waste of knowledge—namely, in connection with *post mortem* examinations. Medical men followed up a case, sometimes in dim uncertainty, not infrequently in most mistaken certainty, up to the point when death offered an opportunity of unravelling the mystery, and of turning his own weapons against himself. How very large an amount of knowledge was here lost for want of some better means of gathering it in. If the Association could take measures to prevent this waste, it would be doing a vast amount of good. It had occurred to him that the way in which this could be done would be to have in each centre, *e.g.*, in Cambridge, some well qualified person who would be able to go into the surrounding district and assist medical men in conducting *post mortem* examinations. Medical men had not the time, and they would pardon him for saying that many of them had not the skill, to carry out an investigation of this kind in accordance with the modern requirements of science. Two things were needed to give practical effect to this suggestion: first, the men—a difficulty which might probably be met; and, secondly, the money, for certain funds would be required to pay men who should be thus occupied; and this was not easily provided.

The Association also endeavoured to improve its members socially. A great alteration for the better had taken place in this respect within his own observation. Medical men now looked upon one another less as antagonists and more as fellow-labourers in the great cause of humanity. He would venture to throw out the hint, by way of making a practical suggestion, that they should never take offence at that which came through a third person. The most friendly feelings might be misrepresented by a simple gesture; the softest, kindest words might be marred and poisoned by an altered tone, and a meaningless and utterly inoffensive expression might be turned into gall and wormwood by a slight alteration or a trifling exaggeration. This ought not to be so. As members of a professional brotherhood, still more as members of a Christian brotherhood, they ought each to be clothed with such a mantle of good feeling as should ward off many of the arrows which were aimed at them, and certainly should allow none of those which were not intended for them to enter and leave a wound. There should be a confidence in one another's uprightness which hinders the imputation of an ill motive—some of that best feature of charity which thinketh no evil. He had said that there had been a decided improvement in this respect among the medical profession in his time, and that was not a little due to the Association and its meetings. One of the greatest privileges in life was that of coming into contact with men better than themselves. At these meetings they came face to face and hand to hand, and by those unerring pulses tested the qualities of one another's hearts; and there were very few who did not feel that they had met others better than themselves. There was, therefore, a responsibility in attending these meetings, as well as a pleasure—the responsibility of self-improvement, the responsibility of going away better than they came; and if any individual member were raised at the meeting a single step on the ladder of good thought and high motive, their gathering together would not have been in vain.

REMINISCENCES OF A BRANCH SECRETARY.

Being the Address delivered at the Twenty-sixth Annual Meeting of the North Wales Branch.

By D. KENT JONES, M.R.C.S. Eng., President.

I CAN assure you I highly appreciate the honour bestowed upon me by electing me to the position of President of this Branch of the British Medical Association. To me, who have always taken the liveliest interest in everything that concerned the affairs of our Branch, it must, you may well imagine, be a source of the highest gratification to find himself again in close official connection with you. When I resigned the post of honorary secretary, which I had held since the establishment of this Branch, and removed to a distant and new sphere of professional labour, I did not anticipate I should return so soon to the scenes of so many happy and pleasant meetings of this Association. There are many friendly faces and genial voices which I miss—some voices, alas! hushed for ever; there are others, again, who, I am sure, would gladly have been here to-day but for urgent professional engagements. A holiday from our heavy and anxious duties, even for one day, to meet men of whom we have probably heard only by fame, is an enjoyable matter, and cannot be said to have been altogether thrown away.

I intended to say a few words on some subjects of medical practice, making, as it were, a running commentary on some points of therapeutics. It occurred to me, however, that a retrospect, though necessarily a condensed one, of the transactions of this Branch, extending

over a period of twenty-six years, might be acceptable. It was in the spring of 1849, that I took upon myself the initiation of calling a meeting of Poor-law medical officers and others, who I thought might be favourably disposed, at the Liverpool Arms Hotel, Bangor, for the purpose of forming a medical society for North Wales. Of the several gentlemen who attended that little meeting, two or three only are now living, whilst others emigrated to the colonies, and have there ended their career. My old friend, Dr. Lloyd of Llangefni, who was a member of the Provincial Medical and Surgical Association at the time, recommended that we should try to form a Branch of that Society for North Wales, and wrote to the late Sir Charles Hastings of Worcester for advice. Mr. T. T. Griffith of Wrexham took a lively and important part in the movement; and attended the second meeting, at which it was decided to convene a meeting at Rhyl of all the qualified members of the profession, with the view of inaugurating the North Wales Branch. This was held in May, 1849, and was numerous and influentially attended. And from that meeting the Branch may be said to have fairly started upon its career of usefulness, with Mr. Griffith of Wrexham as its first president, and Dr. Edward Williams of Wrexham and myself as honorary secretaries. To their persevering and valuable exertions, I attribute the successful establishment of this Branch. We were fortunate in having presidents annually who were men of high professional attainments; and, what is also of considerable importance, they were gentlemen whose social position and private worth were recognised by the public, not only of their respective localities, but throughout North Wales. Men of such mark could not fail to attract notice, and they upheld the honour and dignity of the profession. Medical men were gathered together to exchange kindly sentiments; they became better acquainted with each other; and helped to remove those narrow prejudices and jealousies, which so much mar that mutual respect and good feeling which should ever characterise the members of such a profession as ours. The isolated practitioner no longer could complain of the want of a society within easy reach, but for which he might continue to live on unknown to his brethren in more distant parts of the Principality. The benefits of such an institution surely cannot be over-estimated, especially when we are oftentimes beset with difficult cases, and need the advice and assistance of abler and more experienced counsellors.

The locality for holding these meetings should, I think, be always carefully decided upon. We should not forget that much of the success of these gatherings depends upon the place selected for holding the meeting, so that we may attend, and return home on the same day. But it is not always possible to confine ourselves to this scheme. For instance, it is very desirable to break new ground, and go where we have never been before, as was lately done at Bala, where a most successful meeting, largely attended, crowned our efforts. It was here, at Rhyl, that Mr. Theed proposed we should hold what are now familiarly known as intermediate meetings. Although at first these were not so well supported, they have for several years past, I may say upon the whole, been well attended, and have afforded more time for reading papers and discussing cases, leaving to the annual meetings the work of electing officers and auditing treasurer's accounts, and so on. Here, too, from its central position, the majority of our gatherings have been held. I must not forget to record how hospitably we have been entertained by some of our kind fellow-associates to dinners and elegant luncheons, on the occasions of these reunions occurring in towns where they resided.

The British Medical Benevolent Fund was established a few years after the formation of the British Medical Association, with which it has always been in connection. This excellent institution has from time to time afforded a vast amount of good; relieving the poor and distressed medical men, their widows and orphans, in a quiet unostentatious manner. The operations of the Committee are not confined to members only of the British Medical Association; but its benefits are extended to others also. Several members of this Branch are annual subscribers to its funds; and at one of our annual meetings, the sum of £5 was unanimously voted towards the same out of the annual subscriptions. I earnestly commend it to your favourable notice; and would suggest that at every annual meeting some voluntary donation, however small, be made at our festive board to show that, whilst Providence smiles upon us, we do not forget that at that moment there are many unfortunate brethren, and the widows and orphans of deceased brethren, struggling for very existence!

We have as our property that first class weekly paper the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL. It reflects the opinions of the members upon all great professional and social questions. In it we have every subject thoroughly ventilated, and it is conducted with unwearied industry, zeal, and talent.

To the parent Association, and her dutiful children the Branches,

credit must be accorded for the success of the great measures affecting our profession which have passed through Parliament and become law, after being for twenty years or more before the public creating considerable agitation. Substantial as have been some of these, there are still a few things remaining to excite our vigilance and to call for redress. I will briefly turn to them. We require some law to prevent unqualified counter-practice. The chemists and druggists, under the protection of the Pharmaceutical Society, will soon, unless restrained, claim fellowship with us. It seems monstrous that they should be allowed to visit, and give advice and medicine to the sick. The present systems of Poor-law medical relief, provident dispensaries, and public hospitals, require close investigation with a view to render medical relief to the really necessitous poor more certain, and to prevent the bulk of the working classes from receiving medicine and advice for nothing. Some very able articles have appeared occasionally in the *BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL* bearing upon the above subject; and the time, I am confident, must soon arrive when decisive steps must be taken. The Charity Organisation Society of London has done a great deal of good; and were the British Medical and Social Science Associations to co-operate with them, I have no doubt the public would soon be interested in the matter. The Public Health and the Adulteration of Food and Drugs Acts are measures of importance, and have imposed great responsibilities upon the medical men who have been appointed to discharge such heavy and multifarious duties.

Looking back to some of the transactions of this Branch, I am particularly struck with one interesting feature which brings out vividly the character and worth of one of our oldest and most esteemed fellow-associates, viz., Mr. Thomas Taylor Griffith of Wrexham, who has on two different occasions been elected our president. To mark the great regard and friendship entertained towards him, the members, at the annual meeting held here on July 8th, 1873, presented Mrs. Griffiths with his photographic likeness, in a speech full of pathos and kindly sentiments by Dr. Hughes of Colwyn, formerly of Mold, who had also the able assistance of Dr. Llewelyn Williams of Wrexham, as honorary secretary of the presentation committee.

The medical profession ranks deservedly high in the estimation of the public; and its sayings and doings are eagerly scanned. But many members of it, I am sorry to think, have not that proper and exalted idea of the true ethical bearing which characterises not only the doctor, but the gentleman. Too much of the trade and underselling spirit pervades the minds of some, a great deal of charlatanism is practised by others. The really earnest lovers of the art delight only in securing to their patients the fruit of their skill and knowledge without the tares of sophistry and empiricism. These cannot, naturally, connect themselves with irregular practice; and whenever they are confronted with unqualified men, it will behave us all to rally round them, and tender our support and warmest sympathy. Some years ago, I recollect, at one of the annual meetings of this Branch, a strong resolution was unanimously carried against all recognition of quackery, whether in the shape of homœopathy or any other name. I invite notice to be taken of what has recently occurred at Llanberis and Bethesda. I have been acquainted with Mr. Hamilton A. Roberts for upwards of thirty years, and I have known Mr. Hugh Rees also for a considerable period. Both are members of this Branch; the former having filled with distinction the post of President. They have, as you know, voluntarily relinquished lucrative offices, rather than countenance bone-setters. We ought to convey to them our opinion of the unfair and most ungenerous treatment they have received at the hands of men who ought to have requited them better. A letter on the subject was placed in my hand, as I came into the room to-day. It is as follows.

"11, Victoria Place, Bethesda, 15th June, 1875.

"Sir,—Most of the members of the medical profession in North Wales are no doubt aware of the appointment of an unqualified bone-setter to act in conjunction with a professional gentleman at the Penrhyn Quarry Hospital. In consequence of this, Dr. H. A. Roberts, who has held the appointment of surgeon to the quarry for a period of about forty-three years, has thought it incumbent upon him to resign that post. I need not inform you that the resignation of Dr. Roberts is a matter of deep regret to all who have had the benefit of his skill and experience in this neighbourhood; and it has been resolved to present him with a testimonial as a slight token of their esteem and respect, and also as a mark of their sympathy, under the circumstances that have compelled him to resign. Subscriptions will be received by the undersigned, or by Mr. R. O. Morris, the Bank, Bethesda. (Signed, etc.) E. PHILIP WILLIAMS, Hon. Sec."

It is time I should draw this to a close; I am anxious to say a few words more before I do so. In conducting the affairs of this Society, I was for several years ably assisted by our old friend Mr. George

Turner Jones of Denbigh, who was lately obliged to resign the treasurer-ship, owing to bad health. You will join me, I am sure, in expressing our sincere regret at this circumstance, and hope that rest and genial climate may restore him to good health. I bear in grateful remembrance the substantial tokens of your good wishes towards me expressed on two different occasions. I am glad to say that Dr. Eyton Jones of Wrexham has consented to fill the office of honorary secretary of the Branch, and that Dr. Lloyd Roberts of Denbigh holds the treasurer-ship. I am rejoiced to say that nearly all the respectable and talented members of the profession in the United Kingdom and Colonies are now members of the British Medical Association. To those resident in the district of the North Wales Branch who have not yet joined our ranks, I would earnestly appeal, and ask them to become members. The advantages of membership are well defined in the mutual regard and friendship it establishes. I look back to the many years I have been connected with it with singularly felicitous reminiscences. I cannot recall an instance in which I regretted absenting myself for a few hours from the anxious duties of country practice to meet my fellow-associates at meetings like this. The objects of this Society are not those for the gratification of the moment; they point the attention of the profession to the attainment of those medical and scientific purposes for which principally it was established. Bringing so many together naturally conduces to the better cultivation of friendship and knowledge of each other, but for which this happy consummation would never have been attained. I thank you sincerely for listening to a somewhat prolix address, and fear I have occupied too much of your time.

ON THE VALUE OF ASSOCIATED WORK IN INVESTIGATING THE PREVENTABLE CAUSES OF DISEASE.

Abstract of an Address delivered at the Annual Meeting of the Southern Branch, July 1st, 1875.

By JOHN ORSBORN, M.D., Vice-President.

HAVING feelingly referred to the enforced absence of the President-elect, and expressed his conviction that he commanded the unanimous sympathy of the members of the Branch, Dr. Orsborn pleaded for the extension of consideration towards his own effort, in view of the short notice and the little leisure he had enjoyed for preparation, and his lack of experience as compared with that which Dr. Maclean had abundantly at command. Everyone familiar with the history and progress of medical science would be willing to admit that it might proudly take its position amongst the most highly cultivated branches of human knowledge; and, recognising the treasures which had been bequeathed to them by their predecessors, it was incumbent upon the members of the Branch to strive to aid in the completion of that edifice whose foundations had been laid by the great, the noble, and the good of their race. It appeared to him, further, that it was the special province of medical societies, more especially an Association so extensive and influential as that of which they constituted a Branch, which numbered not its hundreds only, but its thousands of members, to regard this rich inheritance with peculiar reverence, to foster it with the tenderest care, and to endeavour, by collective and individual efforts, so to use it that it should suffer no deterioration at their hands, and so to guard it that its prestige be preserved, its usefulness extended, and its boundaries enlarged, so that as an inheritance it might pass to their successors richer than it came to them. Although much might and had been done by individual effort, it seemed to him much more might be accomplished if the executive and members of the Association were to undertake the duty of organising some system whereby the smaller rivulets of knowledge that now in a large measure ran to waste could be guided, as it were, into one general current, so that they might become assimilated. This was not the time to consider the details of such a scheme, but he believed its adoption to be both possible and practical. For instance, what a high degree of interest would attach to a carefully arranged geography of diseases, acquired through the combined efforts of the members of the Association, contributing, as it might be made to do, to a medical topography of the several districts of the kingdom. No one could tell how far it might tend towards the elucidation of much that was now mysterious in the genesis of disease, or to the explanation of variations in their character. By its aid, some definite conclusions might be arrived at as to the effects of altitude, geological formation, direction of winds, proximity to the sea, the "lay" of the land, the dryness or humidity of the air, and other influences which in their totality constituted climate, upon diseases generally, and on epidemics specially. There was, without doubt, a certain range of variability