
Medical Society Of London

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ORGANISATION OF THE VOLUNTEER MEDICAL SERVICE.

A REQUISITION is in circulation for a meeting of Volunteer Surgeons, to consider the propriety of laying before the authorities suggestions for the proper organisation and representation of the Volunteer Medical Service at the approaching review at Portsmouth, the meeting at Wimbledon, and other similar occasions. The immediate occasion of the present movement is the recent correspondence in the *BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL* of Feb. 15th, 29th, and March 14th. The requisition has at once received the signatures of Mr. Blackstone, Surgeon 20th Middlesex V.R.C.; Dr. Carr, Surgeon 1st Kent V.R.C.; Dr. Cross, Surgeon 22nd Middlesex V.R.C.; Mr. J. M. Donne, Assistant-Surgeon 1st Middlesex V.A.C.; Mr. Godwin, Hon. Assistant-Surgeon 2nd South Middlesex V.R.C.; Mr. T. C. Jackson, Assistant-Surgeon 9th Middlesex V.R.C.; Dr. Harling, Surgeon 1st Middlesex V.A.C.; Mr. T. H. Hill, Assistant-Surgeon 36th Middlesex V.R.C.; Dr. C. Holman, Surgeon 3rd Administrative Bat. Surrey Volunteers; Dr. J. Murray, Assistant-Surgeon Lond. Scot. V.R.C.; Mr. A. T. Norton, Assistant-Surgeon Civil Service V.R.C.; Mr. Nunn, 9th Midd. V.R.C.; Dr. Pearson, Assistant-Surgeon Lond. Scot. V.R.C.; Mr. J. Rice, Surgeon 3rd Midd. V.R.C.; Mr. S. Smith, Civil Service V.R.C.; Dr. W. Squire, Surgeon 4th Midd. V.R.C.; Mr. J. Walters, Assistant-Surgeon 5th Surrey V.R.C.; Dr. Westmacott, Surgeon Lond. Scottish V.R.C. Dr. John Murray, 40, Bryanstone Street, Portman Square, W., is temporarily receiving the names of those who approve of the object. Up to this time, we believe that every Volunteer Surgeon to whom the matter has been submitted has given his adherence. It will save trouble and expense if those of our readers who are Volunteers, and who think the organisation and representation of the Volunteer Medical Service in the field desirable, will voluntarily forward the expression of their approval to Dr. Murray.

MEDICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.

THE ninety-fifth anniversary meeting of this Society was held at the Freemasons' Tavern on the 9th inst.; Mr. Henry Smith, President, in the chair. The proceedings were opened by the delivery of the annual oration by Mr. Teevan, who stated that the Society was in a flourishing condition. He then proceeded to discuss the causes of the present imperfections in medical education, and inquired whether the fault rested with the examining bodies, the teachers, or the students. He maintained that the chief cause was attributable to the inefficient examinations of the College of Surgeons; and he then related several instances in which that institution had recently allowed most incapable students to obtain a diploma. He much deplored the recent action on the part of the Medical Teachers' Association, and stated that it was just as absurd to attempt to make students studious by forced attendance on lectures, as it was to try and make young men religious by obligatory religious observances. He paid a glowing tribute to the conduct of medical students, and said they would educate themselves up to whatever standard might be required of them.

After thanking the orator on behalf of the Fellows, the President announced the President, officers, etc., for 1868; and, with a few appropriate remarks, presented the Fothergillian Gold Medal, of the value of twenty guineas, to Mr. John Clay of Birmingham, for his essay on the Diagnosis and Treatment of Non-malignant Tumours of the Uterus; and the Silver Medal to Mr. Peter Marshall, the retiring Treasurer, for the special services he had rendered to the Society.

At 6.30 p.m., about sixty Fellows sat down to dinner. Amongst the visitors were the Master of the Apothecaries' Company, Mr. Cooper; and the Presidents of the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society and the Obstetrical Society, Mr. Solly and Dr. Hall Davis.

The following are the new Officers and Council:—*President*—B. W. Richardson, M.D. *Vice-Presidents*—G. Buchanan, M.D.; V. De Méric, Esq.; Andrew Clark, M.D.; and John Gay, Esq. *Treasurer*—C. H. Rogers-Harrison, Esq. *Librarian*—Edward Head, M.D. *Secretaries in Ordinary*—F. Mason, Esq., and A. E. Sansom, M.D. *Secretary for Foreign Correspondence*—J. Althaus, M.D. *Council*—J. W. Barnes, Esq.; John Birkett, Esq.; W. Cholmeley, M.D.; C. Gosswell, M.D.; A. Cooper, Esq.; Walter J. Coulson, Esq.; R. W. Dunn, Esq.; Tilbury Fox, M.D.; S. Day-Goss, M.D.; A. Leared, M.D.; Morell Mackenzie, M.D.; P. Marshall, Esq.; H. Maudsley, M.D.; F. W. Pavy, M.D.; W. Potts, Esq.; W. R. Rogers, M.D.; Abbotts Smith, M.D.; Henry Smith, Esq.; E. Symes Thompson, M.D.; W. Spencer Watson, Esq. *Orator*—Sir Duncan Gibb, Bart., M.D.

DR. J. MARION SIMS has been elected a corresponding member of the Obstetrical Society of Berlin.

THE CITY OF LONDON HOSPITAL FOR DISEASES OF THE CHEST.—The twentieth anniversary festival of this hospital, will be celebrated at the London Tavern, on the 26th inst., under the auspices of the Right Honourable Lord Feversham.

BEQUESTS.—The late Samuel Eyres, Esq., of Armley, near Leeds, has bequeathed £600 in equal sums to the General Infirmary, the Dispensary, and the House of Recovery. Henry Tull, Esq., of Cork Street, Burlington Gardens, has also bequeathed £100 each to the Royal Berkshire, the Brompton Consumption, and the Royal Free Hospitals.

PARIS IN 1867.—The return just issued by M. Haussmann, Prefect of the Department of the Seine, records 43,415 deaths in the city of Paris in the year 1867. The estimated population of the city in that year was 1,852,258; the deaths, therefore, were in the proportion of 23·4 per 1,000 of population. In 1866 the deaths were 47,723, and the proportional number to 1,000 of population was 26·1. The number of deaths last year was 4,308 less than in 1866. So much has been done of late years towards improving the sanitary condition of the French capital that a reduction of mortality from epidemic diseases is a result that it was only reasonable to expect. The number of births registered in 1867 was 55,044, being 659 above that of 1866. The increase of population by excess of births over deaths was 6,662 in 1866, and 11,629 in 1867. The birth-rates of the two years were 29·8 and 29·7 per 1,000 of population respectively. Of the 55,044 births 15,472 were illegitimate—so that to every 1,000 children born 281 were illegitimate. It appears that a distinction prevails in France between illegitimate children recognised and not recognised. The former expressly acknowledged by one or other of the patients at the time of registration, or by some act in their first year, numbered 3,588; the latter, described as unrecognised were returned at 11,884. It may be stated that a certain number of illegitimate births registered in Paris do not belong to the resident population; were 4,334 infants were returned as still-born, about 30 per cent. of which illegitimate. The number of marriages celebrated in Paris in 1867 was 17,730, or the marriage rate was 19·1. Perplexed by these proportions of births and marriages to population in Paris, it may be well to note the proportions in London. The birth-rate in the English capital was 36·6, so that to every 10,000 of the population in either capital the number of children born in London exceeded that in Paris by 69. The marriage rate in London was 21·8, signifying that to every 10,000 persons living in either capital the number of persons married in the metropolis exceeded that in the French capital by 27.

PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF LONDON IN 1867.—Last year 12,002 persons died in 120 public institutions in London, constituting about a sixth part of the total deaths of the metropolis. In other words, of every 1,000 deaths in London in 1867 no less than 170 occurred in one or other of the public institutions; and of every 1,000 of population in London 3·9 were inmates of these institutions at the time of their deaths. Of every 1,000 deaths 63·4 occurred in one or other of the 36 metropolitan hospitals—viz., 3,291, or 46·6 per 1,000 in 16 general hospitals; 929, or 13·2 per 1,000 in eight hospitals for special diseases; 82, or 1·1 per 1,000 in four lying-in hospitals; and 177, or 2·5 per 1,000 in eight military and naval hospitals. The mortality of London is not unduly augmented by the deaths of persons in the metropolitan hospitals who came from other parts, or contracted diseases in the wards, as these cases are compensated for by the residents of London who left it consumptive to die elsewhere. There were also three hospitals and asylums for foreigners, in which 100 deaths occurred, being in the proportion of 1·4 per 1,000 of the total deaths. 147 deaths, or 2·1 per 1,000, took place in four military and naval asylums. In the 19 lunatics asylums 357 deaths were registered, being in the proportion of 5·1 to every 1,000 deaths. It may be stated that two large lunatic asylums—Hanwell and Colney-hatch, in which many London lunatics die—are beyond the limits of the metropolis. In the 46 metropolitan workhouses there were 6,829 deaths, or 96·7 out of every 1,000 deaths in London occurred among the inmates of workhouses. 90 deaths, or 1·3 per 1,000, were recorded in 12 prisons. It is noteworthy that of 154,602 inmates in 853 public institutions of England and Wales, returned at the Census of 1861, 32,437 inmates died in that year; and assuming that the average number of inmates is represented by the enumerated population, the mortality was at the rate of 20·98 per cent., or 210 per 1,000 which the mortality of the population of all England was at the rate of 22 per 1,000 of the population. The mortality of the public institutions of the country was therefore ten times as high as the mortality in the population generally. The annual rate of mortality per 1,000 average inmates was 190 in 690 workhouses, 569 in 106 hospitals, and 111 in 57 lunatic asylums.