COLONIAL MEDICAL LEGISLATION.

THE following letter has been received from the Secretary of State for the Colonies:

Downing Street, Nov. 11th.

SIR,—With reference to the letter from this department of February 6th last, I am directed by the Marquis of Ripon to transmit to you, for your information, a copy of Ordinance 13 of 1892, which has been passed by the Legislature of Sierra Leone to regulate the dispensing and sale of drugs and poisons in the Colony, and with respect to which Her Majesty has not been advised to exercise her power of disallowance.

I am to add that the Governor of the Colony has been instructed to procure the amendment of Section xi (c) by inserting the words "satisfactory to the Board" after the word "testimonial."—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Ernest Hart, Esq., EDWARD WINGFIELD.
Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee
British Medical Association.

* * * The ordinance enclosed will be laid before the next meeting of the Parliamentary Bills Committee, together with a report thereon.

ON BEHALF OF THE "ANTIVIVISECTION SOCIETY."

FOLKESTONE, the birthplace of Harvey, seems destined to be the scene of recurring episodes in the antivivisection agitation. In December, 1890, we recorded particulars of a public meeting held there, at which Mr. Berdoo and Mr. Bryan lectured, and, despite the able arguments of Dr. Tyson, Dr. T. Eastes, and Dr. F. Eastes, were so far successful that the meeting passed votes of thanks to the lecturers. The memorable meeting of the Church Congress in the same town, and the wider ventilation of the subject thereon ensuing, would seem to have considerably changed the opinion of the townspeople. Another debate on the subject at the Congregational Mutual Improvement Society's room, took place last Monday evening. The Rev. H. N. Bernard, M.A., Vicar of Ripple, opened the proceedings with the usual antivivisection speech about cruelty, torture, etc., and the alleged baking, boiling, and starving atrocities that are sometimes accepted as truth on such occasions. The Secretary of the Antivivisection Society was to have spoken next, but did not appear, whereupon Mrs. Phelan seconded the resolution "That the practice of vivisection is opposed to the spirit of Christ's religion." Dr. Frederick Eastes had been asked to speak in opposition; both he and Dr. Tyson having prepared addresses for the Church Congress meeting, which were not delivered for want of time. The amendment, which Dr. F. Eastes moved at the meeting on Monday, was "That experiments upon living animals, as restricted and practised in England, are morally justifiable, and are essential to the progress of knowledge, the relief of suffering, and saving of life of man and the lower animals." Especially he observed, that in *The Nine Circles* and another book of the kind there is a list published of eighteen classes of experiments in which chloroform cannot be given at all, or not throughout the whole experiment; and he showed that as to one class this was true, as to one partly so, and as to the other sixteen it was either altogether false or absurd, because there was no pain and no need for an anæsthetic. He next gave proofs that Claude Bernard's and Schiff's ideas about curare (the sense of feeling remaining or being intensified) have since been entirely disproved. He finally read the following telegram from Professor V. Horsley, received that day:—"Point out I have challenged enemy to enter witness-box; they dare not," which was received with cheers. Dr. Tyson seconded the amendment, in a telling speech, and was followed on the same side by Mr. Wightwich (a solicitor). Next Mr. Murray, a homœopath, said he wished to take a middle course. Mr. Pilcher spoke for the amendment; Mr. Bernard replied, and the amendment being put to the meeting (at which from 150 to 200 persons were present) was carried with great enthusiasm almost unanimously. Only five or six, including Mr. Bernard and Mrs. Phelan, voted against it. This great advance of public opinion in a provincial town in favour of legalised research should encourage the advocates of such work elsewhere in the country to confute on the public platform the false and misleading statements with which the antiresearchers endeavour systematically to delude public audiences.

ASSOCIATION INTELLIGENCE.

LIBRARY OF THE BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

MEMBERS are reminded that the Library and Writing Rooms of the Association are now fitted up for the accommodation of the Members in commodious apartments, at the Offices of the Association, 429, Strand. The rooms are open from 10 A.M. to 5 P.M. Members can have their letters addressed to them at the Office.

BRANCH MEETINGS TO BE HELD.

METROPOLITAN COUNTIES BRANCH.—A special general meeting of this Branch will be held on Thursday, December 8th, in the theatre of the Museum of Practical Geology, Jernyn Street. Dr. Pavy, President, will take the chair at 8 P.M. Business:—1. A University for London. 2. The Midwives Bill.—ANDREW CLARK, ISAMBAARD OWEN, Honorary Secretaries.

JAMAICA BRANCH.

THE annual meeting of this Branch was held on January 20th, 1892.

Officers and Council.—The following were elected officers for the year 1892: *President*: C. Gayleard. *President-elect*: J. W. Plaxton. *Honorary Secretary and Treasurer*: G. F. A. Da Costa. *Members of Council*: G. Cooke, Hon. J. C. Philippo, G. C. Henderson, F. H. Saunders, Hon. C. B. Mosse, C.B., A. R. Saunders, and W. H. W. Strachan.

BOMBAY BRANCH.

A GENERAL meeting of the Branch was held in the Framjee Institute, Grant Medical College, on July 15th, Deputy-Surgeon-General CATES in the chair. Members Brigade-Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel Maconachie, Surgeons-Major Hatch, Parakh, Surgeons-Captain Meyer, Childe, Barry, and Assistant-Surgeon S. V. Kamtak and Surgeon-Major Dimmock (Honorary Secretary) were present.

Election of Officers.—The minutes of last meeting having been read and confirmed, the results of the election of the Committee of Management were then published and a president and two vice-presidents were elected by the members present as follows: *President*: Brigade-Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel G. A. Maconachie. *Vice-Presidents*: Brigade-Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel Banks and Surgeon-Major Hatch. *Committee of Management*: Surgeon-Major-General Pinkerton, Deputy-Surgeon-General Cates, Surgeon-Major Parker, Surgeon-Major Manser, Surgeon-Captain Meyer, and Surgeon-Captain Childe. *Honorary Secretary*: Surgeon-Major Dimmock.

Communications.—Dr. MEYER showed a series of experiments on the frog's heart, beginning with the results of stimulation of the vagus and sympathetic and varied by the comparative experiences upon that organ of various drugs such as muscarin, atropine, etc. The experiments were further illustrated by a series of tracings of other similar experiments.—Surgeon-Captain CHILDE showed microscopical sections of (1) Pigmentation of the Liver (malarial), (2) Lardaceous Disease of the Liver, (3) Scirrhus of the Breast, (4) Spindle-celled Sarcoma. Surgeon-Captain Childe also read a paper on Hydatids of the Spleen, which will be published. Dr. HATCH cited several cases which had occurred in the course of his experience at the Jamsetjee Jeejeebhoy Hospital.—Surgeon-Major HATCH read a paper on Osteotomy of the Leg and exhibited the patient. He also read a paper on Laminectomy, which was illustrated by a pathological specimen of the region operated upon, the patient having died of intercurrent pyæmia. The paper will be published.

Resolution as to Place of Meeting.—A letter from Dr. R. Baker was read suggesting that the meetings of the Branch association be held in the University Convocation Hall. On the proposal of Surgeon-Major HATCH, seconded by Dr. MACONACHIE, the members resolved that the meetings be held every month if possible, and alternately at the Framjee Dinshaw Petit Institute and in the University Hall.

THE fifteenth Balneological Congress will be held at Berlin, March 8th to 13th, 1893, under the presidency of Professor Oscar Liebreich.