

Editorials.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

The British Medical Association was founded at Worcester on July 19th, 1832, being originally designated the "Provincial Medical and Surgical Association."

On that day, fifty medical men attended a meeting at the Worcester Infirmary, convened by Dr. (afterwards Sir) Charles Hastings, to consider the formation of the proposed Association. Dr. Edward Johnstone, of Birmingham, presided, and after an address by Dr. Hastings on the objects contemplated, it was unanimously resolved that an Association should be formed; a code of laws was adopted, and officers elected. The Association began with a membership of 140.

At the first annual meeting, held at Bristol, on July 19th, 1833, it was announced that the number of members had increased to 316. Nearly 200 attended the meeting.

At the second annual meeting, held at Birmingham, on July 18th, 1834, 250 members were present, out of a total membership of 450.

The third annual meeting, held at Oxford, on July 23rd, 1835, was attended by more than 300 persons, the membership of the Association being then 500.

The fourth annual meeting was held at Manchester, on July 21st, 1836. The number of members of the Association was reported to be 600.

Formation of the first Branch.—The Eastern Provincial Medical and Surgical Association, which had been founded at a meeting held at Bury St. Edmunds, in the previous September, sent a deputation to the meeting, and a joint committee of the two Associations was appointed to consider the possibility of fusion. Subsequently it was arranged that the Eastern Association should dissolve as a separate body, and that its members should become members of the Provincial Medical and Surgical Association, and be constituted a Branch thereof.

At the fifth annual meeting, held at Cheltenham, on July 19th and 20th, 1837, the number of members was reported to be 940.