

ASSOCIATION INTELLIGENCE.

NOTICE OF QUARTERLY MEETINGS OF COUNCIL
FOR 1901.

MEETINGS of the Council will be held on July 10th and October 23rd. Candidates for election by the Council of the Association must send in their forms of application to the General Secretary not later than twenty-one days before each meeting—namely, June 20th, and October 2nd.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS.

Any qualified medical practitioner, not disqualified by any by-law of the Association, who shall be recommended as eligible by any three members, may be elected a member by the Council or by any recognised Branch Council.

Candidates seeking election by a Branch Council should apply to the Secretary of the Branch. No members can be elected by a Branch Council unless their names have been inserted in the circular summoning the meeting at which they seek election.

FRANCIS FOWKE, *General Secretary.*

LIBRARY OF THE BRITISH MEDICAL
ASSOCIATION.

MEMBERS are reminded that the Library and Writing Rooms of the Association are now fitted up for the accommodation of the Members in commodious apartments, at the office of the Association, 429, Strand. The rooms are open from 10 A.M. to 5 P.M. Members can have their letters addressed to them at the office.

BRANCH MEETINGS TO BE HELD.

MIDLAND BRANCH.—Preliminary Notice: The annual meeting of the Branch will take place at the Infirmary, Leicester, on Thursday, June 6th. Mr. Claude Douglas, F.R.C.S., President elect, will preside. Members having papers to read, specimens or cases to exhibit, or any business to bring forward are requested to communicate with the Honorary Secretary and Treasurer, FRANK M. POPE, 4, Prebend Street, Leicester.

METROPOLITAN COUNTIES BRANCH: NORTH LONDON DISTRICT.—The annual meeting of this District will be held on Wednesday, May 8th, at 4.30 P.M., in the Board Room of the North-West London Hospital, Kentish Town Road, N.W. Dr. Hooper May, Vice-President, will preside. The officers and District Committee for ensuing year will be elected. Dr. F. J. McCann, Physician Out-patients Samaritan Free Hospital, will read a paper on the Diagnosis of Cancer of the Womb. Dr. Stowers will exhibit cases of diseases of the skin. Mr. J. Jackson Clarke will exhibit cases illustrating the Treatment of some Deformities. Dr. Harry Campbell and Mr. Mayo Collier will also show interesting cases. The District Committee will meet 4.15 P.M.—J. DYSART McCAW, M.D., Coolard Lodge, East Finchley, N., Honorary Secretary.

BORDER COUNTIES BRANCH.—A meeting of this Branch will be held at Dumfries on the afternoon of Friday, May 10th. Members intending to read papers, show cases, etc., and gentlemen desiring to join the Branch are requested to communicate as soon as possible with the Honorary Secretary, W. F. FARQUHARSON, M.D., Garlands, Carlisle.

SOUTH-EASTERN BRANCH: EAST SUSSEX DISTRICT.—The next meeting of this District will be held at Hastings, on May 15th. Notice of papers, etc., should be sent at once to the Honorary District Secretary, J. W. BATTERHAM, M.B., 3, Grand Parade, St. Leonards-on-Sea.

SOUTH EASTERN BRANCH: EAST SURREY DISTRICT.—The next meeting of this District will be held at the Greyhound Hotel, Croydon, on Thursday, May 9th, at 4 P.M.; Mr. C. Wray, F.R.C.S., of Croydon, in the chair. Dinner at 6 P.M.; charge 7s., exclusive of wine. Agenda: Minutes of Upper Norwood meeting. To decide when and where the next meeting shall be held, and to nominate a member of the Branch to take the chair thereat. The following papers, etc., will be read:—Dr. F. J. Smith: The Treatment of Anæmia; Mr. C. W. Mansell Moullin: Retention from Enlarged Prostate; Dr. E. Mackey: Hydroa and Erythema—Spring and Summer Eruptions; Dr. John Reid: An Unusual Pigment in Urine; Mr. C. Wray will exhibit: Graphs Bearing on Effect of Civilisation on the Eyes. Members desirous of exhibiting specimens or reading notes of cases are invited to communicate at once with the Honorary Secretary. All members of the South Eastern Branch are entitled to attend and to introduce professional friends. N.B.—The Honorary Secretary would be much obliged if members would kindly inform him whether they intend, if possible, to be present at the meeting, and if likely to remain to dinner. By so doing they will very materially facilitate arrangements and promote the success of the meetings.—HENRY J. PRANGLEY, Tudor House, Anerley, S.E., Honorary Secretary.

SOUTHERN BRANCH: SOUTH-EAST HANTS DISTRICT.—The spring half-yearly meeting of this District will be held at 5, Pembroke Road, Portsmouth, on Tuesday, May 14th, at 4 P.M. Members intending to read papers, show cases, etc., and gentlemen wishing to join the Branch and District are requested to communicate at once with the Honorary Secretary, J. G. BLACKMAN, Poplar House, Kingston Crescent, Portsmouth.

BATH AND BRISTOL BRANCH.

THE sixth ordinary meeting of the session was held at Bath on April 24th, Mr. A. W. PRICHARD, President, in the chair. There were present 33 members and 3 visitors.

New Member.—Mr. E. V. Foss, of Bristol, was elected a member of the Association and of the Branch.

Congratulations to Mr. Paul Bush.—It was proposed by the PRESIDENT, seconded by Dr. WEATHERLY, that a hearty vote of congratulation be passed to Mr. Paul Bush on the honour which he had just received in being appointed a Companion of St. Michael and St. George for services in South Africa.—This was carried by acclamation.

Reports of the Wage Limit Subcommittees.—The Bristol Subcommittee reported as follows: (1) That no unmarried person and no married couple without children whose wages amount to £2 2s. per week be eligible for club attendance at the ordinary rates; (2) when there are children 2s. 6d. a week be added on to the estimate for each child; (3) that on any individual's income rising to the limit mentioned above he shall cease to remain on the doctor's list. The Subcommittee recognise that no hard-and-fast rule can be laid down, but that the conditions must vary in each locality.—The Bath Subcommittee reported that they considered that no one earning more than about £2 a week, with an extra 2s. 6d. wage for week for each child, should be eligible for club attendance, but that the details must be settled according to the conditions of each locality. The Subcommittee was of opinion, however, that it was not wise to press the question of a "wage limit" until the other abuses of clubs, especially the inadequate fees, had been considered, and that these should rather be primarily insisted upon.

Paper.—Dr. WILSON-SMITH read notes of two cases of pernicious anæmia; and Dr. SHINGLETON SMITH, Dr. CAVE, Dr. MARKHAM SKERRITT, Dr. WALDO, Dr. MICHELL CLARKE, and Dr. PARKER joined in discussing it.

[An account of the adjourned discussion of the Report of the Constitution Committee will be found at p. 1107.]

SHROPSHIRE AND MID-WALES BRANCH.

THE spring meeting of this Branch was held at the Salop Infirmary on April 16th, Mr. ERNEST TREDINNICK, President, in the chair. Thirty-six members were present.

The late Queen Victoria.—The PRESIDENT referred in befitting terms to the death of Her Majesty Queen Victoria, and moved that the Secretary be directed to record in the minutes of the Branch an expression of the irreparable loss which had befallen the nation and empire by Her Majesty's death.

Branch Representative on Council.—Mr. J. D. Harries was unanimously re-elected Branch representative on the Council of the Association and Branch representative on the Parliamentary Bills Committee.

New Members.—The following gentlemen were elected members of the Branch: John Henry Clarke, M.D. Dub. (Whitchurch), John Murray, M.B., C.M. Glas. (Rhayader), Benjamin Wright, L.R.C.P. Edin. (Overton), Francis Marston, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. (Welshpool), John A. Codd, M.D. Lond. (Wolverhampton), R. S. C. Edleston, M.R.C.S. (Salop Infirmary), D. Cowin, M.B. Vict. (Salop Infirmary).

Oswestry Appointments.—Dr. O'CONNOR drew the attention of the Branch to the action of the editor of the *Manchester Guardian* with reference to his refusal to insert an advertisement re the Oswestry appointments. Considerable discussion ensued and it was decided to refer the matter to a special general meeting of the Branch.

Hip Disease.—Mr. WILLIAM THOMAS (Birmingham) read a paper on the early diagnosis and treatment of hip disease. He alluded to the difficulty of forming an opinion at the time of greatest importance, that was, when the disease was in its very earliest stage. He quoted cases illustrating this—one in which a case of hip disease had been treated for rheumatism for two years; another in which the symptoms of morbus coxa were so slight that the patient was allowed to go on without proper treatment and ultimately

died of acute septicaemia after the formation of an abscess in the hip-joint. A third had apparently great deformity and ankylosis two and a-half years after an accident, but careful examination under an anaesthetic showed that there was no disease of the joint, and the patient's limb was at once restored to its normal condition. He described a method of examination which, carefully carried out with anaesthesia if necessary, would in nearly all cases lead to an accurate diagnosis. He looked upon lumbar curvature produced by extension of the affected limb as the most certain of early symptoms, but every case of lameness should be carefully supervised and frequently examined until a decided opinion could be given. If there was the slightest suspicion of hip disease, the patient should be treated for it rather than allowed to wait. The treatment was perfect surgical rest. He discussed various measures by which this might be best accomplished. He had himself abandoned all complicated instruments and ordinary extension in favour of Thomas's splint, but to obtain success from its use it must be made and applied exactly according to the directions of the inventor as laid down in his book.

Vote of Thanks.—A hearty vote of thanks, proposed by Mr. JACKSON and seconded by Mr. LAW WEBB, was accorded to Mr. Thomas for this valuable paper.

Etiology of Tuberculosis.—Dr. CURETON gave an epitome of Professor Ruata's recent views on tuberculosis, with regard to its etiology, pointing out by analogy the slow growth of the bacilli, when acting alone, as in gland or bone and in open sores produced in the lungs by tubercle being in more or less direct communication with the air. The common pyogenic bacilli of the air were constantly found upon these sores, so that the secondary infection, due to their absorption, as indicated by chills, shiverings, high temperatures, etc., with sweating and emaciation, together with rapid destruction of lung tissue, and that the cause of death in tuberculosis of the lungs was due to secondary infection. He drew attention to the cases of tuberculous meningitis in the young, which he ascribed to heredity, the bacillus circulating in the blood. It was further pointed out that tabes mesenterica, tuberculous meningitis, and pulmonary tuberculosis in children under 1 year old could not be ascribed entirely to milk infection, but that there must be heredity as well to account for the 2,000 deaths from tuberculous meningitis, as recorded by the Registrar-General in 1888. Therefore, to ward off secondary infection, it was necessary to live in a pure atmosphere. There was little doubt that the long sea voyage recommended long ago acted so beneficially in this manner, although the rationale in the prebacillary days could not be so satisfactorily explained.

Irrigation Treatment of Mucocoele.—Mr. RUSS WOOD read a paper on the irrigation treatment of mucocoele. He described in detail the method employed, the preliminary mechanical dilatation of the duct, and the subsequent repeated irrigation of the lachrymal tract, showing the instruments employed.

Cases and Exhibits.—Dr. KING showed a case recovered from pulmonary abscess treated by incision and continuous drainage, and also photographs of a rare case of dislocation of the scapula.—Dr. LAW WEBB demonstrated some microscopical preparations of the blood of great clinical interest, and showed Ehrlich's eyepiece for the differential counting of blood corpuscles in dry films.—The Bayer Company gave an exhibition of some of their most recent preparations.

Tea.—After the meeting the members partook of tea at the infirmary by the kind invitation of the President.

SOUTHERN BRANCH: ISLE OF WIGHT DISTRICT.

THE annual meeting of this District was held in Sandown on April 19th. Only seven members attended, no unattached member was present, and, of the forty-four question papers sent out regarding the Provisional Report of the Constitution Committee, only one unattached replied to it, and nine members.

Dr. J. COWPER, President-elect, was inducted into the chair, and read a most interesting paper on surgical affections treated in the Shanklin Children's Hospital in the past ten years.

Owing to the absence of the retiring President, Dr. Buck, from illness, the election of the President-elect for 1901-2 was postponed.

The Honorary Secretary and Treasurer of the past year was re-elected as Honorary Secretary and Treasurer.

Dr. GROVES explained more carefully the objects of the Provisional Report of the Constitution Committee.

The reading and discussion of all other subjects was postponed till the next meeting, which will be held at Sandown on July 19th.

SOUTH WALES AND MONMOUTHSHIRE BRANCH.

The spring meeting of this Branch was held at Newport on April 24th, Dr. FIDDIAN, President-elect, in the chair. A letter was read from the President apologising for his absence through illness. The President and members of the Newport Medical Society kindly provided light refreshments to members at the Westgate Hotel.

New Members.—The following members were duly elected: Association and Branch—Thomas R. Llewellyn (Penygraig); George R. Twomey, M.B. (The Barracks, Cardiff); Walter Kirkby (Maesteg); Branch only—W. Black Jones (Llangamarch Wells).

Communications.—Dr. W. J. GRIER (Newport) showed (1) three cases of von Hacker's gastro-jejunosomy (patients shown); (2) a stomach on which gastro-jejunosomy was carried out four years ago; (3) a patient on whom an operation for cervico-dorsal meningocele had been performed.—Drs. MITCHELL STEVENS and CORNELIUS GRIFFITHS (Cardiff) opened a discussion on the treatment of appendicitis, and a number of members took part.

[The discussion on the Report of the Constitution Committee will be found at page 1114.]

MEETINGS FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORT OF THE CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE.

[The Report of the Committee, together with a record of its proceedings, was published as a Supplement to the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL of February 16th, 1901.]

BATH AND BRISTOL BRANCH.

A MEETING of this Branch was held on April 24th, Mr. A. W. PRICHARD, President, in the chair. Thirty-three members and three visitors were present.

The adjourned discussion on the Constitution of the Association was continued from the last meeting.

It was proposed, seconded, and carried by 27 votes:

That this meeting approves of the institution of Divisions of this Association.

It was proposed, seconded, and carried by 29 votes:

That this meeting does not approve that the Divisions of this Branch should correspond with the Parliamentary constituencies.

It was proposed, seconded, and carried by 29 votes:

That this meeting approves of the principle of including all members in the local organisation—that is, of abolishing the distinction between members of Branches and unattached members—but considers it essential that all at present unattached members should come up before the Branch for election, subject to proper safeguards in case of rejection.

It was proposed, seconded, and carried by 33 votes:

That this meeting does not approve of the principle of transferring, as far as possible, the powers now exercised by the Annual Meeting to a meeting of delegates from the Divisions provided the Council be made more representative, that the Referendum be adopted, and the quorum of the Annual Meeting be largely increased.

[A report of the other proceedings will be found at page 1106.]

MEETING AT TROWBRIDGE.

A local meeting of members of the Association living in the neighbourhood of Trowbridge was held on April 17th. Dr. G. C. TAYLER, President-elect of the Bath and Bristol Branch, in the chair. There were also present Mr. W. J. A dye, Mr. C. E. S. Flemming, Dr. Jas. Pearse, Mr. N. V. Wise, Mr. W. Ingram Keir, Mr. R. T. Richardson, and Dr. H. P. Tayler.

The general principle of the formation of Divisions was unanimously approved, subject to the details being subsequently arranged.

Of those present, 3 were in favour of unattached members being treated as new members, whilst 5 thought they ought to be admitted *en bloc*.

Five were in favour of the delegate system, whilst 3 considered that, if the Council were made truly representative and the Referendum adopted and the quorum of the Annual Meeting largely increased, the appointment of delegates would be unnecessary.

SOUTHERN BRANCH.

THE circular letter sent out by the General Secretary accompanying a copy of the Provisional Report of the Constitution Committee to the Branches, was submitted to a special meeting of the Council of this Branch.

The Council considered that the better way to ensure a discussion of the Report was to ask the secretaries of the five Districts of which this Branch is composed, to call each a special meeting of their members and to invite all unattached members resident within the area of such District to attend; and in order to facilitate discussion the Council drew up a set of questions to which answers "Yea" or "Nay" could be given, embodying the salient features of the Provisional Report.

These meetings have now been held, and the results of the voting in each District, with a statement of the number of members invited to and the number present at each meeting, are appended.

It will be seen (says the Honorary Secretary) that, as usually happens when medical politics are to be discussed, a small minority only interested themselves, the majority "caring nothing for these things." Thus, of 225 members of the Branch urgently summoned, 46 put in an appearance; of 97 unattached, only 1 attended.

By those who did attend, the Provisional Report was discussed with much spirit. While upon some points there was a fair consensus of favourable opinion, three (Winchester, South Wilts, Southampton) out of the five Districts rejected by a unanimous vote all the proposals connected with the election of delegates; and that three (Winchester, South-East Hants, Southampton) out of the five passed resolutions condemning the proposals of the Constitution Committee as too intricate and too costly, and expressing a decided preference for winding up the Association as a company, and applying for a Charter. It may, therefore, be taken that a majority of the members of this Branch is unfavourable to the proposals set before them in the Provisional Report of the Constitution Committee.

ISLE OF WIGHT DISTRICT.

Special notices issued, to attached members, 25; to unattached members, 20; total, 45. Members present at meeting, 7; unattached, 0; total, 7.

Questions submitted, at the request of the Branch Council, to special meetings of the Districts called to consider the Provisional Report of the Constitution Committee to the Branches.

1. Are you in favour of the institution of Divisions, and the grouping of Divisions to form Branches—a Branch to be as far as possible a county or group of counties, and a Division being made as far as possible to correspond with one or more Parliamentary constituencies?—Yes.

2. Are you in favour of the proposal that every member of the Association shall be, *ipso facto*, a member of the Division in which he resides and of no other?—Yes.

3. Are you in favour of the proposal that representatives of a Branch on the General Council of the Association shall be elected by voting papers sent by post to each elector, and that the term of eligibility for continuous office as representative be limited to eight years?—Yes.

4. Do you approve of the composition of the General Council of the Association as recommended in Paragraph 15 (l) of the Provisional Report?—Yes.

5. Are you in favour of the proposal that each Division shall have the right to send annually a delegate to represent it at a Delegate Meeting to be held every year at the same place and period as the Annual Meeting for the purposes detailed in the Provisional Report—Paragraphs 17 and 18?—Yes.

6. If you are in favour of No. 5, do you also agree that each delegate shall be entitled to give as many votes as there are members in his Division? And that his first-class travelling expenses shall be paid out of the funds of the Association?—Yes.

7. Do you agree to the raising of the annual inclusive subscription to the Association to 25s., and to the other provisions of Paragraph 20?—Yes, 6; No, 1.

8. Are you in favour of the Referendum as set forth in Paragraph 19 (c)?—Yes.

9. Are there in the Provisional Report any [other] proposals to which you wish to refer?

WINCHESTER DISTRICT.

Special notices issued, to attached members, 31; to unattached members, 22; total, 53. Members present at meeting, 9; unattached, 0; total, 9.

Questions submitted, at the request of the Branch Council, to special meetings of the Districts called to consider the Provisional Report of the Constitution Committee to the Branches.

1. Are you in favour of the institution of Divisions, and the grouping of Divisions to form Branches—a Branch to be as far as possible a county or a group of counties, and a Division being made, as far as possible, to correspond with one or more Parliamentary constituencies?—Yes.

2. Are you in favour of the proposal that every member of the Association shall be, *ipso facto*, a member of the Division in which he resides and of no other?—Yes.

3. Are you in favour of the proposal that representatives of a Branch on the General Council of the Association shall be elected by voting papers sent by post to each elector, and that the term of eligibility for continuous office as representative be limited to eight years?—Aye, substituting five years for eight.

4. Do you approve of the composition of the General Council of the Association as recommended in Paragraph 15 (l) of the Provisional Report?—Aye.

5. Are you in favour of the proposal that each Division shall have the right to send annually a delegate to represent it at a Delegate Meeting to be held every year at the same place and period as the Annual Meeting for the purposes detailed in the Provisional Report, Paragraphs 17 and 18?—No.

6. If you are in favour of No. 5, do you also agree that each delegate shall be entitled to give as many votes as there are members in his Division? And that his first-class travelling expenses shall be paid out of the funds of the Association?—No.

7. Do you agree to the raising of the annual inclusive subscription to the Association to 25s., and to the other provisions of Paragraph 20?—Aye, if necessary.

8. Are you in favour of the Referendum as set forth in Paragraph 19 (c)?—Aye, as it applies to General Meetings.

The following resolution was carried unanimously:

That, in the opinion of this District, the scheme of the Constitution Committee is unnecessarily complicated and expensive, and that it might be better to wind up the Association as a company, and to apply for a Royal Charter.

SOUTHAMPTON DISTRICT.

Special notices issued, to attached members, 54; to unattached members, 16; total, 70. Members present, 10; unattached, 1; total, 11.

Questions submitted, at the request of the Branch Council, to special meetings of the Districts called to consider the Provisional Report of the Constitution Committee to the Branches.

1. Are you in favour of the institution of Divisions, and the grouping of Divisions to form Branches—a Branch to be as far as possible a county or group of counties, and a Division being made, as far as possible, to correspond with one or more Parliamentary constituencies?—Aye.

2. Are you in favour of the proposal that every member of the Association shall be, *ipso facto*, a member of the Division in which he resides and of no other?—Aye.

3. Are you in favour of the proposal that representatives of a Branch on the General Council of the Association shall be elected by voting papers sent by post to each elector, and that the term of eligibility for continuous office as representative be limited to eight years?—Aye.

4. Do you approve of the composition of the General Council of the Association as recommended in Paragraph 15 (l) of the Provisional Report?—Aye.

5. Are you in favour of the proposal that each Division shall have the right to send annually a delegate to represent it at a Delegate Meeting to be held every year at the same place and period as the annual meeting for the purposes detailed in the Provisional Report—paragraphs 17 and 18?—No.

6. If you are in favour of No. 5, do you also agree that each delegate shall be entitled to give as many votes as there are members in his Division? And that his first-class travelling expenses shall be paid out of the funds of the Association?—No.

7. Do you agree to the raising of the annual inclusive subscription to the Association to 25s., and to the other provisions of paragraph 20?—Aye.

8. Are you in favour of the Referendum as set forth in paragraph 19 (c)?—Aye.

The voting on all questions was unanimous.

A general opinion was expressed that the proposals of the Constitution Committee are too complicated and cumbersome. The following resolution was passed unanimously:

That inasmuch as the British Medical Association as at present constituted is a limited liability company, subject to the restrictions of the various Companies Acts, and as its main object is to advance the science of medicine and surgery, and as its members do not participate in any pecuniary advantages whatsoever as a consequence of their membership, it is desirable that its present form of government should be entirely remodelled and governed by a Royal Charter of Incorporation to be obtained from the Crown.

SOUTH-EAST HANTS AND SOUTH WILTS DISTRICTS.

Reports of the meetings of these two Districts have already been published, the former on April 20th, p. 982; the latter on April 27th, p. 1048.

PERTSHIRE BRANCH.

A MEETING of the members of the British Medical Association resident in Perthshire was held in the Rooms of the Literary and Antiquarian Society, Perth, on April 19th, Dr. R. STIRLING, as Vice-President, occupied the chair, and twelve members of the Branch, with Dr. Bruce (Dingwall) and Dr. Buist (Dundee) as visitors, were present. Apologies for absence were intimated from the President, Dr. J. Simpson, and Dr. D. H. Stirling, unattached member.

Confirmation of Minutes.—The minutes of the last meeting were read, approved, and signed by the Vice-President.

New Member.—Dr. Morton Burnett (Crieff) was elected a member of the Association.

Dr. URQUHART stated that the Secretaries had unsuccessfully endeavoured to convene meetings in Aberfeldy, Blairgowrie, and Crieff, and that there was no further report than had been prepared by the Committee appointed at the last meeting. Every member of the Association resident in Perthshire had been invited that day. He then read the report as follows:

CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE: REPORT OF BRANCH COMMITTEE.

At a meeting of the Branch Committee appointed to consider and report upon the proposals of the Constitution Committee, the following was unanimously agreed to by the members present—namely, Drs. R. Stirling, Trotter, Niven, Taylor, and Urquhart:

1. The Branch Committee finds no advantage in the institution of Divisions. The boundaries of the Branches in Scotland have been fixed by geographical and other considerations, and any alteration should be proposed by the members resident within these boundaries who may be assumed to know what is most suitable for them in their special circumstances. In regard to the Perthshire Branch, it can discover no advantage likely to accrue were the county divided into its Parliamentary divisions for the purposes of the British Medical Association, and they would suggest that such Divisions for the purposes of the more populous Branches might be left to their own local arrangements, as hitherto, subject to the approval of the Council of the Association.

2. The Branch Committee agreed to the proposition that all members should be enrolled in the Branch organisations, and that in future new members should be elected by these organisations and not at the Council meetings in London. It offers no objection to this being a retrospective measure so far as Perthshire is concerned, but it doubts if the general interests of the Association will be conserved unless the names of all unattached members are submitted to the Branches for re-election. While agreeing that each member should be a member of one Branch only, they urge that each should be allowed to select the Branch most suitable for convenience in attending meetings. Railway or other conveyance must frequently determine the convenience of members resident on the borders of Branches.

3. The Branch Committee is strongly of opinion that any system of delegates meeting to guide the policy of the Association is unnecessary and detrimental to the interests of the Association. On more than one occasion a member of the Branch Committee has heard a Trades Union delegate denounce a motion for which he had eventually to vote because of his position as a delegate. The Branch Committee is quite alive to the difficulties which have arisen between the Annual Meeting and the Council; but it remains unconvinced as to the policy recommended by the Constitution Committee. It holds that it should be open to any member of the Association to bring forward a motion, declared competent by the Council, at the Annual Meeting; and urge that government by delegates is not suitable for the British Medical Association, but that the present system of annually elected representatives is to be preferred. It is, in short, satisfied with the representation it enjoys on the Council of the Association, and upholds the Council as the parliament of the Association directly responsible to the members for all administrative acts. It would not be satisfied with the vote of a Delegate

Meeting composed of men committed to a definite policy before the adequate discussion of details; and, on matters of vital interest to the Association, prefer that the Referendum should be adopted, as in the past. It holds that it is no answer to its contention to point to the limited replies made on a former occasion. The apathy so frequently referred to is apparent in every Branch, if the members recorded as attending meetings be the test, but a man may remain a member of the Association and yet have no desire to interest himself in medical politics, technical ethical questions, or in the production of scientific work. Even the Constitution Committee do not propose to compel us to vote or resign.

The Committee discern a danger in delegates committed to a cut and dried policy and commanding the whole voting power of a Branch by a bare majority of such members as may be present. It is strongly opposed to the proposal to pay the expenses of delegates, foreseeing an unwarrantably heavy burden on the finances of the Association, which may endanger its stability; and deprecating a diversion of funds which might be better employed otherwise. It is convinced that the present policy, which does not permit of payment of members of Council attending the annual meeting is preferable, holding, as they do, that it is the mere duty of all who are interested in the affairs of the Association to be present at the annual meeting. It is at a loss to understand the reasons which led the Constitution Committee to make such a proposal. If the funds permit it would respectfully suggest that the members of Council who attend quarterly meetings at much inconvenience and loss of time, should have their whole expenses defrayed in thus fulfilling the duties laid upon them.

4. The Committee has also considered questions of detail:—

(a) It deprecates imposing further duties upon the officials of the Branches. The Association is dependent upon the exertions of these officials, who have been largely instrumental in building up the vast organisation of to-day. They have been so far successful, and the methods approved by time and experience should not be lightly set aside. The "apathy" of the majority of the members of the Association may be regarded as their tacit acquiescence in the propriety of these methods, and it does not appear probable that the "apathetic" members will be roused to attend meetings in greater numbers were the proposals of the Constitution Committee carried into effect. It doubts if the aggregate of votes given for or against these proposals will represent even a small minority of the members of the Association, and ventures to predict that the opinion of apathetic members will be recorded by their resignations. The Branch Committee believes that the Perthshire Branch has not been regardless of social and political questions affecting the medical profession, but it recognises that, in common with other Branches, these questions appeal with force to a limited number, and that in any case the attendance at meetings held yearly in different parts of the county has been disappointing to those who organise them. In the more populous centres, in prospect of a good scientific programme, the attendance is less unsatisfactory; but medical men are so bound to their daily avocations and duties, that they cannot be expected to travel far to discuss what they are content to leave to their representatives on the Central Council, or to read and comment upon in the JOURNAL. The Central Council has the general support of the Association, and the Branch Committee finds no occasion to limit its powers, or to limit the term of office of its members. So long as it can be changed in *personnel* every year it must be representative of the great body of the members, and the Branch Committee would submit that it is not always possible to elect representatives able and willing to serve with regularity and efficiency, especially from the more distant parts of the kingdom. It recognises that it may be, on occasion, a difficult and distasteful duty to displace any representative; but until the British Parliament sees fit to enact a law limiting the period of service in the House of Commons, it sees no reason to further consider this question.

(b) While the Committee believes that the election of Branch officials may safely be left to the votes of those who take the trouble to attend the Annual Meeting, it offers no objection to a system of voting by post, except on the ground of need-

less expense and increased official labour, which will command no better results.

(c) As the affairs of the Perthshire Branch have been conducted with efficiency on the basis of an annual subscription of £1 3s. 6d., and as the object of the Association is to attract to itself every worthy member of the profession, the Committee objects to the proposal to raise the subscription to £1 6s.

5. Finally, the Branch Committee is agreed that, as the British Medical Association is constituted a limited liability company, the Articles of the Association should not be dealt with as proposed by the Constitution Committee unless the members as a whole express the opinion that its affairs should be wound up. The Association has been successful beyond all expectation; in the course of a long series of years it has grown as a living organism; and the form it has assumed under favourable auspices should not be remodelled without the freest consent of its constituent units. The Branch Committee regards the present crisis with apprehension. It sees the result of the labours of leading men in the profession cast into the melting pot in prospect of problematic benefits, and with little apparent consideration of the fundamental fact that prosperity and stability have been attained by methods which the Constitution Committee largely condemns and seeks to supersede. The freedom of the Annual Meeting to discuss questions of general interest, the freedom of the Council to decline to act upon the instructions of the Annual Meeting in cases of doubtful procedure without the mandate of the majority of the members of the Association is preferable to the introduction of a system which complicates procedure and debases the principle of representation. The Branch Committee admit that circumstances might arise in which it would be incumbent upon representative members of Council, as in honour bound, to resign their seats and appeal to their constituents for reelection in order to carry out a certain policy, and they are confident that, by the adoption of such a course, the arguments for the election of delegates—for adding this fifth wheel to the coach—would be refuted in practice. The artificial distinction drawn between men of business ability and men of political capacity appears to be singularly ineffective, when the history of the Association is considered.

The Committee note that the Association is not even promised a perfect paper constitution, and that various important matters are held *in retentis*. Complicated machinery, with a probability of friction, heat, and disaster, has been designed; and on these grounds, while deeply sensible of the exertions of the Constitution Committee which have produced these intricate proposals, the Perthshire Branch Committee conclude to oppose the resolutions placed before them as herein set forth.

Dr. BRUCE (Dingwall) read a short suggestive paper on the subject, and Dr. BUXT (Dundee) explained in detail the position of the Constitution Committee.

After discussion it was moved by Dr. LEIGH HUNT that the report now read be transmitted to the General Secretary as the opinion of the Branch in reference to the question submitted by the Constitution Committee. Dr. HAIG seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

British Medical Association Reform.—Dr. BRUCE, direct representative for Scotland on the General Medical Council, read the following paper: British Medical Association reform is in the air, and this seems a favourable opportunity for discussing whether our Association really derives the benefits it might derive from such a huge combination of medical and surgical skill and experience. It is to be hoped that the present attempts to exploit our Association as a politico-ethical force will fail. To be the prey of parliamentary wire-pullers on the one hand, and of trade union agitators on the other, would surely be degrading and dragging in the dust our noble profession. Leave the Defence Union to do its own particular work for itself. With regard to political influence the General Medical Council, with its due proportion of direct representatives, which should be one half of the present number, ought to be the proper medium for all dealings between the medical profession and Parliament. Let us cease to be a limited liability company; and take the necessary steps to procure a Royal Charter. Supposing this accomplished, I wish to ask:

Do we as a body at present secure the maximum of benefit from our union, and more particularly, does the JOURNAL afford the most useful means, after the Branch and annual meetings, for knitting us together and promoting the real interests of the healing profession? Having said that we should regard political and so-called ethical questions as without our proper sphere, and that of benevolence as otherwise provided for; although personally I doubt if it be, I think in such a meeting as this I need not go on to argue that the advancement of medical knowledge, with the improvement of the means of alleviating human suffering, ought surely to be the one common aim of every practitioner of medicine worthy of the name. Does the JOURNAL as at present conducted meet in the best way this demand for really scientific advance and improvement? I do not disparage the work it is doing, but I assert that such work, if the JOURNAL were to quit its present field of operations, would continue to be done by other journals without the backing of our Association; and with a new arrangement the real needs of the associates could be infinitely better met otherwise. It would be impossible, with the time at my disposal, to do more than give a slight sketch of the reforms I desiderate; but I shall try in a few words to give you an outline of my views. The underlying idea is, first, the foundation of a real academy of the whole range of medicine; and, secondly, the splitting up of that academy into sections constituted very much on the lines of the present sections which go to form the annual meeting. In this way the annual meeting would draw together all workers not only in their own particular divisions, but in the general meetings, to form a complete unit; and in so far, starting from the lower position of fractions, come together as one whole. So far I have merely put a new face on the old structure; but I proceed now further to argue that each section *should continue its separate existence between the periods of the annual gatherings*. Further, that each section should appoint a *paid* reporter for that particular subject, with a consultative committee of reference; that the business of the reporter should be to summarise month by month every paper published all the world over, and every communication contributed to the different Branches of the Association connected with the section for which he is responsible, and to publish the said summary and issue it monthly at the expense of the whole body. On the advantages of such a scheme I believe it unnecessary to dilate, except to mention, first, that this work cannot be done by individual effort; and, secondly, in these days, with all the burden of general and professional literature pressing to be heard, specialisation is absolutely essential to each and all of us. But what of the expense? I confess this would be considerable if the work were to be well done and the reporters in the various sections to get the necessary paid help in translation, clerking, etc. I daresay a good deal might still be secured from advertisements, hateful as such a source of income is to most of us; and no doubt the separate digests would sell well to the general medical public or help to increase our membership. But it may be assumed that to publish 20,000 reports from each section is impossible. Fortunately it would be useless and unnecessary. I should allow each member at the beginning of the year to subscribe for, say, two reports—for most of us these would be Medicine and Surgery—which he would be entitled to get free of charge, and make it the rule that for every report beyond two a member should pay the cost price of all such additional reports furnished to him. The gain would be that each of us would by-and-by come to possess really valuable library of reference on the subjects he cared for or wished to study. These summaries should be freely illustrated by drawings and photographs—coloured, it might be, to Nature—than which I could not conceive anything at the same time both more attractive and more useful.

DUNDEE AND DISTRICT BRANCH.

A MEETING was held on April 2nd on the Report of the Constitution Committee, Dr. ALEX. CAMPBELL, President, in the chair. Eighteen attached and no unattached members were present. The SECRETARY reported the result of the meetings in Forfar and Arbroath.

Dr. SINCLAIR moved, and Professor STALKER seconded, and it was resolved:

That the recommendations of the Constitution Committee form a practical basis for a suitable reorganisation of the British Medical Association.

Dr. WEMYSS moved, and Professor MAC EWAN seconded, and it was resolved:

That the Delegate Meeting as proposed would be too large and too costly, and that some method of its reduction should be devised; also that where Divisions are small they should combine in the election of a Delegate.

Birmingham Conference.—It was agreed that the President should represent the Branch at the Conference on Medical Organisation at Birmingham.

EAST YORK AND NORTH LINCOLN BRANCH.

A SPECIAL meeting of this Branch was held on March 15th to consider the Report of the Constitution Committee. About 20 members of the Branch and 1 unattached member attended.

The Report was considered in detail, and the following resolution was passed:—Proposed by Dr. MILBURN, seconded by Mr. FRANCIS:

That the Provisional Report of the Constitution Committee be received and agreed to, and that this Branch recommends its adoption by the British Medical Association.

Paragraph 18, c. iv Section, "Voting in Delegate Meeting," was carried only by the casting vote of the Chairman and after the exclusion of the vote of the unattached member, who was adverse to it.

LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE BRANCH.

A MEETING of the Lancashire and Cheshire Branch was held in the Memorial Hall, Albert Square, Manchester, on April 24th. The chair was taken by the President, Dr. R. C. BROWN, of Preston, forty-six members of the Association and Branch being present.

CONSIDERATION OF THE INTERIM REPORT OF THE RECONSTITUTION COMMITTEE.

After introductory remarks by the PRESIDENT, in which he explained that in order to conserve time and expedite business it would be well to take the vote of the meeting first upon each of the four principles of report and then upon any detail.

1. It was proposed by Dr. RITCHIE, seconded by Dr. WOODCOCK, and unanimously resolved:

That the proposals of the Report making membership and subscription to Association uniform (that is, abolishing the unattached member be approved and adopted.

2. It was proposed by Dr. RITCHIE, seconded by Dr. WOODCOCK, and unanimously resolved:

That the proposals for subdivision of Branches into smaller areas and constituting Branch Councils on the principle of representation of the Divisions included in the Branch be approved and adopted.

3. It was proposed by Dr. RITCHIE and seconded by Dr. WOODCOCK:

That the proposals relative to changes in the powers of the Annual Meeting, including the transference of certain powers and duties of that meeting to a conference of delegates, be approved and adopted.

As an amendment it was moved by Dr. CRAWSHAW and seconded by Dr. WALKER (Southport):

That the principle of transferring to a Delegate Meeting the powers, including matters relating to finance, at present exercised by a General Meeting, be carried out to the fullest extent declared permissible by the legal advisers of the Association.

This amendment was accepted by Drs. RITCHIE and WOODCOCK in substitution for the original proposition, which was withdrawn.

Dr. CRAWSHAW's resolution was then put to the meeting and was carried, 2 members voting against it.

4. It was proposed by Dr. RITCHIE and seconded by Dr. GODSON:

That the proposals dealing with the relative position of the Central Council and the Association as a body, and making it clear that the voice of the Association is to be supreme, be approved and adopted.

The following amendment was proposed by Dr. BRIERLEY and seconded by Dr. THORP:

That this Branch disapproves the principle of the Referendum as suggested by the Constitution Committee.

On being put to the meeting the amendment received 5 votes out of 37. It was, therefore, lost. The original resolution was then put to the meeting and carried *nem. con.*

As an addendum it was proposed by Dr. RENTOUL that the Referendum be not to special meetings of Divisions, but to individual members of the Association by circular included in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL.

He proposed and it was seconded by Dr. J. HOLMES:

That in Draft Rule 19 (C) (page 6 of the Supplement to BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, February 16th, 1901, column 2, line 1), after the word consideration, all the words following be omitted, and the following substituted: "of each member by means of a letter sent by the Central Council and enclosed in the JOURNAL."

On being put to the meeting, 3 votes were recorded in its favour out of 36; it was declared to be lost.

5. It was proposed by Dr. RITCHIE, seconded by Dr. GARSTANG, and unanimously resolved:

That the subdivision of Branches be carried out by individual Branches on the basis of convenient railway communication.

6. It was proposed by Dr. WOLSTENHOLME and seconded by Dr. BRIERLEY:

That this meeting approves of the mode of election of the Central Council, with the exception of the clause referring to co-option.

Two votes only were given in favour of this proposal, which was therefore lost.

7. It was proposed by Dr. NASH (Accrington) and seconded by Dr. JAMES HOLMES:

That the delegate only cast the number of votes representing the majority by which resolutions instructing him are carried.

The resolution was lost, 5 votes being given in favour and 10 against.

8. It was proposed by Dr. RENTOUL, and seconded by Dr. MACFIE:

That in Paragraph 8 leave out the words "criminal conviction of a member or." After the word "his" add "or her." Provide that the complaint shall be made by the Branch Council, that the inquiry shall be conducted by the Central Council, that any complaint must be accompanied by a statutory declaration as to the facts, that a copy of the charge be supplied to the defendant, that defendant be empowered to appear by solicitor or counsel, and that in case the charge be not proven the Branch and Central Council shall pay the full costs of defendant. Insert the words "British or Colonial" before "register." Leave out the words "three-fourths."

The resolution was lost, 3 votes being given in favour and 5 against.

9. It was proposed by Dr. RITCHIE, seconded by Dr. GARSTANG, and resolved by 14 votes against 1:

That the Branch Council be composed of Divisional representatives, and

That the number of signatures requisite for the nomination of a representative on the Central Council and Council of the Branch be respectively 20 and 10.

It was proposed by Dr. HELME, seconded by Dr. NASH, and unanimously resolved:

That before a recommendation for expulsion be valid the member objected to have an opportunity of defending himself, and the recommendation be carried at a meeting of the Branch Council, at which not less than one-third are present.—*Blackpool.*

BIRMINGHAM CONFERENCE.

The HONORARY SECRETARY (Dr. T. Arthur Helme) intimated that a letter had been received asking the Branch to send one delegate to the Birmingham Conference on medical organisation.

It was proposed by Dr. HELME and seconded by Dr. MACFIE:

That Dr. Ritchie be appointed delegate.

An amendment was moved by Dr. TURNBULL SMITH and seconded by Dr. WOLSTENHOLME:

That Dr. Brassey Brierley be appointed delegate.

On being put to the meeting 3 votes were given in favour of and 9 against the amendment, which was declared to be lost.

An amendment was moved by Dr. RENTOUL and seconded by Dr. RITCHIE:

That no delegate be sent to the Birmingham Conference.

In seconding, Dr. RITCHIE explained that his reason for so doing was that the Report of the Reconstitution Committee to

be discussed at the proposed conference was not a final report, and that as the final report would probably be modified in accordance with the replies of the Branches, it was quite unnecessary to hold the conference until such final report was issued.

The amendment was carried by 9 votes to 2, and, on being put as the substantive resolution, it was carried *nem. con.*

As the number of members present had fallen to twelve the PRESIDENT declared the meeting at an end.

Abstract of Reports of Divisional Meetings.

Centre.	No. of Members Present.		Votes on the Three Principles.		
	Attached.	Unattached.	* Principle I.	* Principle II.	* Principle III.
Accrington ..	6	0	{ Carried { unanimously	{ Carried { unanimously	{ Carried { unanimously.
Altrincham..	6	1	"	"	"
Ashton ..	7	1	"	"	"
Birkenhead ..	14	4	"	"	"
Blackburn ..	6	1	"	"	"
Blackpool ...	3	2	"	"	"
Bolton	4	0	"	"	{ Adopted { tentatively. { Carried { unanimously.
Bury	4	1	"	"	"
Chester	8	0	"	"	"
Congleton ...	1	1	"	"	"
Crewe	2	1	"	"	"
Lancaster ...	19†	1	"	"	"
Leigh	6	1	"	"	"
Liverpool ...	23	0	"	"	{ Carried { 16 to 2. { Carried { 11 to 4. { Carried { unanimously.
Manchester..	17	0	"	"	"
Northwich ...	2	1	"	"	"
Oldham	18	1	"	"	"
Preston	10	1	"	"	"
Rochdale	6	0	"	"	"
St. Helens ...	5	1	"	"	"
Southport ...	14	1	"	"	"
Stockport ...	3	3	"	"	"
Warrington..	5	0	"	"	"
Wigan	15	0	"	"	"
Total	185	22	185 attached. 22 unattached. † 19 not specified (Lancaster).		
			226		

* Principle I.—Uniformity of Membership and Subscription,
II.—Subdivision of Branches.
III.—Transference of powers of Association (largely from unrepresentative Annual Meeting to Meeting of Delegates.

Resolutions on points of detail :

That the delegate only cast the number of votes representing the majority by which resolutions instructing him are carried (for example, 25 to 20 votes cast = 5).

Accrington.

Birkenhead, 7 to 4.

That a delegate be not elected for more than three years in succession.

Birkenhead.

That the delegate's travelling expenses be not paid.

Crewe.

That the Branch Council be constructed on the principle of delegation from Divisions.

Altrincham.

That the number of signatures requisite for nomination of Representative on Central Council and Council of Branch be respectively 20 and 10.

Blackpool.

That before a recommendation for expulsion be valid the member objected to have an opportunity of defending himself, and the recommendation be carried at a meeting of the Branch Council, at which not less than one-third are present.

Blackpool.

That payment of special contributions to members be optional.

Blackpool.

That nomination by a Division be necessary for election of new members.

Bury.

That the disciplinary powers of Divisions respecting local affairs be further safeguarded.

Leigh.

That the minimum membership of a unit be 30, unless by special permission of Central Council.

That there be only one unit in any Parliamentary Division.

Liverpool.

That the subdivision of Branches should be left to the individual Branches.

Bury.

Liverpool.

That the Divisions be formed on the basis of convenient railway communications.

Manchester.

Stockport.

That large constituencies have the option of returning delegates *pro rata* (for example, 1 for every 100).

Manchester.

YORKSHIRE BRANCH.

MEETING AT LEEDS.

A MEETING was held at Leeds on April 16th. The following members of the Branch were present: Dr. J. Allan, Dr. Churton, Professor Barrs, Professor Wright, Mr. Roper, Dr. Eddison, Dr. Gordon Sharp, Dr. Bampton, Dr. Pickles, Dr. S. Moore, Dr. J. S. Cameron.

Dr. EDDISON was elected Chairman.

After careful consideration of the various questions, it was unanimously resolved that the opinion of the members be recorded as follows :

1. That there is no need for the formation of "units" or Divisions as suggested, but that where it is found in practice that Branches are too large, or where they extend over such a large area that members cannot attend owing to distance or other causes, such Branches should be divided.

2. That all new members of the Association should be elected by some Branch in or near to which they practise; and that all members should be attached to some Branch of the Association, as suggested by the Committee; but that members should be elected after being proposed on the form now in use.

3. That the subscription remain as at present, and be collected in the same way.

4. That the method suggested for expulsion be agreed to.

5. That there is no necessity to appoint Delegates, but that the Council of the Association should be increased and made more representative. That the Council consist of the President, President-elect, Treasurer, and past Presidents for three years after holding office, and 200 members to be elected by the Branches in proportion to the number of members of such Branches. Such members shall, as part of their duty, be required to attend the general meetings of the Association as well as the meetings of Council. The quorum of the Council to be 100.

6. That the Council shall appoint annually at the time of the Annual Meeting of the Association an Executive Committee, which shall be the administrative body for the management of the business of the Association. That this Executive Committee shall consist of the President, the President-elect, the Treasurer, and past Presidents for three years, together with thirty members to be elected from the Council.

7. That the members of the Council and of the Executive Committee shall have first-class railway fares paid out of the funds of the Association for all journeys on the business of the Association except the Annual Meetings.

8. That there is no necessity for a Referendum, as any question can be referred to the Branches by the Council or by the General Meeting.

MEETING AT SHEFFIELD.

A MEETING was held in Sheffield on April 16th, Mr. SIMEON SNELL in the chair. Six members were present.

The following resolution was passed :

That this meeting approves generally of the Recommendations contained in the Provisional Report of the Constitution Committee of the British Medical Association with regard to

a. The adoption of Divisions as Primary Units of Local Organisations, and

b. The powers and character of the General Meeting, the proposed Representative Meeting, and the proposed power of Referendum by the Council to the Divisions,

but they would prefer that the Representatives should be called "Representatives," and not "Delegates."

The meeting is of opinion, however, that, if feasible, it would be better for the Association to apply for a Charter.

MEETING AT HALIFAX.

A MEETING was held at Halifax on April 16th. There were present five attached and two unattached members. Dr. DOLAN was voted to the chair. It was carried unanimously :

1. That the present divisions throughout the country are certainly too large, and that the "Yorkshire Branch" should be divided into two or three divisions.

It was carried unanimously :
 2. That the election of new members should be through the Branch, and that there should be no unattached members.

It was carried :

3. That the inclusive subscription should be 25s. per annum. The two unattached members did not vote either for or against this.

It was carried by 4 to 1 :

4. That this meeting strongly objects to the principle of delegation so far as the Annual General Meeting is concerned.

The two unattached members approved of the principle of delegation, but thought the proposed number of delegates excessive.

MEETING AT BRADFORD.

A MEETING was held at Bradford on April 16th to consider the Provisional Report of the Constitution Committee. Sixteen attached and one unattached members were present.

It was resolved that :

1. The Branches should be subdivided into Divisions.
2. That all members of the Association residing within the area of a Branch should be, *per se*, members of the Branch.
3. That the system of delegates and of a Delegate Meeting be adopted. That the travelling expenses of the delegates should not be paid by the Association.
4. That the annual subscription be 25s.

MEETINGS AT HUDDERSFIELD AND YORK.

MEETINGS were also held at Huddersfield and York, but only 2 members attended.

THAMES VALLEY BRANCH.

The following circular was sent to all the members of the Association residing in the area of this Branch. To this the Honorary Secretary, Dr. R. Langdon-Down, received 36 replies. Of these, 26 were in the affirmative, 3 said they had no interest in or opinion on the question, 2 only answered all three questions in the negative, 2 said "Yes" to A and C, 1 said "Yes" to C, 1 said "No" to B and C. This appears to be an overwhelmingly favourable opinion on the proposals of the Committee.

It is intended to discuss the details of the scheme at the next meeting of the Branch. At a preliminary meeting of the Council a strong opinion was expressed that the boundaries of the area of the Branch should be determined by facilities of railway communication, otherwise great inconvenience would be caused and a very unnatural division made.

Normansfield,
 Hampton Wick,
 March 9th, 1901.

Dear Sir,—The Council of the Thames Valley Branch has decided, for the purpose of ascertaining the views of the members of the British Medical Association residing in its area on the important proposals made in the Report of the Constitution Committee, which was published in the JOURNAL on February 16th, to submit them the following questions as to the main features of the scheme, reserving the details for discussion at a meeting, if necessary.

In view of the special importance of these changes in the constitution of the Association to all its members, the Council would beg you to be so good as to let them have a reply, so that the opinion of both attached and unattached members in this district may be in some measure ascertained. The questions are those specially submitted by the Constitution Committee to the Branches in its report.

I shall be glad to have your reply not later than March 17th.

I am,
 Yours faithfully,
 R. LANGDON-DOWN,
 Hon. Sec.

Please write in the vacant space whether you consider that—
 A.—The institution of Divisions
 B.—The enrolment of all members in the local organisation
 C.—The substitution as far as possible of a Delegate Meeting for the so-called General Meeting—are better calculated than the existing arrangements to promote the prosperity of the Association in its usefulness to the profession and the community in general.

READING AND UPPER THAMES BRANCH.

A SPECIAL general meeting of this Branch was held at Reading on March 8th, to which all unattached members were also invited. Dr. Noorr, the President, was in the chair. Eight attached members and one unattached member were present.

1. The meeting approved of reducing the size of the larger

Branches by subdivision or otherwise, but considered that the Divisions proposed by the scheme would be much too small, and that, owing to personal friction and other causes in small limited country districts, it would be difficult to get proper meetings or secure unanimity.

2. The meeting was in favour of doing away with the present system of unattached members, and considered it desirable that every member should belong to the Branch or Division in which he resides, and that there should be a uniform subscription for all members.

3. With regard to Delegates, the meeting considered that as the Association is at present constituted under the Companies Act, the powers proposed to be given to the Delegate Meeting would be incompatible with those held by the General Meeting, and that the powers of each would be so mixed up that they would get into hopeless confusion.

4. The meeting considered that it would be much better to wind up the Association as a limited company, and to apply for a Charter, and that under a Charter the principle of delegation would then be desirable.

Resolutions embodying the above opinions were duly proposed and seconded, and on being put to the meeting were carried unanimously.

SOUTH-WESTERN BRANCH.

At a special Branch meeting held at Plymouth on February 22nd, after a preliminary general discussion of the Report of the Constitution Committee, the Report was referred to the Divisions, and a Subcommittee was appointed to receive memoranda from the Divisions, and to present a statement of them to the Branch at a special meeting in Exeter.

At this special meeting in Exeter, held on April 25th, Dr. WOODMAN in the chair, 30 attached members being present, the following resolutions were adopted :

1. That this Branch approves of the general principles of the Report of the Constitution Committee, namely :
 - (a) The formation of Divisions of Branches in the manner indicated.
 - (b) The inclusion of all members in the local organisations.
 - (c) The institution of a Delegate Meeting on the lines indicated.
 - (d) The establishment of the Referendum at the instance of the Council.
2. That this meeting approves of Article 20—that the annual subscription be uniform and inclusive, and that a capitation grant for defraying the working expenses of Branches and Divisions be made from the general funds of the Association.
3. That this meeting approves of the recommendation "that the first-class travelling expenses within the United Kingdom of delegates attending the annual meetings be defrayed by the Association."
4. That the number of delegates, if based on the unit of Parliamentary divisions, is excessive.
5. That the statement of the Subcommittee be sent to the General Secretary, together with the foregoing resolutions.

Statement of the Subcommittee appointed February 22nd, 1901.

We have received from the Honorary Secretary returns from 15 Divisions.

Of these, 4 make no report. Of the remainder, 4—namely, Ashburton, Honiton, Plymouth, Tiverton, simply agree to the Report of the Constitution Committee; and 7 agree, but make suggestions as follows :

- Barnstaple.*
- a. That the primary unit be numerical.
 - b. That in 5, "and if no other" be struck out.
 - c. That in 9, "as far as possible" be struck out.
 - d. That in 15, "in the manner.....surgeons" be struck out.
 - e. That in 18, the majority and minority of votes held by each delegate should be recorded.
 - f. That there be 6 delegates for every 1,000 members.

- Bodmin.*
- a. That Branches be smaller.
 - b. That Divisions elect new members.

- Devonport.*
- a. That members may choose their own Branch.

Exeter.

- a. That in 2, it be added "but that no Division shall be constituted having less than 20 members."
 b. That in 4, after the words "if possible a county," insert "or a subdivision of a county."
 c. That in 5, after "a member of the," insert "Branch and."
 d. That "criminal conviction" should be defined in 8; also after "have power" insert "of itself or"; also that "Council," meaning "Council of the Association," should be so written, and when "Council" means "Branch Council" it be so written.
 e. That in 15, 1, "one-tenth" read "one-twentieth."
 f. That in 18, c, Voting in Delegate Meeting, "first-class travelling" read "first-class railway and steamboat."
 g. That each delegate should have one vote.

St. Austell.

- a. That members may choose their own Divisions.
 b. That there be no limit of term of eligibility for continuous office on the Council of the Association.
 c. That each delegate should have one vote.
 d. Subscription to be fixed by Council in accordance with ruling of General Business Meeting.

St. Ives.

Cornwall separate Branch.

Torquay.

That the obligation to be members of Branches should be optional to those members of the Association not engaged in active practice.

(Signed) JOHN WOODMAN (Chairman).
 P. MAURY DEAS.
 W. GORDON.

SOUTH-EASTERN BRANCH.

NORTH KENT DISTRICT.

A SPECIAL meeting of the North Kent District was held at Bromley on March 28th, Dr. WALTERS, President of the Branch, in the chair. Seven members of the Association were present.

It was decided that time would not permit of the whole Report being taken, consequently the paragraphs considered to be of the greatest importance were discussed, and the following resolutions were adopted:

Proposed by Dr. GRANT WILSON, and seconded by Mr. PRIMROSE WELLS:

That the unattached members of the Association residing within the area of the different Branches be absorbed into the Branches.

Carried *nem. con.*

Proposed by Dr. ILOTT, and seconded by Dr. TENNYSON SMITH:

That future members of the Association be elected by the Branches.

Carried *nem. con.*

Proposed by Mr. PRIMROSE WELLS, and seconded by Dr. GRANT WILSON:

That the subscription to the Association be raised to 25s. per annum; this to include Branch subscription.

Carried *nem. con.*

Proposed by Dr. ILOTT, and seconded by Dr. STILLWELL.

That in the existing Branches Divisions be formed of such area that all members resident in any division will have a reasonable opportunity of attending Divisional Meetings, but that the division of Branches will not of necessity correspond with the Parliamentary division of the counties.

Carried *nem. con.*

Proposed by Mr. PRIMROSE WELLS and seconded by Dr. STILLWELL:

That Delegates be appointed from each Division, such Delegates to have power in their "Delegate Meeting" to deal with many matters now in the hands of the Council or the annual general meeting; also that the travelling expenses of the Delegates be paid by the Association.

As an amendment the HONORARY SECRETARY proposed:

That one Delegate be appointed for every 100 members, with power of proxy voting.

This was not seconded, and the motion was carried.

Dr. ILOTT proposed and Dr. GRANT WILSON seconded:

That the Council be empowered to refer to special meetings of the Divisions any resolutions of the annual meeting or Delegate Meeting which it does not consider to properly represent the wishes of the Association.

Carried *nem. con.*

Proposed by Mr. PRIMROSE WELLS and seconded by Dr. GRANT WILSON:

That the number of co-opted members of the Council be not more than 4.

Carried *nem. con.*

Proposed by Mr. PRIMROSE WELLS and seconded by Dr. ILOTT:

That the President of the Council be elected to hold office for a period of three years.

EAST SURREY DISTRICT.

THE Honorary Secretary, Mr. HENRY J. PRANGLEY, requests that the following addition be made to the report of the meeting of this District held on April 18th, which was published in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL of April 27th, p. 1048:

In Recommendation 18, Section c, add to Mr. MacIlwaine's proposition at end (after "any question") the following: "the voting power of the delegate to be regulated by the majority recorded."

EAST ANGLIAN BRANCH.

A SPECIAL meeting of this Branch was held at Ipswich on April 25th, to which unattached members residing in the district were invited. Dr. E. L. FENN, President, occupied the chair.

Confirmation of Minutes.—The minutes of the District meetings held at Norwich, Bury St. Edmunds, and Colchester were read and confirmed.

Provisional Report of Constitution Committee.—The resolutions passed at the District meetings on the Provisional Report of the Constitution Committee were discussed *seriatim*.

The following members took part in the discussions: Mr. Whitaker, Mr. Mayo, Mr. Hossack, Dr. W. A. Elliston, Dr. Fenn, Mr. Biden, Dr. Barnes, Mr. G. S. Elliston, and Captain H. Cotton.

The following resolutions were submitted and discussed and the results of voting by members present was as shown in each case. There were no unattached members present:

1. That this meeting approves of the institution of Divisions corresponding in the main with the Parliamentary constituencies of the United Kingdom, and is further of opinion that such Divisions should be grouped for the purpose of electing delegates in such a manner that the number of delegates shall not exceed 300.

For, 13; against, 1; did not vote, 2=16.

2. That this meeting approves of the principle of including all members in the local organisation—that is, of abolishing the distinction between members of Branches and unattached members.

For, 13; against, 1; did not vote, 1=15.

3. That this meeting approves of the principle of transferring as far as possible the powers now exercised by the Annual General Meeting to a meeting of delegates from the Divisions.

For, 13; against, 0; did not vote, 2=15.

Proposed rider to this resolution:

To add these words:

including as much as the legal adviser of the Committee may declare lawful of the business still left by the Committee's recommendations to the General Business Meeting.

For, 9; against, 2; did not vote, 4=15.

4. That the resolution limiting the tenure of office of Vice-President to three years should not be retrospective.

For, 8; against, 4; did not vote, 3=15.

5. That the representations of the Branches on the Council of the Association remain as at present.

For, 9; against, 2; did not vote, 4=15.

SOUTH WALES AND MONMOUTHSHIRE BRANCH.

At a meeting held at Newport on April 24th, Dr. FIDDIAN, President-elect, in the chair, the Council reported that the following meetings were held in the various districts of the Branch to consider the recommendations of the Constitution Committee.

1. Monmouthshire District, held at Newport on March 27th. Notices were sent to 62 members (41 attached, 21 unattached); attendance 10, all attached.

2. Cardiff District, at Cardiff, on March 28th. Notices sent to 93 members (66 attached, 27 unattached); attendance 6 (3 attached, 3 unattached).

3. Merthyr and Pontypridd District, at Pontypridd, on March 29th. Notices sent, 47 (45 attached, 2 unattached); attendance 6, all attached.

4. Bridgend District, at Bridgend, on April 2nd. Notices sent, 18 (12 attached, 6 unattached); attendance 7 (4 attached, 3 unattached).

5. Swansea and Western District, at Swansea, on April 23rd. Attendance 7 attached members.

The reports of the various meetings having been read and discussed, the Council unanimously recommend the adoption of the first two of the matters of principle upon which all meetings were agreed, namely: (1) the institution of small primary units of organisation; (2) the enrolment of all members in the local organisation—namely, the inclusion of the unattached members. With regard to the third—the substitution of the Delegate Meeting, so far as is legally possible, for the Annual General Meeting—the Council, having regard to the difference of opinion, submitted for the consideration of the Branch the question whether it would not be better for the Association to take immediate steps to alter its form of government, to get out of the Limited Liability Companies Acts and start afresh under a Charter.

The meeting of the Branch discussed this report fully, and eventually it was moved by Dr. WALLACE (Cardiff), seconded by Dr. BROWN (Tredegar), and carried unanimously:

That this meeting approves the Report of the Constitution Committee, and also recommend that steps should be taken if possible to get out of the Limited Liability Companies Acts and to start *de novo* under a Charter.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

PARIS.

The Académie de Médecine: M. Lancereaux on the Etiology and Prophylaxis of Tubercle: M. Brunon on Substitutes for Sanatoria.

M. LANCEREAUX recently read before the Académie de Médecine an interesting communication summarising 2,192 cases of tubercle observed by him during the last forty years. His object was to prove that to become tuberculous a general predisposition is necessary, and in addition often a local predisposition. Etiologically considered, the conditions which prepare the nidus are found in his cases to be:

1. Tubercle and alcoholism	...	...	1,229 cases
2. { Insufficient aération or sedentary habits	...	...	651 "
{ Want and privation	...	...	82 "
{ Want and pregnancy	...	...	91 "
3. Tubercle in the family (probable heredity)	...	...	93 "
4. Contagion	...	...	46 "

From this table are excluded such predisposing diseases as diabetes, tabes, etc. From these figures it is seen that more than half the cases observed occurred in persons habitually addicted to alcohol, the second place being held by persons with sedentary occupations living in small apartments or working in crowded workrooms. 1. Alcoholism and tubercle: M. Lancereaux has included in this class 50 cases of persons exposed to dust inhalations, which he finds rarely leads to phthisis except in alcoholic subjects. The age and sex distribution of the cases was as follows:

Age.	Men.	Women.
Under 20 years	5	4
From 20 to 30 years	121	40
" 30 to 40 "	307	160
" 40 to 50 "	306	69
" 50 to 60 "	115	37
" 60 to 70 "	30	11
Ages unknown	15	9
	899	330

The lung changes in these cases predominated: on the right side 690 times; on the left side 268 times; on both sides 271 times. *Post-mortem* examinations were performed in 328 cases, and showed in 186 cases the granular form of tubercle with few cavities of small dimensions,

and in 142 cases the granular form with extensive cavities. From the analysis of these facts it results that tubercle in alcoholic subjects is marked (1) by being usually localised at the right apex, (2) by granulation, usually scattered and rarely by a lobular infiltration. Tubercle in this class of cases, as a rule, begins at the upper and posterior portion of the right lung, and this localisation is sufficient of itself to put the observer on the track of the etiological circumstances which have rendered the nidus suitable. M. Lancereaux believes the explanation lies in the fact that the right bronchus, being shorter and larger than the left bronchus, gives a greater activity to the right apex, and thus favouring the elimination of a larger proportion of alcohol, causes a more intense irritation on this side. Hæmoptysis, a common symptom in this form, is present in 1 out of every 5 cases, generally at the beginning of the disease; diarrhoea is present in 1 out of every 6 cases; delirium in 1 out of every 7 cases. The age incidence is greatest between 25 and 50 years, the period of greatest muscular activity and also of the greatest excesses. The professional incidence shows that the persons affected are generally strong robust subjects living in the open air, and with professions that demand a great expenditure of muscular force, a convincing proof that the disease is acquired, prepared by alcoholic excesses. From a special inquiry as to the frequency of tubercle among drinkers M. Lancereaux found 853 tuberculous among 1,984 chronic alcoholics; this gives for the Paris hospitals 1 tuberculous case in 2.33 alcoholic, an alarming percentage which has led him to formulate that "tubercle is the greatest danger of alcoholism."

2. Insufficient aération, sedentary habits, and tubercle: Including cases due to privation and pregnancy this class includes 749 cases, with the following age and sex distribution:

Age.	Men.	Women
From 15 to 20 years	66	77
" 20 to 25 "	91	67
" 25 to 30 "	93	49
" 30 to 40 "	129	74
" 40 to 50 "	45	32
" 50 to 60 "	14	13
" 60 to 70 "	6	4
Ages unknown	7	2
	431	318

The lung changes in these cases predominated on the left side 530 times, on the right side 129 times, and 90 non-classed cases. *Post-mortem* observation in 203 cases showed the globular form of the disease in 170 and the granular form in 33. An analysis of these facts brings out the following important points:—(1) The greater frequency of the localisation at the left apex, (2) the predominance of the lobular or caseous over the granular form of the disease. The feeble activity of the left as compared with the right apex, together with the lessened lung expansion in persons of sedentary habits, supplied with insufficient air, gives the key to the localisation and the form of tubercle seen in this class of cases. The age incidence, too, differs from that in Class I., being greatest while the subject is growing or soon after, a fact easy to understand, as this is the period when the organism has the greatest needs. The professional incidence is greatest among bootmakers, clerks, tailors, dress-makers, and other of sedentary habits. The course in these cases is variable and often rapid, especially in young persons recently arrived in Paris, working in small and badly-ventilated workrooms. M. Lancereaux has had 34 cases fatal before the sixth month, and 106 before the end of the first year. With the above exception the disease develops slowly and with proper air and food may be stationary for years. All classical works agree that phthisis is commoner at the left than at the right apex. This is no longer true. Tubercle, at least in men, is now more common on the right side. This change is the logical outcome of changes in hygiene; tubercle in preceding ages was especially due to overcrowding, narrow streets, and the bad sanitary arrangement of the houses, which were generally damp, and wanting both air and sunlight. Hence the localisation of the left apex. From the day when it began to be understood that air was as necessary to life as food, the widening of the streets and the improvement