were communicated with, and in response, about 100 have either become corresponding members, or have nominated some junior surgeon or anæsthetist to represent them. The organisation of the work in London, Edinburgh, and Dublin was entrusted to subcommittees.

In London there are over 50 observers at work in the different hospitals, a similar number in Edinburgh, Glasgow, and Aberdeen, and a considerable number in Dublin.

In order to make the observations as simple and uniform as possible, a record book was published, several hundreds of which have been distributed amongst the corresponding members. These record books will be called in in January, 1893. Until they have been collected, carefully studied, and tabulated, no complete report can be published, but the Committee may at any time decide to make an interim report.

During the first six months of 1892 eighteen cases of death under anæsthetics in the United Kingdom have been brought to the knowledge of the Committee. Two of these have been privately reported, all the others having been published in various journals. Of these, fifteen occurred under chloroform, two under ether, and one under the A.C.E. mixture. In several there was some doubt as to whether the death was directly due to the anæsthetic.

Several very interesting reports have been sent of cases in which dangerous symptoms have occurred during the giving of anæsthetics, and in which the patients have been successfully restored. Details of such cases are of very great importance, and it is hoped that they will be carefully recorded.

The subjoined programme of the records and information required will explain the method adopted by the Committee for conducting the investigation.

The Committee has held three meetings.

Records and Information requested from each Corresponding Member of Committee.

(a) The total number of administrations of each anæsthetic during the year 1892, by yourself, or under your supervision.

(b) The number of cases in which death has occurred during or shortly after anæsthetisation.

(c) The number of cases in which dangerous symptoms have occurred.

(d) Special details of cases where dangerous symptoms or death have occurred.

At the end of the year 1892 the Committee will be glad of answers to the following questions:—

(1) The source of your anæsthetics.

(2) The method, manner, and apparatus generally used.

(3) The approximate time usually required for producing anæsthesia sufficient for operation.

(4) The modifications and precautions adopted—

(a) In certain cases of disease (for example, emphysema, pleurisy, abdominal distension, heart disease, etc.).

(b) In certain operations (for example, in region of pharynx, larynx, etc.).

(5) Your opinion, formed from your own personal experience as to—

The relative safety of the various anæsthetics which you have used.

The best method and manner of administering them.

When to use one, and when the other.

The precautions to be taken with regard to the conditions and surroundings of the patient.

How to deal with any complications that may arise.

The most effective methods of restoring patients threatened with death from anæsthetics.

(6) Education in administration of anæsthetics.

How are students taught to administer anæsthetics, and how far are they compelled to gain a practical knowledge of administering them in the medical schools or hospitals with which you are connected?

The following synopsis will give an idea of the special details requested in cases of death, or dangerous symptoms (that is, such symptoms as raise the fear of immediate death, and call for the use of artificial respiration).

Special Details of Cases in which Dangerous Symptoms or Death have occurred.

(a) The anæsthetic.

(1) Its nature—for example, ether, chloroform, etc.

(2) Purity of drug—for example, from what source obtained, how long kept, whether exposed to light, etc. (N.B.—Communication should at once be made with Professor Ramsay, University College, London, who has kindly consented to analyse a sample of any anæsthetic which has caused dangerous symptoms).

(3) Whether other persons who have taken from same source have evinced kindred symptoms.

(4) Method of administration; amount of dilution; length of time administered.

(5) Quantity used.

(b) The patient.

(1) Age; sex; physique; first time or not of taking anæsthetic; previous drugs (for example, chloral, morphine, alcohol, etc.).

(2) State of health.

(3) Preparation of patient; food, purgatives, clothing, temperature of atmosphere, etc.

(4) Phenomena of anæsthesia—for example, length of time going off, struggling, laryngeal spasm, convulsions, vomiting, etc.; condition of pulse, respiration, pupil reflexes; was anæsthesia profound?

(5) Which failed first—pulse or respiration?

(c) The operation.

Nature and duration. Whether antiseptic spray used; patient kept warm; posture; amount of hæmorrhage; shock.

(d) After-effects.

Faintness, exhaustion, vomiting, etc.

(e) Methods adopted in cases where death or symptoms of danger have occurred.

(for example, pulling forward of tongue, inversion of patient, artificial respiration (which method), nitrite of amyl, electricity, heat, etc.; and with what results.)

N.B.—It is requested that after the occurrence of a death or dangerous symptoms details should at once be sent to the Honorary Secretary of the Committee.

JONATHAN HUTCHINSON, F.R.S., *Chairman.*

CHRISTOPHER CHILDS, M.D., Weymouth,

Honorary Secretary.

MEDICAL SICKNESS, ANNUITY, AND LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.

NINTH REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE TO THE MEMBERS FOR THE YEAR ENDING JUNE 30TH, 1892.

GENTLEMEN,—In submitting for your consideration the Ninth Report of the proceedings of the Society during the last twelve months, it is again our pleasing duty to congratulate you upon the success that has attended our efforts since we last addressed you. This is the more gratifying, inasmuch as the claims for sickness have unfortunately been abnormally heavy, owing to the influenza epidemic which has now for the last two or three years been so prevalent throughout the country. Fortunately, however, the tables upon which the Society is based are framed in such a manner as amply to provide, not only for ordinary periods of sickness, but also for intervening epidemics such as that here referred to; and there has therefore never at any time been the least anxiety on our part as to our ability to meet such demands as might be made upon us—in fact, a reference to the figures of this report will show that, heavy as the strain has undoubtedly been, it has never at any time made it necessary to encroach in any degree on the accumulated reserves, which remain therefore intact.

NUMERICAL PROGRESS.

The number of new proposals received during the year has been 128, which is quite equal to the average for several years past, 119 having been submitted during the preceding twelve months. The whole of these, with four exceptions, have been accepted; and when it is borne in mind that last year we

found it necessary to decline only three of the proposals that came before us, it is obvious the lives finally offered, after fulfilling the strict preliminary conditions required, are, generally speaking, of a high class. We may add that we find it advisable in some cases to make special inquiries before accepting candidates, the replies in such cases being invariably readily given, it being admitted on all hands that too much care cannot be exercised with respect to the admission of members.

It will thus be seen that for the period under review 124 new members have been enrolled, against 116 last year; and if these be added to the number when we last reported (1,145), it will be found that the total amounts to 1,269. From this, however, must be deducted 26, who, from various causes, have discontinued their subscriptions, and have thus been excluded, five who have withdrawn receiving surrender values, and six who have died. Allowing for the loss of these 37, the actual membership of the Society at the close of the financial year was 1,232, showing a net increase of 87. The death-rate, we are pleased to report, continues low, being one less than last year, which we may fairly claim as evidence of the care exercised in the selection of candidates for admission as members.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

On reference to the balance sheets it will be seen that the financial condition of the Society continues to be very solid and satisfactory. A careful consideration of these figures will be found most interesting by all who have the welfare of the Society at heart, and in order to facilitate such perusal we have added the corresponding figures for the previous year, thus affording a ready means of comparison.

SICKNESS AND ACCIDENT FUND.

This branch of the Society's operations being by far the largest, is consequently the most important; the one affected to a considerable extent by the influenza epidemic which has been with us, more or less, since the close of the year 1889. Comparisons with previous years are thus rendered almost impossible, but the incidence of exceptional pressure may be gathered from the following comparative statement of expenditure in quarterly periods:

Year.	Members.	1st quarter.		2nd quarter.		3rd quarter.		4th quarter.	
		£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
1888-89	985	390	9 0	545	2 0	560	6 6	650	6 6
1889-90	1,067	504	13 6	631	10 0	1,194	16 6	541	17 6
1890-91	1,145	607	8 6	642	9 0	825	13 6	1,184	0 6
1891-92	1,232	780	13 6	708	1 6	1,190	0 6	1,044	15 0

The number of sickness claims directly traceable to influenza was 123, involving a total of 245 weeks 2 days' illness at an expenditure of £891; the average duration of illness from this cause being, therefore, as near as possible, 2 weeks.

During the year payment has been made for 269 separate cases of sickness, to 234 distinct claimants, for a period of 1,085 weeks 4 days.

As will be readily imagined, the illnesses on account of which claims have been made are of a very varied nature, and include 123 from influenza, 21 from accidents occurring principally during riding or driving, 16 from rheumatism, 14 from catarrh, 10 from bronchitis, 6 from phthisis, 5 each from quinsy and pneumonia, 4 from debility; 3 each from sore throat, carbuncle, and enteritis; 2 each from inflammation of throat, mumps, paralysis, scarlet fever, poisoned finger, and erysipelas, and the remainder from miscellaneous ailments of an ordinary character.

A reliable test of the sickness rate of the Society is to be found in a comparison of the amount of sickness actually experienced with that provided for under the tables, the following being the result of such comparison for the year now under review:

	Full Pay.	Half Pay.	Total.
Sickness expected.....	1,118 wks. 0 dy.	342 wks. 6 dys.	1,460 wks. 6 dys.
" experienced ...	872 wks. 1 dy.	213 wks. 3 dys.	1,085 wks. 4 dys.
Margin in favour	245 wks. 6 dys.	129 wks. 3 dys.	374 wks. 2 dys.

From these figures it will be found that, notwithstanding the exceptional pressure before referred to, the result of the year's working shows that there has not only been no cause for anxiety, but, on the contrary, a margin of profit is nevertheless shown.

On reference to the balance sheet it will be seen that there has been an income from premiums alone of £6,853 14s., as

compared with £6,468 4s. 2d. last year; while the interest received amounts to £635 17s., as compared with £729 5s., the apparent falling off in this latter item being due to the fact that one or two payments did not come to hand until after the balance was struck; but, nevertheless, the receipts are £292 1s. 10d. in excess of the preceding year. On the other side, sickness pay has necessitated an expenditure of £3,723 10s. 6d., against £3,259 11s. 6d. in the former period, an increase of £463 19s.

ANNUITY AND LIFE ASSURANCE FUNDS.

In view of the interest now taken in the important question of annuities, it is satisfactory to report that this branch of the Society's work continues to make steady progress. Whatever may be the ultimate result of the consideration of the various proposals that have of late been put forth in favour of what are popularly called old-age pensions, this Society can fairly claim to have afforded for a number of years past an opportunity for members of the medical profession to provide against the hardships that too frequently accrue when, from age or infirmity, they are unable longer to fight the battle of life. For some years to come there can necessarily be no expenditure under this head calling for comment, but it may be noted that, while last year the sum of £77 13s. 7d. was returned at the death of members, under the provisions of an amendment to the rule that came into operation in March, 1889, no liability has been incurred of a similar nature for the period under review.

The Life Assurance Fund, as has been pointed out in previous reports, is the smallest branch of the Society's work, due no doubt in a large measure to the competition that exists in this particular business. If, therefore, the progress of this department is scarcely as rapid as we might desire, it cannot be wondered at; but this is in some measure compensated for by the knowledge we possess that the benefits already paid under this head have, in several cases, been of very great assistance to the widow and fatherless, who, but for the provision thus made, must have depended largely upon the kindness of friends, and, in some instances, suffered great privation. In dealing with this fund it must be borne in mind that, although claims have been paid in only four cases as against three last year, the number of deaths cannot be gauged by this means, inasmuch as but a small proportion of the members, as has been already pointed out, subscribe to the Life Assurance Fund.

MANAGEMENT FUND.

The expenses of management have been £57 10s. 2d. less than last year, when it will be remembered an abnormal item of £137 10s. appeared under the head of premium on purchase of stock. The total income to this fund during the year under review has been £1,273 11s. 8d., as compared with £1,222 9s. in the preceding period—an increase of £51 2s. 8d., and, as the expenditure, instead of absorbing the 10 per cent. provided by the rules, has been less than 5 per cent., the sum of £681 8s. 11d. has been added to the large amount already accumulated under this head, which, it will be seen, is now little short of £5,000, which stands to the credit of the members at large and will form part of the profit balance at the close of the next quinquennial valuation.

INCREASE OF RESERVES.

Notwithstanding the heavy demands on the Society during the year, the reserve capital continues to increase in a very satisfactory manner, the net result producing an addition of £8,135 3s. 11d., which, with one exception, is the largest increase yet obtained. The following statement shows the state of the funds at the end of each year, with the annual increase from the commencement of the Society to the present time:—

Date.	Amount of Reserves.		Annual Increase.	
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
June 30, 1884...	1,434	16 3	...	...
" 1885...	6,433	0 10	...	4,998 4 7
" 1886...	11,330	7 6	...	4,897 6 8
" 1887...	17,645	3 0	...	6,314 15 6
" 1888...	24,684	17 9	...	7,040 14 9
" 1889...	32,561	13 0	...	7,866 15 3
" 1890...	40,459	13 10	...	7,898 0 10
" 1891...	48,766	0 9	...	8,306 6 11
" 1892...	56,901	4 8	...	8,135 3 11

DEATH OF MR. C. J. RADLEY.

It is with very great regret that we have to record the death of the gentleman who from the inception of this Society worthily filled the office of Secretary, and to whose wise counsel and judgment much of the successful working of the Society is undoubtedly due. Those members who knew him personally will, we feel confident, to some extent appreciate the loss the Society has sustained, but obviously it was in Committee that his large knowledge of friendly society work, and his calm and judicial mind were principally brought to bear. Taken away somewhat suddenly in the prime of life and at a time when he might fairly have looked forward to a long continuance of his usefulness, the death of our Secretary came upon us as a very great shock. Fortunately Mr. C. H. Radley had for some time been assisting his father, and we were therefore enabled to carry on the work of the Society with a minimum of inconvenience to the members by appointing that gentleman to the vacant office for a time. The selection of a successor to Mr. C. J. Radley was by no means an easy matter, but, after careful consideration of the merits of a number of candidates our choice eventually fell upon Mr. C. J. Drummond, a man of proved and recognised ability, who has had considerable experience in secretarial work, and whose appointment we trust will give general satisfaction to the members. Bearing in mind the many faithful services rendered by Mr. C. J. Radley to the Society we deemed it our duty to recognise such services by the only means in our power, and we accordingly requested his widow to accept an honorarium of £50, as a mark of our appreciation. Mr. C. H. Radley having carried out his duties pending the appointment of a new secretary to our entire satisfaction, we awarded him a gratuity of £20 and also appointed him assistant secretary, a position we are satisfied he is in every way qualified to fill, while the growth of the Society necessitates such an appointment.

It is again our privilege to acknowledge the untiring energy and zeal evinced by the officers and committees of your Society in its welfare, and the large amount of time and attention that such work necessarily entails, all of which is cheerfully given.

It is impossible within the limits at our command to convey an idea of the extent of this honorary labour; but when it is explained that every case is carefully gone into weekly, and sometimes oftener, by your officers—more especially by Dr. de Havilland Hall—and that every application for admission is examined prior to being submitted to your Committee, members will readily believe that their very best thanks are due to those who so jealously safeguard their interests.

To those members of the profession who kindly examine and report upon special cases from time to time, your Committee take this opportunity of expressing its indebtedness, the more so as it frequently happens that we have to call in the aid of gentlemen who are in no way connected with this Society.

To the medical press, and especially to the *BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL*, we owe a deep debt of gratitude for many favours received, not only for the valuable publicity given to our proceedings, but also for the arrangements so kindly made year by year, by favour of the British Medical Association, for the holding of our annual meeting.

In conclusion, we venture to urge upon the members the duty they owe to themselves and the profession to which they belong, of co-operating with us in the good work we have in hand by bringing the Society under the notice of those eligible to become members. In saying this, we do not wish it to be understood that it is at all necessary to the success of the Society that new members should be admitted, but, on the other hand, we have no desire to be exclusive, and are willing at all times to consider applications for membership from healthy candidates.

We are induced to make these remarks because of the frequent intimations we receive of the usefulness of the Society, and of the regret of our correspondents at not becoming earlier acquainted with its existence. To the younger members of the profession, who are frequently placed at great disadvantage when stricken down by sickness or accident, this Society affords exceptional opportunities of providing against the loss and inconvenience thus entailed; and

it is, therefore, an act of friendship to bring the matter to their notice by forwarding a prospectus, or in some other way.

(Signed)
By Order of the Committee,
ERNEST HART, *Chairman*.
C. J. DRUMMOND, *Secretary*.

MEDICAL PROVIDENCE AND ASSURANCE.

A MEETING of the Committee of the Medical Sickness, Annuity, and Life Assurance Society was held on July 13th, at 38, Wimpole Street, W., Mr. ERNEST HART in the chair; there were also present: Mr. E. Bartlett, Dr. M. Greenwood, Mr. T. M. Griffiths (Clifton), Dr. De Havilland Hall, Dr. J. W. Hunt, Mr. J. Brindley James, Dr. J. Pickett, Dr. Walter Smith, Mr. W. J. Stephens (Brighton), Mr. W. Thomas (Birmingham), and Mr. C. J. Drummond (Secretary).

The report of the Society's proceedings for the past month showed that the number of proposals for membership continued satisfactory, the total received to date amounting to 1,531, while the sickness pay was below the average, and about £100 less than was expended for the corresponding period of 1891. A further sum of £2,000 was invested in corporation bonds, bringing the total invested capital of the Society up to nearly £60,000. The draft report to be submitted to the forthcoming annual meeting, which will be held in the Mechanics' Lecture Hall, Nottingham, on July 27th, was considered and approved.

It was announced with much regret that Mr. S. W. Sibley, of Harley Street, who had acted as treasurer to the Society from the first, and who had given great attention to its affairs, had felt obliged to send in his resignation on his retirement from London. A resolution was passed expressing the deep obligations of the Society to Mr. Sibley for his valued support and attention to its affairs during so many years, and the best wishes of the Council for his health and happiness in retirement. It was stated that Mr. H. H. Clutton, F.R.C.S., of Portland Place, one of the surgeons of St. Thomas's Hospital, had consented to be nominated as one of the treasurers to fill the vacancy thus created, and Mr. Clutton was accordingly unanimously selected for recommendation to the annual meeting.

Copies of this report, prospectuses, forms for admission, and all particulars of the excellent work of the Society will be forwarded post free by Mr. C. J. Drummond, Secretary, 21, Dalmore Road, West Dulwich, S.E.

THE ST. GERVAIS DISASTER.—Dr. Guyenot, physician to the baths of St. Gervais, was involved in the disaster caused by the flood due to the fracture of the glacier of Bionnassay, but was fortunate enough to escape with his life, though he sustained a complicated fracture of the arm. He showed great presence of mind, and was instrumental in saving the lives of fifteen persons, by assisting them to escape through a window.

RIVAL FAITH CURERS.—An inquest was recently held at Santa Barbara, California, as to the death of a young man who died of typhoid fever while an inmate of the "Spanish Faith Mission," which is conducted by a preacher. The interesting point in the case is that a rival faith curer, the proprietress of another "faith mission," who had tried unsuccessfully to persuade the young man to patronise her establishment, gave evidence to the effect that if he had had proper nursing and medicine he would have recovered. In spite of this the jury found a verdict of death from natural causes.

EARTH WORMS AND TUBERCULOSIS.—MM. Lortet and Despeignes, in continuing some researches into the behaviour of earth worms to tuberculous matter, have given additional scientific basis to the arguments advanced in favour of cremation. They have found (*Lyon Medical*, No. 29, 1892) that earth worms living in soil which contains tuberculous material bring up the bacilli to the surface. The worm-casts under such circumstances are capable of producing the most virulent tuberculosis in guinea-pigs.