

NORTH WALES BRANCH.

THE annual meeting of this Branch will be held at the Royal Oak Hotel, Bettwsycoed, on Tuesday, July 7th, at 1 P.M.; T. EVANS JONES, Esq., President.

Luncheon will be kindly provided by the President at the Hotel, from 12 to 1 P.M.

The dinner will be ready at 4 P.M. precisely. Tickets, 10s. 6d. each, including a pint of wine.

Gentlemen who may wish to communicate papers or cases, and who intend dining, will please to give early intimation to the Secretary.

D. KENT JONES, *Honorary Secretary*.

Beaumaris, June 3rd, 1874.

METROPOLITAN COUNTIES BRANCH.

AN ordinary meeting of this Branch will be held at the rooms of the Medical Society of London, on Tuesday, June 30th, at 8 P.M., when a paper will read by W. Eassie, Esq., C.E., on "Cremation in its Sanitary Aspect".

A. P. STEWART, M.D., } *Hon. Secs.*
ALEXANDER HENRY, M.D., }

London, June 4th, 1874.

SOUTH-WESTERN BRANCH.

THE annual meeting of this Branch will be held at the Museum, Torquay, on Thursday, June 25th, at 1.30 P.M.; J. KEMPTHORNE, F.R.C.S., President; SPENCER THOMSON, M.D., President-elect.

After the meeting, a visit will be paid to Kent's Cavern, under the guidance of W. Pengelly, Esq., who has kindly offered to accompany the party.

The dinner will be at the Torbay Hotel, at 5.30 P.M. Tickets, 7s. 6d., exclusive of wine.

The South Devon and Cornwall Railway Companies will grant (on production of dinner-ticket) return tickets at single fares.

Gentlemen intending to read papers or exhibit cases are requested to communicate at once with JOHN WOODMAN, F.R.C.S., *Honorary Secretary*.
Exeter, June 3rd, 1874.

SOUTH-EASTERN BRANCH.

THE thirtieth annual meeting of the South-Eastern Branch will be held in the Royal Pavilion, Brighton, on Thursday, the 25th June, at two o'clock; G. F. HODGSON, Esq., President-elect.

Dinner punctually at half-past five. Tickets, 8s. each.

Dover, June 1874. CHARLES PARSONS, M.D., *Hon. Sec.*

SOUTH WALES AND MONMOUTHSHIRE BRANCH.

THE attention of the Publisher having been drawn to the paragraph which appeared in this JOURNAL of April 25th, headed 'South Wales and Monmouthshire Branch: General Meeting', and which paragraph contained certain resolutions passed by a Committee of such Branch in reference to certain alleged conduct on the part of Mr. J. D. Brown, F.R.C.S., of Haverfordwest, he has to express regret that the resolution should have been published.

37, Great Queen Street, June 1st, 1874.

YORKSHIRE BRANCH: ANNUAL MEETING.

THE annual meeting of this Branch was held at the Cutlers' Hall, Sheffield, on the 27th instant; M. MARTIN DE BARTOLOMÉ, M.D., President, in the Chair.

President's Address.—After making some remarks upon the advantages of the Association to the medical profession, the President considered the desirability of the general appointment of medical coroners. He then referred to the advantages which had followed the appointment of sanitary officers, and especially the good results which had followed that legislation in Sheffield; this had been shown in the improved and increased water-supply, and in the establishment of baths; and he concluded this subject by praise of the first annual report of the medical officer as an able and voluminous production. Allusion was then made to other sanitary topics, and the alteration in the type of disease within the past thirty years, which was said to be less adynamic, and the effect upon the character of disease by the improved means which had been adopted by the public authorities for the preservation of health. In conclusion, it was said, in the present day, however, there appears to be a greater disposition than ever to acknowledge our shortcomings, and to exculpate nature from much of the blame unfairly laid to her

charge. Let us hope, then, for the future, that we may all join, with unbiassed minds and willing hands, in furthering sanitary measures, without, at the same time, failing to study both the constitution of the atmosphere and the peculiar characters of individual disease.

Report of Council.—Dr. PROCTER, the Local Secretary, read the report. The Council, in the first instance, drew attention to some general matters of the Association, in relation to its great increase in members and income, as well as in power and importance. During the past ten years, from 2422 members, with a total income of £2755, in 1864, it had increased to from 5800 to 6000 members, with an income of £8500 in 1874, with twenty-six Branches in active operation. Coupled with this fact, it was said that the Association was now free from debt, and was in a position to set apart a fund for original research in some branch of medical science. The report then proceeded to discuss some other general questions before the profession, as those of medical reform, the required personal voting of the provincial fellows of the College of Surgeons, and the proposed amalgamated diploma of the College of Surgeons and the College of Physicians, together with the suggested special sanitary qualification for officers of health. In relation to the Branch, it was reported that the number of Branch members now amount to 214, and that twenty-six new members had been added during the year, whilst the loss had been five by resignations and deaths. During the past year, since the annual meeting at York, successful meetings had been held in the spring at Wakefield, and in the autumn at Halifax, and to them twelve communications had been made. The report concluded by showing the advantages to medical men of the Association, and the benefits which resulted from the Branch organisation, where subjects of local interest and importance could be discussed; and it could be developed according to its local exigencies and character, and proper representations made to the parent Association as they were demanded.

President and Council.—Dr. HEATON proposed, Mr. FAVELL seconded, and it was resolved—"That Mr. Teale of Leeds be elected President for 1875-76, and that the following gentlemen constitute the Council and representatives for the year. *Branch Council*: B. Dodsworth, Esq., W. D. Husband, Esq., W. Matterson, M.D., F. Needham, M.D., S. W. North, Esq., G. Shann, M.D., of York; T. C. Allbutt, M.D., C. Chadwick, M.D., J. C. Heaton, M.D., S. Hey, Esq., T. R. Jessop, Esq., T. P. Teale, Esq., T. Scattergood, Esq., C. G. Wheelhouse, Esq., of Leeds; M. Martin de Bartolomé, M.D., J. Benson, Esq., W. F. Favell, Esq., J. C. Hall, M.D., A. Jackson, Esq., J. H. Keeling, M.D., of Sheffield; R. H. Meade, Esq., Bradford; S. Knaggs, Esq., Huddersfield; R. T. E. B. Cooke, Esq., Hadleigh; S. Holdsworth, M.D., Wakefield. *Representatives in the General Council*: T. C. Allbutt, M.D., W. F. Favell, Esq., J. C. Hall, M.D., J. C. Heaton, M.D., S. Holdsworth, M.D., A. Jackson, Esq., W. Matterson, M.D., G. Shann, M.D., T. P. Teale, Esq., C. G. Wheelhouse, Esq."

Secretary.—On the motion of Dr. HOLDSWORTH, seconded by Mr. A. JACKSON, Dr. Procter was re-elected Secretary.

Dinner.—After the meeting, thirty-five members dined together at the Royal Hotel.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE FELLOWSHIP EXAMINATION OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.

SIR,—As a demonstrator of anatomy, of eight years' standing, I feel that I cannot allow the remarks in your number for May 30th, on the fellowship examination, to pass by without saying something on behalf of the abused teacher. I contend that it is not fair to say that it is our fault that men are plucked for the fellowship, for it is by no means the rule for men to go up for this examination straight from the schools; but, after completing their third winter's dissection, they pursue a more independent course, form their own opinion on their fitness, and go up when they please. We can and do control the movements of men going in for the primary membership examination.

Out of the sixty-nine candidates for the recent examination, only five had not passed any examination in anatomy. Of the remainder, forty-two had passed the primary examination for membership, fifteen may be said to be members (one wanting only a qualification in medicine before receiving his diploma), and seven were men of eight years' standing. To say that teachers do not work as hard as before is certainly untrue, as far as our school is concerned; we have now added to our former work a system of evening examinations, which will be more numerous and extend over a still longer period next year, and we are

always seeking to improve ourselves, our method and appliances for teaching, etc.; and, in justice to my colleague Mr. Reeves, I must say that he is most energetic. It is difficult to get candidates for fellowship examination to work with men reading for the primary of the membership; but I am sure that, if they only remembered all that they were told, they would be quite equal to any fellowship questions that have yet been asked. As I do not know to whom you allude in speaking of a demonstrator riding in a well-appointed brougham in dainty kid gloves at noon, I may as well state that the remark does not apply to me.

I am, etc.,
JAMES E. ADAMS, F.R.C.S.,
Senior Demonstrator of Anatomy at
London Hospital Medical College.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND POOR-LAW MEDICAL SERVICES.

THE Cambridge Urban Sanitary Authority have deferred the appointment of a medical officer of health, which it was recently proposed to make at a salary of £250 *per annum*.

MR. FOX has been reappointed medical officer of health for the combined Cockermouth Rural, Cockermouth Urban, Keswick Urban, and Workington Port sanitary districts; but the Workington Urban Sanitary Authority have withdrawn, and intend to appoint separately.

THE METROPOLITAN WATER-SUPPLY.

A BILL, which bears the names of Colonel Beresford, Sir Charles Russell, Mr. Forsyth, and Mr. Ritchie, has for its object the "making more effectual provision for a constant supply of water, and for the protection of life and property against fire in the metropolis". The Bill proposes the incorporation, by an Order in Council, of a Commission, by the name of the Metropolitan Water Commission, in which the several undertakings of the eight companies now supplying water in the metropolitan district shall be vested. The Commission, besides powers of purchase, etc., is to have power to combine, as far as physical conditions admit, the sources of supply and works of the several companies, to put the works into a condition for the maintenance of a constant supply at high pressure, to provide and place hydrants and apparatus for high pressure supply in case of fire, and to provide and fix apparatus for cleansing and watering streets, and for other sanitary purposes. The Commission is to have power to borrow money for capital expenditure, and the Public Works Loan Commissioners are to be empowered to lend money to the Commission on the security of their income, without other security. The shareholders of the water companies are, in consideration of the transfer of their respective undertakings, to receive perpetual annuities, equal in amount to the annual dividends paid on the average of the five years before the transfer. The Treasury is to guarantee the payment of the annuities, but if a municipal corporation for the metropolis should at any time be constituted, the corporation are to become the guarantors. The Bill also contains various provisions relating to the winding up and dissolution of the companies, allowances to directors and other officers, and other matters. The eight companies named in the schedule are the New River, the East London, the Southwark and Vauxhall, the West Middlesex, the Lambeth, the Chelsea, the Grand Junction, and the Kent Companies.

THE Dublin Town Council is in a difficulty with respect to its main drainage scheme, for which it received the sanction of Parliament, and a loan of £350,000. It was found that, in consequence of the greatly increased price of labour and materials, the original estimate for the works of Messrs. Bazalgette and Neville was insufficient, the lowest actual tenders having reached a sum of over £750,000, instead of £350,000; and it is now intended to cut down the scheme to such dimensions as will allow it to be carried out for £500,000; but much difference of opinion exists as to whether it could be carried out in any complete or sufficient way for that sum, and the engineers have been asked to report again upon the matter in a fortnight. The drainage of Dublin is very defective, and the purification of the River Liffey is a work of absolute necessity to the public health.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH (IRELAND) BILL.

SIR,—The Public Health (Ireland) Amendment Bill, now before the House of Commons, is, in most respects, identified with the English Public Health Act of 1872, but it differs from the latter in two or three

important points. The Irish Bill proposes to make dispensary physicians *ex officio* medical officers of health. There can be no objection to this in the case of the rural districts, where they are appointed by the Poor-law Guardians, the rural nuisance authorities; but in Dublin, and the other urban districts, the municipal bodies, who are the health authorities, do not appoint the dispensary physicians; and it seems a hardship to compel these bodies to accept, as their sanitary officers, men over whom they exercise no control whatever—whom they can neither appoint nor remove. I think it would be desirable to secure the services of the dispensary physicians as health officers, for many reasons, needless to specify; but it is only reasonable that the local authorities should have some control over them, and also that they should be instructed to act under the directions of the Superintendent Officer of Health, wherever such an officer is in existence.

The towns of Ireland are, with few exceptions, very small, very few containing more than 10,000 inhabitants. There are not twenty towns in the whole country possessed of a proper municipal organisation, to carry into effect the provisions of the various sanitary Acts. In the Public Health Bill now before Parliament, it would be desirable to introduce a clause to incorporate with the rural public health authorities (*i.e.*, the Board of Guardians), all towns having a smaller population than 8000. The Superintendent Health Officer should be a medical man—the Bill allows a non-medical man to be appointed—and it should be enacted that, in all districts containing a population of more than 20,000, a Superintendent Medical Officer should be appointed. There are a few unions containing less than 8000 inhabitants; these should, for public health purposes, be compulsorily united into an adjacent union. In short, the Bill should be amended, in such a way as to render it necessary to appoint in most districts, if not in every part of the country, properly qualified sanitarians as Medical Superintendents of Health.

I am, etc.,

CHARLES A. CAMERON,
Professor of Public Health, Royal College of Surgeons,
Ireland.

IRISH MEDICAL INTERESTS.

DR. D. T. MAUNSELL has issued, on behalf of the Irish Poor-law Medical Officers' Association, a circular, in which he announces that a meeting of the Dispensary Medical Officers of the County and City of Dublin was held at Blackhall Street Dispensary on May 20th, Dr. Whistler of Bray in the chair, when the various clauses of the Public Health (Ireland) Bill were discussed, and were generally approved of as affecting the Poor-law medical service of Ireland; and it was unanimously resolved that, in Clause 10, after the word "superintendent", the word "medical" should be inserted; so as to describe the officer referred to as "superintendent medical officer of health". He also directs attention to the "Coroners' (Ireland) Bill", now before Parliament. In it there is no provision made for the payment of medical witnesses. Owing to the absence of this provision, it often occurs that inquests are held without any medical examination, and it not unfrequently occurs that the coroners' fees to medical witnesses are disallowed by the Grand Jury. To remedy this, he proposes the insertion of Clause 2 of the 1st Vict., cap. 68, which regulates the payment of medical witnesses in the Coroners' Court in the other portions of Great Britain; viz.: "The Coroner shall, immediately after the termination of the proceedings at any inquest, advance and pay such remuneration or fee to every medical witness summoned under the provisions of the said Act, and the amount thereof shall be repaid to the said coroner in manner hereinafter mentioned." This clause must be taken in connection with Schedule B, attached to 6 and 7 Wm. IV, cap. 89—"An Act to provide for the attendance and remuneration of medical witnesses at coroners' inquests;" viz.: "1. To every legally qualified medical practitioner, for attending to give evidence under the provisions of this Act at any coroner's inquest whereat no *post mortem* examination has been made by such practitioner, the fee or remuneration shall be one guinea. 2. For the making of a *post mortem* examination of the body of the deceased, either with or without an analysis of the contents of the stomach or intestines, and for attending to give evidence thereon, the fee or remuneration shall be two guineas." He further remarks that the Chancellor of the Exchequer has devoted a portion of the surplus fund to the support of the lunatics in the county asylums. He proposes that from this fund the dispensary medical officers should be paid for their examination of dangerous lunatics. He also directs attention to the relative remuneration for the examination of alleged dangerous lunatics in England, Scotland, and Ireland. In England, by 16 and 17 Vict., cap. 97, sec. 69, it is provided: "It shall be lawful for any justice or justices causing any person to be examined by any physician, surgeon, or apothecary, under the provisions hereinbefore contained, if he or they think fit so