of the metropolitan division, showing that the distribution of the members of the Executive Committee might with advantage be made more representative of the districts, many large areas being entirely unrepresented.

Dr. MAAD suggested some names of gentlemen willing to serve.

On the proposition of the CHAIRMAN, the Honorary Secretary was requested to prepare a Geographical Index of the members of the division, with a view to selecting representatives of the various districts of the division now unrepresented to fill up vacancies from retirement and other causes.

An application from a member whose name had been unwarrantably used in the advertisement of a mineral water company was considered.

The report of the Subcommittee appointed to examine Surgeon-Major Evatt's proposals for remodelling the *Medical Register* was received and discussed. It was resolved that certain of these proposals being deemed useful the matter should be referred to the Council of the Union, with a view to its being brought before the General Medical Council.

A resolution was moved by Dr. P. PURVIS, and seconded by Dr. DE HAVILLAND HALL, that the annual meeting should be held on November 13th, of which due notice should be given to members.

THE INFECTIOUS DISEASE (PREVENTION) ACT.

THE attention of metropolitan sanitary authorities has been officially drawn by the Local Government Board to the Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act, 1890, which will apply to every London district after December 4th next, and will confer upon the local authorities of those districts and upon their officers important powers and duties as regards the inspection of dairies and the prohibition of the supply of milk therefrom in cases where it appears that infectious disease is attributable to, or likely to be caused by, the consumption of milk so supplied; the cleansing and disinfection of premises, bedding, clothing, etc., for the purpose of preventing or checking infectious disease; the retention, removal, and burial of the bodies of persons who have died from infectious disease; the detention in hospital of persons suffering from infectious disease who would, on leaving the hospital, be without proper lodging; and the provision of temporary shelter and attendance for members of families who have been compelled to leave their dwellings for the purpose of the dwellings being disinfected by the local authority. The Act further makes it an offence to use a public conveyance, other than a hearse, for the conveyance of the body of a person who has died from an infectious disease, without previous notification of the facts to the owner or driver, and renders liable to a penalty the owner or driver of the public conveyance if he neglect to have the conveyance disinfected after its use for such a purpose. It also prohibits the casting into any ashpit or refuse receptacle of infectious rubbish without previous disinfection.

The most important clause of the new Act is perhaps the fourth, which deals with the inspection of dairies, and gives powers for prohibiting the supply of milk in certain cases. This matter has been frequently discussed in these columns, and during the passage of the Bill through Parliament, the dangers and vicissitudes attending the clauses relating to dairies and the sale of milk were carefully watched by the Parliamentary Bills Committee of the Association. Section 4 of the Act as passed should be studied carefully—and in detail by every medical officer of health, as, in spite of its complexity and incompleteness, it should prove to be of great assistance to him in dealing with outbreaks of disease associated with the use of particular milk supplies. It gives him power in certain cases to inspect dairies within or without his district, and, if accompanied by a veterinary surgeon, to inspect the animals therein. It also enables him to secure the prohibition of the sale of infected milk in particular circumstances, but care must be taken to comply precisely with the terms of the statute. It is worth noting that the expression "dairy" includes "any farm, farmhouse, cowshed, milk store, milk shop, or other place from which milk is supplied, or in which milk is kept for purposes of sale," and "dairyman" includes "any cowkeeper, purveyor of milk, or occupier of a dairy."

The new clauses as to disinfection of premises and articles are also of special importance, as they are designed to prevent delay

in the performance of needful disinfection, and to secure efficiency in the operation.

The Act, as already mentioned, will apply to the whole of London after December 4th next, but in the rest of the country it is left entirely to the discretion of each individual sanitary authority to adopt either the whole, or part, or none of the Act. It is, however, sincerely to be hoped that local authorities will very generally appreciate the value of the new powers offered to them, and will without delay take the necessary simple steps for acquiring them.

NOTES

ON

SOME GERMAN UNIVERSITIES.

By WALTER K. SIBLEY, M.B., B.C.CANTAB.,
Assistant-Physician to the North-West London Hospital.

II.—THE UNIVERSITY OF BERLIN.

(Continued.)

Professor Gerhardt's Clinic.

PROFESSOR GERHARDT'S clinic in the Charité Hospital comprises 180 beds, of which 110 are for male and 70 for female patients. All the bad or acute cases are placed together in two wards, which have nurses in attendance day and night. The more chronic cases, on the other hand, are placed together in wards which have no night nurses, and so these patients are not disturbed by the others. The taking in of patients is arranged so that all those cases which are considered by the receiving physician as acute or specially interesting are admitted into the clinical wards, while the rest are sent into a neighbouring division, some under Professor Fränzel and some under Professor Senator. Professor Gerhardt has four assistants; to two of these are entrusted the chemical, microscopical, and bacteriological examinations for the clinic; while the other two have charge of the patients, one looking after the men and the other the women. One of these assistants is always a military surgeon (*Stabsarzt*, ranking as a captain). These two assistants have under them young military surgeons, the house-physicians, who look after the case taking, and have control of the prescribing and diet, etc.

The history and description of every case is entered in the case-book; the temperature is recorded at least twice a day; the respiration and pulse curves are marked on a printed chart. There is also a urine chart for every case, on which are entered daily the quantity, specific gravity, etc. For heart cases there is a form on which the pulse curve is represented. Every patient is weighed at least once a week; this is considered by Gerhardt as important in chronic, as the temperature is for acute, cases.

Great stress is laid on the dieting of patients, and cases of prolonged fever are no longer treated on the low diet principle. Thus, in enteric fever, abundant nourishment, and especially meat and mashed potato, is given, so that the severer scorbutic conditions which were once so common as complications of such cases are no longer seen. The mortality is now from 10 to 12 per cent. Professor Gerhardt's clinic is held daily during term time at 8 A.M. One or two patients are made the subject of demonstration. Owing to the large numbers attending the courses they are held in the lecture theatre, and not in the wards. Only once a fortnight does the Professor take the class (some 300 in number) into the wards, and then once more shows the recently demonstrated cases and describes the further progress of the disease. The course pursued is always the same. The Professor first gets as full a history as possible; then the case is examined. He then leads up to the diagnosis, and discusses the particular case and the disease itself in detail, ending up with the treatment. Special care is taken to choose for demonstration cases in which something definite can be shown, as a rash, an abnormal reaction of the urine, a pulse curve, or some special physical sign.

Great importance is attached to the chemical examination of the urine, of the contents of the stomach, and other subjects, and especially to bacteriological examinations, more particularly for tubercle bacilli. The gonococcus is also looked on as very valuable as a help to the definite diagnosis of many somewhat obscure cases, especially those complicated with intractable rheumatic affections.

Typhoid is treated with cold baths, from one to six daily, as

soon as the temperature exceeds 39° C. (102.2° F.); much attention is also paid to the position of the patient, with a view of preventing, as far as possible, the tendency to pulmonary oedema, the patient being placed first on one side and then on the other. Nourishing diet is given, and alcohol is freely used. The bathing is stopped as soon as hæmorrhage from the intestine, or peritonitis, or thrombosis of the veins of the legs, etc., occurs. Simple gastric ulcer is treated principally by meat diet, carbohydrates (potato, sugar, etc.) and fats being avoided; the stomach is also washed out daily, or every other day.

Cases of pleurisy, with effusion, are kept in bed as long as any fluid is left. Gerhardt believes that the reason why we meet with so many badly-cured cases of pleurisy is because the patients are permitted to get up too soon. Cases of nephritis, in all its forms, are also kept strictly to bed. In both pleurisy and nephritis diaphoretic remedies are employed; in the former pilocarpin, and in the latter hot baths. Pneumonia, as soon as symptoms of failure or depression of the heart appear, is treated with strong alcoholic and other stimulants. Perityphilitis and peritonitis are treated with large doses of opium, together with ice or cold compresses on the abdomen; purgatives are prohibited as dangerous. If necessary an enema is administered. Cases of pulmonary tuberculosis, Gerhardt says, generally do badly in hospital, and he always recommends them to leave as soon as possible.

The assistants also give special courses of instruction on percussion and auscultation, laryngoscopy, etc., besides chemical and microscopical examinations, electricity, etc.

Professor Gerhardt was born at Speyer in 1833. In 1861 he became professor at Jena, and in 1872 was called to a similar position at Würzburg, where he remained until he became professor at Berlin in 1885. His principal publications are *Laryngeal Croup* (Tübingen, 1859), *The Position of the Diaphragm* (1860), *Textbook of Auscultation and Percussion* (1876), and *Textbook of Children's Diseases* (1880). He has also contributed largely to the *Archives of Clinical Medicine*.

The clinic is provided with two laboratories—a microscopical and a clinical one—the former fitted up with two and the latter with four places, and both have a very complete set of new apparatus.

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MEDICO-CHIRURGICAL TRANSACTIONS. 1888-89.
 OBSTETRICAL TRANSACTIONS. 1888-89.

ARE THE UNITED STATES OVER-DOCTORED?—The New York *Medical Record* recently drew attention to the extraordinary attraction which the medical profession has for the citizens of the great republic on the other side of the Atlantic. The disproportion of medical practitioners to the population, among whom they have to earn their living, would be ludicrous if it were not melancholy. With a population of 60,000,000 the United States have something like 100,000 doctors, while France, with 38,000,000 inhabitants, has fewer than 12,000. In Germany, where the "bitter cry" of overcrowding in the medical profession has even reached the ears of the Government, the proportion of doctors to population is 30,000 to 45,000,000, considerably less than half that in the United States. Roughly speaking, while in France there is one doctor to every 3,000, and in Germany one to every 1,500 inhabitants, in the United States there is one to every 600 possible patients. The relative rates of increase in the numbers of the medical profession in the three countries is still more remarkable. While in France about 600, and in Germany a little over 900, licences to practise are granted annually, in the United States nearly 4,000 newly-fledged doctors are let loose on the public every year. These startling figures make one inclined to say, with Abernethy, "God help you, gentlemen, where will you all find bread?"

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 15th day of October next, at 2 o'clock in the afternoon.

FRANCIS FOWKE, *General Secretary*.

September 25th, 1890.

NOTICE OF QUARTERLY MEETINGS FOR 1890.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS.

A meeting of the Council will be held on 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 the meeting, namely, September 24th, 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*.

BRANCH MEETINGS TO BE HELD.

BORDER COUNTIES BRANCH.—The autumn meeting of this Branch will be held at the Tower Hotel, Hawick, on Friday, October 3rd, at 3 P.M. Members desirous of reading papers should communicate with the Honorary Secretary ten days before the date of meeting.—JAMES ALTHAM, *Honorary Secretary*.

OXFORD AND DISTRICT BRANCH.—A special meeting of the Branch, called by the Council, will be held on Tuesday, September 30th, in the Radcliffe Infirmary, at 3 P.M.—W. LEWIS MORGAN, *Honorary Secretary*.

NORTH OF ENGLAND BRANCH.—A meeting of this Branch will be held at the White Swan Hotel, Alnwick, on October 7th at 4 P.M.; dinner at 5.30, P.M. Members wishing to read papers or to exhibit specimens are requested to send notice to the Secretary, G. E. WILLIAMSON, F.R.C.S., 22, Eldon Square, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

EAST ANGLIAN BRANCH: ESSEX DISTRICT.—The next meeting of the members of the Essex District and their friends will be held in the Institute, Southend, on Thursday, October 9th, at 2.30 P.M. Mr. G. F. Jones has kindly invited the members and their friends to lunch at his residence, Clarence House, at 1 P.M. All members of the profession living in the district are invited to the meetings of the Association. Business: To arrange the place and date of the next meeting. Dr. Mead (Newmarket) will give a short report of the work of the Medical Defence Union for the past year. Resolutions will be submitted to the meeting regarding the State registration of midwives. The following papers have been promised:—Dr. Lloyd Tuckey (London): Demonstration on Hypnotism. Mr. G. D. Deeping, L.R.C.P. (London): The Advantages and Drawbacks of the Medical Profession. Mr. A. Morris, L.R.C.P. (Ed. Southend): Will exhibit and give a Demonstration of his Ambulance. Mr. C. E. Abbott, L.R.C.P. (Braintree): The Infectious Disease (Notification) Act, 1889. At the conclusion of the meeting, typical cases of Charcot's Disease and Osteitis Deformans will be shown by G. F. Jones, M.R.C.S. Eng.—C. E. ABBOTT, *Honorary Secretary, Braintree*.

SOUTH-EASTERN BRANCH: EAST SURREY DISTRICT.—The next meeting of this District will be held at the White Hart Hotel, Reigate, on Thursday, October 9th, at 4 P.M. Dr. Robert Jones, Resident Physician and Superintendent Earlswood Asylum, in the chair. Dr. Jones will be happy to show members over the asylum before the meeting, and will provide luncheon at 2 P.M. Dinner at 6 P.M., charge 7s., exclusive of wine. The following papers have been promised. Dr. W. A. Berridge: The Treatment of Acute Abscess. Dr. R. H. Clarke: On Septicæmia in Birds. Mr. Malcolm Morris will give a demonstration upon the Treatment of Eczema. The Chairman of the Parliamentary