

MASSAGE AS A THERAPEUTIC AGENT.

SIR,—I am much obliged to Dr. Kent Spender for calling attention to the fact that massage has been employed at Bath for "quite ten years." The treatment is somewhat older than that, however, and was fully described in the Chinese manuscript, *Kong Pau*, the date of which is 3,000 B.C.—I am, sir, your obedient servant.
Weymouth Street, W. WILLIAM MURRELL.

A NEW INCOME-TAX DODGE.

SIR,—I am going to ask permission to expose, in your columns, the way now adopted by surveyors of taxes to "choke off" medical men from applying for relief against over-assessment. A client of mine writes to say that, on May 22nd, he received notice from the surveyor that he was to appear in person on May 27th, at a place eighteen miles distant. Now, a medical man's time is not his own, and, even if not urgently engaged that day, two drives of eighteen miles each, with the attendant expenses of himself and horse, have rather a deterrent effect, when there is only an off-chance of getting back his own. Previously, the place of appeal was three miles off. I fail to see why a claimant who sends in accounts in certain form should not be allowed to sign an affidavit or declaration, instead of having to appear in person. Affidavits and declarations are admitted in much more important cases than in the recovery of a paltry sum of money.—I am, sir, your obedient servant.
16, Artesian Road, W. ALFRED CHAPMAN.

CLIMATE CHART FOR JUNE.

SIR,—I shall be obliged if you will allow me to invite further co-operation in observing the blossoming of the following trees and shrubs in various parts of the country for the purpose of constructing a phenological chart for June. They are, like the former list, taken from Dr. H. Hoffmann's scheme, but the dates of flowering and the temperature equivalents refer to England.

Snowberry and wild raspberry (June 1st, 73.4°); dog rose (common wild rose, June 14th, 82.6°); dog wood (*cornus sanguinea*, June 11th, 91.4°); privet (June 20th, 105.4°); lime tree (July 9th, 137.5°). The observations required are the dates of the first opening of the blossoms on several trees. If the dates are sent to me on post-cards, I will send a copy of the resulting chart to each contributor, provided sufficient data are received to afford trustworthy results.—Your obedient servant,
2, Bolton Row, Mayfair, London, W. C. ROBERTS.

MEDICO-PARLIAMENTARY.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—Monday, May 31st, 1886.

MEDICAL ACTS AMENDMENT BILL.

[Specially reported for the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL.]

THE House, at one o'clock, went into Committee on this Bill.

Clauses 1 and 2 were agreed to.

On clause 3, which relates to qualifying examinations,

SIR LYON PLAYFAIR moved that subsection (a) should read as follows:—"Any university in the United Kingdom, or any medical corporation, legally qualified at the passing of this Act, to grant such diploma or diplomas in respect of medicine and surgery." Instead of "any university in the United Kingdom for the time being capable of granting any such diploma or diplomas."

SIR H. HOLLAND accepted the amendment, as it was practically an enlargement of the one he had put on the paper.

The amendment was agreed to.

Subsection (b) provides that a qualifying examination shall be an examination held by "any combination of two or more medical corporations in the same part of the United Kingdom who may agree to hold a joint examination"; and to this was added, upon the motion of Sir Lyon Playfair, "in medicine, surgery, and midwifery, and of whom one, at least, is capable of granting such diploma as aforesaid in respect of medicine, and one, at least, is capable of granting such diploma in respect of surgery."

The clause was agreed to.

On clause 4 (withdrawal from medical authorities of right to hold qualifying examinations),

SIR LYON PLAYFAIR proposed to omit the words "and the Privy Council, upon the representation of the General Council, or of their own motion," and to insert in lieu thereof, "and Her Majesty, with the advice of Her Privy Council, if upon further representation of the General Council or otherwise, it seems to be expedient so to do,"

the words which follow being "shall have power at any time to revoke any such order."

SIR H. HOLLAND had put an amendment upon the paper with the object of preventing the Privy Council from revoking an order upon "their own motion." If Sir Lyon Playfair would omit the words "or otherwise," he should be prepared to accept the amendment.

SIR LYON PLAYFAIR said he could not do that, because, if he did, there would be no appeal.

SIR H. HOLLAND asked if there would be any objection to adopt the words "or upon appeal"?

SIR LYON PLAYFAIR promised to consider the suggestion in the Report, and the amendment was carried.

The clause was agreed to.

Clause 5 (qualifying examinations held by medical corporations, with assistant examiners) having been amended,

DR. O'DOHERTY moved its omission, on the ground that it did not meet the requirements of the case. It would not, he said, prevent one or other of the colleges from refusing to join and take part in the examinations.

DR. KENNY also objected to the clause. Under this clause, it was quite possible for a powerful corporation to defeat the purpose of the Bill, which he understood to be the development of medical science.

SIR LYON PLAYFAIR was sure even the honourable members who raised objection to the clause would be very disappointed if it did not pass. He thought the wisest course would be to allow the clause to pass, and to move on report, or at the end of the Committee, some words which would strengthen the compulsory powers which the clause gave, but which he would resist.

DR. KENNY said the right hon. gentleman declared that he intended to oppose the new clause, which was to be brought forward later on; and that, therefore, was sufficient reason for pressing on the present proposal. Considering the lateness of the hour and the importance of the clause, he moved to report progress.

SIR LYON PLAYFAIR hoped that the hon. member would not press his motion to report progress. All the corporations and universities in the kingdom wished to see the Bill passed; and, considering the present critical times, what chance was there of the Bill being carried to a successful conclusion if unnecessary delays now took place? Since 1870, there had been no fewer than twenty-two Bills on this subject, every one of which had been strongly opposed. The present measure was not opposed to any extent. All the medical corporations and all the universities had written to him suggesting alterations, many of which he had been pleased to adopt. He hoped the motion to report progress would not be persisted in.

DR. FOSTER trusted the motion to report progress would be withdrawn. Though the members of the medical profession looked upon the measure as only a small one, still it contained some principles which were dear to them, and heped to see it become law.

DR. KENNY said the right hon. gentleman had stated that no opposition to the Bill had come from the medical corporations. That was quite true. He believed those bodies generally looked on the measure as preserving their rights and privileges, but he entertained very serious objections to the Bill. It did not treat the profession at large with fairness at all. The provision for giving representation on the Medical Council was utterly insufficient. He could not yield to hon. members who had just suggested that he should withdraw his motion for reporting progress. If he received any assurance from Sir Lyon Playfair that, later on, a better representation to the profession at large would be provided for in the Bill, he would withdraw the motion; but, from what he had heard, and from what had already taken place, he feared there was no prospect of any such assurance being given.

MR. DILTON appealed to Dr. Kenny to withdraw his motion. As far as he could understand it, though the Bill did not go far enough, it seemed to meet the crying grievances which had existed in the profession for years. Dr. Kenny should withdraw his motion, and press on his recommendations affecting the general body of the medical profession at a later period.

DR. KENNY withdrew his motion.

DR. O'DOHERTY did not press his motion for the omission of Clause 5, and the Clause was consequently agreed to.

Clause 6 was agreed to.

On Clause 7, relating to the number of members of the Medical Council nominated by the Crown—a motion by Sir LYON PLAYFAIR to strike out "six"—the intention subsequently being to substitute "five"—was agreed to.

DR. FOSTER moved to insert "four." The six nominees of the Crown were originally placed on the Council, in default of any repre-