ZEISS'S MICROPHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS.

(*Grundriss der Bakterienkunde*) and of numerous special treatises on the various branches of that science. More recently, much has been done by Dr. R. Pfeiffer on the micro-photography of micro-organisms. This gentleman, in conjunction with Dr. Fränkel, is bringing out a very complete atlas of photography of micro-organisms, several parts of which have already appeared. Some of the special points in the structure of the micro-photographic apparatus of Drs. Fränkel and Pfeiffer are that the microscope can lie in a horizontal position, and the camera with the plate is placed not over, but behind the microscope, and so is placed on a second support in the horizontal prolongation of the same.

Placed in front of the microscope, and in the same plane, is a contrivance to regulate the amount of light for the object, and act as a substitute for the mirror, which in the prone position of the instrument is not applicable. The three most important parts of the micro-photographic apparatus, namely, the illumination contrivance, the microscope with its appurtenances, and the camera are all arranged in one plane, and are all in immediate connection and placed in a most convenient manner. Various kinds of artificial light, such as limelight, lamps, magnesium, etc., are employed, but for very high powers and stained preparations sunlight is far superior.

THE MANDRAKE.¹

By WILLIAM WYNN WESTCOTT, M.B.LOND.

THE true mandrake plant, *Mandragora officinalis* or *Atropa mandragora*, was used to prepare a medicine by many of the peoples of the ancient world; notably by the various races dwelling in Asia Minor, by the Greeks and Egyptians. In mediæval times the nations of Europe recognised its medicinal properties. The plant is indigenous to Palestine and Syria, and is occasionally found in Eastern Turkey and Asia Minor.

The root represented in the accompanying drawing is several years old, and is quite dry. It exhibits very well the curious resemblance to the human form, which has made a further interest in the plant, and which gave rise in remote ages to the assertions of magical power and virtues in sorcery. The ancients laid much stress on the doctrine of correspondences, and they argued that this human-like root must have special attributes as regards man, and hence this root became used as an amulet or talisman, and ladies valued it as a love philtre.

The Hebrew name is *dudaim*, or "love fruit," and the reference to Genesis, cap. xxx, where Reuben, the son of Leah, finds man-

drakes in a field at the time of harvest (April) is known to all. Rachel consents to resign Jacob in exchange for the mandrakes, and Leah said to Jacob: "I have hired thee with my son's mandrakes." The birth of Issachar follows, a name which means in Hebrew hire or wages.

This root comes from Damascus, and is a very striking example of how much the plant may represent a man's form. Of course, all roots are not like this one, but there is a curious tendency to send off two lateral branches above and to end in two limbs below. There are often, also, the constrictions suggesting the neck and waist. The root of the white bryony of England, a cucurbitaceous plant, is sometimes fudged up by dealers to imitate the mandrake root; but I guarantee the genuineness of this sample, which is not carved out, but when green it may have been pressed a little into shape before being allowed to dry.

From a specimen lent by Mr. Martindale.

The plant belongs to Solanaceæ, and is a near connection of the potato; the root is perennial; there is no stem; from the crown springs a cluster of radical leaves which are entire, wavy, ovate; among them there springs up a flower-stalk, or several, each with one bell-shaped five-lobed corolla. The fruit is a berry, nutmeg-sized and of orange colour. The flowers are mostly white, and have a full scent, but there are varieties with dusky flowers and unpleasant smell.

¹ Read at a meeting of the North London District of the Metropolitan Counties Branch.

The plant is mentioned by several of the classical authors; by Pliny, A.D. 100; by Theophrastus, *History of Plants*, B.C. 350; by Ælian, Columella, Isidorus and Serapion, and by Dioscorides. The celebrated Sir Thomas Browne, M.D., 1650, the author of *Religio Medici*, wrote a long essay upon the mandrake, and repeats all the old traditions concerning it, such as the danger of pulling it up, the use of a dog for the purpose, the shriek which it gives when uprooted, and its aphrodisiac virtues. Shakespeare mentions it in *Romeo and Juliet*, *Cleopatra*, *Macbeth*, and *Othello*. Gerard, in his well-known *Herbal*, 1597, refers to the use of the plant in olden times. The ancients used the leaves as a poultice to relieve pain and swelling; they boiled them with milk; they made a wine of mandragora, and also administered the powdered root as a narcotic to relieve pain, and to produce a stupor for the performance of surgical operations.

Dr. B. W. Richardson, in his *Asclepiad* for the second quarter of 1888, claims to have recently made some wine of mandragora, and that for the first time since the thirteenth century. The old wine was prepared from half a pound of root bark digested in nine gallons of wine, and is reputed to have a very similar effect to that of chloral hydrate. Dr. Richardson made some experiments on animals, and obtained anodyne effects, and some local anæsthesia; when tasted, a numbing effect is produced on the tongue. He noticed the peculiar fact that alcohol takes up less virtue from the root than water does.

Some years since, a crystallised alkaloid was separated, and named "mandragorina."² The sulphate is a mydriatic, and has narcotic action; it has a close relation to atropine and hyoscyamine, but it has never come into general use, and has only very rarely been experimented with.

THE PROPOSED HOSPITAL FOR THE STUDY OF INSANITY.

At the meeting of the London County Council on March 11th Mr. R. BRUDENELL CARTER, Chairman of the Special Committee on a Hospital for the Insane, submitted the following recommendations of the Committee: "1. That an adequately-equipped hospital, containing 100 beds, for the study and curative treatment of insanity in pauper lunatics of both sexes be established in the metropolis, and that it be under the direction and control of the Council. 2. That the staff and general organisation of the hospital should be in accordance with the principles laid down in the preceding report. 3. That a committee (which should be a sub-committee of the Asylums Committee) be appointed in order to carry the foregoing recommendations into effect, and to report their proceedings to the Council from time to time as may be required."

Dr. COOPER moved as an amendment: "That the consideration of the report be adjourned for six months, and that it be referred to the Asylums Committee for consideration and report. He urged that before embarking on what was at the best but an experiment that would cost £5,000 per annum—some competent persons said £10,000—it should be proved that the medical authorities had not other means of educating medical students than by a hospital paid for out of the rates. The report stated that "medical students have practically no place to study diseases of the brain." But there were two large hospitals in London—Bethlem and St. Luke's. Bethlem had a pathologist and a visiting staff of specialists. St. Luke's had a visiting staff composed of the assistant physicians of St. Bartholomew's. They had 300 and 100 beds respectively. A hospital of 100 beds would not be large enough, as the number of students who ought to attend would be 250. The Committee claimed that the building of the hospital would enable them to treat the disease in its incipient stages. It was also said that the use of the word hospital instead of asylum would enable the patients to be visited by their friends. But the Lunacy Act compelled them to call it an asylum, the term hospital being only applicable to institutions which were endowed or supported voluntarily. Patients could only be admitted to an asylum by certificate, and no one would dare to sign such a certificate unless the patient were really insane. Patients' friends, too, strongly opposed their removal until they were dangerous, or, at least, very troublesome. The report attacked the administrative functions of the management and of the medical officers of the asylums, yet it afforded no remedy. Out of all the eminent

gentlemen the Committee consulted, only two—Sir C. Brown and Dr. Batty Tuke—had had any real connection with asylums.

Dr. BOTT seconded the amendment, and contended that there was universal dissatisfaction by medical men at the manner in which the Committee had selected their witnesses. Although it was said that the cost would be £350 per bed, he did not think it would be less than £700 or £800.

Mr. AUSTIN urged the absolute necessity of the proposed hospital. There were about 10,000 pauper lunatics in London for whom nothing medically was being done.

Dr. PARKER YOUNG said the important question of the locality of the hospital had not been discussed.

Mr. CARR-GOMM spoke generally in support of the recommendations. It was generally felt throughout the country by the medical profession that the science with regard to lunacy was to a considerable extent at a standstill. And it was to remove that—to make the science, if it possibly could, advance—that it was proposed to establish, by the Council, a hospital.

Mr. MARTINEAU stated that the evidence of fifty-five superintendents had been taken by the Committee in writing, and they were mainly in favour of the scheme.

Mr. BRUDENELL CARTER, in reply, said that if the report of the Committee could not be accepted, it would not be strengthened by being referred to the Asylums Committee. They were selected without any knowledge of their opinions, but as representative members of the medical profession. Among them was the President of the General Medical Council, the President of the Royal College of Physicians, and the President of the Royal College of Surgeons. He asked the Council to approve the recommendations for the sake of the poor unfortunate persons who were subject to the greatest misfortune which could befall mankind. He entirely repudiated the idea of making any charge against the asylum superintendents, who had worked well under most difficult circumstances—circumstances which absolutely precluded them from attaining the object the Committee had in hand.

The amendment was submitted and carried, and afterwards agreed to as a substantive resolution.

GUY'S HOSPITAL RESIDENTIAL COLLEGE FOR STUDENTS.

The project of establishing a college in connection with Guy's Hospital and its medical school has been more than once under consideration. Dr. Wilks lately quoted from an introductory lecture given by Dr. Addison, in which it was stated that the erection of a college was then only waiting for the completion of certain legal technicalities. That lecture was given fifty years ago. Again in 1877 the project was discussed between the governors and the staff, and plans were made by the hospital surveyor, but the matter fell into abeyance.

In the winter of 1887 a committee was appointed to consider in what way the number of house-surgeons, dresserships, and house-physicians at Guy's could be increased, for it had long been felt that those holding these offices had been overworked, and that, although the importance and responsibility attached to the dresserships were as great or greater than are often at other hospitals associated with the office of house-surgeon, the dressers, after they had left Guy's, often found themselves at a disadvantage when compared with house-surgeons from other hospitals, because they could not claim the latter title. The Committee reported that both for the sake of the patients and for the sake of the students it was desirable to appoint a house-physician and a house-surgeon, attached to each physician and surgeon, and to arrange for a larger number of dresserships.

The Committee learnt from the treasurer that it was impossible to find accommodation for the increased number of residents in the existing hospital buildings, and such being the case, they recommended the erection of a college to lodge the residents, together with other students; and, as the empty wards occupied by the Students' Club might, it was hoped, shortly be required again for the reception of patients, it was thought expedient to find premises for the club in the college. Fortunately the hospital was in possession of a piece of ground close to the east gate, and it was found that a college built on that site could, by the construction of a short subway, be put in communication with the wards at any hour of the day or night. It was thus rendered possible to use the college for the residence of the house-physicians, house-surgeons, and the obstetric residents.

² This has been included in the last two editions of Martindale and Westcott's *Extra Pharmacopæia*.

1. Guy's Hospital Residential College as seen from the grounds of the Hospital.

As to the advantages which such a college would bring to the hospital and school, the Committee reported as follows: To the hospital it will afford the opportunity of increasing the number of residents without extra expense, while the removal of the resident staff to the college will give more accommodation for the nursing school. As regards the medical school, it is hoped that the inducement of placing their sons in the college will prove attractive to those parents who desire closer supervision for them

than a lodging-house affords. The existence of a college will obviate, to some extent, the increasing difficulty which students experience in finding suitable lodgings within easy access of the hospital. It may be added that the students living in the college will have valuable opportunities of witnessing the operations that take place at night.

The report of this Committee was approved by both the school and the governors, and a joint committee, consisting of some of the governors and some of the staff, was formed to carry it out. This Committee easily raised enough capital, by the issue of debentures, and leased from the hospital a suitable site. The college is thus, financially, quite distinct from the hospital. Excavations were begun in August, 1888, the first brick was laid on November 26th, 1888, and the first student went into residence on March 1st, 1890. Dr. Perry, the dean of the medical school, has been appointed warden. The architects have been Messrs. Wood and Ainslie.

The illustrations show the exterior of the college as it appears from the end of the colonnade nearest Hunt's house, and a plan of the first floor. The rooms for the students' club comprise a large dining hall with an open-timbered roof, a reading and smoking room, and a gymnasium, formed by excavating the courtyard of the college. The residential portion consists of a house for the warden, with rooms for the house-physicians, house-surgeons, obstetric residents, and externs; and there is the following accommodation for other students: Thirty-four sets, each set comprising a sitting-room and bedroom; four sets, each set comprising a larger sitting-room with two bedrooms; and ten combined rooms, consisting of a sitting-room and bedroom in one. The rents vary from 20s. to 9s. weekly, and the rooms are very comfortably furnished.

The building will be opened on Wednesday, March 26th, by Mr. Gladstone; he will be entertained at luncheon by the governors and staff, who will afterwards hold a reception, at which all medical men who desire to see the college will be welcome.

2. First floor plan of the Guy's Hospital Residential College. s. students' sitting-rooms; b. students' bed-rooms; a. students' combined bed and sitting-rooms; w. warden's rooms; d. buttery and serving-room; l. lavatory.

THE festival dinner of the Hampstead Home Hospital and Nursing Institute will be held on March 20th, at the Hôtel Métropole, when the Lord Mayor will take the chair.

THE LEEDS INFIRMARY AND THE YORKSHIRE COLLEGE.

WE note with great pleasure the laudable effort that is being made in Leeds for the advancement of hospital accommodation for the sick poor, and, coincidentally, for the increase and furtherance of medical education. It is little more than twenty years since the magnificent hospital—now one of the ornaments, not of Leeds only, but of Yorkshire—was opened for the use of the public, and it is already found to need enlargement. At the time the hospital was opened a great effort was also made by the Council, the then proprietors and directors of the Leeds School of Medicine, to place the school in a condition of equally perfect equipment, and, when the erection of the hospital was completed, it was found that a medical school which, as compared with its two predecessors, appeared to leave nothing to be desired had arisen in its immediate proximity.

Hospital and school alike are now found to be altogether inadequate to the requirements of the time; and, as with the one so with the other also, an effort is being made to bring them up once more to the high standard of excellence they had always hitherto occupied. The additions to the hospital will be of great importance, and will consist of a magnificent out-patient department, planned and arranged on the lines which European experience has proved to be the best; a modern pathological department; a suite of rooms devoted to the latest developments of ophthalmic, aural, and laryngeal medicine and surgery; new children's wards; a fully developed and equipped gynæcological department; and an "isolation block," to which any case arising in the hospital to which a suspicion of infection attaches may be at once removed, or into which it may be received if when—as unfortunately now and then happens—an infectious case has been incautiously or ignorantly sent to the hospital.

With a view to carrying out these additions subscriptions were a short time ago solicited, and a sum of between £30,000 and £40,000 was promptly placed at the disposal of the treasurer. All preliminaries having now been arranged, it is hoped that during the coming summer great advance will be made with the new buildings.

Leeds is, further, fortunate in having placed the management of its hospital in the hands of a board to whom its requirements have only to be made clear, and no stone is left unturned to develop all that is needed. This board is further presided over by an enlightened chairman, who has been able to appreciate at its proper value the intimacy that should exist between every large hospital and a medical school in which the work done in the hospital may be carried to its full fruition, and be rendered available as knowledge to be borne to the remotest corners of the world for the good of mankind at large; so it has come about that, coincidentally with the increasing opportunities to be afforded by the hospital, the needs of the medical school have also been brought prominently before the public.

A few years ago the old Leeds School of Medicine was incorporated with the Yorkshire College as its Medical Faculty, and the Yorkshire College, in its turn, has been affiliated to the Victoria University, and thus the medical school—which originally the outcome of the zeal of a few earnest men for the spread of medical and surgical knowledge, has been carried on in Leeds since about 1832—has, with the Owens College at Manchester and the Liverpool School of Medicine, become conjointly the Medical Faculty of the great northern University.

To enable the school to take its place becomingly in the new arrangement would have been beyond the power of the original individual proprietors, and a few years ago it was offered, with its library, museums, and all its appliances, to the Council of the Yorkshire College, and was purchased by that body.

Up to that transfer, and during the whole of its long previous existence, no help from without had ever been asked for or given to it; it had been entirely and purely the work of the medical men of the town, and will ever be remembered as a monument of their zeal in the cause of the advancement and spread of professional knowledge and science; and in the breasts of many of the practitioners, not of the district only, but all the world over, the memory of the old school holds, and will continue to hold, a very warm and venerated place.

But, *tempora mutantur*; and before the scythe of time things old must go down, and give way before newer and fresher developments. Thus it comes about that the medical school as well as the

hospital is also to be rebuilt, and on a scale of magnificence which could never have entered into the heads of the most sanguine of its original promoters.

An admirable site, in close proximity to the hospital, has been retained for its location; a subscription list has been opened, and already some £29,000 has been promised or collected, and before the additions to the hospital on its east side are completed it is hoped that an equally imposing block of buildings, replete with every necessary for perfect teaching, will be seen arising on its west.

Leeds may well, indeed, be proud of her medical institutions, and we most heartily wish her success in her ambitious efforts.

THE RUSSIAN GOVERNMENT AND THE CHOLERA.

Official Report on the Outbreak in Persia and Turkey.—In the *Pravitelstvennyi Vestnik*, February 21st, 1890, the Russian Government has published a report on the cholera, based on the statements of the Russian consul at Bagdad. The total number of deaths from cholera in Mesopotamia from June, 1889, to December, 1889, was 7,261; of these, 1,018 occurred in Bagdad, 577 in Bassora, 529 in Kerkuk, 402 in Kerbell, 228 in Khaznmi, 193 in Suleimanië, 109 in Mendeli, 103 in Kannekin, and 149 in Mossul. About the end of 1889, the epidemic in Mesopotamia ceased, but the consul felt sure that the disease may break out again at any moment, as the "sanitary condition of the above-named localities is simply terrible (*ijasno*).” With regard to Persia, cholera was raging especially in Kermanshakh, Hamadan, Melair, Asadabad, Khoremad, in each of which towns there were dying, on an average, about twenty persons a day, while in the Melair district every village was losing three or four inhabitants daily. The epidemic still continues to spread in Persia, though to a somewhat lesser extent in comparison with October and November. The localities in which the disease exists at present are situated a few hundred versts (1 verst 1,066 mètres) from the Russian frontier. The Russian Government has adopted the following measures:—1. General measures to improve the sanitary condition of the Transcaucasian region. 2. The medical departments of all governments (Gubernias) lying along the Russo-Persian frontier are ordered (a) to take all steps necessary for the prompt detection and isolation of cholera cases; and (b) at once to report by telegram every such case to the Imperial Medical Department. 3. The Caucasian population are to be made acquainted with prophylactic measures against cholera by means of special pamphlets, instructions, etc., written in Russian, Armenian, Georgian, and other languages used in the region. 4. All products transported from cholera districts (in Persia and Mesopotamia) are to be subjected to a ten-day's quarantine, and a thorough disinfection at Batium and Pëodosia. 5. All travellers arriving from the cholera localities are to be detained in Batium, Baku, and Djulfu for a ten-day's observation, and their luggage to be disinfected. 6. The Russian cordon stationed along the Persian frontier is to be increased in strength, so as to cover the whole boundary line. 7. Russian Mussulman subjects are to be henceforward prohibited from undertaking any pilgrimages into Persia or Turkey.

Persian Cholera and the Question of Quarantine.—Referring to some official statements on cholera recently published in the *Pravitelstvennyi Vestnik*, February 21st, 1890, Professor V. A. Manassein says in the *Vratch*, February 27th, 1890: "It is obvious, therefore, that the chief hopes of our Government rest on quarantines. Meanwhile, as is known only too well, all quarantines must be relegated to oblivion, since it would be hardly possible nowadays to expect any good coming from measures of the kind. Of course, we are perfectly aware that medical authorities alone are utterly powerless to adopt any radical measures fit to make this or that locality cholera proof. Still, we should think it were better to frankly admit the fact, and to cease wasting money and labour on arranging quite useless quarantines."

Precautions in Caucasian Russia.—According to the *Voljsky Vestnik*, 1890, February 21st, the Caucasian governor-in-chief has issued an order of the day (*prikaz*) in which, while pointing out that cholera still prevails in Mesopotamia and Persia, and that it is very possible that the disease may spread to the Caucasian military district, he lays down a series of precautionary measures to be immediately adopted all over the district. The chief measures are as follow: Strict sanitary supervision of barracks, hospitals, and lazarettos; the formation of military sanitary commis-

sions; arrangements for opening cholera wards and infirmaries; special courses for army surgeons and medical assistants (*feldshers*) in connection with the first aid to cholera patients, and so on.

ASSOCIATION INTELLIGENCE.

LIBRARY OF THE BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

MEMBERS are reminded that the Library and Writing Rooms of the Association are now fitted up for the accommodation of the Members, in commodious apartments, at the offices of the Association, 429, Strand. The rooms are open from 10 A.M. to 5 P.M. Members can have their letters addressed to them at the office.

COUNCIL.

NOTICE OF MEETING.

A MEETING of the Council will be held in the Council Room of the Association, at No. 429, Strand (corner of Agar Street), London, on Wednesday, the 16th day of April next, at 2 o'clock in the afternoon.

FRANCIS FOWKE, *General Secretary*.

March 12th, 1890.

NOTICE OF QUARTERLY MEETINGS FOR 1890.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS.

MEETINGS of the Council will be held on April 16th, July 16th, and October 15th, 1890. Candidates for election by the Council of the Association must send in their forms of application to the General Secretary not later than twenty-one days before each meeting, namely, March 27th, June 25th, and September 4th, 1890.

Any qualified medical practitioner, not disqualified by any by-law of the Association, who shall be recommended as eligible by any three members, may be elected a member by the Council or by any recognised Branch Council.

Candidates seeking election by a Branch Council should apply to the Secretary of the Branch. No member can be elected by a Branch Council unless his name has been inserted in the circular summoning the meeting at which he seeks election.

FRANCIS FOWKE, *General Secretary*.

NOTICES OF BRANCH MEETINGS intended for insertion in the JOURNAL of the current week should be forwarded, addressed to the Editor, so as to reach the office not later than mid-day Wednesday of that week.

BRANCH MEETINGS TO BE HELD.

METROPOLITAN COUNTIES BRANCH: EAST LONDON AND SOUTH ESSEX DISTRICT.—The next meeting will be held at the Town Hall, Hackney, on Thursday, March 20th, at 8.30 P.M. Dr. F. de Havilland Hall will read a paper on the Causes and Treatment of Asthma. Visitors will be welcomed.—J. W. HUNT, Honorary Secretary.

SOUTH-EASTERN BRANCH: WEST KENT DISTRICT.—The next meeting of the above District will be held at "The Hospital," Gravesend, on Thursday, March 20th, at 4 P.M. Dr. C. Firth in the chair. The dinner will take place at The Old Falcon Hotel, at 6.15 P.M. Charge, 6s. 6d. exclusive of wine. Gentlemen who intend to dine are particularly requested to signify their intention to the Chairman, Dr. C. Firth, 196, Parrock Street, Gravesend, not later than March 18th. All members of the South Eastern Branch are entitled to attend this meeting and to introduce professional friends. Communications.—Dr. V. D. Harris: The Treatment of Pleural Effusion. Mr. C. B. Keetley: The Treatment of Caries of the Spine and its Complications. Dr. C. Firth: A Case of Strangulated Obturator Hernia.—A. W. NANKIVELL, Honorary Secretary of the District, St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Chatham.

MIDLAND BRANCH: LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT.—A meeting of this district will be held at Loughborough, on Wednesday, April 16th. Members desirous of reading papers or showing cases or specimens, will please communicate with the Honorary Secretary, FRANK M. POPE, M.B., Leicester.

GLoucestershire BRANCH.—The next ordinary meeting of this Branch will be held on Tuesday, March 18th, at 7.30 P.M., at the General Infirmary, Gloucester, under the presidency of H. E. Waddy, Esq. Agenda: A discussion on Diet in Acute Disease will be opened by Dr. G. B. Watters, Stonehouse.—G. ARTHUR CARDEW, Honorary Secretary.

ABERDEEN, BANFF, AND KINCARDINE BRANCH.—An ordinary meeting of this Branch will be held in 198, Union Street, Aberdeen, on Wednesday, March 19th, at 8 P.M., the President, Dr. Fowler Woodside, in the chair. Business:—1. Minutes; Nomination of new members, etc. 2. Ballot for the admission of Dr. A. Rudolf Galloway, Aberdeen. 3. Dr. MacGregor: Case of Rupture of Kidney. 4. Dr. McKenzie Davidson: Exhibition of Dr. Lang's Twin Needle for the treatment of Anterior Synechia. 5. Dr. Beveridge: Case of Lumbar Hernia, with exhibition of patient.—ROBERT JOHN GARDEN, J. MACKENZIE BOOTH, Honorary Secretaries.

SOUTH-EASTERN BRANCH: WEST SURREY DISTRICT.—The next meeting of this Branch will be held at the Royal Surrey County Hospital, Guildford, on Thursday, March 27th. Members desiring to bring forward papers or cases are requested to communicate with the Honorary Secretary, J. P. A. GABB, M.D., Guildford.

SOUTH-EASTERN BRANCH: EAST AND WEST SUSSEX DISTRICT.—A conjoint meeting of the above Districts will be held at the Grand Hotel, Brighton, on Wednesday, March 26th. Mr. Cresswell Baber will preside. Meeting at 3.30 P.M. Dinner at 5.30 P.M. Charge 6s., exclusive of wine. Dr. Samuel West will introduce for discussion the subject of Influenza. Members or others desirous of contributing papers or cases are requested to communicate with T. JENNER VERRALL, Honorary Secretary, 97, Montpellier Road, Brighton.

THAMES VALLEY BRANCH.—The next meeting of the Branch will take place at Kingston on Wednesday, March 26th. Members willing to read papers or exhibit cases are requested to communicate with CHARLES C. SCOTT, Honorary Secretary, St. Margaret's, Twickenham.

STIRLING, KINROSS, AND CLACKMANNAN BRANCH.

A MEETING of this Branch was held at the Crown Hotel, Alloa, on Thursday, March 6th, Dr. STRACHAN in the chair. Letters of apology for unavoidable absence were received from Drs. Haldane, Leslie, Spence, Linton, and Mackintosh. The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Dr. Rentoul's Scheme.—This subject was discussed, and resolutions were passed, which will be found at p. 634.

Exhibition of Instruments.—Messrs. J. GARDNER and SON, of Edinburgh, exhibited a large collection of Electrical, Gynaecological, and Surgical Instruments.

CEYLON BRANCH.

A COUNCIL meeting of this Branch was held at the Colonial Medical Library on Saturday, October 5th, 1889, at which the following gentlemen were present:—Drs. Rockwood and Macdonald, and Messrs. Weinman and Johnson. Dr. ROCKWOOD was in the chair.

Election of Secretary.—A letter was read from Dr. Brito, the Honorary Secretary, resigning his office. It was proposed by Dr. MACDONALD, seconded by Dr. WEINMAN, and carried that Dr. Brito's resignation be accepted. It was proposed by Mr. WEINMAN, seconded by Mr. JOHNSON, and carried, that Dr. Macdonald be appointed to act as Honorary Secretary till the general meeting in December.

Proposed Resignation of President.—A letter was read from the president, Dr. Anthonisz, resigning his office on account of press of business, and his frequent and long absences from Colombo. It was proposed by Dr. MACDONALD, seconded by Mr. WEINMAN, and carried that a deputation, consisting of Drs. Rockwood and Vanderstraaten, be requested to wait upon Dr. Anthonisz and induce him to remain in office to the end of the present year, and to report at next meeting.

A COUNCIL meeting was held on December 7th, 1889. Drs. Vanderstraaten and Macdonald, and Messrs. Schokman, Hallock, and Roberts were present, Dr. VANDERSTRAATEN being in the chair.

New Members.—Messrs. de Silva and Passe were elected members of the Branch.

THE annual meeting of this Branch was held on December 7th, 1889. The following gentlemen were present:—J. L. Vanderstraaten, M.D.; J. D. Macdonald, M.D.; W. G. Rockwood, M.D.; S. Fernando, M.B.; E. N. Schokman, L.C.M.C.; S. Hallock, L.R.C.P. & S.; E. Roberts, L.C.M.C.; C. A. de Silva, M.R.C.S.; A. E. Weinman, L.C.M.C.; James Loos, M.D.; G. J. Woutersz, M.R.C.S.; H. Huybertsz, L.R.C.P. & S.; The Honourable P. D. Anthonisz, M.D.; and W. A. Passe, L.R.C.P. & S.

Election of Officers.—The following office-bearers were elected for