

BOSTON MEDICAL
 JUL 24 1925
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TRANSACTIONS
 OF THE
 EDINBURGH OBSTETRICAL SOCIETY,
 FOR SESSION LXIX., 1907-1908.

MEETING I.—NOVEMBER 13, 1907.

Dr J. W. BALLANTYNE, *President, in the Chair.*

I. *The Treasurer (Dr Wm. Craig)* made his Annual Statement, which is given below:—

INCOME.		
Balance from Session 1905-1906, . . .	£563	7 5
Arrears, . . .	£7	15 0
Bank Interest on Deposit Receipts, . . .	12	5 4
Interest on Consols, . . .	6	0 8
Entrance Fees from 24 new Ordinary Fellows, . . .	25	4 0
Annual Contributions from 376 Ordinary Fellows, . . .	94	0 0
Annual Contribution from 1 Ordinary Fellow, . . .	0	1 0
Composition for Life-Membership from Five Ordinary Fellows, . . .	26	5 0
Transactions sold, . . .	5	7 0
	176	18 0
	£740	5 5

EXPENDITURE.		
Bank Cheque Book, . . .	£0	2 6
Corporation Duty, . . .	0	15 7
Income Tax, . . .	0	4 6
Shorthand Reporters, . . .	7	7 0
Commission to Collector, . . .	1	11 0
Doorkeeper's Salary, . . .	1	12 0
Oliver & Boyd's Account for Vol. XXXII. of Society's <i>Transactions</i> (562 copies), . . .	106	5 8
Oliver & Boyd's Account for Printing Billets, Postages, etc., . . .	24	17 0
Rent of Rooms and Carriage of Books, . . .	4	10 0
Waterston & Sons' Account, . . .	3	5 10
The Secretaries and Editor, for Postages, . . .	0	6 6
Blocks for Illustrations, . . .	6	2 0
	£156	19 7
Balance to New Account, ¹ . . .	583	5 10
	£740	5 5

¹ Of this Balance, the sum of £250, 10s. 6d. is invested in 2½ per cent. Consols.

PIERRE BUDIN.

Born in 1846, Budin was only sixty-one when he succumbed to pneumonia in January 1907. His death took place at Marseilles, whither he had gone to attend a Conference on the subject of the Prevention of Infantile Mortality, a matter so near his heart that he dictated on his deathbed a letter to his friends and pupils beseeching them to continue his efforts to diminish the appalling mortality amongst new-born infants. "Mes chers amis," he wrote, "Je vous confie le sort des petits enfants de France. Je compte sur vous pour faire par vous-même d'abord et plus tard par vos élèves la propagande nécessaire en faveur de consultations des nourrissons." It was the great enthusiasm of his life, this struggle against the wastage of young life, and he gave to it all his thought, all his knowledge, all his strength, nay, in the end, his life itself. It is a grand thing for a man when he finds in his day's work a wrong that requires to be righted, when he comes face to face with a state of things so deplorable that all that is highest and best in him rises up in revolt and calls aloud for reform, for revolution, for a new departure, for the destruction of the old and bad, for the introduction of the new and good. It was so for Budin when he began to realise how many infants were perishing in France, not so much by reason of the virulence of disease as in consequence of the amazing ignorance of the laws of infantile health which everywhere prevailed. "Where is the child who was born here a year ago?" he would say to an expectant mother at the hospital. "Il est mort," was the far too frequent reply she would make. The time had come for a new crusade, the great twentieth-century crusade, against infantile mortality, "la ligue contre la mortalité infantile." Budin was its heaven-sent leader, and before his death he had heard the first clarion notes of victory.

Pierre Budin was born at Enancourt-le-Sec, in the ancient district of the Vexin; he began his medical studies in 1867, was externe of the hospitals in 1869 and interne in 1872, and he received his doctorate in 1876. The subject of his thesis was *De la tête du fœtus au point de vue de l'obstétrique*; but he had already published a research on *La ligature du cordon ombilical* (in 1875); in 1877 he translated from English into French Matthews Duncan's article *Sur le mécanisme de l'accouchement normal et pathologique*, and in 1878 he wrote *Des lésions traumatiques chez la femme dans les accouchements artificiels*—a wonderful record of literary and scientific activity. In 1875 he had worked with Tarnier, and had begun that association with him which was in the future to influence so profoundly his whole career, and in 1878 he became *chef de clinique* with Professor Depaul. He wrote the prefatory note to the translation of our own Hart and Barbour's *Manual of Gynecology* in 1886. In 1880 he became Professeur agrégé à la Faculté de Médecine, and in 1882 he began his work as accoucheur at la Charité, and there in 1892 he founded the first *consultation des nourrissons*, and so inaugurated that campaign against maternal ignorance which was to have such far-reaching effects upon the hygiene of the young infant all over the world. Meanwhile, in 1889, Budin had been elected a member of the Académie de Médecine. In 1895 he went to the Maternité, which he left only in 1898, when called to fill the chair of Tarnier, and to take his place at the Clinique in the *rue d'Assas*. In 1902 he founded, in association with Strauss and under the patronage of the philanthropic Roussel, the *Ligue contre la mortalité infantile*, to which reference has already been made.

In addition to the works which I have named, Budin was one of the founders of *Le Progrès Médical*, he was the founder and the editor in chief of *L'Obstétrique*, and he collaborated with Tarnier in the monumental *Traité de l'art des Accouchements* which appeared at intervals between the years 1881 and 1901,

and filled four large volumes. Perhaps the work by which, however, Budin will be best known by future generations of obstetricians is his *Nourrisson*, published in 1900; this book, which contains a summary of all he was enabled to do for the welfare of the new-born infant and for the encouragement of maternal nursing, has been recently translated into English by a Fellow of this Society, and provided with an appreciative introduction from the pen of Sir Alexander Simpson. To give even the titles of his other works would occupy a considerable amount of space, but I cannot pass from the consideration of Budin's life and work without rendering a tribute to the wonderful charm of manner and radiant personality he showed and possessed. I had the pleasure of his personal acquaintance, and I have very happy recollections of conversations with him on the subject of the new-born infant and of the possibilities of the hygiene of the child. He was devoted to the service of the young child, and his sympathy flowed over from the department of the new-born infant into the neighbouring field of the unborn babe. Pierre Constant Budin began his professional career as an obstetrician in Paris; at its close he was recognised everywhere as a philanthropist, as a social reformer, as the resolute opponent of neo-Malthusianism, and as the saviour, directly and indirectly, of countless young lives. So he was "puro e disposto a salire alle stelle."

CORRESPONDING FELLOWS.

The list of Corresponding Fellows has been made poorer by the deaths of Alexander Peddie, Thomas Skinner, Francis Robertson Macdonald, Andrew Scott Myrtle, and Alexander Thom.

When our Society celebrated its Jubilee in December 1889, its President was able to congratulate it on the presence in its midst of six of the twenty original members—namely, Dr John