

## BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

## SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 1887.

SUBSCRIPTIONS to the Association for 1887 became due on January 1st. Members of Branches are requested to pay the same to their respective Secretaries. Members of the Association not belonging to Branches are requested to forward their remittances to the General Secretary, 429, Strand, London. Post-office orders should be made payable at the West Central District Office, High Holborn.

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 The British Medical Journal.
 

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SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29th, 1887.

 THE COLLEGE OF SURGEONS AND THE PRIVILEGES  
OF ITS COMMONALTY.

WE have received a pamphlet containing and commenting on the petition lodged with the Privy Council by 5,000 Members of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, in opposition to the proposals of the Council as to the issue of a new charter. The pamphlet is a simple and temperate statement of the recent history of an agitation which bids fair to be historic. After reciting the terms of the petition, it goes on to state that the proceedings at the special meeting of March 24th, 1884, at which a resolution was passed that there should be "an annual meeting of the Fellows and Members, at which the annual report of the Council should be presented, received, and adopted," that "no alteration in the constitution of the College should be effected without the consent of the Members," and that "the charter should be so altered as to give effect to these resolutions;" and it describes the formation of a Members' Association, and their request that the Council should admit a representation of the Members, which was met by an absolute negative on November 19th, 1885. Before this a second general meeting had been held on October 29th, at which a resolution in favour of petitioning Parliament and the Crown for the protection of the rights which the Council refused to recognise, was carried by a large majority. Thereafter, at the further general meeting on December 17th, 1885, the Council presented its reply, insisting upon what it called "the exclusive right" of the Fellows; and after a further meeting, in which Mr. Holmes carried a definite proposal for the reform of the Council, there followed on the one hand the polling of the Fellows by the authority of the Council, and on the other the collection of signatures among the Members to the petition already referred to, which was lodged with the Privy Council in May of the present year with 4,665 signatures appended. Having stated these matters, the pamphlet very pertinently closes with a reference to the refusal of Parliament in 1797 to sanction a proposal of a very similar kind promoted by the autocracy then existing, although the Crown, less careful at that time of corporate liberties than even the House of Lords, overruled the decision of Parliament by issuing the charter of 1800.

Our readers will remember that we printed, some time ago, an elaborate legal statement as to the true relations of the ordinary Members to the constitution of the College, and that we then gave reasons for saying, on competent legal authority, that even in spite of the retrograde legislation contained in the later charters, the Members

still constituted the corporate body, for whom the Council could in no case be more than managing trustees. It is obvious, indeed, to any one who seriously considers the evidence relating to the real constitution and character of the ancient corporation, that its very essence was the idea of a "fraternity." Like all the other Guilds which played so important and so valuable a part in the organisation of mediæval polity, it was in its origin a self-governing republic. Its business was transacted at mass meetings, which all the Guild brothers were not only entitled, but bound to attend. At these its presidents were elected, its ordinances enacted, and its accounts controlled. Its moneys formed a common chest, and its main end and power was that of mutual support. And as it was then, so, with little essential alteration, it continued to be, until the period when all the guilds, and companies, and corporations deteriorated into that condition of irresponsible oligarchy, the evil effects of which are to be seen "writ large" in the startling Parliamentary Reports concerning the rotten boroughs, which preceded the Municipal Corporations Reform Act.

We are far from saying that the present or recent management of the College of Surgeons in any way resembles the abuses which prevailed in all such bodies at the end of the last and the beginning of the present century. But as the present question is merely a new case of the old contest between privilege and popular control, it is necessary to remind those who now attempt to insist upon exclusive prerogatives as a "legal right," that their legal position, so far as charters and ordinances go, is no better than the legal position of a hundred close corporations of all kinds throughout the country, who defended by charters, equally respectable, pretensions absolutely monstrous. In the present case, we have no wish to deny a fair hearing to any arguments of policy or public advantage that may be advanced in favour of confining a monopoly of seats and votes to the special class of the Commonalty who have obtained the Fellowship. But it is not seriously pretended that upon these grounds anyone would at the present day propose to deny to the great body of the Members, standing as they do in vital relation to the practical interests of the profession and the practical wants of the public, some voice in the administration of their own college. We understand that the opponents of this reform put it as a matter of right. Their monopoly they say *belongs* to them. It has even been contended that the Council would be entitled, if it chose, to refuse to the Members the right to meet in their own College. Our answer on this head is twofold; we maintain, first of all, that on a just consideration of the constitution and records of the College, the Council, even under the present arrangement, has no such "legal right" at all, and in the second place, we maintain that if it had received from modern charters any claim to assert such a position at law, neither public opinion, nor Parliament, nor the Crown ought to respect it. There is not the slightest disposition on the part of the Members who are interested in the present agitation to deny to the Fellows their fair share of power and consideration. What the Members demand is that they themselves shall not be ignored; and it is impossible to believe that the Parliament of 1887 will be less willing to listen to their appeal than the Parliament of 1797. Lord Thurlow, than whom there could be no better judge of the legal rights involved, said of them at that time that the Members had great cause to complain—that they had been too long trampled underfoot, and that they had "the strongest title in the world" to have their complaints heard with patience and attention. Their claim is not less valid now. In the

universal extension of all franchises, the denial of self-government to a body so obviously capable of managing its own affairs becomes every day a more flagrant anomaly. The Council has appealed to Cæsar. We hope it is still possible that it may be induced to accept some reasonable settlement; but, in the meanwhile, it is for the Members to see that the case is not allowed to go by default, for there can be little doubt that the more the facts are known, the more impossible will the success of the ill-advised policy of the Council become.

#### THE HISTORY OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE FELLOWS' AND MEMBERS' ASSOCIATIONS.

Now that the meeting of Fellows and Members is drawing near, we may profitably take a glance through recent years in order to review the progress of organisation amongst those who hold diplomas from the College of Surgeons. Yielding to prolonged pressure from without, the Council summoned the first meeting on March 24th, 1884. This meeting was convened for the purpose of reporting to the Fellows and Members certain proposed alterations in the charter of the College which had received the approval of the Council, and also in order to enable the Fellows and Members to bring forward such suggestions with regard to the management of the affairs of the College, and to make such recommendations as might seem expedient to them. At this meeting, amongst other things, it was proposed that the charter be so altered as to empower the Council to determine the conditions of admission to the Fellowship by resolutions and not by by-laws, so as to bring the proceedings into harmony with those concerning the admission of Members. Nearly all the other resolutions were of a similar kind, the principle of their proposition being that the Council should not apply for a new charter or for any change in a charter without consulting the Fellows and Members at a general meeting. This principle (on which the Fellows and Members will insist at the coming meeting) represented that pressure from without to which the Council had yielded by summoning the meeting.

In August, 1882, an Association of Fellows of the College had been formed; in April, 1883, its Committee issued a circular in the sense just indicated; the Fellows were urged, in fact, to press the Council for a voice in any modification of the charter, and for the right of proposing any modification. At the general meeting in March, 1884, this principle was urged, as we have already noted, and the necessity of an annual meeting was insisted upon. This bore good fruit, and now meetings for the consideration of a report presented by the Council to the Fellows and Members are recognised institutions. At the meeting in March, 1884, the original resolution to this effect would have limited this privilege to the Fellows, who further claimed the right of electing the President at an annual meeting. Partly stimulated by the meeting itself, partly by the resolution just mentioned—which seemed a piece of usurpation on the part of the Fellows—the Members immediately proceeded to form an association of their own, to obtain a voice in the management of the College, and to promote the dignity and value of the diploma of Member. At its very first meeting on April 30th, 1884, these principles were set forth. At another, on June 11th, co-operation with the Association of Fellows was advocated, in particular reference to proposals for another general meeting at the College. In the meantime, the first Association of Fellows had ceased to exist, the provincial element having prevailed in it, perhaps, more than was advisable; on its

ashes the present Association of Fellows arose, and was duly organised by London and provincial Fellows, on June 12th, 1884. In the autumn of 1884, the Members' Association petitioned the Prime Minister for the representation of registered medical practitioners in Parliament; the Fellows' Association presented to the Council of the College of Surgeons a report on matters relating to the charters and by-laws of the College; the Council rejected nearly all the recommendations in the report. The principle that the Fellows and Members should have a voice in the framing of new charters and by-laws, and that the Members should be allowed representation, was maintained by the two Associations. Throughout the year 1885, reports were sent up by the Associations to the Council, or even deputations from the former met sub-committees of the latter; the reports were put before the Council at ordinary or special meetings with one result, the declaration that nothing could be done. A bad impression was made when it was noted how the Council systematically referred the reports and deputations to sub-committees composed of two or three surgeons opposed to reform, or placed too high above their brethren to sympathise with the desires of the rank and file of the profession. On October 29th, 1885, a general meeting was summoned, the Fellows and Members first receiving a report of the transactions of the Council for the past year, with a financial statement. This practice of laying a report of this kind before Fellows and Members was a great and beneficial innovation, clearly the result of the decided action by the Associations. At this October meeting the Members, headed by Mr. Gamgee, vigorously pressed for representative rights, and the Fellows and Members urged that any proposed alteration in College laws should be submitted to a general meeting before the Council applied for a new charter. Let it be noted that these two claims are to be pressed next week. At the October, 1885, meeting the Fellows and Members respectfully asked the Council that a reply should be made to their demands within a reasonable period. Another general meeting was therefore held on December 17th, 1885; the Council reported that it could not agree to the requests of the Associations, but the Fellows and Members determined to persist in their just demands.

Once more came a period of reports and deputations, till at the next general meeting, on November 4th, 1886, Mr. Holmes, in consequence of a firm alliance between the Associations, moved a resolution in favour of the representation of Members and their right to seats on the Council, under certain restrictions; this resolution is printed in full in a paragraph on the Association in the present number of the JOURNAL. The resolution was carried, as was another, moved by Dr. Ralph Gooding, in favour of occasional conferences between sub-committees of the Council and representatives of the Associations and also of Fellows and Members who prefer to act independently of the Associations. We have already reviewed the Report of the Council, which will be considered at the coming general meeting, and publish elsewhere an analysis of its income and expenditure. We may specially note, however, the remarkable circular issued to Fellows, on the proposed extension of the franchise to Members, and on the right of Members to be directly represented on the Council. The Fellows, of course, rejected the proposals. The Association of Fellows pressed the Council once more, in April, 1887, on the question of calling general meetings to consider draft charters, and the Council evaded the difficulty by refusing to call a meeting to consider a draft then in hand, on the plea that its contents had

already been discussed at previous general meetings. At all these meetings, nobody on the Council spoke except the President. The Associations remain inflexible, and once more, next week, they will insist upon the two disputed points, the representation of Members and the reference of drafts for charters to general meetings, and in these reasonable demands there can be little doubt that the independent Fellows and Members will support them.

#### AN ARCHITECTS' REGISTRATION BILL.

LORD RANDOLPH CHURCHILL, with his customary Bismarckian bluntness, has been saying some very uncomplimentary things at Newcastle about architecture. The state of architecture, he declared, is not satisfactory; it makes no progress; nay, it is declining. The Houses of Parliament, he said, cost three millions of money, and are utterly unsuited to the purpose for which they were built. The Law Courts in London, which cost about the same amount of money, are dark, inconvenient, and so full of blasts of wind that lawyers and litigants endure a degree of "Gothic cold" unsuited to the civilised inhabitants of nineteenth century houses; but he might have made his indictment much stronger by describing the serious sanitary defects so often discovered not only in great public buildings, such as the Palace of Westminster, but also in ordinary residences in town and country. It is not merely that we are now discovering the defects of old houses, but that new houses, of all kinds, big and little, artistic and commonplace, are continually being erected, under the direction of architects, in which most grave sanitary defects are subsequently discovered. This simple statement has often been made before, and has never been refuted, for it can be established by irrefragable testimony; but it is often contradicted. Mr. H. Romieu Gough, Chairman of the Architects' Registration Act Committee, has, however, freely admitted the truth of the charge "that very many so-called architects are utterly ignorant of the most elementary laws of sanitation, and.....may and do, by their want of knowledge, cause serious risk to the lives of their clients; besides putting them often to large and grossly unnecessary expense." He maintains that it is only the "so-called architects," the pretenders to the art, who perpetrate these blunders, and the remedy proposed is an Act of Parliament requiring every architect, civil engineer, or surveyor in *bond fide* practice to be registered, and compelling every future candidate for admission to their ranks to undergo a qualifying examination.

The draft Bill which has been printed, is obviously framed on the same lines as the legislation which regulates the practice of medicine; it would create a "General Council of Architectural, Civil Engineering, and Surveying Education and Registration of the United Kingdom," with branch Councils in England, Scotland, and Wales. Its members would be partly nominated by the Crown, partly appointed by such bodies as the Universities, the Royal Academy, the Royal Institute of British Architects, and the Institution of Civil Engineers, and partly elected directly by registered practitioners. The Bill would provide for the registration of the Fellows, Members, and Associates of existing Architectural, Civil Engineering, or Surveying Institutions of good repute, and of other persons in actual practice at the time it became law. After that date it would be necessary to pass a special qualifying examination, held for that purpose by a University, College, or professional association, the General Council being charged to settle a standard of proficiency, and to appoint inspectors to see that the standard is maintained. Only registered persons would be able to

recover charges in the law courts, to hold public appointments, and to sign certificates for official or legal purposes.

The candidate would be required to pass an examination in architecture, civil engineering, or (not *and*) surveying. "The standard of proficiency required from candidates at the said qualifying examination shall be such as sufficiently to guarantee the possession of the knowledge and skill requisite for the efficient practice of architecture, civil engineering, or surveying respectively." What is meant by "the efficient practice of architecture?" That is the question which most nearly concerns us; the prime purpose of a house is to maintain the health and prolong the life of man by sheltering him from the inclemency of the elements; but we may pay too dearly for our shelter, as surgeons suddenly discovered when it was proved that wounded men and fever patients recovered in greater numbers in roughly built huts, than in closely sealed hospitals. Unless the architect thoroughly understands sanitary laws, and has provided for the swift and complete removal of all excretory and decomposable material, and the complete isolation from foul drains, the house we live in is a constant source of danger to health and life. Let us first have well-planned and well-laid drains, and good construction of the frame of the house, then by all means as much external and internal beauty as the most cultivated taste can design.

What guarantee is there that under this Bill, if it ever becomes an Act, architects will be better acquainted with sanitation or more deeply impressed by its importance? From beginning to end of the draft Bill there is no mention of the necessity for such knowledge; all would depend upon the interpretation put upon its duties in this direction by the General Council, and it will be said that the eminence and experience of the Councillors would be sufficient guarantee. Unfortunate and oft-repeated bitter experience has taught the medical profession and sanitary workers that artistic eminence is no guarantee that a house will be built with sound sanitary arrangements. Even if care is taken in the plan, there is too often a want of supervision in its execution, and builders or builders' workmen find opportunities to scamp their work. There is happily reason to believe that an improvement is taking place, that the work of our medical officers of health, and of such bodies as the Sanitary Institute and the Parkes Museum, are beginning to bear fruit, and that a generation of architects is coming into practice who recognise the value and the importance of the sanitary part of domestic architecture. For more than half a century we have been building houses hideous without and within, and which have not even the negative merit of being free from serious danger to health. If the proposed Bill resulted in the formation of a body of architects capable of building houses at once beautiful and healthy, it would confer a great boon on mind and body.

DR. GERVIS has been appointed Consulting Obstetric Physician to St. Thomas's Hospital.

DR. SAMUEL WILKS, F.R.S., has been nominated by the Senate as Representative of the University of London on the General Medical Council.

AN outbreak of malignant enteric fever is reported to have taken place at the military headquarters, Newcastle, Jamaica. There have been already several deaths, including that of Captain Ogle, of the Commissariat and Transport Department.

THE late Mr. Hugh McCalmont, of Grosvenor Place, who was during his life a liberal supporter of St. George's Hospital, has crowned his generosity by a munificent legacy of £100,000 to the hospital.

DR. SYDNEY RINGER, F.R.S., Holme Professor of Clinical Medicine in University College, London, will deliver an address on "The Antagonism of Drugs," before the Midland Medical Society, on November 9th.

WE learn, on inquiry, that the Right Hon. David Plunket, M.P., who has been suffering from a severe attack of rheumatic fever, complicated by gout, is making satisfactory progress, and that his medical advisers, Dr. Quain and Dr. C. T. Williams, are enabled to pronounce him convalescent.

THE annual dinner of the Guy's Hospital Universities Club will take place at the Holborn Restaurant, on Monday, November 21st, at 7.30 P.M. Old Guy's men, belonging to either Oxford or Cambridge University, who may wish to be present, should notify the same to A. S. Taylor, Guy's Hospital. Professor Reinold, F.R.S., will occupy the chair.

SIR JAMES PAGET will deliver the Morton Lecture on Cancer and Cancerous Diseases at the College of Surgeons on Friday, November 11th, at 4 P.M. Sir Joseph Lister will deliver the Bradshawe Lecture on Wednesday, December 7th, at the same place and at the same hour in the afternoon.

HER Royal Highness Princess Beatrice, Princess Henry of Battenberg, was safely delivered of a daughter on Monday afternoon, October 24th, at Balmoral. Dr. John Williams and Dr. Reid were in attendance. Her Royal Highness and the infant princess are doing very well. It is the first instance of a member of the Royal Family being born in Scotland since the year 1600.

#### THE LATE DR. FAUVEL'S LIBRARY.

THE library of the late Dr. S. Fauvel, of Paris, Inspector-General of the Sanitary Services in France, is to be sold. The sale will take place on Monday, November 7th, and the three following days, at 8 P.M., at 28, Rue des Bons-Enfants, Salle Sylvestre, No. 1.

#### A DANGEROUS EXAMPLE.

AN Italian paper, *La Lombardia*, quotes the following illustration of the effects of professional competition:—A doctor—we presume one qualified to kill, if not to cure—advertises: "I undertake, whenever my treatment is not followed by cure, to bear half the expenses of the funeral."

#### UNIVERSITY OF DURHAM.

THE foundation stone of the new College at Newcastle-on-Tyne, described and figured in the *JOURNAL* of last week, will be laid on Thursday, November 3rd, at 2 o'clock, by the Duke of Northumberland, K.G. A luncheon will afterwards be given at the Assembly Rooms.

#### THE GENERAL MEDICAL COUNCIL.

THE Executive Committee of the General Medical Council meets on Monday, November 21st, to make arrangements for the business to be transacted by the Council, which meets on the following day, Tuesday, November 22nd. The chief business will probably be the revision of standing orders, the consideration of cases of conduct disgraceful in a professional sense, and the question of the employment of unqualified substitutes.

#### INSPECTION OF EXAMINATIONS.

WE understand that at the recent Examination under the Conjoint Board for England, an Inspector of the General Medical Council was present, for the first time, under the new regulations. An additional

innovation was that beds were provided in the Examination Hall for patients used in the Clinical Examination.

#### ORTHOPÆDIC SURGERY AT ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL.

THE Board of Governors of St. Mary's Hospital have arranged to set apart an additional out-patient day for the treatment of cases of deformity and others which require prolonged splinting or mechanical support, and for the instruction of students in the moulding and fashioning of splints, felt jackets, etc. Mr. Walter Pye, Senior Surgeon to out-patients at this Hospital, will undertake the charge of the *clinique*.

#### SIMLA V. CALCUTTA.

THE transference of the Government offices from the hot, moist atmosphere of Calcutta to the comparatively bracing air of Simla, which has been so long talked about, is now being carried out. The first office to be permanently located in Simla is that of the Surgeon-General and Sanitary Commissioner with the Government of India; when the Surgeon-General is compelled to go to Calcutta he will be accompanied by only one clerk. Other offices will, according to the *Indian Medical Gazette*, probably follow the example thus set before long.

#### FIRE BRIGADE DRILL IN HOSPITALS.

THE nurses and servants of the Blackburn and East Lancashire Infirmary have been receiving instructions, given by an inspector, in fire brigade drill, and have been taught how to run out the hose pipes, couple and fix the pump on the hydrant, and turn on the water. Such knowledge on the part of the attendants of a public institution would be very useful in case of emergency.

#### ILLNESS OF SIR WILLIAM GULL.

THE following bulletin has been issued: "Sir W. Gull continues to make satisfactory progress. He sleeps fairly well; there is little or no rise of temperature; the power of motion has in a very large measure returned. On Monday he was moved in a chair to a larger and brighter room, and seems much benefited by the change.

Urrard, October 26th.

ROBERT IRVINE, M.B.  
T. D. AGLAND, M.D."

#### THE ACCIDENT TO PRINCE ALBERT VICTOR.

THE slight injury to the foot which Prince Albert Victor received last week in the hunting field was, we learn on the highest authority, caused by the stirrup bruising the instep, which resulted in the inflammation of the structures of that part. It is considered a matter of little importance; but it has not been thought advisable by Sir Oscar Clayton, his medical attendant, that he should join his regiment for a few days.

#### SICKNESS AT CAIRO.

IN the Citadel Hospital, at Cairo, there are said to be 44 soldiers suffering from enteric fever, 44 from common fever, and 24 from diseases common to the country. The water supply of Cairo, once trustworthy, is now poisoned near its intake, and must be regarded with the greatest distrust. A local fever not of a dangerous type is stated to be prevalent in the city, from which the Khedive, General Stephenson, Sir Edgar Vincent, and the whole staff are reported to be suffering. The cause assigned is the infiltration of the Nile and want of drainage.

#### COTTON CARGOES.

THE inquiry which has just been terminated as to the source of the fire on board the *City of Montreal* has thrown very little light on the important question of the risks which cargoes, consisting largely of cotton, entail. Dr. Dupré, F.R.S., as an expert, gave evidence that American cotton would not be liable under ordinary circumstances to undergo spontaneous combustion, but no plausible hypothesis was suggested as to the origin of the fire in the case then under consideration. Only persons who have crossed the Atlantic in one or other of the floating

palaces which now compete for passenger traffic can form an adequate idea of the risk involved by a fire in mid ocean, with a thousand or fifteen hundred passengers on board. It would be practically impossible to find accommodation for all of them on the half-dozen boats which are provided in case of accident, and the knowledge of this fact, more than any other, tends to create a panic. There must surely be means of coping with a danger such as this, and the duty and the interest of shipowners should prompt them to investigate this question, and to devise measures by which this terrible risk can be obviated, or at any rate minimised.

#### FATAL FIRES.

THE jury, in their verdict on the bodies of the three persons who met their deaths at Whiteley's premises, Westbourne Grove, on August 6th, directed attention to the present unsatisfactory state of the law in regard to fires, which did not admit of any official inquiry into the cause of any fires unless death resulted therefrom. An official inquiry into the origin and circumstances of all fires would tend to diminish their frequency, and check cases of fire resulting from carelessness. The serious danger resulting from unscientific construction, where iron-work is largely used, called, in the opinion of the jury, for immediate attention.

#### THE ENTRIES AT THE MEDICAL SCHOOLS.

WE are informed that 11 undergraduates of the University of Oxford have commenced their medical studies there this session, and that 8 have joined special classes; 29 have joined classes for instruction in the preliminary sciences, and the majority of these will doubtless proceed to the medical classes in due season. At the University of Cambridge the total number of freshmen who have announced their intention to study medicine is, up to the present time, 110. There is an error in the return from King's College, London, published last week. The number of students entering for special classes was 43, and not 11 as then stated; the total number of new medical students, therefore, at King's College is 80; in addition, 11 students have entered for classes in preliminary science. Two new students have entered for special classes at Queen's College, Birmingham. The total number of entries in England this session is over 1,000.

#### UNIVERSITY COLLEGE HOSPITAL AND ITS COLONIAL STUDENTS.

THE former students of University College Hospital, now resident in New South Wales, have shown in a practical manner their regard for their old school. On June 14th a meeting was held at the Oxford Hotel, Sydney, under the presidency of Dr. P. Sydney Jones, to inaugurate a subscription on behalf of the rebuilding fund of that institution. Advices from Dr. Collingwood, honorary secretary to the movement, announce the pleasing intelligence that over £200 has already been collected, and that steps were being taken in the neighbouring colonies to start similar funds. It was also decided to hold an annual dinner of past students on the same day as the one held in London.

#### DEATH UNDER CHLOROFORM.

A DEATH is reported from Westminster Hospital under chloroform. The patient, a young man, aged 30, was about to undergo the operation of stretching the sciatic nerve, for sciatica of long standing. Ether was given in the first instance, under the influence of which he struggled violently. On being brought into the operating theatre chloroform was administered in order to bring him well under, but almost immediately he was observed to turn pale, and both pulse and respiration ceased. The usual treatment was energetically resorted to, and artificial respiration was kept up for upwards of half an hour, but in vain. As a last resource the heart was punctured and aspirated. The circumstances were brought to the notice of the coroner, but an inquest was not considered to be necessary. It is surmised that death was due to syncope, possibly induced by the violent efforts of the patient under ether.

#### HALLS OF RESIDENCE IN CONNECTION WITH THE OWENS COLLEGE.

THE movement for founding halls of residence has not been confined to London. At Manchester, for some years past Dalton Hall, in Victoria Park, has been the home of many of the medical students of the Owens College, and now within the last twelve months a similar hall has been opened in Plymouth Grove, which, while intended for students of the Owens College of whatever faculty, has been very largely taken advantage of by students of the medical school. "Hulme Hall" is so named from its being endowed with £1,000 per annum out of the well-known Hulme Charity. It offers twenty scholarships tenable for three years at the Hall by members of the Owens College. The buildings were the gift of Sir Wm. Houldsworth, Bart., M.P. Tutorial help is given to the students by the Principal, the Rev. E. L. Hicks, M.A., assisted by tutors in mathematics and physics and in chemistry. The Hall is under the management of a Board of Governors according to the scheme of the Charity Commissioners.

#### THE REMUNERATION OF THE PROFESSION IN ITALY.

WE read in *La Lombardia* that amongst the other subjects for discussion at the Twelfth Medical Congress of Pavia are the two important ones:—1st, of professional secrecy or confidence; and 2nd, the practical one of the medico-legal tariff, which, as it stands, is called "the old and cruel question." It appears that in no civilised country in Europe are sanitary officers so badly paid as in Italy for their aid in medico-legal duties. The cost of living for a skilled expert is calculated at a franc and a half a day. In Paris the fee for a necropsy is nine francs, and in the French provinces seven francs. In Germany the tariff is about fifteen francs. In Italy medical experts ask to be allowed second-class fare for travelling, and to be allowed ten francs a day. Surely modest enough.

#### LIBRARY OF THE OPHTHALMOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

WE have received a copy of the first catalogue of the library of the above-named Society; though commenced only three or four years ago, it has already attained considerable dimensions. This is due partly to the generosity of some of the members and others, and partly to the liberal spirit which has guided the policy of the Council of the Society in voting large sums every year for library expenses. The whole brunt of the work of selecting and arranging the books and compiling the catalogue has fallen upon the honorary librarian, Mr. Adams Frost, who has performed his task *con amore*, and in such a manner that the Society owes him the deepest gratitude. It is intended from time to time to issue printed slips containing the additions to the library; these can be pasted into the spaces left vacant for this purpose, and they will be sent free to those who possess the catalogue, which can be obtained from Mr. Poole at 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, price one shilling.

#### THE COST OF THE FEVER EPIDEMIC IN LONDON.

AT the meeting of the Metropolitan Asylums Board on Saturday last, this question was discussed. The estimates for the current financial year, adopted by the managers some months ago, anticipated a surplus this year of £21,184; but since those estimates were prepared, the extraordinary and rapid increase of fever in the metropolis, which we have recorded week by week, has had to be provided for. The extra expenditure is estimated at £54,895, and is to be met by a rate of a halfpenny in the pound, assessed on the rateable values of the several parishes and unions in the metropolis, a rate which will produce £63,835. A considerable portion of the expenditure has been for additional hospital accommodation, together with furniture, bedding, etc., and the managers propose, therefore, to communicate with the Local Government Board and the Metropolitan Board of Works with a view of obtaining, if possible, a loan to defray some part of this expenditure. In the event of the application being successful, the amount raised would be credited to the

several parishes and unions in the district, and transferred to the general account of the managers. The admissions to the hospitals of the managers during the past week have not shown any signs of decreasing, and they have exceeded the discharges and deaths by 214. Thus on Wednesday last there were 2,417 patients under treatment as compared with 2,203 under treatment on the preceding Wednesday. The patients included 2,270 suffering from scarlet fever, 123 from enteric fever, and 24 from other diseases; of these patients, 615 are in the convalescent hospital at Winchmore Hill. As usual, the cases during the week have been contributed by all parts of the metropolis.

#### POST-GRADUATE COURSE, CHARING CROSS HOSPITAL.

THE continued progress of this class is most gratifying and encouraging to all connected with it. There are now 115 entries, which is the largest number yet reached in Great Britain and Ireland. Every suggestion of members for the better working of the course is promptly carried out, and the interest in the lectures grows with the increase of the class. On Friday last Dr. Green delivered his lecture on Albuminuria, and was assisted by Dr. Mott in demonstrating the urine tests and microscopical specimens. The lecturer's position as a pathologist in no way led him to depart from the practical lines on which the course is founded. The profound interest of the class showed they were in close accord with the lecturer. Ninety-five members and five visitors were present. As soon as the lecturer had answered all the questions of members, he proceeded to the wards, and gave clinical lectures on selected cases of albuminuria, which were repeated as each section of the class came up from Dr. Mott's demonstration in the board room. There was a large display of the most modern urine testing cases shown by various makers, whose representatives had been invited to attend. Mr. Bellamy, F.R.C.S., lectures on this day (Friday), at 3 30 p.m., on the subject of Abdominal Surgery.

#### SAFETY IN THEATRES.

STEPS are being taken not only in the metropolis, but throughout the provinces, to ensure structural improvements in theatres and places of public amusement. At a recent meeting of the Metropolitan Board of Works the following resolution was passed:—

"That the Parliamentary and Building Act Committees, to whom has been referred the preparation of a Bill to amend the Acts relating to theatres and music halls 'in the metropolis, and to regulate other buildings used for public purposes,' be jointly or severally authorised to confer with the managers of theatres and music halls, with a view of ascertaining what have been their objections to the Board's Bills in the past, and to receive from them, for consideration, any suggestions they may desire to make with reference to the provisions of the proposed Bill."

Mr. Cook, by whom the resolution was moved, pointed out that the safety of the public depended not only upon a sufficient number of exits and other appliances being provided, but also upon these appliances being kept in proper working order. To secure this they ought to have the co-operation of managers of theatres and music halls, so that they might arrive at a conclusion in the main satisfactory to the interests of the public, and, at the same time, acceptable to the managers of places of entertainment.

#### THE OPHTHALMOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

A SPONTANEOUS and excellent discussion on some points in connection with albuminuric retinitis took place at the meeting of the Ophthalmological Society on October 20th. The first point raised was as to the frequency and causation of detachment of the retina in association with albuminuric retinitis. Inasmuch as the experience of several speakers did not yield on the average more than one case apiece, it is evident that the occurrence is a rare one; and most, if not all, of the patients suffered from general anasarca, and were in an advanced stage of kidney disease when they came under observation. But the not unnatural assumption that the detachment was simply due to

dropsy did not meet with universal acceptance. Another question discussed was as to the prognosis in albuminuric retinitis. Dr. James Anderson and Mr. Gunn spoke to the effect that death at no very distant date—a year or so at most—was the rule, and supported their opinions by reference to several cases seen in hospital practice. Dr. Stephen Mackenzie, Mr. Nettleship, and Mr. McHardy took a much more hopeful view; Dr. Mackenzie instancing one case in which recovery had taken place, and another in which the patient was under his own observation for more than three years before death. Mr. Nettleship referred to the cases of puerperal albuminuric retinitis where recovery sometimes resulted, and Mr. McHardy mentioned the case of a patient still living who had presented albuminuric retinitis for at least five years. The greater part of the evening was taken up with the very valuable paper of Dr. Herbert Habershon on Hereditary Optic Atrophy, a full abstract of which is given elsewhere.

#### THE ASSOCIATION OF FELLOWS AND MEMBERS.

At a meeting of the conjoined Sub-committee of the Associations of Fellows and Members of the College of Surgeons, held on Wednesday last, it was decided that the following resolutions be moved at the coming general meeting at the College. The first resolution was: That this meeting disapproves of the application for any new charter which first does not confer electoral powers on Members of the College, and the right to be eligible to sit on the Council in accord with the resolution passed at the general meeting held on November 4th, 1886, namely: That, in the opinion of this meeting, it would conduce to the welfare of the Royal College of Surgeons, and would tend to promote the interests of medical polity and education, (1) if Members of the College were empowered to take part (separately or conjointly with the Fellows) in the election of members of the Council; (2) if Members of the College were eligible to sit in the Council, provided (a) that no Member of the College shall be entitled to vote till he have been such Member for a period of ten years; (b) that no Member of the College shall be eligible to sit in the Council till he have been such Member for a period of twenty years; and (c) that not more than one-fourth of the Council shall consist of Members of the College who are not also Fellows. The second resolution was: That this meeting further disapproves of the application for any new charter which first does not provide that no alteration shall be made in the constitution or the relations of the College, or in any of its by-laws, without the consent of the Fellows and Members convened to discuss such alteration in accordance with a resolution passed at the general meeting on March 24th, 1884, and confirmed at another such meeting on October 29th, 1885. In the event of the first resolution being carried, it will be moved that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Lord President of Council by the Secretary of the College. The third resolution was: That a deputation shall be nominated at the coming general meeting to attend at the Privy Council, and to represent the opinion of the meeting. In a leading article which appears in the present number of the JOURNAL, a review is given of the action of these Associations at general meetings of Fellows and Members at the College. It is there shown that the above resolutions are based upon two principles which the Associations have persistently urged from the first.

#### SHOOTING CASUALTIES.

MEDICAL men have long learned to recognise that each season of the year brings with it a special class of maladies, but it seems equally true that special varieties of accident are also to be noted. In summer, boating and bathing each contribute their quota to the returns of violent deaths, and no sooner does the shooting season begin than severe and, only too often, fatal accidents are reported almost daily. Accidents by firearms, especially revolvers, are unfortunately of common occurrence all the year round, but the flagrant want of care and common sense shown in handling these dangerous weapons excites indignation rather than pity. In sport such accidents generally occur under peculiarly painful circumstances. The parties are most frequently

friends, and mishaps may occur even with the greatest care. As a rule, however, the fact of an accident having happened is *prima facie* evidence of want of care. It is of no avail for one man to exercise the greatest prudence and foresight if he has someone behind him who, like Mr. Winkle, is ignorant of the proper way to handle his gun, or careless as to what he does with it. The public are only made aware of a few of the more severe or fatal cases, and they hear nothing of the numerous minor accidents and hairbreadth escapes; yet even the reports that reach us are sufficiently alarming to make one wonder that more stringent precautions are not adopted. The fact is, that precautions are of little avail against carelessness. Already several medical men have been actors in tragedies of this description during the present season, and two, at least, have succumbed during one week to the injuries they received. The fact that such accidents most frequently occur at places far removed from any surgical assistance, adds to the distressing nature of these occurrences, but as these cases show, even with the promptest intervention, the chances of recovery are often small.

#### SOCIETY OF INFIRMARY SUPERINTENDENTS.

THIS society was formed in order to afford a better opportunity for professional and social intercourse between gentlemen holding the responsible post of medical superintendent to the various metropolitan workhouse infirmaries. What was practically the first meeting took place at the Paddington Infirmary on Wednesday last, under the presidency of Dr. Savill, several visitors being present, including Dr. Hughlings Jackson. A number of very interesting cases of chronic arthritis, hystero-epilepsy, and other chronic diseases, were shown, illustrating the advantage of having the patients under treatment and observation for prolonged periods of time. Dr. Savill then read a paper entitled *Lessons from Infirmary Work*. He began by stating that the object the Society had in view was to organise and facilitate the utilisation of the vast amount of clinical material at the disposal of the superintendents for scientific purposes, and secondly, to promote a movement for adding to the present very inadequate medical staff of these institutions. An impression has got abroad that they were endeavouring to open up the infirmaries for clinical teaching, but this, for the present at any rate, was not to be hoped for, nor did it enter into their scheme. If the movement which was on foot, providing for the nomination of a number of extra clinical assistants, found general acceptance (and it had already produced good results in several instances), between fifty and sixty posts would be thrown open for competition among newly qualified men. Dr. Savill expressed his opinion that at present science did not derive all the benefit that ought to accrue from the enormous amount of material at their disposal; it was one of the objects of the society to remedy this by proper organisation and discussion. He stated that the total number of beds in the twenty-six metropolitan infirmaries (including the sick wards of workhouses) amounted to no less than 12,000, exceeding by a thousand the number of beds in all the special and general hospitals of the metropolis put together. Although many of the patients suffered from more or less chronic affections which did not require daily attention, it was obviously impossible for the members of the medical staff, as at present constituted, to do justice either to the patients or themselves; hence, in the interest of the patients, the medical staff, and science, some addition to the number of medical officers was indispensable. Dr. Savill concluded by pointing out the advantages which would attend a closer union between the superintendents of infirmaries, for the discussion of points of scientific, administrative, and social interest. A discussion followed, in which several gentlemen took part. The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to Dr. Savill.

#### A FEVER-STRICKEN VILLAGE.

How long a time must elapse before local authorities awaken to the lessons taught by Snow and Simon as to the necessity of a pure water supply? At a special meeting of the Carlisle rural sanitary authority

held last week, the medical officer of the board attributed the outbreak of fever in the village of Burnriggs, Cumberland, and the virulence of the epidemic, (1) to an imported case; (2) to impure water supply, drawn from a polluted well, which analysis had proved was unfit for human consumption; (3) to the insanitary habits of some of the people, and their want of cleanliness; (4) to privation and want experienced by some of the inhabitants; (5) to limited accommodation; (6) to the want of through draughts, the houses having no through ventilation; and (7) to the very free communication which takes place between families because of their limited house-room. He added that a supply of wholesome drinking water was being furnished, pending the restoration of the well, and it was announced that the inhabitants of the village, although temporarily deprived of work, were being provided with all the necessaries of life through the beneficence of the charitably disposed, whose sympathies had been awakened by the tale of their sufferings. The patients are said to be "progressing favourably," and every hope is entertained that the worst point has been passed. But what a scandalous commentary on the homicidal neglect of the primary duties of a sanitary authority!

#### THE BACTERIOLOGICAL LABORATORY, KING'S COLLEGE.

LAST April we drew attention to a course of lectures on Bacteriology, with practical instruction, which was to be given in the Physiological Laboratory at King's College. The course was in reality a post-graduate one, and was attended by no fewer than twenty qualified medical practitioners and veterinary surgeons. Other applicants had to be refused admission. A special department has now been created at King's College, and a new laboratory has been built and equipped for the purpose of placing this instruction on a permanent footing, and for affording ample accommodation for students and investigators. The main laboratory consists of a very large room, with windows facing north and east. In the centre are long working tables fitted with all the accessory biological, histological, and chemical apparatus, including various sterilisers, incubators, and microtomes of the most recent construction, supplied from both Paris and Berlin. Beneath the windows the laboratory is divided off into a series of working tables fitted with cupboards, gas, and water supply, where each student can work independently and undisturbed, and with ready access to the special apparatus in use. At each table a bell glass attached to a weighted line working over a pulley covers the microscope, and the microscope is uncovered for use by raising the bell to a convenient height out of the way. A special feature at each table is the adoption of the Welsbach incandescent gaslight for use as a microscope lamp. There are also large cupboards for pathological specimens and all the necessary equipment in the form of diagram curtains, lecture desk, and other details. The woodwork is for the most part of pitch-pine, and the general effect, as well as the detailed construction of the fittings, reflect great credit on Professor Crookshank, who has designed and supervised the carrying out of the plans. In addition, two new rooms have been built and connected with the main laboratory. As might be expected, microscopes with every modern improvement also find their place in the laboratory, thus affording the student the opportunity of comparing the microscope and objectives of Zeiss with those of Swift, or with the magnificent apochromatic objectives of Powell and Lealand. There is no doubt that in this new laboratory there will be every facility for obtaining a practical knowledge of bacteriology and for conducting original research in human and comparative micro-pathology. The laboratory is open to all students, whether belonging to King's College or not, and admission may be obtained for either original research, private study, or for attending the practical courses and lectures. The course will be held in the summer and the winter session, and will last for four weeks; it will consist of about fifteen lectures and daily work in the laboratory from 10 till 4 P.M. The course is especially intended for medical officers of health, veterinary surgeons, and senior students. The next course begins on November 1st.

## SCOTLAND.

WE hear that an epidemic of measles of a mild type has for some time past been raging at Arbroath, and the attendance of children at the public schools has in consequence been seriously diminished.

DR. WILLIAM STIRLING delivered last week the first of a series of clinical lectures to women and students in connection with the Edinburgh School of Medicine for Women, in the Leith Hospital. There was a large attendance of ladies. Provost Henderson presided. This course originated with Dr. Sophia Jex-Blake.

### GLASGOW UNIVERSITY.

THE results of the examinations for degrees in medicine show a pass of 72 out of 131 candidates for the first examination, 59 out of 80 for the second, and 52 out of 82 for the third.

### TYPHOID FEVER AT ROTHESAY.

ROTHESAY is said to be suffering from an outbreak of typhoid fever of a virulent kind. The outbreak has been traced to milk which was sent into the town from a farm where there was a case of fever.

### WESTERN MEDICAL SCHOOL OF GLASGOW.

MR. T. KENNEDY DALZIEL, M.B., F.F.P.S.G., has been appointed to the lectureship in anatomy, vacant by the death of Mr. J. T. Carter. He gave the introductory address on the opening of the school on October 27th.

### MEASLES EPIDEMIC IN CAITHNESS.

THE epidemic of measles, which has been raging at Pulteneytown and district, shows signs of decreasing, but there are still over 450 cases. Many have occurred during the last week, the severe cold prevailing having tended to make the cases more dangerous.

### OPENING OF THE SESSION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN.

PROFESSOR CASH, the recently appointed Professor of Materia Medica in Aberdeen University, was introduced to his class by Principal Geddes, on Friday, October 21st. He had a most enthusiastic reception from a crowded attendance of students. Dr. Cash, in acknowledging the compliment paid to him, spoke at some length of the connection between pharmacology and therapeutics, emphasising the necessity of an appeal to the former for the purpose of obtaining an accurate knowledge of the action of drugs.

### GLASGOW MEDICO-CHIRURGICAL SOCIETY.

THE second meeting of this Society, held on October 14th, took the form of a *conversazione*. The halls of the Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons were transformed for the occasion by a liberal use of plants and small shrubs. A very large company assembled, and were received by the President, Professor McCall Anderson; and an admirable programme of music, etc., kept them together till 11 o'clock. The third meeting of the Society was held on October 21st, when Dr. Patterson described a case of keloid, and Mr. Maylard demonstrated a method of closing the bladder after suprapubic operation for stone.

### GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE GLASGOW UNIVERSITY.

THE half yearly meeting of this Council was held in the Bute Hall of the University on October 20th. The attendance was large, mainly owing to the fact that Mr. Hannay, who has occupied the position of Clerk to the Council for fifteen years, has resigned, and rival candidates have done their best to bring up supporters lest Mr. Hannay's successor should be elected at that meeting. It was remitted, however, to the Business Committee to bring up a report as to the merits of candidates at next meeting, when the election will be made. This decision having been come to, the interest in the meeting had evaporated so far as a very numerous body of the members was concerned,

for they immediately trooped away. The election of an assessor to the University Court in room of Dr. Anderson Kirkwood, whose term of office has expired, brought out the fact that the University Council Association is determined not to let so good a chance slip of obtaining a representation in the Court. Dr. Kirkwood was nominated for re-election, but Dr. McVail proposed Mr. Cochran Patrick, President of the University Council Association, on the ground that Dr. Kirkwood was not in sympathy with the views of those who desired thorough and complete university reform, and if they elected him now it would appear as if the Council endorsed his opinions on the question of reform. On a show of hands, 55 voted for Mr. Cochran Patrick and 60 for Dr. Kirkwood. Dr. McVail thereupon demanded a poll. A letter was read from the University Court in reply to the representation of the Council that it was desirable, by taking opinion of counsel and otherwise as the Court might deem fit, to ascertain the rights and privileges of the Council in the choice of a representative of the University on the General Medical Council. The Court gave it as their opinion that no real doubt existed on the point to justify them incurring the expense of consulting counsel. Dr. McVail gave notice he would raise the question again at the next meeting. A discussion was raised by Dr. McVail as to the proposals of the Senate regarding the extension of university teaching. The Council had recommended that the University should grant certificates to students under the university extension scheme, if found qualified by examination. This proposal the Senate removed from the scheme, and the Court approved of the Senate's recommendations. Dr. McVail pointed out that the refusal of university recognition by the granting of certificates took the heart out of the scheme. After considerable discussion a motion proposed by Dr. McKendrick was carried, in which the Council expressed the opinion that steps should be taken towards the granting of a certificate, showing that the courses of lectures and relative examinations had been conducted by the authority of the University. Principal Caird explained, in reference to another motion by Dr. McVail, that hitherto local candidates for examinations in medicine had not been required to send in testimonials, and indicated the probability that, in future, testimonials would be required, as in the case of other examiners.

### SMALL-POX IN PERTH INFIRMARY.

DR. LITTLEJOHN has visited Perth Infirmary, at the instance of the Board of Supervision, to make inquiries into the circumstances connected with the recent outbreak of small-pox there. The outbreak in the infirmary has led to a warm debate in the sanitary authority of that city as to the propriety of treating small-pox in a general hospital. Some twelve years ago the same subject was under discussion, and, in spite of the protest of Dr. Bramwell, the directors of the infirmary determined to receive cases of small-pox into the institution. The result was that not only did the disease spread to other patients, but that the streets surrounding the infirmary were invaded, and to so great an extent that there were as many cases in this limited area as in the rest of the city of Perth. On the present occasion small-pox has again appeared in the institution, and the medical officer of health (Dr. Simpson) has been naturally alarmed at any proposal to retain persons suffering from this disease in a building surrounded by inhabited houses. Among the sufferers are certain nurses whom the infirmary officials desire to retain under their own care. They were willing to transfer other cases to the hospital of the sanitary authority, but it was urged that this institution was not suited for the reception of ladies. A more unfortunate opinion can hardly be conceived; the directors of the infirmary are open to severe criticism in the first instance for permitting their staff to remain susceptible to small-pox, and this forgetfulness of responsibility appears to have characterised their subsequent action. Dr. Simpson has done good service to the city in pointing out the extreme danger of treating small-pox in a thickly populated locality. He has in no way exaggerated the risk of this procedure. The exceptional prevalence of small-pox during re-



cent years in London has been shown to be due to the same cause, and evidently the events of twelve years ago have been sufficient to teach the sanitary authority of Perth that their city is liable to the same misfortune. It is to be hoped that they will prove to their townsmen that there is no foundation for the belief that their own hospital for infectious disease is not suitable for persons of all classes of life. A statement of the sort which has been made is calculated to be a serious hindrance to them in dealing with epidemic disease.

## IRELAND.

DR. BOYCE, medical officer of Stillorgan Dispensary, Rathdown Union, has been transferred to Blackrock district, and has been succeeded by Dr. Armstrong. Dr. Boyce has been presented by the working classes of Newtown Park with a handsome clock and address.

### BELFAST ROYAL HOSPITAL: OPENING OF THE WINTER SESSION.

THE winter session will be inaugurated upon Tuesday, November 1st, when an opening address will be delivered by Dr. Burden, pathologist to the hospital.

### ROYAL UNIVERSITY IN IRELAND.

DR. S. MYLES MACSWINEY, Physician to Jarvis Street Hospital, has been elected a Medical Fellow in the Royal University. The studentship in modern literature has been awarded to Miss Story, B.A., of Dublin. She receives £100 a year for five years. At a meeting of the Senate of the Royal University, on Wednesday, Mr. T. Adeney, F.C.S., assistant to Professor Hartley, Royal College of Science, Dublin, was appointed curator of the museums. The salary is £300 a year, rising by annual increases of £20, to £400.

### CORK DISTRICT LUNATIC ASYLUM.

THE Cork Town Council having refused to pass a presentment for the expenses connected with this institution, amounting to £2,589 2s. 3d., the matter came before the Recorder of Cork last week. By the 41 and 42 Vict., cap. 24, sec. 1, it is imperative to pass the presentment, and accordingly the presentment was flated by the Recorder.

### LIMAVADY UNION.

DR. THOMPSON, Medical Officer of Health for Feeny Dispensary District, has reported on the urgent necessity of a proper supply of water for that town. There is only one public well, the water of which is being constantly polluted and is quite unfit for domestic use. The plan suggested by Dr. Thompson for removing the existing state of things has been adopted by the board of guardians.

### HEALTH OF CORK.

DURING the four weeks ending October 1st the births registered amounted to 158, or 25.63 per 1,000, and the deaths to 141. The mortality was equal to a rate of 22.87, and, excluding 16 deaths which took place in the workhouse, to 17.68. Both deaths and births were lower than for the corresponding month of last year.

### THE BELFAST WATER SUPPLY.

THE supply of water to Belfast, which successfully bore the strain of the long summer drought, now threatens to run short if the usual autumn rains are much longer delayed. The commissioners have been compelled to restrict the supply to four hours out of the twenty-four, the hours selected being from 4 to 8 P.M. It is hardly necessary to point out that the dangers from contaminated water are greatest when the supply is low.

### POLLUTION OF THE RIVER LEE, CORK.

DR. DONOVAN, medical superintendent officer of health for Cork, has recently drawn the attention of the Public Health Committee of

the Corporation to the pollution of the Lee, near Blarney. He suggests that immediate steps be taken to protect the purity of the water supply for the citizens, more especially at the present moment, as it is not at all unlikely that within the next few months a recurrence may take place of last year's typhoid epidemic.

### ALLEGED CURE FOR HYDROPHOBIA IN COUNTY CAVAN.

A FEW days ago five children were bitten in Belfast by a dog said to have been affected by rabies. They have been sent to County Cavan to undergo treatment by the man named McGovern, who is reported to possess a specific for hydrophobia. This alleged cure is said to have been a family secret for two hundred years, and to have been jealously guarded as an heirloom. Such reputed specifics are so common in simple and superstitious localities that the natural attitude towards any report of the kind is one of complete incredulity, but McGovern's treatment has received some attention from scientific observers, who think it worthy of experiment. It is well, therefore, that it should be tested, but unfortunately in the present case the test is apt to be fallacious, as there is no precise proof forthcoming that the dog in question was actually affected with rabies.

### NIGHT LECTURES IN DUBLIN.

THE question of recognising the lectures given at night in two of the private medical schools in Dublin came before the Standing Committee of the Royal University on Monday. This body had already decided to refuse them peremptorily, but the matter was referred back by the Senate for further consideration. We understand that there was a prolonged discussion, and in the end it was resolved by thirteen to three to recommend the Senate to refuse to acknowledge the certificates. In order, however, that no injustice may be done to students who have already made any serious advance in their course, it was agreed that the absolute refusal should only come into force in 1890, but that for students beginning in the present year the rule should date from October 1st, 1887. The whole subject is one which has created a great deal of interest. It is stated that all other licensing bodies in the United Kingdom recognise certificates from the night schools. This is, however, understood to be the first occasion on which the question has been definitely raised, and it will be interesting to see what further steps will be taken. The Senate has since ratified the decision of the Standing Committee.

### MERCER'S HOSPITAL.

THE affairs of this Hospital are again before the public. At the recent Hospital Commission deplorable differences between members of the staff and the governors were shown to exist. Later on Dr. Knight, one of the physicians, gave notice that he would move the governors to remove Mr. O'Grady, one of the surgeons, from his office. The latter then applied for an injunction to restrain this action, but it was refused. The next development is a public inquiry before the governors, in which counsel appear for the disputants. A curious phase is that the medical staff are all governors, and the members of the board appear as judges and witnesses. The complaints against Mr. O'Grady are mainly that he has been in the habit of insulting his colleagues, and of making various charges against them; that he has not given clinical instruction; and that, in consequence of the unpleasantnesses caused by him, the class has fallen from 190 to under 20. The inquiry, after the opening statement, was adjourned until Wednesday; and Mr. O'Grady's counsel requested the public mean while to suspend its judgment. The whole proceeding is greatly to be regretted. Mr. O'Grady is very highly respected by the profession at large; and these unfortunate disputes can only result in injury to the hospital.

A TELEGRAM from New York under date October 26th states that three cases of cholera and one death have occurred on board the steamer *Britannia* since she has been in quarantine. All danger of infection from the passengers of the French steamer *Alesia* has now ceased.

## THE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE OF THE COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.

THE synopsis of income and expenditure in the year, from Midsummer-day, 1886, to Midsummer-day, 1887, given in the report to be presented to the Fellows and Members of the College of Surgeons, at the annual meeting on Thursday November 3rd, will probably by this time have been examined carefully by many who are interested in the proceedings of the Council. To some of our readers who intend to take part in the meeting, the mass of figures may not have proved to be a very inviting subject of study, and therefore this part of the report may not have received at their hands the attention which its importance merits, but which, nevertheless, it is necessary for everyone to be acquainted with who desires to be in a position to estimate properly how far the Council has administered the important duties entrusted to it by the Fellows.

The balance sheet shows a total income of £35,372 6s. 2d., against a total expenditure of £33,629 11s. 7d., leaving a balance of £1,742 14s. 7d. Thus far things look prosperous enough, but it will be necessary to examine a little more closely the Dr. and Cr. columns of the balance sheet. The first thing that strikes us is that no less than £8,617 10s. worth of stock has been sold out during the year, and goes to swell the total balance, which is further augmented by £94 10s. from the Morton Lectureship on Cancer, founded during the year, which has not been expended during the period included in the financial year, as the lecture by Sir James Paget is not to be given till next month. The cause which has necessitated so much capital being realised is easily discovered by a glance at the expenditure column, where it will be seen that during the year no less than £11,852 11s. 6d. has been expended by the College of Surgeons as its share of the erection and equipment of the Examination Hall, quite irrespective of the charge for maintenance of, and salaries in, that establishment.

The receipts from examination fees and the expenditure on examinations form the main portions of income and expenditure. During the past year the College has received as fees for examinations the sum of £22,859 17s. Of this sum the greater part is derived from the old Membership examination of the College, as distinguished from the Conjoint Examination, under the regulations for which apparently only few candidates have as yet been examined. The expenses for examinations, consisting almost entirely in payment of fees to the different sets of examiners, amounts to £10,797 5s. 8d., which is almost 50 per cent. of the income derived from fees of candidates for examination. Nearly half of this sum has been paid as fees to the Court of Examiners, each member of which has received for the Pass Membership and Fellowship Examinations during the year a sum of £578 16s., that is, supposing, as is most natural, an equal division of the fees to have been made amongst the ten members constituting the Court. During the past year six members of Council have occupied seats on the Court of Examiners, and have drawn the above-mentioned sum from the College. The amounts paid to the other examiners, amongst whom there is no member of Council, are considerably smaller, although the amount of work done by the Anatomy and Physiology Board does not seem to have been less than that done by the Court.

The income derived from house property amounts to £2,020 4s. 8d. This sum alone is more than the College is entitled to hold under the present charter, which provides that the College may hold lands or rents not exceeding, together with the College premises, the yearly value of £2,000. The yearly value of the College premises is not mentioned in any part of the report, or, for that matter, in the Calendar of the College either, but may be judged to be somewhat considerable from the amount of ground they cover, and from the sum paid for rates, taxes, and insurance of the College and house property being £1,308 12s. 7d. This breach of charter is one which Fellows and Members may well give their attention to, should the Council see fit to disregard their wishes. From the balance sheet it appears that the receipts from the Morton Lectureship on Cancer are £94 10s. The report informs us that the Council have decided that one lecture shall be given each year. If this sum is to be paid to the lecturer, as it would appear is the intention, for the single lecture, the Council will have for the next two years a handsome prize at its disposal for its senior members, should the sequence be followed of the appointment of lecturers in this instance that has obtained in the case of the Bradshaw Lecture. The question may be raised with good reason whether the money is being spent to the best advantage. For this sum two or three lectures on the subject and some demonstrations of the numerous specimens in the museum illustrating the various forms of cancerous disease might well have been secured. The Council has

ever been ready to advance as an example of what it is doing for the profession the large sums which it spends annually in maintaining the museum and library. Our readers will perhaps be surprised to find that the total sum devoted to scientific purposes during the year is only £23,377 15s. 4d. This includes salaries and wages in the museum and library, sums paid for lectures, new catalogues, purchase and binding of books, and purchase of specimens, spirit glasses, etc. The total sum paid for the museum and library is less by about £2,000 than that paid to the Court of Examiners alone, and less by a somewhat larger amount than the expenses of the collegiate department of the College.

In the remarks we have made we have contented ourselves with pointing out what is to be found from a perusal of the balance sheets, and have refrained from expressing any opinion one way or other on the question of College finance, so as not to prejudice the minds of those who will have to discuss the subject with the Council on Thursday next. This is the last opportunity we shall have before that day of impressing on all Fellows and Members of the College the importance—nay, even the duty they owe to themselves and to their College—of being present on that occasion.

## COMPULSORY SICK INSURANCE IN GERMANY.

THE United States Consul at Leipzig, reporting on the Kranken-Versicherungs-Gesetz of the German Empire promulgated in 1883, states that the law applies practically to all hand-workers, except clerks and salesmen, and even these may be included by resolution of the local authority. The various classes of funds are meant to provide for the different classes of labourers, and the benefits consist in free medical attendance, payment during sickness, and burial money.

At one time the law was disliked, both by employers and workmen; the opposition which it excited was traced to the following causes:—The confusion and delay which occurred in the preliminary stages of the organisation; the fear of the men that they would lose their independence of action, because prior to this many masters had established similar funds which they used to compel workmen to remain in their service; and, thirdly, the reluctance of the masters to accept the duties imposed on them. The opposition, however, is now dying away, although the younger workmen and some of the masters still view the funds with apathy.

The influence of the system on the relief of the poor is shown by the statistics of Hamburg to have been considerable. The cost of the sick poor who would have been cared for out of the poor-rates in Hamburg, in 1885, taking the average of the four preceding years, would have been 293,223 days of sickness at 1 mark and 34,464 at 75 pennings; the actual numbers were only 230,123 and 34,254. The saving in this decrease is estimated at 66,257 marks, or a net saving of 21,673 marks. The figures of the Leipzig City Hospital lead to a similar result. The cost of treatment chargeable to the poor rate, which was 51 per cent. in 1884, was only 39 per cent. in 1885, and simultaneously the proportion borne by public or private sick funds under the law rose from 8 to 24 per cent. The total number of persons insured under the Act is 4,294,173, or 91.7 per 1,000 of the population.

## THE NEW HUTS FOR SCARLET FEVER PATIENTS. ERECTED BY THE METROPOLITAN ASYLUMS BOARD.

OWING to the unexampled demand upon the resources of the Metropolitan Asylums Board caused by the epidemic of scarlet fever, the managers have found it necessary to erect in haste a number of "huts" for the reception of the patients, who continue to arrive in large numbers day by day. Owing to the kindness of Dr. Gayten, Medical Superintendent of the Hospital on Haverstock Hill, we are enabled to publish a sketch plan of one of these huts, together with the following particulars.

In external appearance the huts are not unlike those in use by the military at Aldershot Camp; inside they have the ordinary arrangements of a long ward in a hospital, and recall especially those of St. Thomas's Hospital. The foundations are in every case of brick, and as the ground is sloping, while, for convenience of administration, the huts are all on about the same level, the height of brick-work varies in the different huts, and also from back to front of the same hut. The extreme height reached in any case is 14 feet, and the space thus formed beneath the ward will be utilised as a coal-shed. This, however, is an accidental consequence of the peculiar contour of this particular site; the general idea is to have brick foundations rising sufficiently high above the ground-level to allow the woodwork to be fixed out of contact with a damp surface; the walls of the huts are of wood (deal) wainscotted within by deal boards, which are stained.

and varnished. Each hut has a water-closet and slop sink contained in a small building separated from the ward by a short, cross-ventilated corridor. In the corridor is the opening of a short funnel, which opens externally over a tank. Through this opening soiled linen is immediately pushed into a solution of perchloride of mercury (1 in 5,000). The tank is emptied from the outside as often as necessary. At the entrance to the hut are two rooms, a bath-room and lavatory, and a kitchen; the latter commands the ward through a judas.

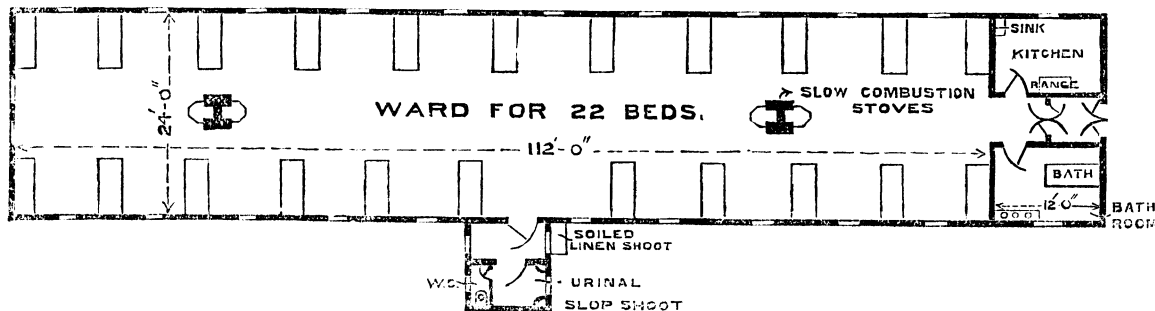
Each ward contains 22 beds; it is 112 feet long (exclusive of the kitchen and bath room), 24 feet wide, and 11 feet 3 inches high to the spring of the roof. The height to the apex of the ceiling is 14 feet. The floor space is 2,688 square feet, or 122 square feet floor space for each bed. The cubic space is, therefore, 30,374 cubic feet, exclusive of the pitch of the roof; this is equivalent to 1,380 cubic feet for each bed.

There are two brick flues placed in the middle of each ward, equidistant from the ends; each flue has two open fireplaces, with fire-

brick backs built in the brickwork, and iron bars in front. Air is admitted through Tobin tubes, and in addition to the fireplaces, extraction is effected by two Boyle's ventilators in the roof. It is hardly necessary to add that the drainage is well-planned, and the whole system carefully disconnected from the main drainage; the rain water is separately treated.

One of the huts has been converted into a dormitory for nurses; it is divided into cubicles by partitions about 10 feet high; each cubicle contains two beds.

All the joiners' work, except the actual putting together, is done in shops before the building is commenced. A hut can be built from foundation to roof, and furnished ready for the admission of patients, within a week. The contractors, Messrs. Wall Bros., of Kentish Town, have succeeded in putting the huts up thus rapidly by employing a very large staff of bricklayers, carpenters, and slaters. The contract price for each hut is £1,027, or a little over £46 a bed. The architects are Messrs. Pennington and Bridgen.



#### THE DUBLIN CORPORATION AND THE HOSPITALS.

At a meeting of the Dublin Corporation on Monday, on the vote for Dublin Hospitals, Alderman WINSTANLEY moved the adoption of the recommendation of the Finance Committee, that £4,000 be granted; that was a reduction of £1,000, or 20 per cent., on the usual grant. He said that £85,000 or £86,000 was collected for the hospitals, of which two-thirds were applied for hospital expenses, and the rest for the patients. Pressure should be brought to bear on the hospitals to induce them to economise. He might mention as an illustration of the way the applications for money were made that one gentleman, anxious to be a master of a hospital, became so by starting a hospital of his own and then applying there for a grant.

The motion having been seconded, Mr. P. MACDONALD moved as an amendment the following portion of the report of the Committee on City Hospitals.

"That they in the main heartily approved of the recommendation as to amalgamation, especially as regards the smaller institutions; the capitalisation of the Government grant, and the appointment of a central board; and your Committee sincerely trust that reform, which will put an end to the purchase system, will no longer be delayed, and that legislative provisions will be promptly made to remove several of the abuses specified by the Commission, such as the co-option of governors instead of their free election by the subscribers, and the co-option of physicians and surgeons by the medical staffs; and your Committee concur in the opinion of the Commission that a scheme such as that suggested by them 'will increase the benefit of these institutions to the sick poor, and diminish the general hospital expenditure in the city.'"

The motion was seconded by Mr. SEXTON, M.P., and carried.

On the vote in aid of the Rotunda Hospital, Alderman DILLON moved:

"That the grant of £250 for the year 1888 to the Rotunda Hospital be suspended until the governors of the hospital give an undertaking to comply with the recommendation of Dr. South's Commission in 1858 and the Dublin Hospital Commission of 1887—namely, to amend the charter of the hospital by making the number of governors unlimited, or otherwise provide for a sufficient representation of Catholics on the board of the hospital."

Mr. SEXTON, M.P., seconded the amendment, which was carried.

Archbishop Walsh has since written to say that he will place £200, balance of the bequest of the late F. Heyland, Esq., at the disposal of the governors; adding the following: "Let me, in doing so, express a hope that when the Corporation grants come on for discussion this time twelve months, no ground shall any longer exist for a moment's

hesitation on the part of our representative municipal body in renewing their grant to the hospital. But I need hardly add that if the present system of exclusiveness be still maintained, if the Catholic taxpayers of the city should still continue to be so inadequately represented on the governing body of the Hospital, I trust that the Corporation will then, without a moment's hesitation, definitely stop the grant. In this, as in many other matters, the Catholics of Dublin, if the necessity be forced upon us, will be able to build and to endow an institution of our own."

#### OPENING OF MEDICAL SCHOOLS: SCOTLAND.

##### EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY.

The annual address at the opening of the winter session was delivered by the Principal, Sir WILLIAM MUIR, K.C.S.I., who stated that the number of graduates had been well maintained in the Faculty of Arts; it was sensibly larger than in any previous year, while in Medicine the numbers were decidedly above the average. Among the students the corporate action already established continued to work well, and the representative council to extend its solidifying influence. The Students' Union had advanced a distinct stage in its history, and a site in every way suited for the purpose had been secured. Some advance was also being made by private effort to provide University hostels or settlements for the students. He wished them every success, which would be achieved if they were planned wisely, carefully arranged, and well regulated. An attempt has been made to get the restriction on the scholarships founded by the Government of India removed, so that they might not be confined to students at Oxford and Cambridge, but should also be open to the Scottish Universities. He regretted to say that their suit had again been refused by the Secretary for India. In respect to the Doctorate of Music, the expectations formed had been disappointed; the projected degree was found to be surrounded with unexpected difficulties, and in that and many other matters they would have to wait for that ill-starred Bill which, like an *ignis fatuus*, was ever and anon appearing merely to elude their grasp. Happily, with the Agricultural Department the same difficulties were not experienced, and the degree could now be secured. The year had been marked by a valuable series of lectures on the philosophy of Hegel as affecting the individual by Professor Seth, for which they were indebted to the wise generosity of the eminent statesman and scholar the Right Hon. A. J. Balfour. During the year that singularly munificent but unusually conditioned bequest of Lord Gifford had been accepted by the University. It was hoped that a way through the difficulties that beset the endowment might be

found, so that it might promote the study of natural theology and the knowledge of Him (to quote the words of the testator) "whom to know is life everlasting." There had also been a sensible growth, by means of the Vans Dunlop and Gunning endowments, of material inducements for the students to prosecute the higher departments of scientific and literary culture, so that their prospects in that direction were brightening.

#### GLASGOW UNIVERSITY.

THE Medical School of the University was opened on October 25th, when Professor P. A. SIMPSON gave the introductory address in the Bute Hall of the University to a large attendance of students. It will be found at p. 923 in this day's JOURNAL.

#### ANDERSON'S COLLEGE.

THE Anderson's College Medical School was opened by Dr. EBENEZER DUNCAN, recently appointed Professor of Medical Jurisprudence. Dr. Duncan proceeded to contrast the position of an extra-mural student in Scotland with that of an extra-mural student in England. In Scotland a student could take only four qualifying courses out of the necessary sixteen with an extra-mural teacher, and if the student omitted to give notice at the commencement of the session that he intended to take these outside classes, or omitted to pay the extra-mural teacher as high a fee as would have been paid to the University professor, his attendance would not count for the degree examination. In London University and the Royal University of Ireland no restriction whatever existed as to the extra-mural classes, and the University of Durham permitted three years to be spent at an extra-mural school. The State should be logical, and authorise in the Universities of Scotland what it had authorised in the Universities of England and Ireland. Dr. Duncan went on to refer to the proposal to erect the medical school of the Royal Infirmary into a college of the University, under the title of Saint Mungo's College, and he thought something similar should be done for Anderson's College, which, he believed, had even a claim prior to the Infirmary school from the success in medical teaching it had already obtained. He was satisfied that a combined medical school in Glasgow, with boards of study diligently bent upon improving in every way the methods of teaching and the methods of study, would greatly enhance the reputation of Glasgow as a teaching centre for medicine.

The president of the governing body, Mr. T. A. Mathieson, who presided, stated that this session was opened under special circumstances, the school being under a new constitution, and this was very likely the last session which would be held in the present building.

#### GLASGOW ROYAL INFIRMARY.

At the Royal Infirmary School of Medicine the introductory address was delivered by Dr. DAVID NEWMAN, who took as his subject the co-relationship of medical studies, specially in relation to scientific study. Medicine was more an art than a science; it occupied a high position as an art, but a low position as a science. It rested principally upon the four sciences of physics, chemistry, psychology, and biology, and it was necessary that these should be carefully studied by the student. Dr. Newman referred to the artificial distinction between the scientific and more strictly medical part of their studies by the artificial barrier of an examination, and went on to refer to the value of hospital work and hospital teaching in medical study.

#### ENTRANCE SCHOLARSHIPS AT THE MEDICAL SCHOOLS.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE.—The Entrance Exhibition, of the value of £100, has been awarded to Mr. E. W. Selby; that of the value of £80 to Mr. A. G. Levy; and that of the value of £40 to Mr. W. L. Andriezen.

KING'S COLLEGE.—The Lambrooke Exhibition of £60 has been awarded to Mr. William Robert Smith; and that of £40, to Mr. Alfred Fadelle. The Science Exhibition of £50 per annum for two years, given by the Clothworkers' Company, has been awarded to Mr. J. M. Twentyman; and that of £25 per annum for two years to Mr. J. M. Newnham.

OWENS COLLEGE, MANCHESTER.—The Dauntsey Medical Scholarship, value £100, has been divided between Mr. R. W. Marsden and Mr. W. B. Warrington; and the Platt Physiological Scholarship,

value £50, tenable for two years, has been awarded to Mr. G. H. Cooke.

UNIVERSITY OF DURHAM COLLEGE OF MEDICINE, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.—The University of Durham Scholarship, of the value of £25 per annum for four years, for proficiency in arts, has been awarded to Mr. George Foggion.

#### ARMY MEDICAL DEPARTMENT REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1885.

THE Report of the Army Medical Department, recently issued, having reference to the health of the army during the year 1885, shows that, at that date, the white troops serving in Great Britain and in foreign stations, averaged 177,928 in number. This number, as has been the arrangement in former reports, does not include the commissioned officers of the army, nor the men detached from their respective corps; it, moreover, excludes all non-commissioned officers and men who were enlisted abroad, as those of the Royal Malta Fencible Artillery, 1st and 2nd West India Regiments, and the Gun Lascars of Ceylon and Hong Kong. The force above named of 177,928 troops led to 201,295 admissions into hospital for sickness, a proportion of 1131.4 per 1,000. Among these patients, and among the men detached from their corps, there were 1,993 deaths, being in the ratio of 11.12 per 1,000 of the total number of troops. From among the troops serving abroad, not including those on passage on board ship, 3,435 men, or 39.50 per 1,000, were sent home to England as invalids, and out of this number, in addition to the number of invalids discharged from among the men serving in the United Kingdom, there were altogether 3,478 soldiers sent away as permanently disabled for further service during the year, or 19.79 per 1,000 of the total strength of troops. Among the troops serving in the United Kingdom alone there were 1,909 men discharged from the service as invalids during the year. Of the 177,928 troops in Great Britain and in foreign stations, 10,098 were constantly non-effective from sickness, or nearly 58 per 1,000.

All the ratios above named for the year 1885 are higher than the corresponding ratios were for the year 1884. The death-rate in 1884 was 8.42 per 1,000, while, as already stated, it was 11.12 per 1,000 in 1885, an increase of nearly 3 per 1,000 of the strength. Still in 1885 it was rather less than the average of the preceding ten years, during which period the average death-rate was 11.84 per 1,000 of the strength. The increase in mortality was widely distributed, the death-rate being higher in no less than nine out of the twelve foreign stations where the troops quartered abroad were serving, but especially so among the troops who were serving in Egypt, Malta, Gibraltar, and Cyprus. The death-rate was rather higher, too, in the United Kingdom, and, indeed, the only stations where an increase is not shown in the report are the three stations of the West Indies, Mauritius, and Ceylon. In these the report for 1885 shows a considerable diminution in the proportion of deaths among the troops by comparison with the corresponding ratios in the report for the year 1884.

The average strength of the warrant officers, non-commissioned officers, and privates who were serving in the United Kingdom in 1885 was 87,105. There were 76,426 admissions into hospital during the year, giving a ratio of 877 per 1,000 of the strength. The number of deaths, including 40 which occurred among 1,226 men detached from their corps, amounted to 590, showing a death-rate of 6.68 per 1,000 troops. In 1884 the death-rate was 5.33 per 1,000, so that there was an increase in this respect of 1.35 per 1,000 among the troops on duty in the United Kingdom. The number of invalids discharged as permanently unfit for service was 1,209, or 21.61 per 1,000 of strength, a slight increase over the corresponding ratio in the previous year. The average number of men, out of the 87,105 troops, who were daily incapacitated for duty from sickness was 4,221.66, or a proportion of 48.46 per 1,000; while the average duration of each case of sickness was a little over 20 days. These averages are slightly less than the corresponding averages were during the year 1884. The total loss for the year by death and discharge of men as invalids was 2,499, equal to 28.29 per 1,000, a proportion which is higher by 2.07 per 1,000 than it was in the preceding year.

The admissions into hospital for disorders of the febrile group numbered 2,663, and caused 55 deaths. Among the eruptive fevers there were 19 cases of small-pox, and three of these cases proved fatal. The disease was widely distributed. Three cases occurred in London, causing death in one instance; 3 in Colchester, all of which were believed to have been imported from London; 5 at Enniskillen, where one of the patients died; one fatal case took place at Hounslow, in a soldier who contracted the disease in London, while the remaining 7 cases among the troops were admitted at 5 other stations, all widely apart. Two cases of small-pox, with recovery, occurred in soldiers' wives in the

United Kingdom, and 3 among their children, one of the latter proving fatal.

Scarlet fever was not so prevalent among the troops serving in the United Kingdom in 1885 as it was in the previous year. In 1884 the number of cases of scarlet fever admitted under hospital treatment was 170, in the year under notice the number was 96. The disease led to fatal results in three instances. The disease was scattered all over the kingdom, the 96 cases having occurred in no less than 33 of the stations at which troops were quartered. No cases, however, occurred at Aldershot, Woolwich, or in the Channel Islands.

There were 128 cases of measles admitted into hospital during the year. Every military district was affected in some degree with this disease, though several very slightly. The greatest prevalence of it was in Woolwich, where 27 of the cases occurred.

(To be concluded.)

### ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS.

THE ordinary meeting of the Fellows of this College was held on Thursday, October 27th, Sir WILLIAM JENNER, K.C.B., in the chair.

A large number of licences were granted; and C. W. Marriott, M.D., of Leamington, was admitted to the Membership of the College.

The audited accounts for the year ending September 29th were laid before the College, and the quarterly report of the Finance Committee was received and adopted. Two reports from the Committee of Management of the Conjoint Examinations were also received, and, after some discussion, adopted.

It was resolved that the Hospital for Women and Children at Leeds be not for the present recognised as a place for clinical study.

## ASSOCIATION INTELLIGENCE.

### COLLECTIVE INVESTIGATION OF DISEASE.

INQUIRIES are being pursued on the following subjects

DIPHTHERIA, THE ETIOLOGY OF PHTHISIS,

*Memoranda on the above subjects, and forms for communicating observations on them, may be had on application.*

The Inquiries on OLD AGE and on the CONNECTION OF DISEASE WITH HABITS OF INTEMPERANCE are now closed.

Reports are in preparation upon the Inquiries made into ACUTE RHEUMATISM, DIPHTHERIA, and HABITS OF INTEMPERANCE, a full Report on OLD AGE, and a Supplementary Report on PURPERAL PYREXIA. All the above will be published in the JOURNAL as soon as completed. Tables of the Chorea and Acute Rheumatism cases will be published in separate form.

The Returns made to the GEOGRAPHICAL INQUIRY are being tabulated for report.

*Application for forms, memoranda, or further information, may be made to any of the Honorary Local Secretaries, or to the Secretary of the Collective Investigation Committee, 429, Strand, W.C.*

### BRANCH MEETINGS TO BE HELD.

**SOUTH-EASTERN BRANCH: WEST KENT DISTRICT.**—The next meeting of this district will take place on Friday, November 25th, at the Ophthalmic Hospital, Maidstone; M. A. Adams, Esq., in the chair. Gentlemen desirous of reading papers, exhibiting specimens, etc., are requested to inform the honorary secretary of the district, A. W. Nankivell, F.R.C.S., St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Chatham, not later than November 7th. Further particulars will be duly announced.—A. W. NANKIVELL, Honorary Secretary.

**WORCESTERSHIRE AND HEREFORDSHIRE BRANCH.**—The next meeting of this Branch will be held at the Infirmary, Hereford, on Tuesday, November 1st, at 3.45 P.M. Dinner (4s. each) at the Green Dragon, at 6 punctually. Members intending to be present are requested to inform Mr. H. Cecil Moore, Broad Street, Hereford, on or before Saturday, October 29th. Business: A Demonstration of the Cardiograph, with short paper, by Dr. Paul Chapman, President. Note on Bleeding in Acetonæmia, and Notes of a Case of Abscess of the Lung caused by a Stump of a Tooth, and treated by Puncture, Drainage, and Washing: Recovery, by Dr. Strange. Notes of a Case of Cholecystotomy, by Mr. Bates.—G. W. CROWE, Honorary Secretary.

**METROPOLITAN COUNTIES BRANCH: EAST LONDON AND SOUTH ESSEX DISTRICT.**—The next meeting will be held, by the kind permission of Dr. Adams, at Brooke House, Upper Clapton, on Thursday, November 17th, at 8.30 P.M. A demonstration of patients suffering from various forms of skin diseases will be given by Stephen Mackenzie, Esq., M.D. *Post-mortem* specimens will be shown by Dr. C. N. Walker and Major Greenwood, Jun., Esq.—JOSEPH W. HUNT, Honorary Secretary, 101, Queen's Road, Dalston.

**SOUTHERN BRANCH: SOUTH-EAST HANTS DISTRICT.**—The ordinary meeting will be held at the Grosvenor Hotel, Queen's Gate, Southsea, on Wednesday, November 2nd. The chair will be taken by the President, Dr. James Watson, at 4.30 P.M. Agenda: Living Specimens, Pathological Specimens, by Dr. J. O'Connor. Microscopic Sections, by Dr. F. J. Driver. Two Cases of Abdominal Tumour, by Dr. L. K. H. Hackman. Experiences on the Congo, by Dr. George Smith. New Fixation Forceps, by Dr. Ward Cousins. Gentlemen who are desirous of introducing patients, exhibiting pathological specimens, or making communications, are requested to signify their intention at once to the Honorary Secretary. Dinner will be provided at 8.30 P.M. Charge, 5s. (exclusive of wine, etc.)

### SOUTH WALES AND MONMOUTHSHIRE BRANCH.

THE autumnal meeting was held at Tenby, on October 6th, there being twelve members present. The members were sumptuously entertained, on their arrival, by J. GRIFFITH LOCK, Esq.

*New Member.*—Mr. H. T. Evans, of Treharris, was elected a Member of the Association and Branch.

*Coroners' Inquests.*—The Report of a Subcommittee, issued by the Manchester Medico-Ethical Association, was considered and discussed, and it was unanimously resolved that the suggestions contained in the report had the cordial approval of the meeting.

*Tetanus.*—Mr. HALL (Swansea) gave notes of a case of Tetanus after a railway smash, in which curare seemed ineffectual. The patient recovered after several weeks of morphine injections.

*Mortality Statistics of Tenby.*—Mr. Lock (Tenby) read a paper on the Statistics of Mortality in Tenby for the past fifteen years, giving many interesting facts.

*Dinner.*—The members and several visitors, including the Mayor and the Rector of Tenby, subsequently dined together at the Royal Gate House Hotel.

### METROPOLITAN COUNTIES BRANCH: EAST LONDON AND SOUTH ESSEX DISTRICT.

THE first meeting of the session was held on Thursday, October 20th, at the Hackney Town Hall, at 8.30 P.M., Mr. A. DURHAM, President of the Branch, in the chair. Thirty-eight members and visitors were present.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

*Vomiting of Pregnancy.*—Dr. MATTHEWS DUNCAN gave a most interesting address on the vomiting and sickness of pregnancy, for which a vote of thanks was unanimously passed.—Dr. HERMAN opened the discussion, which was continued by Messrs. F. M. CORNER, C. GARMAN, GREENWOOD, and WILLOUGHBY.

*New By-Laws.*—It was proposed and carried that the following by-laws be added to those already existing:—"IX.—The District Committee shall consist of the Vice-President of the District, of the representative of the District on the Council, and six members, to be elected at the annual meeting. In addition, all members of the Council, living in the District, and the District Secretary, shall be *ex officio* members of the Committee. X.—The members of the District Committee shall be elected by ballot, after having been duly proposed and seconded, and shall be eligible for re-election two years, provided they have attended not less than half the meetings of the District." It was proposed by Mr. F. WALLACE, and carried, that Dr. Adams, of Brooke House, Upper Clapton, be the first Vice-President of the District.

*Representative on Council of Branch.*—It was proposed and carried that Mr. Weller, of Wanstead, be the ordinary representative of the District on the Council of the Branch.

*District Committee.*—It was proposed and carried that the following gentlemen form the District Committee:—Messrs. F. Cockell, Jun., Hoskin, Nicoll, Percy Warner, St. Clair Shadwell, and Walker (Leytonstone).

*Vote of Thanks.*—A hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Durham for presiding closed the proceedings.

### SOUTH EASTERN BRANCH: EAST SUSSEX DISTRICT.

A MEETING of this Branch was held at Eastbourne on September 29th, 1887; H. D. FARNELL, Esq., in the chair.

*Papers.*—The following papers were read:—Dr. GABBETT: On some Methods of Numbering Atmospheric Germs. The author gave his experience with various apparatus, and especially recommended that of Hesser.—The CHAIRMAN: Notes on Typhilitis and Perityphilitis.—Dr. HARGOOD: Notes of a case of Bullet Wound of the Pelvis involving the Rectum. This case will be published in full in the JOURNAL.—Dr. TALFOURD JONES related a case of Bromism.

It was decided that the next meeting should be held at Tunbridge Wells.

THE Marquis of Hertford has been re-elected President of the Birmingham and Midland Counties Orthopedic and Spinal Hospital.