

dom offer to defray even his travelling expenses. In its least objectionable form the fee splitting has been restricted to the surgeon's including the advising practitioner's expenses in his bill; but the practice has quickly outgrown this simple form, and certain medical men, it is alleged, have made a custom of sending their patients to the surgeon who was willing to pay the largest commissions. Reprehensible as this custom is, it is an inevitable outcome of the crowding of the profession by the small, proprietary medical schools, chartered, generally with great pride, by communities that have been newly furnished by the Federal Government with a State constitution. The various States are only now waking up to the evils which they, unthinkingly and with mistaken liberality, fostered years ago.

Mushroom Poisoning and the New England Federation of Natural History Societies.

At the recent meeting of the *New England Federation of Natural History Societies*, President Barlow, of the Lawrence Society, called attention to the excellent work that has been done by various local

mycological societies towards the prevention of mushroom poisoning. This was the more to the point since he referred to the numerous recent cases of illness in New York City and its vicinity with more than twenty fatalities. Under the supervision of the person who knows the mushrooms there is no risk of poisoning, but a few simple rules must be observed. The collection should be made with some degree of care and the species kept apart. No injurious nor unknown mushroom should be allowed to come into contact with the good ones since their influence may contaminate the edible ones. For these reasons mushrooms gathered promiscuously should not be used for the table. To many persons all mushrooms look alike, and in this lies the danger, but with those having the proper knowledge the sorting of them is as easy as it would be to select the five-cent pieces from a mixture of dimes and pennies. It is in affording to the people generally an opportunity to gain this knowledge that the natural history societies are an aid to the public health authorities, and the frequent exhibitions in Boston and elsewhere are distinct means of disseminating useful knowledge.

THE EMPIRE AND THE WORLD ABROAD

ADVANCE NOTICES.

The Pure Food and Health Society Congress of Great Britain, London, England, March, 1912. Particulars later. *Congress of the Universities of the Empire*, London, England, July 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th, 1912. Fifty-one universities have arranged to send representatives; and among the questions proposed to be discussed by them are the following: University Organization; Universities in Their Relation to Teachers and Undergraduate Students; Universities in Their Relation to Post-graduate and Research Work; Universities in Their Relation to Schools and to Agencies for Higher Education. Other subjects for discussion will probably be: Whether any Common Understanding Will be Possible Among the Universities of the Empire as to the Extent to Which They Could Recognize Each Other's Entrance Examinations; The Desirability of Increased Facilities for Post-graduate Study; The Possibility of Some Plan of Interchange of Professors; What Could be Done by Universities in Regard to After Careers of Students, and the whole question of the Financial Support Given from Public Sources to Universities. Inquiries with regard to the Congress should be addressed to Dr. R. D. Roberts, at the Congress Office, University of London, South Kensington, London, England.

Papers for the Incorporated Association of British Medical Officers.

From a notice just received it appears that the members of the *Incorporated Association of British Medical Officers* have an interesting programme of debates for the session which opened on Oct. 20th. A number of highly important subjects, in connection with hospital work, are to be discussed at coming meetings, papers hav-

ing been promised on "Medical Treatment of London County Council School Children," by Mr. H. C. Barker, B.A., LL.B., superintendent of the out-patient department at the London Hospital; "Hospital Appeals," by Mr. Godfrey Hamilton, secretary of the National Hospital for the Paralyzed and Epileptic; "Paying Hospitals of the Future," by Mr. L. H. Glenton-Kerr, secretary of the Great Northern Cen-