REPLIES.

Dr. WILKES, in a brief statement, dealt with the comments of the Committee on the regulations of the University of London. The Registrar of the University was unaware that any comments had been made by the Council on the character of its curriculum. The University as originally founded did not require evidence of instruction, and the medical curriculum enforced bore traces of this. He had no doubt that if the wishes of the Council were made known to the Senate of the University, the question would be seriously considered. Circumstances had now changed, and the original reasons for not enforcing particular lines of study had largely disappeared.

The Rev. Dr. HAUGHTON replied to the criticisms of the Committee on the regulations of the University of Dublin. As to their not enforcing registration of students, he could prepare a plan by which these students should be practically registered in future.

Dr. GLOVER desired to ask whether the Chairman of the Education Committee from his whole survey of the matter was satisfied as to the regulations of the licensing bodies in reference to the study of vaccination.

No direct answer was given to Dr. Glover's question; but it was pointed out that vaccination was one of the subjects enumerated in *Requirement III*.

UNIVERSITY OF DUBLIN.

Sir WILLIAM TURNER then moved and Sir JOHN SIMON seconded the following resolution, which was carried:

That the authorities of the University of Dublin be requested to take steps to secure that the students of that University be enrolled on the *Medical Register*.

CONFIRMATION OF REQUIREMENTS.

The Council then resumed the consideration of the codified requirements which are set forth in our report of Saturday's proceedings.

Dr. TUKE moved and Dr. MACALISTER seconded:

That the Council confirm its requirements in regard to professional education in the form set forth by the committee in this report.

On the motion of Sir JOHN SIMON, seconded by Dr. TUKE, Clause I of the requirements was made to read:

Subject to such exceptions as the Council may from time to time allow, every medical student shall at the commencement of his studentship be registered in such a manner and under the conditions prescribed by the standing resolutions of the Council.

With this amendment Dr. Tuke's resolution was carried.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

The Executive Committee was then appointed as follows:—Mr. Wheelhouse, Sir Dyce Duckworth, Sir Walter Foster, Mr. Feale, Dr. Heron Watson, Sir William Turner, Dr. Moore, and Sir Philip Smyly.

The Council then proceeded to consider the report by the Education Committee on Preliminary Examination.

PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION.

Dr. TUKE moved the adoption of the first recommendation that the note at the foot of the requirements for the Preliminary Examination should read as follows:—

Provided that a certificate of having passed a university examination required for graduation in Arts, or a university senior or higher local examination, or a senior grade examination of the Intermediate Education Board of Ireland, or the leaving certificate examination (honours and higher grade) of the Scottish Education Department, wherein the specified subjects of general education are included, may be recognised for the purpose of registration.

Dr. MACALISTER seconded the resolution.

The resolution was carried.

Dr. TUKE then moved the adoption of the second recommendation:—

That to the examinations in Section II of the "List of Bodies whose examinations in general education are recognised by the General Medical Council as qualifying for registration as medical or dental student" be appended a note:—

The Council has recommended that these examinations be discontinued.

[The examinations affected by this recommendation are those conducted by the Apothecaries' Society of London, and by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons in Ireland.]

Dr. MACALISTER seconded the resolution.

Mr. CARTER said the position of the Society in the matter was this, that it yielded neither to this Council nor to any educational body in the kingdom in its desire to maintain and increase the preliminary education of medical students, and it would be willing to relinquish its examination in Arts if it

could be shown to the authorities that such an abandonment would be to the public good.

Dr. ATTEHILL said he was anxious that the preliminary examination of the Royal Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons in Ireland should be discontinued, but at present, until some suitable examination by an educational body in Ireland could be established, he was afraid it was impossible.

Dr. MACALISTER said that the Committee had been told that if they pursued the policy of requiring that this examination should be struck out of the list so far as its recognition for purposes of registration is concerned, the Society of Apothecaries would take legal steps to fight the Council in this matter. He thought that a body that took such a view as that should not be permitted to conduct preliminary examinations. It was of the utmost importance that the Council should have a free hand, as it would have with non-professional bodies, to amend or alter their list of Arts examinations without being faced by threats of legal proceedings.

Dr. GLOVER hoped that time would bring the Society of Apothecaries to do what the Council desired.

Dr. Tuke's resolution was then carried.

AMERICAN DENTAL DIPLOMAS.

The Council then considered a report from the Education Committee in certain communications with reference to the registration in England of the diplomas of certain American universities.

After some discussion, on the motion of Dr. TUKE, seconded by Dr. MACALISTER, it was agreed:

That the recognition by the Council of the qualification of Doctor of Dental Medicine of the University of Harvard, and of Doctor of Dental Surgery of the University of Michigan, be suspended until further notice, and that the Registrar be instructed to refuse the registration of such certificates; and that meanwhile the President be requested to transmit a copy of the report to those bodies.

DISCIPLINARY POWERS.

On the motion of Sir W. FOSTER, seconded by Dr. PHILIPSON, the following resolution was carried:

That the Executive Committee be requested to consider the procedure of the Council under Sections xxviii and xxix of the Medical Act (1858), with a view to the constitution of a small committee to advise the Executive Committee of the Council on all questions of action to be taken under the above-mentioned sections, and on all questions of principle and practice in the disciplinary function of the Council.

IRISH REPRESENTATIVES.

The following report from the Irish Branch Council was received: (a) That Sir J. T. Banks, Dr. Kidd, and Dr. Haughton be nominated to the General Council for election as members of the Education Committee; (b) That Mr. Collins, Dr. Moore, and Sir Philip Smyly be nominated to the General Council as members of the Examination Committee; (c) the Branch Council having considered the case of William James Mathews, M.D., Q.U.I., recommend that his name be registered in the *Medical Register*.

The adoption of this report having been agreed to, and several committees appointed, the business of the session ended.

A MEDICAL PAPYRUS FROM EGYPT.

By F. L. GRIFFITH,
British Museum.

READERS of Dr. Finlayson's interesting lecture on Ancient Egyptian Medicine may be glad to have the following translation of the earliest medical document that we possess from Egypt. It dates from the XIIth Dynasty, and forms part of a large collection obtained in 1889 at Kahûn, near El Lahûn (in the entrance to the Fayûm) by Professor Flinders Petrie. A facsimile will be published shortly in my "Kahûn Papyri," Pl. v. vi.

The text consists of prescriptions for midwives; like all the known Egyptian papyri dealing with disease, it confines itself entirely to the medical as opposed to the surgical aspect of the question. Unfortunately, large gaps exist in the MS., and many of the words that are legible are of unknown meaning. In the first two pages were 17 or 18 prescriptions, all of one form; "knowledge of a woman (suffering, etc., *symptoms*) say thou with regard to it (it is, etc., *diagnosis*): make thou for her (*remedy*)."/> Much the same formulæ are found a thousand years later in the Ebers (pp. xxxvi ff.) and I'e papyri (pp. 12 ff.). The substances prescribed are generally

reasonable and obvious: beer, cow's milk, oil, dates and other fruits, herbs, incense, etc. The quantities to be used are often left for the discretion of the practitioner to determine; but where necessary the amount is specified, though in round terms, by measure and not by weight. In the Kahûn papyrus the *henu* or $\frac{1}{4}$ pint for liquids and the cubic quarter ($\frac{1}{4}$) of the *hekt*, making about $4\frac{1}{2}$ cubic inches, for solids are the only certain measures.¹ In the later documents there is more variety, yet the quantities are on a very conventional scale, and the measure of $4\frac{1}{2}$ cubic inches is the favourite amount. A great advance was made when weight was substituted for measure, as in the Greek medical works; it is evident that in Egypt virulent poisons were not included in the *Pharmacopœia*.

The third page contained about 17 prescriptions, most of which are obvious quackery, like those on the verso of the Berlin Papyrus, and like certain favourite recipes of mediæval practitioners. They relate to ascertaining sterility, the sex of unborn children, etc. It is in one of these (No. 14) that the only incantation in the papyrus appropriately enough occurs.

PAGE I.

1. Knowledge of a woman whose sight is painful, whose neck aches. Say thou as to it: it is the fall of the womb in her eyes. Do thou for her (thus): *kap* (anoint?) her with incense and fresh oil: *kap* her vulva with it, *kap* her eyes with the shank of a swallow (?); do thou let her eat the liver (?) of an ass raw.

2. Knowledge of a woman whose uterus is painful in carrying (?). Say thou as to it: what dost thou smell? If she says to thee I smell roast meat, say thou as to it, it is the *nemau* of the uterus, do thou for her (thus). *Kap* her with everything that she smells like roast meat.

3. Knowledge of a woman whose posterior, belly, and branching (?) of her thighs are painful. Say thou as to it. It is the falling of the womb. Do thou for her (thus) *uah* grains, $\frac{1}{4}$ *hekt*: *shasha*-fruit $\frac{1}{4}$ *hekt*: cow's milk 1 *henu*. Cook, let it cool, make it into one mess (gruel), drink four mornings.

4. Knowledge of a woman (pained) in her belly and vulva the surroundings (?) *dadat* of her vulva between her thighs. Say thou as to it, it is the growing very big of birth. Do thou for her (thus), fresh oil one *henu*, pour upon (?) her vulva.

5. Knowledge of a woman pained in her teeth and jaws; she knows not [how to open?] her mouth. Say thou to her it is the itching (?) (determinative a tooth) of the vulva. Do thou for her (thus): *kap* her with oil and incense in a bowl (?), pour on her.....the urine of an ass that has engendered two colts on the day that it has passed it (the urine). If her.....is pained from her.....shoulder (?) to her hips.....

6. Knowledge of a woman ill in all her limbs and the sockets of her eyes. Say thou as to it: it is constriction (?) of the uterus; she cannot drink *beer at all* (?) (or, and is altogether starved) as one who has recently given birth. Do thou for her (thus).....of *ah* in water, drink [4?] mornings.

7. Knowledge of a woman pained in her feet (?) and legs after walking. Say thou as to it: it is falling of the womb. Do thou for her (thus). Rub her feet and legs with hand-rubbing until she is well.

8. Knowledge of a woman pained in her neck, belly, and ears, she does not hear speech. Say thou as to it: it is violence (?) of the uterus. Do thou for her (thus): like that medicine for destroying putrefaction (?) of the womb.

9. Knowledge of a woman pained in her vulva and all her limbs like one beaten. Say thou with regard to it: it is.....of the womb. Do thou for her (thus): (Let her) eat oil (fat?) until she is well.

PAGE II.

10. Knowledge of a woman whose urine pains her like theof.....urine. Say thou with regard to it: it is falling of the womb. Do thou for her (thus): *aurit*, corn, *sheni*, *met ent geni*: pound, grind fine, upon *ndadat*- beer one *henu*: cook and drink 4 mornings. Let her wait lying down fasting; next morning let her drink 1 *henu* of the same: let her wait fasting until the time of.....washing the mouth (?).

11. Knowledge of a woman who loves the bed, she does not

rise and does not.....it (?). Say thou with regard to it: it is the grasping (?) of the womb. Do thou for her (thus): let drink 2 *henu* of *khani*, let her vomit it immediately.

12. Knowledge of a woman pained in her legs. Give thou to her strips of fine linen soaked in *anti* (frankincense?).....[if her movements are] pleasant (?) in her doing everything it is health, if [her movements are painful] (?) say thou to her [it is]of the womb]. Do thou for her (thus): a *mehui* vase of fresh oil, soak.....put *anti* (frankincense?) on herafter doing this.

13. Knowledge [of a woman pained in her.....] in her legs; in one side..... Say thou with regard to it: it is bending? [of the womb?]. Do thou for her (thus).....corn, *sheni*, *saam met-ent-giu* [pound, grind fine, etc.....] the side in which she is pained: let her lie upon it. If returns.....let her eat it, two.....of.....mixed with.....if she passes (urine?) sitting? in doing everything [she will be well? if].....swollen, put thy finger upon it, if thou find it tough.....if.....upon the uterus, it is colic?

14. Knowledge of a woman thirsty.....[say thou with regard to it].....do thou for her (thus): glue *shebeb*, $\frac{1}{4}$ *hekt*, glue *auit*.....altogether.

15. Knowledge of a woman whose belly is swollen.....[say thou with regard to it].....[do thou] for her (thus): malachite $\frac{1}{4}$ *hekt*, pound, grind fine, cook in cow's milk in a.....[drink it] four.....

16. Knowledge of a woman pained in all her limbs and the sockets of [her] eyes.....*kemt*. Say thou with regard to it it is *kemt* of the womb. Do thou for her thus: oil.....*aart*, *nekant*, *auh*, corn, *sheni*.....pound, grind fine, cook, grind 4 days.

17. Knowledge of a woman, her blood.....mother-of-men (womb), her head is painful and her mouth (?) and the wrist (?) of her hand. [Say thou] with regard to it.....Do thou for her (thus): When the ground has been cleared place a jar upon it of sweet beer, [covering it so as not to allow] anything to fall into it; lay cakes (?) of dates upon the upper side of [this] jar [and.....] upon them, and let her sit upon it; if nothing enters it, do thou for her (thus).....[boil] let cool, let her drink (it); but if her blood enters it.....

PAGE III.

1. Another (sic) to uncover.....from (?).....Half of a *badt* (?) of milk (?).....of a *badt* (?).....pour upon her vulva.

2. To recognise fruitfulness (let her who will bring forth) in the womb of a woman. If returns the month (?) and half-month (?), enter.....of the evil.....

3. As to one smitten by medicine for producing conception: after termination (?) returns.....pound, grind fine.....pre-serve in cloth on gruel *auit* (?) : pour in *huw*.....

4 (?).....incense, fresh oil, dates, sweet beer, put inside a *sheda* (of wood) in the flame; plaster thou.....as a sweetener of the mouth (?) a sweetmeat).

5. To prevent conception (?). Dung of a crocodile, cut up on *hesa-auit*, soaked.....

6. Another medicine: 1 *henu* of honey, *kap* on her vulva: do this upon *sehem* (?) (liquid) of natron.

7. Another.....upon glue *auit*, pour on her vulva.

8. To cure itching (biting) of womb. Stalks (?) of dates onbeat it fine on sweet beer [let her] sit upon it, opening her thighs.

9. Knowledge of a woman heated.....are her eyes bleared (?)upon the left hand of a (person) born in the Fayoum (possibly some substance). Pour.....4 mornings: cause her to sit upon the water of.....of the lake, cause.....

10. To distinguish her who shall conceive from her who will not conceive. Put thou fresh oil upon.....examine her; if thou findest the muscles of her breast *khasha* (?) soft say thou with regard to it, it is a birth. If thou findest them *kenken* say thou with regard to it she will bear late: but if thou findest them like the colour (?).....[say thou with regard to it she will never give birth].

11. Another time. Let her sit upon the ground washed over with a *taht*-vessel of sweet beer; cause to be.....dates (?).....[if she] vomits (or belches?) she will bring forth, and the number of all the vomitings which come forth from her mouth is the number of births (?), but if [she does not vomit (?)] she will never bring forth.

12. Another time. Put a bunch of onions on her body.....

¹ P. I, No. 3; II, Nos. 10, 14, 15; III, No. 6.

.....on which thou findest it, say thou as to it she will bear a child: if thou dost not find her nose(?).....[she will] not [bear a child ever].

13. Another time. Strike (?) thou as to her upon her lip (?), thy wrist (?) upon the top of her *menaa* (shoulder? or part of arm); if *nehek*.....[she will bear a child]. [but if she? does] not *nehek*, she will not bear a child ever.

14. Another time. (say) O thou calf of Horus.....I am upon the...of Horus: or: mayest thou enter the place to which thou art called (?). When one says [this incantation]..... If enters in her nostril she will bear: if enters in her vulva she will bear: if not [enters anywhere (?) she will not bear] ever.

15. Another time. If thou seest her face green? with green? but thou findest things upon her like.....[she will bring forth a male (?) (child) but if thou seest things upon her eyes she will not bear ever.

16. To recognise her who will conc[eive]....like that "finger upon her *menaa*" (i.e. use the receipt given above No. 13).

17. To prevent [the uterus] of a woman from itching (?). *Auit* pound.....upon her jaws the day of birth. It cures itching [of the womb] excellent truly millions of times.

18.....a woman her urine in a painful place: if comes urine.....for if she knows it it is so always. (?) for retention (of urine).

MEDICAL SICKNESS, ANNUITY, AND LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.

THE monthly meeting of the Executive of this Society was held on May 11th, the chair being taken by Mr. ERNEST HART, the President. There were also present Dr. F. de Havilland Hall, Dr. M. Greenwood, Mr. Frederick Wallace, Mr. Edward Bartlett, Dr. W. Knowsley Sibley, and Mr. H. H. Clutton.

The report submitted shows that the Society is steadily increasing the sphere of its operations. During the month of April the sum of £288 6s. was paid to those members who from failure in health or from accident were compelled to cease performing their professional duties, and the letters received from them show how welcome these sickness benefit payments are.

Several interesting claims were investigated by the Committee. In one case a medical man in the north of England had received contusion of the brain from a fall caused by the horse he was riding stepping on a loose stone. For nearly three months he had been unable to work, and during that time had received £4 4s. a week from the Sickness Benefit Fund. He now reported himself well, and expressed his "sincere thanks for the prompt and business-like way in which the claim was met and the payments made." In such a case as this the Society not only saves the member a considerable portion of the pecuniary loss he would otherwise sustain, but, by lessening his anxiety, greatly assist his rapid return to health. Some sad cases, where the chance of the recovery of the members is practically none, also engaged the attention of the Committee. Full evidence was before them of the enormous service the sickness allowance renders in such cases, too often it is all that remains to keep the stricken man and his wife and children from feeling the pangs of absolute want. That the members fully appreciate the benefit which the Society confers is shown by the fact that very few of them surrender their membership, those who do so being in almost all cases compelled to this course by their leaving the United Kingdom. The Society has always been noted for the extreme economy with which its affairs are conducted, less than 5 per cent. of the premium being used for management. The funds now amount to over £65,000, and there is little doubt that the valuation of the business next year will show that there is a good margin over and above the large reserve necessary for the safe working of a business of this description.

Copies of rules, forms of proposal, and full information will be forwarded post free on application to the Secretary, Mr. F. Addiscott, 33, Chancery Lane, London, W.C.

THE FEVER HOSPITAL DIFFICULTY IN LONDON.

Increased Demand for Isolation Accommodation.—The Renewed Prevalence of Scarlet Fever.—The Local Government Board and Suggested Sites.—Compulsory Extravagance.—Permanent and Temporary Hospitals.

THE constantly increasing tendency shown by people of almost every class to throw upon the authorities all responsibility in regard to the treatment of infectious diseases makes the Metropolitan Asylums Board, on whom this duty devolves, one of the most important public bodies in London. Its operations were at first entirely confined to paupers; but it soon became evident that a large proportion of those who came to the hospitals were not of the class who, under ordinary circumstances, would avail themselves of parochial relief. The report of the Royal Commission, presented to Parliament in 1882, recommending that the provision of hospital accommodation should be entirely disconnected from the Poor Law and be treated as part of the sanitary arrangements of the metropolis, was quickly followed by the removal of all civil disabilities from those who entered the managers' hospitals. Finally, the abolition of the power of the guardians to recover the cost of maintenance from non-pauper patients threw the benefit of hospital treatment open free to every inhabitant of the metropolis when suffering from fever, diphtheria, or small-pox.

In addition to its training ship and its asylums for imbeciles—remnants of its old connection with the Poor Law—the managers now possess seven fever hospitals, small-pox hospitals for over 1,100 cases, steamers plying on the Thames for the conveyance of patients, private landing stages for their use, and an ambulance service in constant readiness by which infectious cases can be removed at any hour of the day or night from any house in the metropolitan district—an area extending over 121 square miles and containing considerably more than half a million dwellings, inhabited by a population of about four and a-half millions. At the present time the difficulties before the managers are most serious, especially in regard to sites on which to provide adequate accommodation for the constantly increasing mass of cases.

Taking scarlet fever alone, the prospect for the coming autumn is most gloomy:

The seasonal curve of this disease, to quote from a letter addressed to the Local Government Board by the Metropolitan Asylums Board on May 10th, rises and falls in a steady wave once in each year, the total cases under treatment falling to a minimum every spring, and rising to a maximum every autumn. The minimum this year reached on March 18th was 1,880, a number practically double the average minimum of the preceding three years. The following are the figures:

Year.	Scarlet Fever.	
	Minimum, Spring.	Maximum, Autumn.
1890	998 (May 24th)	2,068 (November 13th)
1891	820 (June 14th)	1,527 (December 8th)
1892	1,137 (March 5th)	4,001 (November 17th)
1893	1,880 (March 18th)	—

It follows from these figures that if the proportion between highest and lowest be taken on the average of the last three years, the managers may expect to be called upon in the autumn of 1893 to find beds for 4,832 patients at one time. If the proportion of 1892 alone were taken, the number of beds required would be no fewer than 6,331. These figures relate solely to scarlet fever, but the managers' fever hospitals also receive cases of diphtheria, enteric (or typhoid), and typhus fever, and the wards allotted to these diseases, and also those reserved for isolation purposes, must be deducted from the total accommodation. That accommodation was by great exertions, in the time of most severe pressure last autumn, brought up to a maximum of 4,628 beds. Since then not only has diphtheria required a larger provision of accommodation, but the outbreak of small-pox has swept away at one stroke 836 beds, which were last autumn available at Gore Farm, and certain other wards are not now available owing to building operations and to other causes.

The result is, therefore, that if they again strain to the uttermost the resources of all their available institutions, and fill up to the last bed every ward in all their available institutions, the managers will be able to take in 3,434 cases of fever of all kinds. The number of fever patients