

Register May 30th 1885.

PATHOLOGY AT THE HOSPITAL.—At yesterday's meeting of the Board of Management of the Adelaide Hospital the rules and regulations for the office of Pathologist, were adopted. The importance of this office, both on scientific and general grounds, is sufficiently manifest. There is to be a School of Medicine in connection with the University. If any good work is to be done the students must have ready access to examples of particular diseases, and they will naturally look to the Hospital for aid in this matter. Owing to the absence of any officer whose duty it should be to prepare and preserve pathological specimens, what might have been a valuable collection is imperfect. And, further, it is eminently desirable that the Professor of Anatomy in the University should hold some responsible position in the University. As Pathologist Dr. Watson will be able to supply his students with that practical demonstration which is essential to the student of anatomy, and his class will learn more by witnessing him performing an operation, however trivial, than they would from the most elaborate lecture. But the appointment of a Pathologist is of interest to the general public as well as to the scientific world. Post-mortem examinations will be conducted with greater regularity, and a uniform system of procedure will be followed. It certainly appears that in deciding to offer the appointment to Dr. Watson the Board have chosen most wisely. Two considerations, however, suggest themselves. Is the salary offered an adequate recompense? The Pathologist will have to perform all post-mortem examinations—presumably this applies only to Adelaide—to be the Curator of the Hospital Museum, to have the charge of all the specimens, and to attend inquests if required. And if Dr. Watson considers himself sufficiently repaid by the opportunities for increased usefulness as a Professor of Anatomy, will the University consent to his taking so much extra work upon himself? There will, however, in all probability be no trouble about the matter, and we may regard the appointment as practically made.

✓ May 30th 1885

ADELAIDE HOSPITAL BOARD.

FRIDAY, MAY 29.

Present—Dr. Wyatt (in the chair), Drs. Robertson, Mayo, Sprod, and Way, Hon. J. Colton (Chief Secretary), Hon. M. Salom, M.L.C., Messrs. E. T. Smith, M.P., A. Catt, M.P., F. Basedow, M.P., W. Bunday (Mayor of Adelaide), and T. Graves.

The following contributions were received:—£10 10s. from Messrs. Giles & Smith, and a pair of crutches from Mr. N. C. Mackie.

The house committee reported that twenty-six applications had been received for the appointment of wardsman, and that Gustav Behwoldt was recommended for appointment. The report was adopted.

Brigadier-General Owen wrote, asking for the use of the out-patients' department in the hospital for the purpose of lectures being given to the Ambulance Corps of the local military forces. The request was granted.

The amended rules and regulations drawn up by the committee were adopted as follows:—“The pathologist shall be a legally-qualified practitioner, and the appointment shall be made annually by the board of management. The salary of the pathologist shall be £100 per annum. It shall be the duty of the pathologist to perform all post mortem examinations, and he shall enter regularly in the post mortem book a full report of the morbid appearances observed, and give evidence at inquests or courts of law when specially required. He shall prepare and preserve in the Hospital Museum all pathological specimens, microscopic or otherwise, required by the physicians and surgeons, and he shall see that the same are properly described and catalogued, all such specimens to be the property of the hospital. He shall be the curator of the Hospital Museum, and shall be responsible for all specimens therein contained. All post mortem examinations shall be made at a fixed hour, to be agreed upon between the pathologist and the physicians and surgeons. On the death of any patient on whom it is required that a post mortem examination be made, notice in writing shall be sent by the secretary to the pathologist, and also to the visiting physicians and surgeons. If for any urgent reason it be necessary that the post mortem examination be made at some other hour than that regularly fixed, the pathologist shall appoint a time, after consultation with the physician or surgeon who had charge of the case; and of this time notice shall, if possible, be sent to the other physicians and surgeons. That the appointment of pathologist be offered to Professor Watson, M.D., F.R.C.S., professor of Anatomy in the University of Adelaide, as it is understood he is willing to perform the duties under the conditions specified. That the pathologist enter upon his duties as early as possible, as there are a considerable number of specimens requiring immediate attention, in default of

Appointment
of Pathologist

which they will perish. That all pathological specimens be removed to the mortuary building from the hospital building, where some are now temporarily accommodated. That the present post-mortem rooms, fixtures, and instruments be placed under the control of the pathologist, who shall be responsible for their good order and safe keeping. That the services of an attendant in the mortuary be placed at the disposal of the pathologist, when required by him in the discharge of his duties. That the pathologist be supplied with all necessary spirits, chemicals, and other materials for preparing and preserving specimens."

The secretary stated that the cases of enteric fever at present in the hospital numbered 17, being a decrease of 12 since the last meeting of the board.

The house surgeon's report for the three weeks ended May 28 was as follows:—Admitted, 105; discharged, 116; deaths, 6; now in hospital, 156; 286 out-patients were treated, of whom 99 were new. Causes of deaths—Phthisis, 2; enteric fever, 2; scalp wound, 1; fracture of arm and ribs, 1.
