"A Resumé of the History and growth of the Sanitary Inspectors' Association, North-Western District, Liverpool Centre," by J. COOPER, Chief Sanitary Inspector, Liverpool.

ABSTRACT.

PRIOR to the year 1887 there existed no union between Sanitary Inspectors in Liverpool and adjacent districts, and no facilities for the interchange of opinions on questions in sanitary science, and connected with their duties.

To remove these disadvantages a branch of the Metropolitan Association of Public Sanitary Inspectors was formed, the objects being "the promotion and interchange among its members of that species of knowledge and practice which falls within the department of an inspector engaged in carrying out the duties imposed upon him by the Public Health, Local Government Board, and other sanitary Acts, and the general promotion of the objects of sanitary science in connection therewith." These indicate a two-fold benefit—to the inspector and to the public.

The Association is constituted of Sanitary Inspectors in practice, or who have held appointments as such, of Hon. Members elected by the Council, and of Associates, who may be persons holding appointments under Local Sanitary Authorities interested in the objects of the Association.

Such are its objects and constitution, broad and comprehensive, possessing all the elements necessary to fulfil the desires of its founders.

The Association took part in the Congress of Hygiene held in London in 1891, and in the Congress of The Sanitary Institute held at Portsmouth in the following year.

In 1892 Mr. H. P. Boulnois, Liverpool, was elected President, and Dr. Sergeant, M.O.H., Lanc. C.C., Dr. Vacher, M.O.H., Ches. C.C., and Dr. Hope, Asst.M.O.H., Liverpool, Vice-Presidents, Dr. Taylor having resigned.

The Liverpool centre was represented by six delegates at the Conference of United Councils of Scotch and English Associations, held at Glasgow. At the close of the session for 1893-4 the roll of membership showed that the numerical strength was still increasing, the total number being 101.

Space will not permit an enumeration of the lectures, papers, and other proceedings at the various meetings; sufficient to say that science in its relation to the preservation of health has been laid under heavy contributions for the pleasure and profit of the members, and the literature of the Association is

enriched by special gifts from the knowledge and experiences of its Hon. Members and friends.

When visiting other districts, the inspection of sanitary works and methods is always made the basis upon which the arrangements for the visit are framed; in this way interest is kept alive in the objects of the Association, the Inspector's work is ever kept to the front, and opportunity is afforded of acquiring a stock of useful knowledge, and of comparing methods and practices.

The Association is not a combination with self-interest as its cardinal principle, its members have public duties of a high and important character to carry out; it is their desire that they may more perfectly and completely perform them.

On "The Difficulties and Drawbacks of the Food and Drugs Acts," by B. SCOTT ELDER, Inspector under the Food and Drugs Acts, Durham.

It was with pleasure that I found myself able to accept the invitation of your Council to read a paper at this important Conference, and that pleasure was certainly increased when I became aware that the subject to be considered was one to which I had given very great attention, viz., the Administration of the Food and Drugs Acts. When, however, I was requested to prepare a paper having special reference to the drawbacks and difficulties connected with these Acts, I felt that there could be no legitimate excuse for refusing to perform a task so easy, and at the same time so absolutely necessary. Special importance is given to this subject at this particular time from a variety of causes. Never was there a time when the subject was so much discussed and considered by local authorities. Never before has the press given such attention and publicity to these matters, and indeed, I may venture to say, that never before have the general public taken such an interest in the Food and Drugs Acts. But it is not from any of these particular "signs of the times" that the present is an exceptionally opportune moment for such a paper, but from the fact that there has recently been appointed a Select Committee of the House of Commons, whose business it is to enquire into the whole working of the Food and Drugs Acts. This Committee as you will know, has already had several sittings, and in response to its own request, will no doubt be re-appointed next