

## ASSOCIATION NOTICES.

## 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 20th day of January next, at 2 o'clock in the afternoon.

GUY ELLISTON, *General Secretary.*

## COUNCIL.

## NOTICE OF QUARTERLY MEETINGS OF COUNCIL FOR 1904.

MEETINGS of the Council will be held on Wednesdays, January 20th, April 20th, July 6th, and October 19th, in the Council Room of the British Medical Association, 429, Strand, London, W.C.

## ELECTION OF MEMBERS.

ANY candidate for election should forward his application upon a form, which will be furnished by the General Secretary of the Association, 429, Strand. Applications for membership should be sent to the General Secretary not less than thirty-five days prior to the date of a meeting of the Council.

## LIBRARY OF THE BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

MEMBERS are reminded that the Library and Writing Rooms of the Association are 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.

**BIRMINGHAM BRANCH: COVENTRY DIVISION.**—A meeting of this Division will be held at the Coventry and Warwickshire Hospital at 4 p.m. on Tuesday, January 5th. Agenda:—Clinical cases: Dr. Orton: Unusual Abdominal Hernia. Mr. W. E. Bennett: Renal Calculus. Specimens: Dr. Orton: Acardiacus Monster. Dr. Snell: Excessive Desquamation after Scarlet Fever. Dr. Fenton: Note on a Case of Bilharzia Haematobia. Dr. Milner Moore will move a resolution in favour of the amendment of the law regulating the registration of births and deaths with a view to their more accurate definition, and to the remuneration of the profession in connexion therewith. Annual report to the Branch Council.—E. H. SNELL, Knighton House, Coventry, Honorary Secretary.

**PERTH BRANCH.**—A Council meeting will be held in the Literary and Antiquarian Museum, Perth, on Friday, January 22nd, at 3.45 p.m. Business: Election of members; Medical Acts Amendment Bill; arrangements for clinical meeting.—WILLIAM A. TAYLOR, 10, Marshall Place, Perth, Honorary Secretary.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

## A SCIENTIFICALLY WORKED DAIRY FARM.

SIR,—I am pleased to be able to give a practical answer to the letter signed "D. M.," which appeared in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL of December 19th, 1903. I think I cannot do better than describe a scientifically-worked dairy farm which, by the courtesy of Mr. Sorensen, the owner and manager of the farm, I was enabled to visit early this month at West Huntington, near York. The first thing which struck me was the extreme simplicity of all the appliances combined with spotless cleanliness. Mr. Sorensen is of Danish extraction and nephew of Mr. Busck of the Copenhagen Milk Supply Company, which is well known to be the most perfectly worked dairy company in the world. The dairy farm near York is worked on the same lines, with this advantage, that Mr. Sorensen supplies milk from his own herd of cows only and supervises everything himself.

He holds that milk should, with common care and cleanliness, be produced in such a manner as to be drunk in all confidence by the public without any necessity for pasteurization or sterilization. The essentials, he considers, for such a milk supply are, briefly:

1. Healthy, properly fed and housed cows.
2. Cleanliness from A to Z, and a responsible guarantee that nothing is added to or extracted from the milk.
3. Prompt and thorough cooling of the milk so as to prevent germ growth.
4. Delivery under hygienic conditions.

These conditions are all fulfilled at this farm. A York Corporation veterinary officer of experience inspects the cows every month, and is empowered to dispose of any unhealthy or suspected animal. The feeding of the cows is scientifically carried out. No brewers' grains, turnip tops, or other unsuitable foods are used; the hay the cows are fed upon, the mangolds, etc., are grown upon the farm, while water from the York city water supply is used for drinking, and also for cleansing purposes, washing the utensils, etc. The cowshed, containing fifty perfectly-groomed cows, is lofty, well lighted and ventilated, and the platform on which the cows are tethered is built short, so that their hind quarters do not rest on the ground, but over a drain made specially to carry away the manure. Thus the cows are unable to roll and soil themselves during the periods of weather too bad for them to remain out-of-doors. This is as seldom as possible, as Mr. Sorensen disapproves of housing his cows when it is possible for them to be out-of-doors.

In the cowshed I observed a simple wash basin fixed against the wall, with towels beside it, while on pegs hung the clean smocks worn by the milkers during milking.

No money is wasted on fancy fittings, which simply increase the cost without making the milk any better. The aim is to keep everything—from the cows to the smallest utensils—sweet and clean. The cans, etc., are cleansed with live steam from a high-pressure boiler.

After the cows are milked, the milk is cooled by allowing it to flow over a corrugated cylinder, inside which cold water and ice are passed, in order to reduce the temperature in a few seconds to a point unfavourable to germ life. Clean milk so treated will, without preservatives, remain sweet, if kept in a cool place, for several days.

Most of the milk is delivered in glass bottles, which are filled and sealed at the dairy, the rest being sent out in cans, also filled and sealed at the dairy. There is a third method of sending out the milk in a sealed can with a tap. To save himself the trouble and expense of book-keeping, Mr. Sorensen has a system of payment by tickets, which are sold in books, and handed by customers to the man who delivers the milk.

Now for the result of the theory preached, that to conduct a dairy farm cleanly and scientifically does not cost more than does to run a filthy one. The following were the charges: 3½d. per quart delivered in cans filled and sealed at the dairy; milk drawn by tap from sealed can in the cart, per quart, 3½d.; per pint, 2d. Special table or nursery milk in sealed glass bottles, per quart, 4d.; per pint, 2d.

To show that right methods are not really overlooked by the public, I may mention that the demand for Mr. Sorensen's milk is so great that twice during the last month he has raised the price of it for fresh customers whom he is unable to supply, and he is thoroughly satisfied with his venture from a pecuniary point of view. It is significant that many of his customers are medical men.

I, also, hope with "D. M.," that in spite of being conservative in the worst sense of the word, farmers may soon adapt themselves to the requirements of modern science. It is certain that if they do not a time will come, and is rapidly approaching, when the public will cease blindly to accept a poisonous milk supply without asking to see the source of that milk. The question has now become a national one, and no intelligent person should rest content until every farmer in England follows in the footsteps of Mr. Sorensen, who has proved so ably and intelligently that a farm managed scientifically may also be made profitable.—I am, etc.,

December 28th, 1903. THE WRITER OF THE MILK ARTICLES.

## LIFE INSURANCE EXAMINATIONS.

SIR,—In the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL of December 26th, 1903, p. 1658, you refer to the vexed question of the fees given to medical examiners for insurance work, and conclude your remarks with the suggestion that the matter is one which the Divisions of the Association should consider. The Norwich Division of the British Medical Association appointed a Committee a few months ago to investigate and report on the present condition of the "insurance work" done by medical men in this city, and the Committee hopes to present its report at the next meeting of the Division; but as your article and the action of the "Law Union and Crown Insurance Company" have brought this question forward now, it may interest members of the Association if some of the facts elicited by the Committee are briefly stated.