gulf is narrowing from both sides; professions are becoming more business like, and business is becoming more professional. Of course, there are dabblers in business, but there are also dabblers in the professions. There are professional quacks as well as business quacks. The claims of business are being recognized by all the great seats of learning; universities are establishing elaborate courses in commercial education and are providing systems of business, commercial corporation and international law, accounting, credits; banking, commerce, treaties, shipping, transportation; finance and many other branches of practical learning. It only remains for the business man to take advantage of all these in training the boys who intend to make business their profession. To be professional himself, and to teach those who come after him to be the same. If this is done, the last step will have been taken, and business will become a profession."

MOSQUITOS IN SOUTH LONDON.—A number of cases of disease diagnosed as malarial poisoning have, it is stated, occurred in South London. They are due, it is believed, to mosquito bites. Children who have been attacked have suffered violently from vomiting and cholera, while the symptoms among adults have been so alarming that hospital treatment has been necessary.