

LITERARY NOTES.

THE National Association for the Prevention of Consumption and other Forms of Tuberculosis seems to be regarded by some worthy persons as an aggressive body, which aims at the establishment of a social tyranny, a principal element of which, one gathers, is the compulsory use of "2½ spittoons" by all Her Majesty's lieges. Nothing, however, could be less truculent in appearance than the new journal entitled *Tuberculosis*, which is to be the organ of the Association. Milder-mannered crusaders than those responsible for the conduct of this periodical there could not be. The first number, which has just been issued, contains a paper on the prevention of tuberculosis by Sir Hermann Weber, and one entitled "A Proposed New Departure in Education," by Dr. G. A. Heron. Reports from Branches of the Association and "Notes by the Way" on various matters connected with it, make up the rest of the contents.

Another new periodical devoted to tuberculosis and sanatoria for the treatment of that disease will appear with the opening of the new year. It is to be entitled *Internationale Zeitschrift für Tuberculose und Heilstättenwesen*, and will be edited by Professors von Leyden, Gerhardt, and B. Fraenkel. The publisher is to be Johann Ambrosius Barth, of Leipzig.

Messrs. J. and A. Churchill will shortly publish a *Handbook of Gynaecology* by Dr. Jellett. The work will be uniform in size with the same author's *Short Practice of Midwifery*, and will contain some fifty illustrations.

Readers interested in hospital reform will doubtless be glad to know that most of the papers read at the recent conference on the subject are published in the current number of the *Medical Magazine*.

Messrs. Keegan, Ltd., have ready for publication the first volume of *An International Textbook of Surgery*, by British and American authors, in two volumes; the editors are Mr. Pearce Gould and Dr. J. Collis Warren. The same firm also announce as in press new editions of Freyberger's *Pocket Formulary for the Treatment of Diseases in Children*, and of Bland Sutton and Giles's *Diseases of Women*.

Dr. Julius Schwalbe, editor of the *Deutsche medicinische Wochenschrift* has compiled a work entitled, *Bestimmungen über die Zulassung zur ärztlichen Praxis in Auslande*, in which he gives a digest of the laws and regulations concerning the practice of medicine in ninety-eight different communities representing practically the whole of Europe, Australia, America, Africa, and Asia.

The publication of the first volume of a great work by Professor Ramon y Cajal on the structure of the nervous system, which has been appearing in parts, has recently been completed. The book is entitled *Textura del Sistema Nervioso del Hombre y de los Vertebrados* (Structure of the Nervous System of Man and the Vertebrata). The volume comprises three sections: (1) Elements of the Nervous System; (2) Spinal Cord, Spinal Ganglia, Nerve Endings, and Physiological Considerations on the Course of Currents in the Cord; (3) Comparative Histology of the Cord and of the Development of the Nervous System.

A new and enlarged edition of Professor Arthur Thomson's *Handbook of Anatomy for Art Students* has just been issued from the Clarendon Press.

A new work by Dr. Marcus R. P. Dorman, M.A., author of *Ignorance and From Matter to Mind*, will be published in November by Messrs. Kegan Paul. It is entitled *The Mind of the Nation*, and is described as a critical analysis of the political thought of the closing century.

In a very appreciative and interesting sketch of the career of Sir William Roberts from the pen of Professor Adami, which has been reprinted from the *Montreal Medical Journal*, it is incidentally stated that there is "a rising young New York physician, known to many in Montreal, who upon the topmost storey of one of the Madison Avenue Palaces, keeps and feeds, and ultimately analyses a select herd of swine." We gather that most important results are looked for from these researches.

THE Royal Scottish Society of Arts has awarded the Keith prize, value £15, to Dr. Dawson Turner for his paper on Localisation of Foreign Bodies in the Tissues by x Rays, with Experiments, which was read before the Society in December last

VACCINATION OFFICERS AND THEIR DUTIES

THE Antivaccination League has had a conference at Leicester, and has sent to the Local Government Board a copy of the following resolution:

That the new instructions issued by the Local Government Board to vaccination officers, instructing them to take proceedings against defaulters under the Vaccination Acts without the direction of the guardians, violate the principles of local self-government and falsify the assurances given by the President of the Local Government Board (Mr. Chaplin) in his place in Parliament.

With the personal question of Mr. Chaplin's consistency or inconsistency we have nothing to do, but it is astonishing, or rather it is not at all astonishing, that antivaccinationists persist in the repetition over and over again of utterly baseless statements or assumptions. It is simply not the case that in the Local Government Board's new instructions to vaccination officers they are instructed to take proceedings against defaulters without the direction of the guardians. A perusal of the Board's Order is sufficient to show this, and the League does not attempt to quote any article, or any part of any article, contained in the Order in support of its contention. Apparently with a well-founded trust in the credulity of its supporters, or else with sheer incapacity to distinguish fact from fiction, it prepares and circulates a resolution which simply defies easily ascertainable facts. It is true that the prosecution of defaulters is now undertaken by vaccination officers independently of Boards of Guardians. That, however, is not done under the order of the Local Government Board. It is done under the Vaccination Acts themselves, as tested in the law-courts and as read by the law officers of two Governments. And yet the leaders of the antivaccination crusade continue in the weary iteration of the misstatement that this is done by the recently issued instructions of the Board. Mr. Chaplin's reply to this part of the League's resolution is perfectly explicit: "With regard to this resolution the Board direct me to state that it appears to be founded on a misapprehension. The Board have repeatedly pointed out that the new vaccination Order issued in 1898 does not instruct the vaccination officer to take proceedings against defaulters without the direction of the guardians. That duty is imposed on him directly by a superior authority—namely, by Parliament itself. No such instructions as are referred to in the resolution have been issued by the Board..."

We cannot expect that this reply will have any effect in checking misrepresentation or misstatement of the Board's attitude. Misrepresentation and misstatement are the very breath of the nostrils of antivaccination, and without them it could not survive. Already in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL we have repeatedly referred to the objectionable features of the present system, and these do not require to be further commented on here.

THE NEW VACCINATION ACT IN OPERATION.

THE LYMPH OF THE NATIONAL VACCINE ESTABLISHMENT. P. V. FOR OVER THIRTY YEARS writes: "H., in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL of October 28th, appears to be easily satisfied. I look upon his results as a disgrace to the Local Government Board. My record since March 1st, 1899, is as follows:

| Source. | Insertions. | Vesicles Produced. |
|------------------------------------|-------------|--------------------|
| National Vaccine Establishment ... | 96 | 55 |
| Dr. Chaumier's ... | 72 | 70 |
| Dr. Renner's ... | 4 | 4 |
| Jenner Institute... | 4 | 4 |

The pity is that so many arms are now spoiled and left unprotected. My record for arm-to-arm vaccination for 1896-7-8 is 481 insertions 472 vesicles produced. I shall be pleased to forward my register for verification.

THE PLAGUE.

PREVALENCE OF THE DISEASE.

PORTUGAL.

Oporto.—Since October 24th but scanty information has reached us concerning plague in Oporto or elsewhere in Portugal. On the date mentioned 4 fresh cases of plague were reported in Oporto, but since then no exact details have been made known. As far as we can gather the returns are never published officially by the Portuguese Government, and the number of plague cases we hear of are only from such scraps of information as can be gathered by correspondents of the British press or the agents of the telegraphic services. This is not only to be deplored but to be condemned. The question of the presence of plague in any part of Europe, more especially in a busy harbour and commercial centre like Oporto, is a matter of universal importance. Reference is made elsewhere to the moral if not to the legal obligations upon the adherents to the Venice Sanitary Convention.

INDIA.

The number of reported deaths in India for the week ending October 7th reached a total of 6,727, or over 1,000 above the total of the previous week.

In Bombay city 105 deaths were reported, being 23 above the number for the previous week; and in the Presidency the number increased from 5,178 to 5,750. It will be seen from these quotations that the Bombay Presidency is still the chief seat of plague.

In Calcutta the number of plague deaths for the week ending October 7th were 47 as compared with 51 for the previous week. On October 7th, 10th, and 12th there were 5, 10, and 8 fresh cases respectively. These numbers fairly represent the progress of plague in Calcutta from day to day, and, curiously enough, there seems little tendency to an increase or diminution according to the season of the year.

In the Indus Valley plague seems to be increasing in virulence; at Karachi there were on October 6th 2 cases and 2 deaths; on October 7th 3 cases and 3 deaths. At Hyderabad (Sind), on October 5th, 18 cases of plague occurred and 10 deaths from the disease.

In the Poona district the plague returns on October 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th were: cases, 180, 201, 234, 189, 128, 94, 193; and deaths, 117, 130, 190, 127, 100, 83, and 143 respectively.

We regret to learn of the death of Colonel Hay, one of the medical officers on plague duty; and also that Mr. Bromley, the principal dentist in Poona, has been seized with plague. On October 12th there were 9 Europeans in hospital at Poona suffering from plague.

HONG KONG.

The Governor of Hong Kong telegraphed to the Colonial Office on October 30th that "1 case of plague and 1 death last week" had occurred in Hong Kong. This is a similar report to that sent in for the previous week.

MAURITIUS.

For the week ending October 26th, 89 fresh cases of plague and 72 deaths from the disease occurred in Mauritius.

BRAZIL.

Thirteen cases of plague are reported, by a Reuter's telegram dated Rio de Janeiro, October 31st, to have occurred at Santos. Last week we stated that the diagnosis of the cases of illness at Santos was *sub judice*, and that the Government bacteriologist was expected to pronounce an opinion in the course of a day or two. The statement now received appears to confirm the suspicion that the disease is really plague; and we can no longer shut our eyes to the fact that plague has reached the American continent for the first time. The city of Santos is filthy in the extreme, and there seems every prospect that plague will stay there.

One case of plague is reported from San Paulo, some fifty miles inland from Santos, and in frequent communication with it by road and rail. The outlook is not hopeful, for though San Paulo is better than Santos from a sanitary point of view, South American cities are but too likely to prove hotbeds for a disease of the nature of plague.

ASSOCIATION INTELLIGENCE.

NOTICE OF QUARTERLY MEETINGS OF COUNCIL
FOR 1900.

MEETINGS of the Council will be held on January 17th, April 11th, July 11th, and October 10th, 1900. Candidates for election by the Council of the Association must send in their forms of application to the General Secretary not later than twenty-one days before each meeting—namely, December 27th, 1899, March 22nd, June 21st, and September 27th, 1900.

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 office 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 of this Branch will be held at the White Hart Hotel, Lewes, on November 30th. Dr. Fawcett will preside. Members are requested to send notice of papers or other communications to the Honorary District Secretary, J. W. BATTERHAM, M.B., Bank House, Grand Parade, St. Leonards.

SOUTH-WESTERN BRANCH.—The next meeting of this Branch will be held in the Board Room of the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital, Exeter, on Tuesday, November 14th, at 4 P.M. Mr. J. Bland Sutton will deliver an address on Cancer Infection in relation to the Surgical Treatment of Cancer. Luncheon (2s. 6d.) will be provided at the Royal Clarence Hotel from 1.30 to 2.30 P.M., and tea and coffee will be served in the Board Room of the Hospital at 3.30 P.M.—H. W. WEBBER, M.S., 4, Woodland Terrace, Plymouth, Honorary Secretary.

METROPOLITAN COUNTIES BRANCH: NORTH LONDON DISTRICT.—A meeting of this District will be held at the Royal Free Hospital, Gray's Inn Road, on Wednesday, November 8th, at 4.30 P.M. Dr. Morton will preside. Cases of interest will be shown by the staff of the hospital and discussed. The District Committee will meet at 4.15 P.M.—H. J. MACEVOY, Brondesbury, N.W., Honorary Secretary.

LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE BRANCH.—A meeting of this Branch will be held in the Medical Institution, Liverpool, at 2 P.M. on Wednesday, November 29th, 1899. Members who wish to bring forward any business, to read papers, or show cases or specimens, are requested to communicate with the Honorary Secretary not later than Saturday, November 18th.—T. ARTHUR HELME, M.D., 3, St. Peter's Square, Manchester, Honorary Secretary.

SOUTHERN BRANCH: SOUTH WILTS DISTRICT.—The next meeting of this District will be held at the County Hotel, Salisbury, at 2 P.M., on Wednesday, November 8th, 1899. Agenda: Minutes of last meeting. Treasurer's account and balance sheet and excursion account. Election of officers. Mr. Harcourt Coates will read a paper entitled Specialists and Specialism. Dr. Williams-Freeman will show and read notes on a case of Head Injury, with complications. Dr. E. T. Fison, a case of Functional Hemiplegia for 43 years: recovery. Dr. Gilbert Kempe, a case of Rhinoplasty. The meeting will be preceded by luncheon at 1 o'clock. Members intending to be present at the luncheon are requested to send their names to the Honorary Secretary not later than November 6th.—J. E. GORDON, 52, Endless Street, Salisbury, Honorary Secretary.

SOUTH WALES AND MONMOUTHSHIRE BRANCH.—The autumn meeting of this Branch will be held at the Joint Counties Asylum, Carmarthen, on Thursday, November 23rd. Nominations for membership, notices of communications, etc., should be sent in on or before Monday, November 6th.—ALFRED SHEEN (Cardiff), D. ARTHUR DAVIES (Swansea), Honorary Secretaries.

SOUTH-EASTERN BRANCH: EAST SURREY DISTRICT. THE autumn meeting of this District was held at Reigate on October 12th, Dr. J. G. OGLE (Reigate) in the chair.

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

Next Meeting.—Dr. OLDMAN proposed and Dr. OWEN FOWLER seconded, and it was resolved:

That the next meeting be held at the Queen's Hotel, Upper Norwood, on the second Thursday in March, and that Dr. Burgess, of Streatham, be asked to take the chair.

Communications.—Dr. F. R. WALTERS read a paper on the Modern Treatment of Phthisis, which was discussed by Drs. OWEN FOWLER and WILLOCK.—Mr. BRUCH CLARKE read a paper on Exploration of Kidney and Ureter; Drs. GALTON, J. WALTERS, and F. R. WALTERS, and Miss ADA BROWN joined in the discussion.—Dr. GRIFFITHS read a paper on the Value of the Douche in Gynecology and After Delivery, which was discussed by Dr. OWEN FOWLER and Dr. GALTON.—Surgical Instruments, etc., were exhibited by Down Bros.

Dinner.—After the meeting 12 members and visitors dined together.

The Action of the Council.—The account of the recent meeting of the Council of the Association was given by Dr. GALTON, after which Dr. OGLE (Chairman) proposed and it was carried unanimously:

That this meeting expresses its approval of the action of the Council, and records a vote of confidence in its representative on the Council.

SOUTHERN BRANCH: ISLE OF WIGHT DISTRICT. A MEETING of this District was held at Sandown on October 20th, 1899, Dr. J. M. WILLIAMSON (President) in the chair.

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

The late Dr. Sinclair Coghill.—A letter was read from Mrs. Sinclair Coghill thanking the members of the District for "their kind sympathy with herself and family in their late great bereavement."

New Member.—Dr. J. B. Thomas, Brigade-Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel, retired, of Sandown, I.W., was elected as a member.

Deferred Agenda.—Dr. T. A. BUCK proposed the following resolution: