

practice in Melbourne Hospital in those pre-antiseptic days. He proceeded to London in 1883, obtained the fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons, London, became demonstrator of physiology in King's College, London, under Gerald Yeo, and commenced his career as an ophthalmic surgeon as assistant at Moorfields Eye Hospital. Interesting recollections are given of Bowman, McCarthy and Michael Foster, Gaskell and Langley, and Jonathan Hutchinson and Whittaker Hulke, all well-known figures in the medical world of the time; he also visited the Continent, and met Koch in Berlin. Then come recollections of the Great War, and the organization of the medical service in Egypt. The organization of "bush nursing centres" in Australia is recounted, a scheme initiated in 1908 by the Countess of Dudley, and finally, Sir James has a good deal to say upon education and university extension, and recalls some of his meetings with British statesmen.

The British Medical Association: Plymouth Meeting

DR. COLIN LINDSAY presided at the one hundred and sixth annual meeting of the British Medical Association, held at Plymouth on July 19 and following days. "The Profession and the Public" was the title of the address of Dr. Lindsay, who pointed out that his remarks were based upon an experience of forty years as general practitioner and consulting physician. He emphasized the need for continued education both for the public and for the practitioner, and the necessity that exists for a specialist service to supplement the service of the family doctor, for medicine has grown so enormously that it is quite impossible for any one person to be proficient in every branch. He reminded the public of the unity and equality of the three main branches of the profession—the general practitioners, the consultants and the members of the public health service—which are essentially complementary, each requiring for its proper performance attainments of the highest order. He desires to see more attention paid to the treatment of the so-called 'minor ailments', for it has been estimated that forty per cent of all sickness is due to the patient's own action. The principle of 'free choice of doctor' under National Health Insurance was stressed, and the Association's proposals for a general medical service for the nation were outlined, by which members of families within an income limit of £250 a year would be included. Other topics dealt with were the fees to be paid for consultative work, the education of the public in the use of the doctor, and the countering of credulity on the part of the public.

Lister Institute of Preventive Medicine

THE report of the Governing Body of the Lister Institute of Preventive Medicine, presented at the annual general meeting on June 2, gives an account of the researches carried out at the Institute during the past year. Several studies on viruses, vaccinia and others, are detailed, with an investigation on the problem of rheumatic diseases, in which virus-like bodies occur. Dr. Felix and others have con-

tinued their work on the antigenic constitution, virulence and immunizing properties of bacteria and Protozoa, and the chemistry of bacterial antigens has also been investigated. The Svedberg velocity ultracentrifuge, installed some time ago, has given satisfactory service, and several proteins have been the subject of study with this instrument. Many studies on vitamins, their chemistry and action have been prosecuted by Dr. Harriette Chick and her co-workers. The Institute is the home of the National Collection of Type Cultures, and more than 6,000 cultures have been distributed to workers at home and abroad. Sir John Ledingham, the director, his staff and attached workers may be congratulated on their fine output of work.

Medical Classics

Two important medical classics which were recently published in the *Bulletin of the Institute of the History of Medicine* have just been reprinted in book form and thereby made accessible to a wide circle of readers. The first of these, entitled "On Thought in Medicine", is the address delivered by Hermann von Helmholtz on August 2, 1877, on the anniversary of the foundation of the Institute for the Education of Army Surgeons. In this address, Helmholtz attacks the old educational system which he regards as pursuing a false idea of science, in which there is a one-sided and erroneous reverence for the deductive method. Medical education during the early part of the nineteenth century in Germany was based mainly on the study of books. There were no physiological or physical laboratories, and microscopical demonstrations were infrequent in lectures. It fell to Johannes Müller and his pupils, of whom Helmholtz was one, to stimulate the study of microscopical and pathological anatomy, experimental pathology and therapeutics and to substitute experimental research for untried and unconfirmed hypotheses.

THE second volume contains a translation of Ivan Sandström's work entitled "On a New Gland in Man and Several Animals (Glandulæ Parathyroideæ)", which was published in vol. 15 of the Swedish journal *Upsala Läkareförenings Förhandlingar* for 1879-80, and represents the first detailed description of the parathyroid glands, based on the naked-eye and microscopical examination of these glands in the dog, cat, rabbit, ox and about fifty human subjects. It is noteworthy that whereas the translation of Helmholtz's address was published so long ago as 1893, the English version of Sandström's monograph now appears for the first time, and has been carried out by Dr. Carl Seipel, who has also translated an account of Sandström's life and work by Prof. A. J. Hamman of Stockholm.

Jubilee of the Gypsy Lore Society

THIS year the Gypsy Lore Society celebrates the fiftieth year of its existence. The occasion was marked by a jubilee dinner on June 11, over which Lady Arthur Grosvenor (president, 1913-14) pre-