

**THE PRINCE OF WALES'S HOUSEHOLD.**

The *London Gazette* of Friday, December 6th, announces the following appointment to the Prince of Wales's Household:

*Physicians in Ordinary.*—Sir William Broadbent, Sir James Reid, and Sir Francis Laking.

*Surgeons in Ordinary.*—Sir Frederick Treves, and Mr. H. W. Allingham.

*Honorary Physicians.*—Dr. Robert W. Burnet, and Dr. Samuel J. Gee.

*Surgeon-Apothecary to the Prince of Wales's Household.*—Sir Francis H. Laking.

*Surgeon-Apothecary to the Prince of Wales, and to the Household at Sandringham.*—Dr. Alan R. Manby.

*Chemist and Druggist.*—Mr. Peter Wyatt Squire.

**LITERARY NOTES.**

GUSTAV FISCHER of Jena announces the publication of a comprehensive work on the history of medicine, under the title of *Handbuch der Geschichte der Medizin*. The work, which was originally planned by the late Professor Theodor Puschmann, of Vienna, is intended to present a complete survey of the evolution of medicine from the earliest times to the present day, and the collaboration of specialists in various departments of medical science and practice, as well as historical students, has been secured. Professor Arndt, of Griefswald, deals with the history of psychiatry; Dr. Bartels, of Berlin, writes on folklore and prehistoric medicine; Dr. Wolf Becher, of Berlin, takes the position of the profession and medical education for his province; Dr. Iwan Bloch, of Berlin, tells the story of medicine in India, and treats besides of the ancient mythological medicine of Rome, Roman medicine (Celsus), Post-Galenic and Byzantine medicine, and syphilis and leprosy. Professor Chiari, of Prague, relates the history of pathology; Professor Fasbender, of Berlin, that of obstetrics; Professor Fossel, of Graz, that of epidemic diseases. Dr. Robert Fuchs, of Dresden, writes on Pre-Hippocratic medicine, Hippocrates and his works, the Asclepiadæ, the Methodists, Pliny, Dioscorides and the Eclectics, and Galen; Professor Helferich, of Würzburg, deals with the history of surgery; Dr. Paul Heymann, of Berlin, with that of laryngology; Dr. Höfler, of Totlz, with Old German Medicine; Professor Hartmann, of Berlin, with the history of ophthalmology from the sixteenth to the nineteenth century; Professor Husemann, of Göttingen, with toxic diseases; Professor Ipsen, of Innsbruck, with forensic medicine; Staff Surgeon Professor Albert Köhler with military sanitation and war surgery from the eighteenth to the nineteenth century. Dr. G. Korn writes on the history of diseases of the digestive apparatus, the urine, bladder, male genitals, neuropathology, and medical chemistry; Professor Kossmann, of Berlin, on that of gynecology; Dr. Kreidl, of Vienna, on that of physiology; Dr. Ritter von Metnitz, on that of dentistry. Baron von Oefele, M.D., of Neuenahr, contributes articles on the medicine of the Egyptians, Babylonians, Assyrians, and Persians, and on the history of balneology; Professor Pagel, of Berlin, deals with mediæval medicine; Professor Politzer, of Vienna, with the history of otology; and Professor Prausnitz, of Graz, with that of hygiene and bacteriology. Dr. Preuss, of Berlin, relates the history of Hebrew medicine; Professor J. H. Rille, of Innsbruck, that of dermatology; Professor Schæfer, of Strassburg, that of pharmacology and toxicology. Dr. Scheube, of Greiz, writes on medicine in East Asia, in China, and Japan; Professor Schütz, of Prague, on Arabian medicine; Dr. Ritter von Töphy, of Vienna, on the history of anatomy, histology, and embryology; Professor Vierordt, of Tübingen, on that of diseases of the lung and of the heart, percussion, and auscultation, and animal parasites. The work, which is edited by Dr. Max Neuburger, of Vienna, and Professor Julius Pagel, will appear in ten fasciculi, forming, when complete, three volumes. The whole of the first volume will be issued by the end of the present year, the other two in the course of 1902.

The Christmas number of the *Wide World Magazine*, which has just been published, contains an interesting illustrated article on "Life in a Refugee Camp," by Dr. Herbert Crook, Medical Officer of the Johannesburg Camp. In view of the strictures which have been passed upon these camps in Parliament and elsewhere, Dr. Crook's paper—the first of its kind, we believe, to appear in this country—is of considerable importance.

In a leading article headed A Protest against Operative

Intemperance, which appeared in the *BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL* of November 9th, reference was made to a remark of the late Bishop of London, Dr. Mandell Creighton, as to the "marvellous prospect opened to the medical man" by the doctrine of the resurrection, inasmuch as the marks of the surgeon's skill would be stamped on certain human frames to be carried by them into eternity. We have received several inquiries as to this, in reply to which we may state that the remark was attributed to the Bishop in what purported to be a report of a sermon delivered by him to the Guild of St. Luke in St. Paul's Cathedral on October 19th, 1898, which appeared in the public press at the time. The report was never, as far as we are aware, repudiated by Dr. Creighton.

The *Rivista Pellagologica Italiana* is a new journal devoted, as its title imports, to the subject of pellagra, which is now occupying the minds of pathologists, sanitarians, and statesmen in Italy. It is to be published every two months at Udine, under the editorship of Dr. L. Perissuti and Signori G. B. Cantarutti and G. Antonini. In the first number it is stated that a comparison of the statistics as to the prevalence of pellagra for the years 1881 and 1899 respectively shows that in the regions where the disease is most rife—namely, Lombardy and Venetia, it has undergone a material decrease. Unfortunately it has increased in the Marches and in Umbria, and to some extent in Tuscany and Latium.

The sixth part of the *Manual of Surgical Treatment*, by Professor Watson Cheyne, C.B., F.R.S., and Mr. Burghard, is, we understand, now in the press, and will probably be issued in two or three months. It has, however, been found necessary to prepare a seventh part, which will consist chiefly of articles on genito-urinary surgery. It was found that to embody these articles in Part VI would have made the volume too large, and would have delayed its publication. Part I has already been reprinted twice since its appearance in 1899.

**ASSOCIATION INTELLIGENCE.****NOTICE OF QUARTERLY MEETINGS OF COUNCIL FOR 1902.**

MEETINGS of the Council will be held on January 15th, April 16th, July 9th, and October 22nd. 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 24th, 1901, March 26th, June 18th, and October 1st, 1902.

**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 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.**

METROPOLITAN COUNTIES BRANCH: WEST LONDON DISTRICT.—A meeting of this District will be held at the Cancer Hospital, Fulham Road, S.W. (by kind permission of the Staff), on Tuesday, December 17th, at 4.30 P.M.; Mr. T. Aird Jolly, Vice-President, in the chair. Agenda.—Dr. Purcell: Why we Operate in Malignant Disease. The Staff will show some interesting specimens.—THOMAS DUTTON, M.D., 7, Manchester Square, W., Honorary Secretary.

## YORKSHIRE BRANCH.

A MEETING of this Branch was held at Harrogate on October 23rd. The PRESIDENT (Dr. Major) occupied the chair, and thirty-four members were present.

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

*New Members.*—The SECRETARY announced that Dr. Thomas Taylor (Bradford), and Dr. McCormack Boyd (Harrogate) had been elected members of the Association and Branch.

*Election of President-elect.*—The meeting unanimously elected Dr. Swanson (York) as President-elect for the ensuing year.

*Communications.*—Dr. GIBSON (Harrogate) showed (1) a case of chronic arthritis of eight years' duration affecting many joints, in a man, aged 39. He came to the Royal Bath Hospital absolutely crippled, and after two months treatment was able to walk home. He had suffered from gonorrhoeal rheumatism eighteen years previously. (2) A case of chronic rheumatoid arthritis which had not as yet undergone treatment. Dr. GOYDER (Bradford), Dr. BLACK (Harrogate), and Mr. WILLIAM HALL (Leeds), spoke in reference to these cases; and Dr. GIBSON replied.—Mr. SINCLAIR WHITE (Sheffield) showed three specimens. The first was a post-rectal dermoid, which was particularly interesting from the fact that it contained a mass of true bone. A photomicrograph was also exhibited of a section of the mass, showing it to be normal bone tissue containing Haversian canals. The author referred to the difficulty of explanation of such an occurrence. Whilst many would be inclined to regard the tumour as belonging to the teratomata, he failed to see that bone as well as other mesoblastic tissues should not at times be included in dermoid growths. Mr. White also showed a greatly distended vermiform appendix which he had removed from a sac of an irreducible hernia, and an unruptured tubal gestation. In the latter case there had been a supposed attack of appendicitis a fortnight previously. On opening the abdomen an unruptured tubal gestation was discovered and removed. The patient made a good recovery. Mr. BASIL HALL (Bradford), and Dr. GOYDER (Bradford) spoke in reference to the specimens; and Mr. WHITE replied.—Dr. HINSLEY WALKER (Harrogate) read a paper on the treatment of disease by the D'Arsonval apparatus. Various cases had been treated during the past six weeks by this method. The treatment had been most successful in cases of hæmorrhoids, a rectal electrode being used. Phthisis, anæmia, and chronic rheumatism, one case of rodent ulcer, and many other cases, were being treated, reports of which would be given at a later date. The results so far, although incomplete, had shown that this method was worthy of extended trial. The PRESIDENT and Dr. EDISON (Leeds) spoke; and Dr. WALKER replied.—Dr. MACGREGOR YOUNG (Leeds) read a paper on the use of a linen bag in ether anæsthesia. He showed a modification of Clover's inhaler in which he had substituted a holland bag for the usual rubber one, and gave details of a number of administrations. Two important advantages were obtained by this modification: First, a clean bag being used for each case, and no inflation by the administrator being required, a degree of cleanliness was obtained which was impossible with the original apparatus. Secondly, the tendency to cyanosis which was frequently troublesome in ether administrations was very materially lessened. Anæsthesia was induced almost if not quite as quickly as with the rubber bag, and the quantity of ether used was only slightly in excess. The mouthpiece of the inhaler was of metal, with a detachable red rubber cushion round the rim, which would stand boiling.—Dr. HYSLOP (Menston) and Mr. BASIL HALL (Bradford) both spoke to having used Dr. Young's method with excellent results.—Dr. EDGECOMBE (Harrogate) read a paper on a case of acute temporary obstruction of the œsophagus.

The patient, a man aged 38, in good health, caught a chill by bathing in the sea on a very cold day. When seen three days later, he had acute coryza and severe trigeminal neuralgia. Next day there was swelling of the cervical glands and slight dysphagia. The dysphagia rapidly increased; there was regurgitation of fluids through the nose; the dysphagia ultimately became absolute; the larynx was normal. On passing a bougie, obstruction below the cricoid was felt, which gradually yielded to pressure. The passage of bougies relieved the dysphagia, which gradually disappeared within four weeks of the onset.

Dr. Edgecombe mentioned the possibility of an acute enlargement of the bronchial glands similar to the cervical, but

pointed out that this was improbable, as there was no communication between them. On the other hand, the duration of the symptoms seemed to negative the view that the condition was one of spasm. He had not been able to find a record of any similar case. The PRESIDENT, Drs. GOYDER and BRONNER spoke; and Dr. EDGECOMBE replied.—Dr. CHURTON (Leeds) read a paper on a case of paramyoclonus multiplex treated by subcutaneous injections of curare.

The patient was a hysterical girl who suffered from clonic movements of the arms and head. The range of movement was a very wide one and of great rapidity, eight or nine per second. Various forms of treatment had been tried, including faradism, without any effect. Hypodermic injections of the extract of curare were finally exhibited. Commencing with one-twenty-fourth of a grain daily, the dose was gradually increased to one-quarter. The movements steadily diminished and ultimately disappeared.

Dr. Churton also mentioned a second case of clonic spasm associated with nystagmus which he treated in a similar manner. Great improvement took place, sufficient, as he expressed it, "to spoil the case for a clinical lecture." The improvement had remained permanent. Dr. MERCER (Bradford) and the PRESIDENT spoke; and Dr. CHURTON replied.—Dr. D'OYLY GRANGE (Harrogate) read a paper entitled a plea for normal saline. He referred to a large number of instances where normal saline solution might be used to advantage in medical practice. In eczema, for example, and skin affections, where the use of water was injurious, normal saline solution had a beneficial action. He urged its more extensive use, not only after hæmorrhage, but in all conditions where the body was being drained of its fluids.—Dr. GOYDER spoke, and Dr. GRANGE replied.—Dr. SOLLY (Harrogate) read short notes on the causation of rheumatic arthritis. He included in the term "rheumatic arthritis" all forms of chronic arthritis in which there was no gouty element. He regarded these conditions as manifestations of a chronic toxæmia, and urged that in all cases a thorough search should be made for a source of infection. He cited a number of cases in which the joint conditions had been relieved by the treatment of coexisting urethral strictures, and pointed out the frequency of chronic uterine conditions in women suffering from these forms of arthritis.—Dr. GIBSON, Dr. GOYDER, and Dr. CHURTON spoke; and Dr. SOLLY replied.

*Dinner.*—After the meeting the members dined at the Majestic Hotel.

## STAFFORDSHIRE BRANCH.

The first general meeting of the session was held at Stoke-on-Trent on November 28th, Mr. H. FOLKER, President, in the chair. Twenty-four members were present.

*Confirmation of Minutes.*—The minutes of the last general meeting (May 30th, 1901) were read, approved, and signed.

*New Members.*—Albert James Adkins, M.D., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., Stoke-on-Trent Workhouse Hospital, and Humphrey Donell O'Sullivan, M.B., C.M.Camb., Burton-on-Trent, were elected members of the Branch.

*Specimens.*—Dr. HUNT (Stoke-on-Trent) showed (1) a stone weighing 4 ozs. removed from bladder of a horse by lateral lithotomy. Animal under chloroform; returned to work in four weeks. (2) Kidney full of calculi causing suppuration, removed from a lad 17 years old, who had been reduced to last stage of emaciation by suppurating through very large sinuses in the loin. The kidney was removed *en bloc*. Three days after operation 44 ounces of urine were passed, whereas only 14 ounces had been the daily amount previous to the operation. A few days later 60 ounces per diem passed. Lad rapidly recovered, wound healed, and in two months was perfectly well and very robust.—Dr. SMALLWOOD SAVAGE (Birmingham) showed two specimens of salpingo-oöphoritis, which he had removed by abdominal section in two cases:—

CASE 1.—The patient, aged 43, had had nine children, the last child three years and a half ago. She complained that for years she had had scalding of urine, that for two months she had had pain in the right lower abdomen, and that for five weeks previous to being seen and three days after a menstrual period she had been suddenly seized with severe pain in the right iliac region and right hip, that she vomited, had cold sweats at night, and a profuse pus discharge. On examination the vagina was hot, the uterus fixed, the external os patent, and a tender donchy mass was felt in the pouch of Douglas. Abdominal section was performed on November 17th, 1900, and a wholly adherent mass of an enlarged right tube and ovary was removed. The tube was dilated in its distal extremity into the shape of a funnel, and the ovary was enlarged, cedematous, and cystic. The left appendages being healthy, were not removed. The patient made a good recovery.

CASE II.—The patient, aged 28, had been married 3½ years and had had one child eight months ago. The illness began sixteen days after the confinement; it commenced by a rigor, and when seen one month after she complained of pain in the right side of the lower abdomen, right hip, and groin, slight discharge, profuse night perspirations, slime in motions, dysuria, and loss of flesh. On examination there was found a cellulitic thickening in the right broad ligament which extended into the abdominal wall above the pubes, in the posterior vesical wall and slightly in the left broad ligament; the uterus too was found somewhat fixed. For a month the patient was ordered rest and was given mercury and potassium iodide when all her symptoms were much improved and on examination the vesical thickening had gone, the left broad ligament was free, but a well-defined swelling was felt in the situation of the right ovary and tube. A fortnight later the pain and sweating became worse, and she continued to lose flesh. The diagnosis made was pyosalpinx with parametritis. Abdominal section was performed on June 4th, 1901, with the patient in the Trendelenburg position and an adherent right tube and ovary removed. The left appendage was not removed. The right tube was thickened, elongated, and tortuous in the form of a U, the bend being attached to the right pelvic wall. The right ovary was the size of a tangerine orange and contained a firm brick-red hæmatoma. The patient made a good recovery and three months after the operation when seen all her symptoms had disappeared and she had grown quite stout, having gained 11 lbs. in six weeks.

*The Treatment of the Mother during the Puerperium.*—A discussion on this subject was introduced by Dr. HATTON, who deprecated the use of antiseptic douches as a routine practice, inasmuch as they were generally unnecessary, and always more or less dangerous. They should be used only in cases where operative interference was necessary, or where a septic discharge existed. He placed reliance on the rigid observance of the aseptic principle of surgery, both by the doctor and the nurse.—Dr. EDGE, THE PRESIDENT, Mr. SPANTON, Dr. SMALLWOOD SAVAGE, Dr. C. M. ALLAN, Dr. DEANESLY, and Mr. AITKEN took part in the discussion.

*Lead Poisoning in the Potteries.*—Dr. McALDOWIE read a paper, in which he maintained that the prevalence and severity of the poisoning had been much exaggerated, and that the rule as to solubility suggested by the Home Office, had it been enforced, would have led, in all probability, to an increase in the severity of the cases.—After the PRESIDENT had spoken on the subject, the further discussion was postponed till the next general meeting of the Branch.—On the motion of Dr. MALET, seconded by Dr. LOWE, a Committee was appointed as requested by the manufacturers, to consider and suggest any measures which might be adopted by them to further diminish the evil of lead poisoning.

#### SHROPSHIRE AND MID-WALES BRANCH.

THE annual general meeting of this Branch was held at the Salop Infirmary, on November 5th, Dr. GEORGE WHITWELL, President, in the chair. Thirty-five members were present.

*Confirmation of Minutes.*—The minutes of the last meeting were read and signed as correct.

*Report of Council.*—The report of the Branch Council was read showing that it had held three meetings during the past year, that there had been two general meetings of the Branch, and two special meetings; also two ordinary meetings of the clinical and pathological section. The membership of the Branch had increased from 107 to 120, the largest membership yet recorded in its existence. The report on being put to the meeting was unanimously adopted.

*Election of Officers.*—The officers for the ensuing year were then elected as follows:—*President:* George Graves Whitwell. *Vice-President:* Ernest Tredinnick. *President-elect:* G. H. Keyworth. *Honorary Secretary and Treasurer:* H. H. B. MacLeod. *Assistant Honorary Secretary:* Leonard J. Godson. *Branch Representative on the Council of the Association and Branch Representative on the Parliamentary Bills Committee:* J. D. Harries. *Chairman of Clinical and Pathological Section:* T. Law Webb, M.B., Ch.B. *Branch Council:* E. Burd, M.D., E. Cureton, M.D. (Auditor), W. B. Davies, H. W. Gardner, M.D., H. Nelson Edwards, T. Law Webb, R. W. O. Withers, S. T. Gwynne, M.D., J. D. Harries, G. H. Keyworth, M.B., J. McCarthy, M.D., W. H. Packer, M.D. *Ethical Committee:* E. Cureton, J. D. Harries, G. H. Keyworth, J. D. Lloyd, S. T. Gwynne, J. McCarthy, and the President (*ex-officio*).

*Conferment of Degrees on Former Presidents.*—THE PRESIDENT announced that the University of Birmingham had recently conferred the degrees of M.B., Ch.B., upon Edward Cureton and T. Law Webb, both former Presidents of the Branch, and proposed a hearty vote of congratulation to those gentlemen. This was carried by acclamation.

*Contract Practice.*—THE SECRETARY read letters from the

Secretaries of four Branches of the Association acknowledging the receipt of the resolution of the special meeting of the Branch amount the annual fee payable for contract practice.

*New Members.*—The following gentlemen were elected members of the Branch: H. E. Mortis, Kinnerley; Cyril P. Budd, Salop Infirmary; L. T. McClintock, Salop Infirmary; J. Morgan Evans, Llandrindod Wells; T. Kirk, Montgomery; J. G. Pigott, Belmont, Shrewsbury; John Murray, Llandrindod Wells; Louis F. B. Knuthsen, Shifnal.

*President's Address.*—THE PRESIDENT then delivered an address on tuberculosis. After thanking the members for the great honour they had done him in electing him President for the ensuing year, he traced the history of tuberculosis from the time of Galen. All the most famous names in ancient medicine were associated with the elucidation of the disease, and the list included, besides Galen, those of Paulus Ægineta, Oribasius, Rhazes. Forresterius, in 1653, gave a detailed recital of many cases founded on extensive practical observation. Sylvius, about 1680, seemed to have been the first to recognise lymph nodes in connection with ulceration and suppuration of the lungs; but it was not till the close of the seventeenth century that attention was directed to the close similarity between scrofulous lymph nodes and the caseous nodules in phthisical lungs. Reid, in 1785, discarded the old idea that tubercles were enlarged lymphatic glands, and conceived that they were the result of exudation; and in 1793 Baillie pronounced them new formations, and described them. The birth of the last century was signalised by the conception of tubercle in its most general sense when Bayle, and Laënnec (his pupil), described it very accurately but were bitterly opposed by Broussais and all the leading men of the day, until their investigations culminated in the discovery of miliary tubercle, which decided the vexed theory of the relation of scrofula to tuberculosis. Between 1789 and 1830 experimental inoculations were made, sometimes on human beings, but chiefly on animals, and seem to have had negative results. Klencke in 1843 and Villemin in 1865 announced successful inoculations and the latter summed up his conclusions as follows:—

Tuberculosis is a specific affection. Its cause resides in an inoculable agent. Tuberculosis then belongs to the class of virulent maladies, and in the nosological scheme must take place beside syphilis, but more close to glanders.

Nothing further important took place till the discovery of the tubercle bacillus was announced by Koch before the Physiological Society of Berlin on March 24th, 1882. As to its age-distribution Ransome in his Milroy Lectures stated that "it kills one-third of those who die between ages 15 to 45, and nearly one-half of those who die between 15 to 35 years of age, and that 30 per cent. of those who die of other diseases show signs of tubercle," and said that a great many cases in early life as "tabes mesenterica" and "consumption of the bowels" were simply diet diseases—true intestinal tuberculosis being rare; adolescence showed a decided partiality for the disease, and in old age many deaths ascribed to chronic bronchitis, etc., were really due to tuberculosis. He then showed from statistics and published experimental observations that the incidence of the disease depended more on the aggregation of human beings, indoor life, malnutrition, and unhygienic surroundings than upon any influence of climate, latitude, or altitude, that inherited vulnerability, though not to be entirely neglected, played only a small part in the programme, and quoted the classical descriptions of Hippocrates and Jenner of the individual of phthisioid tendency. The infectiousness of phthisis had held the medical mind since the time of Galen, and in Nancy in 1750 a bed used by a phthisical person was burned; in 1754 Florence and in 1767 Lucca recognised its infectious character and passed certain regulations. In 1782, in Naples, stringent laws as to disinfection were passed, and heavy fines inflicted in cases of neglect of notification. In 1839, so great was the dread of the disease that Georges Sand and Chopin (who was consumptive) were thrust out of several towns in Spain and Portugal which they had visited. In 1884 the Collective Investigation Committee of the British Medical Association collected 158 cases in which the disease was transmitted from husband to wife or *vice versa*. The President touched on the different methods of distribution of the bacilli, as milk, meat, dust, butter, hands, etc., and instanced a few of the many sources of pos-

sible infection, as cigar and cigarette makers, performing the act of circumcision, public drinking cups, etc., and of the modes of infection suggested hereditarily in some cases, inhalation, inoculation, ingestion, etc. Finally, he gave a general review of the symptomatology, physical signs, prophylactic, general and climatic treatment, and concluded by apologising for the inordinate length of the paper, due to the immensity of the subject and the amount of literature extant concerning it.

*Vote of Thanks.*—A hearty vote of thanks to the President for his most able paper was proposed by Dr. TREDINNICK, seconded by Mr. HARRIES, and carried by acclamation.—A discussion followed in which Drs. PORTER and GARDNER took part.

*Communications.*—Mr. R. DE STAWELL read notes of a case of acute intestinal obstruction caused by a large gall stone and showed the specimen. Mr. Stawell gave a short summary of the recent literature of the subject.—Dr. T. LAW WEBB read a note on the detection of the tubercle bacillus in sputum and urine, and gave a brief history of 27 cases from his own practice classified as follows: (1) Those in which the bacillus was present from the first (a) in great numbers, (b) more sparingly; (2) those in which for a long time no bacilli were found, but in which they appeared shortly before the fatal termination of the case; (3) those in which no bacilli were found, though the other signs of tuberculous disease were present. He pointed out the great importance of frequently-repeated examinations of both sputum and urine, and described a reliable and simple technique. Dr. Webb also showed microscopic preparations of the blood in a case of myelogenic leukaemia.—Dr. GORE (Whitchurch) read a short paper on the treatment of phthisis by intravenous injections, and showed a nursemaid, aged 20.

She had a cough and expectoration for ten months, and had not been well for two years. Her father and several near relatives died of phthisis. On admission to Whitchurch Cottage Hospital she was anæmic; there was slight cough and expectoration; tubercle bacilli were present in sputum, crepitation was heard over both apices, limited in extent. Her weight was 8 st. 2 lbs. Treatment was commenced on September 3rd by a modification of Maguire's method of intravenous injection of formalin. This was continued till November 4th. When shown on November 5th at Shrewsbury there were no apparent physical signs. She had no cough or expectoration, and had not had any for some time. Her weight was 9 st. 12 lbs. She had never weighed more than 9 st. before in her life. She looked and felt in perfect health. She had no other treatment or diet different from the ordinary diet of patients in the cottage hospital. She was examined by several members, who could find nothing the matter.

*Annual Dinner.*—After the meeting the annual dinner of the Branch was held at the Music Hall, fifty-five members and their guests being present.

**SOUTH-EASTERN BRANCH: EAST KENT DISTRICT.**  
THE 161st meeting of this District was held at the Kent and Canterbury Hospital on November 28th, Dr. KESSICK BOWES of Herne Bay in the chair. There were twenty members and visitors present.

*Confirmation of Minutes.*—The minutes of the last meeting, held at Folkestone in September, 1901, were read and confirmed.

*Chairman of the Meeting in March, 1902.*—On the motion of Dr. HALSTED, seconded by Dr. GOSSE, it was unanimously agreed that Dr. Robinson of Dover should take the chair at the meeting to be held at Dover in March next.

*Appendicitis.*—Dr. WHITEHEAD REID (Canterbury) read a paper on this subject. He referred especially to the diagnosis and the prognosis of the disease. He related a case of streptococcus peritonitis on which he had operated, where the injection of antistreptococcus serum had saved the life of the patient. He fixed the time as under forty hours in which an appendicular abscess might give way from the initial symptoms, and gave a case in illustration. He also laid stress on the fact that the pulse rather than the temperature was the best guide in judging of the severity of a case. Finally, he insisted on the fact that the disease was essentially a surgical one, as in progressive lesions interference might be required during the second day of the attack.

*Experiences of Small-pox.*—Mr. RAVEN (Honorary Secretary) read a paper on this subject. He dealt only with the rarer aspects of the disease. It seemed probable, judging from the success that often attended early isolation, that small-pox was not so actively infectious in the initial stage as it had

hitherto been believed to be. Difficulty in diagnosis was dwelt upon, especially in the hæmorrhagic form of the disease, and when a prodromal measly rash shows itself, as well as when there was doubt between variella and varioloid. Cases of purpura variolosa were related, and allusion was made to the "variolous fever" of Sydenham or the "variola sine variolis" of de Haen, and the author gave illustrative cases to support his belief in the existence of this strange form of the disease, which had been disputed by Watson and others. Incubation terms were mentioned, chiefly to illustrate the value of vaccination during such periods. It was shown by a series of cases that so long as the vaccine vesicle was matured by the time that variola declared itself, the disease was greatly modified or even practically nullified; whereas if the vesicles, before they were ripe, were overtaken by small-pox, no alleviation of symptoms ensued. From indisputable facts incubation, in a group of 8 cases, ranged from twelve to nineteen days. Hence, though twelve days are generally recognised as the common term of incubation, and vaccination four days after infection would probably ensure safety, yet it might be hoped the vaccination performed many days later than this would be effectual on the chance of a protracted incubation. Treatment was described as opportunism; symptoms alone could be treated. Fresh air and good nourishment were the chief factors in recovery. Vaccination during an attack of small-pox was found to be quite useless, though it had been advocated. The form of death was sometimes peculiar to the disease. A patient apparently strong and in good spirits would suddenly die as though the poison was incompatible with life and nothing more.

#### METROPOLITAN COUNTIES BRANCH: SOUTH LONDON DISTRICT.

A MEETING of the District was held at St. Thomas's Hospital on November 28th, Dr. HYSLOP, Vice-President, in the chair.

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

*Paper.*—Dr. BOX read a paper on some points in connection with ulceration of the stomach and duodenum, which will be published. The following gentlemen joined in the discussion which followed:—Dr. SHARKEY, Mr. C. S. WALLACE, Dr. BRYANT, and Dr. HYSLOP. Dr. BOX replied.

*Cases.*—Several cases of interest from the wards of the hospital were shown by Dr. SHARKEY, Dr. ACLAND, and Dr. HAWKINS.

*Vote of Thanks.*—A vote of thanks was proposed to Dr. BOX and the staff of St. Thomas's Hospital, and also to the Treasurer and Governors of the hospital, for the permission to use the Court Room. These were carried unanimously.

#### BATH AND BRISTOL BRANCH.

THE second ordinary meeting of the session was held at Bath on November 27th, Dr. G. C. TAYLER, President, in the chair. There were twenty-eight members present.

*New Members.*—Mr. George Boyd, of Portishead, and Dr. Kyle, of Bristol, were elected members of the Branch.

*Communications.*—Mr. G. S. POLLARD read a paper on the Tuberculin Test in Cattle, and a discussion on the subject ensued, in which the following members took part: Dr. WALDO, Dr. WATSON WILLIAMS, Mr. WILLETT, Mr. FLEMMING, Dr. CAVE, Dr. FISHER, and Dr. MICHELL CLARKE. Dr. WILSON SMITH discussed Some Problems of Medical Treatment; and Dr. SHINGLETON SMITH and Dr. WALDO commented upon them.

*Specimens.*—Mr. C. E. S. FLEMMING showed the following specimens: (a) Pulmonary artery perforated by needle; (b) cancer of œsophagus, involving left bronchus; (c) retro-peritoneal tumour, involving pylorus; (d) gall bladder impacted with gall stones; (e) congenital hernia of ovary; and (f) a small tumour of an angiomatous nature; and they were discussed by Mr. PAUL BUSH, C.M.G., Dr. WATSON WILLIAMS, Dr. MICHELL CLARKE, and Dr. FISHER.

*Cases.*—Mr. W. M. BEAUMONT showed lantern slides of some cases of ptosis, and Dr. MICHELL CLARKE, Mr. WILLETT, Mr. RICHARDSON CROSS, and Dr. CAVE discussed them.