

The General Medical Council of Great Britain consists of 5 appointed by the Crown, 22 representing the qualifying bodies, and 5 from the profession which numbers some 40,000. There is a good deal of discontents with the present state of affairs.

EPIDEMIC POLIOMYELITIS.

August 11th, 1910.

To the Editor of THE CANADA LANCET,—

At the meeting of the Congress of American Physicians and Surgeons held in Washington in May, 1910, a joint session of the American Orthopedic and American Pediatric Societies was held and the subject of epidemic poliomyelitis was discussed. The following resolution was adopted:

"It having been shown by recent epidemics and investigations connected with the same that epidemic infantile spinal paralysis is an infectious communicable disease that has a mortality of from 5 to 20 per cent., and that 75 per cent. or more of the patients surviving are permanently crippled, state boards of health and other health authorities are urged to adopt the same or similar measures as are already adopted and enforced in Massachusetts for ascertaining the modes of origin and manner of distribution of the disease with a view of controlling and limiting the spread of so serious an affection."

A committee with Doctor Robert W. Lovett, President, Boston, Mass.; Doctor Irving M. Snow, Secretary, Buffalo, N.Y., was appointed to urge the various state and municipal health authorities to take up the work of investigation of the various foci of epidemic poliomyelitis, to study its epidemiology and to instruct the public that the disease is at least mildly communicable.

May we ask you to publish this letter and the resolution in your journal, and also to allude to the matter editorially, urging the Health Commissioners of the various states of the United States and of the provinces of Canada to follow the example of the Massachusetts health department in studying the epidemiology of poliomyelitis.

Respectfully yours,

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Committee on Poliomyelitis, American Orthopedic
and Pediatric Societies.

IRVING M. SNOW, M.D., *Secretary*.

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