The Founder of The British Medical Association.

REMINISCENCES OF

SIR CHARLES HASTINGS, M.D. EDIN., D.C.L. OXON.,
F.G.S.,

DEPUTY LIEUTENANT OF THE COUNTY OF WORCESTER.

SEVERAL notices, more or less biographical, have been published of Sir Charles Hastings. One in his lifetime, which appeared in the *Lancet*, and which may be taken on the whole as authentic; one by the late Dr. Edwin Lankester in the *Journal of Social Science*, sympathetic in tone and striking in delineation of character, but requiring some correction as to facts; one in a speech made by the writer at the Jubilee Meeting of the Association in 1882, fully reported in the *BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL*, and a much fuller one, with an admirable portrait, published in its columns in January of the present year. In this last an acknowledgement is made of the information obtained from the *Lancet* of 1851. It is not proposed to attempt here a regular biography, but rather to give some facts and incidents, chiefly of the anecdotal order, which it is hoped may prove of interest to the members of the Association.

Early in the year 1794 a Mrs. Willes travelled by carriage from Shropshire to London. She was daughter-in-law to Chief Justice Willes, and her destination was the "tall house near Lincoln's Inn," then inhabited by him, though celebrated by Pope in other times as the residence of a great peer and statesman. From that house Mrs. Willes wrote to a lady friend in Worcestershire: "On our way up we changed horses at Ludlow, and I was able to go and see Mrs. Hastings. I found her looking charming in a dressing gown, and nursing in her arms what I really believe is the prettiest baby I ever saw." This baby was Charles Hastings, in after-years to be the founder of a medical society destined to be the greatest known to the world. His father, the Rev. James Hastings, was at that time the Rector of Bitterley in Shropshire, a benefice which he held for some years while awaiting a vacancy in the family living of Martley in Worcestershire, of which he was himself the patron. Some repairs or alterations were going on at Bitterley, and it was thought advisable that Mrs. Hastings should be in lodgings at Ludlow for her confinement.

It may not be without interest if a few words be said concerning this James Hastings. It is rather remarkable that he was a centenarian himself, and also the father of a centenarian. The facts in both cases are undoubted. He was born on January 2nd, 1756, in Soho Square, then one of the principal squares in London, where his father, another James Hastings, then resided, and he was baptised in the parish church of St. Martin-in-the-Fields. He was entered as a gentleman commoner at Wadham College, Oxford, in 1776, taking his Bachelor's degree in due course, and was ordained by the Bishop of Oxford (his letters of orders are in the possession of the writer) in 1779. He married in 1781 Elizabeth Paget, of Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire, and had by her fifteen children, eight sons and seven daughters. He was Rector of Martley, on his own presentation, for sixty years, being inducted in 1796, two years after the birth of his son Charles, and was buried there in July, 1856, having attained the age of 100 years, 6 months, and 4 days. His eldest child, Joanna Hastings, was born on March 14th, 1782, and died at Malvern on March 12th, 1886, being thus within two days of completing her 104th year. Although many years older than several of her brothers and sisters, she survived them all, and kept her faculties clear to the day of her death.

Charles Hastings was reared as a boy at the rural rectory of Martley, and was remarked for great activity of body and habit, and for love of and care for animals. As one of his sisters told the writer, "he was always nursing sick chickens." His first public appearance in life, at the age of 18, was as candidate for the office of house-surgeon to the Worcester Infirmary. The late Lord Lyttelton,

speaking in public on this incident, said that if it had not been attested by irresistible evidence he should have refused to believe it, so incredible did it seem that a boy of that age could not only compete for but actually obtain such an office. The wonder was increased by the fact that his opponent, a Mr. Lewis, was a grown man and a member of the College of Surgeons. It is believed that his success was mainly owing to the indomitable energy with which he rode about the country canvassing the subscribers, whom he impressed with his earnestness and intelligence. During this contest, young as he was, he showed a trait of character which distinguished him through life. It happened that his opponent was a Roman Catholic, and he was urged to hoist the Protestant flag and thus defeat Mr. Lewis. It would not have been surprising if a boy brought up in a country rectory, with its surrounding influences, had yielded to the advice, for in 1812 religious prejudice ran high. But the character of Charles Hastings was already formed, and he announced to his family and friends that nothing would induce him to oppose any man on the ground of his religious convictions. He was elected by a majority of one vote, and was by universal consent accounted most successful in the performance of his duties. Mr. Lewis settled in a country practice at Hanley Castle, in Worcestershire, and remained there, much respected, within the memory of the writer.

After three years' service at the Worcester Infirmary, Charles Hastings matriculated at the University of Edinburgh, and though he suffered somewhat from the northern climate, passed through his University course with credit and even distinction. It may be taken as undoubtedly true that he was the only student of Edinburgh at that date who used the microscope for the purpose of physiological inquiry. He knew the value of the instrument, for he had already been employed by Dr. Wilson Philip of Worcester to make microscopical investigations for him, and the researches thus begun were continued assiduously. There is no doubt that he established a high reputation as a student, of which indeed the offer of a Chair in the University as soon as he had graduated is sufficient proof. But his health at that time was precarious. Sir John Forbes, who was one of his contemporaries, told the writer many years since that the saying about him among the students was, "Ah Hastings, he is a very clever fellow, but he cannot live; he will be dead of pulmonary disease in a few years." Perhaps their diagnosis might have been right if he had remained at Edinburgh, for he often said how the spring there tried him. The journeys to and from the North were in those days formidable; in one winter the coach in which he was travelling was snowed up near Shap Fell for a whole night, and he and the other travellers were dug out in the morning. Probably the main cause of his refusing the flattering offer made to him was his desire to return to the softer climate of his native county; and in 1818 he resolved to settle as a consulting physician at Worcester. He can never have regretted the decision, but Dr. Edwin Lankester, in the biographical article already referred to, passed some reflections on the fame Charles Hastings might have attained in physiological research had he filled a chair at Edinburgh University.

Soon after Dr. Hastings settled at Worcester he became one of the physicians to the Infirmary, and, being well known throughout the county, he obtained practice at an early period. In those days, when railways did not exist and London was consequently distant, there were, and had long been, two consulting physicians in good practice at Worcester, and usually a third one also, who was perhaps not exactly *tertius gaudens*. In 1818 Dr. Wilson Philip and Dr. Woodyatt occupied the field, but the former soon left for London, where he practised for some time in Cavendish Square, and the latter in a few years died somewhat prematurely. Dr. Hastings had married his eldest daughter, and may be taken to have succeeded to his whole practice. Dr. Wilson Philip's still larger connexion was divided between Dr. Hastings and Dr. Malden, who was also a new comer; but a letter in the possession of the writer from Dr. Philip to Dr. Hastings, dated a year or two after the former had left Worcester, contains the words: "I heard from Malden the other day. He says that, on the whole, he does not complain; but he also says that you get the lion's share of the practice." This will serve to indicate the rapid rise

made by Dr. Hastings, and it may be added that the accounts which he kept carefully throughout his professional life show that not long after his marriage he had an income of considerable amount. His consulting practice was not confined to Worcestershire, where he was always trusted and popular among the local practitioners, but extended into the neighbouring counties, and not infrequently to considerable distances, even into North Wales. It is wonderful that with such engrossing employment he found time for other occupation, but his energy impelled him in two different, and both of them important, directions.

He was a man of quick eye and of remarkable powers of observation. From boyhood a lover of Nature in all its animated forms, he took in as he drove about the country the sights and sounds of beast and bird, of hill and valley. Geology was then, perhaps not in its infancy, but certainly in not more than its adolescence, opening out the attractions of its insight into the past history of the earth; and he entered upon the study keenly. His *Illustrations of the Natural History of Worcestershire*, published nearly eighty years ago, remains a monument of his scientific avocations in the midst of his professional work. Much of it is necessarily antiquated at the present time; the geology especially is of a bygone type, yet the record of the various strata and their exposures in the county is valid to this day. His account of the birds of Worcestershire is excellent, and the botany is equally exact. The geological part of the work contained, it is believed, the first notice of the formations on the west flank of the Malvern Hills; and a description of the Salt Springs of Droitwich, and of the general saliferous nature of the new red sandstone of Worcestershire, was so original and precise that Sir Roderick Murchison subsequently embodied it *literatim* in his great work on the Silurian system. On the publication of his *Illustrations* Dr. Hastings was elected a Fellow of the Geological Society. It may here be mentioned that his medical *Treatise on Inflammation*, of earlier date, had been translated into German, and that he had received honorary communications from foreign societies.

His reputation as a geologist gave rise to a noticeable, and perhaps, so far as geology is concerned, an historical, incident. Sedgwick and Murchison had resolved to explore the Western Midlands, and they came to Worcester to consult Dr. Hastings. The writer, though then a child, can remember them seated at the breakfast table, and he heard the directions given to them for their explorations. The exposure of the new red sandstone on a hill beyond Powick was pointed out, and they must have been assured that all the country lying between the Severn and the Malverns was of that formation. But, above all, the geology on the west of those hills was dwelt upon, no doubt in more detail than can now be recalled, and its scientific importance prophesied. The two famous men of science went forth from Dr. Hastings's house to prosecute their researches, and from that day may be dated the foundation of the Cambrian system of Sedgwick and the Silurian system of Murchison. To the student of English geology the colloquy and the place must be memorable. Such, at least, was the opinion of William Symonds of Pendock, no mean geologist.

It may be appropriate to mention here that Dr. Hastings's name will be found in the list of original members of the British Association for the Advancement of Science; he attended its second meeting at Oxford in 1832, when his friend Dr. Buckland was president, and Murchison was in the Chair of Geology. He had visited Oxford many years before, and was present in the Sheldonian Theatre when the degree of D.C.L. was conferred on Warren Hastings amid great enthusiasm. It could not then have been foreseen that the same distinguished honour would be bestowed on himself, but when that day arrived, and when at the dinner given in the hall of University College by its Principal, then Vice-Chancellor, his health was proposed, he said, in acknowledging the toast, that great as was the honour done to him by the University, he felt it all the more deeply as many years before he had been a witness to the same ceremony, when the most illustrious of his name and race had found himself consoled for the seven years' persecution which he had received as a recompense for saving India. Sir Charles Hastings never spoke in a more impressive manner.

The study of natural science was thus one of the two directions in which, as already stated, Dr. Hastings early in his career was impelled. The other was to effect a closer intercourse and a higher professional tone among his medical brethren. It was in pursuit of this object that he established the *Midland Medical and Surgical Reporter*, which brought him into communication with many of the leading practitioners in the provinces, and which proved to be, in 1832, the *nidus* out of which the Association sprang. It has been more than once stated that the idea of the Association grew out of his membership in the great scientific body founded at York; but this was a mistake. Dr. Hastings had no such intention; in its beginning the Association was a society founded for mutual co-operation and intercourse, and did not possess the organization or machinery for any more ambitious purpose. When the statement referred to was once made in his presence it received from him a categorical denial. The real origin was in the *Midland Reporter*. The history of the first meeting in the Infirmary at Worcester has been frequently written, and the original objects of the Association, as drawn up by its founder, are too well known to need quotation. What is desired here is to chronicle the devoted attention, the vast amount of anxious labour, the unremitting care and foresight which the growing society received from its author. Occupied by day in his constantly-increasing practice, he gave his evenings and not a little of his nights to correspondence and literary work. He edited the *Transactions*, which were for some time its first corporate expression. He remained for many years its Honorary Secretary, it is true with a colleague, but it may be said without derogation that the partnership in office was like the consulship of Julius and Caesar. As the Association rapidly grew he obtained the assistance of a paid secretary, Mr. George Reece of Worcester, a highly intelligent person, who in after-years became the curator of the Worcester Museum, and possessed of much public confidence. But whatever assistance Dr. Hastings had, from whatever quarter, the management and correspondence of the Association remained virtually in his hands, and to him, emphatically, the members owe not only its foundation, but its development, influence and character.

His merits were neither unappreciated nor unacknowledged. In 1839 his portrait was painted by subscription and presented to his wife. It was the work of Faulkner, a painter who died too early for his full fame, but who was well known and much employed in the North of England. His reputation was much appreciated by the firm of Agnews, who engraved the portrait of Dr. Hastings, as they had others of the artist's works. It is known that the baronet who is the present head of the firm, and perhaps the best judge of paintings now living, has always retained a high opinion of Faulkner's portraits. In this work Dr. Hastings appears in the full vigour and attraction of his eminently handsome manhood, with features and expression given to the life.

Ten years afterwards—in 1849—the Association resolved to pay their founder the compliment of meeting in the city of Worcester, under his presidency. It was a most successful gathering, and the address from the chair was an eloquent exposition of the objects for which the Association had been called into existence. It dwelt especially on the moral influences produced by thus knitting the profession together. Who could overestimate the effect in these meetings of "eye beaming on eye and voice answering to voice"; this companionship which brought them together was the true bond of social life; "it is the principle of friendliness; it is the principle of true honour; it is the principle of the Christian religion." Those words revealed the feelings which had animated the heart of Charles Hastings, a heart beating with human sympathy and manly brotherhood, when he brought into being the British Medical Association. Many of his old colleagues were present. At the dinner in the Guildhall his health was proposed by one of the earliest, Dr. John Conolly, who had been joined with him in the *Midland Reporter*; and the speech, made all the more persuasive by the silvery voice and exquisite manner of Conolly, produced a great effect. Dr. Hastings was so moved that for a moment it was feared he would find it difficult to reply, but he recovered himself and spoke admirably. It was a real triumph for the man

personally as well as for the Association collectively, and it was hailed as such by all present. It was in consequence of this feeling that he was soon after recommended to the Crown for some mark of distinction, and that early in the following year he received at the hands of Queen Victoria the honour of knighthood.

One of the early objects of the Association had been to obtain an improvement in the legal status of the medical profession throughout the United Kingdom. At the present day, fifty years or so after the passing of the Medical Act, it may be difficult to realize what the condition of things then was. In some respects it was hard to say who was legally qualified and who was not. The medical colleges affected to set up an exclusive claim to license, but it was certain that the medical degrees of Oxford and Cambridge had a more ancient existence, and were valid over England and Wales. The Scotch universities asserted equal rights under the Act of Union, and their degrees were acknowledged in the provinces but not in London. It was once, perhaps rather absurdly, affirmed that while the Queen's physician, Sir James Clark, an Edinburgh graduate, could lawfully prescribe for her Majesty at Windsor, he broke the law when he did so in London; and, strange as it may seem, the assertion was left uncontradicted. In fact, the state of medical legislation was nothing less than chaotic, and its anomalies would not have been tolerated for a year in any country but our own. Yet the colleges were deaf to the appeals made by the Association. In 1850 it was resolved to lay a Bill before Parliament, and a committee was appointed to prepare one. Sir Charles Hastings was the chairman, and the writer of these reminiscences acted as honorary secretary and was the draughtsman of successive measures. These were all discussed at different meetings of the Association, were, of course, much criticized from various points of view, and were all opposed by interested parties. But the committee, always led on and inspired by their chairman, persevered year after year, and at length, in 1856 a Medical Bill, approved by the Association, and commanding a wide support from the profession at large, was introduced into the House of Commons by Mr. Headlam, Q.C., M.P. for Newcastle-on-Tyne, where a near relative of his was an eminent physician. This was perhaps the best Bill on the subject ever submitted to Parliament; it was the work of the Association, and it deserved success. That success might have been attained had a firmer hand been at the Home Office. But Sir George Grey, then Home Secretary, with many estimable qualities, was wont to lack decision. He had been approached by the committee, had received and conferred with an influential deputation, and had assured them of his desire to see the question settled; but at the last moment, when the second reading was on, and everything promised fair, he unaccountably wavered, said in a faltering way that he feared the Bill would not satisfy all parties (as if it were possible that it could do so), refused to vote for it, and on a division it was lost. It was a disheartening defeat, after all the work that had been done, and the committee came to the conclusion that the only hope of a settlement was through a Ministerial measure. It happened that the writer was at that time, for quite other reasons, well acquainted with Mr. William Cowper, stepson of Lord Palmerston, then Prime Minister; and Mr. Cowper, being Vice-President of the Privy Council, was induced to take up the question. With powerful influences at his back, Mr. Cowper, who mastered the various details with much intelligence, was able to carry the Medical Act which now, with some amendments, regulates the legal aspects of the profession, and which, if it did not do all that was desired, at least remedied the many contradictions and inequalities of the former state of things, making the great profession of medicine in the United Kingdom a tolerably coherent whole. For this achievement the Association may claim the chief merit; it was the only medical institution out of the many which aimed at the benefit of all; it was the only one which acted on public and unselfish grounds; it was the one which compassed the success, but that success was, before all things, due to the unflinching courage and tenacity of Sir Charles Hastings.

The Natural History Museum at Worcester was another of his creations. By his efforts some seventy years ago a handsome building was erected, and for more than

thirty years the collection had his unceasing care. Its distinctive merit lay in the formation of a local museum, for which a separate room was fitted up, representing in a complete way the fauna and flora as well as the geology of Worcestershire. Sir Richard Owen on one occasion came to see this room, having heard that it held some exceptionally fine specimens of fossil bones from the gravels of the Severn and the Avon. The illustrious naturalist was struck with the representation of the past and present animal life of the county, and he said in the room, "This is just what a provincial museum should be. You cannot emulate metropolitan or other great collections, but you can give an illustration of the natural history of the district, which is most valuable, and that is just what you have done here." Thus, it will be seen, Sir Charles Hastings did in fact what he had long before done on paper. As a young man he had written his *Illustrations of the Natural History of Worcestershire*, and in his old age, after years of assiduity, he saw scientifically arranged in one chamber a full and practical illustration of the ancient deposits and of bird, beast, and flower within the boundaries of his county. The museum has now been named "The Hastings Museum," and it contains a marble bust of its founder from the hands of a great artist.

For a still longer period he had given unwearied service to the Worcester Infirmary. When failing health and strength compelled his retirement in the early Sixties he had been for more than forty years one of the Honorary Physicians to that institution. Scarcely a week during those many years had ever passed without his having bestowed precious hours on the patients under his care. He looked upon his attendance there as a sacred duty never to be set aside. When on his retirement the feeling of the public was manifested in the presentation to him at the Guildhall of a magnificent silver service, the inscription on which commemorates that it was the gift of his friends in the city and county of Worcester in acknowledgement of his services to the infirmary, he said, when returning thanks, that his work there had been a labour of love. "Often when I have ascended the steps of that temple of sorrow, I have said to myself, this day at least I shall have alleviated some suffering freely, this day I shall have given all I can, unremunerated, to the sick and needy." It is not suggested that there was anything unusual in the service, though in the case of Sir Charles Hastings it was perhaps performed with more than ordinary zeal, as indeed were all his many avocations; but it may be remarked that if some statistician could estimate at its lowest, that is, at its pecuniary value, the gratuitous, unselfish work of the medical profession to the sick and suffering, and add it up in cash figures, the result might startle the mind.

The last subject on which Sir Charles Hastings addressed the public was one in which for many years he had taken a deep interest. The question of public health had often been dealt with by him, both in the Association and also in speeches and pamphlets. Soon after the Municipal Government Act was passed he consented to serve as an alderman of the city of Worcester in order to press on the town council the need for sanitary measures. When the Social Science Association was formed and took up the cause of public health with energy, he joined its council and was active in the sanitary work. In 1864 he was nominated to the presidency of its Public Health Section for the York meeting, and delivered an address which was received with acclamation. The *Times* newspaper discussed his views in a laudatory article, noticing his scientific explanation of the great increase in general health and diminution of disease in rural districts which had been brought about in the century then past by the enclosure and improved cultivation of land. This was his final effort for the public good, and was marked by his characteristic qualities.

The last few months of his life were spent almost entirely at his country house at Barnard's Green, near Malvern. A long and painful illness was borne with serene fortitude, but after the death of Lady Hastings in the spring of the year it became evident to those around him that he no longer had much craving for life. Nevertheless his cheerfulness and courage remained to the last, and only the day before his death he walked out in his garden and observed it with interest. A day or two pre-

vously he had given to his friend, Mr. Henry Carden, a message to the Association he had served so well to be delivered at its Chester meeting. He calmly breathed his last on July 30th, 1866, in his 73rd year.

It was said at the commencement of these reminiscences that it was not proposed to attempt a regular biography. Still less is it here intended to pronounce a formal eulogium. The deeds of Charles Hastings speak for themselves. One who had been long his friend, Dr. William Farr, the distinguished statistician of Somerset House, said of him soon after his death, in a public address, "he was a man of an eminently friendly disposition." No truer word could have been spoken. That friendliness of character, making him hospitable, kindly, generous, amiable to all around him, tolerant of diverse opinions, sedulously attentive to even the minor courtesies of life, blossomed out, as it were, in the creation of a great Society which should bind his profession together in amity and honour, and increase its value to mankind. His fame will live in the permanence and utility of the British Medical Association, and that distinguished body will perennially embalm his memory.

G. W. H.

EPSOM COLLEGE.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

THE annual general meeting of the Governors of Epsom College was held on June 29th. Sir CONSTANTINE HOLMAN, and afterwards Mr. HENRY MORRIS, presided over a well-filled room, among those present being Sir W. S. Church, Sir R. Douglas Powell, Sir Dyce Duckworth, Surgeon-General Branfoot, Drs. W. Collier, Havilland Hall, Frederick Taylor, John Galton, George Eastes, and Messrs. Andrew Clark, Bilton Pollard, John Morgan, Paul Bush, C. Smiles, and the Rev. E. W. Northey, of Epsom. The notice convening the meeting having been read, the minutes of the last meeting confirmed, and letters of regret for non-attendance read, the result of the election to pensionship, etc., was declared. The report of the Council for the year was then submitted and adopted. The principal facts to which it drew attention were that the General Purposes Fund had been nearly exhausted by the expenditure on recasting the drainage, but, on the other, a donation had been made in memory of the late Dr. Higgett of Montpellier, Bristol, of £5,000, four-fifths being for the establishment of scholarships and pensions, and the remainder for the drainage scheme. The terms of the donation necessitated some small modifications in the by-laws. With a view to encouraging the attendance of day boys, the school hours had been rearranged so as to allow of these boys not arriving until 9 a.m., and of their leaving Epsom Downs Station at 6.27. On Founder's Day the Holman Art and Reading Room, a building erected by subscription as a testimony to the services rendered by Sir Constantine Holman, had been formally opened, while on July 1st the Jubilee of the opening of the College was celebrated. In June the school was finally inspected under the direction of the Joint Universities Board with very satisfactory results, the Army Council having since recognized the school as entitled to send candidates for army competitions. The report terminated by a long list of successes gained by present and past pupils at various university examinations, the Indian Civil and other competitions for admission to the public services.

The meeting then turned to the principal business of the day, the resignation of Sir Constantine Holman. The original document in which he tendered his resignation having been read by the Secretary, Mr. Bernard Lamb, Sir CONSTANTINE HOLMAN said:

Half a century is a large slice out of a man's life, and it is fifty-one years since, at a meeting of the Surrey Medical Benevolent Society, I took part in the negotiations with Mr. Probert for an advance of £2,500 to be applied towards the initiation of Epsom College, in return for certain scholarships in perpetuity which the Society was to receive. Even before that time I had been engaged in work for the South-Eastern Branch of the British Medical Association. Thus I can say that for considerably more than fifty years I have taken an active part in the public life of the profession, and for forty-one of those years I was engaged in a large general practice. A brain that has been incessantly busy about many

things for so long a period cannot work on at full pressure indefinitely. Sooner or later there comes a time when a man feels that the burden which he has hitherto borne with comparative ease is becoming irksome, and when responsibilities not only lie heavy upon him, but become worrying anxieties. When that time comes, I hold that a man should take stock of his own powers, and, in the interest of institutions in the direction of which he takes a prominent part, should retire from the position of an active administrator before he loses the sense of the true proportion of things and the elasticity of mind that enables him to adapt himself to changes without which there can be no progress, before his judgement stiffens into obstructiveness or relaxes into vacillation and uncertainty. The duties of the office of Treasurer to Epsom College carry with them heavy responsibilities, and I may be allowed to say that I have always looked upon everything that seemed to come within the sphere of those duties as a matter of grave importance. The Treasurer's burden does not grow lighter, and I had reluctantly to come to the conclusion that it must be transferred to shoulders less bowed by the weight of years. I should not have resigned an office which I have held with great pride for nineteen years, had I felt any longer equal to a strain which must increase as the power to bear it diminishes. A glance at what has happened during the time I have been Treasurer may be permitted. In 1887 the Council pressed me to accept office as your Treasurer, and with great reluctance I consented. At about the same time I was appointed Treasurer of the British Medical Association, and for three years held the two offices—a double burden I should advise no one again to undertake. When the late Mr. Wood became head master of the College I found him a fellow-worker after my own heart, and I never can adequately acknowledge the help he was always ready to give. Up to that time the moneys of the College went into one pocket, but we then decided that the funds of the charity and the school should be kept separate. Finding the niceties of the division beyond our powers, I received permission from the Council to call in expert aid, and we were most fortunate in securing the help of Mr. May, who ever since has remained our trusted counsellor; one most careful, most able, and most willing to advise. I would warn my successor that Mr. May has a habit of sending to the Treasurer a most courteous letter annually, after completing his audit, placing his finger with most fatal precision on the weak point of the year's balance sheet. For myself, I have ever welcomed these minatory letters, and where possible have acted upon them. I envy the incoming Treasurer the balance sheet which he will be able to bring forward as his first offering, for it promises to be the most satisfactory we have seen for many years, and I think he will be able to say that, although he is a poor man, his balance sheet is sound, and to be understood by any one who seeks to know the financial condition of the institution. The experience gained as a member of the Council of the British Medical Association, on which I served for nearly forty years, was most valuable to me in my work at Epsom. That experience led me, on my appointment as Treasurer, to urge upon my Council the desirability of instituting Committees—School, Finance, Selection, and Works—among which the labour of administrative work was divided. These Committees, composed of picked men of the Council, made inquiries and threshed out questions that had to be dealt with; their reports were printed and circulated among the members of the Council, who thus had the opportunity of making themselves fully acquainted beforehand with every subject which was to be considered at their meetings. So well has this system worked that I can hardly call to mind an instance in which any important amendment has been moved at a meeting of the Council. I have not had an easy time as Treasurer. The water supply for a long time caused much anxiety and frequent expense; I hope the matter is now settled for all time. The bursting of the bath led to the discovery that it had never had a proper bottom; it cost us £1,100 to put this right. Last, but not least, came the almost crushing calamity of a breakdown in our drainage, on the renovation of which we had to spend no less than £8,000. We have now a plan of drainage laid in the best possible manner known to sanitary science of to-day, and with the best materials. So far as human ken can reach,