

treatment when strictly carried out the general salubrity of surgical hospitals, and he mentioned a number of circumstances which came under his notice during a recent visit to the Continent, all of them tending to show that hospitals had become remarkably healthy after the adoption of the antiseptic treatment; while pyæmia, erysipelas, and hospital gangrene, which had formerly prevailed to such an extent as to be a scourge, had become comparatively unknown.

In Section C, Obstetric Medicine, Dr. Matthews Duncan, Edinburgh, presided; and delivered the opening address. Papers were read by Dr. Keiller, Edinburgh; Dr. More Madden, Dr. Edis, and others.

In Section D, Public Medicine, the chair was taken by Dr. Lyon Playfair, M.P.

In Section E (Psychology), Dr. Lowe, who presided, delivered an opening address, in which he remarked an ebb and flow of medical opinion, both as regards remedial agents and modes of treatment. He advocated the right of psychology to a destined place in the medical curriculum. Dr. Clouston, Edinburgh, read a paper on Disorders in speech in insanity, which he treated under three heads, convulsion, want of co-ordination, and paralysis. Dr. Alexander Roberston read a paper on unilateral phenomena of mental disorders, and Mr. P. M. Dear, London, described an unusual case of epilepsy. A paper by Mr. Hovell, Clapton, on "Emotional Aphasia" gave rise to an interesting discussion, which terminated the proceedings.

In Section F (Physiology), presided over by Dr. Burdon Sanderson, a number of papers were read, for which, after brief discussions, the usual compliment was paid to the readers.

In the evening the Royal College of Physicians held a *conversazione* in the Museum of Science and Art, which was largely attended.

The Association continued its meeting on Thursday. A general meeting was held at 10 o'clock, Dr. Falconer presiding, when a Report on the subject of State Medicine Qualification was submitted. It stated that it was desirable that every person holding any public appointment connected with medical attendance on the poor, and every candidate for admission into the medical profession, should have a knowledge of the principles of public hygiene; and that every person holding the office of Medical Officer of Health should have an adequate knowledge both of legal medicine, or medical jurisprudence, and of preventive medicine, or public hygiene, comprehending medical police and the management of public institutions supported by national or local taxation. On the motion of Dr. Stewart the Report was adopted, and a copy forwarded to the General Medical Council. The Report of the Scientific Committee recommended the distribution to various gentlemen of grants for discoveries in scientific subjects. A grant of the

value of £50 was awarded to Mr. Hicks for researches in alcohol. The report was adopted. The Report of the Joint Committee on State Medicine, presented by Dr. Stewart, said they desired to return thanks to the 135 medical officers of health who sent replies, many of them very full and of great practical value, to the schedules issued by them last year. They had not yet communicated the results of that inquiry, because the time for making a profitable use of it had not yet come. As the Public Health Bill of last Session had been almost entirely a consolidation of previous Statutes, and so had contributed to the accomplishment of one of the objects earnestly sought for in their memorial, the Committee did not consider it advisable to interfere with the progress of a measure which, though incomplete and in various respects insufficient, was a step in the right direction, and would enable many to study the subject in a single Act, instead of having to enlabyrinth the provisions of 20 or 30. The Committee had observed with satisfaction during the recent discussion on the Public Health Bill that there had been a steady approximation to the views constantly maintained by the Committee, and that in particular several important principles urged by them from the beginning, such as the adoption of larger areas and the re-adjustment of areas, would be adopted. The Report was approved.

Professor Spence, Edinburgh, delivered his address on Surgery, reviewing the progress of the profession in relation to the past, and noticing the more important recent advances including galvanopuncture and the antiseptic treatment of wounds. With regard to the latter, he said the dressing of wounds was now in a transition state, and the answer to the problem must be sought for on sufficient data and carefully-weighed statistics. They would then be better able to decide the comparative advantages of the different systems. He did not believe any system, however good, would enable them to guarantee a perfectly successful result in any operation.

A vote of thanks was given to Professor Spence for his address.

In Section A—Medicine—the leading papers were on the treatment of acute rheumatism by the tincture of perchloride of iron, by Dr. Russell Reynolds; on rheumatic fever, by Dr. I. Johnson; and on pneumonia in childhood, by Dr. W. Stephenson. In the Surgical Section other papers were read, and special surgical demonstrations were given by Professor Otis and Dr. Wolfe. In the section for Obstetrics the papers were also read.

In Section D—Public Medicine—Dr. Lyon Playfair, M.P., delivered his opening address. After noticing the various Sanitary Acts passed in recent years, he said they had been groping their way very much in the dark as to the means of