

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 16th day of January, at 2 o'clock in the afternoon.

The following Committees will also meet:—

Tuesday, January 15th.—2.0 P.M. Premises and Library Committee.—2.30 P.M. Joint Committee on Medical Witnesses' Fees.—3.0 P.M. Medical Charities Committee.—4.0 P.M. General Practitioners and Ethical Committee.—5.0 P.M. Parliamentary Bills Committee. *Wednesday, January 16th.*—10.0 A.M. Journal and Finance Committee.

January, 1901.

FRANCIS FOWKE, *General Secretary.*

NOTICE OF QUARTERLY MEETINGS OF COUNCIL FOR 1901.

MEETINGS of the Council will be held on January 16th, April 17th, July 10th, and October 23rd. 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 28th, June 20th, and October 2nd.

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 by 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.

METROPOLITAN COUNTIES BRANCH: SOUTH LONDON DISTRICT.—The next meeting of this District will be held in the Court Room, at Guy's Hospital, on Thursday, January 17th, at 4 P.M. Mr. E. W. H. Shenton will read a paper on the Position of Radiography in Medicine, and will afterwards show illustrative cases.—**MAURICE CRAIG**, Bethlem Royal Hospital, S.E., Honorary District Secretary.

DUBLIN BRANCH.—The annual meeting of this Branch will be held on Thursday, January 31st, at 4.30 P.M., in the Royal College of Physicians. The President-elect, Sir George F. Duffey, M.D., will deliver the annual address. The election of officers for the ensuing year will take place. Resolutions relative to pathological investigation in connection with lunatic asylums, superannuation of Poor-law officials, the "wage limit" of dispensary and society patients, and other important subjects will be discussed. In the evening the annual dinner will be held in the Hall of Royal College of Physicians at 7.30 P.M. Members wishing to bring forward resolutions at the meeting or to be present at the meeting should communicate with the Honorary Secretary, **JAMES CRAIG**, M.D., F.R.C.P.L., 35, York Street, Dublin.

BRITISH GUIANA BRANCH.

THE annual meeting of this Branch was held at Georgetown on November 21st, 1900.

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

New Members.—Dr. Winter's election to the Branch was announced.

By-law 18.—*In re* By-law 18, Dr. EDMONDS moved the following motion, which was seconded by Dr. BELASCO, and unanimously carried:

As the regulations of the by-laws had not been complied with, this meeting is of opinion that the first matter in the agenda cannot be dealt with at this meeting.

Election of Officers.—The following were elected office-bearers for the ensuing year:—*President:* Dr. EDMONDS. *Vice-Presidents:* Drs. Barnes and Gomes. *Council:* Drs. Conyers, MacAdam, Von Winckler and Veendam. *Honorary Secretary and Treasurer:* Dr. Fowler. *Auditors:* Drs. MacAdam and Conyers.

Specimens.—The following were shown:—Dr. BARNES: Multilocular cystic tumour of lower jaw removed by excision. Dr. CONYERS: Tuberculous disease of knee treated by amputation in lower part of thigh.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

PARIS.

Death and Funeral of Professor Potain.—*The New Liquor Law.*—*New Public Health Law.*—*Creation of New Chair in the Paris Faculty of Medicine.*—*Small-pox Statistics.*

THE medical world in Paris and France has suffered a great loss by the sudden death of Professor Potain on January 5th, aged 75 years. It was only at the close of the summer session, 1900, that the eminent professor gave his last lecture on clinical medicine before his many friends and students. The funeral on January 8th was very largely attended by members of the profession, a touch of colour being given by the brilliant robes of the members of the Académie des Sciences and of the Académie de Médecine. Professor Potain was a Commander of the Legion of Honour, and in consequence a company of infantry with the regimental colours and band was on duty in the Boulevard St. Germain, outside the house of the deceased. The Mass was celebrated in the basilica of Ste. Clotilde at mid-day; the body was interred in the Montparnasse Cemetery. By the express wish of the deceased there were no funeral orations or floral emblems.

After much discussion in the Chamber of Deputies and in the Senate, the new "Liquor Law" was finally passed at the end of 1900; and the law came into force on January 1st, 1901. The objects of the law are briefly, by greatly lowering the taxation on the so-called "hygienic drinks" (that is, wine, beer, cider, perry, etc.), to increase their sale and render them accessible to the smallest purses, while at the same time, by increasing the taxation on alcoholic drinks (obtained by distillation), to compensate for the resulting loss to the Treasury, and also if possible to restrict their sale. As tax for circulation, wines will now pay only 1 franc 50 centimes; cider, perry, etc., 80 centimes per hectolitre; for beer the tax on production is 25 centimes by degree—hectolitre; whereas brandy, liqueurs, absinthe, vermouth, etc., pay 220 francs per litre of pure alcohol they contain, that is, an increase of 63 francs 50 centimes per litre of pure alcohol. During the discussion in the Chamber, a deputy—M. Vaillant—had the courage to propose an amendment forbidding the sale of dangerous essences. This amendment—a mortal blow to the distillers of absinthe and other *apéritifs*—was carried. The Senate, however, considered that the amendment as it stood would affect the scent and perfume industry, and consequently, after much discussion, substituted the following motion: "That the Government by decree shall forbid the production, circulation, and sale of any essence recognised as dangerous, and declared to be such by the Académie de Médecine." As far as the consumer is concerned, the practical result of the new law will be seen from the following notice posted in all their establishments by the Wine Merchants' Syndicate:

Owing to the diminution in the taxes on hygienic drinks, and to the increase on alcohols, this establishment announces to its customers that the price of ordinary wines is diminished 10 centimes per litre.

The price of absinthe, bitters, and similar drinks and of "liqueurs de marque" is increased 5 centimes per glass.

The price of liqueurs and alcohols sold, and not consumed on the premises, is increased in proportion to this ratio in alcohol.

Time alone will show what effect this law may have in arresting the increase in alcoholism.

The Senate has decided on the second discussion of a law "having as its object the protection of the public health."