

tended over a very limited period, and afforded a quite inadequate basis of comparison. I have, therefore, limited myself to a very careful examination of the results of treatment in Barnwood House from its commencement just thirty years ago. So far as they go, the figures may be relied upon. Patients have throughout been received in the order of their application, without special selection. Epileptics and general paralytics have not been declined. There has been no limit of age, and no restriction of a physical or mental character. The same conditions have been maintained throughout the period, and all the patients have been drawn from the upper and middle classes. There has, therefore, been a small percentage of epileptics, and only a moderate proportion of general paralytics, while aged persons have not been crowded in to save the expense and trouble of home nursing.

The records show the following results in quinquennial periods:—

Date.	Recoveries on Total Admissions.			Deaths on Average Numbers Resident.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
1860 to 1864 ...	25.2	22.2	23.9	20.2	8.3	14.5
1865 to 1869 ...	13.0	35.1	21.7	15.2	4.8	10.0
1870 to 1874 ...	27.8	22.6	25.3	11.3	6.5	9.1
1875 to 1879 ...	39.3	41.0	41.4	8.6	5.4	7.1
1880 to 1884 ...	28.5	43.3	37.2	6.0	3.1	4.6
1885 to 1889 ...	57.4	52.1	54.4	4.7	2.3	3.4

These figures, so far as they go, seem to indicate that where the sources of error which have been enumerated are eliminated, a not unfavourable series of results will be found to have been secured. At all events, they and the other facts which have come within the range of our experience, and the scope of this review, urge us, with a logic which is irresistible, to continue, with increasing perseverance, and towards an ever-widening horizon, our efforts in the direction in which, whatever our shortcomings, an encouraging harvest has already been gathered in, while we see before us—

Still a flying point of bliss remote,  
A happiness in store afar,  
A sphere of distant glory in full view.

## AN ADDRESS

DELIVERED AT THE OPENING OF

### THE SECTION OF OPHTHALMOLOGY.

*At the Annual Meeting of the British Medical Association,  
held in Birmingham, July, 1890.*

By D. C. LLOYD OWEN, F.R.C.S.I.,

Senior Surgeon to the Birmingham and Midland Eye Hospital.

#### ON THE TEACHING OF OPHTHALMOLOGY.

GENTLEMEN,—It is not my intention, in opening the proceedings of this Section, to address you in any but the briefest terms; and this for several reasons—especially because I know that there is matter awaiting your attention of the most valuable character, and I should not be justified in occupying time which will be more profitably spent in the proper work of the Section. It would ill become me to address you on any point which might call for discussion or inquiry; to do this would be to take an unfair advantage of my position. And if I were to take up your time with a summary of the work done in our branch of science during the past year, I should only be travelling over ground with which you are all thoroughly familiar.

I shall therefore hasten to express warmly my acknowledgments to the Council of the Association and to my colleagues in this city for the distinction conferred upon me by appointing me President of the Section of Ophthalmology—an honour which I attribute to their generous appreciation of the accident of my position far more than to any deserts of my own. I am thoroughly sensible of the responsibilities which my position involves, and I shall beg your kind indulgence for my shortcomings.

It is, I am sure, a great pleasure to all of us who are interested in the welfare and progress of this great Association, the annual meeting of which brings us together to-day, to witness the life and vigour exhibited in the programmes of the work before the various Sections, and in none is the contemplation more reassuring than in our own. I remember some years ago one of the Presidents of the Ophthalmological Section speculating in his opening address on the possible effect of the establishment of the Ophthalmological Society on the vitality and persistence of this Section. Some years have elapsed since the Ophthalmological Society was established, and so far from this Section having received its quietus, the records of the work done at Dublin, at Glasgow, at Leeds, and elsewhere, give us as a Section ample comfort and assurance of longevity.

There is one point about which I feel strongly, and upon which I shall trouble the Section with a few words: that is, the necessity for more extended and systematic teaching of ophthalmology in our medical schools. I believe it to be a distinct necessity that a course of clinical instruction in ophthalmology should be made a part of the curriculum, and that in the examinations for all licences to practise, a clinical examination in the same subject should follow. This is the case in all the Irish schools, and I hope the time is not far distant when it will obtain in England and Scotland. At present, although there is abundant material and facility for such teaching within the reach of all the recognised medical schools throughout the country, it is in many instances practically untouched. Only the more energetic and hard-working among the students find time to give voluntarily to the study of ophthalmology, the remainder leave it on one side. Were a three months' attendance at a recognised eye hospital, or at the eye department of a general hospital, made compulsory, the practitioner would enter into practice much better fitted to deal with the cases of eye disease which come under his notice, to his no small peace of mind and encouragement, and to the great advantage of the public.

It was to supplement this defect in our teaching and to further fit the already trained general practitioner for his duties that one of the founders, perhaps the oldest and very highly respected member of this Association, Mr. Richard Middlemore, has founded and endowed an annual course of post-graduate lectures in connection with the Birmingham Eye Hospital. His object being to enable those members of our profession who are engaged in general practice to obtain an acquaintance with the practical advances made in the diagnosis and treatment of diseases of the eye. But such aid, whilst of the highest value, cannot supersede the necessity for early systematic training; and I should like to impress every member of this Section with the earnestness of my conviction of the necessity for the inclusion of clinical teaching in ophthalmology in the students' ordinary curriculum, and to beg of all those who think with me to urge the ruling powers to immediate action.

I have one other pleasant—most pleasant—duty to perform, and I have kept it until the last that it may linger longest in your recollections. It is to offer you all, in the name of my colleagues and in my own, a most sincere and cordial welcome to our city. It is unnecessary to allude to the advantages, personal, social, and scientific, which we gain and share in thus meeting together. We here shall endeavour to show you who are come among us how thoroughly we appreciate your visit, and shall do our utmost to make your stay with us, in some slight degree, we hope, profitable, and in every way pleasant.

MR. C. PRIBUDOCKE, of Wylde, Public Vaccinator for the Stapleford District of the Wilton Union, has been awarded the Government grant for successful vaccination.

PRESENTATION.—An address and a purse of sovereigns has been presented to Dr. James Sharpe on his leaving Cootehill, where he resided for many years.

THE MUZZLING ORDER IN MIDDLESEX.—From the return presented to the Middlesex County Council by the various inspectors under the muzzling order it appears that during the quarter ending June last 5 dogs were seized for rabies in the county, as against 7 in the previous quarter. During the same period 526 dogs were seized, 77 of which were claimed and the remainder slaughtered. The total number of dogs seized in the year was 3,250, of which 488 were claimed and 2,634 slaughtered. In the same period there were 49 cases of rabies, against 22 in the previous year.