

officer attached to the regiment is to be furnished from the ranks of the corps, but it is mentioned that all sick men are to be passed on to the field-hospitals. Obviously the movements of the regiments in the field would be seriously hampered under any other system.

A list of the articles supplied under the name of "Medical Comforts," that is, special articles beyond the regular hospital dietary, is given in the memorandum. It is said that they have been selected with special reference to the nature of the service in which the troops are employed, and to the character of the diseases likely to occur; and certainly, judging from their variety, the list seems so complete that it is difficult to imagine what hospital delicacies the volunteer committees, that have already begun to make public appeals for assisting the sick and wounded soldiers of the force in Egypt, will find to add to it.

The National Aid Society has organised an ambulance to be attached to the Suakin Expedition. The commissioners are Mr. V. Kennett-Barrington and Dr. Squires, both of whom have arrived at Alexandria, *en route* for Suakin. Other members of the staff, among them Professor Ogston, of Aberdeen University, whose valuable services have been transferred to the National Aid Society by the Princess of Wales's Branch, left Egypt by the previous mail. Sir Allen Young has most generously placed his steam yacht *Stella* at the disposal of the society; she is to be used as a supplementary transport for the sick and wounded, and also for taking convalescents for short cruises. The Army Medical Department has also given its hearty co-operation, and done all in its power to assist the representatives of the Red Cross, to carry out their good work successfully.

The Princess of Wales's Branch of the National Aid Society are sending out a wooden Danish house, presented by the Princess of Wales, to Suakin, whither the society has sent the necessary apparatus for fitting up a tea and coffee refreshment-tent. A similar apparatus, together with a wooden Danish club-house and the needed supply of books and games, has been despatched to Dongola. Two nurses have been sent to Suez, and two are on board the *Stella*. A large consignment of Brand's essences, preserved vegetables, various delicacies for food, and a further quantity of quinine have been despatched to Suez for the soldiers and sailors on the Nile. Arrangements will be made by local representatives for providing from these stores comforts during the voyage for the officers and men who may be invalided home; if necessary, nurses will likewise be provided for them. The sum already expended out of the donations received amounts to over £2,000. The sub-branches at Windsor, Kensington, and Hampton Court, presided over respectively by Princess Christian, Princess Louise, and Princess Frederica, work under the central organisation in a similar manner to that adopted by the other seventeen subcommittees formed in the United Kingdom, inasmuch as they remit any funds collected by them to the treasurer, Lansdowne House; while the needlework department is supervised by Princess Frederica, to whom all who wish to make the necessary articles of clothing apply for the requisite information. One thousand pyjamas and 1,000 flannel-shirts have already been requested by the society from the Hampton Court sub-branch.

### LUNATICS IN WORKHOUSES.

PERPLEXING passages in Parliament have occurred in consequence of the case of "Wicks v. Bedford and Others," to which we drew attention in our issue of March 14th. On Thursday of last week, Mr. J. Talbot interrogated the Secretary of State on the subject, Mr. Partridge, the stipendiary magistrate, having been compelled to send a wandering lunatic to the House of Detention because the workhouse authorities would not receive him, since they had been instructed as to their legal responsibilities by Mr. Justice Wills. Sir William Harcourt said that the proper place for a wandering lunatic was the workhouse infirmary and not a prison-cell, because detention in the latter was likely to increase his malady; and this view had been taken for the last forty years. He went on to say that a board of guardians in the west of London, who had refused to admit lunatics in consequence of a supposed obscurity of the law, had done so, not because they could not admit them, but because they would not admit them, but that the statute clearly made it obligatory on the guardians to admit lunatics. Unfortunately, Sir William did not name the statute, and definite knowledge on this all important point leaves the forty years' old view of the proper place in which wandering lunatics should be detained too visionary to be adopted as a ground for practice, in view of the fact that the master of the Marylebone workhouse has to pay damages of £50 and costs of action because his subordinates detained a lunatic without statutory authority. Such a master of argument as Sir William Harcourt ought to have replied to Mr. Talbot by naming the statute under which lunatics can be legally detained in work-

houses, and by the confident assurance that the verdict which the jury gave under the direction of Mr. Justice Wills against the master of the Marylebone workhouse will be reversed on appeal to a higher court. This, however, is exactly what Sir William Harcourt did not do.

Mr. G. Russell, in his reply to further inquiry on the same subject by Lord Alington Percy in the House of Commons on March 25th, admitted that the guardians of the Westminster Union had called the attention of the Poor-law Board to the Marylebone case, in which, he said, the requirements of the statute were altogether ignored; and he trusted that the result would be a warning to the officers of other unions if there should be any disposition to adopt a similar course. But neither did Mr. G. Russell indicate the statute under which a lunatic, who has not become mad during residence in a workhouse, can be legally confined in a workhouse. Mr. Justice Wills says there is no such statute. The master of the Marylebone workhouse is smarting under the penalty he has incurred from there being no such statute, and the platitudes, if they be platitudes, of the Government officials will not heal his wounds.

Sir Henry Gordon has written a letter to the *Times* on the difficulties which the new knowledge of the law acquired in the Marylebone case, and in the case of the magistrates of Lewes, places in the way of Justices of the Peace in the discharge of their duties, as laid down in the 68th sec. of the Lunatic Asylums Act. As we have already pointed out, it is a difficult and complicated section, but it is also a most useful and important one. The wandering lunatic has to be dealt with differently from the lunatic not properly treated or not under proper care and control; the former only needing the action of one magistrate, and of one medical man; the latter that of two magistrates, and, as Sir Henry thinks, though it would seem not on sufficient grounds, the action of two medical men. Sir Henry inquires whether he can remand the alleged lunatic, if he and the medical man whom he has called in to assist him be not satisfied as to the existence of insanity needing protection or control. The power of remand is applicable to offenders against the law, and is used for the purpose of obtaining additional evidence, either for the prosecution or the defence. But lunacy is not an offence, neither ought its existence to be provable to the justice and his medical coadjutor upon evidence alone, but mainly by observation. There is therefore no reason why a justice or justices with their medical coadjutors, who have been unable to make up their minds in one day, should be prevented from making up their minds another day, the variable condition of the alleged lunatic being the main element in their determination.

The Lord Chancellor has introduced his long-promised Lunacy Bill to the House of Lords, and we shall soon know whether it be sufficient to amend the many short-comings of the lunacy law. Perchance it may contain a large development of this 68th section, whereby a handy court, composed of justices of the peace, and of medical men acting in concert, may supersede the certificate-system in regard to all lunatics whom it is needful to place under detention or control.

## ASSOCIATION INTELLIGENCE.

### NOTICE OF QUARTERLY MEETINGS FOR 1885. ELECTION OF MEMBERS.

*Regulations for the Election of Members passed at the Meeting of the Committee of Council, October 12th, 1881.*

1. There shall be a standing notice in the JOURNAL every week, of the meetings of the Committee of Council throughout the year; and stating that gentlemen wishing to be elected members of the Association must send in their names *twenty-one days* before the meeting of the Committee of Council at which they wish to be elected.
2. That a list of applicants be in the hands of the Committee of Council *fourteen days* before such meeting of the Committee of Council, and that the Branch-Secretaries be supplied with *several* copies of the list.
3. That no member be elected by a Branch, unless his name has been inserted in the circular summoning the meeting at which he seeks election.

Meetings of the Council will be held on April 8th, July 8th, and October 14th, 1885. 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, namely, June 17th, and September 24th, 1885, 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, Exeter Hall, Strand, London, on Wednesday, the 8th day of April next, at 2 o'clock in the afternoon.

FRANCIS FOWKE, *General Secretary.*

161A, Strand, March 14th, 1885.

### 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.

- |                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| I. Acute Pneumonia.       | VIII. Paroxysmal hæmoglobinuria.           |
| II. Chorea.               | X. Habits of Aged Persons.                 |
| III. Acute Rheumatism.    | XI. Albuminuria in the Apparently Healthy. |
| IV. Diphtheria, clinical. | XII. Sleep-walking.                        |
| V. Diphtheria, sanitary.  | XIII. Cancer of the Breast.                |
| VI. Acute Gout.           |  |
| VII. Puerperal Pyrexia.   |  |

An inquiry is now issued concerning the general condition, habits, and circumstances, past and present, and the family history of persons who have attained or passed the age of 80 years.

The replies to this inquiry will be most valuable when given by a medical man; but the questions have been so arranged that, with the exception of some on the last page, they may be answered by another person. *Partial information will be gladly received.*

There is also now issued an inquiry as to the occurrence of albuminuria in apparently healthy persons.

The Acute Gout card, which had been found too elaborate, has been made a great deal simpler, and is now re-issued.

Copies of these forms and memoranda are in the hands of all the local secretaries, and will be forwarded to anyone who is willing to fill up one or more of the forms, on application by post-card or otherwise to the Secretary of the Collective Investigation Committee, 161A, Strand, London, W.C., to whom all applications and correspondence should be addressed.

July, 1884.

### BRANCH MEETINGS TO BE HELD.

**SOUTH INDIAN BRANCH.**—Meetings are held in the Central Museum, Madras, on the first Saturday in the month, at 9 P.M. Gentlemen desirous of reading papers or exhibiting specimens are requested to communicate with the Honorary Secretary.—C. SIBTHORPE, Honorary Secretary, Madras.

**SOUTH WALES AND MONMOUTHSHIRE BRANCH.**—The next ordinary meeting will be held at Pontypridd, on Wednesday, April 15th. Members wishing to bring forward papers, communications, etc., are requested to send titles to one of the undersigned before March 25th.—A. SHEEN, M.D., Cardiff; D. ARTHUR DAVIES, M.B., Swansea, Honorary Secretaries.—February 25th, 1885.

**SOUTH-EASTERN BRANCH: WEST KENT DISTRICT.**—The next meeting of this district will be held at the West Kent General Hospital, Maidstone, on Friday, March 27th, at 3.30 P.M., Charles Hoar, Esq., M.D., in the chair. The dinner will take place at the "Star" Hotel, Maidstone, at 6 P.M. precisely; charge, 6s., exclusive of wine. Gentlemen who intend to dine are particularly requested to signify their intention to Dr. Hoar, 3, Rocky Hill Terrace, Maidstone, not later than March 26th. All members of the South-Eastern Branch are entitled to attend this meeting and to introduce friends.—Papers to be read: 1. Charles Frith, Esq., M.D.: "Two cases of Thoracic Aneurysm, with specimens." 2. J. E. Meredith, Esq., M.D.: "A case of complete Atresia of Vagina, with severe constitutional symptoms." 3. C. Boyce, Esq., M.B.: "A case of Intestinal Obstruction: Stercoraceous vomiting for five days; recovery." 4. M. A. Adams, Esq., F.R.C.S.: "Clinical Notes on Amaurosis." 5. A. H. Hallows, Esq.: "Surgical Cases of Interest." Dr. Ground will exhibit some specimens of Pathogenic Micro-organisms. At 3 P.M. Messrs. Mayer and Meltzer will exhibit some new Surgical Instruments.—H. LEWIS JONES, Honorary Secretary, St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Chatham.

**SOUTH-EASTERN BRANCH.**—Members of this Branch are requested to take notice, "That candidates for the office of representative of the Branch at the Council of the Association, should be nominated by any two members of the Branch, before April 15th, and their names sent to the Honorary Secretary." The present representatives are, for Kent, Dr. Parsons (Dover); for Surrey, Dr. Holman (Reigate); for Sussex, Dr. Withers Moore (Brighton).—CHARLES PARSONS, M.D., Honorary Secretary.

**GLOUCESTERSHIRE BRANCH.**—A special and ordinary meeting of the Branch will be held on Tuesday, April 21st, 1885, at 7.30 P.M., in the lecture-room of the School of Science, Gloucester, under the presidency of Dr. Needham. *Agenda:* Special.—The adoption of the revised and amended rules drawn up by the Council. Ordinary.—A paper on "The Estimation of the Impurities in the Atmosphere," together with a practical demonstration of the same, by G. Embrey, Esq., county analyst.—G. ARTHUR CARDEW, Honorary Secretary.

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

### LETTERS FROM THE EAST.

#### II.

*At Sea.—Gibraltar.—Malta.—The Ganges.—Suggestions for the Comfort of the Sick.—Suakin and the Lady Nurses.*

MR. ERNEST HART writes, under date Cairo, March 15th:—

Progress in a steam-ship is eminently scientific. The wheels, compasses, iron-plates, engines by which you are surrounded, the pulsating piston with mechanical monotonous and unceasing throb, the revolving screw, the officer on the bridge guiding this metallic monster of four thousand tons with the pressure of his hand on a button, or blinking at the sun with sextant and glass, all are images and products which show everywhere the calculated application of the finger of science. In this there is satisfaction, but no rest; there is no man aboard ship who does not quickly turn for refreshment to the changeable nature which surrounds him, and, consciously or unconsciously, live in happy thought among the elemental influences, which speak first and last, which are the oldest and the youngest, and which presently impress us as the true realities among which we move. At sea we feel ourselves to be the creatures of their moods—the winds pipe, the clouds gather gloomily, the waves lift their foaming crests; the ship reels and trembles, and we shrink before the vision of the unchained forces of nature, from which in towns we comfortably hide ourselves in the study. Then the scene changes; with even keel we glide through a smooth sea with unwrinkled and glassy surface, reflecting the intense blue of the high arch of the skies from which the austere clouds have vanished: the sunlight dances in the ripple of the boat's wake; a soft air fans the cheek, an invading warmth and seductive sense of restful ease complete the temptations to pass hour after hour in calm enjoyment of a life in which there is nothing to distract or irritate; hours of equable happiness without conscious thought, varied only by intervals of light and laughing occupation with agreeable trifles; and rare episodes of serious activity in mental travail. For a sea-journey subdues you easily to the medium in which you live. The gossip of the city, the crowding of the multitude, the trivial and tangled hopes and doubts; the larger aspirations, the thoughtful effect of responsible doing, these belong to the dreamland which you have left behind; for you, at least, the reality is here, where you are. The flowing sea, the moving cloud, the cooling winds, the radiant sunshine, these form the actual world of nature in which you are privileged to live, and these are now and always speaking, as in these seas they spoke long since to Greek, Phœnician and Hebrew; still renewing physical vigour, and bracing up the whole man, still whispering to the spirit in a language which has never changed, which is the same for all, and which all understand; tidings of the things far distant, unaltered and unalterable, ancient of days but having an unfading freshness; and if it fares well with us, we can still hear the faintest whisper as they did in Horatian days—*auribus crectis*—with ears erect.

From the moment that we passed Gibraltar till we left the ship at Suez, it has been well with us—each day more brilliant than that which went before. The transcript of the log would be wearisome, from its monotony of fair record; unbroken sunshine, the temperature of an English June, at its best, and without its vicissitudes; the thermometer ranging through not more than six degrees in diurnal variation, but slowly mounting day by day till, at Port Said, it had reached 72° at midday; gentle and refreshing breezes, idleness on lounging-chairs beneath the awning during the day; when evening comes, the crescent moon rises in the skies, jewelled with a million constellations, shining everywhere so brightly, that starlight is no figure of speech; for the evening star and Sirius throw distinct trails of light across the waves. For "occupations," there are reading, chess, whist, "shovel-board," and, for those who like them, charades, concerts, dancing, pacing the quarter-deck, and such other amusements as make an idle life tolerable or intolerable, according to taste.

The calls at Gibraltar and Malta allow a few hours on shore at each place. The proud rock which juts forth, a British citadel in a foreign sea, wakes a throb of pride in every English heart—an impregnable fortress, a firmly planted and well formed place of arms, dominating the Mediterranean, with miles of covered galleries, not obtruding themselves, but lying quietly beneath the rugged surface of the earth, here and there a buttressed fort, and a hundred-ton gun, but no show of strength, only the reality, the keystone of the fabric of British commerce in these seas, and doing its work effectually, but not fussily.

## THE CASE OF DR. BERNARD.

WE regret to have to announce that the Local Government Board has intimated to Dr. Bernard, Medical Superintendent of the Small-pox Hospital at Stockwell, that they concur with the desire of the Metropolitan Asylums Board in their determination to consolidate the control of the Fever and Small-pox Hospital in Dr. McKillar's hands; and, in virtue thereof, a three months' notice has been served on him, determining his appointment. It would appear therefrom that Dr. Bernard's appeal for compensation or a pension on the loss of his appointment has been simply ignored.

## LIABILITY OF WATER-COMPANIES.

SIR,—I am in want of information as to the liability of water-companies, in the event of their supplying the public with water of a dangerously impure, or at the least highly suspicious, nature. A friend recommended Dr. Hime's *Acts of Parliament relating to Sanitation*; but I cannot procure it. I wish to learn the present state of the law on sanitary matters, and would be grateful for a suggestion of any short and succinct treatise on the subject.—I am, etc.,

P. H. W.

\*\* On the general subject of the state of law on sanitary matters, Dr. Hime's little *Handy Guide to Public Health* (Baillière, Tindall, and Cox, 20, King William Street, Strand), is as good a book as can be found. As, however, our correspondent writes from Scotland, he may prefer Dr. Aubrey Husband's *Sanitary Law* (E. and S. Livingstone, Edinburgh), which gives a digest of the sanitary Acts of both England and Scotland. But neither book will give any information as to the liability of water-companies in the event of their supplying the public with impure water; for the very sufficient reason that there is no such liability. Theoretically, no doubt, it would appear that Lord Campbell's Act (9 and 10 Vict. cap. 93) must apply to cases of this sort, that actions for damages are maintainable against water-companies by the families of persons whom any wrongful act, neglect, or default of such companies has killed; and, of course, that the person himself, if injured but not killed; can have his own action for damages. But the difficulties in taking any such course at law would be extreme. The proof generally as to the epidemic might be complete; it might be shown to the satisfaction of a jury that a fever or cholera outbreak in mass had been caused by the distribution of a certain water, which the company had suffered to be polluted with sewage; but with all this clearly shown as to the epidemic generally, it might still be scarcely possible for any individual victim of the company's malfeasance to prove (if this had to be proved) that his particular attack came from the direct operation of that and no other cause. The point is a very important one, and, in any amendment of the Public Health Act, the wilful or neglectful distribution of polluted water to the public ought to be made punishable in a very much higher degree than at present. It may be useful to add that, on all technical questions connected with water-supply, Messrs. Michael and Wills's *Law of Gas and Water*, of which a third edition has just been published by Messrs. Butterworths, is the book to consult.

## INDIA AND THE COLONIES.

## INDIA.

**WATER-SUPPLY OF MADRAS.**—According to the *Indian Medical Journal*, quoting from the *Mail*, the Madras Government has accepted a tender made by M. L. Cornet, of Pondicherry, for sinking an artesian well at Madras. The approximate cost of the undertaking will be 15,475 rupees. The necessary apparatus is to be brought from Paris.

**THE LAHORE MEDICAL SCHOOL.**—The Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab presided at the annual distribution of prizes at the Medical College on December 8th. The report showed that the institution was making steady progress, especially in the direction of producing female practitioners. The Lieutenant-Governor commented on the amount of misery suffered by native women from the want of skilled medical treatment arising from the prejudice against having male practitioners, and hoped that the present movement would soon put an end to it. He severely blamed the natives for the meagre support accorded by them to the medical institutions of the province. While the comparatively few Europeans last year subscribed over 10,000 rupees, the contributions from the natives amounted to only 3,000 rupees.

**PRESENTATION TO DR. D. B. SMITH.**—On February 5th, the members of the India Club in Calcutta gave a farewell *soirée* in honour of Dr. D. B. Smith, the newly appointed Professor of Military Medicine at Netley. An address, read by Dr. K. D. Ghose, and a gold watch, were presented to Dr. Smith by his old friends and pupils, who assembled in great force. In the address, reference was made to the distinguished services rendered by Dr. Smith in the field during the Indian mutiny, and his zeal and energy as a teacher while Professor at the Calcutta Medical College, and to his ready sympathy and skill, willingly afforded alike to rich and poor, especially to the refugees from

the Orissa famine in 1866. Dr. Smith made a suitable reply, and took farewell of those present.

**CHOLERA.**—This disease is reported to be prevalent in six districts of the Bombay Presidency. At Nassick we learn that during a fortnight at least 72 persons died of it in the town and neighbourhood. Dr. Leahy, and the Sanitary Commissioner, Dr. Peacock, have been doing all they can to check the spread of the disease. In Bombay, a temporary hospital has been opened, and medical attendance has been engaged. Dr. Blanc urged, in view of the prevalence of cholera among the pilgrims at Nassick, the necessity of employing a staff of men to look to the sanitary arrangements of the different places where cases of cholera might occur in Bombay. The Municipal Commissioner has given assurance that whenever the necessity arises, he will take every possible measure to keep the disease from spreading in the town. It is stated that there were as many as 45 deaths from cholera in Bombay during the week ending the 25th February.

## MAURITIUS.

**OUTBREAK OF FEVER.**—Some alarm, it is said, is being felt in Mauritius at what is supposed to be a fresh outbreak of the fever which proved so fatal in many parts of the island a few years ago. A very bad outbreak has already taken place in the western suburb of Port Louis, which is chiefly inhabited by the very poorest classes. It is said that there is scarcely one house free from fever, and in many families as many as ten or twelve persons have been attacked, frequently with fatal results.

## MEDICO-LEGAL AND MEDICO-ETHICAL.

## UNQUALIFIED PRACTITIONERS AND QUALIFIED ASSISTANTS.

A QUESTION of some importance as to the construction of the Medical Act of 1858 was decided by Mr. Justice Pearson on March 18th. It was an action brought by Mr. Davies, acting as a medical practitioner, though not legally qualified, against a former assistant, Mr. Makuna, who is a qualified medical man, claiming an injunction to restrain the defendant from carrying on his medical profession within ten miles of the plaintiff's residence. An agreement had been entered into between the two parties, in which the plaintiff was described as a medical practitioner, and the defendant as a medical assistant, and by which the defendant agreed to act as the plaintiff's assistant; and the defendant covenanted that he would not, during the next five years after the termination of his assistantship, except with the written consent of the plaintiff, carry on the profession of doctor of medicine, surgeon, apothecary, or surgeon-accoucheur, or any of them, within ten miles of the plaintiff's residence. The defendant acted as assistant for several months, and, on leaving, commenced practice on his own account in the same place as the plaintiff.

The main defence was that the plaintiff, not being a legally qualified medical practitioner registered under the Medical Act, was not entitled to maintain the action; but this was not upheld, and an injunction was granted. The defendant, Mr. Makuna, intends to appeal.

We have no sympathy with Mr. Davies, nor with unqualified practitioners generally; but we must confess that the defendant appears to be still less deserving of sympathy. If he knew, when he entered into the contract, that Mr. Davies was not qualified, he has no cause for complaint; and if he did not know this, he is not prejudiced, on properly retiring from his engagement, in being held to his bargain not to practise against Mr. Davies. An honourable feeling ought, we imagine, even if the appeal be allowed, to restrain Mr. Makuna from entering into practice at Ystrad Rhondda.

## A COURT OF HONOUR.

SIR,—From time to time, we see valuable space occupied in the medical papers in the discussion and ventilation of breaches of professional morals. These constant disputes and squabbles are not calculated to improve the status of the profession in the eyes of the public.

Could not, or would not, the British Medical Association form a Court of Honour; or if it have not the power, could it not obtain power? This Court must be composed of men of untainted honour (and, thank God, such men are to be found in our profession), and should have power to enforce its decrees by suspension or removal of offenders from the *Register*. To such a tribunal an injured man could appeal with confidence against an offender, and thus the profession might be saved from much scandal. Again, in cases in which a breach of honour, not of law, is involved, how many years of worry would be saved to many an honourable man who has the misfortune to have a black sheep located near him, in cases (and I am sorry to confess these are not rare) in which a

the subject before long; there must be an altered state of things;" whether eventually Mr. Partridge said he had no alternative but to send the man to the House of Detention, and said, "magistrates at present did not know what course to pursue;" and whether Her Majesty's Government proposed to take immediate steps to prevent alleged lunatics being confined in prisons.—Sir W. HARCOURT said that the proper place for a wandering lunatic was the workhouse infirmary, and not a prison or a police-cell. To send a lunatic to a prison or a police-cell, was likely to increase his malady. That had been the view taken for the last forty years with respect to lunatics, either before or after trial. According to that view, powers were given by statute, and duties imposed upon the Secretary of State, upon a certificate that a man was insane, to send him to a lunatic asylum. But, to his great surprise, he had lately seen it stated that that was an illegal power exercised by the Secretary of State. Nothing could be more undesirable than that a lunatic should be kept three months or more in prison awaiting his trial, for there were no means provided in prison for the proper care of lunatics. The law provided that a man who was a lunatic should be sent to a lunatic asylum.—Mr. TALBOT asked whether the right honourable gentleman was aware that a Board of Guardians in the west of London had come to the conclusion that they could not keep their lunatics in the workhouse, and that the consequence was, that the lunatics were sent to prison.—Sir W. HARCOURT was understood to reply that the guardians referred to had acted in consequence of a supposed obscurity in the law. The statute to which the subject was referable was, however, sufficiently clear to make it obligatory upon them to admit lunatics. It was not that they could not admit them, but that they would not.—In answer to Mr. M'COAN, Sir W. HARCOURT was understood to reply that, under a statute which had existed for forty years, when a lunatic was committed to prison he could rightly be sent to an asylum.

*The Lunacy Bill.*—In answer to Mr. W. CORBET, Sir W. HARCOURT said that a Lunacy Bill would be introduced very soon in the House of Lords.

*Tuesday, March 24th.*

*Reception of Insane Persons into Workhouses.*—Replying to the question of Lord ALGERNON PERCY, given in the JOURNAL of March 21st, Mr. G. RUSSELL said the guardians of the Westminster Union have called the attention of the Board to the decision of Mr. Justice Wills in the Marylebone case. It appears that, in that case, a woman, who was not a pauper, and who was alleged not to be under proper care and control, was, by stratagem, removed to the workhouse, and was detained there against her will for a period of fourteen days, and that the requirements of the statute were altogether ignored. The publicity which has been given to the decision in this case will be a warning to the officers of other unions if there should be any disposition to adopt a similar course. It does not at present appear to the Board to be necessary to issue a circular letter on the subject, neither would they be prepared to propose legislation for legalising action such as that in the case in question.

## MEDICAL NEWS.

**KING AND QUEEN'S COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS IN IRELAND.**—At the usual monthly examinations for the Licences of the College, held on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, March 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th, the following candidates were successful.

*For the Licences to practise Medicine and Midwifery.*—G. Brown, Sandycove, co. Dublin; G. F. Collins, Dublin; J. Hobbs, Dublin; G. St. J. Oldham, Pontefract; R. J. L. Rowley, Sale, Cheshire.

*For the Licence to practise Midwifery only.*—A. L. Blake, Clonbur, co. Galway.

At a special examination for the Licence in Medicine of the College, held on Wednesday and Thursday, February 25th and 26th, the undermentioned candidate was successful.

W. A. Goodall, M.D. Univ. Vict. Coll. Toronto, 1884, Galt, Ontario, Canada.

## MEDICAL VACANCIES.

The following vacancies are announced.

**BETHLEM HOSPITAL.**—Two Resident Medical Students. Applications to A. M. Jefferson, Esq., Bridewell Hospital, Blackfriars, E.C.

**BOYLE UNION.**—Medical Officer, Workhouse. Salary, £100 per annum, with £15 yearly as Consulting Sanitary Officer. Election on April 4th.

**BOYLE UNION.**—Medical Officer, Boyle No. 1 Dispensary. Salary, £135 per annum and fees. Applications to H. Lawrence, Honorary Secretary, not later than April 4th.

**BRIGHTON AND HOVE LYING-IN INSTITUTION.**—House-Surgeon. Salary £120 per annum. Applications by April 17th.

**BRISTOL FORESTERS' MEDICAL INSTITUTION.**—Medical Officer. Applications to Mr. E. S. Burgess, 34, Horfield Road, Kingsdown, Bristol, by March 31st.

**CAMBRIDGE FRIENDLY SOCIETIES' MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.**—Medical Officer. Salary, £210 per annum. Applications to W. P. Littlechild, Vine Cottage, Queen's Lane, Cambridge, by April 25th.

**CHELSEA HOSPITAL FOR WOMEN.**—Resident Medical Officer. Salary, £60 per annum. Applications by March 31st.

**CHESTER GENERAL INFIRMARY.**—House-Surgeon. Salary, £80 per annum. Applications by March 28th.

**CRANBROOK UNION.**—Medical Officer and Public Vaccinator for the District of Hawkhurst. Salary, £55 per annum. Applications by April 7th.

**CITY OF LONDON HOSPITAL FOR DISEASES OF THE CHEST,** Victoria Park, E.—Resident Clinical Assistant. Applications by March 30th.

**GENERAL HOSPITAL, Birmingham.**—Resident Medical Officer. Salary, £130 per annum. Applications by March 28th.

**HARTLEPOOL FRIENDLY SOCIETIES' MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.**—Assistant Medical Officer. Salary, £130 per annum. Applications to T. Tweddell, Commercial Terrace, West Hartlepool.

**HOSPITAL FOR CONSUMPTION AND DISEASES OF THE CHEST.**—Resident Clinical Assistants. Applications by April 18th.

**HOSPITAL FOR EPILEPSY AND PARALYSIS,** 32, Portland Terrace, Regent's Park.—Assistant-Physician and Registrar. Applications by March 31st.

**HOSPITAL FOR SICK CHILDREN,** 49, Great Ormond Street, W.C.—Assistant Physician. Applications by April 1st.

**LIVERPOOL ROYAL INFIRMARY.**—Resident Medical Officer. Salary, £100 per annum. Applications to the Chairman of the Committee, by March 30th.

**MANCHESTER ROYAL EYE-HOSPITAL.**—House-Surgeon. Salary, £70 per annum. Applications to the Chairman of the Board of Management by April 14th.

**PARISH OF KENSINGTON.**—Resident Assistant Medical Officer. Salary, £120 per annum. Applications by March 28th.

**RATHFRUM UNION.**—Medical Officer, Arklow Dispensary. Salary, £135 per annum and fees. Applications to J. Hannagan, Honorary Secretary, Ballyduff. Election on April 4th.

**ST. GEORGE'S HOSPITAL, S.W.**—Assistant Dispenser. Salary, £100 per annum. Applications by April 1st.

**STRABANE UNION.**—Medical Officer, Newtown Stewart Dispensary. Salary, £140 per annum and fees. Applications to Rev. Leslie Lyle, Honorary Secretary. Election on April 6th.

**UNIVERSITY COLLEGE HOSPITAL, London.**—Third Assistant-Surgeon. Applications by April 14th.

**WEST LONDON HOSPITAL, Hammersmith.**—Assistant Surgeon. Applications by March 30th.

**WEST LONDON HOSPITAL, Hammersmith Road, W.**—House-Physician and House-Surgeon. Applications by April 23rd.

## MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS.

**BASSETT, H. Thurstan, M.B.Lond.,** Surgeon to the Birmingham and Midland Skin and Lock Hospital, *vice* J. W. Taylor, F.R.C.S.Eng., resigned.

**CHAPEMAN, George, M.R.C.S., L.S.A.,** appointed Medical Officer and Public Vaccinator for the parish of Yoxall, Lichfield Union, *vice* W. J. Ramsden, L.R.C.P. L.R.C.S., resigned.

**EDWARDS, F. Swinford, F.R.C.S.Eng.,** appointed Assistant-Surgeon to St. Mark's Hospital for Fistula and Diseases of the Rectum.

## BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

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

### BIRTHS.

**KINNEIR.**—On March 22nd, at Gordon House, Horsham, Sussex, the wife of F. W. D. Kinneir, M.R.C.S., L.S.A., of a son.

**TINKER.**—On March 16th, at Brookland House, Hyde, Cheshire, the wife of Frederick Howard Tinker, L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S., of a daughter, stillborn.

### DEATHS.

**COATES.**—On the 25th instant, at Endless Street, Salisbury, William Martin Coates, F.R.C.S., aged 73 years.

**FOULDS.**—On the 12th instant, at Chesterfield, Samuel Foulds, M.R.C.S.Eng., L.R.C.P.Lond., Honorary Surgeon to the Chesterfield and North Derbyshire Hospital, aged 50.

**MILLER.**—On the 17th instant, at Eye, Suffolk, Emily, the wife of W. W. Miller, M.D., aged 54.

## MEETINGS OF SOCIETIES DURING THE NEXT WEEK.

**MONDAY.**—Medical Society of London, 8.30 P.M. Mr. Walsham: On the Treatment of Caries of the Spine in the Upper Dorsal and Lower Cervical Region by a Combined Jacket and Collar of Porous Felt. Dr. Woakes: On Necrosing Ethmoiditis, and its Relation to the Development of Nasal Polypus.

**TUESDAY.**—Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society, 8 P.M. Adjourned Discussion on Cholera.

**WEDNESDAY.**—Obstetrical Society of London, 8 P.M. Specimens will be shown by Dr. John Williams and others. Dr. Murphy: Sequel to a Case of Ovariectomy. Dr. John Williams: On the Circulation in the Uterus, with some of its Physiological and Pathological Bearings. Dr. Bousquet: Note sur un Cas d'Absence Totale de l'Utérus et d'Occlusion du Vagin. Dr. W. H. Day: Case of Uterine Fibroid, complicating Labour, treated by Enucleation.

## OPERATION DAYS AT THE HOSPITALS.

MONDAY.....	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 Orthopedic, 2 p.m.—Hospital for Women, 2 p.m.
TUESDAY .....	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.—St. Thomas's (Ophthalmic Department), 4 p.m.—Cancer Hospital, Brompton, 2.30 p.m.
WEDNESDAY ..	St. Bartholomew's, 1.30 p.m.—St. Mary's, 1.30 p.m.—Middlesex, 1 p.m.—University College, 2 p.m.—London, 2 p.m.—Royal London Ophthalmic, 11 a.m.—Great Northern Central, 3 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 Orthopedic, 10 a.m.—King's College, 3 to 4 p.m.
THURSDAY ....	St. George's, 1 p.m.—Central London Ophthalmic, 1 p.m.—Charing Cross, 2 p.m.—Royal London Ophthalmic, 11 a.m.—Hospital for Diseases of the Throat, 2 p.m.—Royal Westminster Ophthalmic, 1.30 p.m.—Hospital for Women, 2 p.m.—London, 2 p.m.—North-west London, 2.30 p.m.—Chelsea Hospital for Women, 2 p.m.
FRIDAY .....	King's College, 2 p.m.—Royal Westminster Ophthalmic, 1.30 p.m.—Royal London Ophthalmic, 11 a.m.—Central London Ophthalmic, 2 p.m.—Royal South London Ophthalmic, 2 p.m.—Guy's, 1.30 p.m.—St. Thomas's (Ophthalmic Department), 2 p.m.—East London Hospital for Children, 2 p.m.
SATURDAY ....	St. Bartholomew's, 1.30 p.m.—King's College, 1 p.m.—Royal London Ophthalmic, 11 a.m.—Royal Westminster Ophthalmic, 1.30 p.m.—St. Thomas's, 1.30 p.m.—Royal Free, 9 a.m. and 2 p.m.—London, 2 p.m.—Cancer Hospital, Brompton, 2.30 p.m.

## HOURS OF ATTENDANCE AT THE LONDON HOSPITALS.

CHARING CROSS.—Medical and Surgical, daily, 1; Obstetric, Tu. F., 1.30 Skin, M. Th., ; Dental, M. W. F., 9.30.
GUY'S.—Medical and Surgical, daily, exc. Tu., 1.30; Obstetric, M. W. F., 1.30; Eye M. Tu. Th. F., 1.30; Ear, Tu. F., 12.30; Skin, Tu., 12.30; Dental, Tu. Th. F., 12
KING'S COLLEGE.—Medical, daily, 2; Surgical, daily, 1.30; Obstetric, Tu. Th. S., 2; o.p., M. W. F., 12.30; Eye, M. Th., 1; Ophthalmic Department, W., 1; Ear, Th., 2; Skin, Th., ; Throat, Th. 3; Dental, Tu. F., 10.
LONDON.—Medical, daily, exc. S., 2; Surgical, daily, 1.30 and 2; Obstetric, M. Th., 1.30; o.p. W. S., 1.30; Eye, W. S., 9; Ear, S., 9.30; Skin, Th., 9; Dental, Tu., 9.
MIDDLESEX.—Medical and Surgical, daily, 1; Obstetric, Tu. F., 1.30; o.p., W. S., 1.30; Eye, W. S., 8.30; Ear and Throat, Tu., 9; Skin, F., 4; Dental, daily, 9.
ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S.—Medical and Surgical, daily, 1.30; Obstetric, Tu. Th. S., 2; o.p., W. S., 9; Eye, Tu. W. Th. S., 2; Ear, M., 2.30; Skin, F., 1.30; Larynx, W., 11.30; Orthopedic, F., 12.30; Dental, Tu. F., 9.
ST. GEORGE'S.—Medical and Surgical, M. Tu. F. S., 1; Obstetric, Tu. S., 1; o.p., Th., 2; Eye, W. S., 2; Ear, Tu., 2; Skin, W., 2; Throat, 2; Orthopedic, W., 2; Dental, Tu. S., 9; Th., 1.
ST. MARY'S.—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.
ST. THOMAS'S.—Medical and Surgical, daily, except Sat., 2; Obstetric, M. Th., 2, o.p., W., 1.30; Eye, M. Th., 2; o.p., daily, except Sat., 1.30; Ear, M., 12.30; Skin, W., 12.30; Throat, Tu. F., 1.30; Children, S., 12.30; Dental, Tu. F., 10.
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE.—Medical and Surgical, daily, 1 to 2; Obstetric, M. Tu. Th. F., 1.30; Eye, M. Tu. Th. F., 2; Ear, S., 1.30; Skin, W., 1.45; S., 9.15; Throat, Th., 2.30; Dental, W., 10.30.
WESTMINSTER.—Medical and Surgical, daily 1.30; Obstetric, Tu. F., 3; Eye, M. Th., 2.30; Ear, Tu. F., 9; Skin, Th., 1; Dental, W. S., 9.15.

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

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.

WE CANNOT UNDERTAKE TO RETURN MANUSCRIPTS NOT USED.

## THE LITERATURE OF MASSAGE.

SIR.—*Massage* is the French for shampooing, a word in familiar use among us, and understood by everybody. Why is it to be discarded for a French word which means just the same thing?—Yours faithfully,  
D.

## EMIGRATION SERVICE.

"M.B. C.M." desires a reply to the following queries. 1. How are appointments, as surgeon, in the Coolie Emigration Service, from the East to the West Indies, procured? To whom should one apply, and what influence, if any, would be of use? 2. What is the pay? 3. Is there a limit as to age?

"M.B. C.M." would also like replies to the same queries, with reference to the Colonial Emigration Service. What are the advantages and disadvantages of such a life?

## WRITERS' CRAMP.

SIR.—Since reading the account of the treatment of this disease by means of medical rubbing, I have been experimenting with the view to discover the best means of prevention. I find that, when writing with the pen held in the usual way, between the thumb and fore-finger, my hand becomes fatigued in an hour and tired out in two hours; but when I hold the pen between my fore-finger and middle finger and support it by the thumb, I can write for three hours without any fatigue whatever. The explanation appears to be that, when writing in the first named manner, only the muscles of the thumb and fore-finger are called into play, whilst by the second method the whole hand does the work.—Yours faithfully,  
J. FLETCHER LITTLE.

Ben Rhydding, Leeds.

## PATENT DISINFECTING CANDLES.

SIR.—In the notice of Young's patent disinfecting candles, it is observed that, "intensely retentive of vitality as micro-organisms notoriously are, it is inconceivable that they should be affected by anything that would not first be fatal to every living thing of higher grade." May I ask what evidence there is for this assumption, and whether a scientific fact is a matter of conception? It would have been better for the writer of this notice to have explained that carbolic acid would be consumed in the process of burning, and not evaporated.—Yours, etc.,  
R. J. L.

## LEACH AND ROOKE MEMORIAL FUND.

SIR.—A proposal has of late been made to collect a fund for putting up in our new chapel a window to the memory of Mr. Harry Leach and Dr. Henry Rooke, who were both for many years connected as medical officers with this institution.

On behalf of a committee formed by our physicians and surgeons, I beg to bring this project under your notice, and to suggest that we would be pleased to receive any kind help in our endeavour to keep up the memory of these former members of our medical staff, who, during their long association with the Seamen's Hospital, were so widely esteemed.—Yours truly,  
Seamen's Hospital, Greenwich.  
W. JOHNSON SMITH.

	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Dr. Robert Barnes (Consulting Physician, Seamen's Hospital) .....	2 2 0	Dr. Robert Farquharson, M.P. .....	1 1 0
G. Busk, Esq. (Consulting Surgeon) .....	2 2 0	W. Johnson Smith, Esq. ....	2 2 0
Dr. John Currow (Visiting Physician) .....	1 1 0	John Croft, Esq. ....	2 2 0
Dr. Robert Carrington (Visiting Physician) .....	1 1 0	Gay Shute, Esq. ....	2 2 0
G. H. Turner, Esq. (Visiting Surgeon) .....	1 1 0	Dr. Collingridge .....	2 2 0
		W. M. Corner, Esq. ....	1 1 0
		John Tweedy, Esq. ....	1 1 0
		Dr. Ralph Gooding .....	1 1 0
		Dr. William Walker .....	1 1 0

## TESTS FOR SOUR BREAD.

PANIS asks for a simple and reliable method of testing bread as to sweetness, other than by taste and smell, and short of analysis.

## RELIGIOUS INSANITY.

O. P. Q. desires information on the following points. Is there such a thing as religious insanity amongst the Mahomedans? If so, what is the percentage of all insane cases amongst them? What form does the insanity assume? Then, to extend the question further: Is there an insanity which is grafted upon religions still further removed from Christianity, such as Buddhists, etc.?

## THE TREATMENT OF DUPUYTREN'S FINGER-CONTRACTION.

SIR.—If Mr. Reeves will refer again to my paper (*Medical Chronicle*, October 1884), he will find that I state that, in some cases, it may be advantageous to excise portions of the fascia, and that this treatment was pursued in three of the cases narrated. Whether, as Mr. Reeves seems to suggest, it will be found to be the proper proceeding to do this in all cases remains to be seen. I have operated on other three cases since my paper was published; and this further experience inclines me to think that very probably he is right.—Yours, etc.,  
Manchester.  
JAMES HARDIE.

## TREATMENT OF SYNCOPES DURING ANÆSTHESIA.

SIR.—The cases of death from chloroform reported by Mr. Maylard in the JOURNAL of October 25th, 1884, forcibly remind me of the cases I reported in the JOURNAL of April 19th, 1884, which I treated successfully by inverting the patient; and my object in referring to it is to impress on my professional brethren the efficacy of that treatment. I note that Mr. Maylard raised the foot of the bed, but this is scarcely sufficient, as it is necessary to stimulate the nerve-centres by an immediate return of the blood by gravitation, an end which is at once achieved by lifting the patient's body by the legs until the head is the lowest part of the frame, which is perpendicular, but reversed from the normal state. The result in my case was so satisfactory, that I shall be glad to hear of this treatment having been adopted by others, as I consider it the surest means of saving life in these distressing cases.—Yours truly,  
Oamaru, New Zealand.  
ALBERT I. GARLAND.

SIR.—Would any of your correspondents be good enough to inform me what is the strength of the tincture of euonymin, and what strength of chrysophanic acid should be applied to kill parasites?—Yours, etc.,  
M.D.

A MEMBER.—Notices of change of address and all other business communications should be addressed to the Manager. See standing notice under heading "Letters, Notes, and Answers to Correspondents."



## THE UNIVERSITY OF LONDON AND THE MEDICAL SCHOOLS.

SIR.—I have read the report of the special meeting of the Metropolitan Counties Branch. I am in general practice, and not having taken hitherto any part in the contest now going on, and not being a teacher at a school, I may say I am somewhat an unprejudiced M.D. of London.

My feelings are of a twofold nature. I cannot but regret what may prove a fatal wound to my university if some *modus vivendi* be not arrived at. After matriculating, in 1857, I took a degree in arts, and passed all the examinations for the degree in medicine in the first class, at the first attempt, but I never attempted honours. Such are the increased difficulties raised since, that I feel at the present time I should inevitably be plucked, giving the same ample time and work which in my student days I bestowed.

For at least five years I have said, to brother-graduates and others, that the London University was exceeding its rights, was assuming an authority which it was not intended at its inception to receive. The University of London was designed to meet the wants of a vast body in England and elsewhere, to which, for religious and other reasons, an university was not open. It was designed to promote and assist education, to make it thorough; not medical education alone, but all higher education. An assumption of superiority has crept in; and, as a haughty spirit goes before a fall, I shall not regret if our Alma Mater be brought thereby to a real sense of her duties, how broad, not how narrow, they are, to a respect for others, to an abatement of that admiration of self with which at present she is puffed up.

Universities, colleges, journals, all of you are pitiless to the poor medical student of the present day. In four or five years you expect him to attain a polish, for which (except for the gifted few) double the time is requisite; and many of your examiners try to find out, not what he does know, but what he may have failed to hear of. After preliminary work is over, how can an average student acquire a polished knowledge of medicine, surgery, and obstetrics in two years? It is an absurdity; two years are insufficient for one branch alone.

Poor student! my sympathy is with you and your suffering parent, who has to pay the cost. Medical parents, look carefully to the Latin and Greek of your boys.—I am, sir, yours faithfully,

"ARS LONGA, VITA BREVIS."

\*.\* Is not our correspondent a little less than just to the medical press? For our own part, we have taken up our parable against overpressure in medical education again and again.

SIR.—I quite agree with Dr. Hickman's remarks, in his able and eloquent speech, that there should be no lowering of standard of the matriculation examination of the University of London, for not only is it the stepping-stone to all the other faculties of the University, but it is, in a large sense, the educational test of the United Kingdom. The number of candidates has yearly increased, until in 1884 we have the grand total of 1,794.

Under these circumstances, could not this examination be modified for those entering the medical faculty, but remain as at present for the faculties of law, arts, and science?—Yours faithfully,

RALPH GOODING, B.A., M.D. of Lond.

Blackheath, S.E.

## THE TITLE OF PHYSICIAN.

SIR.—The following official communication from the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh relating to the incorrect mode in which its Licentiates were addressed as "Surgeon" instead of Physician, will, I trust, prove acceptable to my fellow Licentiates.—Yours truly,

JAMES ST. J. G. PARSONS, M.D.

Crofton House, Cheltenham Road, Bristol.

[Copy.]

Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh, September 22nd, 1884.

SIR.—I am desired to convey the regret of the authorities that this stupidity of the printer (for it is entirely the printer's fault) should have caused you any trouble. There is no doubt of Licentiates of the College being physicians; and the word or title of surgeon, however honourable, is in no way applicable to them.

With great regard, believe me, sir, your obedient servant, J. BROOME, for Dr. WYLLIE (out of town).

J. St. J. Parsons, Esq., M.D.

## ANTISEPTIC INHALATIONS.

SIR.—With reference to your remarks as to the retentive vitality of micro-organisms, and non-destructibility by weak disinfectants, and therefore the fallacy of antiseptic inhalations, I do not think the action of these remedies is to directly destroy micro-organisms, but that the antiseptic inhalations, when continuously and properly employed, so alter or check the secretions on which they thrive, that the organisms, not having their proper pabulum, die.—Yours faithfully,

W. H. TAYLER, M.D.

Anerley, S.E.

## TINCTURE OF BENZOIN IN INFLUENZA AND CATARRH.

SIR.—In the JOURNAL of February 28th, I was much interested to find the inhalation of tincture of benzoin recommended as a means of relief in that most unpleasant and troublesome affection, common nasal catarrh. It so happened, when I noticed Mr. Kebbell's recommendation of it, I had just the premonitory symptoms of an attack, and I was looking forward to the usual nine days' misery from it I have frequently suffered; however, I at once tried an inhalation of the benzoin, and the relief I obtained in a short time was certainly remarkable; the uncomfortable tight and stuffy feeling of the nostrils, along with the lachrymation and headache, speedily disappeared, and by repeating the inhalation frequently, by evening all the unpleasant symptoms had quite gone. The success, I think, was all the more noteworthy, seeing I had the usual exposure to the weather a country practice necessitates; and at that time the weather was cold and raw, just the necessary qualities to increase the coryza. I have recommended it also to two of my patients, and with marked success in each case. I can, therefore, quite endorse all Mr. Kebbell says in regard to it, and I am sure the thanks of many are due to him for drawing attention to such a simple remedy as the careful inhalation, by the nostrils, of the tincture of benzoin, for coryza; for of all the minor ills to which flesh is heir, a cold in the head is one of the most unpleasant and disagreeable. I think, and though many remedies have been tried and recommended, hitherto few have had much success.—Yours truly,

WILLIAM BRYDON, M.B., C.M.

Hawick, N.B.

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

Mr. T. Holmes, London; Mr. L. Grant, New Southgate; The Secretary of the General Lying-in Hospital; Dr. James Gairdner, Orleff, N.B.; Dr. Hack Tuke, London; The Director-General of the Army Medical Department, London; Dr. Stevenson, London; Dr. A. B. Brabazon, Bath; Mr. G. Duvost, Lyon, France; Mr. B. G. Morison, London; Dr. E. G. Wake, Dartmouth; Mr. W. E. S. Stanley, Wellow, Bath; Mr. H. Campbell, London; Mr. C. P. Crouch, London; Mr. B. W. Charles, Rotherham; Mr. G. R. Nunn, Dalton; Dr. Styrup, Shrewsbury; Messrs. Thacker, Spink, and Co., Calcutta; Dr. A. Carpenter, Croxford; Mr. J. Thompson, Nottingham; H. F. S.; Mr. T. B. Goss, Bath; Our Berlin Correspondent; Mr. T. W. L. Kinncir, Horsham; Mr. E. R. Williams, Macclesfield; Mr. C. Cornish, Taunton; Mr. R. Owen, London; Dr. R. Waite Savage, London; Dr. Spencer Smyth, Forest Hill; Mr. H. T. Bassett, Birmingham; Mr. C. B. Plowright, King's Lynn; Dr. D. Thomas, London; Mr. R. Birch, Newbury; Mr. Handsley, Alford; Dr. Parsons, Dover; Dr. Burney Yeo, London; Dr. A. Duke, Dublin; Dr. Lucas, Southampton; Our Aberdeen Correspondent; Dr. R. S. Turner, Keith; Mr. J. Wilton, Gloucester; Dr. J. Crichton Browne, London; Mr. P. S. Brito, London; Mr. H. J. Pearson, Tunbridge Wells; Dr. Campbell, Liverpool; Dr. J. J. Ridge, Enfield; The Secretary of the Mansion House Council on the Dwellings of the People; Mr. J. Miles, Bristol; Mr. W. Donaldson, Llandidies; Mr. C. T. Kingzett, London; Dr. F. Ogston, Aberdeen; Mr. C. Lennox Peel, London; Dr. H. Burdon, Belfast; Mr. A. G. F. Bernard, Liverpool; Mr. Carr, Omagh; Mr. R. J. Boyd, London; A Member; Mr. J. H. Parkinson, Sacramento; Mr. Simon Snell, Sheffield; Mr. W. Donovan, Birmingham; Dr. R. Bruce Low, Helmsley; Dr. Cullimore, London; Mr. W. W. Wagstaffe, Sevenoaks; Mr. H. A. Smith, Ealing; Mr. W. Marriott, London; Mr. J. Fletcher, Ilkley; Mr. R. Smith, Winchfield; Dr. Brailey, London; Mr. R. D. Smith, Hinckley; Mr. A. Macpherson, Chester; Our Liverpool Correspondent; Our Paris Correspondent; Our Dublin Correspondent; Mr. W. Iliffe, Derby; Mr. J. G. Clendinning, Coscely; The Secretary of the Parkes Museum, London; Dr. W. Ewart, London; Mr. E. Noble Smith, London; Mr. H. Nelson Hardy, London; Dr. H. F. A. Goodridge, Bath; Mr. J. E. Lee, Philadelphia; Mr. John Walsh, Oldcastle, co. Meath; Dr. J. Ward Cousins, Southsea; Mr. B. Jones, Leigh; Our Birmingham Correspondent; Our Edinburgh Correspondent; Mr. James Dixon, Dorking; Dr. T. M. Dolan, Halifax; Mr. S. J. Hutchinson, Neasden; Dr. Macdonald, Liverpool; Dr. J. A. Mackenzie, Bolton; Dr. J. Beddoe, Bristol; Dr. A. T. Brand, Driffield; Surgeon-Major R. Boustead, Bournemouth; Dr. Savage, London; Dr. Norman Kerr, London; Mr. D. E. Flinn, Dublin; The Secretary of the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society, London; Dr. Glascott, Manchester; Dr. Saundby, Birmingham, etc.

## BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED.

- Harveian Lectures. By T. Bryant, F.R.C.S. London: J. and A. Churchill. 1885.
- The Therapeutics of the Respiratory Passages. By Prosser James, M.D. New York: Wood and Co.
- Bacillary Phthisis of the Lungs. By Germain Sée. Translated and Edited by W. H. Tweddell. London: Kegan Paul, Trench and Co. 1885.
- Doctrines of the Circulation. By J. C. Dalton, M.D. Philadelphia: H. C. Lea, Bros., and Co. 1884.
- A System of Practical Medicine. By American Authors. Edited by W. Pepper, M.D., LL.D. Assisted by Louis Starr, M.D. Philadelphia: Lea, Bros. and Co. 1885.
- Topographical Anatomy of the Brain. By J. C. Dalton, M.D. Vol. I, II, and III. Philadelphia: Lea, Bros. and Co. 1885.
- The Hunterian Oration. By John Marshall, F.R.C.S., F.R.S., LL.D. London: Smith, Elder and Co. 1885.

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