

PROPOSED UNION OF MEDICAL SOCIETIES IN LONDON.

A MEETING of the General Committee of Representatives of Medical Societies in London was held on July 17th to consider the report of the Organizing Committee.

Sir WILLIAM CHURCH, who was in the chair, pointed out that at the first meeting of the members of societies, which was held at the Royal College of Physicians in 1905, the feasibility of union was considered, and that as the outcome of the opinions expressed at that meeting a Committee of Representatives of the various societies was appointed. The Committee of Representatives appointed an Executive Committee to go more thoroughly into the feasibility of union and to outline some scheme of union if such were thought possible. This Executive Committee reported that a union was feasible on certain lines, and its report was confirmed by the Committee of Representatives on July 19th, 1905. With that report the Executive Committee's work came to an end, and an Organizing Committee was appointed to draw up a definite and, as far as possible, a detailed scheme of union. This scheme was before the meeting, and if approved would be sent to the societies to act upon or not as they thought fit. Those societies which approved of the report and decided to join the proposed union would be asked to appoint a representative before December 7th next to sit upon a committee which would act as the first Council of the new Society and deal with the necessary details of amalgamation.

The report recommended that all male members of those societies which took part in the amalgamation should be permitted to join the new society on its formation as members or Fellows without election, and that all women members of a society taking part in the amalgamation should become members of the corresponding section or sections of the new society. It was further recommended that the society should consist of the following sections which represented existing societies, but that the new society should have power to add new sections:

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| 1. Anaesthetic. | 10. Medical. |
| 2. Balneological and Climatological. | 11. Neurological. |
| 3. Clinical. | 12. Obstetrical and Gynaecological. |
| 4. Dermatological. | 13. Odontological. |
| 5. Diseases of Children. | 14. Ophthalmological. |
| 6. Electro-Therapeutical. | 15. Otological. |
| 7. Epidemiological. | 16. Pathological. |
| 8. Laryngological. | 17. Surgical. |
| 9. Life Insurance. | 18. Therapeutical. |

It was hoped that in the early future an anatomical and physiological Section and a Section of preventive medicine might be formed. The Medico-Psychological Association and the Medico-Legal Society hoped to join the new Society at some future date. It was recommended that each Section should be self-governing as far as possible, and should have direct Representatives on the council of the society and on the editorial committee, but that its expenditure should be subject to the control of the finance committee of the general council. The general management of the society would be under the control of a general council consisting of the president, the presidents of the various sections, two treasurers, two librarians, two secretaries, and eight other Fellows.

HOSPITAL AND DISPENSARY MANAGEMENT.

KESTEVEN (LINCOLNSHIRE) COUNTY ASYLUM.

FROM the annual report of the Medical Superintendent, Dr. J. A. Ewan, for the year 1905 we see that there were 367 patients in residence on January 1st, 1905, and that at the end of the year there remained 358. During the year 50 cases in all were admitted, of whom 5 were private patients. This is a very considerable fall from the numbers admitted during the previous year (102) or those of 1903 (158), and in only 37 cases were the patients chargeable to the county unions. Dr. Ewan was able for the first time to report amongst the total asylum population a decrease in the numbers chargeable to the unions of Kesteven. Of the total admissions, 47 were first admissions, 15 were the subjects of first attacks within three, and 6 more within twelve, months of admission; in 10 the attack was a "not first" attack within twelve months of admission, and the remainder were either more than twelve months' duration or congenital cases. They were classified as to the forms of mental disorder into: Mania of all kinds, 15; melancholia of all kinds, 8; dementia, 14; general paralysis, 3; acquired epilepsy, 3; and congenital or infantile defect, 7.

In only 4 of the admissions was alcoholic intemperance ascribed as the cause of the mental disorder, and this notwithstanding that the Commissioners in their last Blue Book placed Lincolnshire among those counties where intemperance in drink was the assigned cause in 10 to 15 per cent. Venereal disease was assigned in 2, hereditary influences were ascertained in 18, or 36.0 per cent., congenital defect in 9, previous attacks in 5, old age in 2, and "moral causes" in 15. During the year 14 were discharged as recovered, giving a recovery-rate on the admissions of 28.00 per cent., or, exclusive of transfers, of, 37.84 per cent., 5 as relieved, 13 as not improved, and there were 27 deaths. These deaths, giving a percentage death-rate on the average numbers resident of 7.33, were due in 9 cases to cerebro-spinal diseases, in 14 to chest diseases with only 2 deaths from phthisis, and in 4 cases to abdominal diseases, including one case of colitis. No serious casualty had to be reported during the year, and the asylum was free from zymotic disease.

MEDICAL NEWS.

DR. MUIR SMITH has been appointed a Justice of the Peace for Eastbourne.

A 10 to 12-h.p. Argyll, made by the Argyll Motors, Limited, of Alexandria, Glasgow, has for the third year in succession gained first prize and gold medal at Wirral Show for the best car under £500.

THE name of Provost Dr. James MacLachlan, Dornoch, has, on the recommendation of the Lord Lieutenant, been added to the new list of Justices of the Peace for Sutherlandshire.

THE Fifth International Congress of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, which was to have been held in St. Petersburg last year but was postponed until this year, has now been again postponed for another year. It will be held in St. Petersburg from September 11th to 18th, 1907.

THE fund for the establishment of the Institute of Medical Sciences as a part of the University of London will, it is stated, benefit to the extent of £25,000 under the will of the late Mr. Alfred Beit. Sums of £20,000 are also bequeathed to Guy's Hospital, the King Edward's Hospital Fund for London, and to the trustees of the will to distribute among charitable institutions in London.

GIVING evidence on July 23rd before the Select Committee of the House of Commons on the Housing of the Working Classes Amendment Bill, Miss Constance Cochrane, one of the Executive Committee of the Rural Housing and Sanitation Society, recommended that medical officers of health should be members of a branch of the ordinary Civil Service.

AT a general court of governors of the East London Hospital for Children on July 23rd, it was reported that the new isolation block had been completed and taken into use. The lower floors were devoted to cases of diphtheria and the upper wards to patients under observation only. Continued evidence was being received of the value of the whooping-cough block. Although the finances of the hospital were in a better state than last year, there was still a heavy deficit on the half-year's working.

THE Earl of Kilmorey, as Chairman of Charing Cross Hospital, made an application at Bow Street Police Court on July 23rd in respect of the nuisance caused by motor omnibuses, and asked for advice. He said that the Commissioner of Police had issued an order prohibiting motor omnibuses stopping in King William Street to put down and take up passengers, but that the drivers persisted in doing so unless the police were looking. The patients in hospital, therefore, were disturbed by undue noise and prevented from getting a proper amount of sleep. After asking some questions the magistrate said the best course would be to get shopkeepers and others in the neighbourhood to act with the hospital. If they came together and said there was a nuisance he would grant a summons against the companies concerned.

THE Board of Agriculture has issued the annual report of its chief veterinary medical officer for the year 1905, together with an account of the proceedings taken under the various statutes and the usual statistical tables. Of the diseases mentioned, the most interesting to the medical profession are anthrax and glanders, both of which we regret to see are largely on the increase. The causation of anthrax on farms on which no previous infection has been reported forms a very difficult problem, and has in some instances been solved by tracing the use of shoddy from wool-combing as bedding. The fight to stamp out swine fever goes on without apparently much change, and those who are interested in the work of county and district councils will find much to interest them in the report.