A short account of the work of the London Emergency Surgical Aid Corps.

Formation of the Corps.

The idea of the formation of the Emergency Surgical Aid Corps of the Royal Society of Medicine originated with Dr. Aranthea McLean, but its inauguration, development, and subsequent success were due to the initiative, energy, and foresight of the late Sir John Charnwood, Secretary of the Society.

The first public step taken to promote the movement was the meeting of the Fellows of the Society held on November 25th 1914 under the presidency of Sir Peter H. Goffin. The purpose for which the meeting was called was to consider whether it was desirable or possible to organise a scheme for rendering surgical aid in the event of riot or bombardment. The proposal to adopt some plan for rendering such aid was taken up with enthusiasm by those present and after discussion the following resolution was passed:

(i) That it was desirable to organise a scheme for rendering first aid to be carried out in the case of serious raids on the coast.
(1) In case of injury from dropping bombs on London.
(2) That a Committee be appointed to carry on the organisation work.
(3) That three present at the meeting constitute a Committee with power to act on their numbers.
(4) That an Executive Committee of six members be formed with power to add to their numbers.
(5) That the Chairman of the Committee and of the Executive Committee be Mr. Richman Godlee with Mr. Maclellan as Honorary Secretary, and that the members of the Executive Committee (with power to add to their number) be as follows: Mr. H. Collett, Mr. C. Illingworth, Sir Henry Green, Sir E. Jenkins, Mr. W. Harrison, Mr. J. W. Thomson, Mr. Walker.

The first act of the Executive Committee was to consult the Chief Surgeon to the Metropolitan Police, Dr. (now Sir Charles) Balfour as to the provision that would be made by the police in the event of any great public disaster. The Balfour addressed an instruction to Sir Edward Henry, Chief Commissioner of the Police, and in company with the Chairman, Sir Richman Godlee he was therefore asked to