

representatives of foreign societies then spoke, and afterwards Professor Auguste Reverdin delivered an eloquent speech, in which he specially referred to the loss which the Congress had sustained through the death of M. Vulliet, who, at the Brussels meeting of the Congress, had been selected to preside this year at Geneva. The Congress will sit until Saturday, September 5th. There is already a large attendance. Amongst the members from the United Kingdom are Dr. Herman, Dr. Barnes, Dr. Bantock, Dr. Travers, Dr. Dolan (Halifax), Dr. Beverley (Norwich), Professor Simpson (Edinburgh), Professor Byers (Belfast), and Mr. Alban Doran. The Continent and America are represented by Professors Charpentier, Péan, Pozzi, Doléris, Segond, Le Dentu, Delagénère (Le Mans), Cordès, Bétrix, and A. and J. Reverdin (Geneva); Sängér, Kehrér, Prochownik, Leopold, representing Germany; Professor Morisani, Italy; Engström, Finland; De Strauch, and Rein, Russia; Treub and Halbertsma, Holland; Kufferath, Jacobs, and Tournay, Belgium; Polk, Lusk, Chadwick, and E. and A. Dudley, the United States and other distinguished obstetricians and gynaecologists.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE ELECTION OF DIRECT REPRESENTATIVES.

SIR,—The proposal of Dr. Rentoul, contained in his letter to the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL of August 22nd, and the letters which have since appeared commenting on it, afford a striking confirmation of the truth of my statement in the JOURNAL of August 15th, that it seems to be generally agreed that our present representatives deserve our best thanks for their efficient services, rendered under difficult circumstances. Even the comic letter of Dr. Ince, with its absurd misquotation about the love of money, wrongly attributed to Solomon, does not attempt to deny this, but takes it for granted as correct.

The Association may therefore be said to be in practical agreement on this point; and what the members when they assemble in Branch meetings have to consider is, which is the better way of recognising and rewarding the faithful services our representatives have rendered for ten years—whether by sending them again to the Council without trouble or expense to themselves, as I propose, or by making a collection for a formal presentation, as Dr. Rentoul has suggested.

I may be pardoned for thinking that mine is the more excellent way.—I am, etc.,

Dulwich Grove, S.E., Sept. 1st.

H. NELSON HARDY.

RUSSELL INDEMNITY FUND.

SIR,—Sir Thornley Stoker has asked me to state that the response to his letter in the issue of the 15th ult. referring to the Dwyer-Russell case has been most encouraging. A provisional committee has been formed for the purpose of collecting a fund to indemnify Dr. Russell against the legal expenses incurred, consisting of the following: Sir John Banks, K.C.B., Sir Thornley Stoker (Honorary Treasurer), Mr. W. Thomson, P.R.C.S., Mr. C. B. Ball, Dr. Wallace Beatty, Dr. H. T. Bewley, Mr. A. Chance, Dr. J. B. Coleman, Dr. Cusack, Dr. R. A. Flynn, Dr. J. W. Moore, Mr. A. Benson, Mr. J. Harrison Scott, Mr. T. E. Gordon, Mr. F. T. Heuston, Dr. A. H. Jacob, Mr. G. Jameson-Johnston (Honorary Secretary), Dr. J. F. O'Carroll, Dr. R. Travers Smith, Mr. H. R. Swanzy, Dr. R. Walsh, Dr. T. Wood, Mr. R. H. Woods. I shall be glad to receive further names for addition to this list.

It is important that the profession should realise fully the significance of the decision which Dr. Russell has succeeded in making so definite, namely, that if a medical man exercises due professional care in the management of a case he cannot be held liable to legal damages, even if his diagnosis be inaccurate. This decision will act as a great deterrent in the instigation of similar cases. There are other regrettable circumstances connected with this particular case entitling Dr. Russell to still greater sympathy, but the terrors of journalistic libel prevent further reference to them.

The following subscriptions have been either received or promised.

		£	s.	d.			£	s.	d.
Sir Thornley Stoker ...	...	2	2	0	Mr. A. Chance ...	...	1	1	0
Dr. Cusack, Cashel ...	...	2	0	0	Mr. R. H. Woods ...	...	1	1	0
Dr. Wood, Cashel ...	...	2	0	0	Dr. Wallace Beatty ...	...	1	1	0
Mr. W. Thomson, P.R.C.S. ...	...	1	1	0	Dr. H. T. Bewley ...	...	1	1	0
Sir John Banks, K.C.B. ...	...	1	1	0	Dr. J. F. O'Carroll ...	...	1	1	0
Lieutenant-General Massy ...	...	1	1	0	Dr. J. B. Coleman ...	...	1	1	0
Miss Massy ...	...	1	1	0	Dr. R. A. Flynn ...	...	1	1	0
"A Grateful Patient" ...	...	1	1	0	Dr. J. N. Moore ...	...	1	1	0
Dr. R. Walsh, Clogheen ...	...	1	1	0	Mr. A. Benson ...	...	1	1	0
Mr. H. R. Swanzy ...	...	1	1	0	Mr. J. Harrison Scott ...	...	1	1	0
Mr. C. B. Ball ...	...	1	1	0	Colonel J. G. Cockburn ...	...	1	0	0
Mr. F. T. Heuston ...	...	1	1	0	Mr. T. E. Gordon ...	...	0	10	6
Dr. S. Gordon ...	...	1	1	0	Dr. R. Travers Smith ...	...	0	10	6
Dr. A. H. Jacob ...	...	1	1	0	Mr. G. Jameson Johnston ...	...	0	10	6

—I am, etc.,

G. JAMESON JOHNSTON,

Dublin, September 1st.

Honorary Secretary.

MEDICAL NEWS.

ELECTION OF DIRECT REPRESENTATIVES.—The Honorary Secretary of the Manchester Medico-Ethical Association (Dr. James Holmes) requests us to announce that a meeting of the profession will be held in the Memorial Hall, Albert Square, Manchester, at 7 P.M., on Thursday, September 17th, to hear the views of the candidates for election as direct representatives on the General Medical Council. Dr. Glover, Dr. Rentoul, Mr. George Brown, Dr. Dolan, Dr. Woodcock, Dr. Alderson, and Dr. Lovell Drage have intimated their intention to be present. At a meeting of medical practitioners held at Liverpool on September 1st, it was agreed unanimously that a general committee, with power to appoint a small executive committee, should be formed to forward the candidature of Dr. R. R. Rentoul for election as direct representative on the General Medical Council. Dr. W. J. Robertson Dunn, Honorary Secretary, informs us that over 100 local practitioners have already joined the general committee, and he requests that others wishing to join should forward their names to him at 46, West Derby Road, Liverpool.

THE MIDDLESEX HOSPITAL.—The last quarterly court of the Middlesex Hospital has approved the scheme for the amalgamation of the medical school with the hospital. The scheme, which has been under consideration for more than two years, provides for the taking over by the hospital of all the property of the school, together with its existing liabilities, and the consequent remission of the debt now due from the school to the hospital. Henceforth the hospital will receive the gross income of the school, and, after payment of necessary charges, will provide, according to the profits obtained, a fixed annual sum for the remuneration of the teaching staff. These financial arrangements are subject to revision, if necessary, at the expiration of three years. A new body, to be called the Council of the Medical School, is constituted by the scheme; it is composed by the Chairman of the Weekly Board, representatives of the Governors, the honorary medical officers, and the lecturers of the school. This Council will, under the supervision of the Board, control all matters relating to the finance and management of the School; but the School Committee will, as at present, regulate the teaching arrangements and discipline of the school. The scheme comes into effect at the commencement of the winter session next month.

UNQUALIFIED OCULISTS AND AURISTS.—Judgment was given on September 1st by the stipendiary magistrate at Leeds in a case in which Dr. A. G. Bateman, on behalf of the Medical Defence Union, had charged a Mr. Thomas Ison, of Leeds, that he falsely described himself to be an oculist and aurist, implying that he was registered as a medical practitioner; and, further, under Section 40 of the Medical Act, 1858, that he had held himself out to the public to be by profession a surgeon. On the second charge the magistrate found against the defendant, and imposed a penalty of £5 and costs. He dismissed the first charge mainly on the ground that Dr. Bateman, in cross-examination, had admitted that he had never known a qualified medical practitioner describe himself simply as an oculist and aurist. We shall hope to refer to this case on some future occasion, but we may point out that the terms "oculist" and "aurist" are used as the official designation of the officers of certain hospitals. Thus an officer at the Glasgow Infirmary is, we believe, termed aurist, and the officer to the Liverpool Royal Infirmary oculist. There is also a surgeon-oculist to the Queen.