

ASSOCIATION INTELLIGENCE.

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 Offices 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.

SOUTH-EASTERN BRANCH: WEST KENT DISTRICT.—The next meeting of this District will be held at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Chatham, on Tuesday, November 8th, at 4 P.M. Dr. Franklyn Brown, of Rochester, in the chair. Communications, etc.: To receive Report from Medical-Ethical Committee on the subject of Medical Tariff. Dr. Tennahill: (1) Clinical Notes on Colour Blindness; (2) On Lupus, and its Treatment by Koch's Method. Dr. J. V. Bell: A Case of Abdominal Section for Acute Intestinal Obstruction. Mr. P. Selby: On the Absorption of Pleural Effusion by Salicylate of Soda. Dr. A. Packman: Notes on a Case of Strangulated Inguinal Hernia: Operation with Radical Cure. Mr. T. F. Hugh Smith: Hydrothorax a Sequel of Influenza. The dinner will take place at the Bull Hotel, Rochester, at 6.30 P.M. Charge 6s. 8d., exclusive of wine. Gentlemen who intend to dine are particularly requested to signify their intention to the Chairman, Dr. Franklyn Brown, High Street, Rochester, not later than Monday, November 7th. All members of the South-Eastern Branch are entitled to attend this meeting, and to introduce professional friends.—E. GROUND, Deputy Honorary Secretary of the District.

LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE BRANCH.—The autumn meeting of this Branch will be held in the Town Hall, Preston, about the last week in November. Gentlemen wishing to read papers or communications, or show cases, are requested to write to Dr. Glascott, 23, St. John Street, Manchester, as soon as possible.—C. E. GLASCOTT, M.D., JAS. BARR, M.D., Joint Honorary Secretaries.

YORKSHIRE BRANCH.—The autumn meeting of the members of the Yorkshire Branch will be held at Harrogate on Wednesday, November 2nd, at 4.30 P.M. Members intending to read papers are requested to communicate with the Secretary, ARTHUR JACKSON, Wilkinson Street, Sheffield.

NORTH OF ENGLAND BRANCH.—The autumnal meeting will be held at the Ingham Infirmary, South Shields, on Wednesday, November 2nd, at 4 P.M. Cases of interest will be shown by the honorary staff of the infirmary, and by others. The dinner after the meeting will take place at the Royal Hotel at 6 o'clock.—G. E. WILLIAMSON, Honorary Secretary, 22, Eldon Square, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

ABERDEEN, BANFF, AND KINCARDINE BRANCH.
The summer meeting of this Branch was held in the Meldrum Arms Hotel, Old Meldrum, on June 14th, at 1.30, Dr. BARCLAY, of Banff, President, in the chair.

Minutes of Nomination.—The minutes of the last meeting having been read and approved, Dr. J. Peters Watt, Alford House, Aberdeen, was nominated for ballot at the next meeting.

Representative Member.—Dr. Mackenzie Booth was elected Representative of the Branch on the Council of the Association for the ensuing year.

Papers.—Dr. THOMSON, Huntly, communicated the notes of a case of Renal Calculus.—The President of the Branch, Dr. BARCLAY, of Banff, contributed a paper on Acromegaly, which will be published in full.

Excursion.—An omnibus excursion was made from Inverurie to Old Meldrum by the Hill of Barra, arriving at Old Meldrum in time for the meeting. Refreshments were served on Barra Hill at noon.

Dinner.—After the meeting, dinner was served in the Meldrum Arms Hotel, Old Meldrum, under the presidency of Dr. BARCLAY, Banff. There was a large attendance of members, and a photograph was taken.

The annual meeting of this Branch was held in Marischal College, Aberdeen, on October 15th, 1892.

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

Nominations and Ballot.—Dr. James Troup, 185, King Street, Aberdeen; Dr. William Beddie, 17, Saltoun Place, Fraserburgh; Dr. J. A. R. Glennie, 50, Rosemount Place, Aberdeen;

and Dr. McRae, Turriff, were nominated for ballot at the next ordinary meeting of the Branch. Dr. James Peters Watt, Alford House, Aberdeen, was balloted for and admitted an ordinary member of this Branch.

Council's Report.—The report of Council for the past year was then submitted, and ran as follows:—The Council has to record the continued success of the Branch during the past year. The numerical strength has been augmented by the admission of nine new members; the Branch now numbers 138. During the year one of its youngest members—Dr. Hutcheon—has passed away, and a few other members have changed their residence. The ordinary meetings of the year have been fairly well attended, and the communications of considerable interest. On one occasion a novel feature in the form of a limelight exhibition was introduced by Dr. McKenzie Davidson. The summer meeting, which was held at Old Meldrum, was as usual successful and well attended. On the initiative of Professor Cash, a local therapeutical committee has been formed to aid in the investigation of the action of new drugs. The question of the union of the two local Medical Societies has been under discussion, when the feeling of the Branch was unanimous in favour of the proposal. Financially the Branch holds this year a better position than before, as is shown in the treasurer's balance-sheet.

Balance-Sheet.—The Treasurer, Dr. DALGARNO, submitted the balance-sheet for 1891, which showed a balance of £33 12s. to the credit of the Branch.

Election of President-Elect.—Dr. C. O. HILL proposed Dr. Paterson, of Inverurie, as President-elect for the ensuing year, which proposal was seconded by Professor OGSTON.

Election of Honorary Secretaries.—On the motion of the PRESIDENT, Drs. Mackenzie Booth and Thiselton Urquhart were re-elected Honorary Secretaries for the ensuing year.

Election of Honorary Treasurer.—At the same time Dr. Dalgarno was re-elected Honorary Treasurer for the ensuing year.

Council for 1892-3.—The ballot being taken, the following gentlemen were elected members of Council for the coming session:—*For Town:* Dr. Angus Fraser, Dr. Edmond, Dr. McKenzie Davidson. *For Country:* Dr. Cran (Banchory), Dr. Maver (Buxburn), Dr. Smith (Kinnairdy).

Summer Meeting, 1893.—On the motion of the President, Banchory was selected as a place for summer meeting, 1893.

Statement by Professor Cash.—Professor CASH made a statement in connection with the Central Therapeutic Committee, and proposed the continuance of the local Therapeutic Committee. This was supported by Professor OGSTON, and acceded to by the meeting.

Invitation to College.—Professor STEPHENSON then drew attention to the various museums and laboratories of the College, to which the members were invited, and a vote of thanks to the chair concluded the meeting.

Infirmary Visit.—A visit to the new Infirmary buildings was made by several members at 11 A.M.

Visit to Marischal College.—After the meeting Professors Ogston, Cash, Stephenson, Reid, and Finlay conducted the members through the Pharmacological, Midwifery, Medicine, Anatomy, Surgery, Botany, and Pathology class-rooms, museums, and laboratories, where many interesting preparations and experiments were shown.

Annual Dinner.—The annual dinner was held in the Imperial Hotel, Stirling Street, under the presidency of Dr. OGLIVIE WILL.

WEST SOMERSET BRANCH.

The autumnal meeting of this Branch was held in the Council Chamber, Municipal Buildings, Taunton, on September 30th; JOHN CURRIE, M.D., President, in the chair.

The late Dr. Clark.—The minutes of the last meeting having been confirmed, a letter from the widow of the late Dr. Clark, of Minehead, acknowledging the vote of sympathy passed at the last meeting, was read.

New Members.—The following gentlemen, who were already members of the Association, were elected members of the Branch: Arnold Lyndon, Wellington; James Gordon Bain, Taunton; S. W. MacIlwaine, South Petherton.

Address.—Professor GAIRDNER, of Glasgow, delivered an address on "The Future of Therapeutics." The address, which

occupied over an hour in its delivery, was listened to with the greatest attention.—A discussion followed, in which Dr. LAUDER BRUNTON, Dr. KENT SPENDER, and Dr. EDWARD LIDDON took part.—Professor GAIRDNER briefly replied.

Notes of Thanks.—A vote of thanks to Professor Gairdner for his address was proposed by Dr. E. LONG FOX, of Clifton, seconded by Mr. L. TOSSWILL, of Exeter, and carried by acclamation. A vote of thanks to his Worship the Mayor of Taunton, for granting the use of the Council Chamber for the meeting, was proposed by Dr. MURDITH, of Wellington, seconded by Dr. MAURY DEAS, of Exeter, and carried.

Dinner.—The dinner was served at the Castle Hotel, at 7.30. The following is a list of the toasts: 1. "The Queen." 2. "The Bishop and Clergy," both proposed by the Chairman, Dr. CURRIE; the Rev. Prebendary ASKWITH responded to the latter. 3. "The British Medical Association," proposed by Dr. LAUDER BRUNTON, responded to by Dr. CURRIE, President of the Branch. 4. "The Guest of the Evening and Reader of the Address," proposed by Dr. WINTERBOTHAM, Bridgwater; responded to by Professor GAIRDNER. 5. "The Neighbouring Branches," proposed by Mr. W. B. COSENS, Taunton; responded to by Dr. MAURY DEAS, of Exeter, and Dr. KENT SPENDER, of Bath. 6. "The Visitors," proposed from the CHAIR, responded to by the MAYOR OF TAUNTON. An adjournment afterwards took place to the residence of the President, where a very successful meeting was brought to a close.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

SHEFFIELD.

The Smoke Nuisance.—Death Produced by a Needle in the Gullet.

—*The Chesterfield Hospital and the Working Classes.*

The smoke nuisance and the means to lessen it are every now and then brought into more prominent notice. Just now several prosecutions of offenders have taken place. Penalties have been inflicted and orders have been made for the abatement of the nuisance caused by their smoky chimneys. What is needed is a systematic inspection of the principal offenders.

An inmate at the Wadsley Asylum died a few days since from a curious cause. She had been confined to bed and not taking food properly, but serious symptoms only occurred a short time before her death. These were bleeding at the mouth and nose and syncope. At the *post-mortem* examination the stomach was found to be full of blood, and in the middle of the gullet a rusty needle, rather larger than an ordinary sewing needle, was found fixed, with a little black thread and about two feet of tape wrapped round it. The needle was fixed transversely across the gullet and had apparently caused ulceration extending to the aorta. The woman was aged 60, and it is supposed that the needle had been in her gullet for two or three weeks.

VITAL STATISTICS OF JAPAN.—During the past twenty years the population of Japan has increased very rapidly: while in 1872 it was 33,110,000, in 1890 it had risen to 40,070,000, and the increase has been well maintained since then. At this rate of progress it is estimated that Japan will in about fifty years have a population of 80,000,000. A native economist, Mr. Ourakami, attributes the rapid increase of population in Japan partly to the growth of national wealth, but chiefly to the low death-rate among infants. It appears that next to France Japan has the lowest birth-rate of any known country, but this is counterbalanced by the conservation of infant life. In fact, in point of infant mortality, Japan at present stands next to England among the nations of the world. Thus while in Russia the death-rate per 1,000 among children under 5 years of age is 423, in Bavaria 405, in Austria 390, in France 341, in Prussia 335, in Japan it is 276, and in England 255. The proportion of the sexes in Japan is 100 boys to 97 girls, a difference which Mr. Ourakami explains by the smaller amount of care bestowed on female children.

THE new medical buildings of the University of Minnesota were recently opened with appropriate ceremonies. Dr. William Osler, of Baltimore, delivered an address on "Teachers and Students" on the occasion.

CORRESPONDENCE.

PRESSURE ON SPACE.

Notice to Correspondents and Authors of Communications.

IN view of the great and constantly-increasing pressure on our space, we would urgently request correspondents and authors of communications to assist us in endeavouring to place their views before our readers by condensing their communications to the utmost extent.

MEDICAL AID ASSOCIATIONS.

SIR,—A great deal of matter has been printed in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL relative to the above subject. I do not see that there is so very much to complain about after all, especially if you look at it in the light that I do. I happen to be so situated that I hold among other things a parish appointment—that is, parish doctor; also have three collieries and a small branch of the Medical Aid; this latter brings me in about £1 per quarter, sometimes more and sometimes less. Now the very people who pay for my attendance through the Medical Aid would get parish orders for my attendance if that Society did not exist; therefore I am the gainer by the Medical Aid, and feel glad to encourage its existence, as my Poor-law salary is so "poor." But my visit and medicine often average about 2d. or 3d., and the guardians tell me, when I ask for a rise, that if I give it up there are others ready to take it; and, further than this, the Medical Aid pay is not much worse than the pay from the collieries, and sometimes—and especially the last few months—it has been a good deal better. The pay from collieries is 1½d. and 2d. in the pound, and is regulated by the man's earnings, and the doctor has to attend the wife and husband, all the children, and occasionally a grandfather or grandmother will fall to his share of work, and now and then a grown-up daughter will come home ill from service. The "Works" doctor is supposed to attend them all, and not grumble to treat their injuries whether obtained through accident in their employment or in some drunken brawl.

Now a collier earning £2 per week—and the last few months the majority have not earned 10s. per week—with a wife and six children, would pay to his doctor 4d.; the same man paying through the Medical Aid would pay 1d. each for himself and wife, and ½d. for each child per week, making altogether 5d. in the week. I submit 5d. is better pay than 4d., and this rate of pay would naturally go on, even if the man earned only 10s. per week, as in bad times, or £2 per week, as in good times.

Oct. 22nd.

SOUTH WALES BORDERER.

SIR,—Dr. Leslie Phillips's contention with regard to the above may be found to have a wider application than he anticipates. It is not easy to see in what essential particular the position of a medical officer to one of these associations differs from that of a salaried medical officer to a home-hospital, retreat, sanatorium, or private lunatic asylum under lay proprietorship. Even in the matter of advertisement the parallel may hold good.—I am, etc.,
Z.

SIR,—I cannot altogether agree with "M. O. of Friendly Societies" when he contrasts the position of an assistant to a private practitioner with that of a medical officer to a friendly society's medical aid association. A young man takes an assistantcy not only for the salary he receives, but also for the experience he so much needs in the routine of general practice. A medical officer must not only have had some experience, but, in nineteen cases out of twenty, he must be a married man as well. He apparently takes the appointment to settle down in life, while secretly hoping something better may turn up in the near future. If he works hard the association increases, but do his emoluments increase in proportion? In a few years an assistant medical officer may be required who absorbs the greater portion of the increase in the revenue of the association, leaving the senior medical officer *in statu quo*. After a few years he may get some in-