the number of ladies in the medical profession in the United Kingdom had risen from 8 to 135. The resolution was seconded by Mrs. Garrett Anderson, who was a member before 1878, and it was carried almost unanimously.

It should be added that before the date of the meeting at Nottingham, a resolution asking the Council to reconsider the rule excluding women had been adopted by the Sydney and New South Wales Branch, and that similar resolutions had been formulated by the Melbourne and Victoria Branch, the Adelaide and South Australia Branch, and the Cape of Good Hope Branch.

At the annual meeting at Newcastle this year, on August 2nd, the By-laws of the Association were altered, by a unanimous vote, by expunging the words limiting the power of the Council and branch councils "to the election of male persons" only. Female persons were thus formally rendered eligible for election. Advantage has since been taken of the new state of things, and the General Secretary informs us that the Association now numbers among its members the following fully qualified ladies:—

Anderson, Mrs. Garrett, M.D., London, W.	Keith, Caroline, L.R.C.P. Edin., London, W.
Aldrich-Blake, Louisa Brandreth, M.B. London, W.C.	Macdonald, Isabella Macdonald, M.B. Lond., Windmill House, Arbroath, N.B.
Anderson, Annie, M.S., M.B. Lond., Muswell Hill, N.	McLaren, Alice Janet, M.B. Lond., Glasgow.
Cadell, Grace Ross, L.R.C.P. Edin.	Nash, Lillias Frazer, L.R.C.P. Edin., Glasgow.
Cadell, Martha Georgina Isabella, M.D., Edinburgh.	Nash, Elizabeth Margaret, M.B., Lond., Glasgow.
Collett, Edith Grace, L.R.C.P. Edin., Edinburgh.	Pearse, Margaret, M.D., New De la Cherois, Annie, M.D., London, W.
Dahms, Anna, M.D., Manchester.	Barrett, Herts.
Dove, Emily Louisa, M.B. Lond., Virginia Water.	Scharlieb, Mary, M.D., London, W.
Ellaby, Charlotte, M.D., London, W.	Walker, Jane, L.R.C.P.I., M.D., London, W.C.
Gray, Sarah, L.R.C.P. Edin., Nottingham.	Webb, Helen, M.B. Lond., London, W.

AUTOMATIC WRITING.

V.

By A. CAMPBELL CLARK, M.D.

Automatic Writing and Spiritualism.—Concentration of Thought and Passiveness of Will.—Automatic Steadese.

A good deal of brain energy has been and is being expended in studying the phenomena of so-called spiritualism. The hypnotic *furor* is replaced for the present by the revival of the spiritualistic under the leadership of Mr. Stead. There is always a sufficient number of the curious and credulous in any community to form a discipleship under such leadership, and history will repeat itself in this respect till the end of time. But outside the throng so possessed are thoughtful observers, not carried away by the new cult, observing and reflecting carefully, and searching critically for the truth through the maze of error and superstition. To this class belongs Hypnos, who reduces the question of Mr. Stead's spook experiences to a practical and yet scientific inquiry respecting the real nature of automatic writing.

What tangible or sensible proof is there of an agency outside or—inside the cranium if he likes—of a strange or familiar spirit in the arachnoid cavity, or anywhere else in the higher regions of brain anatomy? We are not concerned for the present with the question whether there are spirits or no. To raise this question would open up theological and moral questions of the most far-reaching kind. It is enough for us critically to examine automatic writing, the essential pillar of spiritualism in its relation to hypnotism on the one hand and to mental disease on the other.

"How can unconscious scrawling," Hypnos asked, "become words and sentences?" To answer this question he formulates the laws which govern legitimate hypnotic phenomena. Hypnos applies them to morbid psychology, otherwise lunacy, and particularly monomania. It is not correct to say that a fixed idea becomes a positive objective hallucination. If an hallucination it is subjective, but it may be a delusion and not an hallucination, and these are not synonymous terms. Nor is it correct to say that because a man conceives himself to be Napoleon, he must necessarily "think, speak, behave, and act accordingly." What of the Napoleon who contentedly herds asylum cattle and cleans out the pig-styes?

"Concentration of thought, of passiveness of the will, etc.," all psychologists will agree are incompatible except as sequences, which is, perhaps, what Hypnos means, that concentration of thought implies more or less exercise of will—not suspension of it. It does not necessarily imply severe volitional tension, though it means acute attention, for it is very much a question of interest in the investigation. But the fact that concentration is required clearly demonstrates that—spook or no spook—a man must be dead to external sense and all other mental stimuli; that he must acquire a state of mental isolation. "Unless I take a pen or pencil, make my mind passive, and wait for the message, I do not receive any communication," says Mr. Stead, thus again demonstrating the fact of absolute preliminary concentration. Then, again, he writes: "My hand writes almost invariably, when it is disconnected, so to speak, from my conscious brain." In other words, the conscious brain is switched off from the motor mechanism, the words dictated do not pass through the conscious brain, but in some inscrutable outlandish way penetrate the Rolandic cortex directly from without. If not, then Mr. Stead had better study the cerebral anatomy of the route by which the spirit sounds travel, and explain it.

What proof can Mr. Stead bring forward that his own conscious mind is not operative all the time, and, if operative, that it does not evolve the messages in his own brain? Why call the writing automatic if a spirit voice dictates the words? He may as well argue that the phenomena of hypnotism are of spiritualistic origin. The scientific study of hypnotism has revealed to us a subjective condition of mind which is not normal consciousness nor is it sleep, but a condition allied to somnambulism—subconscious it may be called, but certainly to a large extent automatic. That a subject can hypnotise himself in a variety of ways without the intervention of any external agent or medium is explained, as far as we are yet able to understand it, on physiological grounds. What is there in the preparatory process of Mr. Stead, the concentration, the passive condition of will, the switching off of his own conscious brain that cannot be done in the same way. He admits that there is an infinite quantity of nonsense written automatically, and we agree with him.

Lastly, Mr. Stead does not deny that his spook writes Steadese, nor does this surprise us, for there can be no question that personality must be more or less pronounced in automatic writing according as the conscious or the subconscious brain is operative; when the former a man may write coherent sense, when the latter the mind is semitorpid, unbidden thoughts arise which may be flights from memory of ideas crystallised in the past experience of the individual, or mere words, ejaculations, or fragments of sentences. In the insane delirium of acute mania, where the subconscious state prevails, the torrent of jumbled language, incoherence of words and sentences is poured forth in a stream incessant. The conscious brain in this case is truly switched off, but it has yet to be demonstrated that it is so in automatic writing, and that if it is so in extreme cases, that the phenomena are not explainable in accordance with ordinary principles of human physiology.

THE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF HYGIENE AT BUDA-PESTH.

THE eighth International Congress of Hygiene and Demography will be held in September, 1894, at Buda-Pesth. The formal opening of the Congress is fixed for September 2nd, and the meetings of the various Sections will be held on September 3rd, 4th, 5th, 7th, and 8th. The closing meeting will be held on September 9th. September 6th is set apart as a day of rest or for making short excursions which have been arranged.

The scientific programme of the Congress, together with the various questions resolved upon, have already been arranged, and so many promises of support and scientific co-operation from eminent foreign scientists of high standing have been received already that the success of the Congress may be considered as fully secured.

In connection with the Congress a hygienic exhibition will be arranged, which will differ from similar undertakings