

kerly, Beyer professor of zoology in the University of Manchester, known especially for his researches on the Protozoa, on February 11, aged forty-nine years; of the Honorable Sir Charles Parsons, whose name is associated particularly with the development of the steam turbine, on February 12, and of Mr. W. G. Robson, lecturer in natural philosophy in the University of St. Andrews, on February 16.

### MEMORIALS

THE centenary of the Harveian Society of London is to be celebrated in June. According to the program, as printed in *The British Medical Journal*, the opening meeting, at which an oration will be delivered by Dr. Raymond Crawford, will be held on June 11 at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, with Sir Thomas Horder,

Bt., in the chair. It is proposed to ask delegates from all the medical societies in London and the surrounding districts; after the oration tea will be served and an exhibition of Harvey relics opened. On June 12 the Buckston Browne dinner will be held at the Grocers' Hall, with H. R. H. Prince Arthur of Connaught as the principal guest. On June 13 there will be a pilgrimage to Hempstead Church, Essex, where William Harvey is buried. A short service, conducted by the Bishop of Colechester, is to be held at 12 noon, and on the return journey it is proposed to visit Rolls Park, Chigwell, where Harvey lived at one time. The present owner, Lady Lloyd, has very kindly consented to entertain any members and friends of the society. After tea Sir D'Arcy Power will give a short address on William Harvey's association with Rolls Park.

## SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

### THE CONSTITUTION OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS

AN article in the *Journal* of the American Medical Association states that there are about 2,000 fellows of the Royal College of Surgeons and 18,000 members. The fellows pass a higher examination in surgery and are designated F.R.C.S. They are surgeons in the full sense of the term and generally are members of hospital staffs. Many of them practice only surgery or one of its special branches. They include all who are eminent in English surgery. The members pass a lower examination, devised for those who will engage in general practice, and are designated M.R.C.S. They usually practice surgery only in a minor form, their working being mainly medical. The college is governed by the council, which is elected from and by the fellows. The only occasion on which the members have an opportunity to say anything as to the government of the college is the annual meeting of members and fellows, when they can bring forward resolutions, which are submitted to the council. At this meeting they have for forty-two years passed a resolution that the members should be given the power to elect representatives on the council. This the council has always refused. At the 1929 meeting the members were twitted by the president, Lord Moynihan, with the fact that the number who attended was small (about fifty) and that he always saw the same faces. There was therefore no evidence that representation was desired by the members at large. At the 1930 meeting, which recently took place, the members demanding representation replied by bringing forward the result of a poll taken by postcard in Great Britain and the Irish Free State. This showed that for 12,766 cards sent out 6,832 votes were received in favor of representation and

only 156 against. At the meeting, much was made of this; the argument was the "justice" of the claim for representation of nine tenths of the college roll and the need to protect the members against unqualified practitioners. When a vote was taken, the request for representation was carried by 43 votes to 1. The president said in reply that the question of representation of the members had always been regarded by the council as of the gravest importance and that a special meeting would be held to consider the resolution. At this meeting the council adopted the following resolution:

The main functions of the college are to promote and encourage the art and science of surgery for the common weal, and for this purpose to conduct the examinations of the college and to maintain the great museum and library placed under its care. In carrying out these functions the council organizes lectures and demonstrations, provides facilities for and encourages research, fosters social intercourse and the amenities of the profession, and in every way possible renders the college an instrument for the advancement of surgery in its widest sense, not only for the benefit of the members and fellows, but the whole profession throughout the empire. In the opinion of the council these functions are well carried out under the present constitution; after further and prolonged deliberation the council has therefore decided that it is not desirable to alter the constitution of the college by providing for the direct and separate representation of members of the college upon the council. The decision of the council is in conformity with the opinion expressed three years ago by the body of fellows of the college who are the electorate.

### THE STATE PARKS AND FORESTS OF NEW JERSEY

IN a report submitted to the New Jersey Legislature on March 2 and reported in the *New York Times*,