

ending October 14th the mortality-rate (reduced to an annual rate per mille) was 430.8, the worst week in Bombay similarly expressed showing 257.17. From a more recent issue of our contemporary we gather that by the first week of December the Bombay mortality-rate had fallen to the normal level, the total deaths for that week amounting to 590, an annual rate per mille of 31.32.

The Hunterian Oration will be delivered before the Royal College of Surgeons of England at 4 p.m. on February 14th by Major-General Sir Anthony A. Bowlby, K.C.M.G., K.C.V.O., C.B., A.M.S.

The French Académie des Sciences has elected Major-General Sir David Bruce, K.C.B., F.R.S., to be a foreign correspondent in the Section of Medicine and Surgery. The election was made at the first scrutiny, when Sir David Bruce received 26 out of 32 votes.

HAVING completed twenty years' service on the full staff of St. George's Hospital, Sir Humphry Rolleston, K.C.B., has, according to the regulations, ceased to be physician. Instead of automatically becoming consulting physician, which up to the present time has been the unbroken rule, the house committee of the hospital, on the recommendation of his colleagues, has appointed him Emeritus Physician for his lifetime, with the privilege of using cases in the wards for clinical teaching.

A SPECIAL CLINICAL MEETING OF THE BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

London, April, 1919.

THE customary annual meeting of the British Medical Association for the discussion of clinical and scientific subjects has not been held during the last four years. The war began immediately after the annual general meeting at Aberdeen in July, 1914; it had been arranged that the meeting in the following year should take place in Cambridge under the presidency of Sir Clifford Allbutt, Regius Professor of Physic in the University. The immense strain upon the medical profession produced by the war rendered it inadvisable to attempt to hold an annual meeting in 1915, and the University of Cambridge was so denuded of staff and accommodation that it would have been unable to maintain the invitation, even if it had been considered wise to hold a meeting at all. The question of when the next annual general meeting should be held has been under consideration since the suspension of hostilities, but Sir Clifford Allbutt has been compelled to say that Cambridge would not be able to arrange for a meeting to be held there this summer, as it would be hopeless to expect university work to be in going order so soon. He was, however, able to add that Cambridge looked forward to entertaining the Association in 1920. In these circumstances the suggestion arose that a special meeting might be arranged by the Association this year for the discussion of clinical and scientific subjects, but on a smaller scale as to sections than at a fully organized annual meeting.

This suggestion was cordially approved by the President, and at a meeting at the house of the Association on January 14th he was able to lay the proposition before the Director-General of the Army Medical Service and representatives of the Medical Service R.N., of the Air Force Medical Service, of the Medical Services of Dominion Forces, and of the United States. With Sir Clifford Allbutt at this meeting were the Chairman of Council, the Chairman of the Representative Meeting, and the Treasurer. Sir Clifford Allbutt, in opening the proceedings, said that the British Medical Association, in common with other scientific bodies, felt that the time had come to relay old tracks and make plans for reconstruction, but he added that for the reasons already mentioned

it had not been considered advisable to hold a full-dress meeting this year. The suggestion that a short scientific meeting should be held this year in London, without any attempt at a large organization or elaborate entertainments, had much to commend it. The idea was that the opportunity should be taken to set forth the work done during the war, and that every effort should be made to secure the presence of the leaders of medical and scientific work in the forces before they returned to civilian duties in different parts of the world.

Dr. J. A. Macdonald, Chairman of Council, said that the main object of such a meeting would be to bring together British workers at home and from the Dominions and medical visitors from the United States, to garner the knowledge and ideas from those who during recent troubled years had studied war medicine and surgery from many points of view. The independent criticisms of overseas workers would be particularly helpful and stimulating. The object of the meeting was to obtain the views of those best acquainted with the circumstances as to the feasibility of holding such a meeting, and as to the most appropriate date.

Lieut.-General Sir John Goodwin, K.C.B., D.G. A.M.S., expressed the opinion that it was most desirable that such a congress should be held. A great amount of scientific work of the highest value had been done during the war, and the results obtained were now being analysed. It would be an immense advantage for the cards to be put on the table, so that what had been done could be examined by all. In this way knowledge would be furthered, and the water-tight compartments between individual workers and groups of workers might be broken down. He undertook that all possible facilities should be given to assemble research workers from the forces overseas. It was reported that a letter had been received from Lieut.-General Sir C. H. Burtchaell, K.C.B., D.G.M.S. France, stating that the proposal had his entire sympathy, and that he would be glad to co-operate in any way which might be in his power.

Colonel A. M. Whaley, United States liaison medical officer with the War Office, welcomed the idea most heartily on behalf of the American medical officers serving in Europe. Surgeon Commander D. W. Hewitt, C.M.G., A.D.G. R.N., said that Sir William Norman, the Medical Director-General, R.N., was much interested in the proposal, and desired to promote it in every way; and Colonel C. T. M. de Crespigny, D.S.O., A.A.M.C., Colonel R. D. Rudolph, C.A.M.C., and Lieut.-Colonel Bernard Myers, N.Z.A.M.C., spoke on behalf of the Australian, Canadian, and New Zealand Army Medical Services, in support of the project, which, they said, would strongly appeal to Dominion medical officers. All were agreed that such a meeting would be of the utmost value in crystallizing the knowledge gained during the war. In view of the approaching departure of many medical officers, the opinion was expressed that the meeting should be held as soon as possible.

Colonel J. G. Adami, C.A.M.C., agreed with Sir Clifford Allbutt that the main feature of the meeting might well consist of general reviews of the work done and its results, followed by discussions. Lieut.-Colonel T. D. Barry, R.A.F., who represented the Medical Administrator of the Royal Air Force, supported the opinion that the meeting should take place early, on the ground that the workers were now full of their subjects, and their experience was still fresh in their minds.

It was provisionally agreed that the meeting should be held early in April, and should last two or three days. A General Committee was appointed, together with two subcommittees, one to make general arrangements and the other to draft a programme of scientific work. Letters approving the proposal have been received from Sir William Osler, Regius Professor of Medicine, Oxford, and Major-General Sir Robert Jones, C.B., Inspector of Special Military Surgery.