

not be materially reduced. The result was that many families found themselves in very straitened circumstances. Rent, rates, and insurance brook no delay; but, worst of all, school bills could not be paid, and if help had not been quickly forthcoming, the children would have suffered for the patriotism of their father.

The following are typical of the cases with which our Fund has had to deal:

A young doctor, who had only been in practice a few years, volunteered for service, and was killed in action a few days later. He left a widow, æt. 35, with two young boys, æt. 3½ and 1 year, entirely without means. The Fund voted £25 for her immediate necessities, and put her into communication with the Officers' Families Association, which gave further help.

A practitioner, æt. 38, earning £700 to £800, volunteered for service, leaving his practice in the hands of a neighbour, who was not a success. There were two young children, and another baby was born shortly after the husband left. The wife contracted pneumonia and nearly died. A resident patient had to leave the house. Rent and other expenses led to a debt of about £80. This the doctor could not meet, and he hurried back from the trenches to save his home from being sold up. The Fund voted £25, the Guild gave £15, the Officers' Families Association £25, and the Professional Classes War Relief Council further help, with the result that he returned to the Front with his immediate anxieties relieved.

A captain in the Territorials was called out and had to leave his practice in the hands of a *locum*, who proved a failure. There were seven children, æt. 2 to 14. Financial difficulties arose, and payment of the school fees became impossible. Between the Fund and Guild and Officers' Families Association, the necessary fees were raised, and clothing, which was greatly required, provided.

These cases show well the way in which the Fund works, not only by giving relief itself in money and kind, but also by obtaining through co-operation with other benevolent Societies more substantial assistance than it could afford alone.

But there is another class in which the distress is perhaps even greater, and adequate relief more difficult. It is that of men who left home and a good practice in vigorous health and who have come back, crippled by wounds or with health impaired, to a practice severely damaged by their absence, and without the strength or energy to regain the practice and position which they sacrificed.

Our Fund has set apart a special sum to meet emergency claims of this kind, yet the demands are so great that it will soon be exhausted. We cannot now rely on the profession alone to supplement it largely, for the medical profession, like all other professions, is hit very hard by the war, and has no longer its old resources to draw upon.

What is required is an Emergency Fund large enough to deal adequately with these emergency cases arising directly out of the war, and for this we are driven to appeal to the public as well as to our own profession.

We trust that our appeal will meet with a liberal response both from the public and from the medical profession, for unless fresh funds are quickly forthcoming it will be impossible to continue the relief which is so urgently required.

We are,

Faithfully yours,

JOHN TWEEDY, *President.*

SAMUEL WEST, *Hon. Treasurer.*

G. NEWTON PITT, *Hon. Secretary.*

11, Chandos Street,
Cavendish Square,
London, W.
July 3rd, 1916.

NOTICE TO CONTRIBUTORS.

CONTRIBUTORS are requested kindly to bear in mind that, according to Bye-law 56, "all papers read at the Annual, Quarterly, or Divisional Meetings of the Association shall be the property of the Association, unless the author shall have previously obtained the written consent of the President, after consultation with the Editors, to the contrary."

Papers read at Association Meetings should, therefore, not be published in other journals without such sanction having been granted.