

Medical Men.—Dr. King Brown, Dr. Disney Cran, Dr. Duff-Miller, Dr. Lambert, Dr. Liston, Dr. MacKinnon, Dr. Nicholson, Dr. Rice-Oxley, Dr. Maxwell Simpson, Dr. Hall Smith.

The Meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the Honorary Officers and the Executive Committee, and one to Miss Bickerton for her kindness in taking the Chair. Tea was provided for the Members and, as usual at this particular gathering, there were many pleasant meetings with old friends.

LECTURE ON MEDICINE AND THE CITY GUILDS.

Members of the Association received a much-appreciated invitation to attend the MacAllister lecture given by Major Rigg, O.B.E., on "Medicine and the City Guilds," and the sidelights which this shed on the evolution not only of medicine, but, incidentally, of nursing also, were very fascinating glimpses into the past. Of the seventy-seven City Guilds, all of which possess such great powers in relation to the government of the City of London, three in particular had close connection with medicine in olden times, *i.e.*, the Barbers Company, the Apothecaries Company and the Spectacle Makers Company. Ecclesiastics were allowed to become physicians in the early Middle Ages, but the Council of Tours made it a condition that they should abstain from fire and steel; thus it was that surgery fell to such an extent into the hands of the Barbers. In 1307 we find an order that Barbers shall not put a bowl of blood in their windows; this they used to do as an indication that they were prepared to undertake blood-letting. In 1376, the fraternity of Barbers had two Masters, indicating two divisions of the Company, Barbers and Surgeons; the former could let blood and draw teeth in addition to their ordinary duties. And so evolution goes on, for we find the surgeons complaining of the inefficiency of many who practise the art of surgery, and in 1390 the surgeons obtained power to appoint five masters for directing those who undertook surgical work. In 1461 Edward III granted to the Barbers a Charter of Incorporation which supplies ample evidence of the activities of the Company in the field of surgery.

Major Rigg gave a very interesting description of the old-time Barbers Hall, its fine works of art and symbolism, drawn largely, he said, from the writings of Stow. Reference was also made to Holbein's famous picture, and some eighteen other old portraits of worthies in the history of the Barbers Company.

The lecturer said that, whatever might be the opinion of members of the audience of Henry VIII, there was no doubt that he had played a part in promoting the advancement of medicine. St. Bartholomew's Hospital owed much to him, and in 1511 he instituted an Act prohibiting any person from practising the arts of Physic and Surgery in the City of London, or within a seven miles radius of it, unless he had been examined, approved and admitted by the Bishop of London or the Dean of St. Paul's. In 1518 Henry granted a Charter to the College of Physicians giving them a monopoly for practising and licensing in Physics in London, and a Charter was granted by him later to the united Company of Barbers and Surgeons; it is to be noted that then the Barbers were rich and influential and the Surgeons poor, few in number and without influence.

In his remarks on the Apothecaries Company the lecturer gave some most interesting information on the Physic Garden in Chelsea.

A CHARABANC RAMBLE.

Miss Liddiatt has arranged a charabanc ramble to Cambridge, but the date for this is not definitely fixed. She asks all those who would like to take part in it to write to the Secretary, in order to ascertain particulars regarding what is likely to be a very interesting expedition.

Professor Forsyth, Sc.D., LL.D. (Wrangler), is very kindly supplying us with information as to how to see the most interesting features of Cambridge and to make the best of our time there.

THE AUSTRALIAN BRANCH.

The latest reports, from our Branch in Australia, bear evidence of the difficulties of the general financial situation which is more or less world wide. For the first time, we note that many applications for admission to the Private Staff of the Association have been refused as the Committee feel that, to add to its number, would not be just to the nurses whom they have on the staff at present.

It is to be remembered that a few years ago the branch Association took a leading part in the standardisation of the fees for private nurses throughout the continent of Australia, and they succeeded in getting an agreement between the different organisations that the minimum fee per week for private nurses should be four guineas. We note that the nurses themselves have asked the Committee to reduce this, temporarily, to three guineas as, owing to financial depression, they find that their patients have great difficulty in meeting the former charge. The report states, in this connection, that in spite of the great depression which has almost overwhelmed every institution and every branch of women's work, the Association has been able to keep its nurses fairly well employed, but we note that there is not the usual reference in the report to the employment of an emergency staff nor the usual statement of a number of cases having been refused; therefore, we may take it that the Members of our Australian branch, who are in private practice, are faced with a situation precisely similar to that in which we find ourselves in this country.

We very much sympathise with our Australian Members and their difficulties, and we hope that the depression of which the report bears evidence will soon pass off. We note that many Homes for nurses in Adelaide have had to close down, and we fully realise that it must require all Miss Menhennett's practical and administrative ability to steer the good ship of the R.B.N.A. through the difficulties which have to be met.

OBITUARY.

It is with very deep regret that we have to announce the deaths of the following members, Miss Mary Loughlin, Miss Mary Nutt, O.B.E., R.R.C., Miss Marjorie Perry and Miss Esther Savers. Miss Loughlin, one of the Founder Members of the Association, was trained at St. Bartholomew's Hospital and was one of the eight Sisters sent to inaugurate the work at Southwark Hospital. Since then she has held several important posts and at the time of her death was working in a tuberculosis dispensary. Miss Nutt, also an early member of the Association, was trained at Guy's Hospital and had a distinguished career in Africa. She went out to Nigeria on Government work and very soon afterwards received the R.R.C. In 1902 she became Assistant Matron of the New Somerset Hospital, Cape Town, and in 1907 Matron of the Old Somerset Hospital. When war broke out she was Matron of the General Alexandra Hospital, Cape Town, and also held the position of acting Matron-in-Chief in South Africa. She received the O.B.E. in recognition of her services. Miss Perry was one of the younger Members of the Association and belonged to the Society of Chartered Nurses. Miss Savers was an early member of the Association. She was trained at the Royal Free Hospital and held massage and midwifery certificates.

ISABEL MACDONALD,
Secretary to the Corporation.

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