

indicates an advanced pathological lesion, as gangrene, an appendix distended with pus, abscess or beginning peritonitis. In some cases, however, an abscess may be present without any, or only slight leucocytosis, and in cases of intense septic peritonitis the number is but slightly or not at all increased. In this type of case, a low leucocyte count is consequently of unfavorable significance. In acute attacks of appendicitis, where the leucocytes have been below 18,000, or have fallen in number when counted a number of times, the patients have recovered without operation.

The clinical value of blood examinations in these cases will readily appeal to every practitioner who appreciates the difficulty in selecting cases for operation and deciding when to perform it. While not positive, the information gained in this way is of the greatest assistance in conjunction with other data, in enabling the surgeon to arrive at a conclusion. The necessity for careful technique and accuracy need scarcely be insisted upon, otherwise the results will not only be useless but positively misleading. Only thorough acquaintance with the methods and practice in their application can give the skill requisite to make the results obtained by the observer a safe guide in any case.

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### THE BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION AND THE COLONIES.

Probably the most important item of business at the Cheltenham meeting was the report of Mr. Edmund Owens' Committee, the Constitution Committee. It is most exhaustive, and after thorough discussion at successive general sittings of the Association, was adopted with little change from the original. Special interest attaches to it from the provision specially made for membership in India and the Colonies. The fact that Mr. Owen is of Canadian birth is interesting in this connection. The Imperial Federation idea is fructifying rapidly in the British mind, as well as in the Colonial, and it is earnestly to be hoped that the cause will be helped forward, as it can be very effectively, by a prompt and widespread decision on the part of the profession in Canada and elsewhere to avail ourselves of the advantages of membership in so old and honoured a body as the British Medical Association.

The primary unit of organization is the Division, and a group of Divisions is known as a Branch. The Division is to be small enough geographically to allow all members in the Division "a reasonable opportunity of attending every important meeting thereof."

The autonomy of the Divisions and Branches is safeguarded so perfectly that we feel we can make the sweeping suggestion that the large and useful societies already existing in Canada, particularly the