

of work. He concluded by saying that he did not intend to apply for any of the posts, and when the resolution was put to the meeting did not vote against it.

In the meantime the Committee of the Consultative Institution held a meeting on Tuesday, May 14th, to receive applications and to fill up the vacancies, but adjourned without making any selection until Saturday, May 18th, in order, as they stated, to give the medical profession further time to consider the situation. On Saturday morning, May 18th, the following letter appeared in the Birmingham papers:

THE CONSULTATIVE INSTITUTION.
To the Editor of the "Birmingham Daily Mail."

SIR,—We beg leave to call your attention to the enclosed correspondence, which has passed between Dr. Saundby, representing this Committee, and Mr. R. A. Pinset and Mr. Aston, representing the Consultative Institution, respecting a public conference on the question.

We regret that the negotiations should have apparently come to nothing, as we maintain and undertake to prove that the Consultative Institution is not needed in order to provide all persons who are unable to pay the ordinary consulting fees with proper facilities for obtaining the advice they need at the reduced fee of half a guinea, and that if any addition can be usefully made to the plan which has been so long in existence it cannot and ought not to be in the shape of the Consultative Institution.

We fully recognise that the modifications recently announced have removed from that Institution some of its more indefensible features, but the essential objections remain.

We do not admit the right of a limited liability company to carry on medical and surgical practice even under the guise of philanthropy. We do not admit that capitalists, or working men, or even philanthropists, have a right to dictate to us the fees to be paid us for our services. While we are perfectly willing, and always have been willing, to see people in their need for modified fees, and even, as everybody knows, for nothing at all, we insist that such a modification is a concession and is not the ordinary market price placed by us on our services.

We cannot conceive upon what other grounds the public can fairly claim it. Such a claim has never been allowed in respect of any other commodity, namely, that inability to pay the market price gives the purchaser the right to demand its reduction. Even in the case of bread, the primary necessary of life, such a proposition has never been accepted.

We suppose some such objection was present to the minds of the promoters of the Consultative Institution, for in all their earlier speeches they said that they adopted the principle of co-operation, which meant that by clubbing their money together they hoped to be able to pay for what was beyond their individual means, and to obtain a consultant at a salary. It was in vain that we pointed out the objections entertained by the medical profession to their services being farmed in this way, but the public knows that we were right in foretelling that it would be impossible to get a trained consultant upon these terms.

The younger consultants who have been in several instances indirectly approached by the Committee of the Consultative Institution feel the strongest objection to the posts offered. They feel that they would be losers and not gainers if they consented to go to the Consultative Institution to see patients for half a guinea. They feel sure that patients would be willing to pay them a guinea if they see cases elsewhere for half a guinea. They further believe that in spite of the declaration against advertising means would be taken to announce their connection with the institution and the advantages offered by it which would offend professional opinion and injure their reputations. Finally, they are not satisfied with the declaration that there will be no abuse; they know how difficult it is to prevent the abuse of hospitals, and they realise how little power of control the doctor possesses and how invidious it is for him to object unless very clear rules are laid down for his guidance.

Further, we draw attention to the proposal to affiliate clubs and friendly societies with the Consultative Institution, and to compel their medical officers to seek consulting advice from the staff of the Institution. This proposal is not only offensive to the medical profession, but injurious to the public, as the only consultants open to this large class of patients will be the staff of the Consultative Institution, and it does not at all follow that the nominee of the Institution Committee will be in each case the best person to consult.

Our proposal is this: The consultants and specialists in Birmingham agree to see any persons whose circumstances justify it for the modified fee of half a guinea upon the recommendation of a medical practitioner, and where this cannot be obtained for any reason they will dispense with it, only reserving the right to protect themselves against abuse. The suggestion that has been made that half-guinea patients would be treated differently from those who pay the full fee is entirely without justification. There are many working men in the town who could, if they would, testify to the way in which they have been received by the consultants in this city, and we ask them to have the courage to speak out. We recommend working men and women who desire private consultations to try our plan; it can cost them no more than the Consultative Institution, while it affords them the advantage of the choice of a large number of consultants in each department of practice.

ROBERT SAUNDY, Chairman. BENNETT MAY.
PRIESTLEY SMITH. JOHN W. TAYLOR.
HENRY EALES. C. J. LEWIS.
GILBERT SMITH. THOMAS WILSON, Hon. Sec.

140 B, Great Charles Street, Birmingham.

The adjourned meeting of the Committee of the Consultative Institution took place on Saturday evening, and lasted for two hours and a-half, but, at the conclusion, the Secretary informed the waiting representatives of the press that it had

been decided to adjourn the meeting again, no explanation or reasons for the adjournment being vouchsafed. This can only be interpreted to mean that so far the advertisements have not produced applications of a kind likely to stand criticism. The Editor of *Forward*, the organ of the Hospital Saturday Fund, states in the May number that

a large number of applications had been received from gentlemen of the highest qualifications and first-class experience throughout the country, including several Birmingham applications, and there will be no difficulty in making the appointments; in fact, there is reason to believe that before the time expires for sending in applications, several eminent Birmingham medical men will be amongst those applying for the posts.

This article was evidently written when the editor was brimful of hopes which have not been realised. He even went so far as to say

there is a strong and growing feeling amongst the local members of the medical profession that no exception can now be taken in principle to the Consultative Institution, and that the doctors are only standing in their own light, as indeed they are, by still withholding their co-operation, and thus throwing away a splendid opportunity of assisting to make the Institution a great success; further, they naturally feel it go very much against the grain to be forced by the hostile section of the profession to stand by and allow the Committee to import into the town five eminent consultants and specialists, who will at once attain a prominent position by being connected with the Institution; and, further, will be free, as it were, to compete with the local medical men in private practice. Was ever such blindness yet born of prejudice?

He may well ask the question, for nothing but total inability to see facts as they are could have induced him to commit himself in writing to statements the fatuity of which has been so rapidly demonstrated.

The editor of the *Birmingham Daily Gazette* does not see how

when there are so many sick societies, clubs, and provident institutions which have medical men at their service at a mere fractional fee per visit, there can be any objection in principle to this much-debated Consultative Institution.

He does not realise that the existence of these institutions and the inadequate payments received from them constitute one of the greatest of professional grievances, and that the dispute respecting them has reached a very critical stage. The spectacle of the unfortunate position of the club doctor makes consultants determined to struggle to the bitter end to maintain their independence, and to accept no stipendiary positions which involve loss of freedom of action; this feeling being as strong among those who are beginning their careers as among those whose positions are secure.

The principle of co-operation is a good one, and is as applicable to the payment of medical services as to other matters. The following letter has appeared in the *Birmingham Daily Gazette* (May 21st):

CONSULTATIVE INSTITUTION.

To the Editor of the "Daily Gazette."

Sir,—Allow me to make a suggestion to the Committee. Let the funds be provided to pay the consultants, and let the patients choose whom they would consult in the profession at large. Faith in a doctor often does more good than his physic.—Yours truly,

Bewdley, May 20th.

JOHN GABB.

Nothing would be easier than for the working classes, by a very small additional subscription to their clubs, to constitute a sufficient insurance fund to pay consulting fees when needed, provided that proper means were taken to check any tendency to the abuse of consultations. Consultations should be held only at the request or with the sanction of the medical practitioner in charge of the case, and this rule would probably prove sufficient to prevent their being too frequent.

COMMERCIAL TRAVELLERS.

X. Y. Z. asks what would be a reasonable tariff to charge a recently-formed society of commercial travellers, about 180 in number, for medical attendance.

** This depends on the financial position of the commercial travellers. Many of this class can well afford to pay ordinary medical fees.

ASSOCIATION INTELLIGENCE.

BRANCH MEETINGS TO BE HELD.

SOUTH-WESTERN BRANCH.—The annual meeting of this Branch will be held on Wednesday, June 5th, in the Royal Albert Hospital, Devonport, at 3 P.M., when the President will resign the chair to the President-elect, who will deliver his inaugural address. The report of the Branch Council for the year 1900-1 will then be presented to the meeting, and the officers of the Branch and representatives on the Central Council and on the

Parliamentary Bills Committee be elected for the year 1901-2. After the meeting the President-elect has kindly arranged a visit to H.M.'s Dockyard, Devonport (by kind permission of Rear-Admiral T. S. Jackson). Luncheon (by invitation of the President-elect) at Thomas's Hotel, Fore Street, Devonport, from 1 to 2.30 P.M. The annual dinner will be held at 6.30 P.M. at Thomas's Hotel; tickets (exclusive of wine), 6s. The Honorary Secretary will be glad to hear before May 28th from members who intend being present at (1) the luncheon, (2) the dinner. He takes this opportunity of expressing his regret that he is unable to offer himself for re-election to office.—H. W. WEBBER, M.S., 4, Woodland Terrace, Plymouth, Honorary Secretary.

SHROPSHIRE AND MID-WALES BRANCH.—A special general meeting of this Branch will be held at the Salop Infirmary, on Tuesday, May 28th, at 4 P.M. Business: To discuss the whole question of club practice within the Branch area. The Clinical and Pathological Section will meet at 5 P.M. after the special meeting.—HAROLD H. B. MACLEOD and LEONARD J. GODSON, Shrewsbury, Honorary Secretaries.

EAST ANGLIAN BRANCH.—The annual general meeting of this Branch will take place at Bury St. Edmunds, on Friday, June 28th, under the presidency of Mr. C. S. Kilner, M.B. It is requested that gentlemen desirous of joining the Association or Branch, and members willing to read papers or contribute cases to the meeting, will communicate at once with Dr. Barnes, Eye. Members desirous of nominating candidates for election as officers of the Branch under By-law 9, must send their nominations to Dr. Barnes, so as to reach him not later than June 6th. Members who have not yet paid their subscriptions for the current year, will oblige by sending them to one of the Honorary Secretaries.—EDGAR G. BARNES, M.D., Eye, M. BEVERLEY, M.D., Norwich, and B. H. NICHOLSON, M.E., Colchester, Honorary Secretaries.

SOUTH MIDLAND BRANCH.—The annual meeting of this Branch will be held at Towcester on Thursday, June 13th, under the Presidency of Mr. A. P. Kingcombe. Gentlemen wishing to bring forward communications at the meeting, show specimens, etc., are requested to inform the undersigned as early as possible, and any desirous of joining the Branch should do the same.—C. J. EVANS, Northampton, Honorary Secretary.

DUNDEE AND DISTRICT BRANCH.—The Branch will meet in University College, Dundee, on Friday, May 31st, at 5.30 P.M., for the election of office-bearers and other business.—R. C. BUIST, M.D., Dundee, Honorary Secretary.

BIRMINGHAM AND MIDLAND COUNTIES BRANCH.—The annual meeting of this Branch will be held in the Medical Institute, Birmingham, on Thursday, June 13th, at 3.30 P.M. The President, Dr. Milner Moore, will introduce the President-elect, Dr. Edward Malins, who will deliver an address. The meeting will be followed by the annual dinner, which is to take place at the Grand Hotel, Birmingham, at 6.30 P.M.—J. T. J. MORRISON, F.R.C.S., 3, Great Charles Street, Birmingham; T. STACY WILSON, M.D., 29, Temple Row, Birmingham, Honorary Secretaries.

STAFFORDSHIRE BRANCH.—A meeting of this Branch will be held at the Victoria Hotel, Wolverhampton, on Thursday, May 30th. The President, Dr. Alfred H. Carter, will take the chair at 5.20 P.M. Agenda: Minutes of the last ordinary and special general meetings. Election of new member. Correspondence. Report of Council. Exhibition of living cases. Mr. George Heaton: The Use of the Haemocytometer as an Aid in Obscure Suppurative Conditions. Mr. Smallwood Savage: Note on Vaginal Hysterectomy, with cases. Dr. F. Edge: On Vaginal Douches. Exhibition of Pathological Specimens, etc. Dinner at 7.30 P.M.; charge, 5s.—F. MILNES BLUMER, Stafford, General Secretary.

MIDLAND BRANCH.—The annual meeting of this Branch will be held at the Leicester Infirmary on Thursday, June 6th, at 2.15 P.M. Mr. Claude Douglas, President-elect, will preside. After the transaction of the usual business the following communications will be made and discussed:—Mr. C. J. Bond: Fractured Pelvis and Ruptured Bladder (with lantern demonstration). Dr. Astley V. Clarke: Treatment of Skin Disease by X-Rays. Dr. R. Sevestre: Pathological Specimens. Mr. C. E. Marriott: A Case of Wound of the Innominate Vein. Members are requested to bring cases and specimens for exhibition. New drugs and chemicals and surgical instruments will be shown. Luncheon will be provided by the President-elect at the Infirmary at 12.45 P.M. The annual dinner will take place at the Grand Hotel at 5.30 P.M.; price 7s., exclusive of wine. Any members having any business to bring forward or communications to make are requested to inform the Honorary Secretary and Treasurer, FRANK M. POPE, M.D., 4, Prebend Street, Leicester.

BORDER COUNTIES BRANCH: SECTION FOR THE COUNTIES OF ROXBURGH, BERWICK, SELKIRK, AND PEEBLES.—A meeting of this Section will be held in the Railway Hotel, Newtown, St. Boswells, on Friday, May 31st, at 3.45 P.M. Members who intend to be present or to read papers or show specimens will kindly communicate at their early convenience with the Honorary Secretary, W. HALL CALVERT, The Laurels, Melrose.

BATH AND BRISTOL BRANCH.—A meeting of this Branch will be held at the Medical Library, University College, Bristol, on Wednesday, May 29th, at 7.30 P.M., Mr. A. W. Prichard, President. The evening will be devoted to a discussion on Gonorrhoea and its Sequelae, which will be opened by Mr. G. Monro Smith.—J. MICHELL CLARKE, Clifton, and W. M. BEAUMONT, Bath, Honorary Secretaries.

DORSET AND WEST HANTS BRANCH.

THE annual meeting of this Branch was held at Dorchester on May 15th, under the presidency of Mr. WILLIAM ERNEST GOOD. There were present twenty-four other members and visitors.

Vote of Thanks to Retiring President.—A cordial vote of thanks to the retiring President, Mr. Decimus Curme, for his excellent services during his term of office was carried by acclamation.

Branch Council.—The following gentlemen were elected to fill the vacancies in the Branch Council: Dr. Edwin Hyla Greves (Bournemouth); Dr. Herbert Alfred Lawton (Poole); and Dr. Arthur Ransome (Bournemouth).

Representation on Association Council and Parliamentary Bills Committee.—Mr. C. H. Watts Parkinson was re-elected the Representative of the Branch on the Council of the Association and on the Parliamentary Bills Committee.

New Members.—Mr. George Potts, of the Dorset County Asylum, was elected a member of the Branch.

Summer Meeting.—It was resolved that the summer meeting should be held at the Haven Hotel, Poole Harbour.

Wage Limit.—A communication from the Council of the Association was read asking the opinion of the Branch upon the question of "wage limit" as applied to clubs, provident dispensaries, and societies. Resolved:

That this meeting recommends that a Conciliation Board be formed with a view to the establishment of a sliding scale, and that the importance of raising the general rate of payments be not lost sight of.

Fees for Information to Coroners and Police.—A communication was received from the West Somerset Branch respecting fees for giving information to coroners and police. Resolved:

That the meeting approves of the resolutions of the West Somerset Branch.

British Congress on Tuberculosis.—In response to an invitation Drs. William Vawdrey Lush (Weymouth) and William Vicary Snow (Bournemouth) were chosen as delegates from the Branch to the Congress to be held in London from July 22nd to 26th next.

Address.—An able address was given by the PRESIDENT on the nineteenth century and its closing years.—A hearty vote of thanks was given him.

Communications.—Pathological Specimens: Dr. MACDONALD showed: (1) Brain of congenital imbecile showing arrested and abnormal development of prefrontal region; (2) cyst of left lobe of thyroid pressing on and displacing trachea, causing cough and dyspnoea; not distinguishable during life.—Dr. LUSH showed: (1) Columnar-celled carcinoma of the rectum; (2) lymphosarcoma of the thymus; the patient was also shown.—Mr. GOOD showed: (1) Lupus treated at the Finsen Light Institute, Copenhagen; (2) amputation through the knee for senile gangrene.—Dr. MORRICE showed: (1) Myxœdema; (2) unilateral choroiditis with (?) adenoma sebaceum on the same side; (3) imperfect differentiations.

Luncheon.—The members and visitors were hospitably entertained to luncheon by the President at the King's Arms Hotel.

METROPOLITAN COUNTIES BRANCH: NORTH LONDON DISTRICT.

THE annual meeting of this District was held in the Board Room of the North-West London Hospital on Wednesday, May 8th; Dr. HOOPER MAY in the chair.

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

Election of Officers.—The officers for session 1901-2 were elected as follows:—*Vice-President:* Dr. Hooper May. *Representative on Branch Council:* Dr. H. J. Macevoy. *Honorary Secretary:* Dr. J. Dysart McCaw. *District Committee:* Drs. and Messrs. Cubitt Lucey, Hugh Woods, Wynn Westcott, H. J. Macevoy, Winslow Hall, T. Morton, A. W. George, A. Greenwood, and Frank Greaves.

The Diagnosis of Cancer of the Womb.—Dr. F. J. MCCANN read a paper on the diagnosis of cancer of the womb, which was illustrated by a series of beautiful specimens. A typical case of cancer of the cervix uteri was narrated, where the uterus had been removed and the patient remained free from recurrence five years after the operation. The signs and symptoms of cervical cancer were

considered in detail and the importance of hæmorrhage as an early sign was emphasised. Some common mistakes in diagnosis were detailed and the differential diagnosis discussed. The distinction from cervical erosions, sloughing, mucous polypi, chronic endocervicitis, with plugged follicles (Nabothian ovules), sloughing fibro-myomatous polypi, fungous endometritis and cervical myomata were described, and the different varieties of the growth affecting the cervix were demonstrated on the specimens. A typical case of cancer of the body of the uterus was next described, with the signs and symptoms of this form of malignant disease, as well as the differential diagnosis from pregnancy, intrauterine polypi, fungous endometritis, senile endometritis, and fibromyomata. The value of exploratory dilatation of the uterus together with the microscopic examination of scrapings was fully explained.—The paper was discussed by Dr. HOOPER MAY, Mrs. BOYD, M.D., Dr. HARRY CAMPBELL, Mr. JACKSON CLARKE, and others.

Cases.—A number of most interesting cases were shown by Dr. STOWERS, Dr. HARRY CAMPBELL, Mr. JACKSON CLARKE, and Mr. MAYO COLLIER.

Votes of Thanks.—On the motion of Dr. HUGH WOODS, a hearty vote of thanks was cordially passed to Dr. McCann for his valuable paper; to the hospital staff, and to the governors of the hospital for their courtesy and kind hospitality.

SOUTHERN BRANCH: SOUTH-EAST HANTS DISTRICT.

The half-yearly meeting of this District was held at Portsmouth on May 14th. The President, Surgeon-General CUFFE, C.B., in the chair.

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

New Members.—Messrs. E. P. Court, of Hambledon, and G. F. Morley, of Portsmouth, were elected members of this Branch and District.

Accounts.—The accounts for the past year as audited were adopted.

Librarian's Report.—The report of the Honorary Librarian was adopted.

Election of Officers.—The following gentlemen were elected officers for 1901:—President: Dr. J. Ward Cousins. Vice-Presidents: Dr. O. C. Claremont, Dr. J. R. Robertson. Council: Mr. C. P. Childe, Mr. T. W. Mead, Dr. J. Phillips, Dr. McEldowney, Dr. L. Maybury, Dr. Aston Key. Honorary Librarian: Mr. F. Lord.

Retiring President's Address.—The retiring President (Surgeon-General C. MCD. CUFFE) delivered an address, in which he said during the past year the meetings had been fairly well attended, and all had derived increase of knowledge from listening to the many interesting papers contributed by the members and the discussions thereon. The members of the Branch had no special desire to join in any agitation for reform of the Association. He did not believe that it would be safe in the interests of the Association to interfere with the responsibilities of the Council, who, no doubt, took into careful consideration any suggestions made for the improvement of the organisation of the Association. He in common with all the medical officers of the army had good reason to thank the Council of the British Medical Association for the assistance they had rendered in obtaining a very considerable improvement in the position of army medical officers. The abolition of the absurd compound titles in all ranks with the exception of that of Surgeon-General had resulted largely in placing the medical officer in the army in a position of equality with all other officers, and in future he would be recognised in his proper position as a necessary part of the army, without which its component parts in military life could not possibly be efficient. The old arrangement by which a medical officer had either no military rank at all or ranked with someone else who had, was as absurd in military life as it would be in civil life had someone in authority conferred on doctors the right of ranking with clergymen, barristers, architects, or any other civil profession. Thirty-eight years' experience as a member of the medical profession had convinced him that that profession regarded itself as in no way inferior to any other, and equally necessary as a part of civilisation, but it was still a matter for regret that the public and the profession failed to recognise the great

advantages which would accrue to the State were medical men as fully represented in its counsels as other professions.

Installation of New President.—After Surgeon-General CUFFE had delivered his address, he left the chair, which was taken by Dr. J. WARD COUSINS.

Communications.—The following clinical cases were shown:—Dr. J. WATSON: Ataxic paraplegia and lateral spinal sclerosis.—Dr. C. C. CLAREMONT: (1) Paralysis of serratus magnus; (2) extreme stricture of the pharynx.—Dr. J. G. BLACKMAN: (1) New growth on eyelid; (2) anterior sclerotic staphyloma.—Mr. C. P. CHILDE: (1) Excision of tuberculous glands of neck; (2) radical cure of double inguinal hernia in female; (3) tuberculous disease of lip.—Mr. J. H. F. WAY: Injury to shoulder.—Mr. E. W. PHILLIPS and Dr. ASTON KEY read notes on an operation for perforated gastric ulcer.

Pathological Specimens.—The following pathological specimens were shown:—Dr. J. WARD COUSINS: (1) Secondary ovarian cyst with gangrenous portion of its wall; (2) extensive epithelioma of lower lip; (3) appendix vermiformis removed by operation—three cases; (4) uterus removed by vaginal hysterectomy—two cases.—Mr. C. P. CHILDE: Hour-glass stomach—gastro-anastomosis.—Dr. L. COLE-BAKER: Ranula removed under eucaïne-beta.

MEETINGS FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORT OF THE CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE.

THAMES VALLEY BRANCH.

At a meeting of the Branch held at the Talbot Hotel, Richmond, on May 17th, to which invitations had been issued to all members of the Association residing in the Branch area, there were ten present. During the discussion it was pointed out that in area and number of members (90) the Thames Valley Branch might be taken as a type of what the proposed Division would be, with the exception that in this case the area was mapped out with regard to convenience of communication, and not in an arbitrary manner; but even under these conditions the average attendance at meetings during the last four years was only 14, and so important was facility of access felt to be that it had been decided to set up a separate medical society in Wimbledon, which is only a quarter to half an hour distant from one of the usual places of meeting. These facts seemed to raise the question whether even the proposed Divisions were compact enough to secure the object in view. The circular issued to 172 members inviting expressions of opinion on the principles of the proposed reorganisation had produced 36 answers. The following resolutions were carried:

1.—That Recommendation 5 be altered to read as follows: "That every member of the Association to be hereafter elected be *ipso facto* a member of one Division and no other, and that he be at liberty to select the Division most convenient to him."

No. 6. "That the election of new members be through that Branch only which comprises the Division he wishes to join."

2.—18 (iv). Voting in Delegate Meeting: "That the delegate have one vote and use it at his discretion."

The ground for the first resolution may be illustrated by the case of members residing in Hampton Wick, Teddington, and Twickenham, midway between Kingston and Richmond by rail, who would be shut out from these centres of the Kingston parliamentary division of Surrey, and relegated to the impossible Uxbridge and Brentford divisions of Middlesex.

It was pointed out that only two of the members present at this meeting in Richmond actually belonged to the parliamentary division to which Richmond belongs.

THE PROSCRIPTION OF THE CIGARETTE.—According to *American Medicine*, Bills prohibiting the sale, presentation of, or bringing into the State of cigarettes, cigarette paper, or any substitute therefor, have been passed by the Lower Houses in both Illinois and Michigan. In West Virginia the new law, imposing a tax of \$100 (£20) on all dealers, became operative on May 1st. In Pottsville, Pennsylvania, cigarette smoking is so prevalent among the schoolboys that the authorities have decided to prosecute all dealers found selling cigarettes to boys under 16.