

ASSOCIATION INTELLIGENCE.

COUNCIL.

NOTICE OF MEETING.

A MEETING of the Council will be held in the Council Room of the Association, at No. 429, Strand (corner of Agar Street), London, on **Wednesday the 12th day of October next**, at 2 o'clock in the afternoon.

FRANCIS FOWKE, *General Secretary*.

September, 1898.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS.

Any qualified medical practitioner, not disqualified by any by-law of the Association, who shall be recommended as eligible by any three members, may be elected a member by the Council or by any recognised Branch Council.

Candidates seeking election by a Branch Council should apply to the Secretary of the Branch. No members can be elected by a Branch Council unless their names have been inserted in the circular summoning the meeting at which they seek election.

FRANCIS FOWKE, *General Secretary*.

LIBRARY OF THE BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

MEMBERS are reminded that the Library and Writing Rooms of the Association are now fitted up for the accommodation of the Members in commodious apartments, at the offices of the Association, 429, Strand. The rooms are open from 10 A.M. to 5 P.M. Members can have their letters addressed to them at the Office.

BRANCH MEETINGS TO BE HELD.

SOUTH-EASTERN BRANCH: EAST SUSSEX DISTRICT.—The next meeting will be held at the East Sussex Hospital, Hastings, on October 6th (Thursday), at 3.30 P.M. Dr. Baushaw, Mayor of Hastings, in the chair. Dinner at 5.30 P.M. at the Grand Hotel; charge 6s., exclusive of wine. Mr. Pearce Gould, of Middlesex Hospital, will read a paper on Trendelenburg's Operation for Varicose Veins. Dr. Bagshaw: A Case of Hydropericardium, with specimen. Mr. Nicholson: A Case of Supravaginal Hysterectomy, with specimen. Dr. Allen: A Case of Dislocation of the Ankle. Dr. Hewland: Cases of Hay Fever treated by Electrocautery.—J. W. BATTERHAM, M.B., Honorary Secretary, Grand Parade, St. Leonard's-on-Sea.

SOUTH-EASTERN BRANCH: NORTH KENT DISTRICT.—A meeting of this District will be held in the Hall of the Science and Art School, Bromley, on Thursday, October 6th, at 3.45 P.M., Dr. Scott in the chair. The annual dinner will be held at 6 P.M., charge, 6s. 6d., exclusive of wines. The following papers, etc., have been promised:—Dr. Barry Blacker: Demonstration of the X Rays; Dr. Tennyson-Smith: Some Notes on Tubal Pregnancy. All members of the Branch are entitled to attend and to introduce professional friends.—A. TENNYSON-SMITH, Hon. Secretary, The Birches, Orpington, Kent.

SOUTH-EASTERN BRANCH: EAST SURREY DISTRICT.—The next meeting will be held at the White Hart Hotel, Reigate, on Thursday, October 13th, at 4 P.M., Mr. W. A. Berridge, of Redhill, in the chair. Dinner at 6 P.M., charge 7s., exclusive of wine. All members of the South-Eastern Branch are entitled to attend, and to introduce professional friends. Agenda: 1. Minutes of Croydon meeting. 2. To decide when and where the next meeting shall be held, and to nominate a member of the Branch to take the chair thereat. The following papers, etc., have been promised: The Chairman will at 4 o'clock show Cases of Tuberculosis of the Udder, of the Uterus, and of the Intestines of the Cow, with other specimens kindly lent by Dr. G. Sims Woodhead. Dr. W. J. Hadley will show Microscopic and Culture Specimens of Tubercle. A discussion on Tuberculosis will be opened by Sir Richard Douglas Powell, in which Dr. W. J. Hadley, Mr. J. Hutchinson, jun., Dr. Edward Seaton (Medical Officer of Health to the Surrey County Council), and Dr. John E. Ranking will join. Members desirous of exhibiting specimens or reading notes of cases are invited to communicate at once with the Hon. Secretary. N.B.—The Hon. Secretary would be much obliged if members would kindly inform him by post-card whether they intend, if possible, to be present at the meeting, and if likely to remain to dinner.—HENRY J. PRANGLEY, Hon. Secretary, Tudor House, Anerley.

SOUTH MIDLAND BRANCH.—The autumnal meeting will be held at Wellesborough on Thursday, October 6th. Luncheon will be provided, and it is hoped that all gentlemen intending to be present at the meeting will also join the luncheon, so as to render it a success. Notice to the Secretary is requested not later than October 3rd. Gentlemen are invited to introduce new members, and to bring specimens, drawings, etc., likely to be of interest to the meeting. The following papers have been promised: 1. Dr. Maguire will furnish a clue to his case of Phenomenal Gestation. 2. Mr. W. Gifford Nash will read Three Series of Cases due to Sewer Gas Poisoning. 3. Dr. W. S. Colman (National Hospital for the Paralyse and Epileptic) will read a short paper on the Palliative Treatment of Locomotor Ataxy, with a Demonstration of Fraenkel's Re-education Exercises.

4. Dr. Crookshank will read a paper on Hysteria and Epilepsy. 5. Dr. Hollis will introduce a discussion on The Treatment of Dilated Stomach. 6. Dr. Newman will exhibit some x-ray pictures, with remarks.—C. J. EVANS, Northampton, Hon. Secretary.

SHROPSHIRE AND MID-WALES BRANCH.—The annual general meeting will be held at the Salop Infirmary on Tuesday, October 25th, at 3 o'clock; Mr. T. Law Webb, the President, will take the chair. Members who wish to bring forward any business, to read papers, or show cases or specimens, or to propose new members, are requested to communicate with the Honorary Secretary not later than Friday, October 14th.—H. WILLOUGHBY GARDNER, M.D., Swan Hill, Shrewsbury, Honorary Secretary.

NORTH OF ENGLAND BRANCH.—The autumn meeting will be held at Durham on Thursday, October 6th, at 4.30 P.M. Members desirous of reading papers, reporting cases, showing specimens, or making any communication to the meeting are requested to give notice to the Honorary Secretary, T. BEATTIE, M.D., 26, Ellison Place, Newcastle-upon-Tyne. Members of the profession who are not members of the Branch will be welcome to attend the meeting.

SYDNEY AND NEW SOUTH WALES BRANCH.

The usual monthly meeting of this Branch was held in the Royal Society's Room, Sydney, on July 29th, Dr. E. T. THRING, Vice-President, in the chair. There were thirty members present.

Confirmation of Minutes.—The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

New Members.—The election of the following new members was announced: Drs. Sinclair Gillies, Charles MacLaurin, R. A. Robertson.

The Reporting of Deaths to the Coroner by Medical Men.—The CHAIRMAN then called upon Dr. Gregory O'Neill to open a discussion on the duties of medical men in reporting deaths to the coroner.—Drs. SAWKINS, THRING, BOWKER, BINNEY, ARTHUR, F. H. QUAIPE, CLEDDEN, and RENNIE took part in the discussion.—Dr. RENNIE proposed:

That the Council be empowered to bring this matter prominently under the notice of the Premier, so that some definite legislation may be proceeded with, with a view of dealing with the question of the registration of deaths and the duties of medical men in reporting deaths to the coroner.

This was seconded by Dr. O'NEILL and carried.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

PARIS.

Special Courses in the Paris Medical School.—*The Medical Attendance at the Bureau de Bienfaisance.*—*The Prevention of Bovine Tuberculosis.*—*The Notification of Childbirth.*—*Stray Dogs.*—*Medical Councilors.*—*General News.*

THE feeling has long existed in Paris that, in addition to the official medical teaching, opportunities of further instruction, to be paid for by the students directly to the teacher, should be provided. This is called "*l'enseignement libre.*" At the medical school Drs. Hartmann and Terrier have organised paying courses of practical and operative surgery. This class supplies a want in the official teaching. At the Andral Hospital a staff of distinguished men will lecture on the diagnosis and treatment of diseases of the stomach. These lectures will begin at the end of October; they will be the first paying lectures given in a French hospital.

M. Barbillon has recently called attention to the perfunctory manner of treating the poor in the Bureaux de Bienfaisance. He declares that both the examination and the treatment are insufficient. It is necessary, in order to arrive at a satisfactory result, not only to treat the patients of the Bureaux de Bienfaisance medically, but also to inquire into the condition of their homes. M. Barbillon wishes to see the children in poor homes removed to places of safety, and he is of opinion that the Communal schools could organise a service for these children.

The General Council of the Côte-d'Or has passed a resolution calling upon public authorities promptly and seriously to study the advisability of using tuberculin, and urging that a law be passed rendering it compulsory for all animals intended for purposes of food, or to be used for the milk supply, to be treated previously with tuberculin, and that the observance of all sanitary measures in order to stamp out bovine tuberculosis should be enforced.

A French legal tribunal has lately given judgment that the medical man attending childbirth is not called upon to notify the child's birth when the father is present. A midwife was proceeded against for omitting to notify a birth. She was acquitted on the ground that the father was present.

During the period of intense heat which has just come to an end, the police regulations concerning dogs have been followed out to the letter. The number of dogs taken to the *fourrière*—the Government depôt for stray dogs—has been considerable. These instructions were given in accordance with the advice of the Conseil d'Hygiène. In 1897 more than 1,400 people were bitten in Paris by dogs, cats, and horses known or suspected to be rabid; 350 have been treated at Pasteur Institute 6 among the 350 died.

Many medical men have been elected General Councilors, but it is difficult to arrive at the exact number. A good medical authority states that of the 87 departments of France, 11 have medical men acting as members in their general councils.

The sum of £200,000 has been bequeathed to the Marseilles hospitals on the condition that the patients are tended by the sisters of a religious order. This renders the proposed laïcisation of these hospitals a difficult question.

BERLIN.

Congress of Scientists and Medical Men at Düsseldorf.—The Germans at Kiantchou.—Professor Behring and his Serum Patent.—Sanitation at German Health Resorts.—The Decrease of Tuberculosis.

TUBERCULOSIS was one of the chief subjects at this year's Congress of German Naturalists at Düsseldorf. A whole sitting was devoted to the theme, at which numerous papers were read on the disease itself and on methods of combating it by legislation, sanatoria, etc. General approval was given to the Committee's proposal of a Tuberculosis Congress to be held in Berlin next spring. Among the papers read at the general meetings, Professor Tillmans's (Leipzig) historical review of surgery during the last hundred years contained a hit at the Dum-dum bullet, which the speaker characterised as "cruel." Professor Kruse (Bonn), in an address on physical degeneration and the defensive power of nations, came to the comforting conclusion that civilised mankind is by no means on the way to physical degeneracy, but that the European races of to-day can hold their own as regards size and strength against those of former ages, as far back as measurements, etc., have come down to us. Mr. Hankin (Agra) aroused much interest by his address on the plague, which was given in excellent German. Experience, he said, had conclusively proved rats to be the carriers of the epidemic. Where rats abounded the disease was violent in character; wherever the rats had been successfully destroyed the disease had died out. The remedy to seek, he said, was a wholesale destructive agent for rats.

Contrary to general expectation, the German naval surgeons in Kiantchou have not met with any leprosy cases as yet. They have abundance of material for observation, too, for since consulting hours for Chinese patients have been established, natives come to be treated from far and near.

Professor Behring has published a letter in the *Deutsche medicinische Wochenschrift* explaining his position with regard to his American serum patent, and replying to the attacks made on him by many of his colleagues. His chief argument is that, having given up his medical practice, he is obliged to seek other ("geschäftlich" or "business") means of earning enough money to carry on his experimental researches. Finally, he complains that in 1892 (a time when, he says, the importance of his discovery was already fully recognised) an appeal which he made to the German Government and to the general public for funds with which to carry on his investigations was totally disregarded. Not a hand, he says, was opened to him, whilst shortly afterwards in France a million francs were collected and presented to the Pasteur Institute to help forward the practical utilisation of the serum, and the Institute was further endowed with an annual subsidy of 20,000 francs by the Government for the same purpose.

A fatal case of diphtheria which occurred a short time ago in one of the German seaside places has drawn general attention to the defective sanitary arrangements of many so-called "health resorts." Professor Lassar, who, in a letter to the *Hygienische Rundschau*, speaks plain words on the subject, warning the public of the dangers lurking in the badly-arranged closets and defective cesspools of many summer resorts, should be thanked for an excellent suggestion to the guidebooks, namely, that a special mark (say a nought o) be placed against hotels and lodging-houses with insanitary closets and bad drainage arrangements; and another mark (a note of exclamation, !) against those where all is safe in this respect. Such marks would prove a real boon to the public, and would soon force hotel and lodging-house proprietors in their own interest to make the necessary improvements.

Statistical researches on the subject of tuberculosis, which have been carried on for some time in the Imperial Board of Health, are now concluded. They prove that tuberculosis has decreased in almost all European States since 1880.

ROME.

Professor Koch in Rome.—Foundling Hospitals in Italy.—The University of Bologna.—Professor Lustig's Serum for Plague.—Death of Professor Toscani, of Rome.

PROFESSOR KOCH, with his assistants Professor Kossel and Dr. Pfeiffer, is at present in Rome studying the malarial question in all its aspects. The Italian Government has placed the State laboratories at his disposal, and the Minister of the Interior entrusted Professor Santiliquido, the head of the laboratories, to welcome him on behalf of the Government. Permission has also been granted him to study the cases of malaria admitted into the Military Hospital and into the Hospital of Santo Spirito. Professor Koch has told me that he is disappointed with the small number of cases of malarial fever which he has found in these institutions, particularly in the military hospital, although September as a rule is the month in the year when the greatest number of cases of malaria are received in the hospitals from the Roman Campagna. The Professor and his assistants work daily in the laboratory of the Santo Spirito Hospital, and they make occasional visits to the most malarial districts around the city. He also informed me that he was led to study malaria in Italy because the Italian school had written and investigated much about it, and the views of the leaders differ so much in many important points that he was anxious to come to a definite conclusion on the whole subject, if possible. In discussing Ross's work in India in connection with Manson's mosquito theory, Koch spoke in the highest terms of Ross's investigation. Professor Koch intends to leave Rome about the end of September when he and his assistants most probably will go to Greece to continue their malarial studies in that country. Before coming to Rome Koch made some studies in Milan and Pavia. In the latter city he was disappointed at finding that Professor Golgi, a former pupil of his and one who has done such excellent work in connection with malaria, was absent in England, where he was attending the Congress of Physiologists at Cambridge.

The Commission appointed by the Italian Government to inquire into the condition of the Foundling Hospitals in Italy is still continuing its investigations. The Minister of the Interior has lately sent a circular to the Prefects of the Kingdom in which further information has been requested in reference to the working of the *brefotrofi* existing in the different provinces. They are also requested to obtain information from the various local authorities as to how the funds for the maintenance of the foundlings are provided, and if maternity hospitals exist or special maternity wards are attached to the general hospitals in their communes. In those provinces where *brefotrofi* do not exist the Prefects are requested to instruct the local authorities immediately to send particulars as to the number of infants who were supported by them in the years 1895-97.

The ancient University of Bologna, which has fallen so much from its ancient splendour and renown that it is now one of the most backward universities in Italy, chiefly owing to want of funds, will in all probability soon be in a position to recover some at least of its former glory. Professor

Baccelli, the Minister of Public Instruction, has promised that during the coming session of the Italian Parliament he will introduce a Bill to provide the necessary means for its rejuvenescence.

It has been announced that the authorities of Bombay have provided the necessary means for the foundation of a laboratory in that city for the preparation of Professor Lustig's curative serum for plague. The director of the laboratory will be Doctor Galeotti, Professor of Pathology in Florence.

The death of Davide Toscani, Professor of Legal Medicine in the University of Rome, took place in that city on September 15th, after a long illness. He occupied the chair of Legal Medicine for forty years, and he was President of the Medico-Chirurgical Faculty for five years. Some twenty-five years ago he established the Municipal Office of Hygiene in Rome and was its director for twenty years. The great improvement which has taken place in the sanitary condition of Rome in that time is largely due to his labours.

ABERDEEN.

Resignation of Professor Ogston.—Typhoid Fever at Aberdeen and at Aboyne.—The Water-supply of Aberdeen.

PROFESSOR OGSTON has resigned his post of surgeon at the Royal Infirmary. The fact causes the deepest regret among those connected with the institution, and will be greatly felt by the medical school of Aberdeen, and by the public in the North of Scotland. Though Dr. Ogston has been repeatedly urged by the directors of the infirmary to reconsider his decision, he feels that his strength will not permit him longer to undertake the increasing duties of the post.

Some anxiety has been felt in the town owing to the marked increase of cases of typhoid fever which has occurred lately. The matter has received the careful attention of the authorities, and the majority of cases are said to have been traced to the supply of milk from two dairies in the neighbourhood. Though investigations at the farms has apparently given no indication of the origin of the infection, and all the arrangements connected with the dairies were found in good order, the supply of milk from the dairies in question has been temporarily stopped. A slight outbreak of typhoid fever is also reported at Aboyne. The patients have been removed to the isolation hospital there. Steps have been taken to prevent any spread of infection from the discharge of the sewage of the hospital to the irrigation ground worked by the city in its neighbourhood.

The uneasiness felt at these outbreaks is aggravated by the sense of a not wholly satisfactory condition as regards the water-supply of the city. Various plans for its improvement are being discussed; one suggested by Mr. Jamieson, the city analyst, that water shall be carried from the Avon, a remarkably pure tributary of the Spey, has received a good deal of attention.

LIVERPOOL.

The Thompson-Yates Laboratories.—Inaugural Meeting of the Session of the Medical Institution.—The Ladies' Sanitary Association.

In view of the inauguration of the Thompson-Yates Laboratories, which is to take place on October 8th, the acting staff of the Medical School, no less than the contractors, are working at high pressure, and the elaborate fittings are rapidly approaching completion. Among many alterations in the aspect of the School resulting from the present extension of the buildings one change is most welcome from an æsthetic point of view, namely, the pulling down of the old wall which hid the College from the Royal Infirmary and the planting of an ornamental rockery facing the latter. The opening ceremony, prefaced as it will be by conferring of the degree of Doctor of Science on Lord Lister, will take the form of a great academic function, and all university graduates who are invited to attend are requested to wear full academical dress.

The inaugural meeting of the ensuing session of the Liverpool Institution is to take place on the evening of October 7th, when the President, Dr. W. Macfie Campbell, will deliver an address on Some Old Authors and their Books, with lantern illustrations. It is expected that several of the distinguished

visitors who will be in Liverpool for the opening of the Thompson-Yates Laboratories next day will be present at the meeting. After the delivery of the address members will be entertained by the President at supper, which will be followed by a smoking concert.

The Ladies' Sanitary Association has opened its classes for the session, and has already a fair number of students enrolled.

CORRESPONDENCE.

ASEPTIC MIDWIFERY.

SIR,—In the practice of midwifery there are two facts that we have to face—namely, (1) that puerperal septicæmia is still very common, (2) that it can be prevented. In hospital practice, where it was once so common, it is now rarely seen, but the Registrar-General's reports tell a very different story about private practice. How is it that the places which were once hotbeds of infection are now free from it, while in private work the scourge is still at work? This is a very serious question which practical obstetricians must answer.

The scourge has been driven from our hospitals by the rigid practice of either antiseptic or aseptic midwifery. The latter, I believe, to be the better; at all events, we have found it so in the Glasgow Maternity Hospital. Under the antiseptic system cases of septicæmia cropped up every now and again, and cases of minor sepsis were quite common. For nearly two years now, under the aseptic system, we have had no cases of septicæmia and very few of minor sepsis.

If such results can be got in a hospital, where a very large percentage of abnormal cases are dealt with, there is no reason why, with the same precautions, as good results should not be got in private work. In my recent paper I gave a sketch of the system we have adopted in the hospital work, both indoor and outdoor, and which I also carry out in private work. I am glad to see that it has attracted sufficient attention to call forth letters of criticism.

I am much obliged to Dr. Liston for his appreciation of my paper, but he is mistaken when he supposes I object to any lubricant; I only object to a greasy one. I always use a solution of lysol. So-called antiseptic vaseline on the fingers, instead of preventing dirt being carried into the vagina, is just the thing to collect it, and ensure its entrance. What I maintain is that before making an examination the external parts should be cleansed, and then there would be no filth to carry in.

Both correspondents raise objections to this *ante-partum* cleansing of the external parts on the assumption that the patients will not allow it. On what do they base this assumption? They cannot speak from experience, while I can. I have never yet had a single patient, educated or uneducated, make the least objection. The students and nurses do it in our outdoor work, and I hear no complaints of patients objecting. With the patient in the left lateral position there is very little exposure—nothing more than is inevitable when the child is being expelled.

Dr. McCulloch seems inclined to make merry at my expense, and takes pride in leading a revolt of general practitioners against this "hyperæstheticism." He evidently considers that he conducts his midwifery on common sense lines, and the inference is that I do mine on nonsensical lines. If he will allow his mind to travel back to the end of the Seventies, when, if I mistake not, he was a student in Glasgow, perhaps he may be able to recall the condition of affairs in the maternity hospital where presumably the work was conducted on common sense lines with no "hyperæstheticism" about it. The inscription over the door of the hospital of that day might well have been that which Dante assigns to the portals of another place. Sepsis was so rampant that few of the women escaped, and normal recoveries were practically unknown. Stone and lime was blamed, and the hospital pulled down. Will he kindly compare the results of those days with our present results, which are got by the rigid application of aseptic midwifery?

If the system has done so much in our hospitals, I fail to see where I am wanting either in logic or common sense if I believe it should be applied to private work.