

## MEDICAL SICKNESS, ANNUITY, AND LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.

A MEETING of the Provisional Executive Committee was held at 38, Wimpole Street, on Thursday, March 27th. There were present Mr. E. Noble Smith in the chair, Mr. Sibley, Mr. J. Brindley James, Dr. Clibborn, Mr. Major Greenwood, jun., Mr. Fred. Wallace, and Mr. Radley, Secretary.

The Secretary presented his report, showing a total of 333 members, and receipts of preliminary entrance fees, etc., to the amount of £228 2s. 6d.

A letter was read from Dr. J. D. Plunket, President of the Tennessee State Board of Health, Nashville, U.S., asking for copies of the rules, tables, etc., of the Society, as a model for the formation of a similar society, in connection with the Tennessee State Medical Association. The Secretary was requested to forward copies of the documents.

A communication was read from Mr. Gilbert Walker, the editor of the *British Journal of Dental Science*, raising the question whether dental surgeons or dentists, either qualified or unqualified or both, would be eligible as members of the Society. The question, which was thought to be an important one, was discussed at some length, and the following resolution, proposed by Mr. Sibley, was unanimously passed:—"That any qualified registered dentist holding the diploma of L.D.S. of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, Scotland, or Ireland, be eligible as members of the Society." The Secretary was desired to forward a copy of the resolution to Mr. Walker, with a request that he would bring it before the notice of the dental profession through the columns of the *British Journal of Dental Science*.

Letters were also read from Mr. J. Bain Sincok, Bridgwater, and Mr. H. E. Trostrail, Aldershot, containing suggestions, the consideration of which it was decided to postpone until the general meeting, when full opportunity will be afforded for the discussion of any question, the adoption of which would necessitate an amendment of the rules.

The Secretary read the draft copy of a circular (drawn up in accordance with a resolution passed at the last meeting), in which the history, objects, and benefits of the Society are clearly laid down. It was approved and ordered to be circulated as arranged.

A consideration of the proposal forms brought forward for the decision of the Committee concluded the proceedings.

## THE ROGERS' TESTIMONIAL.

THE following additional subscriptions to the fund for a testimonial to Dr. Joseph Rogers have been received. It should be understood that the subscription to this fund is not confined to Poor-law medical officers. The Treasurer is Mr. J. Wickham Barnes, 3, Bolt Court, Fleet Street, E.C.; and subscriptions are received by the Editor of the *BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL*.

*Fourteenth List.*—Mrs. Hawksley, £1 1s.; Dr. Danford Thomas, £1 1s.; G. Terry, Esq., Mells, £1 1s.; Dr. G. Barnes, Ewell, 10s. 6d.; Thos. Davies, Esq., Colwyn Bay, 5s.; A Pauper, 2s.

Mr. J. Wickham Barnes requests all subscribers who have not yet sent him their promised donations, to kindly do so, at their earliest convenience.

## MEDICAL ACTS AMENDMENT BILL.

THE following circular has been issued, and a copy forwarded to us for publication.

23, St. John Street, Manchester, March 28th, 1884.

Sir,—At a meeting of the Lancashire and Cheshire Branch of the British Medical Association, held in Manchester, on March 18th, 1884, it was unanimously resolved that the President and Secretary of the Branch be requested to sign the petition submitted to the Council in favour of the Medical Act, 1884, introduced into the House of Lords by the Right Honourable the Lord Privy Seal, and to send a copy of the petition and resolution to every member of both Houses of the Legislature residing in, or connected with, the district.

The Lancashire and Cheshire Branch of the British Medical Association numbers nearly 900 members of the medical profession; and in its district are situated the Victoria University, and University College, Liverpool, each with its large and flourishing medical school.

The feeling in this district in favour of the proposed Medical Act is very strong, and the Council of this Branch ventures to hope that you will be able to give it your support.—I am, your most obedient servant,

CHARLES E. GLASCOTT, Honorary Secretary of the Branch.

Unto the Right Honourable the Lords Spiritual and Temporal of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland in Parliament assembled.

The humble petition of the Council of the Lancashire and Cheshire Branch of the British Medical Association, sheweth:

That a Bill has been brought into your honourable House, intituled, "An Act for the Consolidation and Amendment of the Law relating to Medical Practitioners," by the Right Honourable the Lord Privy Seal, and that provision is therein made for improvement in the examination of candidates for the medical profession, and

for the introduction of representatives elected by the registered medical practitioners residing in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland into the Medical Council.

Your petitioners pray that the said Act may become law.  
And your petitioners will ever pray, etc.

D. LLOYD ROBERTS, M.D., President.  
CHARLES E. GLASCOTT, M.D., Secretary.

## ASSOCIATION INTELLIGENCE.

### NOTICE OF QUARTERLY MEETINGS FOR 1884: ELECTION OF MEMBERS.

MEETINGS of the Council will be held on Wednesday, April 9th, July 9th, and October 15th, 1884. Gentlemen desirous of becoming members of the Association must send in their forms of application for election to the General Secretary not later than twenty-one days before each meeting, viz., June 20th, and September 25th, 1884, 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.

### COUNCIL.

#### NOTICE OF MEETING.

A MEETING of the Council will be held in the Council-Room of Exeter Hall on Wednesday, the 9th day of April next, at 2 o'clock in the afternoon.

Subcommittees will meet as follows. At 161A, Strand, W.C.—Tuesday, April 8th, 1884: Subcommittee on Branch Organisation, 5 P.M. Scientific Grants Committee, 6 P.M. Subcommittee on Cost of Literary Part of Journal, 7.30 P.M. Wednesday April 9th, 1884: Journal and Finance Subcommittee, 11 A.M.

FRANCIS FOWKE, General Secretary.

161A, Strand, London, April 2nd, 1884.

### COLLECTIVE INVESTIGATION OF DISEASE.

CARDS for recording individual cases of the following diseases have been prepared by the Committee; they may be had on application to the Honorary Secretaries of the Local Committees in each Branch, or on application to the Secretary of the Collective Investigation Committee.

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|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| I. Acute Pneumonia.       | iva. Diphtheria, sanitary. |
| II. Chorea.               | v. Syphilis, acquired.     |
| III. Acute Rheumatism.    | va. „ inherited.           |
| IV. Diphtheria, clinical. | VI. Acute Gout.            |

URGENT.—The Committee needs 150 more cases of Pneumonia, and hopes that they will be sent in as soon as possible.

Applications should be addressed to

The Secretary of the Collective Investigation Committee, September, 1883. 161A, Strand, W.C.

NOTICE.—The *Life-History Album* prepared by the Collective Investigation Committee is now ready, and can be ordered of all book-sellers, price 3s. 6d.

### BRANCH MEETINGS TO BE HELD.

THE NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES AND OUDH BRANCH.—Meetings are held on the first Friday in every month, at half-past nine, after dinner at eight o'clock. Gentlemen wishing to be present are requested to communicate with the Secretaries, Surgeons SHIRLEY DEAKIN and W. A. MORRIS, 8, City Road, Allahabad.

LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE BRANCH.—The first intermediate meeting of this Branch for 1884 will be held at the Mining School, Wigan, on Tuesday, April 8th, at 2 P.M. Dr. Frederick Roberts (London) has kindly consented to read a paper on Local Treatment in connection with the Respiratory Organs. The following communications have also been promised. Mr. Wm. Berry: A Paper on Surgical Dressings. Dr. Davidson: A Case of Hystero-epilepsy in a Boy, in which Metallotherapy and Magneto-therapy were employed. Dr. Leech: On Paraldehyde. Dr. Lloyd Roberts: A Patient from whom he removed a portion of an Ovarian Cyst. Dr. Walter: A Case of Suppurating Dermoid Cyst of the Ovary. Mr. Brown (Bacup): A Paper on the Proposed New Medical Bill, and the duty of general practitioners, and of the British Medical Association in particular, thereto, and will move a resolution thereon. Mr. Walter Whitehead will demonstrate the application of the Electric and the Oxy-hydrogen Light in Surgical Practice; and will also make some remarks on the Surgical Treatment of Haemorrhoids. There will be an exhibition of the newer forms of medical and surgical instruments, by Messrs. Wood, of Manchester. Messrs. Armstrong Bros. will show a selection of microscopes, optical instruments, and models. Messrs. Woolley and Co. will exhibit specimens of new drugs and special preparations. Messrs. Mottershead will furnish a series of peptonised foods and digestive preparations, and show some of the later forms of medical batteries. At five o'clock, the members will dine together at the Victoria Hotel. Dinner tickets 7s., exclusive of wine. Members who intend to be present at the dinner are specially requested to inform the Secretary as early as possible on the day of the meeting.—CHARLES E. GLASCOTT, M.D., Honorary Secretary, 23, St. John Street, Manchester.

METROPOLITAN COUNTIES BRANCH: WEST MIDDLESEX DISTRICT.—The next meeting will be held on Thursday, April 10th, at the Horbury Schoolroom, Notting Hill, at 8.30 p.m. A paper will be read by Dr. Mahomed on the Causation, Recognition, and Treatment of Diphtheria, with a view to discussion, in which Dr. Goodhart, Dr. Stephen Mackenzie, Dr. Barlow, and others, have promised to take part.—Ed. HART VINEN, M.D., Honorary Secretary, 17, Chepstow Villas, Bayswater.—April 1st, 1884.

NORTH OF IRELAND BRANCH.—A general meeting of this Branch will be held in the Belfast Royal Hospital on Thursday, April 24th, at 12 o'clock. Members desirous of reading papers are requested to communicate as early as possible with the Honorary Secretary.—ALEX. DEMPSEY, M.D., 26, Clifton Street, Belfast.—April 2nd, 1884.

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

### LETTERS FROM ITALY.—VI.

#### NAPLES.

*Its Natural Beauties of Site and Scenery.—Posilipo, Baia, and Sorrento.—Its Sanitary and Social Condition.—Characteristics of the Streets.—Habitations and Habits of the People.—Sewers, Drains, and Water-Supply.—Mortality.—Climate.—Prospects and Drawbacks.—The Food-Supply.—Wines.—Hotels.—Means of Travel.*

MR. ERNEST HART writes, in his final letter from Italy:

So long as unrivalled beauties of scenery, masterpieces of art, the chief works of a bygone and buried civilisation, which lives again in its resuscitated treasures at Pompeii and in the Bourbon Museums; so long as purple mountain, azure sea, sweeping undulations of coast-outline, and sunny sky, a soft and equal climate, heights crowned with the umbrella-pine, the cypress, and the olive, enamelled with the golden groves of the orange and the citron, and festooned with vines; so long as the restored cities of the past, and the immortal works of classic masters have an invincible attraction to mankind—so long, at least, will Naples remain the goal of a great pilgrimage; the city of the hopes and longings of thousands whose imagination has been fired by the story and the pictures of her galleries, her monuments, her cities of the dead; her bronzes and sculptures, her neighbouring temples, her volcanoes, her bay, and the tributary beauties of her neighbouring coast. So manifold and varied are her beauties and treasures of classic and mediæval art, so marvellous the titanic manifestations of elemental force, so singular and unrivalled her natural beauties, that it is probable that no one ever left Naples disappointed, unsatisfied, or without undying recollections of a city which combines in a strange and unequalled degree nearly everything which charms and attracts with much that repels and disgusts.

Naples, to make her charm most felt, should be looked at, rather than inquired into. Seen from any of the points of vantage in the bay, from Posilipo on the one side, to Torre del Greco on the other; or as she shows mistily in the tender quivering morning light, or in the orange and crimson tints of sunset, as she is approached by sea, no fairer sight can meet the eye. I can recal vividly the magical view of the Golden Horn seen when the slanting rays of the sun sparkle on the minarets of Pera; the dancing turquoise wavelets of the Egean, over which rise proudly the heights of the Acropolis, surmounted by the matchless symmetry of the Parthenon, golden with the ruddy hue with which centuries have adorned its marble shafts; the approach to Corfu, through the islands of the Greek Archipelago; these have charms which dwell for ever in the memory, and which are not easily rivalled; but the Bay of Naples bears easily the palm for proud beauties of unceasing and everchanging attraction. Spreading along shores gracefully curved, climbing the heights guarded by the stern fortress of St. Elmo, stretching far beneath the base of the lava-scorched, but still fertile flanks of Vesuvius laughing into garlanded vineyards and flowering gardens, sprinkled with terraced villas towards Baia, Naples queens it over the fairest stretch of land, and the loveliest bay of the sea, and the rarest combination of mountain, rock, and valley, that the eye can hope to rest upon. Baia, Pozzuoli, Posilipo, Pompeii, Sorrento, Ischia, Capri, all are comprised within the Bay of Naples; and are not *filie matre pulchrioris*, only because of her beauty they are tributary parts. From them she is best seen, in them she is best enjoyed; and their quiet and refreshing loveliness, their balmy air, their fragrant hills and shaded groves, their cool sea-breezes, their sunny slopes and flowering gardens, the spreading parasols of their pines, the gleaming fruit of their orchards, their wholesome sweetness, their picturesque contented simplicity, tell us all that Naples may have been, much of what she might be, and is not. To see Naples,

then, and live healthily, and cleanly, without the disgust bred of loathsome stench, and the sickness of heart and body which squalor, filth, neglect, and putrefaction bring, she is best seen from her suburbs at an admiring distance. Within her precincts crowd, about six hundred thousand human beings, under circumstances which favour the easiest, happiest, cleanliest, life, in a climate such as no other great city in the world can boast. Athens for a large part of the year is parched and smothered in white dust; Constantinople, even in the late spring, is pierced through and through with icy blasts from the Black Sea; and Rome is cursed with the Campagna; and suffers from the alternations due to the snow-cooled winds from the Alban hills that temper too sharply the hot rays of the sun; the streets of New York alternate between the heaped-up snow of winter and a summer furnace-heat which slays its hundreds of adults by sunstroke and its thousands of infants by the slower diseases of excessive insolation; London lives, for a large part of the year, beneath a pall of smoke and in a shroud of fog; Paris is only a few degrees better; but Naples hardly knows snow; her skies are clear at least ten months in the year; the temperature, except in a month or two of the hottest part of the summer, is always temperate; she is protected from the fury and inclemency of the winds; a moist sea-breeze cools her streets and fans her gardens; she is situated on the sides of sloping hills, and with a frontage extending for miles along the sea. The nearest port to the continents of the East; with a teeming population content to live simply, to work hard, and for a low wage, and of gentle and easy temper; with sturdy labourers, and a race of good fishermen, and half-ambitious from their birth; here might be collected, it would be thought, all the material for prosperous, cleanly, and healthy life. But it is otherwise. There is hardly anywhere to be seen a population more ragged, more poverty-stricken, more miserably housed, more filthy in their habits. There is a fine water-supply to be had at no great distance, but it is not utilised; the atmosphere of a great part of the town is an infection; the defilement of the streets is unspeakable; the mortality of the city is excessive; but it is only surprising, and indeed hardly credible, that it is not greater. The poorest Arab quarters of Cairo are not defaced by scenes so foul and habits so unseemly; Irish cabins in the wilds of Connemara and of Donegal are better fitted for human habitations than many of the huts which lie at the back of Naples; and no slums of any other city of Europe show a population so openly barbarous in their disregard of the decent modesties of the physical functions, as those who occupy the ground floors of the palazzi which line the principal thoroughfares of Naples. Along the Chiaja, facing the quays of Santa Lucia, on the great paved road which leads out to the suburb of Portici, the broad street-way is bordered with palaces, villas, great houses, and hotels. Mostly they face the sea; at the back of many of them are spacious and lovely gardens; in the apartments of the first and second floors live the wealthy, the noble, the prosperous, and the enterprising part of the population. Of a large number of them the ground-floor is constituted by cavernous arches, opening to the street by huge folding-doors or fitted up otherwise as shops, magazines, factories, wine-counters, *trattorie*, barbers' shops, or are inhabited by artisans. These have neither light nor air, except what they get from the front. They teem with a swarming population of various grades of prosperity, poverty, industry, idleness, and squalor. The front part is parted off by boarding or by a curtain, and constitutes the shop, or factory, or living-room; and in the back part is the sleeping-accommodation. There is no provision of closets, or for the disposal of refuse. An upper room is frequently carved out, but only occasionally. The larger part of the life of this motley population goes on in public, at the door or on the pavement. In one of these cavernous abodes, you may see a stable with a horse or mule, a shop, a bedroom with all its appurtenances; and in the front a baker's shop or a general provision-store. On the pavement are groups of women knitting, washing, gossiping, rocking with the foot a baby in a rough cradle, seated on chairs ranged in a circle. Hair-combing appears to be a solemn operation, conducted only at intervals, performed most often in public, and accompanied by a sporting hunt for small deer. The huge elongated cesspools miscalled drains, without water to flush them, and choked with every kind of putrefying filth and street-rubbish, exhale, by gaping apertures, foul stench, with which the whole air is thick. Past corners, in which garbage is heaped up, you rush with handkerchief to nose, only to notice that that spot is unconcernedly selected for spreading the family-table in the open air for an evening meal, or that there is performed the family toilet. In this way the precincts of many of the most palatial houses are inhabited and defiled. No spot is sacred, no corner clean; no open space can be trodden without scrupulous vigilance. The rich and prosperous have tolerated this dirt and indecency so long, that they pass every thing with indifference, and seem to be unaware of the degrading caricature of civilisation which the street-life of Naples shows. Needless

and Ireland. As to the Bill itself, I am convinced that it runs no danger whatever so far as public opinion or professional opinion is concerned. The petition which I have presented is a good specimen of the proof of the prevailing opinion of the medical profession, and I am convinced that, as these are the opinions that ought to be decisive, no danger will arise. Dr. H. W. Acland, President of the General Medical Council, has expressed the strongest opinion, in his address to the Council, that the time has come when they ought to bring their influence to bear in aiding the settlement of the question. Whatever danger there may be will not come from the profession. It will come solely, I believe, from the unfortunate jealousies and fancied interests of a certain number of licensing bodies. The professional and the public interests will, I hope, prevail over such attempts, and I trust the Bill will be treated in the same public spirit in the House of Commons in which it has been treated here.

The Bill was then read a third time.

Before the question, "That the Bill do pass," was put, Lord CARLINGFORD moved an amendment to Clause 9, to give the Royal Irish University four, instead of three, representatives on the Irish Medical Board.—The Earl of MILLTOWN declared that the Irish Medical Corporations were by no means satisfied with this amendment.—After a few words from Earl CAIRNS in support of the amendment, Lord CARLINGFORD defended his proposal. He said there had been a strong feeling on the part of the Irish College of Physicians that they should be put on the same footing as the Irish College of Surgeons; and he was satisfied that it would be better to do that. It was always assumed, and it had his full concurrence, that the Irish Universities should be maintained in their majority on the Board. He had attempted to deal with the matter by giving a member to the two universities, either to be elected conjointly or to be elected alternately, but that plan was thoroughly distasteful to both the universities; and it had only remained for him to settle the matter by proposing to give a member to each. It came to this, that the majority that was to be maintained on the side of the Universities was to be a majority of two instead of one.—The amendment was agreed to, and the Bill then passed.

## INDIA AND THE COLONIES.

### THE EPIDEMIC PREVALENCE OF SMALL-POX IN INDIA.

THE epidemic of small-pox is still raging in Madras, and the death-rate from all causes has risen to 85 per 1,000. The correspondent of the *Times* telegraphs that "The present year seems characterised by an exceptional development of small-pox throughout India. The disease is epidemic, and is causing great mortality in Rangoon, and also in several cities of Upper India. It is described as above the average in Calcutta, and appears to prevail to a greater or less extent in almost every large city in the country."

## MILITARY AND NAVAL MEDICAL SERVICES.

### ARMY MEDICAL SCHOOL, NETLEY.

THE forty-eighth session of the Army Medical School was opened on the 2nd instant, when twenty-one gentlemen joined for the home service, and five for the Indian. The introductory address was delivered by Professor Maclean, who began with a graceful and touching allusion to the death of the Duke of Albany. He welcomed the new surgeons on probation, and explained the objects of their sojourn at Netley, pointing out the advantages of a military career, but warning them, at the same time, of the obstacles their best efforts may have to encounter, from the indiscriminating blame sometimes heaped upon the department for shortcomings for which it ought not to be held responsible. He illustrated this by the experience of Robert Jackson, in former days, and by the unmerited obloquy thrown upon the medical officers in the Egyptian campaign of 1882.

Dr. Maclean wound up a most eloquent address with an expression of hope that the stay of the surgeons on probation at Netley might be both profitable and pleasant.

Surgeon-General Murray and the medical and professional staff were present, as well as Mr. Dayman, President of the Southampton Medical Society.

The occasion was rendered further interesting by the fact that it is the first time that the school had been opened at Netley since the post of governor and commandant of the Royal Victoria Hospital has ceased to exist. From this time forth, the surgeon-general is sole responsible and administrative head of the establishment, and a galling and vexatious grievance has been at length removed. The

excellent results which have followed a similar change in the hospitals of the Royal Navy are not likely to be wanting at the headquarters of the sister service.

## PUBLIC HEALTH

AND

### POOR-LAW MEDICAL SERVICES.

HEALTH OF ENGLISH TOWNS.—During the week ending the 29th ult., 6,086 births and 3,495 deaths were registered in the twenty-eight large English towns, including London, dealt with in the Registrar-General's weekly return, which have an estimated population of 8,762,854 persons. The annual rate of mortality per 1,000 persons living in these towns, which in the two preceding weeks had been 22.6 and 22.1, further declined to 20.3 in the week ending the 29th ult. During the thirteen weeks of the quarter ending last Saturday, the rate of mortality in these towns did not exceed 21.1 per 1,000, a lower rate than has been recorded in the first quarter of any preceding year; the nearest approach to so low a rate being 23.8 in 1883. From the exceptionally low rate recorded in these large towns during last quarter, it may be safely assumed that the general death-rate of the country for the same period will be found to be unprecedentedly low. The rates in the several towns last week, ranged in order from the lowest, were as follow:—Derby, 12.5; Brighton, 13.9; Bristol, 14.0; Bradford, 15.9; Huddersfield, 17.6; Birkenhead, 17.8; Plymouth, 18.7; Leicester, 18.9; Sunderland, 19.1; Bolton, 19.6; Sheffield, 19.8; Wolverhampton, 20.0; Nottingham, 20.3; London, 20.4; Birmingham, 20.8; Salford, 21.4; Leeds, 21.5; Cardiff, 21.8; Hull, 21.9; Liverpool, 22.2; Portsmouth, 22.7; Norwich, 23.7; Newcastle-upon-Tyne, 24.1; Blackburn, 25.0; Manchester, 27.1; Oldham, 27.6; Preston, 27.8; and the highest rate 30.7 in Halifax. The average death-rate last week in the twenty-seven provincial towns was 21.1, and therefore exceeded by 0.7 per 1,000 the rate recorded in London. The 3,495 deaths registered last week in the twenty-eight towns included 471 which were referred to the principal zymotic diseases, against 502 and 486 in the two preceding weeks; of these, 154 resulted from whooping-cough, 135 from measles, 73 from scarlet fever, 41 from "fever" (principally enteric), 31 from diarrhoea, 20 from diphtheria, and 17 from small-pox. These 471 deaths were equal to 13.5 per cent. of the total deaths, and to an annual rate of 2.8 per 1,000. This zymotic rate was equal to 3.1 in London, whereas it did not exceed 2.6 in the twenty-seven provincial towns, among which it ranged from 0.0 in Derby, 0.5 in Bristol, and 0.6 in Huddersfield, to 5.9 in Portsmouth, and 7.2 in Oldham. The fatal cases of whooping-cough, which had been 160 and 143 in the two preceding weeks, rose again to 154, and caused the highest rates of mortality in London, Salford, and Bolton. The deaths referred to measles, which in the two previous weeks had been 146 and 141, further declined last week to 135, and showed the largest proportional fatality in Birmingham, Oldham, and Portsmouth. The 73 fatal cases of scarlet fever were 13 fewer than the number in the preceding week, but this disease showed excessive prevalence in Leeds and Sheffield. The deaths referred to different forms of fever, which had declined in the three previous weeks from 44 to 33, rose again last week to 41, and showed the largest proportional fatality in Liverpool and Birkenhead. The 31 deaths from diarrhoea showed a marked decline from recent weekly numbers. The fatal cases of diphtheria in the twenty-eight towns, which had been 20 and 28 in the two preceding weeks, declined again to 20; 12 occurred in London, and 2 in Salford. The 17 deaths from small-pox in these towns exceeded by 4 the number in the preceding week, and included 11 in London, 2 in Liverpool, 2 in Sunderland, 1 in Birmingham, and 1 in Newcastle-upon-Tyne. The death-rate from diseases of the respiratory organs, judged by the metropolitan returns, was again considerably below the average; the deaths referred to these diseases in London, which had been 370 and 373 in the two previous weeks, declined to 359 last week; they were as many as 182 below the corrected weekly average, and were equal to an annual rate of 4.7 per 1,000. The causes of 97, or 2.8 per cent., of the 3,495 deaths registered last week in the twenty-eight towns were not certified, either by medical practitioners or by coroners. In London the proportion of uncertified deaths did not exceed 1.3 per cent., while in the provincial towns it averaged 4.0 per cent., and showed the largest excess in Oldham, Hull, Leicester, and Wolverhampton.

HEALTH OF SCOTCH TOWNS.—In eight of the principal Scotch towns, having an estimated aggregate population of 1,254,607 persons, 797 births and 571 deaths were registered during the week ending

## MEDICAL NEWS.

**ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.**—The following gentlemen passed their primary examinations in anatomy and physiology at meetings of the Board of Examiners on the 1st and 2nd instant, and, when eligible, will be admitted to the pass examination.

Messrs. H. E. Hackett, A. B. Crowther, H. Harrop, G. Okell, J. M. Johnson, N. C. Haring, and W. K. Walls, of the Manchester School of Medicine; H. Skelding, E. C. Andrews, W. Clarke, C. Brook, E. P. Mauby, B. de B. Carey, and F. M. Ogilvie, of the University of Cambridge; F. W. Halliday, C. W. Turner, C. F. M. Althorp, F. W. Thornton, H. A. Smith, and H. Hebblethwaite, of the Leeds School; F. W. Bloomer, A. H. Nott, G. L. Hill, and J. H. Blakeney, of the Birmingham School; G. A. Syme, of the Melbourne School; W. F. Brook, and E. Solly, of St. Thomas's Hospital; D. P. Gausson, and W. G. Bigger, of the Belfast School; O. P. Beater, of the Dublin School; J. Girling, of the London Hospital; B. B. Grayfoot, D. Hepburn, and J. M. Caw, of the Edinburgh School; J. W. Dalglish, of the Newcastle School; J. H. Abram, J. Cunningham, and A. A. Kanthack, of the Liverpool School; W. L. Dickinson, of St. George's Hospital; W. C. Swayne, and R. F. W. Tucker, of the Bristol School.

Seven candidates were referred for three months.

**APOTHECARIES' HALL.**—The following gentlemen passed their Examination in the Science and Practice of Medicine, and received certificates to practise, on Thursday, March 27th, 1884.

Aspinall, John, Ash Cottage, Hindley.  
Averill, Charles, Stafford.  
Caleb, Clement Cornelius, Allahabad, India.  
Cropley, Henry, Swaton, Lincolnshire.  
Davis, Edward Sandom Stone, Fowey, Cornwall.  
Forster, Thomas Frederick, Brampton, Cumberland.  
Freeland, Freeland John, Antigua, West Indies.  
Hopkins, John Walter, the Infirmary, Ryde.  
Leech, Priestley, Linden Road, Halifax.  
Moore, Edward Head, Falmouth.  
Paul, Edmund William, Wearne Wyche, Langport.  
Stericker, George Frederick, Pickering.  
Woolmer, Shirley Lawrence, the Poplars, Kingswood, Bristol.

### MEDICAL VACANCIES.

The following vacancies are announced.

**BETHLEM HOSPITAL.**—Two Resident Medical Students. Applications to A. M. Jeaffreson, Esq., Bridewell Hospital, Blackfriars, E.C., by April 5th.  
**BIRMINGHAM AND MIDLAND COUNTIES ORTHOPEDIC AND SPINAL HOSPITAL.**—Honorary Assistant-Surgeon. Applications by April 7th.  
**DENTAL HOSPITAL OF LONDON AND SCHOOL OF DENTAL SURGERY.**—Medical Tutor. Salary, 40*l.* per annum. Applications by April 21st.  
**DUNFANAGHY UNION.**—Medical Officer. Gweedore portion of the Crossroads Dispensary. Salary, 110*l.* per annum and fees. Applications to John Beattie, Honorary Secretary, up to 17th instant.  
**DURHAM COUNTY HOSPITAL.**—House-Surgeon. Salary, 100*l.* per annum. Applications to the Honorary Secretary, 10, South Bailey, Durham, by April 15th.  
**FLINTSHIRE DISPENSARY.**—House-Surgeon. Salary, 100*l.* per annum. Applications to the Secretary, Board Room, Bagillt Street, Holywell, by April 15th.  
**JERSEY GENERAL DISPENSARY.**—Medical Officer. Salary, 120*l.* per annum. Applications by May 1st.  
**MORPETH DISPENSARY.**—Resident Medical Officer. Salary, 100*l.* per annum. Applications by May 5th.  
**OLRIG AND DUNNET PAROCHIAL BOARDS.**—Medical Officer. Salary, 60*l.* per annum. Applications, marked "Medical Officer," to James Brims, Esq., Chairman, by April 8th.  
**PADDINGTON GREEN CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL.**—Surgeon. Applications by April 9th.  
**ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL, Chatham.**—Assistant House-Surgeon. Salary, 100*l.* per annum. Applications addressed to the Clerk to the Trustees, endorsed, "Application for Assistant House-Surgeon," by May 1st.  
**THE GREAT NORTHERN CENTRAL HOSPITAL, Caledonian Road, N.**—Junior Resident Medical Officer. Applications by April 15th.

### MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS.

ABBOTT, C. E., M.R.C.S., L.K.Q.C.P.I., reappointed Medical Officer of Health for the Braintree Rural Sanitary District for one year.  
BROOKS, W. Tyrril, M.B., appointed Honorary Physician to the Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford, vice E. B. Gray, M.D., resigned.  
BROWN, J. H., M.B., C.M. Edin., M.R.C.S., appointed fourth House-Surgeon to the Manchester Royal Infirmary.  
BUTLER, W. G., M.R.C.S. Ireland, appointed Resident Medical Officer for the Workhouse, Limerick Union, vice T. O'D. Russell, M.K.Q.C.P.I., resigned.  
BURTON, Dudley W., B.S. Lond., M.R.C.P., appointed Administrator of Anesthetics to the Hospital for Women, Soho Square, vice Tom Bird, M.R.C.S.  
CHARTRES, H. William, appointed Medical Officer to the Maguire's Bridge Dispensary of the Lisnaken Union, vice Robert Warnock, L.K.Q.C.P.I., deceased.  
CHARK, J., M.D., F.R.C.S. Ed., appointed Medical Officer of Health to the Rural Sanitary Authority of Lichfield, vice D. H. Monckton, M.D., F.R.C.S., resigned.

COLLINS, John S., M.D. Queen's University, Ireland, appointed second House-Physician to the Manchester Royal Infirmary.  
DEAS, P. Maury, M.B., M.S. Lond., Medical Superintendent of the Parkside County Asylum, Macclesfield, appointed Medical Superintendent of the Wonford House Hospital for the Insane, Exeter.  
EVANS, William Arnold, M.R.C.S. Eng., L.S.A., appointed District Surgeon to the Salford and Pendleton Royal Hospital, vice G. J. Haslam, M.D., resigned.  
FARMER, Septimus, M.R.C.P., L.R.C.P., A.K.C., appointed House-Surgeon and Apothecary to the Chorley Dispensary, vice Dr. Nichol, deceased.  
FREER, E. S., M.R.C.S., appointed Honorary Surgeon to the Birmingham and Midland Counties Orthopaedic and Spinal Hospital.  
FREER, W. C., M.R.C.S., appointed Consulting Surgeon to the Birmingham and Midland Counties Orthopaedic and Spinal Hospital.  
GRIFFITH, Walter S. A., F.R.C.S., M.R.C.P., appointed Physician to the Samaritan Free Hospital for Women and Children, vice Skene Keith, M.B., M.C., resigned.  
GRIFFITHS, Thomas Richardson, L.K.Q.C.P.E., appointed Medical Officer to the Richill Dispensary of the Armagh Union, vice W. O. Deacon, L.K.Q.C.P.E., deceased.  
HARDWICK, E. H., appointed Medical Officer to the Infection Hospital, Solihull.  
HARRIES, Arthur J., M.D., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. Ed., appointed Assistant-Surgeon to St. John's Hospital for Diseases of the Skin.  
HARRIS, Spencer, appointed Surgeon in Ordinary to the City of Ely Dispensary, vice G. M. Sinclair, L.R.C.P. Ed., deceased.  
HUMBLE, G. A., M.D., M.R.C.P., appointed Physician to the Governorship of Patagonia, Argentine Republic, South America, vice Dr. Pifero, resigned.  
LEARER, Charles B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. Lond., appointed Assistant Medical Officer to the Nottingham Borough Asylum.  
MCGACHEN, F. W. D., L.F.P.S. Glas., L.M., L.S.A. Lond., appointed Medical Officer and Public Vaccinator to the No. 5 District, Newport Pagnel Union, vice F. Deynes, M.D., resigned.  
MACPHERSON, R. C., M.D., appointed Physician to the Anderson's College Dispensary, vice William Stewart, M.D., resigned.  
NOLAN, J. R., R.C.S. Ireland, appointed Resident Medical Officer for Workhouse, Limerick Union, vice F. W. O'Connor, F.R.C.S.I., resigned.  
PALMER, J. Foster, L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S., appointed Assistant-Surgeon to St. John's Hospital for Diseases of the Skin.  
PHILLIPS, E. A., M.R.C.S., L.S.A., appointed second Assistant-Surgeon, Derby Amalgamated Friendly Societies' Medical Association, vice T. B. Shaw, resigned.  
SMITH, Pynsent C., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., appointed Resident Surgeon, Bedford General Infirmary and Fever Hospital, vice E. A. O. Laurent, M.B., resigned.  
SPICER, R. H. S., M.B. Lond., appointed Resident Medical Superintendent, Fulham Union.  
STATHERS, G. Nicholson, M.R.C.S. Eng., L.R.C.P. Ed., appointed Medical Officer and Public Vaccinator to the tenth and eleventh districts of the Wycombe Union, vice Henry Hayman, F.R.C.S. Eng., resigned.  
STEWART, C. W., M.D., appointed Physician to the Anderson's College Dispensary, vice William Stewart, M.D., resigned.  
WALLACE, William, M.B., C.M. Glasgow, appointed Medical Officer for Bolsover District, Chesterfield Union, vice J. E. Slaughter, resigned.

### BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

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

#### BIRTHS.

ALEXANDER.—At Paignton, April 2nd, the wife of James Alexander, M.D.T.C.D., of a daughter.  
HITCHCOCK.—April 2nd, at the Lunatic Hospital, Bootham, York, the wife of C. K. Hitchcock, M.D., M.A., of a daughter.  
LEES.—At Elton, Bury, Lancashire, on the 27th ultimo, the wife of J. E. F. Lees, M.B., of a son.

#### MARRIAGE.

HOUGHTON—LEVEAUX.—On March 27th, at the Parish Church, Hornsey, by the Rev. J. M. Brown, uncle of the bride, Lambert Houghton, L.R.C.P., etc., only son of the late George G. Houghton, of Funchal, Madeira, to Adèle, second daughter of the late Edward Henry Leveaux, of Hampton Wick. No cards.

#### DEATHS.

GAIRDNER.—Died, at 9, the College, Glasgow, on March 31st, Lois Anna Mary, aged 12, daughter of Professor W. T. Gairdner, M.D. Friends will please accept this intimation.  
TAYLOR.—On March 18th, after a long and painful illness, William Taylor, J.P., M.R.C.S. Eng., of Scarborough and Cloughton, aged 66, deeply regretted.

At the last annual commencement of the Bellevue Hospital Medical College, New York, no fewer than one hundred and forty-nine students received a diploma to practise. Even before this accession to the ranks, we believe that there were more doctors in proportion to the population in the United States than in any other country in the world; the number being one doctor to every 625 inhabitants.

**A VETERAN IN HARNESS.**—M. Chevreul, the veteran chemist and Director of the Gobelins Manufactory, though he has reached the age of 98, has so strongly objected being placed on the retired list, that the order has been rescinded. M. Chevreul is a tremendous worker; he does not care about wine, and never takes it; he is spare in his diet, takes but two meals a-day, and devotes a quarter of an hour to each. "I am very old," it is reported that he said ten years ago, "and must not waste time in eating."

## OPERATION DAYS AT THE HOSPITALS.

<b>MONDAY</b> .....	St. Bartholomew's, 1.30 P.M.—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.
<b>TUESDAY</b> .....	St. Bartholomew's, 1.30 P.M.—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.
<b>WEDNESDAY</b> .....	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.
<b>THURSDAY</b> .....	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.—Chelsea Hospital for Women, 2 P.M.
<b>FRIDAY</b> .....	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.
<b>SATURDAY</b> .....	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.

<b>CHARING CROSS.</b> —Medical and Surgical, daily, 1; Obstetric, Tu. F., 1.30; Skin M. Th.; Dental, M. W. F., 9.30.
<b>GUY'S.</b> —Medical and Surgical, daily, exc. T., 1.30; Obstetric, M. W. F., 1.30; Eye, M. Tu. Th. F., 1.30; Ear, Tu. F., 12.30; Skin, Tu., 12.30; Dental, Tu. Th. F., 12.
<b>KING'S COLLEGE.</b> —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.; Dental, Tu. F., 10.
<b>LONDON.</b> —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, Th., 9; Dental, Tu., 9.
<b>MIDDLESEX.</b> —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.
<b>ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S.</b> —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.
<b>ST. GEORGE'S.</b> —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.
<b>ST. MARY'S.</b> —Medical and Surgical, daily, 1.45; Obstetric, Tu. F., 9.30; o.p., M. Th., 9.30; Eye, Tu. F., 9.30; Ear, W. S., 9.30; Throat, M. Th., 9.30; Skin, Tu. F., 9.30; Electrician, Tu. F., 9.30; Dental, W. S., 9.30.
<b>ST. THOMAS'S.</b> —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.
<b>UNIVERSITY COLLEGE.</b> —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.
<b>WESTMINSTER.</b> —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.

<b>MONDAY.</b> —Medical Society of London, 8.30 P.M. Dr. Joseph Coats (Glasgow): On Compensatory Hypertrophy of Various Organs. Dr. Clement Godson: On Retroversion of the Gravid Uterus.—Odontological Society of Great Britain, 8 P.M. Casual communications by Messrs. Storer Bennett, J. H. Munnery, F. N. Pedley, and E. Lloyd Williams. Mr. A. S. Underwood: On the Influence of Micro-organisms in the Production of Caries.
<b>TUESDAY.</b> —Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society, 8.30 P.M. Dr. John Harley: The Pathology of Myxoedema, as illustrated in a typical case. One of Dr. Harley's patients with myxoedema will be present for examination. Mr. F. B. Jessett: An Inquiry into the Cause of the Increase of Cancer in England and Wales.
<b>WEDNESDAY.</b> —Epidemiological Society of London, 8 P.M. Mr. Bolton G. Corney: On the Behaviour of Certain Epidemic Diseases in Natives of Polynesia, with especial reference to the Fiji Islands.—Hunterian Society, 7.30 P.M. Council. 8 P.M. Dr. Stowers: Sequel to a Case of Paget's Disease of the Nipple. Mr. Rivington: 1. Case of Recent Fracture of the Patella treated by Wire Suture; 2. Case of Wound of Knee-joint. Dr. Herman: On Pro-lapse of the Pelvic Floor without relative Displacement of the Uterus.—Royal Microscopical Society, 8 P.M. Dr. W. B. Carpenter: On Binocular Vision with the Microscope.

## 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.

In order to avoid delay, it is particularly requested that all letters on the editorial business of the JOURNAL should be addressed to the Editor at the office of the JOURNAL, and not to his private house.

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.

## THE WHEATLEY MEMORIAL FUND.

SIR,—I enclose you a list of the subscribers to the fund so far as their subscriptions have been received. I shall be much obliged if you will give space to its insertion in your columns. The amount received is at present far below the sum required to make the needful provision for those dependent on the late librarian of the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society.—I am, sir, yours faithfully,

BERKLEY HILL,

Honorary Secretary, Wheatley Memorial Fund Committee.

53, Berners Street, Oxford Street, W.

	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Thomas Boone, Esq.	50 0 0	T. Pickering Pick, Esq.	2 2 0
The Clinical Society	25 0 0	George Pollock, Esq.	2 2 0
Dr. William Wood	25 0 0	Dr. Sieveking	2 2 0
Sir Andrew Clark, Bart.		John Simon, Esq.	2 2 0
M.D.	10 10 0	Dr. Symes Thompson	2 2 0
T. B. Curling, Esq.	10 10 0	Dr. Charlewood Turner	2 2 0
J. Cooper Forster, Esq.	10 10 0	J. E. Adlard, Esq.	1 1 0
Sir Prescott Hewett, Bart.	10 10 0	Dr. Appleton	1 1 0
Berkley Hill, Esq.	10 10 0	John Birkett, Esq.	1 1 0
Sydney Williams, Esq.	10 10 0	Dr. Champneys	1 1 0
Morant Baker, Esq.	5 5 0	Dr. Fairlie Clarke	1 1 0
J. E. Eriksen, Esq.	5 5 0	F. Le Gros Clark, Esq.	1 1 0
Dr. Wilson Fox	5 5 0	R. H. Clay, Esq.	1 1 0
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Christopher Heath, Esq.	5 5 0	H. Curling, Esq.	1 1 0
J. W. Hulke, Esq.	5 5 0	Dr. Horace Dobell	1 1 0
Dr. Hughlings Jackson	5 5 0	Dr. Langdon Down	1 1 0
Sir William Jenner, Bart.	5 5 0	Dr. Ewart	1 1 0
Dr. George Johnson	5 5 0	Sir Joseph Fayrer	1 1 0
John Kingdon, Esq.	5 5 0	Dr. Gowers	1 1 0
John Langton, Esq.	5 5 0	Reginald Harrison, Esq.	1 1 0
John Marshall, Esq.	5 5 0	Dr. Hermann	1 1 0
Sir James Paget, Bart.	5 5 0	Dr. Graily Hewitt	1 1 0
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Sir Henry Thompson	5 5 0	F. Mason, Esq.	1 1 0
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Sir Erasmus Wilson	5 5 0	Surgeon-Major Myers	1 1 0
Sir William Bowman, Bart.	5 0 0	Dr. T. A. Nelson	1 1 0
Dr. Matthews Duncan	5 0 0	T. L. Read, Esq.	1 1 0
Dr. Douglas Powell	5 0 0	Dr. F. T. Roberts	1 1 0
Dr. Dyce Duckworth	3 3 0	Sir Edwin Saunders	1 1 0
Dr. Routh	3 3 0	Dr. Sedgwick	1 1 0
Alexander Shaw, Esq.	3 3 0	Dr. Felix Semon	1 1 0
John Wood, Esq.	3 3 0	Dr. Sharkey	1 1 0
Dr. Robert Barnes	2 2 0	Dr. Sieveking	1 1 0
Dr. Cayley	2 2 0	Dr. Pye-Smith	1 1 0
Dr. Duffin	2 2 0	Dr. Sutherland	1 1 0
Dr. Finlay	2 2 0	Dr. Trend (Southampton)	1 1 0
William H. Flower, Esq.	2 2 0	W. W. Wagstaffe, Esq.	1 1 0
J. G. Forbes, Esq.	2 2 0	C. Stewart Watkins, Esq.	1 1 0
Jonathan Hutchinson, Esq.	2 2 0	— Watney, Esq.	1 1 0
Dr. Stephen Mackenzie	2 2 0	Spencer Watson, Esq.	1 1 0
J. H. Morgan, Esq.	2 2 0	Dr. Charles West	1 1 0
E. Nettleship, Esq.	2 2 0	Dr. Dawson Williams	1 1 0
Dr. W. Ogle	2 2 0	Widderspoon and Co.	1 1 0
Dr. O'Neill, Lincoln	2 2 0		

## CONTAGIOUS DISEASES ACTS: A CORRECTION.

Two errors, one of omission and the other of commission, have crept into one paragraph of our article on the Contagious Diseases Acts, published on March 26th, page 636. The paragraph in which the comparison between the fourteen formerly protected stations, and fourteen other unprotected stations, is made for the year 1883, ought to read as follows. "We will take first the year of suspension, 1883. In this year, we find that the average strength at the fourteen hitherto protected stations was 39,104, and that the ratio per 1,000 diseased was 179.99. Next, taking the fourteen unprotected stations formerly selected for comparison with a force of 18,758, the ratio diseased was 258.35. Finally, taking all the unprotected stations throughout the country, with a strength of 41,804, the ratio per 1,000 diseased was 191.23."



## MICROSCOPICAL EXAMINATION OF SPUTUM.

Sir,—Thanks to Dr. Henegar Gibbs, the staining of the bacilli of tubercle is simplicity itself. Obtain from Messrs. Beck, Cornhill, a bottle of his double staining fluid (2s.). The steps in the process are these (I generally make the investigation when arranging my visiting-list for the next day, and so every moment can be occupied). Press between two thin cover-glasses the sputum to be examined, taking care that only the thinnest film is left, which may be accomplished by slipping one glass off the other. Two specimens are thus obtained, which are to be exposed to the air or held some distance over a spirit-lamp to dry. Four enough of the staining fluid into a watch-glass; warm this over a spirit-lamp until vapour rises; remove it, and float, with the sputum downwards, the glass on it for five minutes; take the slide out, and wash it in methylated spirits until all pink stain is removed. When dry, mount in Canada balsam or Farrant's medium in the usual way. One-eighth or one-tenth object-glass is wanted to demonstrate the bacilli satisfactorily. The staining-fluid must be kept in the dark, as all aniline dyes fade.—Faithfully yours,

D. H. G.

## THE MEDWAY UNION AND MR. BUCHANAN'S REPORT.

Dr. WHITTLE.—Mr. Buchanan's report was noticed in the JOURNAL on March 15th, page 525.

IGNORAMUS.—It is impossible to judge of your case, unless the limb be actually examined. You must place yourself entirely in the hands of a surgical colleague, especially with regard to the question of leaving your bed and wearing a plaster-of-Paris bandage.

## ABOLITION OF DISSECTION.

Sir,—In the recently published *Memorials of John Flint South* (p. 154), I find the following passage: "Mr. South played a prominent part... in the presenting of a memorial from the anatomical teachers to the Privy Council, for the total abolition of dissection." What does this mean?—Your obedient servant,

D.

\* \* On inquiry, we find that the copyist substituted "abolition" for "suspension," Mr. South's handwriting being difficult to read. This memorial from the teachers preceded the letter which the Council of the Royal College of Surgeons addressed to Lord Melbourne in 1831, expressing hopes that some plan might be devised by the legislature calculated to remove the serious evil then existing, by which bodies used for dissection in anatomical schools were frequently procured by illegal means. The Council insisted, in their letter, that the study of anatomy by dissection was the most important part of surgical education. It was the evil to which the Council referred that made the teachers of anatomy desire the suspension of dissection till the law was made more definite and satisfactory. Chiefly in consequence of this agitation, the Anatomy Act of 1832 was passed.

## AN OIL-STOVE.

Sir,—In reply to the inquiry in the JOURNAL concerning stoves, I beg to recommend Gillingham's Radiator. I have used one to warm my consulting-room for some months past with satisfaction. The apparatus consists of a duplex lamp burning colza, the heat from which is collected and radiated from a horizontal iron pipe suspended over it. The lamp consumes a gallon of oil a week, when kept burning twelve hours a day. Properly managed, there should be no smell whatever. The cost is about £2, and I think the only drawback is that they are somewhat unsightly.—Yours faithfully,

G. S. MAHOMED.

## SIZE OF DRAIN-PIPES.

H. D. desires to know what diameter the glazed pipes ought to be to secure good drainage from a house, and if there is any rule laid down on the subject.

\* \* In an ordinary sized house, the rule is that pipes of not less than four inches and not more than six inches diameter should be used; 6-inch pipes are most commonly laid. It is scarcely necessary to add that the correct size of pipes alone will not "secure good drainage."

## PROVIDENT DISPENSARIES.

Sir,—Though one swallow makes not a summer, I agree with Mr. R. Lee, writing in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, March 22nd, 1884, in hoping that "we shall soon see the question of hospital difficulties sensibly settled." I have my doubts, however, whether the matter will be settled in the way he suggests, curiously enough, for the very considerations he most strenuously urges, viz., those stated at the end of his letter with respect to public confidence. The fact is, public confidence is always in a more or less shaky state when things are not in proper order already.—I am, etc.,

J. HUSSEY WILLIAMS.

169, Stanley Road, Bootle, March 31st, 1884.

AN OLD ARMY SURGEON.—No doubt the stricter enforcement of the preliminary testing examinations will tend every year more and more to exclude illiterate and unworthy candidates from entering the medical profession. The instances which our correspondent quotes are striking enough, but are of course by no means singular, and are even, unfortunately, not unusual. We can only look to the progress of medical reform, and to the passage of a satisfactory parliamentary measure for the purpose, for the early and speedy remedy.

## VIOLENT ITCHING IN AN ELDERLY GENTLEMAN.

If M.D., whose question appeared on March 15th, will make inquiry, he will probably find a gouty tendency, either inherited or acquired, and his patient may find relief from a daily morning dose, fasting, of sulphate of soda, sulphate of potash, and sulphate of manganese.

## SPASMODIC CONTRACTION OF UTERUS ON PLACENTA: ITS CAUSES AND TREATMENT.

Sir,—Mr. Alexander Stirling, in his communication (March 22nd), seems to argue that in the case I recorded on March 1st in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, the cause of the spasmodic contraction was traction of the cord. He deprecates (and rightly so) a "vis a fronte," but in this case there was no "vis" at all. My words were, "slight traction of the cord." I merely did what I opine every practitioner must do, unless he means to let the placenta come away "of its own sweet will"—just pulled slightly on the cord; but, directly I felt that the placenta was a fixed point, and that I could not reach the insertion of the umbilical cord into it, I desisted, and adopted the most rational treatment in such cases—had chloroform administered to the patient, and so released the spasm.—Yours faithfully,

W. L'HUREUX BLENKARNE, M.R.C.S.E.

Buckingham, March 24th, 1884.

## VALIDITY OF AGREEMENTS NOT TO PRACTISE.

In reply to "W. E. T." (Pontypridd), who inquires whether an agreement between a registered medical practitioner and an unqualified assistant, by which the assistant (still unqualified) is prevented from acting as an assistant to any practitioner within a given distance, is legal, we may say that an agreement not to practise a trade or profession within a given district is not illegal. We cannot see that the fact of one of the parties being unqualified makes any difference. If there are any special circumstances which he thinks alter the case, he had better state them.

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

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## BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED.

A New Simplified Method of Medical Book-keeping. By A Medical Book-keeper of Ten Years' Practice. Liverpool: G. and T. Carlyle. 1884.

Aids to Practical Physiology. By J. Brindley James, M.R.C.S. London: Baillière, Tindall, and Cox. 1884.

The Influence of Heredity and Contagion on the Propagation of Tuberculosis, and the Prevention of Injurious Effects from Consumption of the Flesh and Milk of Tuberculous Animals. By Herr A. Lyddin; C. Fleming, LL.D., F.R.C.V.S., and M. Van Hertsen. London: Baillière, Tindall, and Cox. 1884.

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