

living in terrible discomfort. It also provided minor luxuries and comforts for the very old, and there was a Christmas Fund for the children. At the present time the Guild had 340 cases on its books, every one of which had been personally investigated.

The B.M.A. Charities Committee

Dr. C. E. DOUGLAS, for the Charities Committee of the British Medical Association, said that that committee was not in competition with other medical charities. It was nothing else than a collecting and distributing agency, and all the money it collected was paid over to the charities, nothing being kept for administration expenses, which came to between £50 and £70 a year. The committee received money earmarked for the various charities, and also money handed to it for distribution at its discretion. He repeated some of the figures which he had already given to the Representative Body. The committee also formed a link to bind the various charities together, and, further, it was of use in providing funds in cases of emergency, as, for instance, after the recent earthquake in New Zealand, when, through the agency of the Sir Charles Hastings Fund, helped by the Medical Insurance Agency, the committee was able to send to New Zealand the sum of £500. The histories of the great medical charities proved that there had been connected with them men of extraordinary vision and determination, who had carried on their work in face of the greatest apathy. The medical charities had made a place for themselves in the charitable world, with the result that the rest of that charitable world said, in any case where a medical man was concerned, "Turn that over to the medical charities; they and they alone can deal with it." Nearly 90 per cent. of the money subscribed to medical charities came from members of the medical profession. There were, however, 27,000 medical men and women in Great Britain and Ireland, and the total number of the medical subscribers to the various funds was only 7,827.

The Hastings Fund

Dr. ALFRED COX, speaking on behalf of the Sir Charles Hastings Fund, said that the Fund was created by Colonel Rait in 1925 for helping cases of emergency. Colonel Rait handed over to the Association in that year shares that were then worth £1,065, and produced about £70 per annum. The trustees had used the money to supplement the work of the Benevolent Fund, with which the Sir Charles Hastings Fund had always had the most cordial relations. Since Colonel Rait's death the Fund had received two bequests, amounting to £1,100, and it had also received grants from time to time from the Charities Fund of the Association and from the Medical Insurance Agency. He gave some specific examples of the value of the Fund in particular cases. He added that the Fund would be very glad to receive further bequests and donations. It was very difficult to get members of the medical profession to subscribe to the medical charities. Ten years ago he had discovered that elementary school teachers subscribed to their charities an average of 7s. 6d. per head, while doctors subscribed only 2s. 6d. to theirs. He made up his mind then that the Association must try to do something in the matter. It was difficult to get men to read circulars or other appeals, and he thought it was necessary to depend upon individual effort. He did not think much of what might be called "mass charity," which he did not consider charity at all. He wanted people to put their hands into their pockets and give something that would mean a real sacrifice on their part. He felt very proud that at the end of his official connexion with the Association a gathering such as the present one was being held, and he was especially glad to see Sir Thomas Barlow in the chair.

On the motion of Sir D'ARCY POWER, seconded by Mr. W. McADAM ECCLES, a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the chairman and speakers.

THE CENTENARY MEETING

ADDRESSES FROM LEARNED AND PROFESSIONAL BODIES

Many of the delegates from medical and scientific bodies, kindred associations, and the universities attending the Centenary Meeting brought with them addresses from their respective corporations. In some cases, from the universities particularly, the address was a noteworthy example, not only of cordial sentiments, but of the illuminator's art. Needless to say, all the addresses will be carefully preserved as historical treasures at the Association's House.

Cambridge University sent by the hand of its delegate, Sir Humphry Rolleston, an address in Latin as follows:

"Certiores sumus facti praeteriisse centum iam annos ex quo Societas vestra constituta est, et vobis ex animo gratulamur non tantum quod post saeculum tot mutationibus plenum viget adhuc collegium vestrum sed magis quod inter tantos progressus in studiis medicis factos partem semper habuistis insignem. Nunquam intra centum annos, ut credimus, tanta sunt scientiae adlata incrementa, nunquam plus floruit inventio, dum secreta sua gaudet Natura videre patefacta, dum e domibus nostris tam saepe expellitur dolor, reducitur sanitas, confirmatur vita, adduntur anni. Si vera dixit Homerus

εἰς ἡγήρας ἀνὴρ πολλῶν ἀντάξιός ἄλλων,

quanto rectius nos artem vestram celebrabimus tot tantisque laeti beneficiis! Vobis ergo omnia precamur fausta et felicia quo semper novis inventis gaudeatis augeaturque salus Britannica, et delegamus Humphredum Rolleston Baronettum, Medicinae Professorem Regium, qui caerimoniis vestris lactus intersit."

From the University of Wales came the following address, signed by the Vice-Chancellor:

"Magno cum gaudio accepimus, viri illustrissimi, vos annum centesimum a prima institutione vestra mox esse celebraturos.

"Quis enim ignorat quot et qualia beneficia vestra Societas hominibus attulerit, sive Scientiam sic propagatam, sive Mores protectos sive Medicinam ipsam in rebus publicis privatisque promotam respexerit?

"Medicina hodie nullius est patrimonium gentis: sed ceterae gentes nostratibus optimo iure ob hanc rem invident studentque.

"Quare his litteris commendamus vobis ALFREDUM GULIELMUM SHEEN, Imperii Britannici Comitem, Chirurgiae Magistrum, Collegii Medicinae Cambrensis Professorem atque Praepositum, ut nostra erga vos studia et admirationem repraesentet!"

Professor Thomas Fraser, from the University of Aberdeen, bore an address which read:

"We have watched with interest the changing conditions of medical practice during this period (the last hundred years), and have admired the spirit of altruism which has always guided the Association in its attitude towards the duties of the private physician in the community and in what he owes to the State. We consider that the maintenance of the high ethical standards which characterize medical practice in Great Britain is largely to be accredited to its influence."

The address concluded by recalling the fact that it was at Aberdeen where the Association was meeting in 1914 when the outbreak of war peremptorily stopped its sessions.

The Royal Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow, whose delegate was Dr. R. B. Ness, sent the following:

"This ancient Faculty has watched with great interest the growth of the British Medical Association since its institution in 1832, and the Fellows are confident that the power and influence which it is now able to exercise will continue to be used in promoting the advance of medical science, in safeguarding the interests of the medical profession, and in maintaining and furthering the well-being of the subjects of the British Empire."