

THE NEW SYDENHAM SOCIETY.

The inaugural meeting of this Society was held on Monday evening last, at the rooms of the Medical Society of London, George Street, Hanover Square. It was numerously attended: among those present were Dr. Watson, Dr. G. Budd, Dr. G. Johnson, Dr. R. Quain, Dr. Hodgkin, Mr. Spencer Wells, Dr. Richardson, Dr. Leared, etc. Dr. C. J. B. Williams, F.R.S., was called to the chair. The first resolution, providing for the formation of the Society, was proposed by Dr. Watson, and carried unanimously. The object of the Society was stated to be the translation and publication of modern works and essays on medicine, which are not easily accessible to the English reader. A code of laws was submitted to the meeting, and adopted; and the following gentlemen were elected office-bearers:—

President: C. J. B. Williams, M.D., F.R.S. *Vice-Presidents:* Sir Philip Crampton, Bart., F.R.S.; Thomas Addison, M.D.; H. W. Acland, M.D., F.R.S.; William P. Alison, M.D., F.R.S.E.; Thomas Mayo, M.D., F.R.S.; J. Y. Simpson, M.D.; William Stokes, M.D.; J. A. Symonds, M.D., F.R.S.E.; Thomas Watson, M.D.; W. Sands Cox, Esq., F.R.S.; J. H. James, Esq.; James Paget, Esq., F.R.S.; Samuel Solby, Esq., F.R.S.; Edward Stanley, Esq., F.R.S.; T. P. Teale, Esq., F.L.S. *Council:* Robert Barnes, M.D.; William Brinton, M.D.; Andrew Clark, M.D.; W. T. Gardner, M.D.; C. Radcliffe Hall, M.D.; Thomas Inman, M.D.; Charles Murehison, M.D.; John W. Ogle, M.D.; Thomas B. Peacock, M.D.; Richard Quain, M.D.; W. S. Saunders, M.D.; Allen Thomson, M.D.; William Bowman, Esq., F.R.S.; John E. Ericsson, Esq.; John Hilton, Esq., F.L.S.; George M. Humphry, Esq.; William B. Page, Esq.; H. Spencer Smith, Esq.; John S. Soden, Esq.; Henry Thompson, Esq.; T. Jolliffe Tufnell, Esq.; T. Spencer Wells, Esq. *Secretary:* Jonathan Hutchinson, Esq., 14, Finsbury Circus.

It was stated that about 250 members had already joined the new Society. The annual meetings will be held at the same times and places as the annual meetings of the British Medical Association.

SUPERSTITION IN FRANCE. A fresh example of the extraordinary credulity of the French peasantry was presented some days ago before the Tribunal of Correctional Police of Lisieux (Eure) in the trial of a married woman, named Marguerin, for swindling. This woman, who lived in the town, professed to be a sorceress, and to have the power of curing maladies by incantations. The wife of a man named Boutrin having fallen ill, he called the woman in, and she demanded for her services 100*fr.*, which were at once paid. The woman, producing a pack of cards, arranged them in a peculiar manner; then she called for a pound of nails, and placed them in the cover of a saucepan on the fire until they were red hot; then, with a variety of strange gestures, and muttering incomprehensible words, she cast water on the nails; and then, lastly, removing the sick woman from the bed, she made her plunge a fork into the bubbles created by the water. This done, she declared that the patient would be cured next day, as the fork had stabbed the spirits that bewitched her; but the next day the patient, to her own astonishment and that of her husband, was considerably worse. On this the pretended sorceress tried a new plan, which she represented to be infallible. She took a wreath of ivy, and attached to each leaf a piece of paper, on which was written "Our Lady of Deliverance", "Our Lady of Grace", or the name of some saint. Over each leaf she said an Ave and a Pater, and then plunged the wreath into water, and made sundry incantations over it. After a while she withdrew it, and, seeing that some of the leaves had become dark, declared that it was the saints whose name they bore who afflicted the woman, and that she must go on a pilgrimage to their chapels. That operation, however, though it cost some money, did not cure the woman. Several other persons were cheated out of different sums by the same or similar means, and one of them out of as much as 300*fr.* Sometimes her dupes, on seeing that her incantations failed, talked of calling in a doctor, but she declared solemnly that if they did so the sick person would instantly die. The consequence of this was, that her dupes were sometimes in serious danger, and one of them actually died in her hands. The tribunal sentenced her to thirteen months imprisonment and 50*fr.* fine.

TREATMENT OF FROST-BITE. An Equinancier had his leg frozen above the knee, stiff, colourless, and to all appearance lifeless. He was placed in a snow-house, at a temperature of 20° below zero. The parts were bathed with ice-cold water for

about two hours, and then enveloped in furs for three or four hours. Then frictions were used, first with the feathery side of a bird-skin, then with snow, alternately wrapping the limb in furs, and rubbing it for nearly twenty-four hours. It was next carefully wrapped up, and the temperature of the snow-house raised by lamps above zero. On the third day, the patient was taken to his house (where there is often a temperature of 70° or 80°), and in seventy hours he was walking about, with only a slight frost-bite on one of his toes. (*American Journal.*)

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

POSTAGE OF MANUSCRIPT AND PRINTED MATTER.

Any amount of manuscript or printed matter, singly or together, provided it contains nothing in the form of a letter, is transmitted through the post, in packets open at the ends, at the following rates: not exceeding 4 ounces, one penny; above 4 and not exceeding 8 ounces, twopence; above 8 ounces and not exceeding 1 pound, fourpence; for every additional half-pound or under, twopence.

NOTICE.—Dr. WYSTER will feel obliged if the Associates will address all Post Office Orders in payment of Subscriptions, to the Publisher, Mr. THOMAS JOHN HONEYMAN, 37, Great Queen Street, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, W. C. "Bloomsbury Branch"; and he would also feel obliged by their sending all communications respecting the non-receipt of the Journal, to the same address; as both these matters are out of the province of the Editor.

Members should remember that corrections for the current week's JOURNAL should not arrive later than Wednesday.

TO CONTRIBUTORS. The Editor would feel glad if Members of the Association and others, would cooperate with him in establishing as a rule, that hereafter no paper for publication shall exceed two pages of the Journal in length. If the writers of long communications knew as well as the Editor does, that lengthy papers always deter the reader from commencing them, this great evil would never arise. Brevity is the soul of medical writing—still more than of wit.

ANONYMOUS CORRESPONDENTS should always enclose their names to the Editor; not for publication, but in token of good faith. No attention can be paid to communications not thus authenticated.

Communications have been received from:—Dr. H. W. ACLAND; Mr. H. THARY, JUN.; Mr. H. WILKIN; Mr. H. WALTON; Dr. GOODE; Dr. CAMERON; Dr. P. H. WILLIAMS; Dr. C. H. F. BOUTH; Mr. T. HOLMES; Dr. G. G. ROGERS; Mr. TOYNBEE; Mr. W. HOAR; Mr. JENKINS; Mr. R. T. BEWATER; Dr. CAMPS; Mr. STONE; Mr. HENRY DAYMAN; A LANCASHIRE SURGEON; Mr. J. S. GAMGER; and Mr. JOSEPH POPE.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

[* An Asterisk is prefixed to the names of Members of the Association.]

1. The Journal of Psychological Medicine and Mental Pathology. Edited by *Forbes Winslow, M.D.
2. The Asylum Journal of Mental Science. Published by Authority of the Association.
3. On Dislocations and Fractures. By Joseph MacRae, Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons. Fasciculus I. London: John Churchill, 1883.
4. Transactions of the Pathological Society. Volume VIII. London: 1887.
5. A Sketch of the Principles and Practices of Subcutaneous Surgery, being the Oration delivered before the Medical Society of London, at the Eighty-fourth Anniversary, March 9, 1887. By *William Adams, F.R.C.S. London: John Churchill, 1887.
6. Directions for the Preservation of Health and the Prevention of the Spread of Catching or Infectious Diseases. By *E. Lankester, M.D., F.R.S. Pamphlet: 1888.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

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