

At a special meeting of the Royal College of Surgeons in England, held on the 9th inst., it was announced that the president, Sir Henry T. Butlin, Bart., had decided to retire from that office on account of ill-health, and Mr. Rickman J. Godlee, F.R.C.S., M.S., was elected to succeed him. In accepting his resignation with regret the Council conveyed to Sir Henry Butlin the expression of their deep sympathy with him in that he had been compelled to curtail the period during which he otherwise would have held the position of president.

On Nov. 16 Louis B. Schram, president of the New York Civic Federation, urged upon the Wagner-Smith Factory Investigation Commission the great need of state laws requiring the installation of safety devices in all buildings where industrial workers are employed, and also providing for more rigid inspection of such buildings than is at present the case. He furthermore recommended the establishment of a state museum of safety, along the lines of the American Museum of Safety now conducted in New York City by the Society of Mechanical Engineers. Stereopticon views showing what has been done in recent years in the introduction of safety appliances were displayed by Dr. William H. Tolman, director of this museum, and the latter also made an address in which he advised that statistics should be prepared which would indicate to what extent alcohol is a factor in causing accidents to workmen. Dr. Woods Hutchinson stated to the commission that his visits to several factories during the strike of the shirtwaist makers had convinced him that almost universally the conditions prevailing in such places are conducive to ill-health. As a rule, he found overcrowded workrooms, bad air and poor light, as well as inadequate exits.—*Boston Med. and Surg. Jour.*, Nov. 23rd.

A singular epidemic of poisoning occurred last week among the pupils of one of the public schools in the Brighton district of Boston. Some boys at play in a vacant lot found a number of tablets which had been thrown away in the backyard of a druggist's house. Supposing these to be candy, they partook eagerly thereof, and gave to eat to their companions. At varying intervals all were seized with symptoms of acute poisoning. The tablets proved to be "complexion pills," probably containing arsenic. There have been twenty-one cases of poisoning, but no deaths. The matter is being investigated by the Board of Health. The moral of the episode is obvious, as regards both the throwing away of medicine and the indiscriminate juvenile ingestion of supposed confectionery.—*Boston Med. and Surg. Jour.*, Nov. 23rd.

The Local Government Board for England and Wales has issued an order to go into effect on the 1st January, 1912, calling for the