NOTES

ON

SOME GERMAN UNIVERSITIES.

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AND

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I.—THE UNIVERSITY OF STRASSBURG.

(Continued.)

The Physiological Chemical Laboratory; Construction and Arrangements; Blowpipe; Water-Vacuum Filter.—Library.—Professor Hoppe-Seyler.—Work in the Laboratory.—The Anatomical Institute; Construction.—Dissecting.—Professor Schwalbe.—The Medical Reading Room.

SITUATED on the east side of the pathological laboratory, and separated from it by a large grass enclosure, is the fine institute of Professor Hoppe-Seyler. Planned by the professor himself, and fitted up with every convenience for the pursuit of the science of physiological chemistry, this laboratory offers, perhaps, one of the greatest attractions in the whole University to a man seeking opportunities for original research. The building itself consists of a long central block and two large wings, the latter containing the laboratories. The main entrance is situated in the centre of the building, and there is a private door in each wing allowing of direct access to its laboratory. A long passage runs the whole length of the central block, and serves as a means of communication between the two laboratories and the various rooms upon the ground floor.

Passing in at the main entrance, and proceeding along the passage to the left, we notice in succession the lecture theatre, the storeroom, the professor's private laboratory, the *bureau*, and lastly, the special laboratory. This latter is a fine room, situated in the north wing, and offering accommodation for a dozen investigators. The benches are about eight feet long, and are arranged parallel to each other, a convenient amount of space being left between them. Each bench is supplied with its own set of reagents, several lamps and burners of various shapes and sizes, and an excellently arranged water supply. Beneath it are numerous cupboards and drawers, where any special apparatus or material can be kept under lock and key.

Between the large windows are numerous shelves containing the more rarely used reagents, while each corner of the room is occupied by a stink-cupboard of considerable dimensions, and the whole room is warmed by hot-water pipes and excellently lighted.

Among some of the appliances in general use is a large blow-pipe, worked by hydraulic mechanism, by means of which a platinum crucible can be maintained for almost any length of time at high temperature, without the necessity of any exertion on the part of the operator. The waste heat of the water pipes is utilised in warming a series of small metal chambers, an arrangement exceedingly convenient for the drying, or maintaining at a uniform temperature, of precipitates or other manufactured material. Attached to the laboratory are several smaller rooms, some of which contain the glass and porcelain, and others the metal apparatus for use in the special laboratory. In one of these there is a large water-vacuum filter, the pipe from which, some thirty feet in length, passes through the flooring into a cellar. The advantage of this method of quick filtration is obvious; instead of being obliged to wait hour after hour while a tenacious fluid is slowly filtering, one has merely to connect the tube of the bottle with the filter, turn on the water, and in a few minutes the operation is satisfactorily performed. In addition to this large filter for general use, each bench is supplied with one of a smaller size, capable of being connected or disconnected at pleasure.

The library is a large and well-lighted room, situated upon the first floor, and immediately above the special laboratory. It contains an extensive and valuable collection of works upon chemistry and physiological chemistry, as well as most German and foreign periodicals relating to the science, these latter being regularly bound and arranged in series. The room is always open for study, and with the permission of the first assistant, books may be borrowed from it for a week or more. Adjoining the library is another large laboratory set apart for the study of practical hygiene; here demonstrations are given twice a week by the pro-

fessor, and are largely attended by men from all parts of the empire.

The "general laboratory" is situated in the southern wing of the building and, though considerably larger, is fitted up in exactly the same manner as the special one. It is here that the student works daily during his fifth or sixth *semester*, the practical work being regulated by a definite scheme, and corresponding weekly with the subject of the lectures.

Beneath the ground floor are a series of cellars, some of which are used for preserving material at a low temperature, while others again are fitted with numerous forms of stoves, by means of which specimens may be maintained for weeks or months at a definite temperature, without lumbering up the laboratory with cumbrous apparatus.

The special laboratory is open only to those who are pursuing some original line of work, either of their own choosing or selected for them by the professor; hence to obtain a place in it it is necessary either to get the professor's approval of some original scheme, or else to accept and work out a subject suggested by him; a small fee to the laboratory and the matriculation fee to the University being sufficient to cover all the ordinary expenses. During the whole period of work the professor is always ready to demonstrate and to help any pupil to the utmost of his ability, and no day passes in which he does not personally inspect the progress of each individual piece of work. At the completion of the study, the student lays his results before the professor, who considers them and, should they be worth publishing, will suggest the scheme of the article. When it is finished he will himself revise it and often attend to its publication, either in his own *Archives for Physiological Chemistry*, or in some other scientific journal.

Situated, as the laboratory is, in close proximity to the hospital and *post-mortem* room, from both of which material can be obtained to any extent, the opportunities for original work in connection with the important relations of chemistry to medicine and pathology are unbounded, and we should doubt whether similar opportunities could be found in any other university in Europe.

The general laboratory, as before mentioned, is set apart for students commencing the study of physiological chemistry; but it is also available to strangers, on condition that they matriculate. This is a mere question of paying a guinea, unless they have previously matriculated in another university, in which case it is half a guinea, with the addition of the laboratory fee of about 40s. The first assistant, Dr. Thierfelder, is always present to give personal instruction, and the professor himself daily inspects the progress of each student, and explains any special difficulty that may arise. Since the day, now nearly thirty years ago, when he established the first physiologico-chemical laboratory in Germany, Professor Hoppe-Seyler has been the acknowledged leader in a science which he may almost be said to have founded; hence any attempt to describe his position in the scientific world might well seem superfluous. Not only, however, as an author, but also as a teacher, is Professor Hoppe-Seyler undoubtedly pre-eminent; always genial in manner, and never considering his time too valuable to help a pupil, even in the most trivial mechanical details, it is not to be wondered at that his name should be so popular and respected among the students as it is among those who can estimate more fully the benefits he has conferred upon the scientific world.

Well received as strangers always are in the University, the kindness of Professor Hoppe-Seyler towards Englishmen is almost proverbial there. Himself a thorough student of English literature, he welcomes and helps to his utmost ability any man coming to him with a determination to do good work, and, it may truthfully be said that no man has ever left him without having deep cause for gratitude to, and profound admiration for, one who may well be considered one of Germany's greatest men.

Space will permit only of a very brief note of the anatomical institute of Professor Schwalbe. Forming, as has already been described, the other half of the pathological institute, the two have a large common lecture theatre. The general construction, as seen by reference to the plan given in speaking of the pathological department, consists of a larger and a smaller dissecting-room situated in the south-east angle of the building, the two being in free communication, while a series of smaller preparation rooms, together with those of the director and his assistant, lie on either side of these. The chief feature of the dissecting room is that it is lighted by numerous side windows,

and not by skylights, so that the students sit in the windows and dissect. There is an almost unlimited supply of material, and so the parts are separated as early as possible, and each after the day's work is placed in a large tank with spirit. With the parts themselves, only one is used for one system; thus the arteries are dissected out in one arm, the veins in another, and the nerves in still another, and finally, the muscles and ligaments in a fresh one. The viscera, both thoracic and abdominal, are taken out *en masse*, and then dissected. Professor Schwalbe and his assistant, Professor Joessel, are always present demonstrating personally to the students. Of the painstaking attention of Professor Schwalbe, it is superfluous to write, and his name is too well-known among anatomists to make it needful to praise his work. Anatomical literature, especially that relating to the nervous system, bears ample testimony to his fame. Numerous models stand about for the students to study and work at, as well as a series of frozen sections of different regions of the body, for the demonstration of the intimate relations of the parts.

While Professor Schwalbe gives a course of lectures, and takes charge of the men who are dissecting the muscles, ligaments, viscera, etc., Professor Joessel gives lectures on topographical anatomy and practical instruction in neurology and angiography.

We must not leave this institute without mentioning the medical reading-room situated on the ground floor, where the current numbers of the chief medical and scientific papers of every nation can be read. This is open to the students from 8 A.M. to 8 P.M., and on Sundays during rather shorter hours.

REPRESENTATION OF THE MEDICAL STAFF ON HOSPITAL BOARDS.

CONTEST AT THE GERMAN HOSPITAL, DALSTON.

THE annual meeting of the governors and subscribers to the German Hospital was held on February 7th at Cannon Street Hotel. There was a very large attendance. The meeting had been looked forward to with unusual interest, owing to a notice which had been given by the honorary medical staff to move that two of their number be added to the Committee.

On the motion of Dr. HESS, seconded by Dr. JAMES HASSLACHER, Baron Von Schroeder was unanimously voted to the chair.

Some preliminary business having been transacted, the annual report and balance sheet were laid before the meeting.—The report was adopted.

The vacancy in the post of Honorary Physician to the West End Dispensary, caused by the regretted resignation of Dr. Castañeda owing to ill health, was filled by the election of Dr. Ernest Groth.

Mr. RICHARD HILGERS moved, and Mr. EMIL TEICHMANN seconded, that the Committee be reappointed, and that Mr. Alexander Siemens and Dr. Hermann Weber be appointed members to fill vacancies.

Sir POLYDORE DE KEYSER said they should first deal with the notice of motion to alter Rule 15 so as to provide for the annual election of two of the honorary medical staff as delegates on the Committee.

The CHAIRMAN said they should first elect the eighteen members of the Committee.

Sir POLYDORE DE KEYSER said he understood the two medical men were proposed to make up the eighteen.

The CHAIRMAN said this was a mistake. The resolution clearly stated that the Committee in future should consist of eighteen members elected by the governors, and two medical officers elected by the medical board.

An amendment was ruled out of order, and the resolution was declared carried.

Dr. GEORGE LICHTENBERG, in moving the resolution to alter Rule 15, said that he was deputed by the whole active medical staff of the German Hospital, with but one dissentient voice, to bring forward a motion of the greatest importance for assisting to increase the usefulness of the institution, namely, for the proper representation of the honorary active medical staff on the Committee. In the working of a hospital the medical man was a most important, if not the most important, factor to accomplish this object. Up to the present, however, the Committee, consisting of eighteen members, did not number one medical man amongst them, and yet this Committee was entrusted with the whole management of the institution. There was the Medical Board; but the Medical Board had broken down

for many years past, and had shown itself utterly useless. Even those of their medical colleagues, past and present, who did not now agree with their motion, were in accord with them on that point. An attempt had been made latterly to bring the Committee into closer touch with the medical staff. The honorary medical officers were invited once a month to be present at a meeting of the Board of Management, but this monthly meeting had no voting power, and was merely a deliberating council. He could not therefore blame some of his colleagues who never attended these meetings out of principle, considering them perfectly useless. The medical staff wished to be informed officially as to what was going on in the Committee with regard to medical matters, and had come to the conclusion that the only way to get out of the difficulties was by choosing two men from among themselves as delegates to be added to the existing Committee. From perusing the reports of other metropolitan hospitals he found (1) that the total number of metropolitan hospitals where such medical representation existed was 63 per cent.; (2) taking those hospitals which were of the best repute (special and general hospitals), the proportion was 76 per cent.; (3) taking the special hospitals of the same class the proportion was 85 per cent., in which there was direct representation of the medical staff upon the Committee. This, he thought, would satisfy the meeting that not they alone, but medical men of other institutions, had clearly seen the urgent necessity that the medical staff should be represented upon the governing board. Everywhere it was felt that the usefulness of a hospital was hampered continually unless members of the active medical staff worked side by side with the Committee. He wished to lay particular stress on the word "active," for it had been shown over and over again that the plan of giving to retired medical officers seats on the Committee had failed. In November the medical officers at the German Hospital sent a letter to the Committee requesting that the matter might be laid before the next general court. They applied to the Committee in the first case, as a matter of courtesy, but this consideration was not appreciated by the Committee, for they received, a few days afterwards, merely a reply couched in very curt terms, and concluding with the words "that the Committee had resolved not to entertain the proposal put forward." They replied to the Committee, therefore, that they reserved to themselves the right of full liberty of action whenever they thought it expedient to bring the matter forward again. The time had now arrived for them to appeal to the governors. They now merely wished to have a voice and vote the same as any other member of the Committee.

Dr. ADOLPHUS RASCH said he had served now for 33 years as honorary medical officer, and he seconded the motion. It was usual, he said, to have medical men represented in the hospitals in Germany. He considered the step proposed was a very wise one. There were matters which the kindest heart and the shrewdest head could not deal with unless aided by special knowledge and experience.

Mr. JACOB, Chairman of the Board of Management, said the resolution was uncalled for and presumptuous. (There was a great uproar at this point, and loud cries were raised for Mr. Jacob to withdraw the word "presumptuous.")

The CHAIRMAN called for order, and said Mr. Jacob had no wish to offend anybody.

Mr. JACOB, without withdrawing, said the gentlemen of the Medical Board were at loggerheads among themselves, and were agitating regardless of the material injury they were doing.

Mr. HERMANN GULICH also spoke against the resolution. He said he had had twenty years' experience, and knew every detail of the hospital. Hitherto not only the governors, but also the medical staff, had acknowledged the satisfactory management of the Committee, and the public held the German Hospital in very high esteem. The number of patients was increasing, and the financial position was good. The resolution, moreover, did not represent the views of all the Medical Board (A voice: "All except Dr. Port"), and if the rule were once introduced there might come a time—and it was sure to come—when it might work detrimentally to the interests of the hospital. He earnestly requested the governors present to leave well alone, and to give the Committee a vote of confidence by a large majority against the resolution.

After some remarks from Dr. TEICHMANN and Mr. HERTZ, the CHAIRMAN said he was perfectly unbiassed, but he begged to warn them. The hospital had prospered under Rule 15, and he advised them not to change it. If they did they would sow the seeds of discord. He admitted it was a good thing to have medi-

cal officers on the Board, but whether paid or honorary they should not sit on the Board while on the active staff, because they could not sit in judgment upon themselves. They did not see the officers of a public company sitting upon the board of management. They had elected one medical man on the Committee that day who stood as high as anybody—Dr. Weber, who had retired from practising at the hospital. If they passed the resolution now brought forward it was next to a vote of censure upon the Committee. He begged the meeting, before deciding to alter Rule 15, to consider it at home and come again. Let them at present, however, reject it.

The resolution was at this point put to the meeting, and the CHAIRMAN, after counting hands, said there were 93 for the resolution and 88 against. The result was received with loud cheers by the supporters of the resolution.

A poll was subsequently demanded by some members of the Committee, and the CHAIRMAN stated that it would take place that day three weeks, at 2 o'clock, at the Cannon Street Hotel.

THE HEALTH OF THE NAVY.

In the Statistical Report of the Health of the Navy for the year 1888, which has just been issued, we are pleased to find substantial evidence of continuous improvement in the sanitary condition of the sea service. For, while the total number of cases of disease and injury, furnishing a ratio of 987.4 per 1,000 of mean force, is the lowest shown during the past thirty-three years, the ratio of invalidings is much lower than that recorded for any year subsequent to 1856, and the death-rate of 5.71 per 1,000 is the lowest which has ever been noted in these reports. These figures are satisfactory in every way, and go far to illustrate the skill and devotion to duty with which our naval surgeons, under disadvantageous conditions, carry on the interminable conflict with disease and death.

We observe that in a total force of 50,060 officers and men the average number of sick daily was in the ratio of 41.96 per 1,000, being a decrease of 2.26 per 1,000 in comparison with the average of the last ten years. The total number of persons invalided was in the ratio of 25.28 per 1,000, a decrease of 10.7 per 1,000 compared with the average of the same period of time; and the ratio of deaths shows a decrease of 3.6 on the average of the last ten years. The total number of deaths was 286, of which number 198 were due to disease and 88 to injury.

The lowest sick-rate, of 28.56 per 1,000, of men sick daily was on the south-east coast of America, and the highest, of 54.89, on the East Indian Station. The home station shows a ratio of 40.16; the Mediterranean, 40.04; North America and West Indies, 39.2; Pacific, 37.66; West Coast of Africa and Cape of Good Hope, 42.43; China, 50.44; Australia, 34.8; and in the irregular force, 46.55.

With reference to the comparatively large number of 19 cases of small-pox, of which 13 occurred in China, 4 on the home and 2 on the Medi erranean stations, the Deputy Inspector-General observes that at the end of 1887 and beginning of 1888 small-pox is stated to have been epidemic at Hong Kong; that, with one exception, the cases were mild, bore evidence of vaccination and revaccination of a recent date, and all returned to duty. In 1886 means were adopted on the China Station to secure the revaccination of all officers and men in the fleet who had not been successfully revaccinated during the previous seven years, and this precaution had been taken annually since. It appeared, however, that the marine who died had but recently arrived at Hong Kong from England, and had not been revaccinated since 1870, when he joined the service, thus strikingly illustrating the benefits of vaccination and revaccination, not only with regard to the protection afforded to the complements of the ships in which this highly-infectious disease appeared, but also by the low rate of mortality among those attacked. It is also noteworthy that in the fatal case, as in the most severe of those that recovered, there was no satisfactory evidence of successful revaccination, the necessity for which, and even for a second revaccination, as recently carried out on the China Station, is from year to year more apparent.

Under the head of Primary Syphilis there is an increase of 5.73 per 1,000, and, under that of the secondary form, of 4.26 per 1,000, when this year's ratios are compared with those of the previous ten years.

Of the 9 deaths from suicide, 3 were by hanging, 3 by shooting, 1 by cut throat, and 2 by poison.

The Report—a valuable and interesting one, as showing the results of improved methods of dealing with the ailments and in-

juries incident to the naval service—is compiled with the intelligent care to be expected from Deputy Inspector-General Turnbull, to whose labours we are mainly indebted for it; and we have the greater satisfaction in thus referring to that gentleman in that his name is, for some inscrutable reason at variance with commendable and graceful precedent, rigorously excluded from its pages.

MEDICINE AND PUBLIC HYGIENE IN PARLIAMENT.

THE Queen's Speech on opening Parliament contains the following paragraphs.

"There will be laid before you Bills for the consolidation and amendment of the laws with respect to public health in the metropolis, and to the dwellings of the working classes; and also a Bill for the better regulation of savings banks and friendly societies.

"Your attention will be directed to the state of the accommodation now provided in camps and barracks, and you will be asked to make better provision for the distribution as well as for the health and comfort of my troops."

We have already called attention to the urgent need that exists for such a measure, and pointed out that Mr. Ritchie was only prevented last year from proposing legislation on the subject by the fact that Parliament was so fully occupied with the consideration of other business that no fitting opportunity offered; that he had forwarded to the various vestries and district boards in the metropolis, to the London County Council, and to the Society of Medical Officers of Health, drafts of the proposed Bill, with a request for observations and suggestions thereon. In the JOURNAL of February 8th we stated that the Bill in question is mainly a consolidation one, with some of the most useful clauses of the Public Health Act, 1875 (which hitherto has not applied to London) included in it, and expressed the hope that the Bill would be laid before Parliament at an early date, so as to afford ample time for the consideration of its provisions.

The following notices of new Bills have been given:—

Mr. BYRON REED: That day four weeks to call attention to the question of factory inspection, and to move a resolution.

Mr. ISAACSON: Bill to amend the law relating to the sanitation of houses.

Sir J. PEASE: To move a resolution dealing with the opium trade and the manufacture of the drug by the Indian Government.

Dr. FARQUHARSON: Bill for the sanitary registration of build-ings.

Mr. DIXON-HARTLAND: To move for a Royal Commission to inquire and report on the action of the London School Board in connection with its sites and buildings, and also with regard to the irregularities which are alleged to have taken place both in the purchase of sites and the erection of buildings.

The following Bills were introduced on Wednesday and read a first time:—

Mr. STUART: Bill to provide for the better housing of the working classes in the metropolis.

Mr. O. V. MORGAN: Bill for enabling the County Council of London to introduce new supplies of water into the metropolis, and to acquire the rights of existing water companies.

Mr. BAUMANN: Bill to amend the Factory and Workshop Act, 1878.

Mr. H. PEASE: Bill to provide for the registration of midwives.

Mr. BOARD: Bill to amend the Contagious Diseases (Animals) Acts, 1878 and 1884.

Mr. COBB: Bill to reform parish vestries and to enable them to elect parish councils, with powers as to allotments, charities, the restriction of the sale of intoxicating liquors, outdoor relief of the poor, the management of elementary schools, and other matters, and to amend the Allotments Act, 1887.

Mr. A. THOMAS: Bill to amend the Poor Law, and to protect the property of the poor.

Mr. O'HANLON: Bill to amend the law relating to University education in Ireland.

Mr. F. STEVENSON: Bill to amend the Poisoned Flesh Prohibition Act.

Mr. MILVAIN: Bill to amend and consolidate the law relating to corporal punishment.

Mr. KNOWLES: Bill to prevent the spread of infectious disease.

Mr. STEPHENS: Bill to enable the local authorities to deal separately with the sewage and the drainage of their district.

Mr. OSBORNE MORGAN: Bill further to amend the burial laws.

Mr. QUILTER and Sir E. BIRKBECK: Bills for better securing purity of beer.

Mr. F. POWELL: Bill to amend the Public Health Acts.

Captain VERNY: Bill to amend the law relating to the election of guardians of the poor.

Mr. W. H. SMITH, in his speech on Wednesday, referring to the proposed public health legislation of the session, said: We have a measure prepared for applying district councils to England, and a measure for applying district councils to Scotland, and there is no reason why, if the right hon. gentleman and hon. gentlemen opposite would give assistance in the progress of measures which have not a party or a political purpose, such measures should not become law in the course of the session.

THE PROVINCIAL COLLEGES AND THE RECONSTRUCTION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.

AN important deputation, representing the Yorkshire College, the Durham College of Science, Firth College, Sheffield; Mason College, Birmingham; University College, Nottingham; and the three University Colleges of Wales, was introduced to the Lord President of the Council, on February 12th, by Mr. R. CHAMBERLAIN, M.P. The introducer stated that the deputation was not actuated by any feeling of jealousy of the London University, but objected to the "provincialising" of what had hitherto been a national institution, and putting its management entirely into the hands of the London Colleges.

Dr. PERCIVAL (head-master of Rugby) dwelt on the fact that the Royal Commission had been equally divided, and that it had not examined any witnesses from the provincial colleges. He quoted statistics showing that those colleges sent up as many, or more, candidates for intermediate examinations in science and arts and for the degrees of B.A. and B.Sc., and with at least as much success as the London colleges. The provincial colleges had, therefore, a right to be heard as to any scheme which would modify the London University as at present existing, which, as an examining body, had done magnificent work. The provincial colleges might very fairly object to be placed under the complete control of the Senate of the proposed reconstituted University without having any voice in its management.

Professor TILDEN, of Mason Science College, argued in favour of the *status quo*, and Professor ANDREW GREY, of the Bangor University College, said that the London University was the only body to which provincial colleges had now to look for the stamp or seal of the education offered in their institutions.

Professor SORBY, of Cardiff University College, and Professor LAWSON TAIT also spoke against any interference with the present constitution of the London University.

Lord CRANBROOK, in reply, said that the various arguments laid before him would be carefully considered. Having passed in review the various opinions expressed by the spokesmen of the deputation, he said that the time was approaching when the whole question would come before him for final decision. He was much indebted to the gentlemen connected with the provincial colleges for laying their views before him, and was glad also to observe the good work they were doing throughout the country. In any decision he might give his object would be to give an impulse and rise to those colleges rather than to depress them. The object in view was that the general education of England should be put on a high footing; but it must be remembered that the Commissioners were unanimous on one point—that there ought to be some teaching university for the vast metropolis.

TENTH INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL CONGRESS.

The work of the Congress at Berlin will be carried on by eighteen different sections. The members are asked to declare upon enrolment to which section or sections they intend more particularly to attach themselves. The following is a list of the sections, with the names and addresses of the managing members of each:—(1) Anatomy: Hertwig, Maassenstr. 34; (2) Physiology: Du Bois-Reymond, Neue Wilhelmstr. 15; (3) General Pathology and Patho-

logical Anatomy: Virchow, Schellingstr. 10; (4) Pharmacology: Liebreich, Dorotheenstrasse 34A; (5) Internal Medicine: Leyden, Thiergartenstrasse 14; (6) Diseases of Children: Henoch, Bellevuestr. 8; (7) Surgery: v. Bergmann, Alexander-Ufer 1; (8) Obstetrics and Gynaecology: Martin, Moltkestr. 2; (9) Neurology: Laehr, Berlin-Zehlendorf; (10) Ophthalmology: Schweigger, Roonstr. 6; (11) Otology: Lucæ, Lützowplatz 9; (12) Laryngology: B. Fränkel, Neustädtische Kirchstr. 12; (13) Dermatology and Syphilography: Lassar, Karlstr. 19; (14) Diseases of the Teeth: Busch, Alexander Ufer 6; (15) Hygiene, Pistor, v. d. Heydstr. 13; (16) Medical Geography and Climatology (History and Statistics): A. Hirsch, Potsdamerstrasse 113; (17) State Medicine: Liman, Königgrätzerstrasse 46A; (18) Military Hygiene: Krockner, Magdeburger Platz 3. Introductory addresses in the sections must, as a rule, not exceed twenty minutes in length, and ten minutes will be allowed to each speaker in the discussions. All addresses and papers and the substance of the remarks made in the discussions must be handed over to the secretaries in writing before the end of the sitting. The Editorial Committee will decide to what extent these contributions shall be included in the printed *Transactions*. The official languages of all the sittings will be German, English, and French. The subscription to the Congress is £1, or 20 marks. Communications or inquiries regarding the business of the sections must be addressed to the managing members thereof (given above); all other communications to the General Secretary, Dr. Lassar, 19, Karlstrasse.

REPORTS OF MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH.

ST. PANCRAS (Population, 244,200).—*Peculiarities of Typhoid, Scarlet Fever, and Diphtheria: Measles*.—A new feature of Dr. John Sykes's report is the insertion of a large scale map of his district, showing, by means of spots of various colours, the prevalence and fatality of zymotic diseases. The proximity of the blocks of houses and the narrowness of the intervening spaces give an approximate idea of the density of population and its distribution. It is noticeable that typhoid has definite centres on the map, thus marking the insanitary condition of the drainage of certain areas; that scarlatina shows its most characteristic peculiarity of rapidly spreading from person to person and house to house by personal contact; and that diphtheria manifests a peculiar affinity for the higher-lying districts. The zymotic death-rate, however, for 1888 was less than that for 1887, in consequence of a diminished mortality from scarlatina, diarrhoea, and whooping-cough. Measles and diphtheria showed a decided increase, the former disease being seriously epidemic, in spite of elimination from school of all children affected or coming from infected houses, and the exercise of strict vigilance. Dr. Sykes considers it is very doubtful whether the closing of schools is of much value in the case of measles, as an epidemic rapidly expends itself, and by the time it has been found necessary to close the schools is generally on the wane. He has found that the very young children not attending school were a fertile source of the disease. On comparing the statistics of St. Pancras for 1888 with those of former years it is found that the death-rate of 1888 (18.9 per 1,000) is by far the lowest on record, and that the birth-rate is decreasing year by year.

WELLINGBOROUGH RURAL (Population, 24,760).—*Decreased Zymotic Mortality*.—The annual report for 1888 is satisfactory in that Mr. J. Howell Thomas is able to record a slight reduction in the general death-rate—14.5 against 14.9 per 1,000 in the previous year—and a considerably diminished mortality from zymotic disease. The general character of the epidemics of the year was mild and their fatality small. Whooping-cough headed the list with 8 deaths, whilst typhoid fever caused 7 deaths; diphtheria and scarlet fever caused 2 each; measles and diarrhoea 1 each. For the sixth year in succession no case of small-pox occurred. Improvement in the sanitary circumstances of the district has been secured in various directions. Weekly scavenging is in vogue in several of the villages with satisfactory results, and defects in the system have been observed and remedied. Drainage defects have been removed with the important result in one case of protecting the wells in the surrounding neighbourhood. Building by-laws are in operation in the growing localities, and seem to be duly enforced. It would be well if this matter were more carefully attended to throughout the country generally.