

at the bottom, hanging over the city. The morning was clear and mild, and no other cloud was in sight. Cumulus clouds over fires have frequently been observed, and they have several times received mention in these columns (see SCIENCE, V., N. S., 1897, 60-61, for a good illustration of a cumulus cloud thus formed).

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PROPOSED UNION OF MEDICAL SOCIETIES IN LONDON.¹

A MEETING of the General Committee of Representatives of Medical Societies in London was held on July 17 to consider the report of the organizing committee.

Sir William Church, who was in the chair, pointed out that at the first meeting of the members of societies, which was held at the Royal College of Physicians in 1905, the feasibility of union was considered, and that as the outcome of the opinions expressed at that meeting a committee of representatives of the various societies was appointed. The committee of representatives appointed an executive committee to go more thoroughly into the feasibility of union and to outline some scheme of union if such were thought possible. This executive committee reported that a union was feasible on certain lines, and its report was confirmed by the committee of representatives on July 19, 1905. With that report the executive committee's work came to an end, and an organizing committee was appointed to draw up a definite and, as far as possible, a detailed scheme of union. This scheme was before the meeting, and if approved would be sent to the societies to act upon or not as they thought fit. Those societies which approved of the report and decided to join the proposed union would be asked to appoint a representative before December 7 next to sit upon a committee which would act as the first council of the new society and deal with the necessary details of amalgamation.

The report recommended that all male members of those societies which took part in the amalgamation should be permitted to join the

new society on its formation as members or fellows without election, and that all women members of a society taking part in the amalgamation should become members of the corresponding section or sections of the new society. It was further recommended that the society should consist of the following sections which represented existing societies, but that the new society should have power to add new sections:

1. Anæsthetic.
2. Balneological and Climatological.
3. Clinical.
4. Dermatological.
5. Diseases of Children.
6. Electro-Therapeutical.
7. Epidemiological.
8. Laryngological.
9. Life Insurance.
10. Medical.
11. Neurological.
12. Obstetrical and Gynæcological.
13. Odontological.
14. Ophthalmological.
15. Otological.
16. Pathological.
17. Surgical.
18. Therapeutical.

It was hoped that in the early future an anatomical and physiological section and a section of preventive medicine might be formed. The Medico-Psychological Association and Medico-Legal Society hoped to join the new society at some future date. It was recommended that each section should be self-governing as far as possible, and should have direct representatives on the council of the society and on the editorial committee, but that its expenditure should be subject to the control of the finance committee of the general council. The general management of the society would be under the control of a general council consisting of the president, the presidents of the various sections, two treasurers, two librarians, two secretaries and eight other fellows.

CHEAPER LIQUID AIR.

ACCORDING to a consular report recent experiments in England of an invention by Mr. Knudsen, a Dane, furnished liquid air at

¹ From *The British Medical Journal*.