

cense Inspector for the County of Bruce, and Dr. Worthington for the County of Huron.

OBITUARY. — Dr. Alexander Wood, of Edinburgh, died on the 26th of February. To him the profession is indebted for the introduction of the hypodermic injection of drugs by the hollow needle syringe.

SET AT LIBERTY. — Dr. Griffith, formerly of Fergus, who, it will be remembered was sentenced to three year's imprisonment in the Kingston Penitentiary for bigamy, has been set at liberty.

Books and Pamphlets.

TRANSACTIONS OF THE VACCINATION ENQUIRY. Part I. Edited by Montague D. Makuna, M. R.C.S., Eng.; L.R.C.P., London, etc., etc. Published by W. H. Lead, Leicester.

This is an invaluable publication, and its appearance at the present time, when so much worse than vapid nonsense has been spread amongst defectively informed communities, in both the old world and the new, must be regarded as most opportune. The committee of enquiry, under whose auspices the work has been brought out, consists in all of thirty members, twenty-two of whom are experienced medical practitioners, and eight are public vaccinators, officers of health and private gentlemen. The labour of compilation, which must have been one requiring extraordinary energy and exhaustless patience, has been performed by the editor with commendable efficiency. "Seven circular questions" were addressed to medical practitioners in England, Ireland and Scotland. The replies received from 384 are given in the publication in parallel columns, headed by the respective questions. The following are the questions submitted:—1st. What are your views regarding compulsory vaccination in England, Scotland or Ireland? 2nd. What are your views regarding the protection afforded by vaccination against small-pox? 3rd. What diseases have you, in your experience, known to be conveyed, or occasioned, or intensified by vaccination? 4th. What opinion do you hold as to the quantity and quality of vaccination, as determined by the cicatrices? 5th. What opinion do you hold as to the relative values of humanised and

animal lymph, both as regards efficacy and safety? 6th. What opinion do you hold regarding the relations subsisting between variola and vaccinia, and the theory of vaccination? 7th. How far do you consider insanitary conditions responsible for small-pox epidemics, and how far can small-pox be controlled by improved sanitation?"

To introduce here illustrative specimens of the answers furnished, or even to attempt any instructive analysis of their multitudinous contents, would be an undertaking alike unsuited to our capabilities and to the space at our command. Besides, the opinions expressed by the very great majority of the 384 respondents are so perfectly concurrent with those entertained by almost the entire body of the medical profession in Canada, that their reproduction in this country would be almost a work of supererogation. On the first question, as to the advisability of compulsory vaccination, there is a large affirmative preponderance. The like may be said as to the answers to the second question, with certain very judicious conditions introduced. The replies to the third question intimate exceptional morbid results, such as are well known to observant practitioners in America, but their occurrence is so infrequent, and with due precaution so easy of avoidance, that no conclusion adverse to vaccination can be drawn from them. The fourth question has elicited various opinions, as to the number of points of vaccination, some respondents demanding as many as six, some four, perhaps a majority three, whilst a few ask for only one. To the fifth question the majority reply in favour of animal lymph, but a respectable minority regard the choice as indifferent, and a few prefer the human lymph, provided due care is taken as to the constitutional soundness of the children from whom it is taken. The sixth question, as it involves theoretical discussions, has been answered variously, according perhaps to the preconceptions of the writers, some of whom assert their belief in the identity of vaccination and variola, whilst others insist on their specific difference, and a considerable number regard the former as a modification of the latter. To the seventh question the replies seem to have been pretty harmonious. Insanitary conditions aggravate small-pox epidemics, but *per se* they do not cause the disease; a fact which undoubtedly applies to all other contagious diseases.