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THE ASSOCIATION OF PHYSICIANS OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND

THE FIRST ANNUAL MEETING took place on May 23 and 24¹⁹⁰⁷ in London, at the rooms of the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society. Two morning meetings and two afternoon meetings were held. Demonstrations of patients and of instruments were given from 2 to 3 p.m. each day, and a dinner was held on the evening of May 23. One hundred and fifty-five members attended the meeting.

MAY 23. Morning Meeting. After the rules had been passed and the officers elected, several communications were made upon diseases of the blood: on polycythaemia (by H. H. Tooth), on anaemia with enlarged spleen in young adults (by J. M. Cowan), on splenic anaemia (by Morley Fletcher), on leukanaemia (by C. H. Melland), on acute myelogenic leukaemia (by J. H. Drysdale), and on acute abdominal symptoms with lymphocytosis (by R. J. M. Buchanan). These communications gave rise to an interesting discussion. Most of the speakers confined themselves to the histological diagnosis, in which it was allowed on all sides that much remained still unsettled. It was also urged that attention should not be concentrated upon this side alone, but that more effort should be made for an etiological classification.

Demonstrations. A scheme representing the pressure in the vascular system—and many microphotographs of normal and diseased arteries (by W. Russell). Progressive changes in the blood from a case of leukanaemia (by C. H. Melland). Many rare and interesting clinical cases were shown.

Afternoon Meeting. James Mackenzie related the histories of several cases observed through many years, in which, as the patient became worse, the evidence of auricular systole (viz. a presystolic murmur and an auricular wave in the venous sphygmogram) disappeared, and the ventricular systole could alone be recognized. He ascribed this to disease of the sino-auricular node. A. Keith (introduced), who had examined the hearts of these patients after death, felt obliged to say that there was yet no histological evidence for this hypothesis. In the very lively discussion which followed, some speakers upheld Mackenzie's views, others argued that the dilatation of the auricle might so diminish its contractility as to abolish the evidence of contraction, and others referred the change to a greater power of suction put forth by the ventricle.

Other communications were—A case of microbic cyanosis due to *B. Coli* (by G. A. Gibson), cases of rheumatic aortitis (by Prof. Clifford Allbutt), cases with severe cardiac symptoms due to reflex disturbance from the bladder (by Prof. Little), tricuspid without mitral stenosis (by Wardrop Griffith), on sulphur as an intestinal antiseptic (by Prof. Wild), and on acute myxoedema (by the late Prof. Dreschfeld).

The Dinner was attended by 134 members and guests. Sir Richard Douglas Powell was in the chair. A meeting of the Executive Committee was held after the dinner, at which Dr. Gibson's invitation to Edinburgh for the Annual Meeting of 1908 was accepted, and business concerning the *Quarterly Journal of Medicine* was discussed. It was agreed that the proposal of the Clarendon Press was satisfactory.

An Editorial Committee was appointed, who should be assisted by a body of collaborators to be invited by the Editorial Committee, and it was decided to subscribe for the *Journal* at the rate of one guinea for each member of the Association.

MAY 24. *Morning Meeting.* Communications were received—On the occurrence of leucin and tyrosin in the urine in cases of cardiac liver (by Prof. Dixon Mann), showing that this phenomenon is not confined to organic disease of the liver, nor to fatal cases. On some prolonged cases of haematoporphyrinuria (by T. K. Monro); it was agreed that the colour in these cases was not due to haematoporphyrin, but to some other pigment which remained when all the former body had been removed, also that some of these cases are lifelong. On the treatment of diabetes by secretin (by A. P. Beddard); many present had tried it, and no one had found it of use. On cryoscopic examination of the urine and blood (by Bell Walker, introduced); the author stated that if the specific gravity were taken after removal of albumin cryoscopy gave no additional information when applied to the urine, but was of some use when carried out on the blood. On an epidemic of diphtheria without a faucial membrane (by Sir John Moore); a brisk discussion arose on the difficulty of disinfection, and on bacteriological diagnosis. On cases of multiple hereditary telangiectases with recurring haemorrhages (by Prof. Osler). On three unusual cases (by Hale White), which were (1) cystin calculus, (2) myxoedema caused by removal of an aberrant thyroid from the back of the tongue, (3) pernicious anaemia with pigment in the buccal mucous membrane. It was agreed that pigment had not been produced in this situation by arsenic.

Demonstrations. Some very unusual clinical cases were on view, and Dr. Dennis Embleton (introduced) exhibited some inventions to facilitate the counting of microscopic objects. They were adaptations of the electric markers used in billiard rooms.

Afternoon Meeting. Dr. Head gave a demonstration of the tracks of sensory impulses.

Communications were received—On the nervous symptoms produced by the presence of cervical ribs (by H. Lewis Jones, and C. M. Hinds Howell, introduced); on intermittent limp (by E. S. Reynolds); on certain constituents of the urine in diseases affecting the muscles (by E. I. Spriggs); on cases of optic neuritis (by R. A. Fleming); on suprarenal sarcoma in children with metastasis in the skull (by R. Hutchison); and on the advantage of giving very large doses of salicylate of sodium in cases of rheumatism and chorea (by D. B. Lees).

It was found impossible to get through all the material at the disposal of the meeting.