PROPOSED ANNUAL METROPOLITAN MEETING OF THE BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

ASSOCIATION.

Sig.—I am highly gratified to see that the proposal for an annual meeting of the British Medical Association, to be held regularly in the metropolis, has been brought before the Council of the Association, on the occasion of their last meeting of April 17th, by Surgeon-Major Evatt. Albeit unacquainted with his letter's exact contents (not yet given to publicity), I am able, nevertheless, to readily divine its more salient points, having enjoyed the advantage of a personal conversation on the subject with that gentleman a short time since, when I intimated my warm approval of the same, and also my resolution of cordially supporting his application when made. It may be fairly pleaded that such an arrangement cannot be too prematurely adopted, and I trust that its obvious advantages will be patent to all members of the Association. Its promoters strongly deprecate any wish to abolish the annual movable meeting as now held, but the adoption of an annual London meeting need not in the least militate against the latter, while the regularity of such a meeting at a fixed locale in London, the great centre of the scientific as well as of the political world, will be fraught with unspeakable advantages to the eleven thousand members of the British Medical Association.

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fraight with unspeakable advantages to the eleven thousand members of the British Medical Association.

To sum up as briefly as possible the benefits and practicability of the proposed scheme, there are numerous buildings in London, especially on its Surrey side, which, for a comparatively moderate outlay, insignificant for the Association, already one of the wealthiest medical bodies in the world, could be acquired and readily converted to the following requirements. A hall for the annual and other meetings of the Association, and dependencies which, properly utilised, might answer the purposes of that, so urgently needed, desideratum, a club of an exclusively medical character. It may be noted under this head that many an abortive scheme for supplying the medical profession with a club, as exclusive, in a professional sense, as those devoted to the army, etc., has been mooted; none have succeeded. Supported by the countenance of so powerful a medical corporation as the British Medical Association, a club exclusively reserved to medical members would become an accomplished fact and permanent institution. A powerful case in illustration of this assertion is found in the Medical Sickness, Annuity, and Life-Assurance Society, which has not only become a living organisation, but is gradually and rapidly progressing in development under the all powerful auspices of the same Association. That objections of a practical nature may be raised against the feasibility of the project is natural, but they will speedily vanish on inspection. A judicious selection of site and building can obviate much needless expenditure, especially if due precautions be taken against flights of architectural fancy, should fresh building be needed, by the adoption of a chaste and simple style befitting an erection devoted to Esculapius.

Reculapius.

Permitmeals ot offer a further suggestion. A short time since I wrote a paper, not be the published, demonstrating the advantages of an institution begotten by our trans-Atlantic kindred, the Polyclinic or Post-Graduate Medical College, as established in New York and other American cities. Might not the building devoted to the purposes now so warmly advocated be also utilised by extension to facilitate the contemporaneous establishment of a British Polyclinic, an institution which, it may be confidently asserted, will be enthusiastically hailed on its inauguration (and we are happy to add it is actually in embryo) by thousands, certain as it is of taking definitive root and prominent place among the medical educational bodies of the realm, if backed up by the British Medical Association with its eleven thousand active members?

In the interest of our noble calling and its numerous members, I shall esteem myself deeply favoured if you will kindly find room for insertion for my letter in your valuable columns, and beg to remain, sir, your obedient servant,

Social Purity.

Dr. Geo. K. Poole, Warden of the Norwood White Cross League, Upper Norwood, writes:—"In reply to "Hirudo," the best pamphet I know is Ellice Hopkins's White Cross Army, published by Hatchards, Piccadilly, price 2d., or 8s. 4d. a hundred. It touches very fully on the movement for social purity among men. The Bishop of Bedford's speech at Exeter Hall, printed by the Social Purity Alliance, is also excellent. I should be happy to assist "Hirudo" in forming a white cross legion in his parish if he would write to me."

ENGLISH WORK IN EGYPT.

MR. CHARLES COOK Writes:—"Dr. Crookshank has been Director-General of the prisons of Egypt since the beginning of the year, and it is only fair to say he is doing all he can to cleanse and purify those dreadful places. It was no uncommon thing to find the water used for drinking purposes kept in the latrine, and a cesspool under the room where the prisoners slept. At Zagazig, in a prison 72 yards square, there were 72 men sleeping; and at Benha there had been an epidemic of typhoid fever. But this is not the worst. Over 1,400 prisoners we found in prisons who were untried, some having been there over five years, or, as the inclosed letter from Mr. Clifford Lloyd states, longer than that. On my return to Cairo, I wrote to the authorities, and to His Highness the Khedive, praying that the cases of these men might be seen into at once, or else that they be discharged, as Dr. Crookshank had informed me that most of them had served the maximum term of their imprisonment if they had been tried and found guilty, but, as he declared, 'very many of them have been falsely accused.' In many cases, no witnesses could be found, and all documentary evidence against others had been lost; yet were these poor creatures kept in chains, with no books to read, and no work to do. I am glad to say that, three days after our petition was sent in, 120 were released, and this was to continue till all were set at liberty."

COMMUNICATIONS, LETTERS, etc., have been received from:

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BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED.

Cremation; The Treatment of the Body after Death. By Sir H. Thompson.

Third Edition. Together with paper, entitled, Cremation or Burial, by Sir

T. Spencer Wells; and the Charge of Sir James Stephens. London: Smith, Elder, and Co. 1884.

In the Watches of Night: Poems. By Mrs. Horace Dobell. London: Remington and Co. 1884.

Index of Surgery. By C. B. Keetley, F.R.C.S. Second Edition. London: Smith, Elder, and Co. 1884.

The Cinchona Barks Pharmacognostically Considered. By Friedrich A. Flückiger, Ph.D. Translated from the original text, with some additional notes, by F. B. Power, Ph.D. London: J. and A. Churchill. 1884.

A Medical Guide to Health-Resorts of Northern England. By R. Ellis, F.R.C.S. London: W. Scott. Newcastle-on-Tyne: W. E. Franklin. 1884.

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