THE INCORPORATED SOCIETY OF MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH.

REPORT OF COUNCIL, SESSION 1904-5.

1. Your Council are again able to present a satisfactory report dealing with the work of the past Session 1904-5. When the Society was incorporated in 1891, there were 387 Fellows, and there are now 739. The total membership of the Society is 881, and includes 24 Hon. Fellows, 739 Fellows, 78 Members, and 64 Associates. During the year under review, 5 Fellows have died, and 6 who have ceased to hold office as Medical Officers of Health have resigned; 1 Member resigned; 1 Associate died and 2 resigned. There were newly elected during the year 56 Fellows, 14 Members, and 9 Associates, the yearly averages for the previous ten years being 53, 8, and 11 respectively.

2. Your Council record, with great regret, the death of Dr. James Burn Russell, Medical Member of the Local Government Board for Scotland, and formerly Medical Officer of Health for Glasgow from 1872-1898.

3. Your Council have heard with much pleasure of the honour of Knighthood, which has been conferred by his Majesty the King upon Sir Shirley Murphy, a past President, and a former Hon. Secretary of the Society.

4. The Presidential Address upon "Public Health and Architecture," was delivered by Dr. J. F. J. Sykes, M.O.H. St. Pancras Borough, at the Annual Meeting held in October, and was voted by all to be a most interesting and masterly address. At the Ordinary Meetings of the Society, papers were read upon the following subjects: "Instruction in Hygiene in Universities and Schools—a Proposal," by Dr. G. A. Heron, F.R.C.P.; "The Report of the Inter-Departmental Committee on Physical Deterioration," by Sir Lauder Brunton, F.R.S.; "The Reform of the Milk Supply," by Dr. G. F. McCleary, M.D.; "The Increased Prevalence of Anthrax in Great Britain," by Professor Delépine; and the "Administration of the Midwives Act," by Dr. G. H. Fosbroke.

The Annual Provincial Meeting was held on July 1st, 1905, at Lancaster, when a discussion (opened by Dr. Herbert Jones) took place on "The Public Health Aspects of Motoring."

5. Your Council have pleasure in reporting that, after many lengthy negotiations, they have secured permanent office accommodation, and that the Society now occupies, on lease, the premises known as 1, Upper Montague Street, Russell Square, W.C., at an annual rental of £175. The third floor is used by the Executive Secretary, as his own private rooms, at a yearly rental of £50, and the second floor by the Specialist Press Ltd., for business purposes, as the advertising contractors of the Society's Journal, at a yearly rental of £100. The ground and first floors are reserved for the use of the Society: the ground floor for library and reading purposes, committees, and officers, and the first floor for the Council of the Society, and the Society's general meetings. The basement floor is occupied by Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Taylor (the Society's caretaker and his wife), to whom is paid an inclusive weekly salary of 20s. (with light, fuel, and water). The premises have been suitably furnished, and fitted up with electric light, gas, telephone, etc., making them

admirably adapted for the purposes of the Society. The premises are fully insured, as are also the furniture, books, etc. Arrangements have been made with the Metropolitan and Home Counties Branches whereby these Branches are to have the use of the Society's rooms for their meetings, at annual rentals.

6. Your Council report, with much pleasure, that Sir Shirley Murphy, an ex-President of the Society, has, on the occasion of his knighthood, presented the Society with a magnificent carved oak table and three chairs, for use in the general meeting room of the Society's new premises.

7. Your Council are arranging for the Jubilee of the Society to take place in London during 1906.

8. Your Council have formed an important Committee, consisting of Members of the Society, together with Sir Patrick Manson, Miss Ravenhill, Dr. G. A. Heron, Dr. Collie, and Mr. Bruce, L.C.C., as co-opted members, to consider how best the teaching of Hygiene in Schools, and the teaching of Hygiene to Teachers, can be promoted; and a Deputation to the Education Department on the subject is being arranged.

9. Your Council, after much consideration, and after consulting with the various Branches of the Society, have decided to alter the Articles of Association in important directions so that the scope of the Society's membership may be considerably enlarged, and they are also considering the reconstruction of the Council on the principle of a *pro rata* representation of membership by the various Branches.

10. Your Council are considering the subject of the actual cost of the payment of railway and other expenses of the Members of the Council, with a view to such expenses being defrayed in future directly out of the Funds of the Society instead of out of those of the respective Branches.

11. Delegates from the Society attended the London Conference on School Hygiene, inaugurated by the Royal Sanitary Institute in February, 1905, and the Congress of the Royal Institute of Public Health, held in London in July, 1905.

12. Your Council are persevering in their endeavours to obtain from the Legislature, security (fixity) of tenure for Medical Officers of Health in the English provinces, and in this respect are receiving the powerful help of the British Medical Association—a Bill having already been drafted, dealing with the subject of Fixity of Tenure, not only for Medical Officers of Health, but also for Sanitary Inspectors.

13. Your Council report that Dr. T. O. Dudfield, M.O.H., Kensington, has been re-appointed the Society's representative on the Sanitary Inspectors' Examination Board for the ensuing year 1905-6.

14. Your Council have approved of a series of important resolutions dealing with suggested additions to, and alterations of, the Food and Drugs Acts, and the necessary administrative procedure connected therewith.

15. Your Council have drawn up a schedule of enquiries for "Return" cases of Scarlet fever and Diphtheria, and these, when filled in by Medical Officers and Medical Superintendents of Isolation Hospitals, will prove valuable statistics in connection with the incidence and causation of such cases. Printed copies of the schedule have been sent to every member of the Society.

16. Your Council have communicated with :—

(1) *The Local Government Board*—

(a) Asking for legislation so as to prevent any defence of warranty being allowed under the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts in regard to Milk ;

(b) Asking for such steps to be taken as will ensure the Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops Orders of 1885, 1886, and 1891 being efficiently carried out by all Sanitary Authorities ; and that, outside the Metropolis, provision be made whereby the carrying out of such Orders be transferred to the respective County Councils, wherever default is persistently made by the Sanitary Authorities concerned, as provided for, in the case of the Metropolis, by sections 100–101 of the Public Health (London) Act, 1891.

(2) *The Board of Agriculture and Fisheries*—

(a) Asking for such steps to be taken as will ensure the Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops Orders of 1885, 1886, and 1891 being efficiently carried out by all Sanitary Authorities ; and that, outside the Metropolis, provision be made whereby the carrying out by such Orders be transferred to the respective County Councils, wherever default is persistently made by the Sanitary Authorities concerned, as provided for, in the case of the Metropolis, by sections 100–101 of the Public Health (London) Act, 1891.

(3) *The Registrar General*—

(a) Asking for a column to be added to the forms used by Coroners, in which can be entered the probable causes of deaths in those cases in connection with which no inquests are held.

17. Your Council report that they have taken the necessary steps and formed a New Branch known as the Eastern Counties Branch, and that Dr. Bushell Anningson, M.O.H. of Cambridge, was appointed the first President, with Dr. Beach, M.O.H. Great Yarmouth, as Hon. Secretary.

18. Your Council have made arrangements for raising (a) the charge of the Society's Journal, PUBLIC HEALTH, to outsiders to 1s. 6d. per copy (and 20s. per annum, post free), instead of (as formerly) 1s. per copy (and 10s. per annum, post free) ; and (b) the subscription to the membership of the Society for future Associates from 10s. 6d. to 21s. per annum.

19. Your Council have made the necessary arrangements by which the list of Honorary Fellows has been extended to foreigners distinguished in Public Health and allied work. The following Foreign Hon. Fellows having been already appointed : Biggs and Billings (United States) ; Kitasato (Japan) ; Pistor and Weyl (Germany) ; Brouardel, Bertillon, Monod and Martin (France) ; Putzeys (Belgium) ; and Linroth (Sweden).

20. Your Council have arranged for notices of the ordinary Meetings of the Society to be sent with the Journal, instead of (as formerly) separate printed Agenda Papers being sent by post to each member of the Society ; and in this way will effect an annual saving.

21. No change has taken place in the *personnel* of the Hon. Officers of the Society, all of whom were unanimously re-elected by your Council.

HERBERT JONES,
JOSEPH PRIESTLEY, } *Hon. Secretaries.*