

brethren in England and Ireland. Unfortunately, Lord Balfour's reply was to the effect that after due consideration he did not see his way to ask the Government to grant special facilities for the passing of the Bill through Parliament.

A deputation of the Committee of the Association accompanied by Mr. Cross, M.P., had an interview with the Scottish Local Government Board in regard to the question of lunacy fees and vaccination. The information the Committee were able to produce appeared to come as a surprise to the Local Government Board, which appeared to be quite unaware of the great variety of methods adopted by the parish councils as to the payment, and in some cases, non-payment of fees under the Lunacy and Vaccination Acts. The decision of the Local Government Board was to the effect that it had nothing to do with remuneration under the Lunacy Act and no power to regulate it; that under the Vaccination Act the minimum fees were fixed by statute, but that the parish councils had power to increase the fees. In view of this decision in regard to lunacy the Committee asked power to send a deputation to the Board of Lunacy in order to bring the matter under its notice.

The report states further that considerable correspondence has again been carried on with members in the Highlands and islands. A suggestion has been made that the position ought to be brought before the General Medical Council; and, in view of the fact that, at the recent election of a direct representative for Scotland, all the candidates expressed themselves as favourable to the endeavour to get a more secure tenure of office, the Committee asks powers to approach the General Medical Council, either by deputation or petition.

The Treasurer's report shows a satisfactory balance in hand. The subscription to the Association is 5s., and the Secretary is Dr. W. L. Muir, 1, Seton Terrace, Glasgow.

THE PREVENTION OF CONSUMPTION.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

THE National Association for the Prevention of Consumption and other forms of Tuberculosis has issued to various employers' associations a very important letter on the subject of the proper ventilation of factories and workplaces. In this letter it is pointed out that if sufficient fresh air is supplied to the workers there will be a great reduction in the amount of all kinds of lung diseases, and especially of consumption; the general health of the workpeople will also be much improved and their power of work greatly enhanced, which means a saving to the employer. In support of these contentions reference is made to the improvement in the health of the army and navy which followed the more efficient ventilation of barrack rooms and ships, and to the more recent success of improved ventilation in the weaving sheds of cotton factories. An appendix gives particulars of the report of the Home Office Committee in 1896-97 on the health conditions of humidified cotton-weaving sheds, which led to the Cotton Cloth Factories Act of 1897, and to the great improvement effected by this Act as shown in the reports of H.M. Inspector under the Act.

CANADA.

A number of medical practitioners in Montreal are making an effort to establish a sanatorium for tuberculous patients near the city, as there has been an alarming increase in the number of deaths from tuberculosis in the province of Quebec in the last two years. An endowment sufficient to meet the current expenses of the institution has been promised by a private citizen if the Government will erect the building. The National Sanatorium Association is building a sanatorium for tuberculous patients in Gravenhurst, which is nearing completion, and will there care for fifty poor patients from Toronto, free of charge. The Association will also undertake the care of fifty additional patients before the close of 1902.

UNITED STATES.

Maryland.—The Maryland State Board of Health is about to enter on an active campaign against tuberculosis. The Secretary has been deputed to confer with the Governor, with the object of having the question brought before the State Legislature. It is hoped that the legislative body will

authorise the Governor to appoint a Commission to study the means of dealing most effectively with the disease. It is said to be possible that the State may this winter begin the treatment of incipient cases of consumption in public sanatoria.

Texas.—An ordinance has been introduced in the city of Austin, Texas, making expectoration on the sidewalk, or, as we should say, pavement, an offence punishable by a fine.

Michigan.—A similar prohibition has been issued by the authorities of the Grand Rapids, Michigan, where the local Board of Health are taking vigorous measures for the prevention of tuberculosis.

Colorado.—A sanatorium has recently been established near Denver, where the open-air treatment is carried out fully, there being no house at all for any of the inmates. Each patient has a roomy tent, which cannot be too tightly closed, plenty of warm day and night clothing, and a small stove in which a fire can be lighted in extreme weather.

SPAIN AND PORTUGAL.

Dr. Francisco Moliner, a member of the Spanish Chamber of Deputies, has recently introduced a Bill providing for the establishment of State sanatoria for all the poor consumptives of Spain. For this purpose a sum of 5,000,000 pesetas is to be earmarked in the Budget every year. The Queen Regent has given orders that 20,000 pesetas be given in furtherance of Dr. Moliner's propaganda for the erection of sanatoria. In Portugal the aid of the Church has been invoked in the campaign against tuberculosis. *A Medicina Contemporanea* of Lisbon announces that on the initiative of the *Liga contra a tuberculose* a circular has been issued to the bishops of all the dioceses in Portugal, asking them to include instruction in hygiene, especially in regard to tuberculosis, in the course of education in ecclesiastical seminaries. All the prelates at once expressed their willingness to do this, and already several competent lecturers have been appointed.

THE FRENCH ARMY.

Dr. Lachaud, as representing the Hygiene Commission in the French Chamber of Deputies, recently succeeded in getting a project of law for the prevention of tuberculosis in the army declared a matter of urgency. The scheme provides for the foundation of military sanatoria for the treatment of tuberculous soldiers. As a preliminary step a competition is to be invited by the Minister of War for a plan of a model sanatorium. A committee consisting of nine members, with the Minister of War as President, is to act as a jury for the selection of a plan. The Committee will be composed of civilians and military officers, the civilian element forming two-thirds, and the military one-third of the body. It may be added that the Minister of War has given orders that spittoons lined with zinc are to be placed in all barracks. Each room is to be provided with at least two, and similar receptacles are to be placed on each landing of staircases, and in all guardrooms, etc.

THE LONDON LICENTIATES AND MEMBERS SOCIETY.

A MEETING of the Committee appointed by the above Society was held on December 30th, 1901, to consider the form of the petition to be presented to the Royal Colleges. After considerable discussion it was decided to offer the following as a provisional draft of such petition, leaving the final determination of the wording to a general meeting of the Society to be held at 4 P.M. on Wednesday, January 22nd, 1902, at 20, Hanover Square.

Petition.

Whereas it is becoming increasingly important to medical practitioners to have a right to call and style themselves "Dr.":

Whereas your Petitioners find that in the practice of their profession, through their inability to call and style themselves "Dr.," they do labour under very great disadvantages in comparison with the graduates of the Universities of Scotland, Ireland, and the provinces of England, and also in comparison with the licentiates of certain of the examining bodies:

And, whereas your Petitioners feel that they have gone through a course of professional study which is as prolonged and thorough as that laid down for the above graduates and licentiates, and have passed examinations which are equal in severity and strictness to those through which the above graduates and licentiates have passed:

And, whereas your Petitioners feel that it is to the interest of the

whole medical profession that the Royal College of Physicians, London, and the Royal College of Surgeons, England, should continue to attract students to the metropolitan schools:

And, whereas your Petitioners think that the Royal Colleges can only continue so to attract students to the London schools by removing the above-mentioned disabilities.

Your Petitioners would therefore pray:

(1) That the Royal Colleges would approach the governing body of the new University of London or some other British university with a view to obtain for the Licentiate and Members the privilege to offer themselves as candidates for the Final Examination for a degree in medicine, or

(2) On the other hand, that the Royal Colleges would take some other and independent step to remove the disabilities under which their Petitioners labour.

And your Petitioners would ever pray, etc.

SMALL-POX IN LONDON.

THE increase of small-pox in London is well manifested by the number of cases admitted into the hospitals of the Metropolitan Asylums Board during recent weeks. These were during the last four weeks as follows:

Week Ending—	Admitted.	Under Treatment.
December 14th, 1901	134	566
" 21st	161	538
" 28th	255	665
January 4th, 1902	261	754

The total number under treatment at midnight on January 7th-8th was 833. These cases are coming from a wide area in London, but at the present moment especially from Stepney, which includes the former district of Whitechapel.

The age distribution of the deaths from small-pox is interesting. Of 54 deaths of vaccinated persons at all ages in the four weeks ending January 4th, only two were under 20 years of age. One of these—that under 1 year of age—the Registrar-General tells us was not vaccinated until after infection by small-pox, the other was between 5 and 20 years of age. Of 30 unvaccinated persons who died, 25 were under 20 years of age, and of these 3 were under 1 year and 9 were from 1 to 5 years of age. A diagram in the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health of the Administrative County of London for the year 1900 shows that the mean curve of deaths in London in sixty years reached its maximum in May, and that in January and February the curve was not greatly below that of May. If the behaviour of small-pox in 1902 does not differ widely from the mean of those sixty years we may learn in the next two months the extent to which small-pox will prevail in the present year. It will be interesting to observe to what extent the behaviour of small-pox when conveyed from person to person differs from that of small-pox when due in large degree to the presence of small-pox hospitals.

THE PLAGUE.

PREVALENCE OF THE DISEASE.

INDIA.

FOR the week ending December 14th, 1901, 7,797 deaths from plague occurred throughout India. This number shows a decrease of 1,081 compared with the previous week; during the corresponding week of 1900, 2,107 only were reported. The principal figures are: Bombay Districts 4,775, against 5,989 in the previous week; the Punjab 1,685, against 1,687.

In Bengal plague has shown lately a tendency to increase, the number of deaths during a period of three weeks ending December 14th stand at 164, 205, and 201 respectively. In Bombay city the number of plague deaths has remained between 140 and 200 for several weeks, the actual number during the week ending December 14th being 144. In Calcutta the number of deaths from plague during the weeks ending December 7th and 14th respectively were 30 and 24; in the Madras Presidency 125 and 223; in the N.W. Provinces and Oudh 68 and 228. In the last-mentioned district, plague has been most severe in the Ballia and Allahabad districts, and in the cities of Allahabad and Janapur.

In Poona, General Burnett, at a meeting of plague volunteers on December 17th, congratulated them on the decrease of plague in the cantonments. Over 6,000 persons have been inoculated during 1901 in Poona, of which number 5 persons only contracted plague.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

In Cape Colony for the week ending December 28th plague was reported only from Mossel Bay, where 1 European developed the disease and 1 coloured person died of the disease.

MAURITIUS.

During the week ending January 2nd, 34 fresh cases of plague were reported in Mauritius, and 23 persons died of the disease.

ASSOCIATION INTELLIGENCE.

COUNCIL.

NOTICE OF MEETING.

A MEETING of the Council will be held in the Council Room of the Association at 429, Strand (corner of Agar Street), London, on Wednesday, the 15th day of January, at 2 o'clock in the afternoon.

The following Committees will also meet:—

Tuesday, January 14th.—2.0 P.M. Premises and Library Committee (Committee Room No. 1)—3.0 P.M. Public Health and Vaccination Subcommittee (Committee Room No. 2).—3.30 P.M. General Practitioners and Ethical Committee (Committee Room No. 1).—4.0 P.M. Parliamentary Bills Committee (Council Room and Library).—5.0 P.M. Preliminary Education Committee (Small Library). *Wednesday, January 15th.*—10.0 A.M. Journal and Finance Committee.

Jan. 7th, 1902.

FRANCIS FOWKE, *General Secretary.*

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, March 26th, June 18th, and October 1st.

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.

DUBLIN BRANCH.—The annual meeting of this Branch will be held on Thursday, January 30th, at 4.30 P.M., in the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland, Kildare Street. The officers and Council for the ensuing year will be elected by ballot, and other business transacted. The President-elect, Mr. C. B. Ball, F.R.C.S.I., will deliver the annual address. In the evening the annual dinner will be held in the College at 7.30 P.M. Members wishing to bring forward resolutions at the meeting or to be present at the dinner should communicate with the Honorary Secretary, JAMES CRAIG, M.D., F.R.C.P.I., 35, York Street, Dublin.

NORTH OF IRELAND BRANCH.—The winter meeting of this Branch will be held on Thursday, January 23rd, at 12 noon, in Belfast. Any member desiring to read papers, propose new members, or bring any other business before the meeting should communicate, on or before Wednesday, January 15th, with the Honorary Secretary, WILLIAM CALWELL, M.D., 1, College Square North, Belfast.

SOUTHERN BRANCH: ISLE OF WIGHT DISTRICT.—A meeting of this District will be held at the Station Hotel, Sandown, on Friday, January 24th, at 3.45 P.M. Members intending to read papers, or show cases, etc., and gentlemen desirous of joining the Branch, are requested to communicate as early as possible with the Honorary Secretary, G. BENNINGTON WOOD, M.B., Newlands, Sandown.

SOUTH-WESTERN BRANCH.—The next meeting of this Branch will be held at the Athenæum, George Street, Plymouth, on Tuesday, January 14th. The chair will be taken at 3 P.M. by the President, Mr. G. Thom. Luncheon will be provided at Risdon's Restaurant, 38, George Street, from 1.30 to 2.30 P.M., and tea will be served at the same place after the meeting.—G. YOUNG EALES, 1, Matlock Terrace, Torquay, Honorary Secretary.