

in the arduous struggle in which they are about to embark in the interest of the public and the profession.

Our attention has recently been called, by more than one correspondent, to a circular said to be widely distributed, which denounces any Bill that may be framed on the basis of the Report of the Royal Commission. This circular is signed by Mr. R. H. S. Carpenter, a licentiate of the London College of Physicians and of the Apothecaries' Society, as Secretary of the Medical Alliance Association. This gentleman, on his door-plate, styles himself "Dr. Carpenter." In doing this without the possession of a degree of doctor of medicine, he is, unfortunately, contravening the rules of the college of which he is a licentiate. This, however, is only a small matter in comparison with the fact that the terms of the circular to which we have referred, signed by him as the secretary of the Medical Alliance Association, are distinctly disclaimed by Dr. Jacob, the president of the same association. This complication certainly stands in need of explanation. To the outside world, having no knowledge of the proceedings of the Alliance, it appears inexplicable that the secretary should have drafted and distributed a circular which the president condemns.

The name of Carpenter is far from being so common as that of Smith or Brown. But that there may be no mistake as to the identity of the secretary of the Alliance Association, it is important that he should not be confounded with Dr. Alfred Carpenter, the late President of the Council of the British Medical Association, and for several years, and at present, an active member of the Medical Reform Committee, which committee may safely be trusted not to neglect the just rights of the profession for which it has so long contended.

THE HEALTH OF THE CUSTOMS OFFICERS OF THE PORT OF LONDON.

THE annual report on the health of the Customs Officers of London has a special value as an exposition of the sanitary condition of the metropolis in relation to the adult male middle-class section of the population, of which those officers may be considered a fair example. Their duties are of varied character, in many cases laborious and involving much exposure to the weather; and the effect of our inclement climate in causing the various forms of disease is clearly exhibited in the complete and elaborate tables which Dr. Dickson, the medical officer of the department, has for many years presented with his report. The number of officers on the establishment is about one thousand, whose ages range from twenty to seventy, with an average of about thirty-seven years. The mean daily number disabled by disease or accident during the year 1881 was 36, or 3½ per cent. The mean duration of each case was 20 days. The loss of time per man by reason of illness was 12 days. Deaths from disease were in the proportion of 16 per 1,000; from accident, 1 per 1,000. Invaliding or superannuations on medical certificate were in the ratio of 7½ per 1,000. The combined death- and invaliding-rate was therefore 24½ per 1,000, which corresponds in the main with the figure of the preceding year, and is slightly above the average. Dr. Dickson gives an interesting summary of the meteorology of the year in its relation to health. The weather of 1881 was marked by extraordinary vicissitudes and exceptional temperatures and rainfalls. January was unusually cold, 7° below the mean; July, very warm, 4° above the mean; August cold and wet; October extremely cold, 5° below the average; and November was remarkably warm and fine, the mean temperature of that month having been 4° higher than that of October, and 5° in excess of the average. The rainfall in the last half of the year was nearly double that of the first half. The extreme rigour of the winter told most unfavourably on the health of the customs officers. After the great snow-storm of January 18th, as many as 90 were on the sick list, and the number of admissions in the winter quarter exceeded by 25 per cent. the average of the season. Pulmonary and rheumatic diseases formed 60 per cent. of the whole amount of sickness at this time, and the unwonted and protracted cold prostrated the old and weak, and retarded the convalescence of the less serious cases. The unprecedented cold of October was less pernicious, as its effects were to some extent neutralised by the genial warmth of November. The extreme heat of July was not unfavourable to health, and there was a remarkable immunity from bowel-diseases during the whole summer.

The numerical ratio of diseases is an important feature of this report. General diseases constituted 22 per cent., and local diseases and injuries 78 per cent. of the cases that occurred in the year. The febrile and zymotic group comprised only five per cent. of the whole. Among those were six cases of small-pox in men who had

been well vaccinated in infancy, and some of whom had come into contact with small-pox patients in recent years with impunity. But in none was there clear proof of revaccination. Two cases were severe, and one died; the patient's removal from Limehouse, where he resided, to the Small-pox Asylum at Highgate, having probably contributed to the fatal issue. It is to be regretted that so long a journey should be necessary, and the more so that sites for such institutions could be obtained more cheaply and easily at the eastern extremity of London than in any part of the metropolis. By a recent regulation, revaccination is made compulsory for all candidates previously to admission to the service, which will probably lessen in the future the occurrence of this disease, or at least its severity. Rheumatism and gout yielded 15 per cent. of the whole amount of sickness; phthisis 5 per cent., but causing, as usual, a large mortality—in this year one-third of the whole number of deaths. Other respiratory diseases constituted 27 per cent. of the sickness, and 13 per cent. of the mortality. The same percentage of deaths was due to heart-disease, and also to affections of the brain; and half the superannuations of the year were caused by insanity and other cerebral disorders. Diseases of the digestive organs comprised but 8 per cent. of the cases, and no mortality. Diseases of the skin and cellular tissue occurred in the ratio of 11 per cent., and accidental injuries in that of 10 per cent.; and it is remarkable that these proportions have obtained almost uniformly through a long series of years. The mean age of those who died from all causes was 47 years; of those superannuated for senile debility, 64 years; and of those prematurely retired by reason of physical incapacity, 48 years. Other interesting details, relating to the effect of laborious occupation and climatic exposure in inducing disease in the various classes of officers in Dr. Dickson's charge will be found in his report, which forms an appendix to the annual report of the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Customs to the Lords of the Treasury.

ASSOCIATION INTELLIGENCE.

COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL.

NOTICE OF QUARTERLY MEETINGS FOR 1883: ELECTION OF MEMBERS.

MEETINGS of the Committee of Council will be held on Wednesday April 11th, July 11th, and October 17th. Gentlemen desirous of becoming members must send in their forms of application for election to the General Secretary not later than twenty-one days before each meeting, viz., March 21st, May 21st, September 26th, in accordance with the regulation for the election of members passed at the meeting of the Committee of Council of October 12th, 1881.

FRANCIS FOWKE, *General Secretary*.

November 9th, 1882.

COLLECTIVE INVESTIGATION OF DISEASE.

CARDS and explanatory memoranda for the inquiries concerning Acute Pneumonia, Chorea, and Acute Rheumatism, can be had by application to the Honorary Secretaries of the Local Committees appointed by the Branches, or to the Secretary of the Collective Investigation Committee. Of these diseases, each member of the Association is earnestly requested to record at least one ordinary case coming under observation during the year.

Inquiries concerning Diphtheria and Syphilis have been prepared, and can be had on application by those willing to contribute information on these subjects. There are two cards on Diphtheria, one containing clinical, the other etiological inquiries, together with an explanatory memorandum. One of these cards is intended to serve as a guide to the systematic examination of a house or district for sanitary purposes. There are also two sets of inquiries concerning Syphilis, one for acquired, the other for inherited, disease. These are accompanied by an explanatory memorandum giving information concerning the most recently observed symptoms of the inherited disease.

All these inquiries will be continued during the present year.

F. A. MAHOMED, *Secretary to the Committee*.

12, St. Thomas's Street, S.E.

BRANCH MEETINGS TO BE HELD.

STAFFORDSHIRE BRANCH.—The second general meeting of the present session will be held at the London and North-Western Hotel, Stafford, on Thursday, February 22nd, at 3.30 P.M.—VINCENT JACKSON, *General Secretary*, Wolverhampton, January 30th, 1883.

BORDER COUNTIES BRANCH.—The spring meeting of this Branch will be held at the Central Hotel, Carlisle, on Thursday, February 22nd, at 6 P.M. Members intending to read papers or show specimens are requested to give notice to **RODERICK MACLAREN, M.D.**, Carlisle, Honorary Secretary *pro tem.*; or to **J. SMITH, M.D.**, Dumfries, Honorary Secretary.

DUBLIN BRANCH.—An adjourned special general meeting of the Branch will be held on Tuesday next, February 6th, at the King and Queen's College of Physicians, Kildare Street, at 4 P.M., to resume the debate on the resolution proposing the adoption of the annual report of the outgoing Council, and upon the amendment thereon, moved by **Dr. Athill**, and seconded by **Dr. Grimshaw**, Registrar-General. — **GEOFFREY DUFFY, M.D.**, Honorary Secretary, 30, Fitzwilliam Place, Dublin, February 1st, 1883.

PROCEEDINGS OF COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL.

At a meeting of the Committee of Council, held at Exeter Hall, on Wednesday, January 17th, 1883; Present, **Mr. C. G. WHEELHOUSE**, President of the Council, in the chair; **Dr. W. Strange**, President; **Dr. A. T. H. Waters**, President-elect; **Dr. W. F. Wade**, Treasurer; **Dr. Bushell Anningson**, **Dr. J. T. Arlidge**, **Dr. D. Drummond**, **Mr. B. Barrow**, **Mr. T. H. Bartleet**, Surgeon-Major **J. P. H. Boileau**, **Dr. L. Borchardt**, **Dr. A. Carpenter**, **Dr. C. Chadwick**, **Dr. J. Ward Cousins**, **Dr. A. Davidson**, **Dr. G. F. Duffey**, **Dr. J. L. H. Down**, **Dr. B. Foster**, **Dr. E. Long Fox**, **Dr. J. H. Gibson**, **Dr. W. C. Grigg**, **Mr. A. J. Harrison**, **Dr. C. Holman**, Professor **G. M. Humphry, F.R.S.**, **Mr. W. D. Husband**, **Dr. H. T. Lancaster**, **Mr. C. Macnamara**, **Mr. F. E. Manby**, **Mr. F. Mason**, **Mr. R. H. B. Nicholson**, **Mr. Rushton Parker**, **Dr. C. Parsons**, **Dr. S. Rees Phillips**, **Mr. R. J. H. Scott**, **Dr. R. C. Shettle**, **Dr. A. Sheen**, **Mr. S. W. Sibley**, **Dr. E. H. Sieveking**, **Dr. E. M. Skerritt**, **Dr. A. P. Stewart**, **Mr. T. Sympton**, **Dr. E. Waters**, **Mr. J. Wood**, **F.R.S.**;

Read letters of apology for non-attendance from **Mr. Alfred Baker**, **Dr. Bartolomé**, **Dr. Eytton Jones**, and **Dr. Leslie Jones**.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and found correct.

The President of Council reported that the Subcommittee appointed at the last meeting to consider and report upon the resolution of the Council upon the representation of the Branches on the Committee of Council had met twice, but were not prepared at present to report, but that the report would be drawn up as soon as possible, and, after it had been approved by the Subcommittee, a copy would be sent to every member of the Committee of Council in time to consider it before the quarterly meeting in April next.

Read letter from **Dr. Vawdrey Lush**, asking for the recognition of the Dorset and West Hants Branch.

Read minutes of subcommittee appointed to consider the proposal to form a Dorset and West Hants Branch as follows:

At a meeting of the Subcommittee appointed to consider the application of the Bournemouth and Dorsetshire members to be allowed to form themselves into a District Branch of the Association, held January 17th, 1883, present: **Dr. Carpenter** in the chair; **Mr. Husband**, **Dr. Ward Cousins**; **Dr. Parsons**, Honorary Secretary—Resolved: That the request of the Dorset members be granted.

Resolved: That the recommendation of the subcommittee be approved and carried into effect, and that the Dorset and West Hants Branch be, and it is hereby, recognised as a Branch of the Association.

Resolved: That the by-laws of the Dorset and West Hants Branch be approved.

Read communication from **Mr. Bartleet** offering the sum of £20 for an instrument for deadening the sense of sound.

Resolved: That the matter be referred to the Otological Section at the annual meeting, and that **Mr. Bartleet** be informed of this, and requested to hold over his offer.

Read resolution of the Town Council of Worcester, of which the following is a copy:

At a special meeting of the Council of the City of Worcester, acting as such, and as the urban sanitary authority for the said city, holden in the Council Chamber, Guildhall, in the said city, on Monday, the 28th day of August, 1882, the Mayor in the chair.

Annual meeting of the British Medical Association. It was moved by the Mayor, seconded by the Sheriff, and resolved unanimously:

"That the best thanks of this corporation be, and are, hereby tendered to the British Medical Association for the valuable bust of the late Sir Charles Hastings, which the Association have generously presented to this city.—**William Stallard**, Mayor."

Resolved: That the treasurer be empowered to sign cheque for £8 15s., balance of amount due to **Mr. Brock**, on account of the Hastings bust.

The By-laws of the North of Ireland Branch were considered.

Resolved: That the by-laws of the North of Ireland Branch be approved.

It was moved: That the working expenses of the Investigation

Committee be defrayed from the general finances of the Association, and that no portion be borne by the Branches.

Whereupon an amendment was moved that the subject be referred to the Collective Investigation Committee.

The amendment having been put from the chair, the same was declared to be carried.

Resolved: That the 116 candidates for election, whose names appear on the circular convening the meeting, with the correction of one name, be and they are hereby elected members of the Association.

Resolved: That the minutes of the Journal and Finance Committee of to-day's date, together with those of the Printing and Office Subcommittee of the 16th inst. be approved, and the recommendations carried into effect, with the exception of that of the constitution of the Journal and Finance Committee.

The minutes of the Journal and Finance Committee contain the particulars of accounts for the quarter ending 31st December last, amounting to £3,268 12s. 8d., and recommendation that the Treasurer be empowered to sign cheques for those still unpaid; also recommendation for the further investment of £2,000.

The minutes of the Printing and Office Subcommittee contain particulars respecting the contract for machining the JOURNAL.

Resolved: That the consideration of the constitution of the Journal and Finance Committee be deferred till the next meeting of the Committee of Council.

Read minutes of the Arrangement Subcommittee.

Resolved: That the final settlement of the arrangements for the annual meeting be deferred till the quarterly meeting of the Committee of Council in April next. The recommendation to appoint a Section in Otolaryngology was approved.

BATH AND BRISTOL BRANCH.

The third ordinary meeting of the session was held at the Museum and Library, Bristol, on Wednesday evening, January 24th; **J. K. SPENDER, M.D.**, President, in the chair. There were also present forty-three members.

New Members.—The following new members were elected:—**Surgeon-General T. C. O'Leary, M.B.**, Bath; **R. Davies, M.R.C.S.**, Bath; **J. Wigmore, M.D.**, Tiverton; **J. M. Ratray, M.A., M.B., C.M.**, Frome; **C. Curd, M.R.C.S.**, Bath; **W. White, M.R.C.S.**, Bath; **J. Lawrence, Esq., M.R.C.S.**, Bath; **F. F. Welsh, F.R.C.S.**, Clifton.

The question of the devotion of a meeting to the discussion of one of the subjects selected by the Collective Investigation Committee was referred to the Council.

The late Dr. F. K. Fox.—The following resolution was proposed by **Mr. AUGUSTIN PRICHARD**:—"That the members of the Bath and Bristol Branch desire to place on record their sense of the great loss which they and the whole profession have sustained by the death of their respected associate **Dr. Francis Ker Fox**, of Brislington House, the oldest member of the Branch, and one of the oldest and most valued members of the British Medical Association; and also to express their warm sympathy with **Dr. Fox's** family." This resolution was seconded by **Dr. FYFFE**, supported by **Dr. DAVEY**, and carried unanimously.

Papers.—The following communications were made.

1. **Dr. Aust Lawrence** read notes on Cases of Placenta Prævia. **Dr. Swayne**, **Mr. Parette**, **Mr. Ewens**, and the President took part in the discussion which followed.

2. **Mr. Chalmers Norton** read a paper on a Case of Successful Excision of the Shoulder-Joint, and exhibited the patient. Observations were made by **Mr. Greig-Smith**, **Dr. Davey**, **Mr. Crossman**, and **Mr. Bousfield**.

3. **Mr. Frederick Parsons** communicated a Case of Uterine Fibroid removed by Abdominal Section, which gave rise to a discussion in which **Dr. Swayne**, **Mr. Ewens**, **Dr. Waldo**, **Mr. Dobson**, and **Dr. Aust Lawrence** took part.

BEQUESTS AND DONATIONS.—**T. W. R.** has given £1,000 to the Middlesex Hospital.—**Mrs. Elizabeth Atcherley Syme** has given £550 to the Chelsea Hospital for Women.—**Mr. James Oram** of Taunton bequeathed £500 to the Cottage Infirmary at Devizes, his native place.—The Metropolitan Hospital Sunday Fund has received a fourth £100 from the trustees of the will of **Mr. James Drew**.—The Charing Cross Hospital has received £152 from **Mr. J. L. Toole**, the proceeds of an afternoon performance at his theatre on the 17th instant.—**Mrs. Hull Martin** has given £100 to the West Wing Building Fund of the West London Hospital.

liable to pay a doctor who attended in such a case. The husband might decline to pay for attendance on his servants, and the agency of the wife to order it be less easily established; but, as a rule, a wife is her husband's agent for the purpose of ordering medical attendance. There is no necessity for the doctor to be more careful than other creditors; but, if he anticipate any difficulty being raised, he had better send in his bill before it becomes too large; if that be paid, he can make the payer liable for subsequent services; and, if there be any difficulty, a small loss is better than a large one.

LAW OF MALPRACTICE.

THE full Supreme Bench of the State of Michigan, in reversal of the rulings and findings of a lower court, have given a decision of interest to the medical profession. A surgeon, being called in consultation to a case of compound fracture of both legs below the knee, advised amputation of both extremities, which was refused. One leg was amputated, and the other finally recovered with deformity. The plaintiff sued for his pay, and the defendant claimed malpractice. The decision of the Supreme Court establishes the following points: There is no presumption of law as to the value of a surgeon's services, nor that a jury can ascertain their value without testimony from persons knowing something about it. Nor has a jury the right to reduce the compensation claimed for such service where undisputed testimony shows it to have been appropriate, or, on their own unsupported notions, that the treatment adopted should have been different. A jury has no right to ignore testimony that has not been discredited, and form independent conclusions, without testimony, on matters that require proof beyond their conjectures or opinions. The fact that a surgeon changes a course of treatment adopted by another, does not in itself show that the former course of treatment was not proper at the time; nor is the patient's failure to recover perfect soundness of limb, in itself, evidence of malpractice; nor is the fact that he survived, although he refused to allow a particular course of treatment, evidence that such course might not have been proper under the circumstances. The jury, in an action for the value of surgical services, has no right to find malpractice without testimony from persons who are qualified to give opinions on the methods of treatment.

MEDICAL NEWS.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF LONDON.—Admitted Members. January 25th, 1883.

Asbby, Henry, M.D. London, Manchester.
Beckett, John, M.D. Glasgow, Windermere.
Carpenter, Alfred, M.D. London, Croydon.
Haig, Alexander, M.B. Oxford, 23, Chestow Villas, W.
King, David Alexander, M.B. London, 51, Pembroke Villas, W.
McConnell, James Frederick Parry, M.D. Aberdeen, Calcutta.
Phillips, Sidney Philip, M.D. London, 12, Radnor Place, W.
Richardson, Adolphus Joseph, London Hospital, E.
White, William Hale, M.D. London, 4, St. Thomas Street, S.E.

Admitted Licentiates.

Allen, Frank James, Shepton Mallett.
Bateman, Hinton Ernest, St. Bartholomew's Hospital, E.C.
Bozall, Robert, Cranleigh, Guildford.
Browne, Ralph Henry, Guy's Hospital, S.E.
Buol, Florian, Davos Platz, Switzerland.
Caiger, Frederick Ford, St. Thomas's Hospital, S.E.
Chadwick, Charles Montague, London Hospital, E.
Cockburn, Lestock Weatherley, St. Bartholomew's Hospital, E.C.
Codd, Arthur Frederick Gambell, 72, Clarendon Road, W.
Coward, Richard Courtenay, 41, Penryn Road, S.W.
Dimsey, Edgar Ralph, Middlesex Hospital, W.
Etches, William Robert, Guy's Hospital, S.E.
Graham, Samuel, Carnaughliss, Ligoniel, Belfast, Ireland.
Grant, James Alexander, jun., M.D. McGill, 103, Guildford Street, W.C.
Griffith, Walter Spencer Anderson, St. Bartholomew's Hospital, E.C.
Gwillim, Richard Davis Hoyle, Marlborough.
Hebbert, Charles Alfred, 7, Sanctuary, S.W.
Jones, Owen Clerton, City of London Hospital, Victoria Park, E.
Jones, William Hugh Fenton, 28, Duke Street, Manchester Square, W.
Kilham, Charles Speight, West Pelton, Chester-le-Street.
Orford, John, 27, Villa Road, S.W.
Paget, Charles Edward, 21a, Princes Street, Hanover Square, W.
Palmer, Frederick Stephen, M.D. Brussels, Compton Lodge, East Sheen, S.W.
Power, Charles John, 3, De Laune Street, S.E.
Prangle, Henry John, West Cowes, Isle of Wight.
Rygate, David John, 126, Cannon Street Road, E.
Salmon, Arthur Guy, 37, Granville Square, W.C.
Sheppard, William John, Rotherwood, Oakhill Road, Putney, S.W.
Shore, Thomas William, 43, Beaumont Street, W.
Spitzly, John Henry, 9, Grange Road, N.
Sunderland, Septimus, Montague Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham.
Thring, Edward Thomas, University Hospital, W.C.

Travers, Geoffrey Frederic, 18, Nevern Road, S.W.
Tresidder, Edward Stanley, Guy's Hospital, S.E.
Wakley, Thomas, 96, Redcliffe Gardens, S.W.
Waring, John Arkle, 39, Princes Gardens, S.W.
Winder, William Henry, 255, York Street, Cheetham, Manchester.
Wynter, Walter Essex, Templecombe, St. Margaret's, Twickenham.

APOTHECARIES' HALL.—The following gentlemen passed their Examination in the Science and Practice of Medicine, and received certificates to practise, on Thursday, January 25th, 1883.

Clarke, Charles Frederick, Crescent Road, Plumstead.
Evans, Willmott Henderson, Montagu Place, Russell Square.
Joelling, Charles Langford, The Parade, Epsom.
Murray, Charles Stormont, Cumberland Place, Hyde Park.
Orford, John, Villa Road, Brixton.
Vinrace, Edward Dennis, Hookley, Birmingham.

MEDICAL VACANCIES.

ANTRIM UNION.—Connor Dispensary, Medical Officer. Salary, \$95 per annum, with fees. Election on February 13th.
BEDFORD PROVIDENT DISPENSARY.—Dispenser. Salary, £80 per annum. Applications to the Honorary Secretary.
CASHEL UNION.—Cashel Dispensary, Medical Officer. Salary, £140, with fees. Election on February 14th.
CHARING CROSS HOSPITAL.—Medical Registrar. Applications by February 19th.
CHORLTON-UPON-MEDLOCK DISPENSARY, Manchester. Honorary Surgeon. Applications to the Honorary Secretary, A. Fox, Esq., 53, Princes Street, Manchester.
CLINICAL HOSPITAL AND DISPENSARY FOR CHILDREN, Park Place, Manchester.—Honorary Surgeon. Applications by February 6th.
CLINICAL HOSPITAL AND DISPENSARY FOR CHILDREN, Park Place, Manchester.—Honorary Assistant Medical Officer. Applications by February 6th.
DENTAL HOSPITAL OF LONDON, Leicester Square.—Assistant Dental Surgeon. Applications by February 12th.
DORE UNION, Hereford.—Medical Officer. Salary, £70 per annum. Applications by February 6th.
GLASGOW MATERNITY HOSPITAL.—Out-door Accoucheur. Applications to the Secretary by February 3rd.
HOSPITAL FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN, 3 and 4, Vincent Square, S.W.—Honorary Physician and Honorary Surgeon. Applications to the Honorary Secretary by February 3rd.
KENSINGTON DISPENSARY.—Resident Medical Officer. Salary, £125 per annum. Applications by February 10th.
LONDON FEVER HOSPITAL, Liverpool Road.—Assistant-Physician. Applications by February 3rd.
NEW ROSS UNION.—Felhard Dispensary, Medical Officer. Salary, £115, with fees. Election on February 8th.
PADDINGTON GREEN HOSPITAL FOR SICK CHILDREN.—Honorary Surgeon. Applications to the Honorary Secretary, 12, Bell Street, Edgware Road, by February 8th.
PADDINGTON GREEN HOSPITAL FOR SICK CHILDREN.—Honorary Ophthalmic Surgeon. Applications to the Honorary Secretary, 12, Bell Street, Edgware Road, by February 8th.
QUEEN CHARLOTTE'S LYING-IN HOSPITAL, St. Marylebone Road, W.—Resident Medical Officer. Salary, £60 per annum. Applications by February 9th.
ROYAL MEDICAL BENEVOLENT COLLEGE.—Morgan Annuitant. Applications by the end of February.
ROYAL PORTSMOUTH, PORTSEA, AND GOSPORT HOSPITAL.—House-Surgeon. Salary, £100 per annum. Applications by February 8th.
ROYAL SURREY COUNTY HOSPITAL.—House-Surgeon. Salary, £75 per annum. Applications by February 6th.
SALFORD AND PENDLETON ROYAL HOSPITAL AND DISPENSARY.—Honorary Surgeon. Applications to the Secretary by February 6th.
THE HOSPITAL, St. Albans.—Dispenser. Applications to the Honorary Secretary.
WESTERN GENERAL DISPENSARY.—Honorary Surgeon-Dentist. Applications by February 12th.
WESTMINSTER GENERAL DISPENSARY, Gerrard Street, Soho.—Resident Medical Officer. Salary, £100 per annum. Applications by February 17th.
WESTMINSTER HOSPITAL, Broad Sanctuary, S.W.—Second Dental Surgeon. Applications by February 6th.

MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS.

BAILEY, J. J., L.D.S., appointed Honorary Dental Surgeon to the Denbighshire General Infirmary, vice E. Lloyd-Williams, L.D.S., resigned.
BERRY, John B., M.R.C.S., L.S.A., appointed House-Physician to the Royal Free Hospital.
BOOTE-CLARKSON, James, L.R.C.P. and S.Edin., late Medical Officer Inman Royal Mail Service, appointed Medical Officer to the American United States Mail Service.
BOOTE, E. Hargrave, appointed House-Surgeon to the Seamen's Hospital, Greenwich.
CRICHTON, George, A.M., M.B., L.R.C.S.Ed., appointed Medical Officer of the Twickenham Provident Dispensary.
HUMBLE, George A., M.D., M.R.C.P.Lond., appointed Physician to the Sociedad Universal de Socorro Médico y Beneficencia de Patagonia, Argentina Republic, South America.
KING, David A., M.B., M.R.C.P., appointed Casualty Physician to St. Bartholomew's Hospital, vice Percy Kidd, M.B., appointment expired.

PAGE, F. J. M., B.Sc., appointed Lecturer on Physics to the London Hospital Medical College.

WITHERS, J. S., M.R.C.S., appointed Resident Medical Officer to the St. Mary's Hospital, Manchester, vice W. Bain, L.R.C.S., resigned.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

The charge for inserting announcements of Births, Marriages, and Deaths is 3s. 6d., which should be forwarded in stamps with the announcements.

MARRIAGES.

LEIGH—JONES.—January 24th, at St. John's Church, Cefn Coed, Breconshire, by the Rev. R. Williams, Rector of Vaynor, and the Rev. D. Leigh, Rector of Llanfabon (uncle of the bridegroom), William Watkin Leigh, M.R.C.S.Eng., L.R.C.P., eldest son of John Leigh, Esq., F.R.C.S.Eng., J.P., of Llanfabon, Glamorganshire, to Jessie Louisa, youngest daughter of William Jones, Esq., of Glanrafon, Cefn Coed, Breconshire.

REDMAYNE—BLOMFIELD.—On the 25th instant, at Brothay Church, Ambleside, by the Lord Bishop of Colchester, assisted by the Rev. Prebendary Brook, Rector of Hackney, uncles of the bride, and the Rev. H. S. Callender, Vicar of the Parish, Hugh Redmayne, M.R.C.S.Eng., L.R.C.P.Ed., of Ambleside, second son of Giles Redmayne, of Brathay Hall, to Katharine Mary, second daughter of the late Rev. J. G. Blomfield, Rector of St. Andrew's, Undershaft, London.

SMITH—WALTERS.—On the 17th instant, at Holy Trinity Church, Winchester, by the Rev. John Vodin Walters, M.A., Vicar of St. Columba's, London, formerly Rector of St. Martin's, Salisbury, and cousin of the bride (her father, and also the Rev. Geo. A. Seymour, M.A., Rector of the parish, taking part in the service), James Snowden Smith, M.R.C.S.Eng., and L.R.C.P.Ed., of St. Austell, Cornwall, and son of Mr. Geo. Smith, Solicitor, of Westbourne, Salisbury, to Frances Mary Flimstead, elder daughter of the Rev. Alfred Vaughan Walters, B.A. Oxon, formerly curate of Amesbury and Allington.

DEATH.

SWINSON.—On the 26th instant, at 31, Braithwaite Road, Birmingham, Henry Swinson, L.F.P.S.G. and L.M.

HEALTH OF FOREIGN CITIES.—It appears from statistics, published in the Registrar-General's last weekly return, that the death-rate recently averaged 34.8 per 1000 in the three principal Indian cities; it was 27.4 in Bombay, 39.8 in Madras, and 43.2 in Calcutta. Cholera caused 97 deaths in Calcutta, showing a further increase upon recent weekly numbers, and small-pox 22 in Bombay; fever mortality showed the largest excess in Madras. According to the most recent weekly returns, the average annual death-rate per 1000 persons estimated to be living in twenty of the largest European cities, was 27.9, and was no less than 5.5 above the mean rate last week in twenty-eight of the largest English towns. The death-rate in St. Petersburg was equal to 41.4, and exceeded the rate in recent weeks; the 737 deaths included 28 fatal cases of small-pox and 28 of diphtheria. In three other northern cities—Copenhagen, Stockholm, and Christiania—the death-rate averaged 25.7, and ranged from 18.3 in Christiania to 28.8 in Stockholm; scarlet fever caused 6 deaths in Stockholm, and whooping-cough showed fatal prevalence in Christiania and Copenhagen. In Paris, the death-rate was equal to 25.8, and the deaths included 56 from typhoid fever, 42 from diphtheria, and 14 from small-pox. The 190 deaths in Brussels were equal to a rate of 24.3, and included 3 fatal cases of small-pox, and 3 of "fever". The rate in Geneva did not exceed 21.6. In the three principal Dutch cities—Amsterdam, Rotterdam, and the Hague—the mean death-rate was 28.6, the rate being equal to 28.7 both in Amsterdam and Rotterdam; small-pox caused 4 deaths in Rotterdam. The Registrar-General's table includes nine German and Austrian cities, in which the death-rate averaged 26.1, and ranged from 21.9 in Berlin and 22.2 in Dresden, to 30.6 and 36.2 respectively in Hamburg and Trieste. Small-pox caused 3 deaths both in Vienna and Buda-Pesth; diphtheria continues to show fatal prevalence in most of these German cities, especially in Dresden and in Trieste. The death-rate was equal to 37.4 in Venice, where 9 of the 97 deaths resulted from measles. In four great American cities, the mean death-rate was 25.6; the rate ranging from 22.6 in Brooklyn, to 30.8 in Baltimore. Small-pox caused 79 deaths in Baltimore, showing a further increase upon previous weekly numbers, and 4 in Philadelphia. Diphtheria fatality was excessive in each of these American cities, but most so in Philadelphia.

WHAT A BLIND MAN SEES.—The French scientist, Plateau, who for the last forty years, had been totally blind, has published a little paper on the sensations which he experiences in his eyes. He states that he has constantly in his eyes the sensations of light; his field of vision is divided into spaces, of which some are very clear, and others sombre or almost black. These spaces are not precisely limited, but run into each other at their borders; but what is remarkable is, that their general tint alternates between grey and reddish. For example, if it be grey that M. Plateau perceives now, in a few hours it will be red; then, a few hours later, the grey again and

so on. The reddish tint is that obtained by mixing pale rose colour or rather flesh colour, with a certain quantity of black. The relative arrangement of these different spaces is always the same, but the intensity of their tints varies. The central space shows itself sometimes very clear, and sometimes very sombre; above and below, as far as the limits of the visual field, there is sometimes clearness, sometimes obscurity. It is the same with the space to the left; there is generally a vertical, almost black band, and the space to the right of that, as far as its limit, is almost always clear and ruddy. These appearances seem, to M. Plateau, to fill the whole extent of his ordinary visual field. He believes the distance at which they are small. These same appearances follow all the movements of the eyes, as if they resulted from a modification of the retinas. It appears to M. Plateau that the two eyes do not participate in the same manner in the tints in question; but he is absolutely incapable of distinguishing what belongs to the one from what belongs to the other. He has not been able to establish any coincidence between the changes of the general tint and the work of digestion.

ST. JOHN'S AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION.—The certificates which have been awarded by the St. John's Ambulance Association to the members of the local centre of this association, have been distributed by the Princess Christian at the Windsor Guildhall. The Rev. R. Tahourdin, after thanking the Princess for her presence, and the interest she manifested in the association, alluded to the very valuable assistance which the members had received from the instruction contained in Her Royal Highness's translation of "First Aid to the Injured," a manual by Professor Esmarch, of Kiel, who is brother-in-law of Princess Christian. At an examination held last month, ten members of the Windsor centre passed, and fifteen of them had the honour of receiving their certificates from Her Royal Highness, in the presence of the company assembled in the hall. The remainder had already received certificates of proficiency. The Princess returned at the close of the brief ceremony to Cumberland Lodge.

NEW HOSPITAL FOR NORTH LONDON.—The first general meeting of the Provisional Council for obtaining increased hospital accommodation in the northern districts of London, has been held in the Highbury Athenæum. The report of the Executive Committee, bearing on the dispensaries and other medical charities of North London, having been received, it was resolved that the time had come for the active promotion of the new scheme. This aims at providing largely increased hospital accommodation for the North of London on new lines of management, its principal features being the combination of special departments with a general hospital, and the adoption of a graduated pay system. It was further resolved that a meeting should be held after Easter, at which the project should be definitely brought before the public.

FRENCH HOSPITAL.—The fifteenth annual dinner in aid of the funds of this institution has been held at Willis's Rooms. The Chairman, in the course of some remarks, said that this hospital, which was opened on December 1st, 1867, for the relief of distressed foreigners of all nations, and enlarged in 1878, now contained nine wards; four for men, two for women, one for children, one lying-in, and one for accidents, besides a consulting-room and a dispensary. It was attended by the leading French medical men of the metropolis, by a resident house-surgeon, and by sisters of charity, who act as nurses. Since the day of its opening, it had afforded relief to 2,929 in-patients, and 69,794 out-patients, divided into no less than twenty-four nationalities, for, although French in name, it was quite cosmopolitan in character. The Lord Mayor and Mr. Alderman Sheriff De Keyser responded to the toasts, and Mr. Rimmel read a list of subscriptions collected during the evening, which amounted to about £1,200.

MR. J. GRAHAM'S BEQUEST.—It may be interesting to note that of the £98,000 left by the late Mr. James Graham, to be devoted to charitable purposes, his executors have shown a wise discretion in distributing £50,000 of this great bequest among the medical charities of the metropolis. This sum is apportioned as follows, among 48 hospitals and other kindred institutions—General hospitals, £19,500; Special hospitals: 5 Consumption, £6,750; 3 Ophthalmic, £1,750; 1 Orthopaedic, £250; 1 Skin, £500; 6 Women, £2,750; 4 Children, £4,500; 2 Lying-in, £750; 6 Miscellaneous, £3,500; 3 Lock and Fever, £2,000; 1 Cancer, £1,000, 2 Incurables, £3,000; 1 General Dispensary, £500; 3 Convalescent Homes, £1,500; 2 Nursing Institutions, £750; 2 Truss and Surgical Aid Societies, £1,000.

DONATION.—The sum of £1,000 has been presented by an anonymous donor to the Sick Children's Hospital in Aberdeen.

OPERATION DAYS AT THE HOSPITALS.

MONDAY......Metropolitan Free, 2 P.M.—St. Mark's, 2 P.M.—Royal London Ophthalmic, 11 A.M.—Royal Westminster Ophthalmic, 1.30 P.M.—Royal Orthopaedic, 2 P.M.—Hospital for Women, 2 P.M.

TUESDAY......Guy's, 1.30 P.M.—Westminster 2 P.M.—Royal London Ophthalmic, 11 A.M.—Royal Westminster Ophthalmic, 1.30 P.M.—West London, 3 P.M.—St. Mark's, 9 A.M.—Cancer Hospital, Brompton, 3 P.M.

WEDNESDAY......St. Bartholomew's, 1.30 P.M.—St. Mary's, 1.30 P.M.—Middlesex, 1 P.M.—University College, 2 P.M.—London, 2 P.M.—Royal London Ophthalmic, 11 A.M.—Great Northern, 2 P.M.—Samaritan Free Hospital for Women and Children, 2.30 P.M.—Royal Westminster Ophthalmic, 1.30 P.M.—St. Thomas's, 1.30 P.M.—St. Peter's, 2 P.M.—National Orthopaedic, 10 A.M.

THURSDAY......St. George's, 1 P.M.—Central London Ophthalmic, 1 P.M.—Charing Cross, 2 P.M.—Royal London Ophthalmic, 11 A.M.—Hospital for Diseases of the Throat, 2 P.M.—Royal Westminster Ophthalmic, 1.30 P.M.—Hospital for Women, 2 P.M.—London, 2 P.M.—North-west London, 2.30 P.M.

FRIDAY......King's College, 2 P.M.—Royal Westminster Ophthalmic, 1.30 P.M.—Royal London Ophthalmic, 11 A.M.—Central London Ophthalmic, 2 P.M.—Royal South London Ophthalmic, 2 P.M.—Guy's, 1.30 P.M.—St. Thomas's (Ophthalmic Department), 2 P.M.—East London Hospital for Children, 2 P.M.

SATURDAY......St. Bartholomew's, 1.30 P.M.—King's College, 1 P.M.—Royal London Ophthalmic, 11 A.M.—Royal Westminster Ophthalmic, 1.30 P.M.—St. Thomas's, 1.30 P.M.—Royal Free, 9 A.M. and 2 P.M.—London, 2 P.M.

HOURS OF ATTENDANCE AT THE LONDON HOSPITALS.

CHARGING CROSS.—Medical and Surgical, daily, 1; Obstetric, Tu. F., 1.30; Skin, M. Th., Dental, M. W. F., 9.30.

GUY'S.—Medical and Surgical, daily, exc. Tu., 1.30; Obstetric, M. W. F., 1.30; Eye, M. W., 1.30; Tu. F., 12.30; Ear, Tu. F., 12.30; Skin, Tu., 12.30; Dental, Tu. Th. F., 12.

KING'S COLLEGE.—Medical, daily, 2; Surgical, daily, 1.30; Obstetric, Tu. Th. S., 2; o.p., M. W. F., 12.30; Eye, M. Th. 1; Ophthalmic Department, W. 1; Ear, Th. 2; Skin, Th., Throat, Th., 3; Dental, Tu. F., 10.

LONDON.—Medical, daily, exc. S., 2; Surgical, daily, 1.30 and 2; Obstetric, M. Th., 1.30; o.p., W. S., 1.30; Eye, W. S., 9; Ear, S., 9.30; Skin, W., 9; Dental, Tu., 8.

MIDDLESEX.—Medical and Surgical, daily, 1; Obstetric, Tu. F., 1.30; o.p., W. S., 1.30; Eye, W. S., 8.30; Ear, and Throat, Tu., 9; Skin, F., 4; Dental, daily, 9.

ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S.—Medical and Surgical, daily, 1.30; Obstetric, Tu. Th. S., 2; o.p., W. S., 9; Eye, Tu. W. Th. S., 2; Ear, M., 2.30; Skin, F., 1.30; Larynx, W., 11.30; Orthopaedic, F., 12.30; Dental, Tu. F., 9.

ST. GEORGE'S.—Medical and Surgical, M. Tu. F. S., 1; Obstetric, Tu. S., 1; o.p., Th., 2; Eye, W. S., 2; Ear, Tu., 2; Skin, Th., 1; Throat, M., 2; Orthopaedic, W., 2; Dental, Tu. S., 9; Th., 1.

ST. MARY'S.—Medical and Surgical, daily, 1.45; Obstetric, Tu. F., 9.30; o.p., Tu. F., 2; Eye, Tu. F., 9.15; Ear, M. Th., 2; Skin, Tu. Th., 1.30; Throat, M. Th., 1.45; Dental, W. S., 9.30.

ST. THOMAS'S.—Medical and Surgical, daily, except Sat., 2; Obstetric, M. Th., 2; o.p., W. F., 12.30; Eye, M. Th., 2; o.p., daily, except Sat., 1.30; Ear, Tu., 12.30; Skin, Th., 12.30; Throat, Tu., 12.30; Children, S., 12.30; Dental, Tu. F., 10.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE.—Medical and Surgical, daily, 1 to 2; Obstetric, M. Tu. Th. F., 1.30; Eye, M. Tu. Th. F., 2; Ear, S., 1.30; Skin, W., 1.45; S., 9.15; Throat, Th., 2.30; Dental, W., 10.30.

WESTMINSTER.—Medical and Surgical, daily, 1.30; Obstetric, Tu. F., 3; Eye, M. Th., 2.30; Ear, Tu. F., 9; Skin, Th., 1; Dental, W. S., 9.15.

MEETINGS OF SOCIETIES DURING THE NEXT WEEK.

MONDAY.—Medical Society of London, 8.30 P.M. Dr. Sansom will deliver the third Lettsomian Lecture on the Treatment of some Forms of Valvular Diseases of the Heart—Mitral Stenosis—Lesions of Aortic Valves.—Odontological Society of Great Britain, 8 P.M. Inaugural Address by the President. Casual Communications: Mr. Sewill will open a discussion on the Proofs of the Present Theories of Caries in the Teeth. Mr. Stevenson will explain his Electric Lamp.

TUESDAY.—Pathological Society of London, 8.30 P.M. Dr. Mahomed: Clot from Pulmonary Artery; Cancer of Undescended Testis. Dr. Norman Moore: Deep Ulceration of Cranium; Rheumatic Arthritis. Dr. Samuel West: Tubercle Bacilli; Aneurysm of Arch of Aorta (two cases). Mr. Sutton: Rickets in a Lizard. Mr. Godlee: Unilateral Anophthalmos (living specimen). Dr. Silcock: Aneurysm of Abdominal Aorta. Mr. Lockwood: Abnormality of the Bones and Muscles of Shoulder-Joint.

WEDNESDAY.—Obstetrical Society of London, 8 P.M. Annual Meeting. Election of Officers and Council. Specimens will be shown. President's Address. Dr. Godson: Clinical Cases of Interest, with Remarks thereon.—Epidemiological Society of London, 8 P.M. Deputy Surgeon-General A. C. C. De Renzy: The Sanitary State of the British Troops in Northern India.

FRIDAY.—Clinical Society of London, 8.30 P.M. Mr. Shuter: On Subperiosteal Amputation at the Hip-Joint. Mr. Bennett May: On a Case of Nephrolithotomy; Stone weighing 473 grains; Complete Recovery. Dr. J. K. Fowler: On Two Cases of Pseudo-hypertrophic Paralysis in Adults (patients exhibited). Mr. Godlee: On a Case of Fracture of the Radius and Dislocation Forwards of the Ulna at the Wrist, in which the lower end of the latter Bone was removed to effect Reduction (patient to be shown).

LETTERS, NOTES, AND ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

COMMUNICATIONS respecting editorial matters should be addressed to the Editor, 161A, Strand, W.C., London; those concerning business matters, non-delivery of the JOURNAL, etc., should be addressed to the Manager, at the Office, 161A, Strand, W.C., London.

AUTHORS desiring reprints of their articles published in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, are requested to communicate beforehand with the Manager, 161A, Strand, W.C.

CORRESPONDENTS who wish notice to be taken of their communications, should authenticate them with their names—of course not necessarily for publication.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.—We shall be much obliged to Medical Officers of Health if they will, on forwarding their Annual and other Reports, favour us with *Duplicate Copies*.

CORRESPONDENTS not answered, are requested to look to the Notices to Correspondents of the following week.

WE CANNOT UNDERTAKE TO RETURN MANUSCRIPTS NOT USED.

ON A BETTER PROVISION FOR MARINE MEDICAL OFFICERS.

SIR,—May I call your kind attention to a most important matter? The existing provision for a valuable and truly deserving class of men, the medical officers of the mercantile marine, is perfectly insufficient in respect of their actual services, their antecedents, and position as gentlemen. To them is, to a large extent, confided, or ought to be confided, the material welfare, health, and the prevention of disease regarded, of all those who fare by sea. The number of persons afloat on the immense ocean is always very great. They are liable to all the diseases which beset human beings on dry land, with the further risks that the sea entails. The present pay of medical men in the mercantile marine is wholly inadequate. They are at the mercy of owners, who in too many instances screw down their remuneration to the merest pittance. They are debarred of any control over those conditions, such as food-supplies, ventilation, clothing, lodging, and sanitary appliances, which subserve, or at least ought to subserve, human health and well-being; and if they venture upon any suggestions that involve trouble or expense, they incur the disfavour, if not the enmity, of employers. All this ought to be changed by Act of Parliament. It ought not to be optional to mulct the reasonable remuneration of marine medical officers. The pay ought to be on a parity with that of the highest class of army and navy surgeons, with a further allowance set apart for superannuation, or otherwise a life assurance, so that the medical man, when, owing to disease, accident, or advanced years, he should no longer be able for the exercise of his profession, would not be thrown adrift without resource. The assurance or superannuation ought not, I submit, to be less than a thousand pounds, and the minimum of pay, say, twenty pounds a month, and at least that sum for any run, however short. But these are matters of detail which could be arranged by a medical commission. I only desire to suggest that the interests of a most deserving and hardworking class of men should not be literally cast overboard. The labourer is worthy of his hire; and science, humanity, nay common morality, are alike insulted in regard of the wretched pecuniary return now awarded medical officers serving in the great commercial marine.—Yours, etc.,
Belfast, January 15th, 1883. HENRY MAC CORMAC, M.D.

SUICIDES.

SIR,—Would you kindly inform me where I can obtain reliable statistics showing the number of suicides committed in Great Britain during the last ten years? also the different ages and sex, etc.? I enclose my card, and remain, your obedient servant, M.B.

* * * Much statistical information respecting the suicides in England and Wales during the ten years 1871-80 is to be found in the Registrar-General's Forty-third Annual Report, relating mainly to the year 1880. These reports are published by Messrs. Eyre and Spottiswoode, Queen's Printers, of East Harding Street, Fetter Lane, London.

CHLORAL IN ALBUMINURIA.

SIR,—Mr. Thomas Wilson's paper in the JOURNAL of December 23rd is one of great interest, and the profession is undoubtedly indebted to him for bringing forward his observations. Mr. Wilson, however, says: "No explanation is offered as to how the chloral was followed by such beneficial results." Will you allow me to suggest one?

Chloral lessens arterial tension, and it is in this property, I venture to think, that its value resides. In kidney-diseases, accompanied with albuminuria, we have always high arterial tension. Partly, no doubt, the effect, this factor must necessarily (by delaying the passage of the blood through the renal capillaries, and at the same time increasing the pressure to which the vascular contents are subjected), act as a persistent cause. That this explanation is a probable one, is shown by the fact that several agents which have recently been much praised for their efficacy in albuminuria, viz., nitro-glycerin, amylnitrite, and hydrocyanic acid, are all possessed of this property of lowering arterial tension. At the same time, considering the destructive effect of chloral upon the red blood-corpuscles, is it not a somewhat dangerous remedy to use freely in a case where cyanosis indicates an already degenerated blood-condition?—I am, yours faithfully, KENNETH W. MILLIGAN.
Kineton, December 26th, 1882.

A YOUNG SHETLANDER will see, from a notice published in our Notices columns of the week before last, that the information which he is good enough to send us had already reached us, and been acted upon. We are indebted to him for his communication.

GERMAN TRANSLATIONS.

SIR,—The letter which you were good enough to publish for me in reference to obtaining assistance in making abstracts and translations from the Italian, brought me many applications which have fully answered the end in view. I am now in want of assistance in translating and abstracting from the German, and should be glad to hear from any medical man well versed in the German language who would like to undertake the work of translating German medical literature.—I am, etc., X.

A QUESTION OF TREATMENT.

SIR,—May not the "supposed" cause be the "real" one, and the case be one of local rheumatism. Acting on this supposition, I would suggest that "Dum Spiro, Spero" should try the use of a liniment composed of one part of tincture of iodine and three parts of soap-liniment, or else the smearing with oleate of mercury and morphia, five per cent., locally, and the internal administration of syrup of iodide of iron in drachm-doses three times a day.

Some time since, I treated the case of a boy who had rheumatism of the feet due to prolonged paddling in the water, by applying to the feet a bandage soaked in a lotion of potash nitrate and opium.—Yours, etc., H. A. L.

SIR,—I would suggest to "Dum Spiro, Spero" to give to Mrs. F. tincture of actea racemosa twenty minims every four hours. I believe it to be well worthy of a trial. I had a similar case some time ago, in which it was rapidly successful.—Yours faithfully, ESPERANZA.

SIR,—Having read the note "A Question of Treatment," which appeared in the number of the JOURNAL for January 20th (p. 140), I beg to be allowed to add some remarks which may prove of use to "Dum Spiro, Spero."

"The patient is otherwise in fair health, but for phthisis pulmonalis, which, however, is at present quiescent." Even if the phthisis be absolutely quiescent, this fact would not prove that it was not connected with the affection of the foot, or that it could not be the sole cause of that affection; as injury, rheumatism, and syphilis, are out of the question, the probability of phthisis playing the chief part in the case becomes all the more plausible. The absence of signs of peristitis does not exclude osteitis, or some degenerative change in the bone of similar character (*vide* Howship). If phthisis be known to exist, there is no further reason to be doubtful of the pathology of the case. The treatment should be directed accordingly.

However, there is yet another combination possible, which must be taken into serious consideration, and that is the presence of hysteria. As far as I can judge from a verbal description of the case, this supposition is rather preferable to the first.—I am, etc., WILHELM VON VRAGASSY, M.D.
Hôtel Tirol, Innsbruck, Austria.

GERM-THORY OF DISEASE.

SIR,—I recently met with the following interesting passage in *Sturm's Reflections*—Sturm was a Professor at Magdeburg, born 1750.

"Very eminent physicians have maintained that those disorders which are attended with blotches and pimples, and even certain fevers, are occasioned by worms. It is very likely that the atmosphere is often peopled with animals, the extreme smallness of which prevents them from being seen. Who knows whether that trembling motion sometimes seen in the air during summer may not be produced by millions of insects swarming in the air?"—Very truly yours, H. M. M.

D. C. C.—The question is not one which we can answer upon an *ex parte* statement. It is always the duty of a professional man to keep his word.

P. Q. K. should inquire through Williams and Norgate, or some other foreign bookseller.

SMOKING.

SIR,—I am a moderate smoker, and prefer a cigarette, but I am told that a cigarette is more injurious than a cigar or a pipe. Will any of your readers tell me what part of the cigarette is injurious, and if it is the paper? I presume the paper of a cigarette is simply rice-paper.—Your obedient servant, M.R.C.S.

INQUIRER asks: In a medical partnership, is it the usual custom to add in the rent of houses, taxes, etc., to the working expenses of the practice, before dividing the nett profits? or does each partner provide and pay for his own house, independent of the practice, or of his share in the practice?

* * We have obtained answers to this question from two leading medical agents. The opinion of the first is that each partner should pay his own rent, and that it should not be charged on the revenue of the practice. The opinion of our second authority is that the rent of surgery and consulting-rooms should be charged to the firm, and nothing more.

PALMAR PSORIASIS.

SIR,—In answer to a communication of "Member" in your issue of January 20th, I would recommend him to try for his case of palmar psoriasis free blistering with emplastrum cantharidis liquidum (Smith's). I have had several intractable cases of the same, in all of which I first used chrysophanic acid, then that combined with subcutaneous injections of Fowler's solution, but all to no purpose. The treatment mentioned cured the disease in several instances.—Yours, etc., R. CALDWELL SMITH, M.A., M.B.
Motherwell, N.B., January 25th, 1883.

SIR,—I would suggest that "A Member" should try an alkaline lotion, e.g., bicarbonate of soda, dilute hydrocyanic acid, and glycerine. A patient of mine is improving fast under this treatment, when all the remedies named by "A Member" have proved futile.—Yours, etc., H. A. L.

DR. NEALE'S CHEMICAL LUNG AT ADEN.

SIR,—I fail to see how Mr. Colson can charge me with inaccuracy in my description of the experiment with the chemical lung at Aden. I transcribe the *ipsissima verba* of my informant. "The case in which the punkah was tried was that of a man suffering from phagedenic ulceration of the leg—a disease which gives rise to the most foul and offensive odours, so offensive to other patients in the ordinary wards that it was necessary to isolate him in a small room. It was in this that the punkah was tried with the most beneficial effects, the air being kept odourless and inoffensive so long as the punkah was working; all other disinfectants were discontinued, with the exception of a charcoal-poultice immediately over the ulcer, of itself quite incompetent to prevent smell."

I presumed the small room was a small ward, and that the patient rendered the atmosphere unbearable without the punkah, which was placed after the man was there. I can assure Mr. Colson that, had the patient remained in the larger ward, he would have found the ventilation insufficient, while, with the aid of the punkah, all would have been pleasant.—Yours obediently,

RICHARD NEALE, M.D.Lond.

60, Boundary Road, South Hampstead, N.W., January 27th, 1883.

SIR,—If any gentleman has a copy of my lecture on Puerperal Fever, of which I distributed all that remained of the first edition some months ago, and will kindly send it to me, I shall be greatly obliged.—Yours, etc., ROBERT J. LEE.
Savile Row, W.

COMMUNICATIONS, LETTERS, etc., have been received from:

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Burdett's Official Intelligence for 1883. By Henry C. Burdett, F.S.S. London: Eppingham Wilson, E. Couchman and Co.; For Europe and the Colonies: Sampson, Low, Marston, and Co. 1883.

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