

"That the policy of the Association be to claim 8s. 6d. as a minimum capitation fee, not including extras and medicine, for members of approved societies, and to claim the recognition of payment per attendance, in which case the fees must be on such a basis as shall be deemed an equivalent by the State Sickness Insurance Committee, with recognition of a £2 maximum income limit."

It will be noted that the association is "to claim" 8s. 6d. These words clearly show that 8s. 6d. is not necessarily the minimum rate which the Association would accept.

With regard to extras, a provisional list was referred for consideration to the State Sickness Insurance Committee (which was appointed by the representative body for the purpose of negotiations). It included night-calls and special visits, operations requiring local or general anaesthetics, treatment of fractures, dislocations, and other serious surgical cases.

Another resolution, "which had been the object of prolonged discussion in committee," was passed declaring that the council should inform the Insurance Commissioners "in plain and unmistakable language" that unless the minimum demands of the Association were embodied in the regulations, the doctors would decline to work under the Act.

Cancer Investigations.

Dr. Bashford, the Director of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund, is reported as having issued a warning against attaching too much importance to the statement recently made by Dr. Gaube de Gers in Paris that he had discovered in the injection of colloidal copper a specific cure for cancer. The great success that has been claimed for salversan has naturally aroused a keen interest in the new school of pharmacology, which seeks to provide new combinations having a selective action either on organisms introduced from without or the parts of the body which are specially liable to disease. The most outstanding instance of a portion of the body going wrong is cancer, and it is to this fact that we owe the publication of Professor Wasserman's experiments. He showed that the injection of a compound of eosin and arsenic was able to cause the

disappearance of tumors in mice. The publication of Professor Wasserman's results have been followed in the last three months by Professor Klemperer, of Berlin, and by Dr. Goldman, who made use of an organic compound which, he believed, acted in co-operation with the liver. Dr. Gaube du Gers, working on somewhat different lines, now claims that a colloid copper compound has a curative action. In his case there is the claim that the disease can be cured in man, the statement being based on the experience of some thirty cases. Professor Neuberg and Professor Caspari also believe that they are able to effect a cure in animals by the injection of colloid compounds of the heavy metals, such as gold, tin, silver, copper and tin. In Moscow, too, somewhat similar claims have been published, and there, as in Paris, a committee of medical men has been appointed to investigate and report.

As regards the experiments on animals, the authors, from Professor Wasserman onwards, have been very careful in their statements, and have warned both the medical profession and the public that their results should not be applied to treatment in man, partly on the ground that they are uncertain and partly because the drugs at present available are extremely poisonous, so that they have killed a large percentage of the animals treated by their heroic methods.

Pending the report of the medical committee that is stated to be investigating the statements, it will be wisest to suspend all judgment and even to be sceptical of the results. For, unfortunately, the working hypotheses underlying each of these claims which have been made are not only different but contradictory. When such a state of affairs arises in connection with scientific investigation, all those with special knowledge and experience will withhold their judgment until they have been able to put the matter to a practical test.

School Hygiene Work in Glasgow.

Dr. Ernest T. Roberts, Chief Medical Officer under Glasgow School Board, has issued his second annual report. It covers the year ending June 30, 1911.

The interesting character of this report demands a careful notice: