

kind, has been disseminated by quacks, and written with an eye to business more than the imparting of useful knowledge. What is wanted is more light, which is, after all, the surest remedy for all errors, be they physical or moral.

BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

The fifty-third annual meeting of the British Medical Association was held at Cardiff, Wales, July 28th to 31st, under the presidency of Dr. Edwards, of Cardiff. The proceedings were opened by a short address from the retiring President, Dr. Cuming, of Belfast. The report of the Council of the Association was the next order of business. The report recommended the purchase of a site and the erection of a building for the use of the Association, at an estimated cost of \$75,000 for the site and \$50,000 for the building. This occasioned considerable discussion, but was finally carried, and the Council was authorized to buy or lease a site, and erect a building for printing and publishing the *Journal*, etc.

The President then delivered the annual address, in which he gave a description of Cardiff, its mineral resources and other natural advantages, its sanitary work, etc. He said that the health officer of to-day stands, as did the Hebrew priest of old, between the living and the dead. He next referred to the British Medical Association, which had now come to be a power in the land, socially, politically, and morally. He also alluded to the advances in medical science which had been made during its growth, as, for example, the use of chloroform, ether, iodoform, the bromides, antiseptics, the study of disease-germs, etc.

The address on medicine was delivered by Dr. Samuel Wilks, of London. He claimed that diseases arise from peculiarities of climate, food, race, and surroundings, influenced by heredity. Bacteria and bacilli in pathology were now in the ascendancy, but he believed the fashion would, in a measure, pass away, as Liebig's theory about zymotic ferments had done. He ridiculed the idea that each microbe had its specific pabulum. Disease was often the result of irregularities in development of organs, and want of harmony in the functions of various organs; in illustration of which he referred to the curious intermittent or remittent action of many organs. Dr. Wm.

Roberts delivered the address on therapeutics, in which he fully considered the important subject of dietetics, treating first of milk, to which he gave the first place among liquid foods. Next to milk he ranked beef-tea and other meat decoctions and infusions. Beaten-up eggs also received a due share of attention, as being a highly nutritive form of liquid food. He also alluded to the enormous trade which has grown up of late years in "prepared foods," and stated his preference for the several articles of food in their simple state, with which a skilful nurse could prepare what was necessary for the patient if provided with proper cooking utensils and materials for preparing peptonized articles of food.

The address on surgery was delivered by Dr. E. H. Bennett, of Dublin, on "Injuries of the Skeleton," and the best method of studying fractures. This, he claimed, was accomplished, not by dissecting cadavers or experimenting on animals, but by studying many cases of the same kind. He had studied one hundred cases of Colles' fracture, and found no less than forty-eight cases of impaction. According to this statement, we must be prepared to meet these two conditions in nearly equal numbers. In Pott's fracture, he found a number of specimens in which the fibula was broken in the upper third instead of the lower. Where the symptoms resemble a sprain of the ankle, the fracture of the fibula may be overlooked. He cited a number of fractures in different parts of the body in support of his views regarding the study of fractures.

In the section on obstetrics, the address was delivered by Dr. Henry Gervis, London, upon the subject of "Death-rates from childbirth and cancer, and the value of antisepsis in midwifery." The decline in the general death-rate was first touched upon, and then the decline in death from childbirth, which he expected would continue. He warmly advocated the early and judicious use of the forceps, great care in the prevention of hemorrhage, and the use of antiseptics both before and after labor. He advised careful examination of the parts after labor, and the stitching up of lacerations. Corrosive sublimate or boracic acid solutions he considered preferable to carbolic acid. He hoped much good would arise out of the series of seven questions proposed by the collective investigation committee on the subject of puerperal