COUNCIL OF BRITISH OPHTHALMOLOGISTS

Annual Report

The Council of British Ophthalmologists presents its report for the session 1925-26.

At the first meeting of the session the following officers were elected:—President: Mr. E. Treacher Collins; Vice-Presidents: Sir George Berry, M.P. and Mr. J. Herbert Fisher; Hon. Treasurer: Mr. J. Herbert Fisher; Hon. Secretary: Mr. W. H. McMullen.

The following members were elected to serve on the Executive Committee: Sir John Parsons, Mr. J. Herbert Fisher, Mr. M. S. Mayou, and Mr. F. A. Juler, with the President and the Hon. Secretary ex-officio.

The scheme for provision of ophthalmic benefit by approved societies, which was agreed to last year by the Ministry of Health after negotiations in which the Council took an important part, has now been adopted by many of the approved societies. The Council has appointed a sub-committee to collect information with regard to the working of the scheme, especially in respect of the attendance at hospitals of patients entitled to ophthalmic benefit. It is pleased to note that the Royal Commission on National Health Insurance, before which the Council gave evidence last year, in its recently published report recommends that ophthalmic benefit should be recognized "as part of the expert out-patient service under the scheme of extended medical benefit, and should not be available except on the recommendation of a medical practitioner."

The Council has published a report on the methods adopted in various parts of the British Isles for the education of children suffering from defective vision due to myopia and other causes (excluding the blind). The report has been sent to the President of the Board of Education, to the Minister of Health, to all local education authorities in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, to medical and educational periodicals, and to the principal London and Provincial papers. It has received favourable notice in many quarters, being reprinted in full in the Lancet and the School Government Chronicle, and forming the subject of editorial notices in all the leading medical and educational periodicals. Paragraphs referring to it appeared also in many of the London and Provincial daily papers. A question was addressed to the President of the Board of Education in the House of Commons by Sir George Berry, asking if his attention had been drawn to the report and whether he proposed to take action with regard to the recommendations contained therein. The Minister replied that he had seen
the report, that provision had already been made in various parts of the country for the education of partially blind children on the general lines recommended in the report, and he hoped that this provision would be extended as circumstances permitted.

Drafts of a Bill have been issued by the "Joint Council of Qualified Opticians" "to secure the registration of optical practitioners and to regulate the practice of sight-testing and optical dispensing and for purposes incidental thereto." The Council has written to the General Medical Council and to the medical members of Parliament calling attention to the proposed Bill and pointing out objections to it.

A Committee has been appointed "to inquire how far the recommendations of the Departmental Committee on the Causes and Prevention of Blindness with reference to ophthalmia neonatorum have been put into practice, and to advise the Council as to any action it might be advisable to take."

Committees on the standardization of test-types and on industrial diseases and accidents are continuing their investigations.

Arrangements have been made with the National Committee for the Prevention of Blindness in the United States of America and the Eyesight Conservation Council of America to exchange reports with those of the Council.

The expenses of the Council have been defrayed, as in former years, by its members.

The Council desires to thank the Council of the Royal Society of Medicine for the use of rooms for meetings.

THE ANNUAL CONGRESS OF THE OPHTHALMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF THE UNITED KINGDOM

At London, April 29, 30, and May 1, 1926

The 13th Annual Congress of the Ophthalmological Society was held at the Royal Society of Medicine, under the presidency of Sir John Parsons. The usual programme was adhered to. The greater part of the proceedings consisted in the reading of papers; the clinical meeting for the demonstration of cases was at St. Bartholomew's Hospital; the annual dinner was held at the Langham Hotel; and the meeting concluded with a visit to the National Physical Laboratory at Teddington, where, by the kindness of the Director, Sir Joseph Patavel, the apparatus and nature of the important physical and engineering researches conducted by the Laboratory, were demonstrated to members of the Congress.