such evolution in the art of diagnosis, he instanced the case of anæmia; when by accurate microscopical devices it had become possible to count and measure the decrease and increase of blood corpuscles in number and size, then a basis for the test and proof of the value of arsenic for pernicious anæmia and of iron in chlorosis was obtained.

THE ADDRESS ON CHOLERA.

On June 8th Mr. ERNEST HART delivered an address to the Association on Cholera, Where it comes from, and How it is Propagated. An abstract of this address will be found on page 1. The conclusion of the address, which was listened to by a crowded audience, was received with loud applause, and upon the motion of Dr. WINDGATE, chairman of the Committee of Arrangements, a vote of thanks was carried by acclamation, and the address was ordered to be printed and copies forwarded to all members of the State Boards of Health.

THE ADDRESS IN SURGERY.

The address in Surgery was delivered by Dr. HENRY MUDD, of St. Louis, and was entitled Surgical Problems. The first problem to which he referred was the use of drainage. He said that recent advances had clearly defined a marked difference in the object to be obtained by primary and secondary drainage. While no intelligent surgeon would discard the use of secondary drainage in suppurating wounds, there were many who considered it unnecessary in fresh, clean wounds, whatever their extent. The second problem to which he turned was that of the radical cure of hernia. He thought that while the permanent cure might be hoped for in many cases in children by the use of a truss, such a favourable result in adults was most improbable, and should not influence the decision as to the propriety of operative relief. Permanent recovery followed operation in from 60 to 80 per cent. of the cases, and even the lower percentage justified continued operative efforts. The third problem upon which he touched was that of the treatment of appendicitis. He thought that the treatment of each case must be determined by individual consideration, but added that the anatomical and clinical investigations of the past few years had clearly demonstrated that the theory of the pathology of inflammation in this region which had arisen in America was a correct one.

THE ADDRESS ON STATE MEDICINE.

Dr. WALTER WYMAN, of Washington, read the address on State Medicine, taking for his subject The Extinction of Contagious Diseases. He observed that the history of the world showed that many races of animals had become extinct, and that certain diseases that once prevailed extensively as epidemics had lost their strength or had been so controlled during recent years as to warrant the belief that their histories were closed or fast closing. He pointed out that yellow fever, which had at one time been of frequent occurrence in Europe, affecting Spain in particular severely between 1801 and 1825, that the last epidemic in Europe had been that in Lisbon in 1857. In the same way in the United States the disease at one time had invaded not only the south, but the north, whereas to-day constant vigilance had caused it practically to vanish from the ports of the United States. Since the discovery of vaccination small-pox, though still a stubborn foe was under restraint, and it was a matter of choice whether or not an individual should be made absolutely proof against the disease. He quoted statistics to show the good effects of compulsory vaccination. Typhus fever, he said, had no permanent lodgment in the United States, and the measures instituted by the Board of Health of New York during the past winter to suppress the disease afforded a striking example of what might be accomplished by laws energetically executed and by disinfection scientifically applied. Finally, speaking of cholera, he foretold that the disease would shortly be eradicated from every English-speaking country by the energy and love of cleanliness characteristic to the Anglo-Saxon race. In conclusion, he touched upon the possible future benefits to be derived from protective inoculation in this and other diseases.

OTHER BUSINESS.

Our notes of the proceedings of the sections, which were of a varied and interesting character, must be deferred.

Before separating the Association elected Dr. James F. Hibbard, of Richmond, Indiana, as President of the next annual meeting; and on the motion of Dr. PARKINSON it was resolved that that meeting should be held in San Francisco in May, 1894.

MEDICAL NOTES FROM AMERICA.

By ERNEST HART.

The American Medical Association.—The Annual Meeting at Milwaukee.—The Constitution of the American Medical Association.—Suggestions for its Amendment.—The City of Milwaukee.—Address on Epidemic Cholera.—The BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL in America.—The American Medical Editors' Association.—The British and the American Medical Associations.

The Milwaukee meeting of the American Medical Association was a very interesting, well-ordered, and lively meeting; the attendance was over a thousand, and from every part of the States. New York, which is heretical on the question of consultations with homœopaths, still holds aloof, but the Association is strong enough in the support of the most active-minded professional men in the States to dispense easily with the adhesion of any particular section. In their strong upholding of the *Code of Medical Ethics* as the test of membership, the Association has taken up a firm and unassailable position. Since it has acted on the advice which I tendered some ten or twelve years ago, when consulted by Drs. Sayre, Post, Pack, and others on the subject of the best means of promoting the growth of the Association, the membership has more than doubled, and it is now five thousand. The weak point which I laid my finger on was the evanescent character of the membership, which then depended upon annual delegation from the respective State Societies, which are the constituent bodies, corresponding in that respect, but differing in others, from our Branches. There are still, however, some other defects of organisation, which I think could easily be remedied, but which hinder the growth of the American Medical Association. On some of these I have been in consultation with members of the executive, and have been asked to renew them in writing; they were meantime received with approval. The system of election of the governing body is capricious, and does not provide for stable and complete representation, but leaves room for much canvassing and wire-pulling, and by its elaborate incoherence raises opportunities for side issues and local contests quite irrelevant to the true objects of the Association. Some of the principles which at present govern the selection of matter for the *Journal* and the conduct of its editorial department are incompatible with the high scientific, professional, and literary attractions which it ought and might easily be made to present. All this might be altered without additional expense for the moment, and the *Journal* be made to serve the best interests of the Association and the profession, and to add largely to its resources, which could then be available for making its pages yet more attractive, so that it should—like the *BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL*—be the chief recruiting agent for the Association. This position, it is acknowledged on all hands, it does not at present occupy, faithfully and ably as it has been edited by Dr. Culbertson and his distinguished predecessors, among whom Dr. N. S. Davis, the founder of the Association, holds an honoured place.

My suggestions bear chiefly on the transference of the power of election of the governing body from the "fortuitous concurrence of atoms"—as it has been described in our columns by a correspondent—called a "general meeting" to the county societies, who are the constituent bodies and who should therefore be the elective power. From these representatives should be constituted the subcommittees for detailed work, who should act under and be governed by its authority. There are at present more than one separate controlling committee of "trustees," of "judicial action," of "nomination," etc., who act independently of each other, and are constituted hurriedly and by caucus influence at the general meeting—a system which might well injure any society, and which has more than once provoked deplorable and painfully mischievous schisms. It speaks highly for the inherent and unquenchable vitality of the principle of the

Association—"broad based upon the people's will"—and of the vigorous love of the profession and the Association which actuates the most respected members, that the Association has ridden successfully through all such storms. It survives and develops, but with maimed vitality throughout the year, and without that powerful influence on public affairs and professional progress which it might derive from better constituted committees of government, and of public and parliamentary administration, and from a more attractive and effective voice and tongue in its *Journal*. In saying this I speak of new things, and with none but the most appreciative and respectful spirit. The meeting was large and much of the work was first-rate.

Milwaukee is a city of lawns, gardens, and lake, beautifully situated on a bay of Lake Michigan, and with abundant open spaces, well-preserved for civic ornament and health. Within the memory of the present generation it was the haunt of the Red Indian; it has now a quarter of a million of inhabitants, with fine hotels—Pfister's Hotel, which was the headquarters of the Association, is one of the best in the world—public buildings and business palaces, electric lighting throughout the town, and electric tramways. It is the headquarters of lager beer brewers, and the wealthy citizens aided the profession to make the meeting one of generous and continuous hospitality.

In accordance with the invitation of the Association received in Europe, I delivered an address on the Prevention and Proximate Extinction of Epidemic Cholera in Europe—mainly by the purification of the water supply and strict procedure to ensure the purity of drinking water. The address, which was based upon an analysis of all European epidemics of the last thirty years, was received, as will be seen from the published reports, with great favour. It was ordered to be printed, and sent, with the endorsement of the Association as to the importance of its suggestions, to the Executives of all the States and to the State Boards of Health. That is a compliment which I value even more highly than the kindly enthusiasm and applause which greeted its delivery. At the close of the meeting I was presented by the Reception Committee with a gold badge enamelled with the initials of the American Medical Association and the year of meeting—a souvenir to which I shall attach a permanent value, and which will recall many pleasant incidents of the meeting, some of them too personally complimentary to relate.

It was particularly gratifying to find the *JOURNAL* held in such high esteem and so extensively read. It was constantly, and, indeed, without exception, referred to as the chief medical journal of the world; and its usefulness to the practitioner as a helper in his scientific knowledge and daily work was referred to by one medical editor after another at the medical editors' banquet, and by scores of medical colleagues, who specially introduced themselves, or were introduced to me for the purpose of thanking the British Medical Association for its *JOURNAL*. If our laws admitted of it, we could have some thousands more of members or associates among our English-speaking brethren on the American continent, while limiting ourselves to members of State medical societies legally constituted and of good ethical standing.

The banquet of the Medical Editors' Association was a most lively and original affair. In so vast a continent, where capitals are situated at often a thousand or two or three thousand miles distant, and with a population of more than sixty millions, it is natural that the astonishing literary activity of the nation should find a corresponding representation in the abundance of journals of all kinds. But I was hardly prepared to be the guest of 100 medical editorial colleagues—all of regular standing—with 300 more in reserve. I addressed them on Medical Journalism, in words of which I send a report—disfigured, however, by a great number of misprints and errors due to my "English brogue" and intonation worrying the reporters. I have only had time and patience to correct some of them, others I must leave to the indulgence of any readers of whatever text or part of the text may be published. It will be gathered from reports in the various medical papers what was the impression produced. It was applauded enthusiastically, and I was assured in all the complimentary speeches that followed, and by innumerable eulogists during the subsequent days, that it

will not be without permanent usefulness. Of course I had nothing new to say, but even the scattered and desultory thoughts of however humble an orator gather some force from a lifetime of experience and from the disinterested desire of a stranger to be useful in the utterance of its lessons to himself.

Altogether, then, my visit to the Milwaukee meeting has, I hope, been useful as it has certainly been most pleasant, renewing and strengthening the bonds of mutual good will and esteem between the American and British Medical Associations, and promising to promote good understanding and fellowship with our English-speaking brethren in the United States. To me personally it has been a week of hard but happy work, and of much social satisfaction. I am loaded with friendly and pressing invitations to other cities, among them Boston, Philadelphia, Detroit, Cincinnati, Danbury, St. Louis, Louisville, etc., and could easily spend here an active and happy six months in hospitable hands; but as I must be home early in July to continue editorial and Parliamentary work—meantime in such excellent and able hands—I shall be unable to fulfil on this occasion more than a tithe of these proposed hospitable engagements, but shall hope to return later on.

THE ASSOCIATION OF FELLOWS OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.

A MEETING of the Committee of this Association was held on June 21st, 1893, Mr. GEORGE POLLOCK, President, in the chair. The meeting was mainly called for the purpose of discussing the agenda of the annual meeting. A list of officers for the ensuing year was agreed upon.

A discussion arose upon the question of the mode adopted by the Council of conducting the meetings of the Fellows separately from the Members, as was illustrated by the first meeting held at the College last year. It was unanimously agreed that steps should be taken to bring under the notice of the Council the desirability and expediency of framing the proceedings of these meetings in accordance with the rules which usually regulate the meetings of other public bodies.

The HONORARY SECRETARY reported that he had sent out a circular letter, which had been drawn up by the subcommittee appointed at the last meeting, to each Fellow of the College whose address was known. He also reported that a postcard bearing the following announcement had been forwarded to each member of the Association:

DEAR SIR,—The Committee of the Association of Fellows of the Royal College of Surgeons of England has invited Mr. Macnamara, Mr. A. T. Norton, and Mr. Mayo Robson to represent the Association at the Council election in July next. It is earnestly hoped that you will be able to record your vote in their favour. Voting papers should be applied for on or before Saturday, June 24th, and returned to the College not later than Monday, July 3rd, 1893. The annual general meeting of the Association will be held at the Medical Society's rooms on Thursday, June 22nd, at 5 P.M., Mr. George Pollock, President, in the chair.—Yours faithfully,

Signed (on behalf of the Committee), H. PERCY DUNN, Hon. Sec.

This concluded the business of the meeting, and the Committee adjourned.

THE ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual general meeting of the Association was held on June 22nd, 1893, at the Medical Society's Rooms. The chair was taken by Mr. W. ALLINGHAM, who in the course of his address reviewing the work of the Association during the past year referred, in the first place, to the unavoidable absence of the President of the Association, Mr. George Pollock, who had been summoned out of town. The chief feature, so far as the Association was concerned, which was worthy of notice since the last annual meeting, was the summoning of a meeting of the Fellows separately from the Members by the Council on July 7th, 1892. This meeting took place after the election of members to the Council, and was so far satisfactory that it showed that the Council had acknowledged the right of the Fellows to such separate meetings, but beyond that a good deal was to be desired, inasmuch as there was no agenda, nor any definite business drawn up for the Fellows to discuss. It was impossible to avoid referring to a very regrettable incident which occurred at the meeting, out of