

With respect to the objects of the Association, as set forth on its foundation, they may briefly be stated to be :

1st. The collection of speculative and practical information through essays, hospital reports, infirmaries, dispensaries, or private practice.

2nd. Increase of knowledge of the medical topography of England through statistical, meteorological, geological, and botanical inquiries ; the investigation of the modification of endemic and epidemic diseases in different situations and at various periods, so as to trace, as far as the recent state of the art would permit, their connection with peculiarities of soil and climate or with the localities, habits, and occupations of the people.

4th. The advancement of medico-legal science through succinct reports of cases occurring in courts of judicature.

5th. The maintenance of the honour and respectability of the profession generally in the provinces by promoting friendly intercourse and free communication of its members and by establishing among them the harmony and good feeling which ought ever to characterise a liberal profession.

During its earliest years the movements and proceedings of the Association were quiet and unostentatious, the meetings simple in their arrangements ; but it was not long before medical societies began to join the newer body, and towns in all parts of the Kingdom soon came to regard it as an honour to entertain the Association. Gradually the best men of each district enrolled their names, and the membership increased so greatly that subdivisions into branches became a necessity. Each branch, with its own ordinary and annual meetings, was practically a replica of the parent society, possessing its own president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, council, and by-laws, subject to the approval of the Council of the Association, to which, besides, each branch sent representatives according to its numerical strength. In 1837, five years after the foundation of the Association, there were three of these branches formed, namely, the East Anglian, the Bath and Bristol, and the Lancashire and Cheshire. By the end of 1878 the Association had spread over the whole United Kingdom, the total number of branches at that date being 30—one of the 30, it is interesting to note, being Jamaica, the first Colonial branch to be formed. It was organized in 1878. Two years later we find that Australia appears for the first time, contributing three branches to the Association. Since then 36 more branches have been added, making a grand total of 65, with a collective membership of over 17 000. Of the branches 27 are Indian and Colonial. Doubtless before long those portions of Africa which are