

and its influence for the well-being of the profession has taken firm hold in the northern portion of the principality.

"It affords your Council great pleasure to notice here the cordial reception and hospitality shown by the members of the profession in Dublin to all those of the British Medical Association who were able to attend the great annual meeting held in that fine old city in August last. Your Council take this opportunity, on behalf of the members of this Branch, to express to their Irish brethren their warmest thanks and the liveliest and most pleasing recollections of their visit.

"The Intermediate Meeting held in Ruthin in March last was in every respect a successful one; and to Dr. Jenkins, who provided a handsome luncheon on that occasion, the best acknowledgments of the members are due. Some very interesting papers and cases were read and discussed.

"Your Council have to thank Thomas Taylor Griffith, Esq., of Wrexham, for kindly accepting the post of Representative of this Branch upon the Parliamentary Committee of the Metropolitan Counties Branch of the Association, which seems likely to prove of great utility in watching over all legislative measures that may be introduced into Parliament affecting the interests of the profession. Among other pressing subjects for speedy settlement are the questions of State Medicine and Poor-law Medical Reform; and, whenever they receive a satisfactory solution, considering the numerical strength alone of Poor-law medical officers of Great Britain and Ireland, it may be desirable to establish a distinct Civil Medical Service, with a Director-General at its head, who would be under the authority of the Privy Council.

"The improved condition of the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL is a source of great gratification to your Council; and this rapid rise in its tone and character must in fairness be attributed to the excellent and talented editorship of Mr. Ernest Hart, whose indefatigable industry, tact, and judgment, are beyond all praise. It is not too much to say that, for independence, impartiality, and talent, the JOURNAL stands in the foremost ranks of medical periodicals; and as such it is no doubt largely consulted by the Government of the day.

"The funds of the Branch would be in a more satisfactory state if members would regularly pay their small half-crown subscriptions at the beginning of every year, or at the intermediate meetings. By so doing, a larger balance would be available to meet all emergencies, and occasionally a donation might be made to some benevolent purposes connected with the profession; such, for instance, as the one of five guineas presented a few years ago to that most excellent and praiseworthy charity, the Medical Benevolent Fund—which is, in fact, a part of our great Association, and which just now stands in urgent need of pecuniary assistance. The balance in treasurer's hands on the 1st of last January was four shillings and elevenpence, and the amount of half-crown subscriptions received by him since then up to the present time is £5, making a total of £5 : 4 : 11 to meet the current expenses of the year."

Mr. T. T. GRIFFITH moved—"That the Report of Council now read be received and adopted." This was seconded by Dr. J. R. HUGHES (Denbigh), and carried unanimously.

Votes of Thanks.—Dr. HARVEY WILLIAMS (Rhyl) moved a vote of thanks to the President for his excellent address; which, having been seconded by Mr. LODGE (St. Asaph), was carried with acclamation.

Mr. WOLSTENHOLME (Holywell) moved, Mr. ARTHUR JONES (Carnarvon) seconded, and it was heartily responded to—"That the best thanks of the meeting be given to the Council of the Branch and all officers for the past year for their valuable services."

Election of Officers, etc.—Dr. ROBERTS (St. Asaph) moved, and it was unanimously agreed to—"That William Maugham, M.D., of Carnarvon, be the President-elect for 1869; and that the annual meeting for that year be held at the Royal Hotel, Rhyl."

Upon the motion of Mr. TURNER JONES (Denbigh), the following members were elected on the Council of the Branch for next year; viz., E. G. Clarke, Esq. (Mold); T. F. Edwards, Esq. (Denbigh); T. E. Jones, Esq. (Llanasa); Ll. Lodge, Esq. (St. Asaph); R. E. Owen, Esq. (Beaumaris); R. C. Roberts, Esq. (Ruabon); R. P. Roberts, Esq. (Rhyl); F. Theed, Esq. (Rhyl); G. Harvey Williams, M.D. (Rhyl); and J. H. Wolstenholme, Esq. (Holywell).

It was moved by Mr. THEED (Rhyl), seconded by Mr. LODGE (St. Asaph), and agreed to—"That Thomas Taylor Griffith, Esq., Wrexham, and Owen Roberts, M.D., St. Asaph, be elected to represent the Branch in the General Council of the British Medical Association."

Dr. WILLIAMS (Wrexham) moved, Dr. MAUGHAM (Carnarvon) seconded, and it was unanimously carried—"That Thomas Taylor Griffith, Esq., Wrexham, be re-elected to represent this Branch upon the Parliamentary Committee of the Metropolitan Counties Branch for next year."

It was unanimously resolved to hold the next intermediate meeting of

the Branch in Mold in the month of March; and Mr. Kent Jones of Beaumaris was re-elected Secretary and Treasurer.

New Members.—The following gentlemen were duly proposed, seconded, and elected members of this Branch and of the British Medical Association; viz., Edward Robert Barker, M.D., Menai Bridge, Anglesea; and John Williams, Esq., surgeon, Penygroes, Llanllyfni, Carnarvonshire.

Papers, Cases, etc.—The following were read. 1. Spermatorrhœa. By E. T. Hughes, M.D., Mold.—2. Case of Tumour obstructing Labour. By E. G. Clarke, Esq., Mold.—3. On the Therapeutical Action of Oleum Succini in Pertussis. By T. T. Griffith, Esq., Wrexham.—4. Case of Hæmorrhage in a New-born Infant, from an Orifice near the Umbilicus, arrested by Suture. By Ll. Lodge, Esq., St. Asaph.—5. Case of Apnoea. By E. T. Hughes, M.D., Mold. He described this case as now under the care of Dr. Williams of Mold and himself, in which the peculiar apnoea first noticed by Dr. Cheyne, and afterwards more fully described by Dr. Stokes in his work on *Diseases of the Heart*, had been present for six days with only two intermissions of two hours and two hours and a half each. The patient was affected with Bright's disease, complicated with disorder of the brain, heart, and liver. The pulse was never in the least affected by the suspension of breathing.—6. Case of Cellulitis of the Foot and Leg. By T. Eytton Jones, Esq., Wrexham.—7. On the Therapeutical Action of Belladonna in Pertussis. By Edward Williams, M.D., Wrexham.

Dinner.—All the members present, with Rev. H. Morgan, M.A., Rhyl, and Llewellyn Williams, M.D., Wrexham, as guests, partook of an excellent dinner at the Parade hotel, and spent a very agreeable and pleasant evening.

CORRESPONDENCE.

STATE MEDICINE.

SIR,—I challenge "A Medical Officer of Health" to step forth from his anonymous disguise, and substantiate, if he can, by quotations "from their speeches," his inference that Drs. Rumsey, Acland, and Stewart believe that the elements of health, the etiology and pathology of disease in a community, differ "*totò calo* from those in the individual." Till then we shall take the liberty of reckoning him a being gifted with a very fervid imagination, and not much at home in the sober region of facts. A very unsafe man, by the way, for a medical officer of health.

I take him, however, as a peg on which to hang a very concise statement of what we do wish. I believe we are all as one as to the need of special training—practical, as well as theoretical—in hygiene and general pathology, which, if properly taught, include a variety of subjects to which most students pay no attention, and which most medical men in active practice have neither the leisure nor the inclination to study. On the other question of having "a separate class of doctors as health officers," or rather of setting apart as health officers men with special qualifications for that particular work, and debarring them in all cases from *private* practice, there is some difference of opinion. In order to arrive at a sound conclusion, instead of a random one, which seems to find favour in the eyes of your correspondent, we ask for a comprehensive and searching inquiry. If it shall turn out that, as a general rule, an officer of health can attend to a large private practice without in any way neglecting or evading his public duties, a strong case will be made out for leaving the question open. If, on the other hand, it shall turn out that, in the great majority of cases, the faithful and fearless performance of his public duties by the officer of health is equivalent to the serious injury or utter ruin of his private practice, then the question may be considered as conclusively settled in favour of debarring the health officer from *private*, but certainly not from *public* practice, as in hospitals and dispensaries. Do our critics in the Lancashire Branch and elsewhere disapprove of *inquiry*, with a view to ascertain the facts? I am sure my good friend Dr. Gairdner does not.

I have only touched a portion of the great subject we have in hand. The questions whether the health officers should be the superintending registrars, and medical assessors in criminal cases, do not seem to occupy any space, however minute, in the capacious and philosophic mind of your anonymous correspondent. Let him shew himself, that we may accord to him the reverence which is his due.—I am, etc.,

St. Swithin's Day, 1868.

A. P. STEWART.

NEW AND CHEAP ARTIFICIAL ARMS.

SIR,—Honour to whom honour is due. The artificial hand of which you have given a drawing in your JOURNAL of the 18th instant, as introduced by Mr. Pratt of Oxford Street, is not the invention of M.