

SIXTY-SECOND ANNUAL MEETING
OF THE
BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

Held in BRISTOL July 31st, and August 1st, 2nd, 3rd.

FIRST GENERAL MEETING OF MEMBERS.—TUESDAY,
JULY 31ST.

THE first general meeting was held on Tuesday morning, July 31st, at the Victoria Rooms, the President, Dr. GEORGE HARE PHILIPSON, D.C.L., in the chair.

The minutes of the last general meeting were taken as read and confirmed.

Retirement of President.—The PRESIDENT said that in vacating the chair he availed himself of the opportunity of again expressing his sense of the honour conferred upon him last year by being placed in the presidential chair of the Association. The remembrance would be one of the heartiest recollections of his life, in that he had occupied the chair of the greatest medical association in the world. In retiring he did so with a warm feeling of gratitude to the Association, its members, and its officers for the confidence which had been reposed in him, and for the support which he had invariably received in carrying out the duties of his office. He offered his congratulations to the members of the Association on its continued progress. Although the past year might be regarded as an uneventful one, still the Association had steadily increased in numbers and in its influence upon the profession. That was a fair indication that the tide of prosperity was still in the ascendant. He offered the members his congratulations upon the meeting in Bristol, and especially upon the choice of the distinguished physician who had the honour of being elected their President. In that large and noble Association there was no one more worthy and more proper to occupy the Presidential Chair. He felt sure that in Dr. Long Fox the interests of the Association would be advanced, and that he would occupy the chair with dignity and efficiency. It was now his pleasure to invite Dr. Long Fox to assume the honoured chair of the Association, and to offer to him in his year of office every good wish that he might have a happy and a prosperous year.

Installation of New President.—Dr. EDWARD LONG FOX, President for 1894-5, then took the chair amidst loud applause.

The PRESIDENT, who on rising was received with renewed cheers, expressed his appreciation of the very cordial reception of Dr. Philipson's introduction. It was a very great honour for anybody to preside over that great Association.

Vote of Thanks to Retiring President.—Dr. BRIDGWATER said it was his duty to rise to propose a vote of thanks to the retiring President, and to express in a few words the high appreciation they had of all that he had done for the Association during the last twelve months. They knew the reputation of Dr. Philipson in the North, and they knew the number of engagements which he had to fulfil, and by that means they could gauge the immense effort it must have been to him to devote so much of his time to the affairs of the Association. He proposed:

That the cordial thanks of the Association be presented to Professor George Hare Philipson for the admirable way in which he has performed the duties of President during the past year, and that he be and is hereby elected a Vice-President of the British Medical Association for life.

He hoped that Dr. Philipson would long be spared to enjoy that honour, and that the Council might long have the privilege of his able assistance.

Dr. HOLMAN said it gave him very sincere pleasure to second the resolution, because Dr. Philipson was a very old colleague of his. He was afraid to say how many years Dr. Philipson had been the secretary of his Branch, and it was a great delight to all who had the welfare of the Association at heart to see secretarial work duly and properly considered.

The motion was carried by acclamation.

Dr. PHILIPSON in returning thanks said he esteemed very highly the position to which he had been elected. He took that opportunity of tendering his thanks to the profession in the North for the support they had given him at the meeting at Newcastle.

The Report of Council.—Dr. WARD COUSINS (President of Council) then proposed:

That the financial statement for the year ending December 31st, 1893, be received and adopted.

He said that July 19th, 1832, was a very proud day for the medical profession, when the forefathers of the British Medical Association were assembled in the infirmary at Worcester to consider the proposition of Sir Charles Hastings in reference to the formation of the Provincial Medical Association. On that occasion there were 140 gentlemen present. The first annual meeting was held in Bristol in 1833, and there were then 418 members of the Provincial Medical Association, of whom 200 attended that meeting. The next meeting held at Bristol was in the year 1863, when the members of the Association numbered 2,217, and the JOURNAL was a very small publication indeed. Now what was their position? They came to Bristol again with a membership of over 15,000, with an organisation scattered throughout the world, and with branches in India, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, South Africa, and throughout the Colonies. When they considered that every week they sent out a JOURNAL of 18,000 copies all over the world, reflecting the spirit of their great Association, he thought they had something to be proud of in the successful labours of their eminent editor, Mr. Ernest Hart. The Branch organisation during the past year had considerably increased. They had had Branches formed in Canada, India, South Africa, and Scotland, and others were in the process of formation. A most interesting incident had occurred during the past year—namely, the admission of forty-one lady members. He wished that all the lady graduates in medicine were members of the British Medical Association, and he believed in the course of time they would be. The strength and stability of the Association depended in a great measure on the integrity of the Branch organisation. The administering to such an enormous organisation was impossible by one centre; and they had a number of secondary centres, which were fortunately represented on the Council, and every matter of importance which occurred at the circumference of the Association could be brought up by that system of representation, and receive the attention of the Council at the centre. There were social forces in their midst which were reflected from any portion of the wide circumference to the centre, and then back again to the extreme limits of the Association. They were aware that the Council during the last four years had established a library, and that it contained a large number of eminent works, classical works, works of reference, and the members had open to their gaze 250 contemporary journals. That was administered by a special committee of the Council, and he thought it his duty to state that they were greatly indebted to the energy and ability and liberality of Mr. Ernest Hart, who had from the first acted as honorary librarian. During the past year there had been a very large increase in the attendance—more than 12 per cent. It seemed a little home for the members when they came to town, and the committee would only be too glad to see a still greater number. Let them look, too, at the splendid financial condition of the Association. In the year 1871 they had no surplus at all, whereas now they had a surplus of £55,000. He should like to point out a singular coincidence which should have its full effect upon them, namely, that the balance had steadily gone up from 1871 to 1893, and that was the period during which Mr. Francis Fowke had held the position of General Secretary. The Parliamentary Bills Committee had been hard at work during the past year. Prominent questions had been before them; among others, the Penal Clauses in the Medical Acts. They all knew they could not get convictions under them, and the intention of the Parliamentary Bills Committee was to get legislative interference so that those penal clauses might be very active. What they wanted was to prevent the assumption of all sorts of letters which assumed a medical title. Then, again, they were considering the question of

the University scheme. The Academic Council would have extraordinary powers, and they felt that the medical profession should have full influence on the Council. The Committee would labour to produce such a modification that general practitioners who had been long practising might have an opportunity of graduating, if they thought proper, in the new London University. With regard to the health influence of the employment of married women in factories, the health of the future population depended upon the mothers, and the Committee were of opinion that the returns clearly showed that some supervision must be exercised in that direction, and efforts were therefore being made to curtail the hours of labour of married women. The Committee had also been endeavouring to make proprietors of patent medicines put the word "poison," on every medicine which contained a poison, and now they were compelled to do so. That was a move in the right direction, but he would like to see the whole prescription on the bottle, as was done in France. He had been much annoyed during the last twelve miles of the journey to Bristol by the advertisements in the fields on either side of the line; surely the proprietors, knowing the Association was meeting in Bristol, might have turned the Boards round just for the week. With reference to the Scientific Grants Committee, one of the purposes for which the Association was originally established was to promote research. The Council selected gentlemen to hold research scholarships, and large sums of money were granted for scientific research. He need not tell them that there were lots of questions still to be settled, and the Council was doing its utmost to get good and mature reports upon many scientific problems of very great interest to all. During the past twelve months the Inebriates Legislation Committee had been very active indeed, and had taken a step in the right direction, the most influential members having waited upon the Home Secretary with regard to the therapeutic treatment of habitual drunkards. It was a most important question, and it was very satisfactory, after a life of labour in a certain direction, to find that one's opinions were being adopted, more or less, by one's professional *confrères*. That was the position of Dr. Norman Kerr, who had long laboured to establish the treatment of inebriates upon a scientific and therapeutic basis. Drunkenness, as Dr. Kerr had told them, was sometimes a disease; a large number of persons who gave way in that direction had lost all self-control, and what was loss of self-control but disease? Drunkenness was generally condemned as an immoral act, but it was more than that with a large number—it was a disease of the nervous system, and unfortunately they knew that hereditary taints in that direction were transmitted from father to children. The British Medical Association, therefore, sympathised with the work of the Committee, and it was something for the friends of temperance to feel that they had the heart of the great British Medical Association helping them on. With reference to the action of the Council on the important question of the eyesight of railway servants, they had not obtained the full benefit of the recommendations of the Committee by general adoption at present, but he had no doubt it was the intention of the Council to extend its inquiry during the next year to seamen and mariners. With regard to the abuse of medical charities, the Committee had had a vast amount of favourable correspondence with the London hospitals, and he only hoped that their inquiries would be extended into the provinces, because provincial hospitals were as much abused as those in the metropolis. Medical charities would doubtless always be abused, but they were trying to reduce the abuse to a minimum. With reference to the recommendation from the annual meeting at Nottingham on the question of the medical profession getting complete control of the nurses—surgical, medical, and midwifery—throughout the country, the Council had given it their full consideration, but of course it was a very difficult matter. The Council felt that much might be done individually and locally. They knew that the old Sairey Gamps were dying out, and if all the provincial hospitals became institutions for the development of good nurses the present evils would be corrected. The question of expunging the word "unqualified" assistants from the advertisements

in the JOURNAL had been referred to a subcommittee, which came to the conclusion that it would be much better to leave out, as the General Medical Council directed, the word "unqualified" and to substitute the words "dispensary" assistant and "surgical" assistant. There were plenty of unemployed medical men in the profession, and they knew that those persons who desired to make their wants known through the instrumentality of the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL would not object to use those terms instead of the old-fashioned term "unqualified" assistant. Surveying the work of the year, he thought they had made great progress. They were always advancing as an Association, they were always increasing in numbers, they were always extending their bounds, and always improving in their pockets. Unfortunately during the past year they had lost many of their associates, who had passed away in the midst of the battle, and whose genial faces they sadly missed. Individual life might fall, and human life even at the longest was uncertain when measured by moral wants and intellectual cravings, but after all their great Association would go on; it would increase all along the line, gathering together men from every clime, defending the interests and the honour of the profession throughout the world, and being at the same time the diffuser of those splendid sciences which aimed at the common good and the universal happiness of mankind.

The TREASURER, in seconding the motion, said he was sorry to have to correct Dr. Cousins in one statement which he had made—namely, that they had a surplus of £55,000, the real amount being £42,000. The value of the assets as calculated over the liabilities was £55,000, but that was a totally different thing. The year 1893 had been a very important one from a business point of view to the Journal and Finance Committee, and to the General Secretary and himself. It had been decided during 1892 to increase the price of advertisements, although they knew perfectly well that by so doing they might seriously affect the number of advertisers, and receive a smaller amount of money from them than for some years past, but he was happy to say that they found that the advertisements had brought in more money than ever before by some hundreds of pounds, and that, as a consequence of increasing the price of advertisements, they had had to print fewer pages of advertisements in the JOURNAL, so that the experiment had been an undoubted success. In consequence of that the Journal and Finance Committee had allowed to the editorial department two more pages of literary matter each week, so that all members of the Association might benefit by the change which had been made.

Dr. RENTOUL pointed out that in the portion of the report dealing with advertisements for unqualified assistants it was stated that "Fourth year students, being recognised by the General Medical Council as assistants, should be simply advertised as such." The recognition of the General Medical Council referred not to fourth year, but to fifth year, students. Further, they had not held that even fifth year students should be recognised as assistants, but only as pupils and apprentices. The report should therefore be corrected in that respect.

Surgeon-Major INCE moved the following amendment:

That this meeting regrets the great and growing increase in the annual expenditure as compared with the income of the Association, and suggests to the Council the expediency of a careful and substantial reduction thereof in all departments, especially in the matter of the editorial and office expenses, which appear out of all proportion to the needs and nature of the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL.

Dr. INCE commenced by a criticism upon the JOURNAL, which he said was not the golden article it had been represented to be. The tone of some articles he considered as undignified, often vulgar. He objected, for example, to a leading article written upon the Harness case, and in response to cries of "Read, read," he quoted sentences from the article in which Harness was referred to as—[cheers and cries of "Hear, hear!"]—"that champion impostor"—[renewed cheers]—"this egregious quack,"—[hear, hear]—the sentiments contained in the quotations being apparently warmly endorsed by the audience. Dr. Ince would leave Mr. Harness and pass on to criticise an article headed "A

Superior Person, and the Journalism of the Future," which appeared on January 28th, and which he described as "arrogant and satirical." The JOURNAL was outdone in size by the *Lancet*, which contained 3,212 pages of reading matter last year as against 3,024 in the JOURNAL, or 188 pages in excess. He commented on the "undisguised personality" of the Editor of the JOURNAL. Mr. Ernest Hart, in his last year's address on journalism, had spoken of "modesty and self-effacement." He added that he thought that would "fetch them." With regard to the financial statement, he complained that it was meagre. There was no statement of the investments, while their furniture was put down at its cost, without any allowance for depreciation. There was something wrong in the accounts. He absolved the Treasurer in every way. Mr. Butlin was reappointed last year at his (Dr. Ince's) suggestion, and he had the fullest confidence in his integrity, his probity, and discrimination. There was, however, still room for retrenchment, and it was a great mistake not to allow individual members who were desirous of doing so to inspect the accounts. One item that should be cut off immediately was the expense incurred by the peregrinations of their editor. Dr. Ince having by this time somewhat exhausted the patience of his audience, was called upon to conclude, which he did by moving the resolution.

After a long pause, Mr. BRINDLEY JAMES seconded the amendment.

Dr. BRIBBLEY then rose. Starting on the assumption that the JOURNAL was the organ of the Association, he said it should, if possible, avoid any appearance of partiality on at any rate large questions affecting the nationality, he might so call it, of their profession. No doubt it should be quite within the power of the Editor and the Reference Committee to exclude letters referring to any petty matters, but, on the other hand, communications dealing with large questions, for instance, those affecting the profession, should have due consideration. For instance, on the question of the registration of midwives, he had been somewhat struck with what he considered unquestionable partiality on the part of the JOURNAL. Not only were letters by recognised partisans of the scheme inserted, but also "leaderettes," showing, to his mind, pronounced leaning in that one direction. At the meeting of the General Medical Council in May, one member said the whole opposition to the proposed registration was preposterous; there was no Bill in Parliament, and therefore no Bill before the profession. The fact was, that in the JOURNAL of the same week it was announced that there was "a scheme" *in embryo*, and that it would be published the following week. The following week the scheme of the Midwives' Registration Association was not published *in extenso*, but its pith and marrow was published. They were told at the General Council there was no Bill before the world; within a fortnight of that statement this "scheme" was published, and no doubt it was well known to have been in existence. The Chairman of the Committee of the House of Commons took the same line, and made a special point of intimating to witnesses that there was no Bill before Parliament or for the consideration of the profession. That was not a fair way of dealing with the question. He did not feel that he could endorse Dr. Ince's amendment. If the Editor was not a man to whom they could entrust their work, or with whose holiday on the Continent or elsewhere they need to interfere, the sooner they parted with him the better. He apprehended that they had in their Editor a man of very different calibre to that, and these were details in which he should be left a free hand.

The TREASURER said he was of course prepared to meet and answer an attack on the financial aspect of the Association, but to his perfect astonishment this resolution had been put forward really to cover a downright personal attack upon the Editor of the JOURNAL. He thought if that was the intention it would have been very much more manly to have given notice of it in different terms, so as to give the Editor some notion of what was going to be said against him, and give him the chance of answering it. The motion in its terms meant that the expenditure of the Association had increased out of proportion to the revenue. He (Mr. Butlin) was naturally a little astonished at this, because, though every now and again reviewing the

financial position of the Association, he had not observed this comparative increase, and he took the precaution to get out some of the figures. Taking the three years 1893, 1883, and 1873, and comparing the total expenditure of those years with the revenue, he found in 1873 the expenditure was 87 per cent. of the revenue, in 1883 it was 88 per cent, and in 1893 86 per cent. Comparing the profits in the different years the total income in 1873 was £8,637, and the profits £1,003; in 1883 the total income, deducting interest on investments, was £18,936, and the profits £1,936; and in 1893, out of a total revenue of £34,162, they had saved £3,945, again deducting interest. Therefore, out of a revenue very much less than double that in 1883, they had been able to save more than twice as much as was saved in that year. Of course, in considering the total expenditure of the Association, it must be taken into account that within the last few years they had moved from very small and insignificant premises into large and really very important premises; also that it had become necessary to employ a larger staff in all departments to do the work of the Association. In 1873 also no money was given for scholarships or scientific grants, and whilst at that time they paid their people as well as they could, they were very poorly paid compared with the work they actually did. Dr. Ince specially referred to the expense of the office and the editorial department. The proportion of the total office expenditure to revenue was: in 1873, 15 per cent.; in 1883, 16 per cent.; and in 1893 it had decreased to 14 per cent. In 1873 the proportion of editorial expenditure to revenue was 16 per cent.; in 1883, 15.9 per cent.; and in 1893 15.7 per cent.—less than in either of the two former years. Their general expenses were naturally increasing. The staffs were larger owing to the greater wants of the departments, and if they went on increasing in numbers, and their business grew, they would have to expend still more. He hoped, however, that they would be able to keep down the expenses as compared with the revenue, and that their savings as time went on would be larger in proportion. He quite admitted that the editorial department was very expensive. The Editor had been with them more than twenty years. He found the JOURNAL in a very poor condition, and had raised it to be, if not the best, at any rate on a level with the best medical journals in the world. He was acknowledged on all hands to be the most capable of editors. As to the number of pages in the JOURNAL, that was regulated by the Journal and Finance Committee, and not by the Editor, and the editorial department was kept down to a certain number of pages. As to the illustrations, a late order of the Journal and Finance Committee was that the illustration were to be what were called purely scientific. The department of the General Manager had gradually increased in cost owing to the very much larger amount of work he had had to do, and his salary had in the course of the year been increased, and also the salary of the assistant secretary. Their work had increased enormously, and their responsibility was out of all proportion to their former responsibility. When Mr. Fowke came to them twenty-three years ago the Association was actually in debt, and it was to the very great care which he had expended upon the general management of the Association that a large part of its success was due. It was said that the JOURNAL was really the origin of the success of the Association. No doubt they had made money through the JOURNAL, but if they had not had a man such as Mr. Fowke as manager of the Association they could not have expended their money with the same good result. There were two facts as showing how well the affairs of the Association were managed financially. The excess of their assets over liabilities was put at £55,906. Of this £42,605 was invested, leaving a working capital of £13,301, out of which they made a profit for the year, excluding interest on investments, of £3,945, or very nearly 30 per cent. He would ask, What business house would not be proud of having done so well? Then again their investments, which if realised on March 24th would have yielded £41,296, were originally purchased for £37,149, making a clear profit of more than £4,000. This was not the result of a mere lucky speculation in one or two things; not one of their investments had gone down in value save one in which money was placed last year, and which had diminished in value to the important amount of £1 in £1,000. It would be admitted

that the affairs of the Association were not badly managed under such circumstances. It might have been thought of course that this attack upon the finances of the Association without better grounds than it had was rather malicious. He knew better than that; he knew perfectly well that Dr. Ince from the very beginning did this in order to give an opportunity to the Treasurer of explaining the finance, and of correcting one or two errors and drawing attention to one or two points which had been on his mind for a long time, but which he had never been able to give out to a large general meeting. It would therefore be seen that he was really very much indebted to Dr. Ince. In his speech last year Dr. Ince spoke of the Association as a "rich Association." He was sorry to say that that was the one point on which he (Mr. Butlin) had a quarrel with the Editor, who had said in various places and had allowed it to be printed in the JOURNAL again and again that the Association was now so rich. It could quite be recognised that looking back on the last twenty years or more, and seeing the condition in which it was when he came as Editor, Mr. Hart might magnify the wealth of the Association. The fact was they had about £40,000. They were constantly asked what they were going to do with it. There would soon arise the question whether they should get a renewal of their lease in the Strand for some sixty or eighty years or should remove from their present premises, buy a freehold, and build. If they adopted the former course, and purchased an eighty years' lease outright, it would cost them a great deal more money than they had in hand, and after paying for a mere lease of the premises and spending some £5,000 or £6,000 in adapting them to their rapidly growing wants they would be in debt to the amount of some £15,000, and yet theirs was a "rich Association!" They could not even afford to buy a lease of their house. On the other hand, if they should buy a piece of freehold ground, and build a house upon it adapted merely to their official wants, and not a club, it would result in a debt of £25,000 or £30,000 before it was finished. He was very anxious to make this statement, because the constant reference at those meetings and in the JOURNAL to the wealth of the Association had caused a large number of very excellent people to be constantly throwing out hints as to what might be done with it. They were asked, for instance, to reduce to one-half the subscription of the Colonial Branches; to undertake the legal defence of all the members of the Association; to suppress quacks of every kind; to use all the surplus money for scientific purposes; to pay the railway fares of the Parliamentary and all other Committees; to devote £1,000 to the work of the medical examination of 50,000 more school children; to provide a fund for aged and poor members; and, lastly, to build a house worthy of the Association, with bedrooms with all the offices for country members particularly, showing that they were the British Medical Association; and all this for the sum of one guinea a year.

Mr. ERNEST HART said, like Mr. Butlin, he was greatly indebted to Dr. Ince and to the gentleman who had just followed him, although for different reasons. He was especially indebted to Dr. Brierley for the perfect fairness and courtesy with which he stated his case. He entirely agreed, and so did every member of the Reference Committee, that on every controversial or controverted question, the utmost impartiality should be shown by the Editorial Department, and especially by him as responsible Editor. He could only say that for twenty-eight years that had been the course which to the best of his ability he had followed. They could not always hope to convince those whose communications were not published that their non-publication was due to considerations wholly outside of any personal partiality or prejudice, but the President of Council here present and the past President of Council, who were weekly present at the Reference Committee of the JOURNAL, would be able to confirm the statement that in respect to the question of the registration of midwives, every letter or document which had come to the JOURNAL had been placed before them, as, indeed, was the case with every letter or document not published, and that in a great number of cases where they seemed of special interest they were put in type and circulated among the Reference Committee beforehand,

in order that, after a careful consideration, an impartial decision might be arrived at. These communications on a subject which, after all, was only one amongst many, had been so numerous that, having regard to other pressing matters, the whole of them could not be published. In every case the object of the Committee and the Editor had been to publish every communication which seemed to bring any new fact or argument to light, and was not a mere repetition of what had been said before in the JOURNAL over and over again. So far as he knew, no argument or statement which would throw light upon the matter had ever been omitted. (Cheers.) Now, as to Dr. Ince, he might be thanked for having added to the gaiety of the meeting. He quite agreed that modesty and self-effacement were valuable public qualities, and of this Dr. Ince this year, as in previous years, had given remarkable practical illustration. He was not a very good judge how far they were practically exemplified by himself, but he could state he was responsible for a great deal of work for which he carefully gave other people the credit. When he became Editor his personality was officially thrust upon them every week, and the name of the editor was printed every week in the front of the JOURNAL. He had so far carried out the principle of self-effacement that he had removed that name, but if his personality was hidden under an anonymous mask would Dr. Ince be able to hurl his personalities? He did not desire anonymity. With regard to Dr. Ince's picture of a luxurious editor roaming about the world spending the funds of the Association, it might be interesting for him to know that his winter holidays were taken at his own expense, and that during twenty-eight years, with the exception of a small voluntary contribution by the Council towards the expenses of one foreign journey in which he was officially requested to represent the Association, he had never had one farthing for his foreign holiday in the winter, which was the only holiday he took. That expenditure referred to was, on Dr. Ince's part, purely imaginary. As to the question of editorial expenditure, it was the fact that for twenty years—from 1866 to 1886—he practically did the whole work without a salary. There was a nominal honorarium, not sufficient to pay horseflesh, of £250 a year. He did the work for many years, at a time when he refused £1,500 a year elsewhere, absolutely for £250 a year. The income he had received from the JOURNAL at any time had been until lately a ridiculous trifle, seeing that his whole life had been given to the work of spreading the influence of the Association and increasing its numbers.

Mr. GEORGE BROWN asked Dr. Ince to withdraw his amendment after the explanation that had been elicited. He thought that they ought to leave the matter where it was. He begged to congratulate the Council on the very excellent work generally that they were doing for the profession. He hoped the example set by the JOURNAL in refusing to insert advertisements for unqualified assistants would be followed by other journals. He appealed to Dr. Ince to withdraw his motion.

Dr. INCE said his object had been completely satisfied. It was to "draw" the two or three persons on the platform. He had done so, and would now withdraw his amendment.

Medical Aid Associations.—Dr. DOYNE said he had been specially requested by the Oxford and District Branch to bring up the subject of medical aid associations. He specially mentioned the case of the Banbury Medical Aid Association, which high and low, rich and poor, were all solicited to join, and of which a year or two ago the Mayor of Banbury was a member, and many others of like standing. That association paid the medical officer £200 or £250 a year, and whether he saw 1,000 or 3,000 patients he still got the same amount of money and no more. The balance of profit went into the pockets of the association, and it was a typical case of an association sweating the medical man, and making a profit out of his labours. The Branch thought that the only body which could take action in the matter was the British Medical Association. The General Medical Council had the matter before them a year ago, but though their intentions were good they were practically impotent. In that case they did do something—they moved for a committee, and the Committee reported their suggestion. The Scotch and Irish Colleges were appealed to, and they passed resolutions that their Members should not serve such associations. He be-

lieved the same example had been followed in England, but all without effect, and therefore they appealed to the only Association that could do it. The Council had been appealed to, but they declined to express an opinion on the matter. He moved as an amendment:

That this Association regrets that the report contains no reference to the matter of medical aid associations as urged upon the Council by the Oxford Branch.

Dr. MEAD, in seconding the amendment, said that the London and Counties Medical Protection Society had passed the following resolution:

That the Council of the London and Counties Medical Protection Society, while thanking the General Medical Council for taking action in the matter of medical aid societies, ventures to express regret that the report of the Committee on Medical Aid Societies was not accepted by the General Medical Council.

Dr. WARD COUSINS said that the matter brought forward by Dr. Doyne had been before the Council at the last meeting. The Oxford Branch sent up their resolution to the Council, and full consideration was given to it, the following resolution being passed:

While declining to express any opinion on the question, the Council suggests that the Branch should bring the matter before the annual meeting by giving notice in the usual way.

He was very glad the matter had been brought forward. This was the resolution of the Oxford Branch:

That in the opinion of this meeting medical men ought not to meet in consultation medical officers of medical aid associations as defined by the Committee of the General Medical Council, and that the Branch Council should bring the matter before the central Council, and that the central Council be urged to bring the matter before the annual meeting.

Mr. NELSON HARDY thought that there was a good deal to be said both for and against the view which the Oxford Branch had laid before them, and suggested that the Council should appoint a Committee to collect evidence and report to a future meeting.

Mr. GEORGE BROWN suggested that Mr. Nelson Hardy should extend his motion, and recommend the Council to refer that and other questions of a similar character to an Ethical Committee to be appointed by the Council.

Mr. NELSON HARDY objected to the proposed extension.

Dr. WARD COUSINS said that he was sure the Council would be very glad indeed to appoint a Committee to consider the question.

Dr. DOYNE then thanked the Council and withdrew his amendment.

The motion for the adoption of the report was then agreed to.

Parliamentary Bills Committee.—Mr. ERNEST HART, in moving the adoption of the report of the Committee, said it was sufficiently full of detail to dispense with any observations. He wished simply to mention that they had succeeded in introducing, and he hoped in passing, some important clauses in the Factories Acts Bill, and also had received a communication from the Home Secretary, announcing that he would receive a deputation in October on the subject of infant mortality as the result of the working of females in factories, to which the report referred.

Dr. WINTERBOTHAM, in seconding the motion, repudiated the suggestion which had been made that the Parliamentary Bills Committee only consisted of one man. Mr. Ernest Hart assimilated the facts of the various matters brought before the Committee for their digestion, and upon those facts the Committee decided.

Dr. HORDER then moved the adjournment of the meeting.

Dr. MEAD seconded the motion, which was agreed to.

ADJOURNED GENERAL MEETING.

The adjourned general meeting was held on Tuesday evening, when a very large number of ladies and gentlemen attended to hear the President's address; the Mayor of Bristol, Mr. R. H. Symes, was present, occupying a seat on the President's right.

President's Address.—The PRESIDENT, Dr. Long Fox, delivered his address, which will be found on page 237.

Dr. RUSSELL REYNOLDS (President of the College of Physicians), in proposing a vote of thanks to the President for his address, said that there was no more difficult task that could

be imposed upon anyone than that which had been imposed upon the President in the preparation and delivery of that address, going as it did over a wide range of subjects. The President had drawn attention to one point which had not been sufficiently observed by civilian practitioners in England—namely, the great utility that had been conferred upon the medical profession by the work of their naval and medical officers, some of whom had been brought into contact with diseases of which general practitioners saw but rare examples, and were familiar with conditions under which some of those diseases occurred, and who could therefore impart to the general practitioners information which they would otherwise be almost entirely deprived of. The President had alluded to the researches of Edward Jenner, and although he was the founder in this country of that school of medicine and of therapeutics in its practical sense which had become of late not only the fashion but the passion of the physiologist and the pathologist, the microbic, it had also been foreseen by Harvey, who very distinctly pointed out in his treatise the possibility of the germ theory of disease. The remarks made by the President with regard to the public health question and other matters required to be pondered with an amount of care which could scarcely be bestowed in the few minutes during which he delivered them, but they were of very great value. With regard to the treatment of idiots and criminals, it was very important that the Association should express from the medical point of view an opinion upon that most miserable farce of repeated imprisonments of those who, by disease or by deformity, were the victims of crime. He moved:

That the warm thanks of this Association be given to the President, Dr. Edward Long Fox, for his most interesting and able address.

Mr. WHITE, in seconding the motion, said that, great as had been their pleasure in hearing the President's able address delivered, it would be supplemented by reading it when published, for it was not only exhaustive but instructive on many points, and required study.

The motion was carried by acclamation.

The PRESIDENT said it was quite impossible for him adequately to return thanks for the vote which had just been passed, but there was one reason why the members would be contented with a simple expression of his very earnest thanks, namely, that they were immediately to form themselves into an adjourned meeting from the morning, and discuss some very important business. Dr. HORDER would resume the discussion upon the Parliamentary Bills Committee.

Parliamentary Bills Committee.—Dr. HORDER proposed as an amendment:

That the Report of the Parliamentary Bills Committee referring to the proposed amendment of the Medical Acts be referred back to them for reconsideration.

He said that in the opinion of many gentlemen of the British Medical Association those amendments were not good enough. Dr. Ward Cousins had said that they might drive a coach-and-four through the Medical Acts. What the profession wanted was that men outside the profession, who did not assume titles, but who practised the medical and surgical professions without calling themselves doctors or licentiates of midwifery or surgery, or accoucheurs or anything else, should be prevented from practising. The amendment as proposed by the Metropolitan Branch provided that if, after the passing of the Act, any person other than a person whose name was for the time being on or entitled to be on the *Medical Register*, or who prior to the passing of the Medical Act, 1886, would have been entitled to be registered, should practise any branch of medicine or surgery, or should pretend to be or take or use the name or title of doctor, etc., or any description implying that he was registered under the Act, or was qualified to practise medicine or surgery, or any branch thereof, should upon summary conviction for any such offence pay the sum of not less than £20, nor more than £40, for the first offence, and on further conviction should be fined for each offence the sum of not less than £40, nor more than £60, or be imprisoned for not less than three, nor more than six, months. With regard to one of the exceptions set down by the committee, "a person shall not be guilty of an offence under this Act if he

shows that he is not ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom, and that he holds a qualification which entitles him to practise medicine or surgery in a British possession or foreign country, and if he do not represent himself to be registered under the Medical Acts"—under that exception they might be flooded with practitioners holding bogus qualifications from all parts of the world. At present they had ladies—it was doubtful whether they were entitled to the term—and gentlemen coming from America delivering lectures in all the large towns to males and females which could only be characterised as indecent to the last degree. They advertised themselves largely, they got puffs in the local papers, they hired large halls, and appealed to the passions of the working and middle classes, and then simply swindled the people out of their hard earned wages. If these exceptions to the 40th clause which now existed were maintained the country might be flooded by such people. If they were going to amend the Medical Acts—and it was high time they did so—why not make a good business of it at once, and insist that there should be reciprocity with regard to practising in other countries. No English practitioner could practise in France, however high his qualifications, without undergoing the ordinary examinations for a doctor of medicine, and it was not fair that that state of things should continue seeing that medical practitioners from other countries—France, Germany, Italy, and Switzerland—were able to come here and have their qualifications registered on the foreign register. Let them deal with the Medical Acts *in toto*, and not deal with the 1858 Act alone.

Dr. MEAD, in seconding the amendment, mentioned, with regard to qualifications, the case of the Hindu oculists who were prosecuted at the Old Bailey. As Secretary of the Medical Protection Society, it had been his duty to have frequent interviews with the authorities at Scotland Yard. He had brought before them a number of cases, and gone into them very minutely, and his firm opinion was that, if they only had upon the Bench some firm and just judges who would, instead of trying to find a hole in an Act of Parliament, consider that that Act of Parliament was passed for the specific purpose of preventing fraud upon the public by the obtaining of money under false pretences, they would have no difficulty whatever in dealing with a very large and a very dangerous class of practitioners, even under the present law. A very short amendment of the Act, he believed (and in this particular he was only stating the opinion of eminent detectives) making a little clearer what was meant by obtaining money under false pretences, would put an end to the very dangerous system of quackery which enabled men to extort from the ignorant and the uneducated very large sums of money. They wanted first a reform of the views of the English judges, and secondly, some plain statement of the law. They also required some amendment of the law with regard to the recovery of costs.

Mr. ERNEST HART said that instead of the Parliamentary Bills Committee or himself being in any way desirous of settling the matter themselves or on their own responsibility, the first thing they did was to put all the facts before the solicitor of the Association, and to ask him for his advice in drafting a new amendment clause. They had the benefit of that advice, and then, as they thought that hardly went far enough, they took the benefit of the advice of the gentlemen who had been instrumental in framing the Dentists Act, which was more recent, and in many ways more effective than the Medical Act, and with that assistance the clause was further extended and amended. After it was so extended and amended and discussed by the Committee, which included representatives of all the Branches, a copy was sent to the secretaries of every Branch, including Dr. Horder's, with the request that they should submit it to their Branch, and with a special request, which was emphasised in the JOURNAL, that each Branch would favour the Committee with its comments, criticisms, and suggestions upon the clause. They received a few comments—he was sorry to say they had been very few. He did not remember the purport of any communication with which Dr. Horder's Branch might have favoured them.

Dr. HORDER said that a letter from himself had appeared in the JOURNAL last Saturday, commenting upon the matter.

Mr. ERNEST HART said it appeared they had received a communication from Dr. Horder individually, which was published, but that was not quite the same thing, and was a less regular and authoritative procedure. He had received as Chairman of the Parliamentary Bills Committee a great number, which had all been laid before the Committee; they were for the most part in full approval. Those that had not replied would be again asked to do so. The only communication they had received in any detail was from the Metropolitan Counties Branch, for they had two printed, the second an amended and improved one. Thus the amendments suggested by the Committee had been framed by the ablest lawyers whom they could consult; a copy of it had been sent to every Branch; their views, so far as expressed, had also been put before the most able legal advisers, and, as they were aware, at the present moment the whole of the documents and the clause were about to be subjected to scrutiny by Mr. Muir Mackenzie, Mr. Costelloe, and Mr. Turner, the three barristers who had all been concerned in drawing or dealing with most recent amendments to the Medical Act and the Dentists Act, and who would carry weight on the General Medical Council, with whom it was essential, in the matter of amending the law under which the Council existed, they should have at any rate some sort of friendly communication. Those amendments were under the advice of those three barristers, and they were before the Branches. If they could have their own medical Parliament and pass laws exactly to please themselves, he had no doubt they might adopt draft clauses drastic and exclusive enough to please Dr. Horder; but as practical men they had to consider what all the most experienced persons told them stood a chance of passing in the House of Commons, and what members would undertake and Parliament accede to. If Dr. Horder really thought they could get the House of Commons to pass an Act not allowing anybody to practise bone-setting or herbalism under any circumstances who had not got a registered degree and placed themselves under the jurisdiction of the Government, the Committee would give precedence to his Bill and assist him so far as was possible; but all the advice was that such an extreme Act would stand no chance of passing, and would only retard immediate reforms which were much needed and which were within their reach. "The best was often enemy of the better." They aimed at the better. They would be glad if Dr. Horder would communicate with them—not as a critic but as a friend—and they would heartily welcome any assistance he could give them.

Mr. GEORGE BROWN said it was not their duty to employ solicitors to tell them what they required and what Parliament would pass, but to tell Parliament what they wanted.

A motion referring back that portion of the report dealing with the amendment of the Medical Acts for reconsideration was then put and carried.

Mr. ERNEST HART said the Parliamentary Bills Committee had not the slightest objection to the matter being referred back. The draft clauses which were read were only presented as a preliminary proceeding, and not in a final form. The report explicitly stated, together with the fact that the first draft, together with the resolutions of Branches, were at this moment ordered to be put before counsel for their report on all the documents. He hoped that gentlemen who seemed interested now would show their interest in their Branches, and would favour the Committee with the suggestions for which they had asked, but which in many cases had not yet been received.

The amendment was then put as a substantive motion, and agreed to.

Registration of Midwives.—Dr. LOVELL DRAGE said the question of midwives' registration was specially referred by the Parliamentary Bills Committee to the annual meeting. The subject was one which had received very scant justice, legislation being introduced without preliminary inquiry and investigation. It was only in the last year or two that there had been any fair or adequate discussion. In the case of all legislation they had a right to require that cause should be shown for change. He had very great difficulty in ascertaining at all the reason upon which this demand for legislation was passed. It was said that it would benefit the poorer portion of the community, but it was no

very difficult to show that it could not possibly achieve that object. Dr. Norman Walker showed in an article which the *BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL* had published that the effect of the practice of midwives in Austria was that the very poor in the villages still remained in the hands of women who were utterly incompetent, and it would always be the same where there was poverty. He claimed that in England the poor received very considerable assistance from those who were the proper persons to administer it—namely, the doctors—and he was very anxious to know how the proposed measure could be in the interests of the poor, when it was shown by the returns that in every foreign country not only was the puerperal death-rate higher than in England, but the mortality from puerperal sepsis was also higher in Spain. Puerperal mortality ranged from $5\frac{1}{2}$ to 13 per cent., whilst in this country it was only 4. So far, therefore, from the new system being likely to benefit the poor, it was likely to do just the reverse. It was said by the supporters of the measure that the mortality statistics of lying-in character where midwives were employed were very much better than those in general practice. It was rather hard that that should be said, because not so many years ago lying-in hospitals had occasionally to be closed altogether on account of puerperal fever. On the other hand in a return from Salford, which might be taken as a typical town, the medical officer reported 30 cases of puerperal trouble, none of which he said required special notice. In his own district (Hatfield) during five years there was only one death in the puerperal period out of 1,000 cases. Statistics reflecting on the practice of midwifery were brought forward from out of the way places such as in Wales, but they were not found to be very bad in any parts of England. Dr. Drage's time for speaking having expired he concluded by moving:

That this meeting disapproves of the principle of registration of midwives.

Dr. MORE MADDEN seconded the motion. He thought their opposition to any such Bill should rest mainly upon the fact that it would not be in the interests of the population at large, or desirable in the interests of humanity. He thought Dr. Rentoul deserved great credit for the stand he had taken under great difficulties, and at great personal expense and trouble. Having had considerable experience of midwifery practice and the training of midwives in the great institution with which he had been connected in Dublin, he was prepared to say, having had ample opportunity of contrasting the practice of midwives in favourable and unfavourable conditions with that of medical practitioners under the same circumstances, that if the poorer classes of women in their parturient distress were left to the sole care of women, possibly armed with a diploma entitling them to registration, but only qualified to attend natural labours, the result would be extremely disastrous in any cases of complication or emergency.

Dr. Woodcock said there had been a good deal of misunderstanding as to the position of those who opposed registration. They were not for leaving things as they were, for nothing could be worse than the existing state of things whereby women had been certificated or had diplomas issued to them, indicating at all events that they were worthy of the confidence of the poor who employed them. These were entirely days of higher education. In every other profession there was an indication that people were requiring the very highest form of training, and it was a monstrous thing to propose to impose the responsibility of practising the obstetric art on women who gave no evidence of culture, after they had undergone some three months' instruction. He had been more than surprised at the sort of testimony given of the qualifications of those certificated midwives by gentlemen who certainly had been interested in issuing diplomas. At a meeting of the Lancashire and Cheshire Branch it was stated by one gentleman connected with one of the Liverpool colleges that he found these women infinitely superior to the gentlemen he had to examine; whilst another teacher in the Liverpool school urged that they should be careful in what they were doing because these midwives were ladies, they were widows and sisters and daughters of medical men. He was quite sure some one had been imposing on that gentleman's credulity. He (Dr. Woodcock) asserted that in Manchester and other large towns the

obstetric practice was thrown into the hands of people who were altogether unworthy of the confidence of the poor, and it was simply a reproach to the Legislature that they should be continued. The present midwife was as much out of date as the barber-surgeon and the cunning leech of the past, and he maintained that those who were to practise the obstetric art should be as well trained in medicine and surgery as those practising any other branch of the profession. It was a libel upon those who opposed registration to say that they were against the higher education of women. He was very glad to hear that they had more than forty lady members of the Association; but what would they think of being brought into competition with this inferior class of people, who after three months were to be allowed to practise? Let them once for all say that people who were to practise midwifery should be fully educated and trained. By so doing they would raise the dignity of the profession and safeguard its interests, whilst on the other hand they would also safeguard the interests of the community and afford to parturient women and their offspring that sort of advice and assistance to which they were entitled in a civilised country.

Dr. BOXALL said, in considering a question of this kind, they must look at practical utility. He agreed that the present condition of affairs was really disgraceful; how, then, could it be improved? Could they get rid of the present midwives? If that were practical, it would be the best solution of the difficulty, but he was afraid it was not practicable. The question was a national one, affecting the community very largely. The Select Committee of the House of Commons took evidence from all sides, and they reported very distinctly in favour of registration. The point was whether that would improve the present condition. Before they could get at that they must have certain facts clearly before them. It had been said that there was no considerable puerperal mortality throughout the country, but the Registrar-General's returns showed that puerperal fever was not on the decrease. Where certain conditions were fulfilled puerperal fever could be to all intents and purposes practically stamped out, but throughout the kingdom generally it was not so. The high mortality was not due to the medical profession, but to the leaven produced by the midwives, who increased the mortality. Those certificated were very few in comparison with those who had had no training. No doubt there were bad ones amongst the certificated, and that showed that it was necessary to exercise some control over the women practising, whether they were certificated or not. It was desirable to get them under control, but how could that be done unless there was some form of registration? He did not see how this was likely in any way to injure the medical profession. It would not create a lot of midwives; they did not want a single extra one, they would rather get rid of them altogether. He hoped by such legislation as seemed practicable the condition of the poor would be improved and the interests of the profession would be duly conserved.

Mr. GEORGE BROWN said the way in which the Committee of the House of Commons conducted their inquiry showed clearly that their sympathies were entirely with those who approved the registration of midwives, and he was surprised that their report was not even more decidedly in favour of the immediate passing of a measure for the registration of Sairey Gamp. Those who proposed the Bill were believed by the Committee to be doing so on mercenary grounds. He protested against such an inference. In his evidence before the Committee he gave it as his experience of twenty years that no person should go into a lying-in chamber to conduct a case of midwifery unless they were thoroughly educated in every branch of medicine, surgery, and midwifery, with a distinct and clear knowledge of human anatomy. It was proposed to sweep away the Act of 1858 altogether by licensing persons partially educated for three months. It seemed absurd on the face of it. Dr. Athill told the Committee that he was supposed to have trained more midwives than any other man in the kingdom, but that in three months he could not even begin to teach them anything. It was absurd for members of Parliament sitting on that Committee to go behind the experience of a man like Dr. Athill and recommend the Legislature to sanction the registration of women after three months' education. As

long as he was able to oppose the passing of the measure he would do so, and for that reason he asked the meeting to declare that these women were not fit to practise and take charge of such cases.

Dr. JONES MORRIS said Wales had been referred to. As a medical officer of one of the largest districts in North Wales, extending in one direction 15 miles from his place of residence, his opinion was that the midwives who had to practise in the absence of the doctor should have some knowledge of the art they had to practise. Seeing that the doctor had to go sometimes a journey of two, three, or even four hours to reach a patient, it was of the greatest importance that the aid at first hand should have had some training in obstetrics. If that was granted, was it not well that that training should be under the direction of some legally constituted authority, to give the woman some diploma showing that she had that elementary knowledge in the absence of a medical practitioner? He was in favour of the registration of these women, and the North Wales Branch, at its annual meeting held last week, passed a resolution unanimously to that effect. He suggested that the whole question should be postponed, seeing that there was no possible chance of legislation on this matter for the next two years.

Dr. BRIBBLEY opposed the proposed legislation. One of the chief arguments for registration was that there was a class to be provided for between the pauper and the person who could obtain ordinary medical and surgical skill. He contended that that class was already provided for by the medical aid societies. It might be said that his policy was destructive, but how could it be otherwise on the facts before them?

Dr. BRIDGWATER said, after some thirty or thirty-five years' practice of midwifery, he felt most strongly the necessity for a change, but not the radical change which a Registration Bill pure and simple proposed. He believed that by registering midwives as such and under that name they might be foisting on the public a power which did not really exist, making them believe that these were qualified practitioners when they were after all only qualified nurses. The remedy was not far to seek. Those who had to do with the poor knew that there was vast improvement to be obtained from good nursing. By simple training they might have nurses capable of recognising a difficulty, and who might in cases of emergency protect the life of the woman and yet not take the place of the doctor. The General Medical Council had solved the question by talking of "nurse midwives"—not a midwife in the strict acceptation of the term, but one recognised as a nurse and trained in the lower stages of attendance on midwifery cases. He believed that was the happy solution of one of their difficulties—to drop all notions of having registered midwives and to have nurse midwives properly trained and who could be relied upon. As an old practitioner, he had strongly felt from the beginning that on this question he could have walked arm in arm with Dr. Rentoul. He hoped the result of their deliberations would be to see the way out of their difficulties by diffusing the benefit of improved nursing throughout the country.

Dr. RENTOUL said nine Branches of the Association, with 2,394 Members, had given a majority against the registration of midwives, whilst only three Branches, with 329 members, voted for it. Seven Branches, with 1,079 members, had declared their neutrality. Eight medical societies unconnected with the Association, with 954 members, had also passed resolutions against registration.

The resolution was then put and carried by a majority of 34 to 13, this being the total number present.

The report as amended was then adopted.

SECOND GENERAL MEETING.

The second general meeting of members was held on Wednesday in the Large Hall, Victoria Rooms; the PRESIDENT (Dr. Long Fox) in the chair.

Foreign Visitors.—The PRESIDENT announced that the Association had welcomed the following guests: Dr. H. D. Chaplin (New York), Dr. Geo. M. Gould (Philadelphia), Dr. E. Landolt (Paris), Dr. Luigi Sambon (Rome), Dr. G. U. Savage (United States), Dr. G. E. de Schweinitz (Phila-

delphia), Dr. H. Snellen (Utrecht), Dr. Geo. T. Stevins (New York), Dr. J. L. Thompson (Indiana), Dr. Leonard Voigt (Hamburg), Dr. Norfolk (New York), Dr. Osler (Baltimore), and Professor Unna. There were also present as representatives of Colonial Branches: Dr. Archer and Dr. H. J. Wolseley (Barbados), Dr. Eldon Harvey (Bermuda), Brigade-Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel S. H. O'B. Banks and Surgeon-Major W. K. Hatch, M.B. (Bombay), Dr. W. H. Sutherland (Rangoon), Dr. Stevenson, Dr. T. Douglas, and Surgeon-Colonel J. J. A. Colahan (Cape of Good Hope), Mr. W. H. W. Strachan (Jamaica), Dr. John Freeland (Leeward Islands), Brigade-Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel J. Macartney, M.D. (Malta), Surgeon-Major Smith and Brigade-Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel Drake-Brockman (South India and Madras).

Annual Meeting, 1895.—The PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL stated that the Council had that morning received a very large deputation from the Metropolitan Counties Branch, headed by Dr. Russell Reynolds, to invite the Association to hold its next annual meeting in London. The Council, according to By-law 20, recommended the Association to accept this invitation. He need not state that the Council would do all in their power to help the development of that meeting so as to give entire satisfaction not only to the whole Association, but to their metropolitan associates. He was sure that it would be a matter of congratulation throughout not only to their Association, but to the entire profession, that the distinguished President of the Royal College of Physicians, Dr. Russell Reynolds, had been selected as their President-elect. He moved, in accordance with the recommendation of the Council:

That the cordial invitation of the Metropolitan Counties Branch to hold the annual meeting for 1895 in London be accepted, and that Dr. Russell Reynolds be nominated President-elect.

The PRESIDENT seconded the motion. He was sure they could not have a better President-elect, and certainly they could not have a better place to meet than London.

The resolution was carried by acclamation.

Address in Medicine.—The Address in Medicine, which will be found on page 242, was then delivered by Sir Thomas Grainger Stewart, M.D.

Dr. FREDERICK ROBERTS then moved:

That the best thanks of the Association be given to Sir Thomas Grainger Stewart, M.D., for his able and interesting Address in Medicine.

He said he was sure they would all agree that it was a most able and interesting address from various points of view. They had been given a most graphic description of the clinical history of the "New Acquaintance," and a most excellent account of the effects that were produced upon the different systems by the disease now known as influenza. He thanked Sir Thomas Stewart also for having referred in his address to Dr. Sidney Martin, whom he knew very well, and who had done excellent work on the subject. They were all interested in the matter of temperance, and they had now been furnished with an additional argument in its favour, seeing that the bacilli of influenza could not live in water. As one of the deputation which had met the Council that morning, he took the opportunity of thanking the meeting for receiving their invitation so cordially.

Dr. SHINGLETON SMITH, in seconding the motion, said that they congratulated themselves upon the fact that Sir Thomas Stewart had so willingly responded to the call to do duty upon that occasion. They had heard of the two great Scotchmen, William and John Hunter, and he thought Sir Thomas would not be offended if he said that they had evidence before them that another great Scotsman had arisen.

The motion was then carried by acclamation.

Sir THOMAS GRAINGER STEWART then briefly returned thanks for the cordial vote of thanks which had been passed to him.

The Middlemore Prize.—The PRESIDENT said the Council had awarded the Middlemore Prize to Mr. Edward Treacher Collins, F.R.C.S., for his researches in ophthalmology. Mr. Collins was at present in Persia.

Payment of Railway Fares of Parliamentary Bills Committee.—The PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL moved:

That the report of the Council upon the constitution and payment of the railway fares of the Parliamentary Bills Committee be received and adopted.

He said the matter had received the most careful considera-

tion of the Council, and they now recommended that the railway fares of the members of the Parliamentary Bills Committee should not be paid by the Association. He pointed out the difference between the Committee and the Council. They, no doubt, were both representative; they were both in great measure made up of representatives elected by the Branches, but there the likeness ceased. The Council had to deal with the general administration of the whole Association, and it was because the Council and the Association thought it would be desirable in the future that members from the different Branches should be present that they decided to pay their travelling expenses to meetings of the Council. The Parliamentary Bills Committee was representative, but there was nothing in the essential character of its business to make an exception in its case in respect to payment. With regard to its organisation, the Committee proposed that it should in future be constituted of twelve members, together with one representative from each of the Branches.

Mr. BUTLIN seconded the motion.

Dr. DOUGLAS moved as an amendment :

That the report of the Committee on the Payment of Railway Fares of Members of the Parliamentary Bills Committee be accepted, with the exception of the paragraph advising that railway fares be not paid. This meeting is of opinion that railway fares of the Parliamentary Bills Committee be paid when attending meetings of the same.

He said the question was the representation of the general practitioners and of the provinces. The natural tendency was for the consultant and the specialist to take a disproportionate share in the government of the Association. The report spoke of the Committee as a Committee of the Council, but many of them were of opinion that it was a Committee composed of representatives of the Branches, to whom were added a certain number of gentlemen who were supposed to be specially useful thereon. He urged that it was entirely a committee by itself, that its work was analogous, and at least equal in importance, to that of the Council. With regard to the expense, he estimated that it would be an extremely small sum, because many of the members of the Committee had to come to attend the Council. Taking for example the last two meetings of the Committee, the extra expense in paying the travelling expenses of gentlemen who had not also to come up for other purposes would have been only between £10 and £11 for each meeting, and this could not be said to be much in comparison with their yearly profit of £5,000. He believed that by adopting the amendment the interests of the Association would be considerably advanced.

Dr. BRIBBLEY seconded the amendment. He said that the Council had a good advocate, but he had an exceedingly bad case. The Council had acceded to a proposition which he apprehended would be approved by the meeting, namely, that the Parliamentary Bills Committee should be reduced by about half. His experience had always told him that the idle man was almost always a worthless man—the busy man was the most valuable, and if they expected such a man to give up his time to committees, and also to pay his own expenses, it was a most unreasonable demand to make.

Dr. VERRALL, on behalf of the South-Eastern Branch, expressed their disagreement with the amendment. It was a matter of principle and not of money.

Dr. INCE said that a gentleman's only motive in sitting on a Committee should be to serve his brethren, and the principle moving him should be an utter contempt for a few coppers. He strongly opposed the amendment.

Dr. NORMAN KERR thought there was nothing dishonourable in taking payment for any proper and efficient services. He granted at once that the Parliamentary Bills Committee did stand on a different footing from the other Committees, but still the great question remained of financial responsibility. It was possible that if the amendment were carried it would be the thin end of the wedge for the payment of all other Committees.

The TREASURER, in reply, said it had never been a question of money, but one of principle. The whole expense would be under £40 a year, and of course that would be no weight with a treasurer who had an annual surplus of £5,000 at his command. They had gone into the matter very carefully indeed, and had come to the conclusion that there was no

sufficient reason for the payment of the railway fares of the Parliamentary Bills Committee. He hoped that the report would be passed, because it had been drawn up with great care by the President of Council and himself, and had been submitted to the Committee and to the Council.

Dr. HORDEB said he had always understood that the objection to paying the Committee was that it was such an enormously large one, but it had now been considerably reduced. The question to be considered was whether the work of the Committee was as important and as valuable to the Association as that of the Council. He thought it was quite as important.

The amendment was then put to the meeting and lost; the original motion was then carried.

The meeting then adjourned.

THE MECCA PILGRIMS.

SURGEON-MAJOR GEORGE RANKING, I.M.S. (Secretary to the Board of Examiners, Calcutta), writes: Dr. Thorne Thorne's letter in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL of June 9th leads me to write to you on the subject of the Hajj, in case no other more competent to treat of this subject should address you. The real point at issue, as pointed out by Dr. Thorne Thorne, is whether Mohammad laid it down as a hard-and-fast rule for all Moslems that they must make the pilgrimage once in their lives, *without reference to their worldly condition and their power to provide themselves with the necessaries of life for the pilgrimage and the return journey*. The point was laid, it appears, before the Sultan, who was advised that no regulation or interdiction of the Hajj was possible, "inasmuch as it is one of the five fundamental commandments of the Mussulman religion." And here the matter rests for the present. But it is most important to know what the real state of the case is, and to settle this question we must have recourse to two sources of information: (1) The law itself as laid down in the Qu'ran, and (2) the exposition of the words of the law as made by subsequent commentators. But, before entering upon this, it will be as well to clear the ground by stating that whatever be the prescribed duty as regards the Hajj it is equally incumbent upon all Muslims, irrespective of the particular sect, Sunné, Shiah, or Wahhabé. Any person whatsoever who rejects any article of faith (Imán) or of practice (Amal) is not a Múmia (believer), but a Káfer (infidel).

The Hajj is one of the five pillars of the *practical* religion (Amal). Whatever decision may be arrived at therefore as to the requirements of the Hajj, this will apply to all Muhammadans.

With this proviso let us examine the authorities, beginning with the Qu'ran. The direct injunction in the Qu'ran, with reference to the Hajj, are very few considering the size of the book. The first mention occurs in the second chapter (of the Heifer), and runs as follows: "And fulfil the pilgrimage and the visitation to God, but if ye be besieged then (give) what is easiest for you by way of gift.....*provide yourselves for your journey*."¹ We may notice that in this verse the Hajj is enjoined, a state of siege alone being mentioned as exempting from the duty, in which case a gift must be made in place of performing the Hajj.

In Sura 3 is the next mention, and it is this: "There is due to God from man a pilgrimage unto the House for *whosever can find his way there*." The words in italics represent Professor Palmer's translation. The original Arabic runs: "Man istitáa ilaihe sabilan," which also admits of being translated "those who are able to go thither" (Sale), or "men who are able to journey thither" (Rodwell). There is a little ambiguity in the English, but it will doubtless be admitted by Arabic scholars in general that the "ability" referred to is one of *means*, not of *physical power*. The root from which this verb is derived signifies "*having full and ample pasture*," and the primary meaning of the "ability" which this word denotes would be that arising from sufficiency of means. We shall have more to say on this when

¹ The pilgrimage is the Hajj, while the visitation is known as the 'Umrah; the latter is meritorious, but not to the same extent as the Hajj. The 'Umrah may be performed at any time when convenient, except on the eighth, ninth, and tenth days of the month Zúl Hijjah, these being days reserved for the Hajj.