

## MEDICAL LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

The first annual meeting of the newly formed Medical Library Association was held at Queen's University, Belfast, on Wednesday, July 28th. After the transaction of some preliminary business, the President, Prof. W. Osler, gave one of his characteristic addresses. He began by referring to the honourable record of English physicians as book-lovers and collectors since the thirteenth century, and said his experience had been that there were more medical libraries in this country than in any other. He emphasized the importance of reading as part of post-graduate study. There had been men whose only book was nature, but they were the exceptions. The average non-reading doctor might play a good game of golf or of bridge, but professionally he was a lost soul. The driven and tired practitioner might plead that he could not find time to read. He could not unless he had formed the practice in less busy days; then the habit of reading, like any other habit, became his master. He

should get away from the notion that it was necessary to read much. One or two journals and a few books every year were enough, if read properly. Journals should be kept and filed for reference, and all reading should be done with that mental concentration which made reading work. It was easier to buy books than to read them, and easier to read them than to absorb them. He urged on the meeting the collection of books on a definite system as the best of hobbies for the medical man.

In conjunction with the annual meeting an exhibition of medical MSS., books, photographs of libraries, &c., was held in the engineering drawing-room of the University from July 27th to 30th, under the curatorship of Prof. Walker Hall and Mr. Cuthbert E. A. Clayton, the honorary secretaries of the Association. The exhibition was divided into seven sections. Two MSS. in Section 1 called for special notice: an English one of the fourteenth century on urine (lent by the Manchester Medical Society,) and another, on the same subject, about the same date, in Latin and Irish (Trinity College, Dublin). Section 2 contained fifteen volumes printed before 1500, amongst them the first edition of Celsus, 'Celsus Medicina Liber,' 1478 (Dr. Lloyd Roberts); the works of Mesne, 1478 (Bristol Corporation); the 'Cirogia' of Guy de Chauliac, 1480 (Manchester Medical Society), and the 'Anathomia' of Mundinus, 1493 (Dr. Lloyd Roberts). Amongst the books printed since 1500, Section 3, were two copies of Raynalde's 'Birth of Mankind,' 1528 and 1613 (Dr. Lloyd Roberts and the Bristol Medical Library); Faier's 'Regiment of Lyfe,' 1567, and Paynel's 'Regimen Sanitatis Salerni,' 1541 (both lent by Dr. Lloyd Roberts); and a pamphlet entitled 'Variolous Contagion,' 1808, by Jenner (Prof. J. A. Lindsay). An exceptionally fine collection of books by Irish authors, or printed in Ireland, formed Section 4, lent principally by Dr. T. P. C. Kirkpatrick of Dublin and the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland. Prof. Osler had lent two interesting collections of books relating to Michael Servetus, whose quatercentenary occurs this year, and Ulrich von Hutten, the scholar-knight who described the treatment of syphilis in his own person. The final section contained a series of books on consumption, beginning with Celsus, who recommended an open-air treatment and the use of milk, and ending with the Countess of Aberdeen's 'Ireland's Crusade against Tuberculosis.'

The head-quarters of the Association are at the University, Manchester.

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"The Medical  
Library in Post-  
graduate Work."  
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