smarting under the feeling that the conference was something hasty into accepting the resolution; it will certainly not be allowed to pass as the sentiment of the British Medical Association without some vigorous protests from Manchester.

**MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS OF WORKMEN.**

Probably no one could have imagined how widespread would be the effects of the Workmen’s Compensation Act. It has almost without doubt had something to do with two regulations recently issued in Lancashire. First, there is an order issued that in future the members of the Lancashire County Constabulary are required to be medically examined to remain in force after twenty-five years’ service. Secondly, there is the order issued by the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Company that all men earning 17½ a week who apply for an increase of wages shall be subjected to a medical examination. A meeting of railwaymen convened by the General Railway Workers’ Union was held last Sunday in Manchester to protest against the latter order. The men freely stated that the aim of the order is to get men earning 17½ a week refused by the doctor and replaced by raw recruits at 15s. How far this may be correct may be open to doubt, but it is certainly to be hoped that no such use will be made of an examination which, if properly used, would be valuable in the interests of the public safety.

**WEST YORKSHIRE.**

The Right Hon. Sydney Buxton paid a short visit to Bradford during the past week, and in the course of a speech to a large gathering of postal officials discussed some interesting health questions connected with his department. An endeavour was being made all over the country to put the post offices into the best possible sanitary condition and improve the ventilation, which had often been found to be defective. An inquiry was taking place into the condition known as “telegraphists’ cramp,” a disability which was affecting some of the operators. An inquiry was being made to see how far the disease could be diminished, and where it did occur what openings could be found for those who unfortunately broke down under it. Amongst telephone operators on the large exchanges there had recently been a great deal of illness, and Mr. Buxton stated that he was going to ask one or two medical men to inquire into the whole matter; to ascertain to what extent illness prevailed; how far it could be prevented, and what steps could be taken to remedy such a state of affairs.

**Hong Kong.**

(J. M. P. Co.)

PROPOSED UNIVERSITY.

The Governor, Sir Frederick Lugard, convened a meeting on March 19th, to consider the possibility of establishing a university in Hong Kong. He announced that Mr. Mody, a Parsee, had placed £15,000 at his disposal for that purpose. The Governor was willing to recommend to the Government the provision of a site, and personally was anxious to see the project take shape. He believed that a university at Hong Kong would attract a large number of the wealthy Chinese students who now went to Japan, America, and Europe, and would increase the prestige and influence of Great Britain throughout the Chinese Empire. To provide an adequate endowment for the main buildings proposed, a sum of about £100,000 would be required.

**Under the will of the late Mr. Stewart Clark, a director of the firm of J. and P. Cooke, Ltd., thread manufacturers, the following institutions, all at Paisley, benefit to the amount against each name:**

- The Royal Alexander Infirmery, 25,000;
- The Ann Clark Home for Incurables, 2,000;
- The Gleniffer Home for Incurables and the Royal Victoria Eye Infirmary, each 1,000;
- The Deaf and Dumb Institution, 10,000.

This was to be paid to the Ann Clark Fund for Incurables at Larnie, and £1,000 to the Paisley Convalescent Home at West Kilbride.

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**CORRESPONDENCE.**

**The Proportion of Cousin Marriages in the General Population.**

**Sir,—**I have recently been dealing with the question of how far a certain abnormal condition is or is not associated with consanguinity in parents and grandparents, but I can find no really adequate statistics of the proportion of cousin marriages in the general population of this country. Over and over again I come to the same valuable doctrine to number of consanguinous marriages among the parents of sufferers from this or that disease; but these statistics are at present of small use, because we have no data with regard to the general prevalence of cousin marriages in England. I feel quite certain that many medical writers have already lamented this want. What is needed is a record of the amount of cousin marriage in a normal population. This normal sample will then be available for comparison with selected groups.

The matter is of such vital importance that I venture to make the following suggestion to the readers of the British Medical Journal—namely, that they should on reading this letter fill in a postcard and send it to me at the Biometric Laboratory, University College, London, W.C., stating—

1. Whether their father’s parents were or were not cousins, and, if so, whether they were first, second, or what cousins.
2. Whether their mother’s parents were cousins, and in what degree.
3. Whether they and their wives (or husbands) were cousins.
4. Whether any of their brothers or sisters married, have married cousins—and if so how many out of how many?

In this way each postcard will contain on an average perhaps 4 or 5 cases; and if the readers of this Journal will only appreciate the importance of the question, a normal sample of the population, giving the percentage of cousin marriages, can be collected in a few days. In case it may be argued that the medical profession as a whole has a feeling against cousin marriage, it would be well to put the letter (M) against those marriages where one member is in the profession. Should this appeal meet with a ready response, I would ask the Editor of the British Medical Journal to allow me to insert in his columns the resulting numbers, in order to supply, if only roughly, a measure of the normal amount of cousin marriage in England.—I am, etc.,

**Karl Pearson.**

University College, London, W.C., April 25th.

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**MEMORY.**

**Sir,—**I do not usually concern myself with questions of priority of discovery or of publication, and if views that I believe to be correct are brought into prominence and made to prevail, my satisfaction in the establishment of what appears to me to be the truth is sufficient to make me indifferent as to who gets credit for its origination. When I have seen doctrines that I had enunciated many years before rediscovered, and brought forward as novel by their rediscoverers, I have been content to attribute to its proper cause my failure to get them accepted, that is to say, to my own incapability of displaying them so as to attract attention, or to carry conviction; and have let the matter pass. But the theory of memory that you ascribe to me, in your issue of April 25th, to Professor Ziehen, appears to be so identical with my own, published as recently as 1901, both in a lecture at the Royal Institution and in my book on Psychology, that it is not in human nature to ignore the similarity.

The difficulty that you find in accepting Professor Ziehen’s views, which are mine also, is stated, in the publications named, to be due to the confusion, under the one title memory, of several distinct states and processes. The following quotation is pertinent—

Thus there are four different conditions to which the term Memory is applied. There is Structural memory, which is an alteration in the position of the particles in the tissues. There is Dynamical memory, which is an alteration in the position of the particles in the tissues. There is Active memory, which is the altered process that takes place in the altered particles; and there is Consonant memory, the accompaniment of active memories in certain regions of the nervous system. . . . The entire structure, not only of the