

THE COUNCIL OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.

The members of the Council who retire in July having served eight years are Mr. Bryant, Mr. Cadge, and Mr. Pick. There will not be more than three vacancies, since no deaths of members of Council have occurred during the past year; hence there will be no more "substitute members."

The Council consists of the following members, twenty-four in number, including the President and Vice-Presidents. Three retire yearly, whilst the vacancy caused by the death of a member must be filled by a "substitute member" until the deceased's eight years are completed.

President.—Mr. Christopher Heath; C, (1) 1881, (2) 1889, *President*, 1895 (took the place of Mr. Hulke after his decease in 1895; re-elected *President* July 1895).

- Vice-President.*—(I) Mr. Reginald Harrison; C, (1) 1886, (2) 1894.
Vice-President.—(II) Mr. Pick; C, 1883.
Other Members of Council.—Mr. Cadge; C, (1) 1880, (2) 1888.
 Mr. Bryant; C, (1) 1880, (2) 1888; P, 1890-92.
 Mr. Thomas Smith; C, (1) 1880 (substitute), (2) 1884, (3) 1892.
 Sir W. Mac Cormac; C, (1) 1883, (2) 1891.
 Mr. Macnamara; C, (1) 1885, (2) 1893.
 Mr. Pemberton; C, (1) 1885, (2) 1893.
 Mr. Willett; C, (1) 1887, (2) 1895.
 Mr. Howse; C, 1889.
 Mr. Langton; C, 1890.
 Mr. Mitchell Banks; C, 1890.
 Mr. Rivington; C, 1891.
 Mr. Jessop; C, 1891.
 Mr. Howard Marsh; C, (1) 1892 (substitute), (2) 1894.
 Mr. Tweedy; C, 1892.
 Mr. Henry Morris; C, 1893 (substitute for Mr. Marcus Beck until next year).
 Mr. Mayo Robson; C, 1893.
 Mr. James Hardie; C, 1894.
 Mr. Ward Cousins; C, 1895 (substitute for Mr. Hulke till 1897).
 Mr. Alfred Cooper; C, 1895 (substitute for Mr. Durliam till 1900).
 Mr. Butlin; C, 1895.
 Mr. Treves; C, 1895.

The following list explains the proportional representation of metropolitan schools, the provinces, etc.:

St. Bartholomew's	...	...	...	5
St. George's	...	...	...	1
Guy's	...	...	...	2
London	...	...	...	2
Middlesex	...	...	...	1
St. Thomas's	...	...	...	1
University College	...	...	...	2
Westminster	...	...	...	1
Total number attached to London schools	...	...	...	15
Members attached to special hospitals in London	...	...	...	2
Provincial members	...	...	...	7
Total	...	...	...	24

There are no representatives of three London hospitals on the Council—Charing Cross, King's College, and St. Mary's, nor is there a member like the late Mr. Sibley to stand for the general practitioners of London.

The last four members of Council in the above list were elected, it will be remembered, last year when Mr. Willett was re-elected. They rank on the Council according to order of seniority as Fellows. On the other hand, "substitute" membership is settled by the number of votes when the member was elected on the Council, hence the order of the last four according to votes being just the contrary to their order as Fellows; Mr. Alfred Cooper, the last but one as to number of votes, takes the longer term of substitution, Mr. Ward Cousins taking the shorter, which terminates next year.

VACCINATION AND SMALL-POX IN 1895.

No. XXV.—DERBY.

DR. LIFFE gives a detailed account of much interest concerning the experience of Derby in the matter of small-pox in 1895, in his report for last year. Of 89 cases reported, he tells us that 62 were of vaccinated persons, all of whom recovered, and that 27 were of unvaccinated persons who contributed all the 8 deaths, or nearly 29 per cent. of attacks of that class. No unvaccinated child under the age of 10 years was attacked. The difference between the two classes was further marked by the fact that whereas the vaccinated patients were on an average 32 days in hospital, the unvaccinated sufferers had to be detained 46 days, or a full fortnight longer; and this meant, even at the low rate of £1 per week

per patient, some £130 extra expense to the borough for maintenance only. Dr. Liffe speaks of the average of £8 per patient throughout as the cost to the rates, and he instances two families wherein the unvaccinated members persistently refused vaccination, with the result that 1 case of small-pox in each led to 9 in all, a cost of £72 therefore, as compared with only 13s. 6d. if vaccination had been accepted and small-pox thus prevented. Of the other families related one to the other, he shows that 1 case having occurred, 7 of the 13 members contracted the disease; 7 once vaccinated members supplying only 1 non-fatal attack, and the 6 unvaccinated members furnishing the remaining 6 cases, 2 of which ended fatally.

THE REGISTRATION OF MIDWIVES.

DEPUTATION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE ASSOCIATION TO THE LORD PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL.

The following further correspondence¹ on this subject has taken place:—

[COPY.] [Enclosure.]
 British Medical Association, 479, Strand, London, W.C.,
 May 7th, 1896.

MY LORD DUKE.—Referring to your reply of the 24th ultimo, to a request of the Council of the British Medical Association to receive a deputation, I regret having to further trouble your Grace in the matter of the Midwives Registration Bill, and to give the following reasons, which the Council of the British Medical Association trust will alter your decision for receiving a deputation on the subject.

The Bill is now in print, and I enclose a copy herewith.—I have the honour to be, my Lord Duke, your most obedient servant,
 (Signed) J. WARD COUSINS, M.D., F.R.C.S.,
 President of Council.

The Right Honourable the Duke of Devonshire, K.G.,
 Lord President of the Council,
 Privy Council Office, Whitehall, S.W.

(1) The British Medical Association represents directly the large majority of medical practitioners actively engaged in the practice of their profession.

(2) The British Medical Association has been engaged since 1894 in fully discussing the question and preparing legislation to deal with the acknowledged existing evils. Two draft Bills, which are appended to this letter, have been constructed respectively by the Parliamentary Bills Committee and the Lancashire and Cheshire Branch of the Association.

These Bills deal with the subject in a manner at once far more comprehensive and in full accordance with existing legislation, whereas the Bill now before the House of Commons leaves many important particulars untouched, and in addition is in direct contradiction of existing statutes.

(3) The British Medical Association is in a position to afford the Privy Council much information supplementary to that furnished in 1895 to the Privy Council by the General Medical Council.

The Association also wishes to explain the serious importance of many of the proposals furnished by the General Medical Council, but which were not adopted by the Privy Council in amending the House of Lords Bill on report, and to indicate the necessity of the embodiment of the proposals in question in future legislation.

(4) The Midwives Registration Bill is now printed and fixed for second reading on May 6th.

(5) The British Medical Association desire to point out that whether the Bill is reached or not on May 6th, the matter is one of national importance, and the Government has not yet had placed before it the views and plans of the medical profession.

Privy Council Office, May 6th, 1896.

SIR,—I am directed by the Duke of Devonshire to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 7th instant, and the enclosures. His Grace is aware that the Bill in question is now in print, but as no opportunity can possibly occur for the discussion of its provisions in the House of Commons, I am to say that he does not feel justified in occupying public time with the reception of a deputation, which is not concerned with any practical issue before Parliament or the country.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant.

J. WARD COUSINS, Esq., M.D. (Signed) ALMERIC FITZROY.

LITERARY NOTES.

THE first volume of *A System of Medicine by Many Writers*, edited by Dr. Clifford Allbutt, Regius Professor of Physic in the University of Cambridge, has just been issued by Messrs. Macmillan and Co. It contains two divisions of what promises to be one of the most representative and authoritative works on medicine which have ever issued from the English press. The first division, entitled "Prolegomena," deals with such general questions as medical statistics, anthropology, and medicine, fever, climate, dietetics; the second commences the study of fevers. Among the contributors to this volume are Professor Burdon Sanderson, Mr. Hutchinson, Dr. Hermann Weber, Dr. Leech, Sir Dyce Duckworth, Sir Joseph Fayrer, Mr. Watson Cheyne, Dr. Dreschfeld, Dr. Whitelegge, Dr. Gee, Dr. Thorne Thorne, Sir George Humphry, Dr.

¹ BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, May 2nd, p. 1115.