

ity; and at that time the condition of a patient suffering from a variety of complications must have been an unfortunate one unless the individual physicians who had him parcelled out were of a particularly agreeable disposition. Under those circumstances, anyone suffering from such an ailment as influenza, which may, of course, upset every separate system in the body, was liable to have perhaps a dozen physicians each treating his special department, and the result must have been chaotic.

One of the signs of the times in this connection is the proposed establishment of special diplomas and degrees for physicians who wish to specialize, on the lines of the "L.D.S."—the license in dental surgery which is the distinguishing qualification of our dentists—and some progress has been already made in this connection. Thus, quite recently, the University of Oxford, England, instituted a new diploma in ophthalmology, and it is probable that in the future most eye specialists will endeavor to obtain this distinction, which can only be obtained by passing an extremely rigorous and seaching examination. A well-known throat and nose specialist has lately entered a very strong plea for the establishment of a similar diploma for those who wish to take up the particular field of practice in which he has himself become distinguished, but, so far, no definite steps have been taken in this direction. And so, if this movement goes on, it may lead to the definite separation of a great number of different forms of practice from general medical and surgical work.

Some reflection of the modern tendency to "specialism," both in practice and investigation, is to be found in a new post just created at the London Hospital, England, in connection with the special study of heart disease, and called the "Lecture-ship in Cardiac Research." This important appointment has been filled by the election of one of the foremost medical scientists, an investigator whose recent work on disorders of the heart is well-known and whose theories have excited admiration in every centre of medical learning. The duties of this new member of the staff will be to conduct investigations in his special branch of study both in the wards of the hospital and in the labora-

tories connected therewith; he will also deliver series of lectures on the heart and its disturbances in the London Hospital Medical College, and it may be anticipated that such lectures will attract a large number of medical men.

In some respect, this lectureship marks a new departure in hospital procedure, for, in the first place, there appears to be no other appointment of the kind; and, secondly, the distinguished physician invited to fill it has made most of his important and original observations on heart disease in private life, unaided by the facilities offered to workers in the big modern hospitals, and without having held the usual junior and senior hospital appointments which conventionally lead to posts of such distinction. The system in vogue, by which a man who wants to become a hospital "consultant" has to attach himself to such an institution very early in life, and to follow a recognized line of progress at his hospital, depending on seniority, practically bars a man who has spent many years in general practice, or abroad, from obtaining an important post at one of the leading hospitals should he subsequently wish to set up as a consulting physician or surgeon.

Another departure in the direction of the development of special "treatments" is to be found in the recent establishment or an "inoculation department" at Westminster Hospital, London, England. This has been placed under the direction of one of the hospital physicians, who has specially studied the treatment by injection of vaccines, and there is no doubt that not only will this new department enable patients to have the benefits of the latest advances in bacteriological methods, but it will form a centre of research from which much useful information will be given to the profession at large from time to time.

British Physician v. Chemist.

The chemists of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, have not been long in devising a counter-stroke to the action of the medical practitioners with regard to the practice of medicine and surgery by unqualified persons. The report recently issued from the Privy Council Office setting forth the results of an exhaustive inquiry among medical officers of health (reviewed in this issue),