

Numerous branches of the Medical Association have discussed and adopted resolutions in favor of its principle. The Lancashire and Cheshire Branch, the Metropolitan Counties Branch, the South-Western Branch, the Worcestershire Herefordshire Branch, and others have done so. It was also adopted by the London Society of Medical Officers of Health, and finally at the annual meeting of the Association held at Worcester in 1882, an amendment in favor of compulsory notification on the householder, and not upon the doctor, was on a division carried, and it was also carried as a substantive motion.

In several districts, notably Liverpool and Glasgow, the Local Authorities have recently drafted bills which provide compulsory notification on the system framed by the Local Government Board. The proposal caused considerable agitation amongst the medical practitioners resident in those districts, and they vehemently resisted the granting of such powers to the sanitary authorities. The opposition was so strong, and the medical profession so united, that the corporations delayed proceeding with their bills. It may be questioned whether the position taken up by the profession in those districts is tenable for any length of time, more especially in view of the recommendations of the Select Committee, and the fact that the serious dangers anticipated have not, on actual trial of the system, been realized, while the counter schemes and suggestions offered by the profession fail to meet the difficulties of the case. In Liverpool the opposition of the medical profession was very keen, and the resident medical men were almost unanimous—of a total number of about 310, nearly four-fifths were opponents.

The objections usually raised to direct compulsory notification by the medical attendant, under a penalty, with the answers put forward by supporters of the system, may be briefly summarised as follows:—

1. The State acting for the public interest, exacted, under legal compulsion, certificates as to the cause of death, and vaccination certificates, without payment; and we positively decline to render the State further gratuitous services.

*Answer.*—Admitted, but on this occasion the State proposes to give a fair remuneration.

2. The system is repugnant to the unwritten law of professional honour, as it compels medical men, under a penalty, to divulge to the authorities knowledge acquired in professional confidence.

*Answer.*—It is admitted that the duty is disagreeable to a large proportion of the medical profession, but it is urged (a) that it is unavoidable in the public interest, no other method hitherto suggested being adequate to serve the purpose in a complete and satisfactory manner; (b) that by making compulsion under penalties apply to the householder as well, and exacting his compliance in every instance, he cannot complain of his medical attendant con-