

sanitary authority of each case of infectious disease that he attended. He believed that a great number of medical men in Ireland would deem that clause most objectionable. He thought, however, that their thanks were due to the sanitary authorities for having brought the matter forward, and also to Mr. Gray for the Bill which he had brought in. It was capable of great amendment in committee; and he was sure the outcome of it would be that the present existing slur upon their sanitary arrangements, and the want of proper notification of infectious diseases, would be removed; and that householders would be compelled by penal enactment to give that notification.

Dr. WALTER SMITH, Vice-President of the College of Physicians, seconded the motion, which was unanimously agreed to.

President's Address.—The PRESIDENT (Dr. Robert McDonnell, F.R.S.), delivered the annual address, which is published in abstract at page 190.

Election of Officers.—The following were elected officers and Council for 1881. *President:* Thomas Hayden, F.K.Q.C.P. *President-Elect:* Alfred H. McClintock, M.D. *Vice-Presidents:* John T. Barks, M.D.; George H. Kidd, M.D. *Council:* E. H. Bennett, M.D.; Thomas Darby, F.R.C.S.I.; J. M. Finny, M.D.; Samuel Gordon, M.D.; T. W. Grimshaw, M.D.; E. Hamilton, M.D.; Reuben Harvey, M.D.; S. Haughton, M.D., F.R.S.; E. D. Mapother, M.D.; R. McDonnell, M.D., F.R.S.; P. C. Smyly, M.D.; William Stokes, M.D. *Representatives on the General Council:* Isaac Ashe, M.D.; Rev. S. Haughton, M.D., F.R.S.; Thomas Hayden, F.K.Q.C.P.I.; James Little, M.D.; A. McClintock, M.D.; R. McDonnell, M.D., F.R.S.; G. H. Porter, M.D.; William Stokes, M.D. *Honorary Secretary and Treasurer:* George F. Duffey, M.D.

The New President.—Dr. HAYDEN, the newly-elected President, then took the chair amid applause; and briefly thanked the Branch for the honour it had conferred upon him.

Vote of Thanks.—The PRESIDENT of the COLLEGE of PHYSICIANS proposed: "That the cordial thanks of the Branch be given to Dr. Robert McDonnell, F.R.S., for his address, and for the able and painstaking manner in which he had performed the duties of President during the past year."

The PRESIDENT of the COLLEGE of SURGEONS, in seconding the motion, remarked that it might be truly said of Dr. McDonnell, "Nihil tetigit quod non ornavit". He (Dr. McClintock) held the opinion that notification of infectious diseases would be most thoroughly and efficiently carried out if it were done by the attending physician.

The vote was carried unanimously.

Dr. McDONNELL, in responding, said the question of compulsory notification of infectious diseases was a very difficult one. They should all avail themselves of any opportunities, that might be presented, of seeing what systems were in operation already, and how they worked; and should be ready to modify their opinions, if necessary, without regard to anything that could be called selfishness. Their profession never shrank from performing useful duties because they happened to be disagreeable. For his part, he would be quite prepared to modify his opinions. It was in the highest degree desirable that the subject should be investigated by a Parliamentary Committee.

The proceedings then terminated.

The Dinner.—In the evening, the members and their friends (to the number of sixty-three) sat down to dinner in the great hall of the College of Physicians; Dr. HAYDEN, President, in the chair. Amongst those present were: Lord Rathdonnell; the High Sheriff of the City, Sir George Owens; the President of the College of Physicians; the President and the Vice-President of the College of Surgeons; the President of the Irish Medical Association; the Registrar-General; Dr. Banks, Physician to the Queen; Mr. Porter, Surgeon to the Queen; Surgeon-Major Jackson, C.B.; Dr. Atthill; Dr. Jacob, *Medical Press*; Mr. Scott, *Irish Times*; Mr. J. P. Maunsell, *Evening Mail*; Surgeon-Major Preston, etc. During the evening, in addition to the usual loyal toasts, the toast of the "College of Physicians and Surgeons" was proposed, and responded to by Dr. Johnston and Dr. McClintock. That of the "British Medical Association and the Irish Branches", was spoken to by Dr. R. McDonnell; the "Irish Medical Association", by Dr. Chapman; and the "Visitors", by Lord Rathdonnell. The health of the "President of the Branch" was proposed by Dr. Banks, and was warmly received; as was also the toast of the "Honorary Secretary". Several beautiful glees were sung in an excellent manner by some musical members of the Branch; and the toast of "these gentlemen", which was received with great enthusiasm, was admirably responded to by Dr. Peele.

ARMY HOSPITAL CORPS.—Lieutenants of Orderlies James Gordon, William Pike, and H. S. Webb sailed for Natal with the Bearer Company on the 24th January in the mail steamer *Durban*.

CORRESPONDENCE.

WIDOWS AND ORPHANS OF MEDICAL MEN.

SIR,—No one rejoices more than I do myself at the great amount of good accomplished through the agency of the Medical Benevolent Fund; but it is to me most astonishing that medical men residing within London and a radius of twenty miles, who have the opportunity offered them of providing, at the trifling annual expenditure of two guineas, that their wives and children shall not be left in want in case of their death, should neglect to use it, and fail to become members of the Society for the Relief of the Widows and Orphans of Medical Men. Can it be, that we as a class, who more than any others are conversant with death at all periods of existence, are so confident of our own physical strength that we flatter ourselves that this fate can never overtake us? Or are we so selfish that we grudge this comparatively trifling annual payment on behalf of those who should be dearer to us than even our own bodies? I cannot believe it; but would rather hold to the opinion that anxieties of business, hope for the future, and perhaps more than anything else, real ignorance of the means and working of our Society, form the great reasons why only three hundred and seventy-five out of the thousands of medical practitioners who reside within the sphere of our operations have attached themselves to our Society. May I therefore point out, that we have an invested capital amounting to £76,495 1s. 5d., and that the interest of this, together with the subscriptions of the members, is divided among the widows and orphans of the members who have died without leaving a provision for their families. Any gentleman can receive full particulars by applying either to myself, or to our energetic secretary, Mr. J. B. Blackett, 53, Berners Street, Oxford Street.—I am sir, your obedient servant,
WILLIAM FULLER, Acting Treasurer.

THE MEDICAL BENEVOLENT FUND.

SIR,—Dr. Broadbent, in his letter in the JOURNAL of the 22nd instant, refers to an "idea of Dr. Stanley Haynes, who pointed out that five shillings annually from each member of the British Medical Association would amount to £2,000 a year". Twelve months ago, when my friend Mr. George A. Brown of Tredegar brought forward his scheme for the formation of a local medical benevolent society, I proposed for discussion a scheme which should incite the voluntary contribution of five or ten shillings annually from every member to form a benevolent fund in connection with the Association. I believe some legal difficulties stood in the way. I cannot see why some such idea may not be carried out still, but in connection with the Medical Benevolent Fund, instead of the Association. I would suggest that the Committee of Council issue a circular to all the Branches, inviting their attention to this subject. Spurts are good in their way; but what we want is a steady inflowing of a large number of small subscriptions year by year, and this could be easily and successfully carried out by the various Branches. The Secretary of each Branch, in getting in his subscriptions, would only have to add the words "Medical Benevolent Fund, five shillings," to his circular; and I believe the amount would be readily paid in every instance. If any member desired to give more, he could do so. I believe myself that ten shillings would not be too much to ask from each member. I sincerely hope that something may come of this suggestion, and soon. I will undertake, at our next meeting, that the matter shall be discussed.—Yours, etc.,

ALFRED SHEEN, M.D.,

Honorary Secretary South Wales and Monmouthshire Branch.
Cardiff, January 25th, 1881.

THE MODE OF ELECTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.

SIR,—Mr. George Pollock's proposal of a committee of election (although at one time it seemed to me to contain a promise of satisfying the conditions) has long been dismissed from my mind by the actual knowledge of what can be made out of such a body.

To any thoughtful dweller in a town where the American "caucus" system exists, it will appear little short of disaster were such a committee to be created; it would most surely devour our scanty little privilege! For my part, I never could admit the force of the arguments adduced against the proxy vote; viz., that it "would result in organised canvassing," and "throw the power into the hands of the journals," etc. I have a greater faith (founded on some experience) in the acumen of such an educated constituency as ours, than to fear that any partisanship could ever be allowed to interfere with

the selection and election of the proper men under a "proxy vote", which would enlist an interest in college affairs that now is stifled by long distance.

The provincial Fellows have a reasonable ambition and right to be represented on the Council, and, though in a large majority of numbers, will be, I take it, quite content with a minority proportion (say a fourth part) of the representative body as their share.

It must, too, be remembered that many large towns now (as indeed they have done at all former times) boast of having amongst their citizens not a few of the very foremost surgeons of the day.

And, notwithstanding Mr. Holmes, and the difficulties which may or may not exist, and which, if they do exist, will most likely take a lesson from other difficulties and melt away when fairly tackled, I am far from certain that his position, about the provincial surgeon being "utterly incapable of serving the laborious office of president", is a tenable one. If I be not much mistaken, there are men amongst us who, having reaped a fortune from their fame, may, and do justly aspire even to the presidency in due time; and, if it be not ungracious to put it so, even at their own pecuniary loss.

It might, in fact, suggest itself to practical minds that the vice-presidents should take a larger share of this "laborious" work, and so ease the chair. Mr. Holmes's other proposal to discuss college affairs in the branches of the Association, I can only regard as a slight misapprehension; for, staunch Association man as I am, not for the life of me can I see what the Branches have to do with the government of the College of Surgeons.

To be brief, however, I believe the proxy vote would give us the very men we want to advance "measures"; certainly we care little about men, however good, who will not advance them.

I do not believe that the proxy vote would give rise to the much dreaded "organised canvass"; the thing would be too big, in such a diffused constituency as ours, for the wire-pullers, and their calculations would always be liable to be upset. On the other hand, a committee of election would be morally certain to degenerate into a veritable "caucus". I am convinced that provincials are both able and willing to undertake any duty (even of the chair) to which their fellows may call them; it is difficult to conceive any real evidence to warrant a contrary conclusion.

Given a fourth part of the Council as our recognised share, and the proxy vote, we shall be content. The best men will always desire to represent us, and will most surely always be returned. I mean, of course, not only the best provincial men, but the best representative men of the whole body. If my letter savours more of faith than of argument, let the fault be mine; but the proxy vote is a just demand that, soon or late, must be satisfied.—I am, your obedient servant,
Wolverhampton, January 25th, 1881. FREDK. ED. MANBY.

OBITUARY.

ROBERT GRIGOR, M.D., FLEET-SURGEON, ROYAL NAVY.

FLEET-SURGEON ROBERT GRIGOR, R.N., died on the 20th January at his residence in Institution-road, Elgin, after an illness of about a fortnight's duration. Dr. Grigor was born in 1811, at Newmill, Alves, N.B. The earlier part of his education was received at the parish school, and during his youth he assisted his father in the duties of schoolmaster. As a lad he was employed at Elgin under the late Dr. Robb, and under the charge of Dr. Stephen. About 1830 he was sent to Aberdeen to study for the medical profession, proceeding thence to Edinburgh, where he graduated in 1834. He then returned to his native country in the capacity of resident physician at Gray's Hospital, Elgin. In September, 1837, he entered the navy as acting assistant-surgeon, and was shortly afterwards appointed to the *Racehorse*, sloop, Commander Crauford, serving with it on the North American and West Indies Station until 1842, the two last years under the commission of Commander, now Admiral, Sir Edward Harris. In 1843 he joined the *Cyclops*, on her being recommissioned by Captain H. T. Austin, but was shortly afterwards transferred to the *Stromboli*, steamer, commanded on particular service by Commander Plunkett, now Admiral Lord Dunsany. In March, 1846, he obtained his promotion to surgeon, and remained unemployed until September, 1849, when he was appointed to the *Encounter*, Captain G. T. Gordon. He served with that vessel through her three years' commission in the Mediterranean. He was then appointed to the *Imperieuse*, frigate, Captain Rundle Watson, for service with the Western Squadron, and subsequently proceeded with her to the Baltic in 1854, serving throughout our two expeditions, and taking part in the blockade of the Gulf of Finland, bombardment of Sveaborg, and other opera-

tions (Baltic medal). At the close of the war, Dr. Grigor proceeded to take his M.D. degree, and was appointed, in March, 1859, surgeon of the *Queen Charlotte* on her being commissioned as flagship to Vice-Admiral Edward Harvey at Sheerness. In July, 1861, he received the appointment of medical storekeeper surgeon of the Victualling Yard at Deptford, where he did duty for eight years, taking his retirement in April, 1870, when he settled down in Elgin. The deceased was unmarried. Dr. Grigor delivered two lectures in the South Free Church at Elgin in 1879 and 1880, one describing the voyage of the *Challenger*. He was known among a large circle of friends as one widely read and versed in the modern arts.

JAMES MACKIE, L.R.C.S. ED.

THIS old and highly esteemed practitioner died at his residence, Heighington, near Darlington, on January 17th, at the ripe age of seventy-two years. Mr. Mackie was a native of Glasgow, and was the son of a small laird near that city. He came to Heighington in 1844, and became engaged in an extensive country practice, of which that village was the centre. In 1852, he became a member of the British Medical Association, and in 1875-6 he was President of the South Durham and Cleveland Medical Society. For many years he was Poor-law medical officer for the district, and for the last seven years he was medical officer of health for the Darlington Rural Sanitary Authority, with the charge of forty townships. He was regarded by his patients and friends with affection and respect, and he faithfully fulfilled his duties in the various professional matters in which he was engaged. Mr. Mackie was genial and sociable, intellectual and well read, and a great lover of the classics, even until the last year or two of his life. A year ago he had a severe attack of bronchitis, which with some heart symptoms, and ultimately dropsy, caused his death. His funeral took place at the village churchyard, and was numerous attended by mourners, both friends and patients. The pall-bearers were his old medical friends, Mr. J. Jobson, J.P., Dr. Eastwood, J.P., Dr. R. Smith, Dr. H. Clark, and Mr. R. Tweddle, and there were also other medical friends present, Mr. F. Wilson, Mr. S. Fielden, Mr. Manson, and Mr. J. G. Hardy. The Rev. C. C. Chevallier, vicar of Heighington, conducted the service, and many of the mourners were deeply affected, for the loss was universally felt.

MILITARY AND NAVAL MEDICAL SERVICES.

THE BRIGADE SURGEONCY OF THE GUARDS.

THE first appointment to the brigade surgeoncy of the Guards, gazetted on Tuesday night, must have caused many to regret the disappointment of a zealous and hard-working officer. To those who have not carefully followed the somewhat mysterious ramifications of medical promotions in these regiments, it may seem somewhat strange that Mr. Elkington, who has only served twenty-eight years, should supersede Dr. Robinson, with his thirty-four years of faithfully discharged duty; and the explanation that the former was earlier appointed regimental surgeon-major than the latter can only be satisfactory in the rigidly official sense. For it must be remembered that in former years, before the inexplicable and unnecessary change from regimental to brigade promotion took place, Mr. Elkington actually served as assistant-surgeon to Dr. Robinson in the Scots Guards; but, being transferred, on obtaining a step, into the Grenadier Guards, the lucky junior soon distanced his senior in the race for higher rank, and, by a fresh turn in the wheel of fortune, now jumps fairly over his head.

Of course, no one can deny that the present appointment is strictly legal; but, considering the senior position of Dr. Robinson, his eminent professional standing, and the fact that his compulsory retirement by age could not be long delayed, it would only have been a graceful act on the part of the authorities to allow him to enjoy for a short time a position which he is in every respect fully qualified to fill, and which would have furnished a substantial addition to his retiring allowance. So rigid an interpretation of a rule, which might readily have been set aside in such a special case, is in no degree calculated to increase the popularity of the Army Medical Department; and the trifling saving thus effected by some zealous official seems hardly sufficient to balance the injustice done to a deserving officer, who has served his country long and well, both at home and abroad.

ARMY MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.

SIR,—Along with other young medical men of my acquaintance, I have been considering the advisability of presenting myself for examination for the Army Medical Department; but I am unable to find out a few particulars which it is desirable one should know before determining on such a course. If any army medical officer