

THE METROPOLITAN PROVIDENT MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

THE annual meeting of the Metropolitan Provident Medical Association was held on March 27th. The Executive Committee were able to announce the receipt of a handsome donation of £1,000 from the Baroness de Hirsch towards the formation of new branches.

The report shows that the Association has nineteen branches. The total number of cards was 10,619, showing a small increase on the previous year, with a corresponding increase in the members' payments, which now amount to £4,870. It is noticeable that the payments to the medical staff have increased in a greater proportion than the number of cards.

The Chairman, Mr. BOUSFIELD, referred to the efforts that were being made to deal with the question of hospital out-patient departments. Some radical change could not much longer be delayed, and everything pointed to the probability that the work would be handed over to provident associations, friendly societies, and similar institutions. It therefore was of the utmost importance that the organisation of the Metropolitan Provident Medical Association should be complete when this time should arrive. An interesting experiment was made during the year. In view of the ever-increasing number of applications for chest hospital letters the Hospital Saturday Fund made a special grant to the Association, in return for which they undertook to sift the cases. The applicants were referred to one or other of the medical officer, who in return for a small fee states whether, in his opinion, the case is one for hospital, or whether it is more suitable for home treatment. If the latter is found to be the case the patient receives a letter entitling him to a fortnight's treatment, which carries a fee of 3s. 6d. The fee may appear small, but the cases are always of a slight nature, the more serious being sent to hospital. Mr. Acland, in his annual address to the Hospital Saturday Fund, reported that of the 1,101 cases so dealt with 51 per cent. were never heard of again. Of the remainder 313 were found suitable for chest hospitals, and letters were accordingly issued; 20 were sent to general hospitals, and 212 to the Metropolitan Provident Dispensaries. Another matter of considerable interest to the medical profession was the endeavour to determine by means of a conference a fair rate of payments for women's provident medical clubs. Several meetings were held, but it was unfortunately found impossible to come to any definite conclusions. It was stated that the chief cause in bringing about this abortive result must be sought in the want of organisation of the medical profession, in the absence of which it is impossible to reconcile their conflicting interests.

LITERARY NOTES.

At a meeting of the Section of Pathology of the Royal Academy of Medicine in Ireland, on February 26th, Dr. McWeeney quoted the following as a specimen of the directions said to have been issued by the London College of Physicians for the cure of the plague during the great visitation of 1665:

Pull off the feathers from the tails of living cocks, hens, pigeons, or chickens; and holding their bills, hold them hard to the botch or swelling, and so keep them at that part till they die, and by this means draw out the poison. It is good to apply a cupping glass, or embers in a dish, with a handful of sorrel upon the embers.

The March number of the *Phonographic Record of Clinical Teaching and Medical Science*, in addition to notes of a case of turning and delivery of a living child through a contracted pelvis, and a reference to Dr. Timothy Bright, who in 1588 published the first English system of shorthand writing, contains a very graphic and practical account of points of interest in a ship surgeon's life, by Mr. Lamming Burton.

Dr. George M. Gould, the editor of the *American Yearbook of Medicine and Surgery*, complains that Messrs. Wm. Wood and Co., of New York, the proprietors of the *Medical Record* and *American Journal of Obstetrics*, have refused to permit his contributors and collaborators to use in their abstracts of medical progress articles and illustrations which have first appeared in these journals. Dr. Gould argues that this prevents the dissemination of medical knowledge, and is therefore not only an injustice to the authors, but an injury to medicine.

BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

SIXTY-FIFTH ANNUAL MEETING.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Sixty-Fifth Annual General Meeting of members of the British Medical Association, for the transaction of business, the consideration of Reports of Council and Committees, will be held in the Exeter Hall, London, on Tuesday, the 27th day of July next, at 11.0 o'clock in the forenoon. The meeting will be adjourned to August 31st, to be held at Montreal, for the scientific business of the meeting, Reading of Addresses, Meetings of Sections, etc.

FRANCIS FOWKE, *General Secretary*.

April, 1897.

THE adjourned annual meeting of the British Medical Association will be held at Montreal on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, August 31st, September 1st, 2nd, and 3rd, 1897.

President.—HENRY BARNES, M.D., Physician to the Cumberland Infirmary, Carlisle.

President-Elect.—T. G. RODDICK, M.D., Professor of Surgery in McGill University, Montreal.

President of the Council: ROBERT SAUNDBY, M.D., F.R.C.P., Physician to the General Hospital, Birmingham, 83A, Edmund Street, Birmingham.

Treasurer: CHARLES PARSONS, M.D., Dover.

An Address in Medicine will be delivered by W. OSLER, M.D., F.R.C.P., Professor of Medicine in the Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, U.S.A.

An Address in Surgery will be delivered by WILLIAM MITCHELL BANKS, F.R.C.S., Surgeon to the Liverpool Royal Infirmary.

The Scientific Business of the Meeting will be conducted in Eleven Sections, as follows, namely:

A. MEDICINE.

President: STEPHEN MACKENZIE, M.D., London. *Vice-Presidents*: J. E. GRAHAM, M.D., Toronto; W. BAYARD, M.D., St. John, N.B.; J. P. ROTTOT, M.D., Montreal; F. W. CAMPBELL, M.D., Montreal; JAMES STEWART, M.D., Montreal; H. P. WRIGHT, M.D., Ottawa. *Hon. Secretaries*: H. A. LAFLEUR, M.D., Montreal; W. F. HAMILTON, M.D., Montreal; WILLIAM PASTEUR, M.D., 4, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, London, W.

B. SURGERY.

President: CHRISTOPHER HEATH, F.R.C.S., London. *Vice-Presidents*: Sir WILLIAM HINGSTON, M.D., Montreal; Hon. M. SULLIVAN, M.D., Kingston, Ontario; Hon. E. FARRELL, M.D., Halifax, Nova Scotia; I. H. CAMERON, M.D., Toronto; F. LE M. GRASSETT, M.D., Toronto; JAMES BELL, M.D., Montreal; GEORGE E. ARMSTRONG, M.D., Montreal. *Hon. Secretaries*: ROBERT C. KIRKPATRICK, M.D., Montreal; THOMAS WALKER, M.D., St. John, N.B.; JORDAN LLOYD, F.R.C.S., Broad Street, Birmingham.

C. PUBLIC MEDICINE.

President: E. P. LACHAPPELLE, M.D., Montreal. *Vice-Presidents*: F. MONTIZAMBERT, M.D., Quebec; ROBERT CRAIK, M.D., Montreal; P. H. BRYCE, M.D., Toronto; Sir JAMES GRANT, Ottawa; R. H. POWELL, M.D., Ottawa. *Honorary Secretaries*: WYATT JOHNSTON, M.D., Montreal; E. PELLETIER, M.D., Montreal; HENRY HARVEY LITTLEJOHN, M.B., C.M., Surgeons Hall, Edinburgh.

D. OBSTETRICS AND GYNÆCOLOGY.

President: WILLIAM JAPP SINCLAIR, M.D., Manchester. *Vice-Presidents*: WILLIAM GARDNER, M.D., Montreal; JAMES FERRIGO, M.D., Montreal; J. A. TEMPLE, M.D., Toronto; J. C. CAMERON, M.D., Montreal; T. JOHNSTON ALLOWAY, M.D., Montreal; JAMES ROSS, M.D., Toronto. *Honorary Secretaries*: D. J. EVANS, M.D., Montreal; W. BURNETT, M.D., Montreal; ARTHUR E. GILKS, M.D., 58, Harley Street, Cavendish Square, London, W.