done with a degree of safety and a rate of mortality more favourable than that of the ordinary capital operations not very long ago.

Wounds of the intestine, except a few rarer cases where the damage was superficial and easily reached, have hitherto been left to the tender mercies of the *vis medicatrix nature*, and a little opium. Now they are sought for and stitched up, and surgically treated like any other wound, and the responsibility of the case is transferred from nature to the surgeon. We have to record the series of operations which come under the general head of osteotomy, by which bent limbs are made symmetrical, and knock-knees straightened, and other osseous deformities of the body corrected; and we have besides ingenious improvements of all kinds in our appliances; new instruments, new ligatures, bandages, and whatever other things the surgeon requires in his daily work, far too numerous to mention.

Undoubtedly, a large share of these successful results is due to the introduction of the antiseptic treatment of wounds, which gives the operator more confidence that the wound which he makes will not, of itself, prove a source of danger to his patient; and we necessarily come to the conclusion that anaesthetics and antiseptics combined have been the chief steps by which we have reached this high point on the road to success.

During the year that now expires, since our last annual meeting, among those who have gone to their last home are one or two whose names, well known in years gone by, which I should like to mention before I sit down.

James Luke, formerly of the London Hospital, a man of high surgical note in my earlier days, twice President of the Royal College of Surgeons, of which he became a member sixty years ago, member of the Council and examiner, died at the good old age of 82. He had, of course, retired from work for a considerable time: so much so, that, probably, the younger generation of you scarcely knew his name. He was distinguished for hard and steady work as an anatomist and surgeon, and for his practical knowledge of our branch of the profession. I believe that he was the first to insist upon a small incision in the operation for strangulated hernia, instead of the older plan, which I have seen adopted, of laying open the skin, and coverings, and sac, from top to bottom, whatever the size of the rupture.

John Flint South, of St. Thomas's Hospital, another patriarch, formerly president, councillor, and examiner of the College, whose membership dated from the year 1819, had reached his eighty-fifth year. He was an accomplished surgeon of the old school, highly educated beyond the usual limits of a professional education, with strong classical and literary tastes; and he also did some good work for the advancement of the surgery of his time.

Then James Spence, the well-known distinguished surgeon, and professor of surgery in Edinburgh University, our orator when we met at Edinburgh in 1875, died at work this year, at an advanced age.

And Pirogoff of St. Petersburg, whom we all know by name, and who is recognised as one of the surgical authorities of our time, died also at an advanced age, but still at work.

Professor Busch, of the University of Bonn, who was in London last year at the meeting of the International Congress, died at the earlier age of fifty-five. He is stated to have been a favourite pupil of the famous Johann Müller, the physiologist, and the cause of his death was perforation of the appendix vermiciformis.*

Nearer home, Mr. Gore of Bath died almost at work, in his eighty-third year—a skilful provincial surgeon, of great note in our neighbourhood; and Dr. Greenhow of Newcastle, once an active member of our Association, reached the great age of ninety years. He became a member of the College of Surgeons in 1814, and was made Fellow in the first batch of Fellows created in 1843. He was a first-rate surgeon and operator.

I have not chosen these names because of the great ages they attained, but because they are some of the most distinguished of the surgeons who have been taken away during this past year; and they afford another interesting proof, were any required, that the work of the brain does not necessarily wear out the individual; and, as is the case with the learned judges and the bar, some that work the hardest live the longest.

May the time never come when we cease to hold in respect the memories of those who have passed away, after a life of hard and useful work and good service.

* Müller was transferred to Berlin University, where I had the privilege of attending his lectures on pathological anatomy. It was then currently reported among students that, while professor at Bonn, he began to practise as a physician, his first patient being a dear friend of his own, who died in spite of his efforts to save him; and the necropsy revealed, what he had not suspected—viz., perforation of the appendix vermiciformis by a cherry-stone, which so disheartened Müller that, from that time, he devoted himself entirely to the scientific part of our work.

AN ADDRESS

DELIVERED AT THE OPENING OF

THE SECTION OF PUBLIC MEDICINE,

At the Annual Meeting of the British Medical Association,
held in Worcester, August 1882.

By ALFRED CARPENTER, M.D.,
President of the Section.

THE EARLY WORK OF THE ASSOCIATION IN PREVENTIVE MEDICINE.

GENTLEMEN,—It is a great privilege to be the President of a Section of our Association on this, the fiftieth anniversary of its foundation. On this occasion, some might think it would have been more in character, if the Public Health Section had been presided over by some distinguished *savant* who had himself advanced the study of preventive medicine by his own immediate work in the line of original research. There is, however, a fitness of things in the fact which is probably at this moment in your minds, that one who is neither metropolitan or provincial, and whose sanitary work has been mainly observational and executive, should occupy the position of President in this Section on this anniversary. The Provincial Medical Association of 1832 has now become cosmopolitan as well as British; its ramifications are co-extensive with the empire; and its members are found in all parts of the world. A large portion of this rapid growth has come to pass because its foundation was intimately associated with inquiry into the causation and prevention of disease, and the application of the principles which regulate the health of the general public. When our founder put forth his programme, there was no general Association for the furtherance of those objects, which to my mind have revolutionised the system of medicine. The prospectus which he published in 1832 put forth as a *raison d'être* "The investigation of the modifications of endemic and epidemic diseases in different situations, so as to trace their connection with peculiarities of soil and climate or with localities, habits, and occupations of the people."

I claim the object which is stated in this paragraph in his prospectus as the principal lever by which the success of his movement has been achieved. The whole of the five points contained in his syllabus could only be obtained by a combination of persons, and the mutual support which observers over large areas could afford; but not one equalled in importance that which is now known as the science of preventive medicine, and which is contained in two of the five points advocated by Sir Charles Hastings.

The establishment of this Association at Worcester in the year 1832 may, then, be fairly looked upon as the starting-point in a new campaign, which involved the prevention of all kinds of disease, and made that object of higher significance than the cure. True it is, that many pioneers had surveyed the confines of this comparatively unknown country, and had penetrated sufficiently deep into its recesses to be able to make partially known the wonders which a study of its natural history revealed; but, being a study that required combination and intercommunication at numerous places, and with many persons upon corresponding lines, to bring observation so made at many points to one focus, it required something more than the work which single individuals, however gifted, could effect. The Provincial Medical Association was just the organisation which was required for that purpose, and which, though faulty in many things, did very much to effect the object sought for.

Let us look for a moment at the substance of our founder's syllabus, and the five points upon which it is based. In the first place, it is obvious that the best means to be used for the cure of disease will be the outcome of individual experience, and that object stands first in the programme. But it is properly and immediately followed by the second and third, which together make up a large part of the questions involved in a consideration of "Public Health", and which are collective rather than individual.

As regards the remaining points, it is true that the trying circumstances which often arise in courts of justice are better borne, when we are sure of the support of our professional brethren; whilst the maintenance of the honour of the profession, and harmony amongst its members, are noble objects to be attained; but these points are much more of a personal and individual character than those which

belong to "Public Health". They are limited in their results to the units of society, and seldom extend beyond the personal influence of those units; whilst the objects which follow from the study of preventive medicine produce effects which, in the end, not only react upon the nation, but upon the whole kingdom of animated nature. We may, therefore, fairly assume that the benefits which the British Medical Association has been instrumental in producing have been enormously enhanced by this part of our founder's programme; and that, of the five points of his syllabus, those connected with preventive medicine held, and will continue to hold, the most important place, because they are bonds which are most capable of uniting us together in a general brotherhood for one common beneficial and unselfish object, whilst they unite us most directly with the public at large, for it is the only Section at its meeting to which the outside public are admitted.

I propose, with your permission, to review very shortly the sanitary work which has been directly performed by the Association, and which is embodied in some of the early volumes of its published *Transactions*. These appeared before we had any weekly journal to amalgamate us more thoroughly together. Some of that work has been undeservedly forgotten. I do not think I can do greater honour to our founder than to recall to your memory some of the prominent points which are a part of its history, especially those which are more directly connected as sanitary work with him and his colleagues in Worcester and its neighbourhood.

The address of the founder occupies the first place in the first volume, and it is comprehensive and general. There are, in the same volume, some valuable observations upon the objects and modes of medical investigation by Dr. Barlow of Bath, and with it is a proposal by Dr. J. Conolly of Warwick to establish County Natural History Societies, for ascertaining in all localities what states are productive of disease or conducive to health; thus connecting our own particular work with the objects and transactions of the Association. There is also a valuable report upon the state of disease in the city of Worcester during the year 1832, by Dr. R. N. Streeten of this city, which will probably be referred to by others at this meeting in more detail than I need give to it, they having more direct and personal knowledge of the points to which it refers.

The second volume is highly topographical, as are large portions of the first series. There is also a paper by Dr. J. Brown of Sunderland, upon the variations in the production of certain diseases not usually supposed subject to epidemic influence, which takes us into the region of general illness, showing that our work is not to be confined to epidemic or infectious conditions. There are also observations upon the cholera which appeared in Wolverhampton in the autumn of 1832, by Dr. T. Ogier Ward; followed, in the third volume, by remarks by Dr. Symonds on cholera as it occurred in Bristol.

There is also an account of scarlatina as it appeared in Beaconsfield, in the autumn of 1832, by Mr. N. Rumsey. Time would fail me to do more than quote these papers, as clearly indicating one of the directions in which the Association proposed to work.

A series of questions upon vaccination was formulated by Dr. Baron of Cheltenham for distribution among the members. The Council appointed a Committee at the Bristol meeting to take up the whole subject, and to report upon it; but it was a wide and an important matter. Much deliberation was, therefore, devoted to it, and the *personnel* of the Committee was enlarged at a subsequent meeting, and before the report was presented. The third volume takes up cholera and scarlatina, by the same authors as before.

There are in the fourth volume some capital topographical reports upon the district around Malvern, by Mr. Addison. These reports are very excellent, and appear to have done much to call attention to local conditions; but they were not continued regularly. Attention was drawn to them in the year 1850, in the hope that they might be continued.

The proceedings in the general meeting which was held at Bristol directly connected the Association with the agitation which was then springing up throughout the country upon the subject of the registration of disease; and a resolution was passed, calling upon the Legislature to make arrangements for recording the causes of death in the registers of mortality. The Secretaries were directed to place themselves in communication with the Committee of the House of Commons then considering the state of the parish registers, and to urge this point upon the attention of that Committee. Their representations were of some effect, for the Registration Act was passed shortly afterwards; and the "indefatigable Mr. Farr", as he is termed in the report, comes on the scene, supported by the whole influence of the Association; and Dr. Farr's work has been in the past a foundation for observation and correlation as regards Public Health, and will continue to be so for all future time. The presentation of the Hastings Medal to him at Cam-

bridge in 1880, being at the close of his public life, was a lasting memorial of his services to sanitary work.

The fourth anniversary, held at Manchester, was distinguished by evoking a power very marked in its character, and evidencing the determination of the Council to consider the subject of "preventive medicine" as of paramount importance. The Council in its report says: "If medical observers had been content to mark with simplicity the series of events belonging to epidemics, like as did Hippocrates and Sydenham, we should not have been so much in the dark as we are at the present day. . . . Convinced that an extensive accumulation of facts is above all things essential, the Council earnestly requested each member of the Association to keep a register of the rise, progress, and decline of epidemics in his own district, being very particular as to dates and localities, and of the object desired; so as to discover, if possible, the effects of external influence in the production and propagation of those diseases. The condition of the atmosphere should also be registered, particularly its barometric, thermometric, and hygrometric states. The object is not to build a theory, but to record facts, from which useful deductions may eventually be drawn; and, having stated this, the Council are satisfied that each member will feel it his duty to contribute his quota to so desirable an end. The register, completed on the last day of May in each year, should then be forwarded to. . . the Council." The report then goes on to say that, on a subject where the want of extensive and careful observation is felt, "the Council feel warranted in asserting that they expect the most satisfactory results from the combined observations of the Medical Association, forming a phalanx of observers never before known in the annals of British medicine."

I quote this paragraph in its entirety from the report presented at the Manchester meeting in 1836, for it shows that the clear-headed founders of the Association had in view the very arrangement which has been only recently effected by the energy of the President for 1880-81. The combined observation Committee which Professor Humphry has so ably founded, and Dr. Mahomed has organised, and which has already put out ramifications in all directions, is a part of the mission which the Association was bound to perform; and I congratulate the Association upon its completion, though it has taken forty-five years to bring it to a culminating point which involves success, and which could only arise after our financial condition was secure.

The fifth volume of *Transactions* contains some excellent papers, topographical, geological, and statistical, referring particularly to Bolton, by Dr. Black. There is also an article on "Glanders in the Human Subject," which is marked by a careful notation of facts by Dr. James Johnston. He sums up his observations by stating that, "Disorders may be communicable from one species to another, and that glanders, supposed to be peculiar to the horse, has lately been observed in man." The writer does not allege that he was the first to draw attention to the subject, for he refers to cases published by Mr. Travers, Dr. Elliotson, Mr. Massey of Nottingham, and others on the continent, but he says that the materials at hand were scanty. He connects the cases with farcy, and points out its likeness to gonorrhœa and syphilis, and draws attention to the effect upon human beings of matter from animals, which at that time was supposed to be unlikely to happen, the opinion of most physiologists being that there was an absolute barrier between the two classes of creatures, notwithstanding the evidence afforded by Ceely's observations. It was a good work, associating disease in man with its factor in the animal kingdom, so as to bring that connection forcibly to our notice, and to popularise the idea in the minds of the profession. It has helped to bring forth important fruit. The same volume contains a masterly report upon the then condition of medical relief for sick paupers by the Messrs. Rumsey and Robert Ceely, which, with a paper by Dr. J. Yellowley, addressed to Lord John Russell, was greatly instrumental in drawing attention to the terrible evils under which at that time the poor of the land were placed by the local authorities, and to the serfdom under which medical men laboured, who were appointed to attend upon the poor. This serfdom could not, but for our Association, have been fully exposed to public view. In those days, there were no local newspapers to ventilate the grievances of the oppressed local doctor. The medical press had a very limited influence, and was seldom read by others than a small body of medical men, who were without any kind of political power; for which reason, time-serving politicians scarcely cared to trouble themselves with us and our complaints. They could not have been successfully ventilated, but for the services of a few men who, like the founder of the *Lancet*, were able to wield the cudgels with intrepidity and vigour on behalf of their oppressed brethren, the parish doctors. The welfare of our profession demanded the presence of some of our brethren upon the benches of the House of Commons, and it is an absolute necessity for our tem-

poral welfare now as then. It is only by that means that the ministry of the day can be brought to consider complaints connected with payment for services rendered or official arrogance, be they ever so well founded. At the same time, it unfortunately happens that we are not likely to have any immediate representatives of the profession in either Houses of Legislature.

In the sixth volume we find a report upon "Influenza, or Epidemic Catarrh," which appeared so mysteriously in the winter of 1836-37, and, but for the Association, would have left very little record of its infliction beyond a few local monographs. The Council did that, however, which we trust will in future be done by the Collective Investigation Committee, now acting under the instructions of Dr. Mahomed. They issued a circular to the members, requesting information as to the origin, progress, and duration of the epidemic; the atmospheric phenomena attending and preceding it; together with such other particulars as might be necessary for the elucidation of many questions of interest immediately connected with the epidemic and its surroundings. A series of eighteen questions was issued, and a Committee was appointed at the Cheltenham meeting to examine the replies which had been sent to the Council, and to draw up a report upon the answers. An elaborate report was accordingly edited by Dr. R. J. N. Streeten of Worcester, and Mr. Addison of Malvern. It occupies sixty-seven pages of the sixth volume; and, upon page 558 of the volume, we find a chart with dotted and shaded lines, showing the apparent alliance between the fall of temperature and the rise of influenza. But the supposed influences are shown to be checked, by evidence obtained from many parts of the country; they did not stand in the relation of cause and effect, for the conditions were present in some places, but were not accompanied by the influenza. This chart is an evidence of the commencement of the use of a means which is now very generally adopted, and which has become an absolute necessity in determining the rise and fall of influences which may or may not affect each other, and which similar charts are able to depict in the most immediate and satisfactory manner. They are often used to show the non-influence of supposed causes, as well as the direct sequence of antagonistic or allied forces in the prevention or in the production of disease. The first use made of the chart by the Council of the Association was, to dissipate the error which was then generally accepted as true, viz., that the influenza was the result of a sudden extensive snowstorm, and had simply to do with rise and fall of temperature. The report for the year 1837-38, which was doubtless drawn up by our founder, refers in congratulatory terms to the result of the inquiry regarding influenza, and states that, in all future epidemics, a similar plan may with propriety be adopted; and it encouraged the Council to issue queries of a similar nature respecting small-pox and the protecting influence of vaccination.

The Association was, at that time, able to give a specimen of its usefulness in another direction. Dr. Thackeray of Chester offered £50 as a prize for the best essay upon a medical subject; and the committee appointed to advise upon its proper appropriation determined "that the investigation of the sources of the common and continued fevers of Great Britain and Ireland, and ascertaining the circumstances which may have a tendency to render them communicable from one person to another" should be the subject of competition, giving another proof of the direction in which the Association proposed to work.

This prize was not awarded until 1840. Eight essays were sent in, and the successful paper was by Dr. Davidson of Glasgow. It is published in vol. xi of the *British and Foreign Medical Review*. I have not had an opportunity of consulting this paper, but it and its competitive essays doubtless did something to draw attention, in Glasgow and elsewhere, to the causation and means which ought to be taken for the prevention of that class of disease.

The consideration of the condition of the Public Health occupied an important position in the proceedings, for the following resolutions were adopted at the annual meeting which was held at Cheltenham in 1837.

1. That it appears desirable to this meeting that the members of the Association, in their several localities, should urge upon the members of legislature the importance of an enlightened consideration of the question touching public health now pending in Parliament.
2. That the meeting suggests to the members generally the propriety of lending their aid to carry into effect the Act which has recently passed the legislature, to produce an improved registration of births, deaths, and fatal diseases.
3. That, as the Association feels persuaded that an extensive series of observations, made in the various sanitary institutions of the kingdom, would contribute especially to the progress of medical science, a committee be appointed to draw up tabular forms for statistical records of disease.

At the annual meeting which was held at Bath in the following year, that is, 1838, a considerable number of honorary corresponding members of the Association were appointed, many of them being noted for their labours in connection with the study of epidemic disease, and its relation to the topography of the districts with which they were directly connected.

The meeting was also signalised by the appointment of a new and enlarged committee to consider the question of small-pox and vaccination, to whom the replies to the queries of the Council were to be referred; and they were instructed to take the whole subject into consideration.

The Address on Medicine was read by Dr. Jonas Malden of Worcester; the earlier portion of it belongs to the region of causation and prevention. The beneficial influence of vaccination is strenuously urged upon the attention of the members, and the orator concluded his exhaustive review, which is well worthy of study, by urging upon the Association to observe nature with accuracy, and to interrogate her with the most scrupulous caution. A large portion of the volume of *Transactions* for this year is devoted to Medical Topography.

The meeting held in Liverpool in 1839 was noted for the time which is bestowed upon Hygiene; the volume of *Transactions* is one of the most valuable of the whole series. The President dwelt very forcibly upon Public Health, after eliciting loud applause by giving utterance to a belief that the annual meeting was "the Parliament of the profession". He proceeded to remark that: "We have to consider various and important subjects: one of them is that of Hygiene, a study in this country comparatively speaking overlooked...and this may be said without detracting from the just merits of those authors who have afforded effectual aid to the student by their writings." And, after noting a considerable number of kindred publications, he goes on to say: "Surely, it must be considered no small part of the duty of the medical man to preserve health as well as to combat disease, and this can only be done by vigilantly observing and making known local circumstances which lead to it"; and then he urges upon the Association to do their duty in promoting the beneficial effect of vaccination.

The Report of the Committee upon Small-pox was presented at this meeting, and occupied nearly three hours in its delivery. It fills ninety-eight pages of the eighth volume of the *Transactions*. Sufficient justice has never been done to this report; it is seldom referred to by recent authors, but it deserves to be reprinted and again distributed throughout the land, for it utterly demolishes all the arguments which are still brought against vaccination by those mischievous individuals who prey upon the weak minds of those who find the funds for the antivaccination craze, and who provide the funds to pay the salaries of those whose interest it is to keep that wicked agitation alive. The report deals with the affinities between the so-called human small-pox and cow small-pox, and conclusively establishes their identity. The volume is illustrated by some of the best representations of the disease which have ever been printed, and which were produced by the late Mr. Ceely of Aylesbury. He exhibited his original drawings at Cambridge in 1880, and showed some of that vigour which animated him in 1838, and which even at eighty-three years of age called forth loud applause at the University meeting. In any other country than our own, Robert Ceely, as well as his great prototype Jenner, would have been decorated with a string of honours of the highest order of merit; but in our own country those rewards are reserved for men who kill their fellow-creatures, or who play into the hands of the political leaders of the land, and not for those who are unselfish public benefactors.

The report dealt with the impediments to correct vaccination, and laid down directions which have been curiously disregarded. It clearly proves that the protecting power of vaccination is almost, if not quite, equal to that which is afforded by small-pox itself, and that recurring cases after perfect vaccination are not more numerous than after small-pox. It proves this statement by satisfactory statistics. It brings out facts which were well known to Jenner, that there were conditions which were gradations of protection, from those which are complete to those which are none at all. Dr. Jenner's last publication upon the subject shows that this knowledge caused him much disquiet, because his admonitions were so little heeded. The report deals with revaccination, and recommends it to be carried out under certain conditions. It points out the evils which arose from the practice of inoculation; it protests against the continuance of that practice, and suggests lines of conduct for promoting genuine effectual vaccination.

The Report, which was signed by Dr. Baron of Cheltenham, was received and adopted, with cordial votes of thanks to its authors; and a petition to Parliament was agreed upon, calling upon the Legislature to prohibit inoculation, and to take measures to render vaccination

more effectual. Mr. Ceely's observations upon the variolæ vaccinæ as they occasionally appeared in the Vale of Aylesbury, with an account of some recent experiments in the vaccination, retrovaccination, and variolation of cows, illustrated by a most valuable series of plates, thirty-five in number, occupy nearly 150 pages of this volume. Mr. Ceely took for his motto Montaigne's dictum, viz., *Que chacun dise ce qu'il sait, tout ce qu'il sait, et rien que ce qu'il sait.* And well he carries out the precept; it is a model for our young men, and it is still worthy of study by our older heads. There is an addition to the Report in the next volume, which is quite equal in interest to the first part of the work, and it has some excellent plates, which show infection from cow to man.

The eighth anniversary meeting was held at Southampton. The Report of the Council informs us that the result of the petition to Parliament, and the information which had been distributed by the agency of the Association, was instrumental in gaining a legislative enactment, by means of which inoculation was prohibited, and the regular practice of vaccination promoted by new machinery. The Report, however, regrets that the clause enforcing this Act throws the duty upon the Poor-law Boards. The Council endeavoured to obviate this unfortunate arrangement, but were unable to do so; and that which was believed to be a misfortune by the Council, at that day, has been shown to be so by its results, and has continued to be an impediment up to the present time. Nothing has interfered with the thorough performance of vaccination so much as placing its machinery in the hands of a body whose great object has been, by means of the agents employed, to get the action carried out in a cheap manner, rather than in an effectual one—a body which has been in the past more intent upon reducing the charge upon the current poor-rate than to protect the public from the evils of small-pox. The Royal Commission, upon which I have had the privilege of acting, has unanimously recommended that this anomaly should be removed, and that the machinery for efficient vaccination should be altogether separated from the management of the paupers of the country, and placed in the hands of the sanitary authorities. The Association was instrumental in abolishing the practice of inoculation. They could obtain prohibition, but the payment for a new duty was altogether another thing. In all matters in which an expense has to be met, it has always found us unable, in a great measure, to do justice to the requirements of our profession, because of our limited political power. A special vote of thanks was passed to the late Mr. Wakley for his exertions in the House of Commons in support of the Vaccination Act, as well as for other points upon which he had been instrumental in forwarding the interests of his professional brethren; and it was also directly owing to him, as much as to anybody, that the practice of inoculation was put a stop to by legislative enactment.

We are informed by Dr. Jeffreys, at Southampton, in his retiring address, that the report which was presented by Dr. Baron at the Liverpool meeting was quickly translated into the German language, and probably has had much to do with correct knowledge upon this subject on the Continent.

The Report of the Council at that meeting concluded by congratulating the members assembled that "their endeavours to alleviate the sickness and sufferings of the human race had been crowned with a success as great as the most ardent mind could have anticipated."

It was also pointed out at the meeting, and a resolution was passed, that the interests of the public would be more satisfactorily protected if the children attending public elementary schools should be required to produce a certificate, stating that the child had been efficiently vaccinated. It would be an advantage if the duty of inspection on this point could be made a part of the duty of medical officers of health, and that he could be the advising officer for all school-boards upon public hygiene. The Association, at this meeting, was stated to consist of upwards of 1,000 members. It was suggested that the time had arrived for it to possess a journal devoted to the interests of the Association itself. Soon afterwards an arrangement was effected, by which the *Provincial Medical and Surgical Journal*, then being published at Manchester, became affiliated with the Association, and reported its proceedings.

Next year, Dr. Hastings resigned his position as General Secretary, and was appointed President of the Council, an office which he held until his death on July 30th, 1866. It is not for me to pronounce any particular panegyric upon our founder; but I must record my opinion that to him and his exertions we owe some of the advance which has been made in the study of preventive medicine. His knowledge of men and things enabled him to single out those pioneers of work for the public good which placed them in positions in which they could be more useful, and could push forward their work with greater vigour and effect. I feel sure that it will be with your approval that I record this

opinion upon this anniversary in this section, and state that sanitary science owes much to this city.

Dr. Streeten, his able colleague, supported his chief with loyal consistency; actively engaged in the work of the Association, he delivered the Address in Medicine, at York, in 1841. In that address, made forty-one years ago, I find a reference to the work of our distinguished colleague, Dr. A. P. Stewart, which clearly establishes his claim to having first pointed out the distinction between typhus and typhoid fevers; he helped us to solve some difficult points in causation, and connected, as far as the Association is concerned, the distant past with time present, for the same A. P. Stewart is still among us, giving us the benefit of his wisdom and consummate knowledge upon the principles of hygiene and the laws requisite for the promotion of public health. Dr. Davidson's paper, which had gained the Thackeray prize, is, in the succeeding sentences, spoken of in terms of eulogy; and it is a curious point that a Stewart prize has been awarded at this meeting to those who have advanced the cause of preventive medicine by original research, and that we owe our power to award that prize to the same Dr. A. P. Stewart who was so highly spoken of by Dr. Streeten. The Worcester physician succeeded his chief in the office of general secretary, and continued to direct the work of the Association until the time of his death, which took place shortly before the annual meeting, which was held at Worcester in the year 1849.

Dr. Streeten showed by his work that a consideration of public health, in his view, was the noblest part of a doctor's vocation. The foundations for a great result were laid by those eminent members of our profession in this ancient city, and to them, with their gifted chief, Sir Charles Hastings, we owe some of our power to distribute knowledge upon these principles, which are important to every living person.

A Public Medicine Section was first organised at the Oxford meeting in 1868, and has been regularly instituted since that date. In 1875 I had the distinguished honour of reading an Address upon Public Medicine, a position which that subject occupied for the first time at the Sheffield meeting.

The impetus given to original research by the Scientific Grants Committee, the foundation of the Hastings medal, the registration of disease, as suggested by my distinguished predecessor in this chair, Dr. Ransome, and especially the establishment of examinations in subjects relating to public health at our Universities, have tended to help forward the good work. The latter is especially due to the enlightened men who have acted as your guides upon the Committee of Council, assisted by those who have been placed at the head of the staff of the *BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL*. The position that sanitary science and preventive medicine now occupies in the estimation of the public is due, in a great measure, to the steps which Sir Charles Hastings took when he founded the Association fifty years ago; and in his honour, as well as for the public good, I ask you to assist to render it all that can be desired that it should become. Time would fail me to refer to all the works connected with our subject; but with an able editor of our Journal, especially devoted to hygiene, and who lets no opportunity slip of promoting those objects which especially belong to our branch of the Association work, there must be a great future in store for us; and the revolution in medicine, which a study of prevention is likely to effect, may be nearer than most of us suppose to be the case. Our successors in this work who will occupy our places fifty years hence will then, perhaps, be able to give a tribute to our memory, not on a par with that which we wish to bestow upon our founders, but one which will tell to future generations that we have not been false to the trust which we have undertaken to perform.

THE GROSS PROFESSORSHIP OF PATHOLOGICAL ANATOMY.—At a recent meeting of the Alumni Association of Jefferson Medical College, a committee was appointed to make arrangements for establishing a Chair in honour of Professor Samuel D. Gross. The Chair is to be endorsed by contributions from the Alumni in every section of the world, and already a number have been offered, showing that a general and hearty response will be received from the old graduates of the school. Professor Gross enjoys at the present time the full vigour of his sturdy constitution, and will, no doubt, live to see the valuable results of the practical precepts that he has taught for many years. His good name, his skill, his wise judgment, and his practical and voluminous additions to the science of surgery, will be perpetuated long after the members of the Alumni Association and Jefferson Medical College have crumbled into dust. This memento will, however, go down through history to successive generations, and show how Professor Samuel D. Gross was revered, honoured, and esteemed by his host of pupils, scattered over all the civilised world, for his high attainments as a teacher, as a surgeon, and his great usefulness and benefit to mankind.