THE ROYAL COLLEGES AND THE UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.

The Royal College of Physicians of London and the Royal College of Surgeons of England appointed some time ago delegates to consider and propound a scheme for establishing a system of conjoint examinations in accordance with Statute 123 of the University. The delegates were:

Sir R. Douglas Powell, Bart., K.C.V.O., Chairman.	
Dr. Norman Moore.	Dr. H. A. Cayley.
Dr. Edward Liveing.	Mr. Henry Morris, P.R.C.S.
Dr. Frederick Taylor.	Mr. A. Pearce Gould.
Sir William Allchin, M.D.	Mr. H. T. Butlin.
Sir W. Watson Cheyne, Bart., C.B.	Mr. R. J. Godlee.
	Mr. H. H. Clutton.

The report of the delegates dated December 3rd, 1908, was approved and adopted by the Council of the Royal College of Surgeons on December 15th, 1908, and by the Royal College of Physicians on December 17th, 1908. The scheme proposed in this report was communicated to the University of London in a letter addressed to the Vice-Chancellor by the presidents of the two colleges on January 22nd, 1909, asking him to bring the subject before the Senate and expressing the hope that the Senate would see its way to appoint representatives to meet the delegates of the two colleges and discuss the proposals outlined in the report.

REPORT.

The delegates appointed by the Royal Colleges

To consider and draft a scheme which, if approved by the Royal Colleges, shall be submitted to the Senate of the University of London, with the object of establishing a system of Conjoint Examinations,

beg to report as follows:

Taking into consideration the provisions of Statute 123 of the University of London, the existing conditions of medical education in the metropolis and the undoubted demand for a Degree in Medicine which shall be more accessible to the average London medical student, and assuming the existence of a general desire on the part of the University, the Royal Colleges, and the medical schools of London to unite in a concerted effort to provide such a degree, the delegates are of opinion that there should be little difficulty in arriving at an equitable and advantageous solution of the problem.

Statute 123 of the University of London is as follows:

The Senate may make arrangements with the Royal College of Physicians of London and the Royal College of Surgeons of England, or either of them, to conduct jointly with the Senate examinations in such portions of the subjects included in the course of study for a medical degree as may be agreed upon between the Senate and those colleges, or either of them, and may also make similar arrangements with other corporations and institutions holding professional examinations in subjects included in other courses of study.

At the present time, of the male students who obtain the M.B. or M.D. degree of the London University, 84 per cent. take the diplomas of the Royal Colleges, and of the graduates in medicine of the University of Cambridge 71 per cent. take the diplomas. Of the total number of diplomates of the Royal Colleges 20 per cent. take the degree of the University of London, 16 per cent. the degree of the University of Cambridge, and 15 per cent. the degrees of other universities, English, foreign, or Colonial. It is thus shown that, roughly, one half of the diplomates of the two colleges are also graduates in medicine.

During the four years 1903-6:

(1) Of Bachelors and Doctors of Medicine in the University of London *Calendar* for 1907-8 there are respectively 365 and 164 male graduates who obtained their degrees during these years. Of such graduates, 311 (85.2 per cent.) and 135 (82.3 per cent.) were at the time, or became subsequently, diplomates of the Royal Colleges. Therefore, of the total male graduates in Medicine—that is, 529—446, or 84.3 per cent., are also diplomates of the Royal Colleges.

(2) Of 253 men who obtained the degree of M.B. of the University of Cambridge, 181, or 71.5 per cent., hold the diplomas of L.R.C.P. and M.R.C.S.

(3) Of 1,704 candidates who obtained the diplomas of L.R.C.P. and M.R.C.S., 885, or 51.9 per cent., are also graduates of or candidates for the degrees in Medicine of the following Universities:

- (a) Cambridge, 274, or 16.1 per cent.
- (b) London, 347, or 20.4 per cent.

- (c) Other English Universities, 119, or 7 per cent.
- (d) Irish and Scottish Universities, 17, or 0.9 per cent.
- (e) Indian and Colonial, 103, or 6 per cent.
- (f) Foreign Universities, 25, or 1.5 per cent.

It is further evident that there is a general desire amongst those who intend to take university degrees or who already possess them to obtain also the diplomas of the Royal Colleges.

It is desirable that in London the system of teaching and examination should be co-ordinated in such a manner as to reduce the number of examinations.

In London the same representatives of medicine and surgery, midwifery, anatomy, physiology, and other subjects, teach for the examinations of the University and of the Royal Colleges. The organization of medical education in London, whether by the University, the Royal College of Physicians, or the Royal College of Surgeons, is largely controlled by the same individuals. Yet for the University and for the Royal Colleges there are separate boards of examiners in all branches of the curriculum, separate examinations involving considerable expense, and a re-examination of the student in the same subjects, frequently within a few months.

The general character of the examinations and the methods of conducting them by the University and by the Royal Colleges are very similar.

The University makes use of the Examination Hall of the Royal Colleges for the Intermediate M.B. examinations, for the viva voce examinations in Medicine, Midwifery, Forensic Medicine, Public Health, for the Clinical Examination in Surgery and the examination in Surgical Anatomy and Apparatus for the Final M.B., B.S., as well as for part of the M.S. degree. The rooms of the Royal College of Surgeons and preparations from the Hunterian Museum are placed at the disposal of the University for the pathological part of the Final Examination. The instruments, specimens, and other apparatus of the Conjoint Board are also utilized, and the officials of the Board assist to a considerable extent in the arrangements for some of these University examinations.

In considering such a scheme the delegates have taken as a basis of their deliberations the following principles:

(a) That the University should retain all its existing rights as to the granting of degrees, but should consent to exercise them as regards pass degrees conjointly with the Royal Colleges so far as those students are concerned who shall have spent not less than four years in study at London medical schools and hospitals and who shall have complied with such conditions as the University and the Royal Colleges may determine.

It is assumed that the University will continue to grant, independently of the Royal Colleges, degrees in Medicine and Surgery, which might be called Honours degrees. The views of those who maintain that the present degrees of the University of London are of an Honours standard would thus be met.

(b) That the Royal Colleges should retain all their existing rights, to grant diplomas to those who (1) are not eligible under the foregoing conditions; or (2) do not desire to come under such conditions.

It is thus assumed that the Royal Colleges will continue to admit to examination for their diplomas candidates from other universities, home, foreign, and colonial, as well as London medical students who are not students of the London University.

(c) That the Royal Colleges should be associated with the University in conducting the Preliminary Scientific, Intermediate, and Final Examinations for the Pass Degree (M.B., B.S., M.D.)

This arrangement will secure—

1. That the average London student will be able to obtain the degree of Doctor of Medicine.
2. That medical education in London will become more systematized.
3. That there will be a reduction in the number of examinations to be passed by the student desiring to take a degree and the diplomas.
4. That a larger proportion of students would be encouraged to avail themselves of the great opportunities of clinical study afforded by the hospitals of London.
5. That the University and the Royal Colleges acting together with the same staff and equipment would be able to reduce the expenditure on examinations.

The delegates beg to state that, should the principle of an association between the University and the Royal Colleges be accepted, they are prepared to bring forward a working scheme for carrying the proposal into effect.

In view, however, of the fact that since the appointment of the delegates the Senate of the University has asked for a Royal Commission, the delegates beg to recommend that the Royal Colleges should take steps to secure the representation of their views on the subject of the present reference before any Royal Commission which may be appointed, and should at a fitting time ask the University to appoint delegates to discuss this question with the delegates of the Royal Colleges, so that if possible they may agree upon a joint representation to the Royal Commission.

R. DOUGLAS POWELL.

THE CREMATION SOCIETY OF ENGLAND.

THE annual general meeting of members of the Cremation Society of England was held on Wednesday, February 24th, the PRESIDENT, Sir Charles Cameron, M.D., LL.D., being in the chair.

In moving the adoption of the report of the Council and the accounts for 1908, the PRESIDENT recalled the fact that at the last general meeting new rules were sanctioned under which the subscription for life membership of the society was reduced to five guineas. This carried with it the right of cremation, without further fees, in any crematory in Great Britain. This arrangement, he said, had already led to a large increase in the number of life members. The number of cremations in Great Britain in 1908 exceeded that in any previous year, and fell short only by 5 of the round number of 800. The experience of Germany induced him to take a very hopeful view of the present position. There cremation was introduced years before it was practicable in this country, and the cremations performed in Germany up to the present numbered about 20,000. In Germany during the twenty years succeeding 1878, when the pioneer crematory at Gotha was opened, the total number of cremations was only 3,111, giving an average for the period of 155 a year. It was not till 1902 that the number attained the point which had now been reached here. But by that time the movement had taken root, and since then in Germany it had progressed literally by leaps and bounds; the increase on the previous year in 1907 amounted to over 900 cremations, and the figure for 1908 again exceeded that of 1907 by 1,073. As human nature in Germany and in this country was very much the same, and as there were now 13 crematories at work in Great Britain against 16 in Germany, the President saw no reason why the progress of the movement here should not proceed on much the same lines as had been experienced in Germany. Here there was abundant evidence of a widespread and ever-increasing interest in the progress of cremation. During the past year some 500 applications for information of a propagandist character had been received. There had also been some 50 inquiries from municipal or public bodies and individuals at home and abroad regarding the construction and mechanism of crematories, the formation of local societies, points of law, and other technical details. The balance-sheet showed the healthy financial condition of the society. It was not a trading company, but in its future development commercial considerations would have to play a prominent part. He mentioned that an undertaker, who proposed to confine his work exclusively to arrangements for cremations, had started business in London. The President then referred to the security which the precautions required by law before cremation was permitted afforded for the detection of foul play. The investigations of a Parliamentary Committee had disclosed the scandalous laxity and inefficiency of the existing law on death certification. The committee recommended various self-obvious and much-needed reforms, but many years had since elapsed, and the state of the law with regard to earth burial remained as it was. It was very different in the case of cremation. There the requirements of the law were so strict as to render it practically impossible for any suspicious or doubtful case to escape a searching investigation.

After the report and balance sheet had been adopted

and the council and officers re-elected, the election of the following vice-presidents by the council was confirmed by the meeting: The Duke of Bedford, K.G., the Earl of Mayo, P.C., K.P., Right Honourable Sir Walter Foster, P.C., M.P., Right Honourable Robert Farquharson, P.C., Honourable Percy Wyndham, J.P., D.L., Sir G. Anderson Critchett, Bart., F.R.C.S.Ed., C.V.O., and Sir John Tweedy, F.R.C.S.

MEDICAL GRADUATES' COLLEGE AND POLYCLINIC.

THE annual general meeting of the Medical Graduates' College and Polyclinic was held at 22, Chenies Street, in London, on March 1st, with Dr. C. THEODORE WILLIAMS in the chair.

Dr. W. H. BAILEY, the new Secretary and Superintendent, read the notice convening the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN, in moving the adoption of the report and balance sheet, said that in regard to the falling off in the number of subscribers it must be remembered that the Polyclinic had to contend with rival institutions. There were the West London Post-Graduate School, the Tottenham and the Greenwich Schools, and in addition, there were some general hospitals, like St. Bartholomew's, where post-graduate courses were conducted. In the matter of lectures, however, the Polyclinic secured the best teaching, not only of London but of the United Kingdom; there had unfortunately been a general feeling during the troublous times of the Polyclinic that the place was not going on and that, therefore, it was no use joining, but he hoped that that impression would be corrected now that it had been agreed to carry on the Polyclinic. After referring to the excellent results of the laboratory work at the Polyclinic the Chairman announced that the institution had been admitted into the London Post-Graduate Association. In consequence of the generous donation from Lord Iveagh of £200, and the munificent offer from Sir Jonathan Hutchinson, the closure of the Polyclinic had been averted. He regretted that 245 of the members and subscribers to the Polyclinic had not returned any answer to the appeal for an increase of their subscription. He then announced that he himself had resigned the office of Chairman of the Council, and that the following resignations had also been received: The Treasurer, Dr. Cautley; the Chairman of the Finance and House Committee, Mr. Ernest Clarke; the Chairman of the Library Lectures Committee, Dr. Leonard Williams; and a large number of members from the Council.

Dr. C. O. HAWTHORNE, in supporting the motion, said that no one failed to recognize the generous and effective help of Sir Jonathan Hutchinson, and the medical profession felt a substantial degree of recognition and gratitude was due to that gentleman. It would not be wise for any of them to go home and think that the Polyclinic was in an absolutely safe position, for it must be remembered that Sir Jonathan Hutchinson had made his offer for two years only; and as a matter of fact, only twelve months would have to pass before the next annual meeting would have to contemplate whether the Polyclinic could be carried on then. He (Dr. Hawthorne) had always held that the wise policy to pursue was to adhere to the 1 guinea subscription; that view did not conflict with the invitation to members to increase their subscription, but it recognized that the chief function of the Polyclinic was to provide opportunities of clinical study to gentlemen who were engaged in practice in the metropolitan districts.

The resolution was put to the meeting and carried.

Dr. Dundas Grant was elected honorary treasurer, and the following gentlemen were elected members of council: Dr. H. Campbell, Dr. G. C. Cathcart, Mr. H. L. Eason, Dr. R. A. Gibbons, Dr. T. N. Kelyack, Mr. Cecil H. Leaf, Dr. James Mackenzie, Mr. Lockhart Mummery, Mr. Charles Ryall, Mr. Thomson Walker, and Mr. G. B. Mower White.

MR. FRANK MADDEN, F.R.C.S., Professor of Surgery at the University of Cairo, has had the honour of receiving from His Highness the Khedive the decoration of the Third Class of the Imperial Order of the Medjidieh on account of services rendered to His Highness's Government. Mr. Madden received his medical education in Melbourne and at St. Mary's Hospital, London. He has been ten years in Cairo.