

Incorporated Medical Practitioners' Association. Dr. Rentoul has resigned his office, and a new election, therefore, was held last week to choose his successor. While there were four candidates nominally in the field, the contest has practically been between Sir Walter Foster, M.P., and Mr. Victor Horsley.

The former gentleman was instrumental in obtaining the Medical Act of 1886, which gave medical men the right of Direct Representation on their governing body; and for the first ten years he was one of the three Direct Representatives for England and Wales, retiring last year, for reasons into which we need not enter. He has, however, yielded to the strong representations made to him to become a candidate for office on this occasion; and the invaluable services which he has previously rendered to his profession, together with the fact that he has received the support of the Medical Practitioners' Association, render his chances of success very considerable. It is noteworthy that the Parliamentary position which Sir Walter Foster has won for himself, has never been attained by a medical man before. During the last Government, he was the Parliamentary Secretary of the Local Government Board, and in that important office he carried out many valuable measures which have received general recognition and approval. He has, for many years, practised as a Consulting Physician in Birmingham.

On the other hand, Mr. Victor Horsley is a London surgeon who has done valuable work for his profession as President of the Medical Defence Union, and he appears to seek for election on the ground that he desires still further to advance the work of that Society. Inasmuch as he would probably be compelled to resign his connection with the Union if he were elected a member of the General Medical Council, it has appeared to many that he could be more useful to his profession by continuing the work he already so thoroughly understands, instead of embarking on new duties with which he is practically unacquainted.

The chief fact, however, for Nurses to note, in this present contest, is that gentlemen of such established positions and such ability are willing to devote themselves to the work of medical education and registration in the hope of materially improving the condition of their professional brethren. It evidences a public spirit which we trust will incite and encourage the leaders of the Nursing profession to

similarly devote themselves to professional work as Direct Representatives of Registered Nurses—when their opportunity comes.

The result of the election to the General Medical Council will probably be announced this week, and while the programme of Sir Walter Foster is the more statesmanlike, though not necessarily the more popular, it is certain that, whichever candidate is elected, the medical profession will be admirably served by its representative.

Annotations.

THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SCIENCE.

PROFESSOR W. C. ROBERTS-AUSTEN, C.B., F.R.S., recently delivered the sessional address in connection with the Royal College of Science, with which is incorporated the Royal School of Mines. There is no one who is better qualified to speak upon metallurgical subjects than Professor Roberts-Austen, whose brilliant work in this connection will leave its impress upon the age, while at the same time, the Professor has the faculty of putting before ordinary listeners the results of his researches, and of his immense knowledge on these subjects, in an interesting and understandable form. Referring to the progress which has been made since the opening of the original institution by the late Prince Consort, Professor Roberts-Austen said that in the early "fifties" there were brilliant investigators, but hardly any teachers, of science, and no instruction was given on metallurgical subjects, although the prosperity of the country so largely depended upon them. The Exhibition of 1851, showed that if the nation was to hold its own, its industries must be fostered by science. It is a matter for much congratulation, therefore, that the Royal School of Mines has been established, and it may reasonably be hoped that British chemical industries will benefit greatly by the scientific teaching, and fuller knowledge, which may be expected as the result of this School.

DUM-DUM BULLETS.

A CONTROVERSY is proceeding in the *Tageblatt* upon the use of dum-dum bullets, this journal having stated, in effect, that England is guilty of a breach of the St. Petersburg Convention in employing them. Under this convention it was agreed that explosive

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