

therefore no limit to the examiner; in physiology there was a short synopsis, and therefore little limit to the examiner and great proportionate danger for the student. But they had tied the examiners down; they would only be able to ask elementary questions, and could not trench upon medicine. It was proposed to revert to the examination in *materia medica*, but that would equally afford a separate opportunity for rejection. As concerned the number of rejections he contended that the student would be better off under the regulations as now drawn up, and he pointed out that a great many had already passed in practical pharmacy, and that to make a change in the subjects now would result in great chaos, which would be felt both by teachers and examiners as well as students. Pharmacology was a word with a precise meaning; *materia medica* was a much less precise term, and was by many held to include pharmacology. Medicinal action was also a vague term, and its lack of exact definition would prove embarrassing to candidates. The real question was whether they should endeavour to secure a reasonable knowledge, or only an empirical knowledge, without caring whether the candidate knew the physiological grounds for the action of the drug. He considered the proposals now made constituted a retrograde step.

Dr. BRUNTON considered that the resolutions they were asked to accept were retrograde in character, and opposed to the best interests of medicine, and he should oppose them with all his power. The resolutions were especially objectionable because they would dissociate teaching and examination. Dr. Moore was really trying to impose on students a burden which they (that is, those responsible for the synopsis) hoped they had removed. *Materia medica* was a comprehensive term, and included much that was unnecessary, for example, the geographical distribution of drugs, and it was on this ground that it had been determined to expunge *materia medica*, and insist only on a knowledge of practical pharmacy and pharmacology; he acknowledged as regards the former that they had not been able to overcome the difficulties in the way of really dealing with the subject in a practical manner, but he thought they might some day be more successful. Pharmacology was no new word; it meant the action of drugs upon the body, both in health and disease, not diseases. The action of drugs on the body was a very wide subject, including, no doubt, toxicology, and that was the reason why they had limited the scope of it by a schedule; this limited the amount the student had to do, and also put a limit on the examiners, and would tend to prevent abuses. He denied that there would be any clashing with the examination in toxicology, as the purpose of the knowledge was different. He considered it would be most unwise to make any change in the regulations till they had been tried; such a course would lay the College open to a charge of vacillation. The student might take this subject up at the end of his fourth year, and this, no doubt, was what he ought to do. Success in practice was largely dependent upon a knowledge of drugs, but how was he to get this if not taught the subject during his student career?

Dr. CURNOW said the student was to be taught pharmacology at the commencement of his career, but to be examined in it at the end; pharmacy was not taught practically, and he thought there would be no real difficulty in adapting the examinations so as to give effect to Dr. Moore's proposals.

Dr. LEECH considered that the effect of these resolutions would be to add to and not take from the troubles of students; they ought to aim at simplicity in the studies of the students. He was strongly opposed to the term "medicinal action"; no one knew what it meant, and it led to calamitous results, as it meant exactly what examiners chose to make it mean. In many schools the lectures were given on this subject after the second year, and no doubt they soon would be in all.

Dr. BURDON SANDERSON feared that Dr. Moore's second resolution would be the means of increasing the burdens of the student. *Materia medica* was, he considered, a very burdensome subject, and it was one that should be reduced to the smallest possible limits; it had no educational value of its own, and it was highly desirable that in the year preceding the Final Examination the sole subject should be the science of medicine.

Dr. LEES urged a compromise to the effect that the examiners in pharmacology should be asked to set three ques-

tions on that subject in the second paper in medicine, but it was evident that there was a general desire to take the vote immediately, and his suggestion met with no support.

Dr. MOORE, acting on a suggestion of Sir William Broadbent, obtained leave to drop the last half of his first resolution and the whole of the second and third: and the first half of the first resolution and the fourth were then put to the meeting, and carried by a considerable majority.

The effect of the vote was understood to be that pharmacology is to be dropped from the examination and the synopsis of it omitted from the regulations, but that it is to remain as a subject of lectures, and that practical pharmacy is left as it appears in the regulations.

### ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.

AN ordinary council was held at the College on February 13th; Mr. CHRISTOPHER HEATH was in the chair. The minutes of the last quarterly council were read and confirmed. Mr. Reginald Harrison was appointed Bradshaw Lecturer for the present year.

The following recommendations from the Committee of Management were approved and adopted:

- (1) That the High School, Nottingham, be added to the list of recognised places of instruction in chemistry, physics, and practical chemistry.
- (2) That Mr. Thomas Cook's course of operative surgery be recognised as fulfilling the requirements of the regulations for the present year on the same conditions as heretofore.
- (3) That graduates in medicine or surgery of foreign universities recognised by the Examining Board in England be admitted to the Final Examination on the same conditions as Colonial graduates (paragraph iv, section iii of the regulations).
- (4) That in case of other graduates than those of the universities at present recognised the Committee be empowered to admit them under similar conditions on being satisfied that the requirements of the Examining Board in England have been fulfilled.

A preliminary report was received from the Committee on the Dental Surgery Regulations appointed to consider the proposal that there should be two examinations instead of one for the Licence in Dental Surgery, as well as a scheme for various alterations in the curriculum of study. On the recommendation of this Committee it was resolved:

That the teachers at the three schools of dental surgery in London—namely, the Dental Hospital of London, Guy's Hospital, and the National Dental Hospital, shall be afforded the opportunity of expressing their opinion upon the proposed alterations.

A report was received from the Deputation Committee, in respect of which the following resolution was adopted:

That before the Fellows of the College be addressed on the subject under discussion, the Council do take into consideration at an early meeting the question whether Members should or should not be directly represented on the Council.

The appointment of a representative of the College on the General Medical Council in succession to Mr. Thomas Bryant will be decided at the next meeting of the Council.

A letter was received enclosing a copy of a petition signed by certain medical men in the colony of Mauritius, praying the home Government that the preference, when possible, for Government appointments in that colony be given to holders of British diplomas. The PRESIDENT stated that he had already written to the Colonial Secretary expressing the hope that he would give his favourable consideration to the matter.

On the motion of Mr. WILLETT, it was resolved:

That on application to the Secretary recognised reporters to the public press be admitted to the half-yearly meetings of Fellows of the College.

### MEDICAL SICKNESS, ANNUITY, AND LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.

THE monthly meeting of the Executive Committee of this Society was held at 429, Strand, W.C., on January 31st. There were present Dr. F. de Havilland Hall (Chairman), Dr. J. B. Ball, Dr. Major Greenwood, Mr. J. Brindley James, Mr. William J. Stephens, Dr. F. J. Allan, Mr. Edward Bartlett, Dr. W. Knowsley Sibley, and Mr. R. S. Charsley.

The accounts for the year ending December 31st, 1895, with the auditors' report thereon, were presented. They proved that the business had largely increased during the year, while the records of the sickness branch showed that in no previous twelve months of the Society's working had so large an