

and General Secretary be authorised to affix the seal of the Association to the transfers of the Bristol Corporation Stock of £3,600.

Resolved: That the 264 candidates whose names appear on the circular convening the meeting, together with a candidate postponed from a previous meeting, be, and they are hereby, elected members of the British Medical Association.

Resolved: That this Council having considered the letter from the British Institute of Public Health of April 2nd, the Council do not propose to make any alteration in the arrangements for the annual meeting.

Resolved: That the minutes of the Journal and Finance Committee of to-day's date be approved, and the recommendations contained therein carried into effect.

The minutes of the Journal and Finance Committee contain a request for the resumption of the announcements of exchange of station in connection with the Army Medical Department, which was agreed to; the approval of the balance sheet, which was ordered to be placed before the Council; the accounts for the quarter amounting to £7,181 19s. 9d.; the report of the auditors; and a recommendation that a grant be made to the Therapeutic Committee towards its expenses.

The financial statement for the year ending December 31st, 1894, was then considered.

Resolved: That the financial statement for the year ending December 31st, 1894, as certified by the auditors, be received and approved, and published in the Journal in accordance with By-law 26 (see JOURNAL, April 27th, page 951).

The minutes of the Premises and Library Committee were then considered.

Resolved: That the minutes of the Premises and Library Committee of April 23rd be received and approved, and the recommendations contained therein carried into effect.

The minutes of the Premises and Library Committee contain the report of the Honorary Librarian; estimates for the repainting and cleaning premises of 429, Strand, and repolishing fixtures; also communications respecting various sites.

The minutes of the Parliamentary Bills Committee were then considered.

Resolved: That the minutes of the Parliamentary Bills Committee of April 23rd be received and approved, and the recommendations contained therein carried into effect.

The proceedings of the Parliamentary Bills Committee are printed in full (see page 990).

The minutes of the Trust Funds Committee were then considered.

Resolved: That the minutes of the Trust Funds Committee of April 23rd be received and approved, and the recommendations contained therein carried into effect.

The minutes of the Trust Funds Committee contain a recommendation that the Stewart Prize be awarded, and that the grant be fixed at £50; also the appointment of the adjudicators of the prize.

The minutes of the General Practitioners Committee were then considered.

Resolved: That the minutes of the General Practitioners Committee of February 28th last and April 23rd be received and approved, and the recommendations contained therein carried into effect.

The minutes of the General Practitioners Committee contain the further consideration of the whole of the questions now before the Committee, together with statement of facts relating to the constitution of the Incorporated Law Society, its functions, powers in prosecutions, and finance, together with a summary of report upon the resemblance between the British Medical Association and Incorporated Law Society.

Resolved: That, in accordance with the recommendations, the Treasurer and Mr. Hemming be added to the Committee.

Resolved: That the President of the Association, the President of Council, and the Treasurer be appointed a Subcommittee to draft the Annual Report of the Council.

The General Secretary read letter reporting the foreign guests who had accepted the invitation to attend the annual meeting in July next (see p. 992).

On the occasion of Prince Bismarck's birthday (April 1st) the German Emperor conferred the title of "Medical Privy Councillor" on the aged statesman's physician, Professor Schweningen, of Berlin.

WILLS AND BEQUESTS.—The late Mr. Crosby Lockwood has by his will bequeathed £50 each to the Hospital Sunday Fund, the Islington Dispensary, the Stoke Newington Dispensary, the Holloway and North Islington Dispensary, and the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street.

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

### PARIS.

*Post-mortem Examinations in Paris Hospitals.—Disease of Lungs among Porcelain Workers.—Obesity among Linen Workers.—Sanitation on French Merchant Vessels.—Fees for Medical Attendance under the Poor Law.—Medical Men and Legal Necropsies.—Night Shelters in Paris.—The French Medical Association.*

THE administration of the Assistance Publique has by a circular made known that, in accordance with a decree passed by the Ancien Conseil Général des Hospices on December 3rd, 1834, *post-mortem* examinations in hospitals cannot be made by the students unless under the personal supervision of the *chefs de service*. The medical press, with reason, criticises this effervescence on the part of the excellent but somewhat fussy Assistance Publique. During the last twenty years hospital *chefs* of every category, surgeons, physicians, accoucheurs, and gynaecologists have endeavoured to combat and remove sources of infection. In many services students who have made a *post-mortem* examination, or have even been present at one, are obliged to keep away from the wards during a fixed period. All contact between *post-mortem* room and the operating theatre is strictly avoided. The circular of the administration of Assistance Publique is considered as a manifestation of a fervent wish to do something, resulting in a useless expenditure of paper and printing.

M. Lemaistre, of Limoges, states that workers in the porcelain factories suffer from pulmonary tuberculosis and fibroid disease of the lung. He divided the workers into three categories: the first up to 20 years of age; the second up to 38; the third from 38 upwards. During the adolescent period tuberculosis is manifested; in old age fibroid disease; in the middle period these maladies are not observed. M. Lemaistre recommends perfect sanitation; also that a certain sum should be deducted from the wages of each workman, in order to provide him with a pension as soon as signs of these maladies appear.

Dr. Briquet d'Armentières states that the hands in the linen factories called *pareurs*, whose business it is to gum the thread used for weaving the linen, are very liable to obesity. Among 250, 90 were obese; among the other workers, only 50 to 250. This fact is startling, inasmuch as the *pareurs* undergo considerable fatigue in moving heavy rolls of goods and working in an overheated atmosphere, which obliges them to be scantily clothed. Suffering from thirst, these hands drink considerably, but the recent researches of Debove and Robin cast doubt on the theory that drinking favours obesity, and at Brides obesity is treated by diaphoresis, which is the constant condition of the *pareurs*. The greater proportion of these hands are attacked with hypertrophy of the heart, and those who drink too much alcohol suffer from arterial sclerosis. It is rare that a *pareur* can work after 55 or 60 years of age. Chronic nephritis and asystolism are the most frequent causes of death. Phthisis is observed between the ages of 45 and 50, its evolution generally extending over two or three years. The obese are attacked in the same proportion as the thin. The proportion is from 4 to 5 per cent. Acute pulmonary disease is rare among the *pareurs*.

Dr. J. Mallet, in a thesis recently presented for the doctor's degree on Sanitation on Board Merchant Vessels and the Position of the Medical Officer, states that sanitary rules are deliberately broken—the crew drink water drawn from a reservoir nicknamed the "charnel house." This reservoir is so constructed that it cannot be completely emptied and cleansed. Dr. J. Mallet has been three times to Brazil and back on the cargo boats of the Compagnie des Chargeurs Réunis. On two of these occasions he was the medical officer of the ship. He declares that under a varnish of cleanliness lies hidden the most repulsive filth. Dr. Mallet further shows the ridiculous position of the medical officer on board these ships. Being simply a paid servant of the Company he is obliged to give in to all that the captain exacts. In order to preserve his post he must sign imaginary certificates of disinfection. If, like Dr. Mallet, he refuses, others are found to do the dirty work.

The medical men of the Hérault department have held a congress to discuss the question of fees in connection with the new law concerning gratuitous medical treatment. The general council drew up the following tariff: 10d. for consultations at the doctor's house by day, and 4s. 8d. by night; for visits at the patient's house an extra fee of 7½d. for every kilometre; in summer the fee for a night consultation is 2s. 6d. The drugs are to be supplied according to the tariff adopted by different companies.

Four medical men practising in one of the departments situated in the centre of France were personally summoned by a police commissary at 4 A.M. in bitter winter weather to accompany him a distance of 8 kilometres to certify a death and make the *post-mortem* examination. The deceased had been killed the previous evening by a drunken man. The medical men held no appointment as experts, and therefore refused. The Procureur de la République thereupon proceeded against them: the Chambre de Police Correctionnelle condemned them each to pay a fine of £1, but on carrying the case to the Cour d'Appel they were acquitted on all the counts. The Procureur Général intends carrying the affair to the Cour de Cassation.

The annual meeting of l'Œuvre de l'Hospitalité de Nuit took place a few days ago under the presidency of the Duc de Broglie. The report showed that the principal expense during the year 1894 was the reconstruction of the Maison de Lamaze, which cost £13,400. The building contains 300 beds; in the old building there were 188. The Œuvre in 1894 gave shelter to 98 688 men, and to 3,870 women and children, making a total of 102 558 homeless persons who slept under its roof 243,235 nights. This makes a sum total of 1 081,323 persons who have passed 2 880,761 nights in the refuge. In 1894, owing to the alterations made in the building, there were 3,874 fewer lodgers received than during the preceding years. The Œuvre is £5,400 in debt.

At the meeting of the Association of French medical men, the treasurer made the following statement: The available funds of the society amount to £71,715; £100 is paid to the Provincial Sections and 300 pensions are granted. The Minister of the Interior has awarded a gold medal to M. Geannel, the organiser of the Association of Gironde, and to M. Brun, the treasurer and benefactor of the Association.

## RUSSIA.

*Address of Professor Pavlov: The Interdependence of Physiology and Medicine: The Innervation of the Stomach: The Physiology of Diet: The Psychic Element in Gastric Secretion: Pancreatic Secretion: Appetite and Digestion.*

At the meeting in memory of S. P. Botkin, Professor J. P. Pavlov read a paper, in the course of which he said that medicine has somewhat outstripped physiology. But these two sciences should go hand in hand and help each other. It was desirable that physiology should acquaint itself with clinical medicine, but it is necessary at the same time that physicians should be better acquainted with physiology, which should play the part of counsellor to medicine. These points he said were beautifully illustrated by the facts of digestion; with his assistants he had worked eight years in his laboratory upon this question, and had obtained results which he thought threw a new light on the act of digestion. In one of his investigations the œsophagus of a dog was incised and its communication with the stomach closed, that with the mouth being left patent; a fistula was made in the stomach, through which the dog was fed and through which the gastric fluid could be obtained. In another dog the stomach was artificially divided into two stomachs, a greater and a less. In each a fistula was made, and it was at the same time so arranged that the food could only fall into one, the greater stomach; the lesser serving as a control. Finally, in a third dog the duct of the pancreas was brought outside. All three dogs were alive, in health, and cheerful.

When the first dog eats, not a scrap of food falls into its stomach; all of it rolls out through a fistula in the œsophagus. But, nevertheless, through the fistula in the stomach flows an abundance of gastric fluid. Of mechanical irritation there could here be no question, so that the experiment proved the transmission of a nervous impulse from the chewing mouth

to the stomach. That this nerve was the vagus was confirmed by the circumstance that the secretion of juice always came on if the end of this nerve were artificially irritated. By this nerve, too, the work of the pancreatic gland was governed.

Medicine taking account, in prescribing a diet, of the tastes and habits of the patient, proceeded perfectly justly, although it arrived at this not by the road of science but by that of practice. In passing from meat to bread and milk, or the reverse, the juice of the pancreatic gland and the gastric juice altered in their composition. The organism adapts itself to the new régime but slowly, after weeks or even months. That the change did not take place at once showed the importance of habits, and that they cannot be treated arbitrarily. This was confirmed in the second dog by a series of experiments. Physiology, watching the secretion and composition of the juices with different food, now explained why in the case of catarrh of the stomach in some cases a diet of meat was prescribed, and bread was not given at all; in others starchy food, and in a third class fats. Fat retarded the activity of the stomach, and was therefore recommended in cases of morbid excess of energy of the stomach. In all these cases a complete harmony was disclosed between the rules of medicine and the facts of physiology.

To explain the activity of the stomach in the process of digestion by mechanical irritation was impossible. A dog might be caused to swallow sealing-wax, pebbles, etc., the interior wall of the stomach might be tickled with a glass rod, but not a drop of juice would appear. But if the first dog were merely shown meat the gastric juice began to gush forth through the fistula. If, on the other hand, it were teased with meat, and it understood that it would not get it, the secretion of juice instantly ceased. When the second dog (with a double stomach) ate, a quantity of gastric juice flowed out of the second stomach through the fistula. This showed that in the process of digestion it was neither mechanical nor chemical irritation that acted, but the pleasure of eating, the desire to eat—that is, a purely psychical element. It might be affirmed that the psychical element was the first and true irritant of the organs secreting the digestive fluids.

In what way and by what is the activity of the pancreatic gland excited? To this question an answer was given by the third dog. If an acid solution were introduced into its stomach, an abundant stream of pancreatic juice began. The same phenomenon was obtained by the introduction of fat into the stomach. This explained why fat was necessary to nutrition. When these substances were introduced into the stomach of the dog during sleep without his knowledge, the same effect was obtained. On the other hand, in confirmation of the psychical influence, when meat was carefully introduced into the stomach without the knowledge of the dog there was either no secretion or an insignificant quantity.

Professor Pavlov thus explained from the point of view of physiology why the clinician strives above everything to excite the appetite of his patient; why hurried eating is harmful; why the Petersburgher, when he forgets about eating in the midst of fierce and feverish activity, loses physically his appetite, and why the same Petersburgher, on furlough or at the waters, when from idleness he only thinks about the pleasure of eating, acquires without any effort an excellent appetite.

The lecturer finished his discourse by recalling the memory of S. P. Botkin, whose conversations, as his teacher, had a most fruitful character for him.

## BIRMINGHAM.

### *The New Small-pox Hospital.*

THE recent long-continued epidemic of small-pox has shown that the present provision for the treatment and isolation of such cases is quite inadequate to meet the needs of the city. The Health Committee of the City Council have therefore very wisely erected a new and permanent small-pox hospital, which will accommodate, if necessary, a little over 100 patients. The building, which has been erected from the designs of Mr. W. H. Ward at a cost of about £41,000, is now complete.

On April 24th the members of the City Council and Board of Guardians and a number of other gentlemen, at the in-

visitation of Alderman Cook, the Chairman of the Health Committee, inspected the buildings.

The hospital, which is built on a site which includes some 24 acres, is situated about  $3\frac{1}{4}$  miles from the centre of the city on land adjoining the Yardley Road. It is built in well separated blocks on the pavilion system. The official and administrative block is divided into three sections. The central one contains the medical officers' and matron's quarters; the left the steward's room and stores, the mess room and kitchen; and the right the servants' accommodation and recreation room, the matron's stores, and official laundry.

The pavilions for the patients are 4 in number; each consists of 2 wards, 72 feet by 30 feet, with accommodation for 24 patients, and with an air space to each patient of 2,000 cubic feet. The bath rooms and lavatories are at the end of the wards, and the wards are connected by an entrance hall, with a duty room overlooking each ward, pantry, and store rooms. At the back of the site is the laundry and disinfecting yard, with an incinerator. Near the entrance lodge is the receiving ward for examination of patients on admission, and down a by-road is an isolation pavilion having a number of small wards, each with a separate access to the open air. In these latter cases can be kept and nursed in which the diagnosis is at all doubtful.

The hospital appears to be extremely well arranged, and is in every detail quite complete. It stands in a high healthy district, and is yet conveniently near the centre of the city. The authorities are to be congratulated on its possession, for they are now placed in a position of readiness for any serious epidemic of the disease which may occur.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

### THE OBSTETRICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON AND THE MIDWIVES QUESTION.

SIR,—I am not, in writing on the above subject, anxious to be heard upon more than one point raised in Dr. Champneys's inaugural address published in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL of April 27th. Inasmuch, however, as that point is the common basis of excuse for the fraud and quackery which under our present law is able to compete with honest practice, it is a matter of no little moment, and Dr. Champneys's dicta upon the same ought not, I venture to say, to have been pronounced without an important qualification which I shall indicate directly.

Dr. Champneys is represented as having stated that the following propositions "appear to be established": (1) "Any person is at liberty by the law of the land to render aid to any other in time of sickness if desired"; and (2) "Any person is at liberty by the law of the land to receive such aid from any other." In making these statements Dr. Champneys has omitted the important words "but not for gain," such words to follow those at the end of the paragraph (1)—namely, "if desired." The preamble to the Medical Act of 1858, as well as the discussion on the Medical Act of 1886, leaves no doubt that the intention of the law is to provide that the public shall be attended and assisted in sickness by persons who are properly educated, and therefore alone qualified to render such aid successfully, and alone justified in accepting remuneration for the same. This in no way affects the question of persons rendering aid in emergency so far as in them lies, than it does in the oft-repeated case of a medical man foregoing for charity's sake the said remuneration. The distinction of vital importance is that the law does not recognise unqualified practice, as might be supposed from Dr. Champneys's propositions to be the case, though, indeed, at the present time the wording of the Medical Act needs strengthening to counteract the perverted ingenuity of the numerous charlatans who prey upon the public. In conclusion, I am sure that Dr. Champneys would be the first to recognise the distinction thus drawn, and to agree to the qualification of his general statement.—I am, etc..

Cavendish Square, W., April 29th.

VICTOR HORSLEY.

SIR,—Dr. Champneys is entitled to argue in favour of the Obstetrical Society, its examinations and diplomas, but he goes much further. With his arguments "pro" we shall not deal, leaving them to the judicial consideration of the General Medical Council. His reasoning *re* the "contra" side of the question requires, however, some notice.

1. He would minimise the importance of the word "infamous" used by the General Medical Council with reference to the actions of the Obstetrical Society. He should remember that the application of the same phrase has sufficed to remove the names of Allabone and many other "specialists" from the *Register*.

2. He asserts that the opponents of bogus diplomas have a "touching" interest in the Obstetrical Society. In this he is quite mistaken. We are willing to acknowledge the "Obstetrical" as a scientific society, but we are wholly opposed to its pretensions to form a twentieth qualifying body—already there are eighteen too many. He is correct, however, in saying we want to end its "examinations" and "qualifications" (?).

3. He suggests we are "agitators." Amongst thinking people agitators are those who suggest, rightly or wrongly, the alteration of the laws. We, on the contrary, desire to see the existing laws maintained. We entirely agree with some of Dr. Champneys's "propositions." That "midwives are a necessity"—we agree, but we do not agree that it is possible to "create" a "midwife" in whose hands the lives of the "mothers of England" and their offspring can be safely placed after a three months' course of "education." On the contrary, we assert that the scientific knowledge of "midwifery" must be based on a knowledge of anatomy, physiology, and pathology, and taught *pari passu* with medicine and surgery, and that a knowledge of all three branches of medicine is essential in a safe practitioner.

The remainder of Dr. Champneys's paragraph in this connection is rather "mixed" in its reasoning. We gather, however, that he challenges us to meet him. We are quite willing to do so, and we are in a position to prove that the "trained midwife" of the Obstetrical Society does infinitely more harm than the ignorant person whom she attempts to replace.—We are, etc.,

WM. HUGH HUGHES,  
Chairman,  
COLIN CAMPBELL,  
Hon. Sec.,

Lancashire and Cheshire Branch Committee.

Manchester, April 29th.

SIR,—In the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL of April 27th you give an abstract of Dr. Champneys's address. I think few of us will quarrel with him for calling us "agitators." He remarks that all great nations, except England, have regulations governing midwives. I am glad of this for here England leads the way: a way which is gradually being followed by other countries. He quotes Mr. Roscoe, solicitor to the College of Physicians, as stating that there is "no technical meaning attached to the word diploma," and that it had precisely the same meaning as "certificate." In this he and his solicitor are wrong. If reference be made to Section 27 of the Medical Act, 1884, the following will be found: In this Act the word diploma means any diploma, degree, fellowship, membership, licence, authority to practise, letters testimonial, certificate, or other status or document granted by any university, corporation, college, or other body, or by any departments of, or persons acting under the authority of the government of any country or place within Her Majesty's dominions. The expression "medical diploma" means a diploma granted in respect of medicine, surgery and midwifery, or any of them, or any branch of medicine or surgery. Does this enactment show that there is no technical meaning attached to the word "diploma"? I think the "diploma" granted by the Obstetrical Society is a "document," "certificate," "testimonial," or "licensed authority to practise" midwifery. At least the holders of the "diploma" of the Obstetrical Society hold themselves out as persons duly licensed to practise midwifery, and to take entire and undivided control of the mother and infant. We have also produced evidence to prove that such "diploma" holders prescribe and dispense medicines to their patients,