

## Association Intelligence.

### BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION: ANNUAL MEETING.

The Thirty-first Annual Meeting of the British Medical Association will be holden at Bristol, on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, the 5th, 6th, and 7th days of August.

PHILIP H. WILLIAMS, M.D., *Gen. Sec.*

Worcester, April 21st, 1863.

### BRANCH MEETINGS TO BE HELD.

NAME OF BRANCH.	PLACE OF MEETING.	DATE.
BATH AND BRISTOL. [Ordinary.]	York House, Bath.	Thursday, April 30, 7.15 p.m.
METROPOL. COUNTIES. [Special General.]	37, Soho Square.	Tuesday, May 5, 4 p.m.

### EAST KENT DISTRICT MEDICAL MEETINGS.

The next meeting will be held at the Rose Hotel, Canterbury, on Thursday, May 7th, at 3 p.m.  
Dinner will be ordered at 5 p.m.

THOMAS BOYCOTT, M.D., *Hon. Secretary.*

Canterbury, April 20th, 1863.

### MIDLAND BRANCH: QUARTERLY MEETING.

A QUARTERLY meeting of this Branch was held in the Board-room of the Lincoln County Hospital on March 27th; T. SYMPSON, Esq., President, in the chair. Eight members and visitors were also present.

*Chopart's Operation.* The PRESIDENT, after referring to various matters of interest, said he wished particularly to dwell on the subject of a paper entitled, On the Superiority of Chopart's Operation and Excision of the Ankle in all cases admitting of their Performance, read by Mr. Hancock before the Medical Society of London, on January 5th last, as being at the present time of great importance to all practical surgeons, and of special interest to the members of the Branch from two of the operations therein considered (amputation of the foot after Syme's and after Pirogoff's methods) having recently been performed with success in the hospital, in the Board-room of which they were then assembled. The President gave a summary both of the contents of Mr. Hancock's paper, and of the discussion following the reading of it; and then proceeded to remark on the energetic manner in which Mr. Syme, in his *Observations on Clinical Surgery*, deprecates the so-called "improvements" in his mode of amputating the foot. Having met his objections, he showed that Pirogoff's was not the useless operation Mr. Syme appeared to consider it, read brief notes of a successful case lately under his own care, and concluded by calling the attention of his hearers, as showing the importance attached to the consideration of the subject, to a recent discussion at the Pathological Society on the relative merits of the different operations alluded to.

*Papers.* The following papers were read and discussed:—

1. Dislocation of the Knee-joint. By C. Brook, Esq.
2. Puerperal Convulsions. By S. Lowe, Esq.
- 3 Case of Inflammation of Left Femoral Vein, followed by the formation of an Abscess round the Right Shoulder-joint; Symptoms of Pyæmia; Recovery. By G. Mitchinson, L.K. & Q.P.I.

*New Medical Society.* A proposition was made by Mr. SYMPSON, that a medical society be formed for Lincoln and the neighbourhood, and some rules were adopted.

The members were afterwards entertained by Mr. Broadbent at his residence.

## Reports of Societies.

### ROYAL MEDICAL AND CHIRURGICAL SOCIETY.

TUESDAY, APRIL 14TH, 1863.

RICHARD PARTRIDGE, ESQ., F.R.S., President, in the Chair.

THE SUCCESSFUL TREATMENT OF SEVERE STRICTURE OF THE URETHRA BY GRADUAL DISTENSION AT A SINGLE SITTING. BY HENRY THOMPSON, ESQ.

It was the author's object to illustrate and explain a new method of treating severe or obstinate strictures of the urethra; i.e., those which are little benefited by dilatation. Its novelty did not consist in the mere production of some alteration or improvement in existing mechanical contrivances, but in the adoption of a mode of action on the stricture itself, different from those which characterised any of the other systems of treatment pursued at the present day. The author showed in what it differed from dilatation, simple and continuous; from rupture or "instantaneous treatment;" from cauterisation; and from incisions. He illustrated the proceeding, which he distinguished by the term "gradual distension," and described the instrument employed to accomplish it.

By the process in question the strictured part of the urethra only was acted upon, and this not to a degree short of, but up to or even beyond the natural calibre of the canal, wherever the stricture might be situated. All this was accomplished at one sitting, but with gentleness and slowness, so as to avoid unnecessary rupture; the degree of distension being regulated with absolute certainty, and its extent indicated with accuracy, by apparatus in the handle of the instrument employed.

The object of the operator was not to rupture, but to over-distend the fibrous tissue constituting the stricture, so as to destroy, or at all events to impair, its natural tendency to contract. He aimed at attaining that result which occurs from the practice of over-distending vital tissues elsewhere—viz., to impair or destroy their contractility.

The class of patients for which this proceeding appeared to be best adapted was described, and illustrative cases were appended.

The instrument consists of two long and narrow steel rods, accurately applied throughout their entire length by the single plane surface which each possesses. The external surface of the rod is convex, so that together they form a nearly cylindrical instrument, but tapering towards the lower extremity, where they are closely united. At the opposite or upper end they are also united, and are surmounted by a handle resembling that of an ordinary sound. This handle is attached to a screw with a very fine thread, which being turned, causes the two rods to diverge very slowly and very gradually from each other at a given spot, about six inches from the handle. When the separation of the blades is effected, an index, placed near the upper end and connected with some numerals on a disc, shows the exact degree of extension made, by pointing out that number of the catheter-scale to which the distension existing at that moment is equivalent. The general form and contour of the instrument is that of a slightly curved catheter. When the screw handle is turned, the two rods separate, so as to form a long oval or spindle-shaped figure, the

midwifery is always bad, applies with as much certainty to the management of twin-cases as to any other occurrence, normal or abnormal, which may present itself during the process of parturition. Forty-two cases of twins and one of triplets, occurring in a practice of over one thousand nine hundred cases of midwifery,\* have enabled me to test the value of the application of this doctrine to the cases in question. I have on record instances where eight, ten, twelve, sixteen, and twenty-four hours intervened between the birth of the first and second child, and the labour terminating with safety, both to the mother and children. In the case of triplets, a period of eight hours elapsed after the rupture of the second bag of membranes and the birth of the second foetus; version was required for the third, it being an arm presentation; the mother did well.

The period assigned as the period of inaction by writers on midwifery, is too various and indefinite to be acted upon with any degree of confidence, and the requirement would be better met by the proposition,—that no manual interference is necessary or justifiable until warranted by some deviation from the natural course of labour, which to the experienced accoucheur would at once declare the necessity of its adoption—such as abnormal presentation of the second child, hæmorrhage, convulsions, threatened exhaustion, etc.

In conclusion, I may mention that the utility of the ergot of rye is never more strikingly exemplified than in its administration in full and repeated doses in these cases; but I have not found its action to be in proportion to the nausea and vomiting it produces, as lately suggested by Dr. Graily Hewitt.

I am, etc., WILLIAM COOPER.

Bury St. Edmunds, March 31st, 1863.

## THE DIETARY OF THE AGRICULTURAL POPULATION.

LETTER FROM EDWARD SMITH, M.D., F.R.S.

SIR,—Will you permit me to ask my professional brethren living in agricultural districts to favour me privately with a statement as to any locality with which they may be acquainted, where the dietary is very poor, and also that of any other class of persons who habitually live upon a very low dietary?

I am, etc., EDWARD SMITH.

16, Queen Anne Street, W., April 1863.

\* The large proportion of twin-cases—about 1 in 45—in our correspondent's practice, is remarkable. Dr. F. Churchill gives 1 in 75 as the average frequency. EDITOR.

THE RELATIONS OF HEIGHT AND WEIGHT IN THE HUMAN BODY. In the *Statistical Society's Journal*, of March last, a very interesting table is given, showing the growth of the human body from 18 up to 30 years of age, indicated by weight and height. The averages were taken from upwards of 4,800 observations at all ages. Thus, a lad of 18, if he be 5ft. 4in. in height, speaking in round numbers, ought also to weigh somewhere about 8st. 10lbs. Given the age of 21, and the height 5ft. 5in., he should weigh 9st. 5lbs. Ascending still further, and assuming the age to be 25, and the height 5ft. 6in., the weight would be 10st. 5lbs.; and at 30 years of age, with a height of 5ft. 6in., we ought to have the result 10st. 11lb. In fact, so clear and demonstrable is this "law of increase in the growth of man," as determined by very extensive measurements taken at different times by scientific gentlemen, that we can almost work, as it were, in a rule of three sum, any one condition we like. Taking the converse of what we have already exhibited, we may say that if a lad of 19 weighs 9st. 4lbs., he ought to measure in height 5ft. 4in. and a little more; if at 22, 9st. 12lbs. he should be 5ft. 6in. in height, and so on. (*London Med. Rev.*)

## Medical News.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS. At a general meeting of the Fellows, held on Monday, April 20th, the following gentleman, having undergone the necessary examination, was duly admitted a member of the College:—

Anthonisz, Peter Daniel, M.D., St. Andrew's, Ceylon

At the same meeting,

Nolloth, Edward,

previously an extra Licentiate of the College, was also admitted a member.

Also, at this meeting, the following gentlemen, having undergone the necessary examination, and satisfied the College of their proficiency in the science and practice of medicine, surgery, and midwifery, were duly admitted to practise physic as Licentiates of the College:—

Adams, Thomas Rutherford, Kilmogazny, co. Kilkenny  
Barber, Henry, M.D. St. Andrew's, Ulverstone, Lancashire  
Bisshopp, James, I, Lawn Place, South Lambeth  
Blunt, Thomas, Wigston Magna, Leicestershire  
Boulland, Alfred Brocard, Merthyr Tydfil, South Wales  
Campbell, Hugh, St. Paul's Grove, Canonbury  
Carter, Thomas, Richmond, Yorkshire  
Ellerton, John, M.D. St. Andrew's, Wakefield, Yorkshire  
Forshall, Francis Hyde, Woburn Place, Russell Square  
Harley, Edward, King's College  
Hott, Edward, Bromley, Kent  
Lyle, Thomas, Stratton, Cornwall  
Mackintosh, Hugh R. D., The College, St. Bartholomew's Hosp.  
Rawlins, William Peter, M.D. St. Andrew's, 2, Francis Terrace, Kentish Town  
Reynolds, John, Truro, Cornwall  
Roberts, John, Kidwelly, Carmarthenshire  
Steward, Joseph Septimus, Fensmore Hill, Cumberland  
Wiltshire, Alfred, M.D. St. Andrew's, Malvern, Worcestershire

APOTHECARIES' HALL. On April 16th, the following Licentiates were admitted:—

Beviss, Charles, Sydling, Dorset  
Fisher, Stephen Winter, Cotham Park, Bristol  
Greaves, Charles Augustus, Wardwick, Derby  
Keppele, Thomas, Newcastle-on-Tyne  
Lewis, David, Bronayron, Llangatho  
Mahony, Edward, Richmond Road, Dalston

At the same Court, the following passed the first examination:—

Jayner, Henry, St. Thomas's Hospital  
Snook, James Walbridge, St. Bartholomew's Hospital  
Warburton, Joseph Wilkinson, Royal Infirmary, Liverpool

## APPOINTMENTS.

BENNETT, Robert, M.D., appointed Coroner for the High Peak Division of Derbyshire.

LODGE, Robert T., M.D., appointed Surgeon to the Liverpool Pilots' Benevolent Society.

\*MITCHINSON, George, L.K. & Q.C.P.I., appointed one of the Physicians to the Lincoln Lunatic Hospital.

WALKER, William, L.R.C.P. Ed., appointed Paid Medical Officer to the Metropolitan Benefit Societies' Asylum.

## ROYAL NAVY.

GRAHAM, William, Esq., Assistant-Surgeon, to the *Orontes*.

MESSER, A. B., M.D., Assistant-Surgeon, to the *Curacoa*.

PICKEN, Richard, M.D., Surgeon, to the *Curacoa*.

SADSEN, John C., Esq., Surgeon, to the *Orontes*.

## BIRTH.

MACKIE. At Insh, N.B., on April 10th, 1863, the wife of \*George Mackie, M.B., of a daughter.

## DEATHS.

BAINBRIDGE, John N., M.D., at 86, St. Martin's Lane, aged 63, on April 16.

BIRTHWISTLE, John, Esq., Surgeon, at Old Ford, Bow, aged 63, on April 11.

CHALK. On April 17th, at 3, Nottingham Terrace, Regent's Park, Emily, wife of W. O. Chalk, Esq., Surgeon.

OKE. On April 17th, at Southampton, aged 79, Anne, wife of \*W. S. Oke, M.D.

WELLS, Richard F., Esq., Surgeon, at the Isle of Portland, on April 9.

## THE CASE OF DR. WATERS OF CHESTER.

MEETING OF MEMBERS OF THE LIVERPOOL  
MEDICAL INSTITUTION.

A SPECIAL general meeting of the members of this institution was held on Monday evening, April 20th, "to take into consideration the best mode of expressing sympathy with Dr. Edward Waters of Chester, in reference to a late trial which has taken place in that city." Dr. Vose presided.

Dr. McNAUGHT moved the first resolution:—

"That this meeting desire to express their hearty congratulations to Dr. Edward Waters of Chester on the result of a recent trial in that city, which leaves his character unsullied after sustaining attacks which have seldom been equalled for persevering malignity." He said it was scarcely necessary to express an opinion as to the malignancy of that prosecution, or rather persecution. That any one, and especially a man of Dr. Waters's high social and professional position, should be exposed to such base calumny in the exercise of pure Samaritan-like benevolence, and upon such wicked and worthless testimony, was truly deplorable. But what was Dr. Waters's case yesterday might be that of his (Dr. Macnaught's) hearers to-morrow; and some, perhaps, might not possess either the moral courage or the pecuniary resources necessary for the establishment of an insulted character, as he fought for and effected. Dr. Waters, therefore, richly deserved the congratulations of the whole profession for his energetic and manly conduct in resisting all attempts at a compromise. In fighting his own battle, gentlemen, he had also been fighting that of the profession; and after such an *exposé*, and such a triumphant verdict, it was to be hoped that credulous elderly vestals would not be so ready to place implicit faith in the cunningly devised tales of hysterical lascivious girls. If lawyers were better acquainted with the deception practised and the ingenuity often exhibited on points of immorality in some cases of that Protean malady, they would be less disposed to undertake such cases as that of Bromwich v. Waters.

Mr. BICKERSTETH seconded the resolution. Long before the trial took place, offers of compromise were made to Dr. Waters, and urgently pressed upon him. Few men could have resisted the desire to avoid such a trial; but Dr. Waters, conscious of his moral rectitude, declined to submit to any compromise after the aspersions that had been made upon his character. Any medical man might any day find himself in a similar position, if, unfortunately, he should happen to have been consulted by some designing woman. In private practice, medical men are frequently called upon to make private examinations when entirely alone with their patients. The presence of a third party on such occasions is often offensive to the feelings of a woman. It might be politic to propose that a friend should attend; yet he thought it was generally unnecessary. It would often not only be cruel to the patient, but derogatory to our position as confidential advisers to insist upon the presence of a third party. Our position is, indeed, dangerous; but it is rendered doubly dangerous when, as in the late trial, members of our profession (one of whom does not hesitate to state that he felt convinced the case against the Doctor must fail, as there was no evidence to support the charge) did not hesitate to undertake a journey to propound opinions peculiarly their own, and upon the correctness of which alone it was possible to convict Dr. Waters.

The resolution was then put and carried unanimously.

Mr. STEELE moved the second resolution:—

"That this meeting feel called upon, in the interest of the profession, to record a solemn and energetic protest against medical witnesses, to the great injury of their

brethren, assuming the functions of advocates, and volunteering opinions when they are only required to testify to facts; a practice deplorably frequent, and which has reached its culminating point of impropriety at the hands of Drs. Lee and Ramsbotham in the case of Bromwich v. Waters."

The resolution was not directed so much against the gentlemen named personally, as against the objectionable practice of medical witnesses assuming the functions of advocates, and volunteering evidence when they were only required to testify to facts. That the practice was deplorably frequent must be evident to most of those who were acquainted with the numerous cases which had lately occurred in the law courts, where charges had been brought against members of the medical profession, which had proved to be unfounded, but in which there appeared to be no difficulty in inducing medical men to come forward on the part of the prosecution, and give evidence in such a way as to produce a prejudiced and unjust impression upon the judge and the jury. Notwithstanding the triumphant result of Dr. Waters's trial, there was a time during which his case was placed in the most imminent peril. And how? By the medical evidence that was offered on the part of the prosecution. Had not Dr. Simpson been able to counteract the evidence of Drs. Lee and Ramsbotham, the result would have filled the rest of their lives with self-accusation and remorse, from the consciousness of their having been the main instruments in consigning an innocent and an honourable man to infamy and ruin. Mr. Steele pointed out that, when the propriety or impropriety of medical treatment was canvassed by medical men, it had been hitherto deemed contrary to medical etiquette, and injurious to the interests both of medical men and patients, to give an opinion upon a case which had been under the care of another medical man without the presence of that medical man himself. This was the straightforward line of conduct which, from time immemorial, had guided all right-minded men in their dealings with their patients. If, therefore, this was an incumbent duty in a matter of mere medical etiquette, what should they say when the consequences ensuing upon the violation of this rule were absolute social death to the party implicated? It was by mere accident that Dr. Waters became aware that medical experts were to be called to give evidence against him. Shortly before the trial, the prosecution desired to have a commission to take the evidence of a medical man on the continent, who had had Mary Whalley under his treatment at Malvern; and in consequence of this, the solicitor for Dr. Waters obtained information that it was probable that other medical men would be called. When the evidence taken by commission was shown to Dr. Waters by his solicitor, he said, and very properly, "Why, this is the most arrant nonsense ever put upon paper." His solicitor replied, "Never mind; it is the opinion of a medical man—an opinion which is thought of great value by some persons—and, therefore, it must be answered." Then it was that Dr. Waters considered it necessary to submit this evidence to Professor Simpson of Edinburgh; and Professor Simpson gave him a hint that some eminent medical men in London would be called against him; though Dr. Waters was very hard to convince that it would be so. It was not too much to say that improprieties of the kind mentioned in the resolution had "culminated at the hands of Drs. Lee and Ramsbotham." Dr. Ramsbotham had made a sort of explanation and apology in the public journals, and had said that if he had heard Dr. Waters's version of the story before he gave his evidence, there would have been very little difference of opinion between them. Did not this show how completely Dr. Ramsbotham had forgotten that excellent rule to which he (Mr. Steele) had alluded? Had he adopted that rule, he would never have placed himself in that highly reprehensible light in which he

now stood. In conclusion, Mr. Steele pointed out the importance of adopting a resolution which, while asserting the entire innocence of Dr. Waters, would, at the same time, afford protection to younger members of the profession in the event of their being assailed in a similar manner.

Dr. DICKINSON seconded the resolution, observing that Drs. Lee and Ramsbotham had shown great want of judgment and proper professional feeling. With regard to Dr. Taylor, though his name had not yet been mentioned, it would be unfair to pass him by. He was not called upon to give evidence in a question of this kind, and he had no business to come down to give evidence upon a subject which was a matter of doubt. To see a man of the high standing of Dr. Taylor giving his sanction to a procedure of this description was woeful.

Mr. PARKER, while concurring in the observations which had been made by previous speakers, suggested that the time had arrived when the medical profession might very seriously take into consideration the propriety of forming a Medical Defence Association, in order that the expenses of such proceedings might be met without harass and ruin to individuals.

Mr. STEELE was afraid that the establishment of such an association would give the public the idea that the profession feared and expected these actions, and that it would also have the effect of inducing juries, if the verdict happened to be against the medical man, to give heavy damages, because payment would fall upon the society and not upon the individual. He would rather take his stand upon the dignity and honour of the profession, and fight the battle single handed, as Dr. Waters had done, throwing himself upon the sympathy and consideration of the profession if necessary.

The resolution was then put and carried unanimously.

Mr. FLETCHER moved the third resolution—

“That this meeting recommend that a subscription be opened with a view of indemnifying Dr. Waters for any pecuniary loss he may have incurred in conducting his defence, and for the further purpose of presenting him with some lasting memorial of the high approbation with which they have regarded the dignified fortitude of his bearing under the prolonged persecution to which he has been subjected.”

Mr. Fletcher had known Dr. Waters for thirteen or fourteen years, and had known no man in whose character he had greater confidence, who was more thoroughly a gentleman and a Christian, and whose mind was more accomplished and delicate. As far as he (Mr. Fletcher) had had an opportunity of judging, Dr. Waters was about the last man of all his acquaintance against whom he should ever have imagined such a foul accusation would have been launched. Coming to the £. s. d. part of the resolution, Mr. Fletcher believed that they would do a great deal of good by subscribing to pay whatever expenses Dr. Waters might have incurred. He would not accept anything more than the amount he was out of pocket by the proceeding; but it would be gratifying to his own feelings and the feelings of his friends to have something as a memorial, not only that they considered him innocent, but that he had acted in a way which they regarded as meritorious, and had resisted temptations under which many men would have fallen. With regard to the costs incurred, he (Mr. Fletcher) knew that £500 had been paid by Dr. Waters before he went into court, but he did not know how much of this sum would go under the head of “taxed costs”. From all he had heard, however, on the subject, he believed that the taxed costs paid to the victor in a case such as this bore but a small proportion to the real costs or actual amount which a person was out of pocket, even where he came off victorious. With regard to the subscription itself, Mr. Fletcher would rather see a large number of small subscriptions than a few large ones, for the sake of the effect to be produced in the

minds of the public. Some people were stupid enough, and others base enough, to believe any accusation, however absurd; and it was, therefore, no mere sentimentalism, but was a point of practical value, that the medical profession should come forward not only with their resolutions, but also with what money might be wanted to make up Dr. Waters's pecuniary loss, and to present him with something which he would leave to his children as a practical proof that not only his professional brethren in Chester and elsewhere, but those who knew his character and standing, not only believed him to be thoroughly innocent of the charges brought against him, but were convinced that his conduct through the whole matter had been marked by high merit. Whatever they did, they could never make up for the agony through which he had passed; but they could do something to replace a sense of wrong by the expression of their cordial sympathy. To say that the injury to Dr. Waters was due to a few gossiping old women or tittle-tattling dowagers of Chester was not true. The real venom had come from the medical profession itself. A weak and dirty weapon had been chosen; but a very little poison placed upon it by Drs. Lee and Ramsbotham might have made it effective for the work of destruction. What would Mary Whalley have been without Drs. Lee, Taylor, and Ramsbotham? Who gave the instructions to Sergeant Shee? They must have been given by a medical man. The *animus* of the instructions as to the charge relative to the speculum could have come only from Dr. Lee, aided by Dr. Ramsbotham; and the suggestion as to the drug-giving must have been known to Dr. Taylor. It must be remembered that these gentlemen had been for months in consultation with the lawyers; and that, whatever they might have said, actions spoke louder than words. Though Dr. Ramsbotham might have advised in so many words that they should not bring the action, he advised in *deed* that they should. It was most important, in regard to the future, that Dr. Waters should not only be clearly exonerated by the verdict of the jury, but that his professional brethren should declare that this foul accusation had been thoroughly rebutted, and that there was no man who more completely carried with him the sympathy and best wishes of his friends in the profession.

Dr. A. T. H. WATERS, who seconded the resolution, expressed his most cordial concurrence with the preceding resolutions. It was, he thought, very desirable, considering the mental anguish and trying circumstances through which Dr. Waters must have passed, that they should express their sympathy with him, and their congratulations at the successful issue of the trial. It was also desirable to express their reprobation of the conduct of those members of the profession who on this and similar occasions had been willing to lend themselves to those who were attempting to injure the character or ruin the reputation of a professional brother. [*Applause.*] Though not in any way related to his namesake of Chester, he (the speaker) had known Dr. Waters for several years, chiefly in connexion with the meetings of the British Medical Association. He had known him as President of the Lancashire and Cheshire Branch of that Society, and as the reader of the address at the annual meeting of the Association in 1859. He mentioned these circumstances, because they might not be known to every one present, and because they would show the high estimation in which Dr. Edward Waters was held by his professional brethren in the counties of Lancashire and Cheshire. It was very desirable (the speaker thought) to raise a subscription, in the terms of this resolution, for the purpose of indemnifying Dr. Waters from pecuniary loss incurred in conducting his defence; but they should not be satisfied with doing this merely, but subscribe to present him (as the resolution expressed it) with some lasting memorial of the high approbation with which they regarded the dignified

fortitude of his bearing under the painful circumstances in which he had been placed. [*Applause.*] When they looked at the report of the trial, and read the searching cross-examination to which Dr. Waters was subjected, they must feel that only a feeling of strict moral and professional rectitude could have carried him unscathed through such an ordeal. The speaker alluded to the mode in which the medical profession and the public at Chester, including the highest dignitary of the church and almost every member of the profession, had come forward in order practically to show their sympathy with Dr. Waters, and their high estimation of his character.

The CHAIRMAN mentioned that the sum which the solicitor of Dr. Waters had already disbursed was considerably beyond that incidentally mentioned by Mr. Fletcher; and further, that the actual amount of the expenses incurred could not be known until Dr. Waters' bill had been taxed—a form which could not be gone through until next term.

The resolution was put, and carried unanimously.

After some further discussion, the details as to subscriptions were referred to a subcommittee.

Mr. DESMOND moved—

“That the proceedings of the meeting be forwarded to the London medical journals for publication.”

Dr. CALLON seconded the motion, which was carried. It was further determined to advertise the resolutions agreed to in the local newspapers.

On the motion of Mr. HAKES, seconded by Dr. MACNAUGHT, a vote of thanks was passed to the Chairman, and the proceedings closed.

### ARMY MEDICAL SCHOOL.

THE Royal Victoria Hospital at Netley, about which there has been so much discussion, is now opened as the great invaliding establishment, whither sick soldiers from all foreign stations are sent. As the study of the diseases producing disability is very important, indeed essential for the young army surgeon, it has been found necessary to transfer the Army Medical School from Fort Pitt to Netley; and on April 15th, the sixth session was opened by Deputy Inspector-General Longmore, Professor of Surgery. The lecturer narrated the circumstances which had led to the removal of the school, and gave an account of the new arrangements at Netley, which he considered highly satisfactory. He reviewed the work which had been done at Fort Pitt, and stated that one-eighth of the whole medical department had already gone through the school. The lecture, which was very interesting and extremely well delivered, was attended by the governor, Colonel Wilbraham, C.B.; by the principal medical officer, Dr. Anderson; by Major Ravenhill, R.E.; by the professors, and by all the staff of the hospital, and by some of their private friends. It was a matter of regret that the incomplete state of the rooms prevented any invitations from being sent to the practitioners in the neighbourhood, to attend the lecture and inspect the school and hospital; but it was found that it would be better to defer this until the opening of the next session, when the libraries and museums will be finished and arranged.

MELBOURNE MEDICAL SCHOOL. The establishment of a medical school in connection with the Melbourne University, may, by the arrival of Professor Halford, be said to be consummated. Henceforward we take as a profession, a position which hitherto has been wanting to us. We have a recognised centre, around which our movements may take place with certainty and without intermission. We exist no longer as an assemblage of antagonistic elements. The principle of cohesion is supplied, and we have but to allow it to exercise its own proper influence, and the result cannot be otherwise than for our advantage. (*Austral. Med. Jour.*)

A HOMŒOPATHIC FETE. The homœopathic doctors of Paris held a great meeting at Vefours last week, to celebrate the birthday of Hahnemann. It is described as having been *une fête de famille*, simple and cordial, but we are not told if their own “minimum” system was applied by these worthy professors to the good things of Vefours.

ROYAL VISIT TO THE WINDSOR INFIRMARY. On the 21st instant, the Queen, accompanied by Her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales, drove to the Windsor Royal Infirmary, to which institution her Majesty is a liberal subscriber. The Royal party was met at the Infirmary by Major-General Seymour, the Rev. H. J. Ellison, Vicar of Windsor, and Mr. Blair, the house surgeon, who conducted her Majesty and the Princess of Wales through the different wards; Mr. Blair explaining many of the cases, which were minutely inquired into by her Majesty, who seemed deeply to feel the position of the unfortunate sufferers, several of whom the Queen spoke to in the kindest manner.

SANITARY STATE OF THE FEDERAL ARMY. Major-General Grant, in a letter to Surgeon-General Hammond, dated Headquarters, Department of Tennessee, before Vicksburg, says as to Surgeon J. R. Smith's inquiry into the sanitary condition of his army for its improvement:—“I know a great deal has been said to impress the public generally and all officials particularly with the idea that this army was in a suffering condition, and mostly from neglect. This is most erroneous. The health of this command will compare favourably with that of any army in the field, I venture to say; and every preparation is made for the sick that could be desired. I venture the assertion that no army ever went into the field with better arranged preparations for receiving sick and wounded soldiers than this. We have hospital boats expressly fitted up, and with the government and voluntary supplies it is a great question whether one person in ten could be so well taken care of at home as in the army here.”

ANTIQUATED TOADS IN THE HOLE. Sir A. P. Gordon Cumming writes to the *Elgin Courier*:—“In cutting the Inverness and Perth Railway through the Lochnavandah Park on Altyre, we have unceremoniously trespassed on the privacy and retirement of a numerous colony of ancient toads. The cutting is here from 20 to 25 feet deep, the lower part being through from 10 to 16 feet of freestone and red conglomerate. The interesting old residents are found in the red freestone about 15 to 20 feet below the surface, where they certainly must have seen several 19 years' leases out on the land above them. They are sometimes turned out by the heavy handpick or the great iron crowbar; but a blast of powder, of which a vast amount is here expanded, seems to cause the greatest upset in the establishment, as a shot is sometimes the means of exposing as many as a dozen of the sleepy old fellows. They seem none the worse for their long repose, but after giving a few winks at the ‘new light’ thus suddenly let in upon them, and taking several gasps of the unwanted air, they leisurely and deliberately proceeded to hop and crawl down the line along the small watercourse towards the lower fields. I have seen them in numbers, and some of the men have counted above forty at once.” (*Scotsman.*)

ST. THOMAS'S HOSPITAL. The following resolution has been passed by the governors of St. Thomas's Hospital: “That the grand committee be empowered to continue the negotiations with the governors of Bethlehem Hospital for obtaining the site of that hospital, and to submit proposals to that body either to build for them a new one, in conformity with the plans and estimates prepared by Mr. Currie, the surveyor of St. Thomas's Hospital, or to pay for the site and buildings of Bethlehem the sum of £150,000, subject to the approval of the Court of

Chancery, the sanction of Parliament, and of this Court." And we gather from the following explanation of Mr. Tite, that there is a probability of the offer being accepted by Bethlehem Hospital. "The president of Bethlehem Hospital had written to the president of St. Thomas's saying that, in the event of a new hospital being built for them in the country, suitable to all purposes, they had no objection to enter into negotiations for their present building for the purposes of St. Thomas's Hospital, but upon no other terms. Mr. Currie had taken the matter in hand, and his estimate had just been read. The authorities of Bethlehem refused all negotiations on any other terms, and for £130,000 the governors could most likely obtain the site. As the governors could not legally build an hospital for any other body but St. Thomas's, he thought if they offered the plans of Mr. Currie, which were now on the table, and the £150,000 in money, to Bethlehem, they would accept the offer, because there would be no difficulty as to procuring a site in the country. The erection of the new St. Thomas's Hospital would cost £200,000; so that if it were placed in the site of Bethlehem Hospital, the total ultimate cost would be £330,000.

**VILLAGE HOSPITALS.** A house is taken which has room for six beds at least, which is in a healthy situation, and in wholesome condition, and near the doctor's abode. A woman is put into the house to keep it clean, and do the work of it. A trained nurse—one of Miss Nightingale's band, if possible—has the charge of the patients; and, when there are none, she attends the women of the village in their lying-in, or in illness, on the payment of a certain fee. The hospital patient pays a weekly sum, fixed, according to his circumstances, by his employer and the managers; and it does not appear that any difficulty is made about this. Probably it is, on the whole, an evident saving to the poor man to have his home relieved of the burden, and to have the cure so much accelerated as it is by the advantages of the hospital. The doctors are well pleased to have their most anxious patients close at hand, and under the most favourable conditions. It is a great change to the humane surgeon from having to ride far and wide, only to give orders which cannot or will not be obeyed, and to see the patients suffering from the noise of children, the intrusions of neighbours, the heat of the living-room, or the closeness of the bedroom, and from the miserable cookery of the cottage where the whole family has to live on 9s or 10s a week. Instead of this, the kind-hearted doctor finds his patient lying in quiet and comfort, duly physicked and daintily fed, under the charge of a qualified nurse, and of trustees, of whom the clergyman is always one. There is wine in the cellar, there are good things in the larder, bundles of old linen come in, and comforts for the bedridden; and the beds and easy-chairs are adapted for the treatment of broken limbs and the ease of the feeble frame. Wife or child may come in for a gossip at fixed times, and the only restraint is that they may not bring in food or drink without the doctor's leave. Kind ladies, with well-known faces, often look in; and all the news of the village, and some from London, and foreign parts, finds its way into the hospital. The place is far more cheerful and familiar than the great County Infirmary, and far more comfortable than the home which has no accommodation for sickness. Is it not natural that such an institution should succeed? And will it not be strange if it does not spring up all over the country? (*Once a Week.*)

#### BOOKS RECEIVED.

1. Clinical Report on Cancer of the Female Sexual Organs. By Thomas H. Tanner, M.D. London: 1863.
2. Waste. A Lecture. By J. A. Symonds, M.D.
3. The Urine in Health and Disease. By Arthur Hill Hassall, M.D. Second edition. London: 1863.

#### OPERATION DAYS AT THE HOSPITALS.

MONDAY.....Royal Free, 2 P.M.—Metropolitan Free, 2 P.M.—St. Mark's for Fistula and other Diseases of the Rectum, 1.15 P.M.—Samaritan, 2.30 P.M.—Lock, Clinical Demonstration and Operations, 1 P.M.

TUESDAY. .... Guy's, 1½ P.M.—Westminster, 2 P.M.

WEDNESDAY... St. Mary's, 1 P.M.—Middlesex, 1 P.M.—University College, 2 P.M.

THURSDAY.....St. George's, 1 P.M.—Central London Ophthalmic, 1 P.M.—London, 1.30 P.M.—Great Northern, 2 P.M.—London Surgical Home, 2 P.M.—Royal Orthopaedic, 2 P.M.

FRIDAY. .... Westminster Ophthalmic, 1.30 P.M.

SATURDAY..... St. Thomas's, 1 P.M.—St. Bartholomew's, 1.30 P.M.—King's College, 1.30 P.M.—Charing Cross, 2 P.M.

#### MEETINGS OF SOCIETIES DURING THE NEXT WEEK.

MONDAY. Medical Society of London. Special General Meeting, 8 P.M.; Clinical Discussion, 8.30 P.M.—Geographical.

TUESDAY. Royal Medical and Chirurgical, 8.30 P.M. Dr. A. T. H. Waters (of Liverpool), "On a Remarkable Case of Injury of the Head"; Dr. T. K. Chambers, "On the Therapeutics of Continued Fever"; Dr. H. Weber, "Pathology of Crura Cerebri."

WEDNESDAY. Zoological (Anniversary).—Society of Arts.

THURSDAY. Royal.—Antiquarian.

FRIDAY. Royal Institution (Anniversary).—Archæological Institute.—Western Medical and Surgical, 8 P.M. (Anniversary).

#### POPULATION STATISTICS AND METEOROLOGY OF LONDON—APRIL 18, 1863.

[From the Registrar-General's Report.]

	Boys	Girls	Births	Deaths
During week.....	1052	1028	2080	1437
Average of corresponding weeks 1853-62 .....			1977	1283
<b>Barometer:</b>				
Highest (Sat.) 30.092; lowest (Tu.) 29.778; mean, 29.887.				
<b>Thermometer:</b>				
Highest in sun—extremes (Wed.) 109 degs.; (Tu.) 83.7 degs.				
In shade—highest (Th.) 67.7 degs.; lowest (Tu. & Wed.) 36.8 degs.				
Mean—50.6 degrees; difference from mean of 43 yrs.+4.9 degs.				
Range—during week, 30.9 degrees; mean daily, 21.4 degrees.				
Mean humidity of air (saturation=100), 81.				
Mean direction of wind, N.E.—Rain in inches, 0.02.				

#### TO CORRESPONDENTS.

\* \* All letters and communications for the JOURNAL, to be addressed to the EDITOR, 37, Great Queen St., Lincoln's Inn Fields, W.C.

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

J. C.—The individual to whom our correspondent alludes, though as yet of short career, is a very notorious offender. He is a scion of a well-known ignoble house of rascally quacks; and obtained his college credentials by falsely pretending that he would lead a decent life; i.e., one exactly the reverse of that which he now pursues, and which has long been successfully prosecuted by his progenitors. We need hardly add, that the open and unblushing infamy of his and their practice, is not to be touched by anything we could say. Nothing less than whips of scorpions would produce an impression on the brazen-faced harpies who indulge in the lucrative and infamous traffic referred to. We quite agree with our correspondent, that the Medical Council is simply a farce, as a body presiding over the welfare and education of the profession, if it have not the power to expel from its Register scoundrels of so notorious a dye. In fact, we might say that in such case the Council is worse than a mockery—it is a positive delusion; for by its admission into, and insertion of the names of these people in, its legal Register, openly declares to the world that they are good and worthy men, worthy of a place in the *Medical Register* of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and

therefore worthy of public confidence. In this sense, the Council actually gives them a status which they would not otherwise possess! They are registered practitioners.

A SURGEON KEPT BY A DRUGGIST.—A correspondent says: "I know of many instances where a surgeon stands for an hour or more daily at a druggist's shop for the purpose of giving advice."

B. C.—It is only fair to the gentleman lately referred to in the JOURNAL, to say: that he at once ceased attending at the druggist's shop, when the impropriety of the proceeding was pointed out to him.

A SICK HOMŒOPATH.—A correspondent asks how he should act if requested by a homœopathic practitioner to attend him in his sickness. There can be no doubt or difficulty whatever about the matter. Our correspondent must, of course, at once obey the summons; take his fee; and rejoice over the homage which charlatany pays to science. We believe that, as a rule, homœopaths, when sick, do not employ their homœopathic colleagues. They practically show their belief and confidence in the thing they palm off on the credulous, by calling in the services of medical men. We have heard of many examples of this kind.

THE following excerpts from stanzas on the marriage of the Prince of Wales with the Princess Alexandra of Denmark, are from the pen of our accomplished associate, Dr. Evanson of Torquay.

After the darkest night comes glorious morning,  
When sunbreak bursts from out the golden sky,  
With every beauty the fresh earth adorning,  
The glittering sea, and glowing clouds on high.  
A night of sorrow on our land has rested,  
But now the coming day is seen to dawn;  
The heart is not of its regrets divested,  
Although a veil o'er its regrets be drawn.

May England's star, still glorious and escendant,  
In freedom's frontlet ever foremost shine,  
Showing to all who would be independent,  
How law with liberty man must combine:  
A nation, as one brotherhood, united,  
Who guard a regal right even as their own;  
A land where wrong is still by justice righted,—  
A people bound by freedom to the throne.

#### MR. ADAMS AND MR. PROPERT.

SIR,—I beg to forward to you a correspondence which has recently taken place between myself and Mr. Propert, and upon which it is unnecessary for me to make any comment.

I am, etc.,

WM. ADAMS.

5, Henrietta Street, Cavendish Square, April 22, 1863.

SIR,—The following quotation is from a letter received from a gentleman occupying a high position in our profession:—

"The sting of the matter is, that, spite of the late trial, and notwithstanding the evidence since afforded by Dr. Cottew, Mr. Maitland, Dr. Webb, Mr. Toynbee, and others, as to the antecedents of the prosecutor, there are some persons who still adhere to Mr. Propert, who justify him in his apparently harsh treatment of you at the beginning of the affair, when he condemned you unheard, and refused to listen to the explanations you offered him; and who not merely condemn you by implication, but affirm positively as follows: viz., that were Mr. Propert's version of his proceedings made public, he would be said to be entirely justified, and that he is displaying great forbearance towards you in not noticing the attacks made upon him, and that his holding his tongue is safety to you. These latter expressions I have heard this week, from the mouth of a personal friend of mine, a man of sense, and one whose opinion I value. He is a friend of Mr. Propert's, and as such believes that Mr. P.'s statement would crush you."

I wish to know whether the statement made in the above quotation be true or false? Is it, or is not, true that you are dealing out any such insinuations, or any insinuation whatever, against my character? I must demand a plain and simple answer to this question, and without delay.

I am, sir, yours, etc.,

John Propert, Esq.

WM. ADAMS.

6, New Cavendish Street, W., April 17, 1863.

SIR,—In reply to your letter of the 15th inst., I beg to state that I never heard of the statements alleged to have been made by friends of mine, with reference to yourself, in your letter referred to; neither do I consider myself in any way responsible for the opinions which they may entertain respecting you. I have, however, always felt much regret that a gentleman of your position in our profession should not have availed himself of the proposal by Mr. Johnson, the attorney acting for Miss Russell in the action brought by that person against you, contained in a letter addressed to your attorney, dated March 22nd, 1862; namely, "that both the plaintiff and defendant should be examined as witnesses on the trial of that action, and that such proposal should have been declined by your attorneys in their letter to Mr. Johnson, in reply, of the 11th of April, 1862."

I remain, sir, yours, etc.,

JOHN PROPERT.

William Adams, Esq., etc.

5, Henrietta Street, Cavendish Square, W., April 18, 1863.

SIR,—In my letter of the 15th instant, I asked you a plain question to this effect:—

"Is it, or is it not, true, (1) that you have said you were forbearing towards me by not replying to explanations which have been demanded from you for your conduct towards me; (2) that holding your tongue is safety to me; (3) have you implied that you are aware of allegations injurious to my character, which you withhold out of forbearance to me."

In your reply of the 17th April you do not answer this question; I must, therefore, repeat my demand for an answer. You have introduced in your letter a subject totally irrelevant to my question; but I will remind you that, however desirous I was to be examined as a witness (and it would undoubtedly have been much to my advantage), the laws of evidence did not permit of it. You will learn this from any solicitor; and if you will refer to the published charge of the Chief Baron, of which I send you a copy, at page 30, you may see that the judge said, "Miss Russell cannot be examined, nor can Mr. Adams." Mr. Lush, in his opening address, explained this peculiarity in the law of evidence; and Mr. Serjeant Shee did not suggest that any other course could have been adopted. This, however, is a mere matter of legal procedure that has nothing whatever to do with the question to which, as a member of the same profession, I require a plain and truthful answer.

I am, sir, yours, etc.,

John Propert, Esq.

WM. ADAMS.

6, New Cavendish Street, W., 22nd April, 1863.

SIR,—Having in my letter of the 17th inst. answered the questions contained in your letter to me of the 15th inst., I have no reply to make to your letter of the 18th; and I must decline any further correspondence on the subject of your letters.

I beg to remain, sir, your obedient servant,

W. Adams, Esq., etc.

JOHN PROPERT.

[It is no business or intention of ours to defend Mr. Propert; but we must suggest that it is hardly probable that Mr. Propert would make himself responsible for words which an anonymous friend of Mr. Adams says were told to him by anonymous friends of Mr. Propert, as having been uttered by Mr. Propert; and more especially so when the admission would, as we apprehend, be the admission of the publication of a libel by Mr. Propert. Why should not this matter in dispute be settled by the mutual offices of friends of Mr. Propert and friends of Mr. Adams? No one can for a moment believe that Mr. Propert has at most done more than act injudiciously in this affair; and if friends, after hearing the case, consider that he has done so and to the prejudice of Mr. Adams, what should prevent Mr. Propert at once saying so, and making any amends which his friends propose? Let him put himself in the hands of a court of his own and of Mr. Adams's friends, and abide their decision. It is evident, on the face of it, supposing Mr. Propert has acted injudiciously and to Mr. Adams's hurt, that the motives which led him into the error were alone motives of kindness and compassion, though bestowed on a very false and miserable woman. Mr. Propert has fluently blood in him, no doubt, and may fairly object to the bullying tone which has been applied to him by a part of the medical press; but we cannot doubt that he would give satisfaction to Mr. Adams in a *Court of Honour*, as here suggested. We are convinced that a *Court* of this kind would give full satisfaction to both parties; and would also be the means of putting an end to the further publication of all gossip and scandal in the matter. EDITOR.]

COMMUNICATIONS have been received from:—MR. THOMAS BRYANT; DR. F. J. BROWN; THE HONORARY SECRETARIES OF THE WESTERN MEDICAL AND SURGICAL SOCIETY; M.B.; DR. WILLIAM NEWMAN; MR. T. SYMPSON; DR. D. NELSON; THE REGISTRAR OF THE MEDICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON; DR. CAMPS; MR. WILLIAM COPNEY; MR. LOWNDES; DR. J. EDMUNDS; DR. P. H. WILLIAMS; MR. A. G. OSBORN; DR. J. STRUTHERS; THE HON. SECRETARY OF THE ROYAL MEDICAL AND CHIRURGICAL SOCIETY; MR. T. WHARTON JONES; DR. E. A. PARKES; DR. J. CANDY; MR. STONE; MR. JAMES BIRD; MR. T. T. GRIFFITH; DR. G. MITCHINSON; DR. FLEMING; DR. BOYCOTT; DR. HARLEY; MR. SIMON; DR. GIMSON; DR. EDWARD SMITH; DR. BOLTON; MR. W. ADAMS; MR. J. SPOULE; MR. H. HAILEY; HONORARY SECRETARIES OF THE HARVEIAN SOCIETY OF LONDON; AND DR. H. DICK.

#### ADVERTISEMENTS.

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