a good deal of recent American work has been added. The existence of the opposite condition, "alkalosis," unless it occurs in parathyroid tetany, has not justified its claim to definite recognition.

The clear, and at the same time condensed, manner in which the rather difficult subject matter is treated is admirable, and the present edition fully maintains the high standard and reputation of its predecessors.

NOTES ON BOOKS.

DR. RUTHERFORD DARLING, assistant surgeon to the South Sydney Hospital, setting out to write a handbook on preventive nursing in accordance with the syllabus laid down for the final examination of the Australian Trained Nurses' Association, has produced a book, *Elementary Hygiene for Nurses*,³ which not only fulfils this purpose, but is also likely to be of use to students and junior members of the medical profession who are not seeking a diploma in public health. He deals in succession with ventilation, food, the sanitation of buildings, water, sewage, the prevention of infectious diseases, parasites, and personal hygiene. There are a number of illustrations, many of them familiar, but well selected, and a good index.

³ *Elementary Hygiene for Nurses*. By H. C. Rutherford Darling, M.D., M.S. Lond., F.R.C.S. Eng., F.R.F.P.S. Glasg. London: J. and A. Churchill. 1917. (Crown 8vo, pp. viii + 152; 13 figures. 3s.)

VENEREAL DISEASE AND WASTE OF MAN POWER.

THE War Cabinet has considered the objections made in many quarters to No. 40 D of the Defence of the Realm Regulations, and has issued a Memorandum maintaining the regulation, but announcing the appointment of a committee to report to it on the subject.

The regulation is as follows:

No woman who is suffering from venereal disease in a communicable form shall have sexual intercourse with any member of H.M. Forces or any of H.M. Allies, or solicit or invite any member of H.M. Forces or of the Forces of any of H.M. Allies to have sexual intercourse with her.

If any woman acts in contravention of this regulation she shall be guilty of a summary offence against these regulations.

A woman charged with an offence under this regulation shall, if she so requires, be remanded for a period (not less than a week) for the purpose of such medical examination as may be requisite for ascertaining whether she is suffering from such a disease as aforesaid.

The defendant shall be informed of her right to be remanded as aforesaid, and that she may be examined by her own doctor or by the medical officer of the prison.

In this regulation the expression "venereal disease" means syphilis, gonorrhoea, or soft chancre.

The Memorandum is as follows:

"The Regulation was founded on information showing that the spread of venereal disease in the British and Colonial forces involved a serious loss of man power for war purposes. Up to the end of August seventy-eight persons had been convicted of breaches of the Regulation, thirty-seven of them having pleaded guilty; and it is stated that the removal for a time of these centres of infection and the deterrent effect of the Regulation on others has already resulted in a diminution of venereal disease in some army districts. The United States authorities have asked that the Regulation shall be extended so as to apply to their troops in this country, and the Governments of Canada and New Zealand have made similar Regulations for the protection of their troops in the Dominions. In these circumstances the Cabinet have decided that the Regulation must for the present be retained. They have, however, decided that a small committee shall be appointed to consider it, and what modifications (if any) should be made in its terms or in the procedure for enforcing it, and to report their conclusions as soon as possible, and in any case within two months."

The committee will consist of Lord Moulton, G.B.E., K.C.B., F.R.S. (Chairman), Mrs. Found, Mrs. H. B. Irving, Lieutenant-General Sir Francis Lloyd, G.C.V.O., K.C.B., D.S.O., Sir Malcolm Morris, K.C.V.O., F.R.C.S., Miss Flora Murray, C.B.E., M.D., and the Bishop of Southwark, D.D. The secretary of the committee is Mr. Archibald J. Allen, and any communication on the subject of the inquiry should be sent to him at 4, Cottesmore Gardens, Kensington, W. 8.

A MOVEMENT has been started by the clinical society of Havana to establish in Cuba a school of preventive medicine to train men who wish to devote themselves to sanitary work, and especially to give them a knowledge of tropical diseases.

PARLIAMENTARY REPRESENTATION.*

BY

N. BISHOP HARMAN, F.R.C.S.

BIRMINGHAM has played so large a part in the parliamentary life of our country in recent years that a visit to Birmingham for the purpose of addressing Birmingham men on parliamentary representation is of special interest. I thank you, Mr. Chairman, and your Executive Committee for the honour you have done me in asking me to visit you for this purpose.

Our profession is just now profoundly exercised as to how it can best play its right and proper part in the councils of the nation. Not that it has failed to play its rightful part in the past. It has done its part and still does, and with an ever-increasing success, in the very homes of the people. The doctor has always been, even in the days of least light and learning, somewhat of a missionary; he has never failed to bear witness to an ideal of health; he comes to heal the sick and stays to guide the feet of the restored into the ways of right living. That work will remain to us always. It is a great responsibility, and one which I believe our profession will never fail in attempting. But in these days something more than that is needed. Life has become so highly organized that there is need for a corresponding increase in the organized expression of the needs of the community. The genius of our race has chosen that the expression of national needs and aspirations shall be made through a Parliament, through the living voices of our own representatives in that Parliament. We are not content to be ruled by a selected governing class or by the pundits of government departments. There are great and good men amongst these, indispensable to the life of the nation; but we believe that the initiative and the final determination of action must be in the corporate representation of the common sense of the nation as it is beaten out in parliamentary debate and vote. That initiative is ever being renewed; it cannot grow stale; and as a final determinant it is human and devoid of the obstinacy of officialdom. In these points Parliament, with all its human faultiness, is better than the best of autocracies or bureaucracies.

Parliament in its essence is a family gathering. Our constitutionalists trace its dim origins to the gathering of the elders, as in the Saxon Witanagemote. In such gatherings a representative stood for his family, but also for the particular virtue with which he as a man was gifted. In our modern Parliament the members are the representatives of constituencies or territorial divisions; each stands for his own place in the great assembly, but each can and should bring into the common council some special virtue which is his as a man. It is of interest to note that in the first Parliament, that of Simon de Montfort, there was a definite recognition of occupational representation as well as of territorial division. Earls, barons, clergy, knights of shires, and the burgesses of the cities were called, and the last two as representatives of agriculture and commerce. In our modern Parliament the necessary organization of voting on territorial lines has overlain this occupational principle, but for all that there has never been found wanting men who possess a special virtue of their own as men of affairs, of commerce, of law, of education, of science, and of medicine. But of these last there have been too few. It is to consider the possibility of supplying this lack in the national council that we are met here to-day.

Of the need for more men in Parliament able to give a considered and first hand opinion on matters relating to national health and medical work I have no manner of doubt. For the past three years I have been the chairman of the Parliamentary Subcommittee of the Association, and in the course of my duties have done not a little "lobbying" in the House. And whilst I would gladly acknowledge the courtesy and ready responsiveness of members of Parliament, both medical and lay, to applications for help, and to their willingness to understand and give weight to information my committee had to put at their disposal, yet there is left in my mind no doubt that an advocacy of a medical position or argument at second

* An address delivered to the Central Division of the British Medical Association, Birmingham, October 3rd, 1912.

hand is never and can never be so effective in an assembly like the House, or in its committees, as the plain statement of the man who knows personally of what he speaks. When, as occasionally happens, there is a doctor in the House who can "speak as one with authority" there is no uncertainty in the response, but too often we have to be content with the good offices of the "scribes." That brings me to the question before you. How are we to remedy this state of affairs?

Early this year, by resolution of the Central Council of the Association, this matter was the subject of investigation of the Parliamentary Subcommittee. Inquiry was made of the Divisions of the Association; the replies thereto showed a fairly equal balance of opinion, so that the matter was brought before the Representative Body for full discussion. That body, meeting in July last, instructed the Council to take action. The definiteness of the instruction given will be realized best by quoting the words of the resolution:

That the time has arrived when the medical profession should be more fully represented in the House of Commons; that to this end financial aid should be provided when necessary for candidates approved by the British Medical Association, from funds specially collected by it for this purpose; and that the Council is hereby instructed to take such action as may best conduce to the attainment of this object.

On the same day as the Council received these instructions it appointed an *ad hoc* committee with a wider and more numerous representation than the subcommittee which had begun the work of investigation. That committee—the Parliamentary Elections Committee—has formulated a plan of campaign, and it is to consider this plan, and the principles laid down therein, and to give effect to these plans, that you are called to this meeting.

A Voluntary Fund.

The first of the recommendations is:

That a voluntary fund for the support of the parliamentary candidature of medical men should be established with the following objects:

To ensure the presentation to Parliament of expert medical opinion on matters relating to national health or involving the welfare of the medical profession, and for this purpose to secure a larger representation of the medical profession in Parliament by obtaining suitable medical candidates for Parliament and suitable constituencies, and assisting, when necessary, by monetary grants such candidates, irrespective of political party.

Let us take the several items of this recommendation seriatim:

Item 1.—The fund shall be voluntary. The remembrance of the Osborne judgement is with you all; that judgement made it illegal for unions or associations established for certain definite purposes to divert any part of their funds to the support of political candidatures. Any fund that we promote must therefore be voluntary and independent of the finances of our Association.

Item 2.—The primary object of the establishment of the fund is to ensure that Parliament shall have the benefit of expert medical opinion.

Item 3 states how this desire is to be realized. The intention is to follow the constitutional practice of securing men of parts as candidates for constituencies. Men who are not only desirous and capable of fully representing the electors who may send them into Parliament, but who have also a special virtue as part of their mentality and equipment, and this virtue is for them an expert knowledge of the problems of national health and of our profession.

Item 4 states how we are to help these men. We are to seek them out, we are to find constituencies willing to adopt them, we are to aid them in that heavy toll which the nation takes of its representatives—election expenses.

Item 5 states that in doing all this we are to ignore the particular political badge or colour of the medical men we seek to aid.

Now, Sir, someone may ask, Why all these items and definitions? My answer is that when we desire concerted action in such a field as this—one in which the fiercest passions and rivalries are aroused—it is well to make plain our proposals, so that everyone may understand, and that there may be no likelihood of confusion at the critical moment of action.

The "Signs" of a Good Candidate.

The next recommendation of the committee which I would draw your attention to is that which sets out the character of those candidates we desire to find and assist. The clause reads:

That the condition of approval of the Association of the candidature of any medical man for a parliamentary seat be as follows:

That he should, by his past work and experience, have proved his knowledge of, and loyalty to, the interests of the profession as expressed through the British Medical Association.

That provision shows that we are out for real workers—men who have proved themselves. I do not know much about horse racing, but I have heard that the skill of the tipster lies in his ability to find out and recollect the doings of every horse in the stud calendar; the promise of performance of any particular horse is to him expressed in its past doings. That is our attitude to our professional colleagues whom we desire to help. We do not want any promises from them, we neither ask nor desire pledges, but we want to know our man, and on that knowledge we can determine our aid. But there is more in this provision than meets the eye. We want men who are capable of giving good service, and in our experience this can best be obtained by choosing men who have shown keenness in the past, who have done the "donkey work" of their profession through this Association, men who are known to have insight into their own and our problems, quick in the uptake, capable of making a plain and intelligible statement of a complicated position.

The regular work of a doctor, no matter what may be his type of practice, does not readily secure all these characteristics for a man, but if he has taken part in the affairs of the Association he will have gone far to attain them. In this, if alone, the work of our Association has been of inestimable value to our profession and to the nation. It has trained our doctors in the conduct of public affairs, to the great gain of not a few municipal councils, and we hope now also to Parliament. It is commonly said that the doctor is a bad business man. That is a popular mistake, due to his slackness in sending in his bills. The business that he puts his mind to prospers at his hands, from the curing of his patients to the affairs of the country. Let me cite to you the work of the Central Medical War Committee. That work began with a very humble committee of the Association; it is now a Statutory Medical Tribunal; and it has become the pattern for other professional tribunals, such as those for the dentists and the veterinary surgeons. Better testimony to the business capacity of doctors could not be wished.

In the two provisions I have quoted lie our whole plan. The provision of a fund, and the choice of men. The rest—the finding of constituencies, arrangements with party whips and secretaries—are matters of detail and routine which follow out of these provisions; in such details no matter of principle is involved.

But perhaps you may ask for a word on the political side of such arrangements. What is to become of a man's political convictions? They will be as they are. Unless he has these, and has them pretty strongly, he will be no candidate for Parliament, and no use to us. There is no such thing possible, or likely to be possible, as a "medical candidate." We shall never see on the hustings—"Vote for Dr. Dash the Doctors' Delegate."

A candidate must stand as a citizen and seek the suffrages of his fellow citizens. Party government suits the genius of our people, and in normal times it seems likely to prevail; therefore a candidate must be a party man. The days of the independent are few and evil. But whilst we recognize these commonplace facts there is no need for us to take them into our consideration when we come to the aid of candidates who have for us a special virtue in that they are medical men. In this matter of party sentiment we are neither interested nor hostile; we are *indifferent*. That is the only safe and satisfactory attitude.

The issue is before you. Do you want men in Parliament who can speak with authority on health and professional matters? Are you prepared to ask them to make sacrifices, great sacrifices, to do this work? Are you prepared to respond by making sacrifices yourselves, quite small sacrifices, to back them up and ensure success in their labours?