

the Secretaries on or before June 25th.—W. JONES MORRIS, Portmadoc; H. JONES ROBERTS, Penygroes; H. H. B. MACLEOD, Clive House, Shrewsbury, Honorary Secretaries.

SOUTH-EASTERN BRANCH.—The sixtieth annual meeting of this Branch will be held at Grand Hotel, Eastbourne, on Wednesday, June 22nd, at 2.15 p.m. Mr. J. H. Ewart (President-elect) kindly invites members to lunch at the hotel from 1 to 2 p.m. Agenda: In addition to the business of an ordinary meeting. 1. To receive the report of the election of new officers, who shall thereupon take office. 2. To receive the report of the Council on the affairs of the Branch and the annual financial statements. 3. To make new rules or alter or repeal existing rules (if so desired). 4. Dr. Larking gives notice that he will move: That in the opinion of this meeting the present South-Eastern Branch should be divided into two Branches separated by a line running roughly between London and Hastings, and that the opinion of the Divisions concerned be obtained on the question. After the meeting drives will be arranged to Beachy Head and Pevensey Castle. Dinner at the hotel at 6.45 p.m., charge 6s. 6d. (wine will be provided by the local members). Those who propose to be present at lunch or dinner are requested to signify their intention to Dr. Merry, 2, Chiswick Place, Eastbourne, not later than Monday, June 20th.—T. JENNER VERRALL, 97, Montpellier Road, Brighton, Honorary Secretary.

SOUTH-EASTERN BRANCH: CANTERBURY DIVISION.—The annual meeting of this Division will be held at the Kent and Canterbury Hospital, on Thursday, June 23rd, at 4 p.m., Dr. Gogarty in the chair. Agenda: 1. To read minutes of the last meeting. 2. Election of officers. (a) Chairman; (b) Vice-Chairman; (c) Representative on Branch Council; (d) Honorary Secretary and Treasurer; (e) Executive Committee (additional member). 3. To consider a communication from Dr. Gosse. 4. To consider the proposed resolutions and other business for the forthcoming Representative Meeting at Oxford (*vide* SUPPLEMENT, May 7th, 1904). 5. To consider existing rules and discuss whether any alterations are necessary. 6. To consider a communication from the Exeter Division of the South-Western Branch. 7. Any other business. 8. Possibly an address by Mr. Smith Whitaker, Medical Secretary of the British Medical Association.—A. R. HENCHLEY, 1, London Road, Canterbury, Honorary Divisional Secretary.

SOUTH-EASTERN BRANCH: FAVERSHAM DIVISION.—The annual meeting of this Division will be held at the Cottage Hospital, Faversham, on Thursday, June 16th, at 3 p.m. Agenda: 1. Confirmation of minutes of last meeting. 2. Time and place of next meeting. 3. Annual report of the Honorary Divisional Secretary. 4. Election of the following officers: Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer, Member of Branch Council, Executive Committee. 5. A communication from the Exeter Division. 6. To consider the business of the Annual Representative Meeting. 7. Paper by Dr. S. R. Alexander. 8. Any other business. All members of the South-Eastern Branch are invited to attend these meetings and to introduce professional friends.—WILLIAM GOSSE, Westdene, Sittingbourne, Honorary Divisional Secretary.

SOUTH MIDLAND BRANCH.—The annual meeting of this Branch will be held at the New Schools, Sheep Street, Winslow, Bucks, on Thursday afternoon, June 16th, under the presidency of Dr. Kennish. The President requests the pleasure of members' company to luncheon at the Bell Hotel, Winslow, at 1.30 o'clock, and will be obliged by the favour of a reply, addressed to himself, not later than the morning of June 12th. Agenda: Minutes of autumnal meeting. New members elected by Council. Letters and communications. Papers and cases. President's address. Mr. Whitelocke (Oxford). Some Cases of Ectopic Gestation treated by Operation. Mr. Savory (Bedford): Case of Benign Papilloma of Renal Pelvis, Haemothorax, Nephrectomy, Recovery. Dr. Milligan (Northampton): Case of Acute Perforative Appendicitis in which Abdominal Section had to be performed a second time, with remarks generally on Appendicitis.—E. HARRIES JONES, 45, Sheep Street, Northampton, Honorary Secretary.

SOUTH-WESTERN BRANCH.—The annual meeting of this Branch will be held on Tuesday, June 21st, at the Public Hall, Paignton, at 3 p.m., when Dr. Thompson will resign the chair to Dr. J. Alexander, who will deliver his inaugural address. The report of the Branch Council and annual financial statement for the year 1903-4 will be presented to the meeting, and the officers of the Branch be elected for the year 1904-5. The Branch Council will submit to the meeting for approval a code of rules to regulate procedure in ethical matters, and will propose the following alterations in Rule 15, Sections C and D: Section C to read—Exhibition of Clinical Cases. Section D to read—Reading of Papers. Luncheon, by kind invitation of the President-elect, will take place from 1 p.m. to 2.30 p.m., at the Public Hall. After the meeting a garden party will be held at the Queen's Park, when the President and Mrs. Alexander will receive members and their wives. The annual dinner will be held at the Public Hall at 6.45 p.m. Tickets (exclusive of wine), 6s. 6d.; after which a short play by amateurs will be given. All members who wish to stay over the next day have leave to play golf on the Churston Links by the kind consent of the Committee of the Churston Golf Club. All members attending the meeting will be honorary members of the Paignton Club by kind consent of the committee. The Esplanade and Gerston Hotels afford good accommodation for members wishing to stay the night. The Honorary Secretary will be obliged if those members who purpose attending the dinner will inform him on or before June 14th, and at the same time forward the amount of the dinner ticket.—G. YOUNG EALES, 1, Matlock Terrace, Torquay, Honorary Secretary.

STAFFORDSHIRE BRANCH.—The annual meeting of this Branch will be held at Wolverhampton, on Thursday, June 16th.—E. PETGRAVE JOHNSON, Brook Street, Stoke-on-Trent, Honorary General Secretary.

WEST SOMERSET BRANCH.—The annual meeting of this Branch will be held at the Crown Hotel, South Petherton, on Tuesday, June 28th, at 12.30 p.m., under the presidency of Mr. A. W. Sinclair. Agenda: Minutes of last meeting. Annual report of Council. Treasurer's report. Election of President-elect. Election of other officers. Election of Ethical Committee. Ethical case: Report of Committee on case recently before them. Resolution: The following will be proposed: "That members of the

Council attending ordinary meeting of the Council at Taunton shall receive their second-class return railway fare." President's address on Neurasthenia. Luncheon will be served at the Crown Hotel at 1.30 p.m.—W. B. WINCKWORTH, Sussex Lodge, Taunton, Honorary Secretary.

YORKSHIRE BRANCH.—Preliminary Notice.—The annual meeting of this Branch will be held at Leeds on Wednesday, June 22nd. Members wishing to read papers or show cases or specimens are requested to communicate with the Honorary Secretary as soon as possible. Annual dinner at 6.30.—ADOLPH BRONNER, 33, Manor Row, Bradford, Honorary Secretary.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

MANCHESTER.

The Chair of Pathology and Pathological Anatomy in the University.—Royal Infirmary.—Citizens' Life-Saving Classes.—Insanitary Houses in Salford.

LESS than a quarter of a century ago in 1881 Dr. Julius Dreschfeld, the present Professor of Medicine in Owens College and in the University, was nominated Professor of Pathology, and many who were students at and after that period remember with what success that important department of medicine was taught. In 1891, the Proctor trustees, by a timely gift, enabled the Council of the College to endow the Chair, and Professor Delépine was elected. Since then much has happened. The subject has greatly extended. Bacteriology has made great strides, both in its application to disease and to the prevention of disease. Moreover, the subject of public health has grown greatly and demands much time on the part of those who have to teach it and to meet the requirements of corporations. The Council of the University has now taken a step of great importance in the interest of the College and the University on the one hand, and certain corporate institutions on the other. A new Chair of Comparative Pathology and Bacteriology has been founded, and Professor Delépine is the first occupant. He is also Director of the new public health laboratories which are being erected near the new site of the Royal Infirmary, as he was of the older public health laboratory on the Stanley Grove Estate. This arrangement still leaves the subject of pathology and pathological anatomy, as it is taught to students of medicine, to be provided for. It is proposed to appoint a Professor of Pathology and Pathological Anatomy. There is more, however, it appears, in contemplation. Should an agreement be come to between the College and the Royal Infirmary, the professor would have certain duties in connexion with the pathological department of the infirmary, whereby he would be responsible for the conduct of necropsies and other matters incidental thereto.

Progress is reported in respect of the new infirmary. The Board of Management has referred the tenders for the work of clearing the Stanley Grove estate to the Estates Subcommittee to accept a tender and proceed with the operations. The Board has accepted estimates for a chapel to be built in connexion with the hospital at Cheadle at a cost of £3,122. The infirmary has received a legacy of £1,000 under the will of the late Mr. Frederick Midgley, of Manchester and Huddersfield, and another of £500 under the will of Mr. James Jewitt.

It appears that the Manchester Corporation was the first, and is still the only corporation which has arranged citizens' life-saving classes. The number of pupils exceeds 500, and the tuition has been given at the public baths. Instructors and books are provided free by the Corporation. Nearly 300 of those who were trained acquitted themselves successfully. The object of the training is to encourage the cultivation of the art of swimming. The Corporation offers special inducements to scholars, and awards a free ticket to those who succeed in gaining the Life-saving Society's proficiency certificate. Special advantages are also offered to policemen and firemen—qualification for the Life-saving Society's proficiency certificate entitles them to free admission to the baths as long as they remain in the employment of the Corporation.

The past has an inveterate tendency to remain in the present, and of this there are few more striking examples than those that exist in connexion with insanitary property, which is not only an evil in itself, but a source of danger to the community. The Health Committee of Salford recommended the Council of the borough to issue a closing order in respect of certain dwelling-houses, on the ground that they were unfit for human habitation. A sharp distinction must be drawn between a "closing order," and one for demolition. What was asked for was a closing order to

compel the owners to put the houses into a sanitary condition. This is the condition of the houses—as set forth by the advocate of the motion—which seems to afford ample justification for the recommendations of the medical officer and his staff.

The houses in certain streets were of the back-to-back type, and to thirty-two houses there were only nine closets. Ten of the houses were not supplied with internal water fittings, and the houses were very dark. In Frederick and Back Frederick Streets the houses were also back to back, and two closets served for twelve houses. Access to these closets was by a covered passage, and along with the ashpits they were fixed under the bedrooms. Other of the houses were back to back and also had ashplaces under the bedrooms.

If confirmation be needed it is supplied by the remarks of another councillor, who stated that in the districts concerned the death-rate was 30.7 per 1,000, as against 14.7 in Broughton; while the death-rate for infants under 1 year of age was 223 per 1,000, as compared with 123 in Broughton. In one of these houses lived a man and his wife and his four children, the "accommodation" consisting of a kitchen and one bedroom. "The water-tap was under the stairs, and it dripped on the flags placed beneath it, causing a bad smell." The resolution was carried.

LIVERPOOL.

Summer Post-graduate Courses.—Proposed Appointment of an Assistant Gynaecological Surgeon to the Royal Infirmary.—District Nursing.—The Expedition to the Congo for the Study of Sleeping Sickness.

THE Faculty of Medicine in the University has issued a prospectus of two comprehensive courses of post-graduate lectures and demonstrations, one of which will be given in June and July and the other in August. Both courses will cover laboratory and clinical work, and practitioners can take out as many of the subjects as they desire. The first course is arranged to meet the convenience of practitioners in the neighbourhood; the second is intended especially for practitioners who may desire to spend some time in Liverpool for the purpose of study. The laboratory work, which will be carried out in the laboratories of the University, will include morbid anatomy and general pathology, bacteriology, biochemistry, haematology, parasitology, electrical methods and ophthalmoscopy; the clinical work, which will be carried out in the general and special hospitals recognized by the University for clinical instruction, will consist of lectures and demonstrations by members of the various staffs. The classes in June and July will meet once or twice a week, but in August the classes will run on from day to day, so as to cover as much ground as possible in a short space of time. The laboratory course will run from August 2nd till August 13th inclusive and the hospital course from August 16th till August 27th inclusive. Further information may be obtained on application to the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine.

A proposal is on foot to increase the staff of the Royal Infirmary by appointing an assistant gynaecological surgeon. When the present building was opened, in 1892, there was only one assistant honorary officer—an assistant surgeon. Next year an assistant physician was appointed and two more assistant surgeons, and a few years later a second assistant physician. The work of the institution has kept pace with the increase of the staff, who have always abundance of work to do. The gynaecological department, internal and external, has shared in the general growth of the hospital, and the time has come when it is considered desirable to provide further help in carrying on the work. The Medical Board and the Committee have agreed on the desirability of appointing an assistant surgeon to the department, but before this can be done a meeting of the trustees must be called to make certain changes in the laws of the institution. |

The system of district nursing, which has now spread throughout the country, took its rise in Liverpool in the early Sixties, owing to the initiative of the late Mr. William Rathbone. For many years the district nursing was carried on in connexion with the Royal Infirmary School of Nursing, but in 1898 the work was taken over by the Queen Victoria District Nursing Association. Since that time the work of the Association has undergone a large increase. Thus in 1898 there were 27 district nurses, who attended 5,269 cases, and last year there were 45 nurses, and the cases dealt with numbered 7,349. In addition to this the Association has established a system of school nursing, in connexion with which no less than 53,675 dressings were made last year. The growth of the city and the removal of a large working-

class population to what were recently rural districts have made it essential that new nursing centres should be established if the sick poor are to be effectually attended to. The Association is unfortunately in debt to the extent of £1,200, but, owing to a generous offer of £600 from Mr. John Rankin and to the assistance of other friends of the Association, it has been possible to open a new home in the Old Swan district, which will be worked by a matron and three nurses. The building was lately opened formally by the Lady Mayoress. Mr. Meade-King, who was one of the speakers, drew attention to the support which was being given to the hospitals by the working men of Liverpool, and said that he looked forward to the time when the hospitals would be maintained by the City, and subscriptions would be set free for the support of institutions like the District Nursing Homes.

A communication has been received in Liverpool with regard to the Congo Expedition, which the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine dispatched to the Free State, at the request of the King of the Belgians, for the purpose of studying trypanosomiasis and sleeping sickness, in the autumn of 1903. The expedition consists of Dr. J. E. Dutton and Dr. J. L. Todd, who formed the recent trypanosomiasis expedition of the school to Senegambia, and Dr. C. Christy, who was a member of the Royal Society's Commission sent to Uganda to study sleeping sickness. The expedition left England early in September last and proceeded direct to Boma, where it stayed till the end of the year. At Boma the Belgian authorities attached a State medical officer, Dr. Heiberg, to the expedition. Dr. Heiberg was at one time a student of the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine. After six weeks spent at Boma the members of the expedition proceeded by various routes to Leopoldville. A stay of over four months was made at Leopoldville, where the Government placed a spacious bungalow at the disposal of the expedition, and subsequently built a hospital for the special study of cases of sleeping sickness. Thanks to this, the members of the expedition were enabled to make careful observations extending over several months, under the most favourable conditions possible, and to work without encountering the obstacles so frequently met with by expeditions in similar climes. As the cases of sickness were very numerous, a great amount of material was available, and the expedition was able to study closely all the different types of cases. The expedition speaks in the highest terms of the unflinching courtesy and ready assistance it has received everywhere from the Belgian officials of every grade.

BIRMINGHAM.

Sir Robert Ball's Address at the University.—The Resignation of Dr. Rickards.—The Queen's Hospital.

A MEETING of the Guild of Undergraduates was held in the medical theatre of the University of June 2nd for the purpose of hearing an address by Sir Robert Ball, who is the Warden of the guild, having succeeded Lord Avebury. The subject of Sir Robert Ball's address was a consideration of the time during which the sun had been dispensing its beams and the time the earth had lasted as a globe in anything like its present condition. He pointed out how vast was the amount of time that geologists thought necessary for the great work of shaping the earth and the enormous period required by the biologists for the production of all the animals and plants by the action of evolution. Sir Robert Ball said the time that the sun had been shining seem to be the limit of the possible time that there could have been life upon the earth, but that, calculated from its present rate of contraction, the sun could not have been dispensing its beams for a sufficient length of time to meet the demands of geologists and biologists. This led Sir Robert to speak of radium, and he remarked that although the evidence as to the presence of radium in the sun was a little uncertain, yet the energy contained by this substance was so enormously great that he thought there were various ways by which it was possible to get over the tremendous difficulty of the discrepancy between the figures of the astronomers and those of the geologists. The address was greatly appreciated by a large gathering of undergraduates and their friends.

At a meeting of the Board of Management of the General Hospital, on June 3rd, the resignation of Dr. Edwin Rickards, senior physician to the hospital, was announced. Dr. Rickards has been associated with the hospital for about 35 years, as he was appointed resident registrar and pathologist in 1870, and his resignation was received with the sincerest

regret, not only on account of the great skill he has shown and the attention he has devoted to the patients under his care, but also on account of his ever-courteous manner and the untiring interest he has shown in the welfare of the institution. A resolution was unanimously passed, expressing the regret of the members of the Board of Management upon the resignation of Dr. Rickards, and it was further resolved at the next meeting of the governors to recommend, in consideration of the eminent services rendered to the institution during the last thirty years by Dr. Rickards, that he be appointed Consulting Physician to the hospital.

The Queen's Hospital has received a sum of £230 from the National Trades Exhibition, which has been held in Bingley Hall during the last ten weeks. The gift is 5 per cent. of the gross gate money, and is slightly more in amount than that received from this source by the hospital in 1903. During the last six years similar sums have been given to the hospital by the manager of this exhibition, the total amount received being nearly £1,600.

NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE.

New Infirmary Buildings.—Durham College of Science.—New Laboratories, College of Medicine.—Death of Mr. Weston, Royal Infirmary Dispenser.—Death of Dr. Mann, of Washington.—Bridge Construction and Caisson Disease.—Extensions of City Infectious Hospital.

THE building of the new infirmary on the Leazes continues to make satisfactory and rapid progress. For the last few months the Nurses' Home has been roofed in, and it was hoped that the home would have been ready for occupation next month, but a good deal of internal decorative work must be done and fittings put in before the nurses can occupy the building. The five pavilions of the infirmary proper are roofed in, and at the present time the administrative block is being rapidly proceeded with. It will, however, be fully eighteen months yet before the infirmary will be ready to receive patients. It is a matter of regret that the Corporation and Freemen of Newcastle did not give a larger piece of ground. The want of this to some extent mars the effect of the building.

Within a stone's throw of the new infirmary, and commanding an admirable view of the Leazes, is the University of Durham College of Science. Extensions are at present in progress which will cost nearly £70,000. When the final wing is completed the College will, so far as structural appearances and internal accommodation are concerned, compare most favourably with other similar institutions in the country. It says much for the position which the College occupies in the world of science that its professors and teachers should be so frequently called upon to occupy chairs in the older universities of England and Scotland.

A decision has not yet been finally arrived at in regard to the plans for the new wing at the College of Medicine in which the physiological and bacteriological laboratories are to be accommodated, and in which the Students' Union is to be housed. It is the wish of the College of Medicine to provide laboratories built on the most modern lines which will fulfil all teaching requirements for many years to come. With these objects in view the architects have visited the laboratories of other schools.

Old students of the Royal Infirmary will read with deep regret the announcement of the death of Mr. Weston, who for the last twenty-two years has occupied the post of head dispenser at the Infirmary. He was a faithful servant to the committee, courteous to the patients, and kind and helpful to the students when learning their practical pharmacy. For the last few months he had been in indifferent health, and had been under the care of Dr. Beattie and Dr. Limont. The cause of death was uraemic coma.

A well-known figure in the county of Durham has just been removed by the death of Charles F. G. Mann, M.B., C.M., of Washington, at Craig Lutha, Dulnain Bridge, Strathspey, N.B., whither he had gone on account of his health. Energetic, and always fully occupied in the large practice—private and colliery—which he had made for himself in Washington, Dr. Mann's health a few months ago became a cause for some anxiety. On consulting his medical friends, Professor Oliver and Mr. Walter Ridley of Newcastle, who found evidence of tuberculous throat and lung disease, he was advised to relinquish his practice and seek rest and life in the open air. He did not long survive his retirement from practice. Dr. Mann

was in his 39th year when he died. He will be much missed in the neighbourhood where he worked, for he was an enthusiastic Volunteer, a good ambulance instructor, and could always be relied upon to support the various sports in his district. Few local charitable objects were ever brought before him without receiving his financial help. Dr. Mann leaves a widow, but no family.

With the new high-level railway bridge which is to span the Tyne rapid progress continues to be made. At the present time the foundations of the principal pier are in course of progress. Considering the large number of men that are employed, the depth at which they are working below high-water level mark, and the pressure employed, it is to the credit of the Cleveland Bridge Company that there have been so few cases of caisson disease and ordinary surgical accidents. There have been no fatal cases of caisson disease; of the half a dozen patients admitted into the infirmary, only in one man were the symptoms at all severe.

Small-pox lingers on in Tyneside. From time to time patients are still being sent into the small-pox hospitals in Newcastle, Gateshead, and elsewhere. The difficulty of stamping out the disease is greater than was at one time anticipated. In connexion with this and with infectious diseases generally the subject of hospital extension was discussed by the Newcastle City Council last week, and a decision of great importance to the district was reached. Alderman Henry Newton, who is a medical practitioner, in moving the adoption of the report of the Sanitary Committee recommending an extension of the hospital for infectious diseases at Walker, pointed out that when in 1888 the present hospital was built the population of the city was 159,000; to-day it is 220,000, and the prospects of a considerable increase are immediate, as it is proposed to incorporate some of the outlying townships. It is desirable to bring the hospital accommodation up to 208 beds and to provide in addition accommodation for 38 nurses. Dr. Adam Wilson, in seconding the motion, wisely remarked that, while there would be no financial return for the expenditure, the citizens of Newcastle would have one of the best assets possible. The proposal was unanimously adopted by the City Council.

SOUTH WALES.

The Housing Question in Merthyr.—Infectious Diseases.

THE Merthyr Board of Guardians have decided to call the attention of the Merthyr District Council to what they consider to be the frightful state of housing of the poor of the parish. It was stated that the parish was the worst slum district in Wales. We do not believe that this is so, nor that the District Council is so utterly indifferent to its responsibilities, as some of its critics try to make out. It has been doing excellent work for some time past, in the matter of the conversion of unwholesome dens into habitable dwellings. It is important that medical officers of health in counties and county boroughs should emphasize to their respective authorities the urgent need of putting into force the means at their disposal for remedying this evil, which causes such terrible loss of life and impairment of the physique of workmen and their children. Some, and amongst these, the Medical Officer for Merthyr, have been very active in this direction; but others content themselves with pressing forward substitutes for healthy houses in the form of isolation hospitals, sanatoria, etc. The action taken by the Merthyr Board of Guardians may be advantageously followed by other local bodies, and by the members of the Glamorgan County Council in particular. The Sanitary Committee of this body meets this week, and on the agenda, strange to say, there is no reference to housing questions, but the provision of isolation hospitals—as to the value of which eminent experts are, to say the least, extremely doubtful—occupies a very prominent place. This is by no means worthy of a body possessing such a preponderating progressive majority as the Glamorgan County Council.

Two cases of small-pox were notified at Cardiff during the week ended June 4th. A few weeks ago five cases were notified during one week; these were isolated and one proved fatal. All the cases were traced to the same source, and it is hoped that through the incessant vigilance of the sanitary officials the outbreak is now at an end. A localized outbreak of typhoid fever occurred some time ago at Fochriw, a parish of Gelligaer, which the medical officer of health attributed to the exposure of infected blankets contaminating the milk in a house.