

The medical institutions of the City of Madras are separately reported on. They are 14 in number, including 3 general hospitals, 3 for women and children, an ophthalmic hospital, a leper hospital, a voluntary venereal hospital and 5 dispensaries. The death-rate of Madras was 46.2 per 1,000 of population. Fevers, cholera and bowel complaints were in excess; 19,553 indoor and 217,319 outdoor patients were treated—a considerable increase on 1899. The death-rate was 7.68. In the three maternity hospitals 2,462 cases of natural labour were attended. The number of surgical operations was larger. The education and training of nurses and midwives continues. Government contributes 72.39 per cent. of the total expenditure, which amounts to about 4½ lakhs of rupees.

*Government Maternity Hospital.*—The official reports of hospitals and dispensaries have hitherto included some professional information; but under the orders issued for abbreviating them they have become purely administrative. This is very proper; but the important medical and surgical work done in many of the larger institutions ought to be made known in some other way. We therefore welcome the record of the excellent practice carried on in this great lying-in and gynaecological hospital. The facts are displayed by the Superintendent, Lieutenant-Colonel A. J. Sturmer, M.D., in great detail, and with admirable clearness, on the plan initiated by his predecessor, Dr. A. M. Branfoot. There were 2,304 deliveries during the year 1900, of which 67 per cent. were natural, and the remainder difficult, preternatural, complex, or abortions. The statistics of these are most elaborately set forth. 60 deaths of mothers took place, and of 2,257 children, 2,012 were living and 175 stillborn. The proportion of male to female births was 111 to 100. There were 70 cases of septic disease, with 12 deaths. Many important gynaecological operations were performed, including 43 abdominal sections, with 5 deaths. The report is most interesting and valuable.

*Lunatic Asylums.*—There are three asylums for the insane in the Madras Presidency—one at Madras, receiving Europeans, Eurasians, and natives; one at Vizagapatam, and one at Calicut, both for natives. Criminal lunatics are interned at Madras only. The inmates numbered 399, 71, and 89 respectively on December 31st, 1900—559 lunatics in a population of some 38 millions. Females constituted 25 and criminals 28 per cent. The percentage of recoveries on average strength was 15.40 and of deaths 8.98. The number of lunatics employed in various ways during the year was 235. The chief employments were gardening, weaving, dairy farming, and working in tin, and the accounts of manufactures show a profit of 7,272 rupees. The annual cost per head was Rs. 151-15-8. Various sports and recreations are provided, and several native gentlemen are thanked by Government for contributing to the amusement of the inmates.

*Vaccination.*—This report is for the year ending March 31st, 1901, and has been drawn up by Captain J. W. Cornwall, I.M.S., Deputy Sanitary Commissioner. There was an increase of 85 per cent. on the operations of the preceding year, which were impeded by the plague scare; the total of successful vaccinations, primary and secondary, being 1,053,202, or 30.6 per 1,000 of the population of the Presidency. The number of vaccinations of children under 1 year was 348,774. The percentage of success in primary and secondary vaccination was 91.9 and in revaccinations (74,615 in number) 77.0. Animal lymph is employed solely. The lymph taken directly from the calf gave a higher percentage of success than that mixed with glycerine and lanoline.

*ANTITOBACCO LEGISLATION IN THE ISLE OF MAN.*—At a recent meeting of the Manx Legislature Court the Bill passed by the House of Keys prohibiting the sale by licensed persons of tobacco to boys under 14 years of age under a penalty of £2, and providing a fine not exceeding £1 on boys under 14 years of age found smoking or using tobacco, was considered in committee. The clause providing against the sale was passed, an amendment making it applicable to any person giving tobacco being negatived. The majority of the court rejected the clause making the boy liable to a fine, and the Bill, as passed, will only restrict the sale by licensed persons to boys under 14 years of age.

## ASSOCIATION INTELLIGENCE.

### COUNCIL.

#### NOTICE OF MEETING.

A MEETING of the Council will be held in the Council Room of the Association at 429, Strand (corner of Agar Street), London, on Wednesday, the 16th day of April, at 2 o'clock in the afternoon.

The following Committees will also meet:—

*Tuesday, April 16th.*—2.0 p.m. Premises and Library Committee (Committee Room No. 1).—3.0 p.m. Preliminary General Education Committee (Committee Room No. 2).—3.30 p.m. General Practitioners and Ethical Committee (Committee Room No. 1).—5.0 p.m. Parliamentary Bills Committee (Council Room and Library). *Wednesday, April 16th.*—10.0 a.m. Journal and Finance Committee.

April 7th, 1902.

FRANCIS FOWKE, *General Secretary.*

#### NOTICE OF QUARTERLY MEETINGS OF COUNCIL FOR 1902.

MEETINGS of the Council will be held on April 16th, July 9th, and October 22nd. 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 18th, and October 1st.

#### 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 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.

**SOUTH-EASTERN BRANCH: WEST KENT DISTRICT.**—A meeting of the above District will be held at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Rochester, on Tuesday, April 15th, at 4 p.m., Dr. E. C. Warren in the chair. Agenda: Minutes of the last meeting. Place, date, and chairman of next meeting. Dr. George Blacker, Assistant Obstetric Physician to University College Hospital, will read a paper on Some Remarks on the Mechanism and Management of the Third Stage of Labour. Dr. Gosage, Assistant Physician to Westminster Hospital and to the East London Hospital for Children, will read a paper on Some Important Points in the Rheumatism in Children. All members of the South-Eastern Branch are entitled to attend this meeting and to introduce professional friends.—LUDFORD COOPER, 19, Victoria Street, Rochester, Honorary Secretary of the District.

**METROPOLITAN COUNTIES BRANCH: EAST LONDON AND SOUTH ESSEX DISTRICT.**—The next meeting of this District will be held at Walthamstow Hospital on Thursday, April 17th, at 4.30 p.m. Mr. H. E. Powell, in the chair. Dr. Herbert R. Spencer will read a paper The Diagnosis of Pregnancy with limelight illustrations. Visitors are invited.—C. J. MORTON, 56, Orford Road, Walthamstow, Honorary Secretary.

**STAFFORDSHIRE BRANCH.**—The third ordinary general meeting of the Session will be held at the Victoria Hotel, Wolverhampton, on Thursday, April 24th. The President, Mr. W. H. Folker, will take the Chair at 5.20 p.m. Business: Minutes of the last General Meeting. Correspondence. Exhibition of Living Cases. Mr. George Heaton: Notes of Five Cases of Perforated Gastric Ulcer treated by Abdominal Section and Suture. Exhibition of Pathological Specimens. Dinner, 7.50 p.m. Charge, 5s.—G. FETTERGRAVE JOHNSON, Stoke-on-Trent, General Secretary.

**EAST ANGLIAN BRANCH.**—The spring meeting of the East Anglian Branch will be held at Southwold on Thursday, April 17th. 12.30. Meeting of the Council at Grand Hotel. 1 p.m., Luncheon at Grand Hotel, 3s. 6d. (Members are requested to intimate to Dr. Francis Ward, not later than April 14th, if they intend to be present.) 2.30 p.m., General Meeting at Grand Hotel. Agenda: To consider report on Wage Limit as

applied to Clubs, etc. To consider report on the resolution passed at Clacton-on-Sea regarding the free distribution of diphtheria antitoxin to medical practitioners. Mr. T. H. Morse, F.R.C.S., of Norwich, will read a paper on Hysterectomy—Vaginal and Abdomino-Vaginal—with notes on 27 cases, and show specimens. Mr. S. G. Longworth, of the County Asylum, Melton, will read a paper, Clinical Observations on the Action of some Suprarenal Preparations. 5 p.m., Afternoon Tea, by kind invitation of Mr. S. N. Woollett, J.P., at the Swan Hotel, to members and friends.—B. H. NICHOLSON, M.B., General Secretary, East Anglian Branch.

**SOUTHERN BRANCH: ISLE OF WIGHT DISTRICT.**—A meeting of this District will be held at the Station Hotel, Sandown, on Friday, April 18th, at 3.45 p.m. Members intending to read papers, or show cases, etc., and gentlemen desirous of joining the District are requested to communicate as early as possible with the Honorary Secretary, G. BENINGTON WOOD, M.B., Newlands, Sandown, I.W.

#### METROPOLITAN COUNTIES BRANCH: WEST LONDON DISTRICT.

A MEETING of this District was held on March 21st at the West End Hospital for the Diseases of the Nervous System (by kind permission of the Board of Management), Mr. S. AIRD JOLLY, L.R.C.P., Vice-President, in the chair.

*Confirmation of Minutes.*—The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

*Cases.*—Dr. OUTFERSON WOOD showed two cases of paralysis successfully treated by forcible extension of the spine. Mr. CANTLIE demonstrated the method he used in the forcible extension.—Dr. DUNDAS GRANT showed a case of hyoglossia with post-nasal adenoids, and a case of idiocy with adenoid physiognomy. Dr. HARRY CAMPBELL, Mr. CANTLIE, and Dr. DUTTON asked some questions as to the origin and treatment of these cases, and Dr. GRANT replied.—Dr. SIMSON (for Dr. FLETCHER BEACH) read some notes, and exhibited two cases, one diphtherial paralysis, and the other a case of infantile paralysis.

*Votes of Thanks.*—Hearty votes of thanks were unanimously passed to Sir Lennox Napier, Bart., Chairman of the Board of Management; to the staff for getting together so many interesting cases; and to the Vice-President for so ably presiding.

*Tea.*—Afternoon tea was provided for the members.

#### BORDER COUNTIES BRANCH.

A MEETING of this Branch was held at Lockerbie on April 4th. Dr. BLAIR (Jedburgh), the President, occupied the chair, and 17 members were present.

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

*Epsom College.*—It was resolved that the votes of the Branch at the forthcoming elections to the Royal Medical Benevolent College, Epsom, be left in the hands of the Secretary as usual.

*Votes of Condolence.*—The SECRETARY read letters from Mrs. Connel (Peebles), and Mrs. Macdonald (Kirkoswald) expressing thanks for the votes of condolence passed at the last meeting.

*New Members.*—Dr. W. C. Speirs (Whitehaven) and Dr. J. R. Watson (Peebles) were elected members of the Branch.

*Apology for Non-Attendance.*—An apology from Dr. Hamilton (Hawick), for inability to attend the meeting, was intimated, and the paper standing in his name was not read.

*Papers.*—Dr. ORMROD (Workington) read a paper on concealed hæmatemesis, and detailed the symptoms of a case recently under his care. A discussion, dealing chiefly with the treatment of gastric hæmorrhage, followed. The PRESIDENT, and Drs. MACLAREN, IRVING, GILROY, SCOTT, BOWSER, and THOMSON spoke; and Dr. ORMROD replied. Dr. Ogilvy-Ramsay was not present to read his paper on three cases of difficult labour.—Dr. DONALD (Carlisle) read notes on cases in South Africa. The paper was of extreme interest. The speaker gave a graphic account of many cases that had come under his care both as regimental surgeon and when attached to a field hospital. The PRESIDENT, and Drs. MACLAREN, THOMSON, ORMROD, and MARTIN made brief remarks, and the thanks of the meeting were accorded to Dr. DONALD for his paper.—Dr. MACLACHLAN (Lockerbie) read notes of (1) a case of pyelitis in an infant 10 months old; and (2) a case of tapeworm. The PRESIDENT, and Drs. ORMROD, MARTIN, and DONALD discussed the cases.—Dr. FARQUHARSON (Carlisle) read notes of a case of melancholia associated with

visceral lesion. Special reference was made to toxæmia as a factor in the causation of insanity. The PRESIDENT, and Drs. DONALD, ORMROD, and MARTIN discussed the case.

*Dinner.*—After the meeting the members dined together in the King's Arms Hotel.

**SOUTH-EASTERN BRANCH: EAST KENT DISTRICT.** THE 162nd meeting of this District was held at Dover, on March 27th, Dr. ROBINSON, of Dover, in the chair. Twenty-five members attended.

*Confirmation of Minutes.*—The minutes of the last meeting, held at Canterbury in November, were read and confirmed.

*Chairman of the Annual Meeting.*—It was proposed by Dr. HACKNEY, and seconded by Dr. DODD, and carried unanimously, that Dr. Larking, of Folkestone, should take the chair at the annual meeting to be held at Canterbury in May.

*Representatives of the Branch upon the Council of the Association.*—Dr. PARSONS proposed that the existing representatives: Mr. Verrall (Sussex), Dr. Galton (Surrey), and Dr. Tyson (Kent) be nominated. Surgeon-General O'DWYER seconded. This was unanimously carried.

*Attendance at Meetings.*—The CHAIRMAN made a brief but earnest appeal to the members of the medical profession to support the meetings of the Association, and dwelt on the advantages that must result from interchange of thought and from the cultivation of friendly relations among medical men, not only to themselves but to the profession at large and the whole community.

*Peripheral Neuritis.*—Dr. HALSTEAD (Ramsgate), President-elect of the South-Eastern Branch, read a paper on peripheral neuritis and an imperfectly recognised cause of the disease. He related a case in which a severe attack of the disease was apparently due to septic absorption from an alveolar abscess which communicated with the antrum. An interesting feature of the case was that repeatedly the early threatenings of paralysis were recovered from by means of rest, but recurred after each renewed exertion. Finally, after attention to the alveolar disease and rest in bed, complete recovery ensued.

*Broad Lines of Treatment.*—Dr. TYSON (Folkestone) read a paper on broad lines of treatment. He briefly reviewed the great changes that had taken place in the practice of medicine and surgery during the last twenty years. He then compared the advantages of practising general medicine with those of special medicine, and finally spoke of the necessity of taking a broad view of many cases and treating them accordingly, giving examples of disease supporting this view.

*Varicella or Variola.*—In the unavoidable absence through illness of Dr. Howden, who had promised a paper on variola or varicella, a discussion on this subject was opened by the CHAIRMAN and the HONORARY SECRETARY. Dr. ROBINSON gave instances of the difficulty in differentiating between varicella and modified small-pox. On January 27th a man was supposed to have influenza. He resumed work on February 2nd, and on February 12th his wife was taken ill, her case being diagnosed as varicella. On February 24th her unvaccinated mother, who lived in the same house, was notified as suffering from variola, and died. Two children of the first patient were also notified on March 3rd, and one of them, an unvaccinated infant, died on the 12th. The doctor in attendance was an experienced man. Other cases showing the difficulty in distinguishing between varicella and variola modified by vaccination were cited.—Mr. RAVEN enumerated the chief points of difference between varicella and variola, dwelling upon the distribution of rash, and the unilocular vesicle of varicella and the multilocular vesicle of variola. Severity of symptoms was not to be relied upon. He had known cases of varicella with temperatures of 105° and even 106°, whereas small-pox, modified by previous vaccination, sometimes presented scarcely any constitutional disturbance whatever. The successive crops of eruption in varicella were often characteristic of the disease, but such diagnostic evidence could not be waited for. Cases must be diagnosed, notified, and removed after the first visit.—Dr. COOPER FENN (visitor) narrated cases of small-pox which in a striking way exemplified the value of vaccination and the completely protective effect of revaccination. Two cases were of especial interest. In each the patient had been vaccinated during the

incubation period of small-pox, and in each the disease began severely, but on the maturation of the vaccine vesicles suddenly aborted.

*Vote of Thanks.*—A vote of thanks to the Mayor of Dover for his kindness in allowing the members the use of the Council Chamber was cordially agreed to.

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

### MELBOURNE.

*Difficulty at the Women's Hospital.*—*The Fever Hospital.*—*The Prevention of Consumption.*—*The Administration of Asylums for the Insane.*—*The Prevention of Plague.*—*"Cures" for Inebriety.*—*The Inter-State Medical Congress.*—*The Victoria Branch of the British Medical Association.*

AN unusual and deplorable trouble has recently arisen in the administration of the Women's Hospital, which formulated itself in a conflict of opinion between the Committee of Management and the Medical Staff. It appears that a woman was admitted to the midwifery department and that she developed septicaemia, from which she died about nine days afterwards. The ward was scientifically disinfected, but within a fortnight afterwards five midwifery cases which had been placed in the isolated cottage developed a temperature. The cases were reported by the senior physician to the Committee, and a Subcommittee was then appointed to investigate the matter. The Committee, feeling the responsibility of the position, without obtaining the opinion of the Honorary Medical Staff, ordered the extreme step of closing the institution against admission of all cases for one month, and further ordered that all applicants holding tickets should be sent to private establishments. The resident and honorary medical officers then declined to obey these instructions of the Committee and justified their action by declaring that there was really no cause for alarm and that they would not take it upon themselves to refuse any case presenting itself at the doors of the hospital. Although a placard was placed outside the door notifying that the institution was closed, the medical resident officers insisted on keeping the doors open and admitting urgent cases. The next step the Committee resolved on was promptly to discharge the secretary of the institution and both resident medical officers. Since this action by the Committee a public meeting of subscribers has been held which gave each side an opportunity of explaining their various views, and a vote of censure disapproving the action of the Committee in closing the midwifery department against the unanimous advice of the honorary medical staff was lost by but a few votes. The positions rendered vacant by the dismissal of the resident medical officers have been advertised in the press, but so far no applications have been received. The public opinion is very much divided on the points at issue, and had a better understanding between the staff and the Committee existed all this deplorable scandal might have been avoided. Although the present struggle appears for the time being to have ended, it threatens to reveal itself again in August, when a number of vacancies on the Committee will necessitate an election. The Committee, which consists of laymen and women, might have acted less impulsively had they in a calmer spirit conferred with the honorary staff before exercising their powers.

The Fever Hospital, for which £20,000 have been obtained by public subscription, has been languishing for a further sum of £4,000 for the necessary internal fittings, and has not so far been declared open for the reception of patients. The completion has now been arranged for, as the Government has come forward to grant sufficient funds to set the institution in working order. The overcrowded state of the metropolitan hospitals will be relieved by the opening of this institution.

A conference of various public bodies and institutions has been held for the purpose of organizing a national movement for the prevention and cure of tuberculosis. A great public meeting has been held at which the Governor-General presided, and resolutions were moved in favour of the establishment of a national association. At this meeting it was

declared that in 1900 910 deaths had been caused by tuberculosis, and that 698 of those were from consumption of the lungs. In Melbourne, in 1880, there had been 310 deaths per 100,000 of the population. In 1890 the mortality from this cause had decreased to 240 per 100,000, and in 1900 the death-rate had been still further reduced to 185 per 100,000 from consumption. The objects aimed at in establishing this association are to educate the public, to collect information at a public office, and distribute it by means of leaflets and lectures; to secure the co-operation of health societies and the press; to hold conferences; to establish district branches; and influence Parliament, and public bodies, and hospitals.

A public Bill is now being drafted with the object of securing reform in connection with asylums for the insane. A plan which meets with most favour is that the various asylums should be transferred from the Public Service Board to Commissioners of Lunacy, with enlarged powers to the superintendents. A receiving house for patients, apart from the asylums, is to be established, and provision is to be made for special treatment of paying patients.

Dr. Gresswell, the Chairman of the Board of Public Health, who has always recognized the responsibilities of his high position by the exhibition of great zeal in fulfilling the duties of his office, is concerning himself with the protection of the State from the invasion of bubonic plague. The community possesses every confidence in his foresight and thorough knowledge of all matters connected with hygiene, and readily supports him in observing those directions in matters of health which are periodically issued from his office. Dr. Gresswell proposes to have the plague regulations carried out with regard to vessels from Sydney, and to have a medical inspection of the passengers. He does not consider it necessary to subject people coming by train from Sydney to inspection. He considers the risks of infection are from the shipping and cargo. In consequence possibly of our improved sanitary conditions, we have escaped so far an outbreak here.

Amongst the favours which an enlightened democracy bestows on the State is the election of a Royal Commission to solve every problem, economic and otherwise. Just now we have an Inebriate Cures Committee sitting which is composed not of scientific experts but altogether of laymen. All kinds of extraordinary alleged cures from most varied sources are explained to the Committee, who sit and wonder at the resources of the human mind. The report of the Commission should be interesting reading, and if the Secretary has but a vein of natural humour it may be possible that his report may escape being pigeon-holed.

The sixth session of the Inter-State Medical Congress of Australasia has been opened in the Town Hall at Hobart. The meeting was fairly well attended, and the President-elect, Dr. Butler, M.L.C., conducted the proceedings. He read the inaugural address in the evening at the Town Hall in the presence of the Governor and the Premier of the State. A reception and *conversazione* followed. One of the matters to be brought forward during the meeting is the consideration of a proposal to establish an Australasian Medical Association. It is unlikely, in view of the objection to the proposal raised by the New South Wales Branch of the British Medical Association, that any progress in the development of this scheme will be reported.

At the annual meeting of the Victorian Branch Dr. Neild read a most interesting presidential address, remarkable for its high tone and sympathetic hopefulness. The Honorary Secretary, Dr. Vance, through whose soundness of judgment and tact the Branch has been steered through much of its embarrassments, read the Committee's report, which indicated the prosperous position of the Branch and the cheerfulness of its fortunes. Dr. Macanish was elected President, and the Council was re-elected.

### SYDNEY.

*The Bubonic Plague.*—*Leprosy.*—*Population Statistics.*

SYDNEY is once more threatened with an extensive outbreak of the bubonic plague. After a quiescence of about fifteen months, a case occurred last November, and since the following month some nineteen cases have occurred in different parts of the city and suburbs. The Health officials have had a difficulty in tracing the source of infection in all the cases.