

about to take up the duties of the professorship during the session that had just opened.

The proceedings having terminated, many of those who had attended the opening of the session adjourned to the officers' mess-room, where luncheon was served, under the presidency of the Principal Medical Officer, Surgeon-General Dr. Murray. The Director-General returned to London by an early train.

### INDIAN STATION-HOSPITAL CHARGE-PAY.

THE Parliamentary Bills Committee of the British Medical Association, as our readers are aware, made a strong representation to the Secretary of State for India on this subject, which concerns the interests, not only of the medical service of India, but of the senior officers of the Army Medical Staff holding charge of station-hospitals in that country. A reply to this representation has been received, addressed to the Chairman of the Parliamentary Bills Committee. We regret to say it is unfavourable. The Military Secretary "is instructed to say that the Earl of Kimberley is not prepared to reopen the question of the grant of 'charge-allowances' to officers of the British Medical Staff in charge of station-hospitals in India, which has received, together with other questions relating to the pay and emoluments of medical officers in India, the careful consideration of the Secretary of State for India."

It is evident that the present, with the possibility of a great war impending, is not the time to press such a claim as this, however just, when the pecuniary resources of India must be strained to the utmost. It must stand over to a more convenient season, a distant one, we fear. The medical officers of both services will, however, see that the Parliamentary Bills Committee has done its best for them.

### MAHOMED MEMORIAL FUND.

THE following additional subscriptions have been received.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Dr. Edward Chisholme (Sydney) .....	5	0	0	Albert Martin, Esq., M.B. ...	5	0	0
Dr. Arthur Evershed .....	1	1	0	T. D. Ransford, Esq. ....	1	1	0
H. Lund, Esq. ....	1	1	0	A. H. Tabby, Esq. ....	2	2	0

A meeting of the General Committee will be held in the Governor's Court-Room, Guy's Hospital, on Thursday, April 16th, at 4.30 P.M., to receive the report of the Executive Subcommittee, and to consider how best to make use of the fund.

ARTHUR E. DURHAM, Treasurer.  
JAMES F. GOODHART, } Secretaries.  
W. H. A. JACOBSON, }

## ASSOCIATION INTELLIGENCE.

### ELECTION OF MEMBERS.

ANY qualified medical practitioner, not disqualified by any by-law of the Association who shall be recommended as eligible by any three members may be elected a member by the Council, or by any recognised Branch Council.

FRANCIS FOWKE, *General Secretary.*

### BRANCH MEETINGS TO BE HELD.

**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.

**NORTH OF ENGLAND BRANCH.**—The spring meeting of this Branch will be held at Durham on Thursday, April 30th. Members intending to read papers, show specimens, etc., are requested to communicate at once with the Honorary Secretary.—DAVID DRUMMOND, Honorary Secretary.—April, 1885.

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

### LETTERS FROM THE EAST.

#### III.

*Defective Sanitary Organisation of Cairo.—The Chief Army Hospital.  
—The National Aid Society and the Army Medical Department.*

MR. ERNEST HART writes from Cairo, March 21st:

My former letters were written in a holiday-spirit, and under purely holiday-influences. Since I have been in Cairo, the professional tendencies of life have been too strong for me, and I have not been able to refrain from visiting the hospitals, public asylums, and medical school, and examining into what is somewhat ironically called the sanitary organisation. The presence everywhere of troops and medical officers; the official attributes of most of the Englishmen whom one meets here; the sight of English ambulances rumbling through the streets; the contact with agents of the National Aid Society; the inquiries addressed by natives in the highest official position of what one thinks of recent "reforms," all direct attention to topics to which it is impossible, being on the spot, to remain indifferent. Hence, I have spent a busier week of professional visitation and inspection since I have been here than often falls to the lot of an individual, even in the fullest activity of work.

I wish I could say that the result was all satisfactory, or instructive, or hopeful. On the contrary, there is much to grieve the heart, much to disappoint, to depress, and to dismay the most patient and the most hopeful. In every direction, confusion, obstruction, want of power, want of money, intrigue, jealousy, vacillation, national susceptibilities, international complications, religious prejudices, ignorance, greed, and corruption, interfere with any serious or vigorous action. What is yielded to pressure is undone by passive opposition and active intrigue; the money lavished in one direction is wasted by reason of childish economies which make its application useless; there is a general rush for office, and a common desire to evade its duties. Nothing can be more comprehensive, for example, than the list of duties imposed on district physicians and sanitary inspectors; nothing more meagre than the actual work done, or the salary afforded to those who are expected to fulfil these magnificent outlines of duty. Nothing can be more promising than to be told that Cairo is supplied with water drawn from the pure sources of the Nile, and distributed by a company of which the Prime Minister is the head; nothing more disappointing than to find that this water is actually drawn from the Ismailia Canal, which is fouled by innumerable drains and the unutterable filth of the population around, and that only one-half of the supply so drawn undergoes even the pretence of filtering. It is satisfactory to learn that a Khedival laboratory has been fitted up for chemical analysis, for the investigation of food-supplies, the examination of water, and the investigation of the entozoic and epiphytic diseases of the country. It is satisfactory to learn that Dr. Sonsino and Mr. Innes, two highly qualified persons, have been engaged to assist in the work. But it is distressing to find that Dr. Sonsino is leaving the country because he cannot get his salary paid, and that Mr. Innes has gone elsewhere; that the head of the laboratory, on which so much is spent, is an incompetent native "enjoying high protection;" that there is no satisfactory account of how the money is spent; and that no analysis is to be had of the water-supply of Cairo. It is pleasant to hear of a medical school supported by Government funds, and at which about a hundred and fifty natives are being educated, of whom one hundred and five are supported, fed, and clothed at the public expense; the professors being men who have studied abroad and who are paid by the Government. It is painful to find that these students are taught from Arabic handbooks, translations, for the most part, of out-of-date text-books; that hardly any of the students know any European language; that there is no physiological, pathological, or anatomical collection; that the dissecting-room is a loathsome farce; that the students, who cost the Government from £800 to £850 each, are taught by rote (I saw them walking up and down and getting certain texts by rote, with much humming and gesticulation, like board-school children), and are wretchedly ill informed; indeed, under such a mockery of teaching, how could they be otherwise? The professors may be the best in the world; but to spend all the money on feeding, housing, and clothing the students, and not to provide the means of anatomical dissection, or the labora-

17.0 in Edinburgh, 17.0 in Aberdeen, 18.3 in Perth, 20.5 in Greenock, 24.2 in Dundee, 30.8 in Paisley, and 31.5 in Glasgow. The 600 deaths registered during the week included 84 which were referred to the principal zymotic diseases, against 85 and 73 in the two preceding weeks; of these, 34 resulted from whooping-cough, 23 from measles, 11 from scarlet fever, 6 from "fever," 5 from diphtheria, 5 from diarrhoea, and not one from small-pox. These 84 deaths were equal to an annual rate of 3.4 per 1,000, which exceeded by 0.7 the average zymotic death-rate in the large English towns. The zymotic rates in the Scotch towns ranged from 0.0 and 0.5 per 1,000 in Perth and Aberdeen, to 5.3 in Paisley and in Glasgow. The 34 deaths from whooping-cough exceeded by 2 the number in the preceding week, and included 22 in Glasgow, 4 in Edinburgh, and 4 in Dundee. The 23 fatal cases of measles were all recorded in Glasgow. The deaths referred to scarlet fever, which had declined from 13 to 4 in the three previous weeks, rose again to 11, of which 5 occurred in Paisley. The 6 fatal cases of fever corresponded with the number in the preceding week, and included 3 in Edinburgh and 2 in Greenock. The mortality from diseases of the respiratory organs in these Scotch towns was equal to 5.3 per 1,000, against 6.1 in London. As many as 103, or 17.2 per cent., of the 600 deaths registered in these Scotch towns during the week were uncertified.

**HEALTH OF IRISH TOWNS.**—During the week ending March 28th, the number of deaths registered in the sixteen principal town-districts of Ireland was 567. The average annual death-rate, represented by the deaths registered, was 34.2 per 1,000 of the population. The deaths registered in the several towns, alphabetically arranged, corresponded to the following annual rates per 1,000: Armagh, 15.5; Belfast, 32.3; Cork, 34.4; Drogheda, 25.4; Dublin, 39.1; Dundalk, 17.5; Galway, 13.4; Kilkenny, 33.8; Limerick, 41.8; Lisburn, 43.5; Londonderry, 26.7; Lurgan, 30.8; Newry, 7.0; Sligo, 24.1; Waterford, 39.4; Wexford, 12.8. The deaths from the principal zymotic diseases in the sixteen districts were equal to an annual rate of 4.0 per 1,000, the rates varying from 0.0 in Galway, Newry, Kilkenny, Wexford, Dundalk, Sligo, Lurgan, and Armagh, to 6.9 in Waterford; the 17 deaths from all causes registered in the last named district comprising 3 from measles. Among the 136 deaths registered in Belfast were 7 from measles, 2 from scarlatina, 4 from diphtheria, 2 from enteric fever, and 5 from diarrhoea; and the 53 deaths in Cork comprised 5 from whooping-cough. In the Dublin Registration District, the deaths registered during the week amounted to 273. Thirty-five deaths from zymotic diseases were registered in Dublin, being 2 over the average for the corresponding week of the last ten years, and 1 over the number for the week ended March 21st; they comprised 12 from measles, 7 from scarlet fever, 2 from whooping-cough, 3 from diphtheria, 4 from enteric fever, 2 from diarrhoea, etc. Seventy-two deaths from diseases of the respiratory system were registered, being 9 in excess of the number for the preceding week, and 18 over the average for the twelfth week of the last ten years; they comprised 53 from bronchitis, 6 from pneumonia, and 3 from croup. The deaths of 20 children under five years of age (including 12 infants under one year old) were ascribed to convulsions. Seven deaths were caused by apoplexy, 11 by other diseases of the brain and nervous system (exclusive of convulsions), and 16 by diseases of the circulatory system. Phthisis or pulmonary consumption caused 28 deaths, mesenteric disease 4, and cancer 3. Eight accidental deaths were registered. In 8 instances, the cause of death was "uncertified;" and in 30 other cases there was "no medical attendant."

## INDIA AND THE COLONIES.

### INDIA.

**VACCINATION IN THE PUNJAB.**—It is evident, from a report which has just been issued, that the advantages of vaccination are beginning to be felt in the Punjab, and that the prejudices against it are gradually giving way. The aggregate number of operations performed by all establishments during the past year was 633,062, being an increase of 133,365 over the number vaccinated in the previous year. Classified according to sex, 333,315 males and 294,747 females were vaccinated. The percentage of successful operations in primary vaccinations was 94.25, as compared with 95.11 in 1882. About two-thirds of the total number of such vaccinations were performed upon infants under one year of age, and one-fourth upon children between the ages of one and six years. The number of revaccinations was only 8,189, but this is nearly three times as many as in the previous year. The Lieutenant-Governor remarks that the general increase in the number

of vaccinations is satisfactory, and indicates that the Department is better organised; and that the work is well supervised by civil surgeons, and by the Sanitary Commissioner and his two deputies. It is satisfactory to learn that (1) the Umritsur Municipal Committee renewed the application to have vaccination made compulsory, which has since been sanctioned by Government; and (2) the Raja of Bashahr has lately asked for the services of a large staff of vaccinators to carry on operations in his State. The list of persons brought to notice by the Sanitary Commissioner for rendering assistance in this Department sufficiently shows that public interest is being aroused, and that many leading native gentlemen are beginning to believe that vaccination affords the only check to the scourge of small-pox.

## MEDICAL NEWS.

**ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS IN IRELAND.**—At a special supplemental examination held on Monday, March 16th, and following days, the following gentlemen were successful.

*First Professional Examination.*—T. P. Connolly, C. D. Jones, R. Jones, J. H. Lovely, H. McCarthy, R. Martin, T. O'Brien, E. O'Neill.

Seven candidates were rejected.

*Second Professional Examination.*—G. P. Carte, T. G. Goodman, C. M'Donnell, P. J. F. O'Brien, J. C. O'Donnell, J. O'Sullivan, A. V. Shine.

Eleven candidates were rejected.

*Third Professional Examination.*—W. A. Johnston.

**First Half Examination for the Letters Testimonial of the College,** held on Monday, March 23rd, and following days, the undernamed gentlemen were successful.

J. A. C. Coen, A. R. T. Craig, I. Duncan, J. D. O'D. Egan, R. Elliott, E. W. Hamilton, J. C. Hines, A. M. Hunt, E. B. Kennedy, A. D. Macleod, A. E. Murphy, V. Nash, H. F. C. Pilcher, J. A. Scully, A. F. Smith, P. Stevenson, W. Stritch, W. Swan, W. E. Waters, J. A. Whitty, T. D. Wylie.

Twenty-five candidates were rejected.

**APOTHECARIES' HALL.**—The following gentlemen passed their Examination in the Science and Practice of Medicine, and received certificates to practise, on Thursday, April 2nd, 1885.

Burd, George Frederick, St. Bartholomew's Hospital.

Rowlands, Thomas Frederic Watkin, Guy's Hospital.

Whitwell, Alfred Frank, St. Bartholomew's Hospital.

## MEDICAL VACANCIES.

The following vacancies are announced.

**BIRMINGHAM GENERAL DISPENSARY.**—Resident Surgeon. Salary, £170 per annum. Applications by April 21st.

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

**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.

**CELBRIDGE UNION.**—Medical Officer, Workhouse. Salary, £100 per annum, and £15 yearly as Consulting Sanitary Officer. Applications to S. Manning, Clerk of Union. Election on April 29th.

**DEVONSHIRE HOSPITAL,** Buxton, Derbyshire.—House-Surgeon. Salary, £100 per annum. Applications by April 18th.

**GENERAL INFIRMARY,** Leeds.—One House-Physician and Two House-Surgeons. Applications to A. W. Mayo Robson, Hillary Place, Leeds, by April 28th.

**HARTLEPOOLS 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.

**HUDDERSFIELD INFIRMARY.**—Junior House-Surgeon. Salary, £40 per annum. Applications to Mr. F. Eastwood, Honorary Secretary, by April 15th.

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

**MULLINGER DISTRICT LUNATIC ASYLUM.**—Assistant to Resident Medical Superintendent. Salary, £112 10s., with allowances valued at £70 8s. 11d. Election on April 16th.

**PADDINGTON GREEN CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL,** W.—House-Surgeon. Salary, £80 per annum. Applications by April 22nd.

**PAROCHIAL BOARD OF PENNYGOWN AND TOROSAY.**—Medical Officer. Salary, £100 per annum. Applications to Alex. Macdougall, Inspector of Poor, Auchnacraig by Oban.

**ST. PANCRAS,** Middlesex.—Medical Officer of Health and Examiner of Gas. Salary, £300 per annum. Applications by April 16th.

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

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

## MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS.

**BARRETT, W. A. H., L.S.A.**, appointed Assistant-House-Surgeon to the Royal Albert Hospital, Devonport.

**BOURNS, N. Whitelaw, M.D.Brussels, L.R.C.P.Edin., M.R.C.S.**, appointed Assistant-Surgeon to St. John's Hospital for Skin-Diseases, *vice* Mr. Palmer, resigned.

**CAMPBELL, Charles M., M.D., C.M., L.R.C.S.Edin.**, appointed an Assistant-Physician to St. John's Hospital for Skin-Diseases, *vice* Dr. Boothby Dow, elected a Physician.

**Dow, H. Boothby, M.D.St.And., M.R.C.S.**, appointed a Physician to St. John's Hospital for Skin-Diseases, *vice* Dr. Oates, elected a Vice-President.

**DOWNES, Howard, L.R.C.P.Lond., M.R.C.S.Eng.**, appointed House-Surgeon to Victoria Hospital for Children, Chelsea, *vice* F. H. Hawkins, M.B., C.M., resigned.

**DUNN, Hugh Percy, F.R.C.S.Eng. (Assistant Ophthalmic Surgeon)**, appointed Pathologist to the West London Hospital.

**DUNCAN, P. T., M.D., B.S.Lond.**, appointed Surgeon to the Croydon General Hospital.

**GLASSINGTON, Charles W., M.R.C.S. and L.D.S.Ed.**, appointed Lecturer on Dental Materia Medica to the National Dental College.

**JACKSON, Henry, M.R.C.S.Eng., L.S.A.Lond.**, appointed Honorary Surgeon to the North Devon Infirmary, Barnstaple, *vice* Dr. Fernie, deceased.

**MORTIMER, J. D., M.R.C.S., L.S.A.**, appointed Assistant Medical Officer to the Portsmouth Borough Asylum, *vice* James Neil, M.D., C.M., resigned.

**PILKINGTON, Frederick W., L.R.C.P.Lond., M.R.C.S.**, appointed Assistant Medical Officer to the Oxford County Asylum at Littlemore.

**SCHOFIELD, Alfred Taylor, M.D., M.R.C.S.Eng., L.R.C.P.Lond.**, appointed Medical Officer to the Westbourne Provident Dispensary, *vice* J. A. M. Moullin, M.A., M.B., M.R.C.P., M.R.C.S., L.S.A., L.M., resigned.

**WAINWRIGHT, Benjamin, M.B., C.M.Edin., F.R.C.S.Eng.**, appointed Assistant-Surgeon to the West London Hospital, *vice* Albert Boyce Barrow, M.B.Lond., F.R.C.S.Eng., resigned.

## BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

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

## BIRTH.

**ILLINGWORTH.**—On Tuesday, March 31st, at 1, Crowther Terrace, Clayton-le-Moors, the wife of C. R. Illingworth, M.D., of a daughter.

## MARRIAGE.

**HOPKINSON—BLUMER.**—At the Parish Church, Monkwearmouth, on April 8th, by the Rev. E. F. Hopkinson, M.A., Rector of Ilchester, the Rev. Charles Girdlestone Hopkinson, M.A., Vicar of Monkwearmouth, to Elizabeth Laura, daughter of Luke Blumer, M.D., Sunderland.

## DEATHS.

**WHITEHEAD.**—On Good Friday, April 3rd, at his residence, Fairlands, Sutton, Surrey, James Whitehead, M.D., late of Mosley Street, Manchester, in the 74th year of his age.

**WILCOX.**—On April 4th, at Gunterstone Road, West Kensington, William Wilcox, L.R.C.P.Edin., M.R.C.S.Eng., late of Holly House, North Walsham, Norfolk, in the 45th year of his age.

**STURGE.**—On April 2nd, at 9, Rue Longchamp, Nice, Emily Bovell Sturge, M.D. Paris, Officier de l'Académie, daughter of the late John Roach Bovell, of Demerara, and wife of William Allen Sturge, M.D.

**ANTHROPOLOGICAL INSTITUTE OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.**—On Tuesday, April 14th, at 8 P.M., Dr. J. G. Garson will read a paper on the Inhabitants of Tierra del Fuego. The chair will be taken by Professor Flower, LL.D., F.R.S., Vice-President.

## MEETINGS OF SOCIETIES DURING THE NEXT WEEK.

**MONDAY.**—Medical Society of London, 8.30 P.M. Dr. Whipple: A Case of Myxœdema, with the Microscopical Appearances of some of the Organs. Dr. Hughes Bennett: A Case of Brachial Monoplegia, due to a Lesion of the Internal Capsule.—Odontological Society of Great Britain, 8 P.M. Mr. J. Bland-Sutton: On Injuries and Diseases of Jaws in Wild Animals. Casual communications by Messrs. Newland Pedley, W. A. Hunt, A. S. Underwood, F. Henri Weiss.

**TUESDAY.**—Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society, 8.30 P.M. Mr. Lunn and Dr. Benham: Case of Aneurysm of Abdominal Aorta: Distal Compression for Four Hours and Three-quarters under Chloroform: Cure of Aneurysm: Death from Gangrene of Jejunum on Eleventh Day. Mr. Henry Morris: A Case of Aneurysm of the Abdominal Aorta leading to Gangrene of the Lower Extremity. Dr. Beevor: Two Cases (Progressive Muscular Atrophy and Infantile Paralysis) illustrating the Localisation of Motor Centres in the Brachial Enlargement of the Spinal Cord.

**WEDNESDAY.**—Royal Meteorological Society, 7 P.M. Report of Committee on Decrease of Water-Supply. Report of Committee on the Helm Wind of Cross Fell, Cumberland. Mr. Richard Strachan: Results of Meteorological Observations made at Asuncion, Paraguay.

**THURSDAY.**—Harveian Society of London, 8.30 P.M. Dr. R. W. Burnet: Cases of Ulcerative Endocarditis, with Remarks. Mr. J. Ernest Lane: Hemophilia.

**FRIDAY.**—Society of Medical Officers of Health, 7.30 P.M. Reports of Council on "The Rivers Pollution Bill," and "The Water Companies Regulation of Powers Bill." Dr. Thomas Stevenson: On Sewage-Disposal.

## 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 Orthopædic, 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, 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 Orthopædic, 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; Orthopædic, 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, Th., 2; Orthopædic, 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.

## LANCING THE GUMS.

SIR,—I have always thought that the philosophical treatment of disease was, if possible, to remove the cause of the untoward symptoms. No one would think of radically curing toothache by giving the patient an opiate; for though, doubtless, it would remove the pain for a time, the carious tooth, the source of irritation, would still remain. In the infant, we have a tooth trying to force its way through dense and often very unyielding tissue, causing through the pressure sometimes very serious symptoms of nerve-irritation. Is not one of the axioms of surgery the relief of tension? And surely there is always more or less tension during the eruption of a tooth. I willingly admit that, in many cases, this tension is not great enough to cause much nerve-irritation, and, in these fortunate children, dentition gives no trouble; but cases continually occur where the hard unyielding gum is swollen and inflamed, and where, I believe, tension exists; these are the cases where one deep incision with the gum-lancet gives almost instantaneous relief. That the lancet may be used as a cloak for ignorance is not a sound argument against its right use; everything may be abused, not excepting the all-powerful bromide of potassium; but, most assuredly, the abuse of the gum-lancet will never cause, I believe, a tithe of the harm arising from its non-use. The right place for the lancet, I conceive, is in those cases where we find a hard, swollen, inflamed gum, and the infant ill from this cause.

It is, of course, necessary, in all cases, to make a correct diagnosis, and one cannot expect the lancet to relieve the convulsions of indigestion.

Many a chick would remain in the shell, to become its tomb, were it not for the friendly chip of the mother's beak on hearing its gentle tapping from within; and, I believe, many a little one will be consigned untimely to the silent grave if we discard the lancet, neglecting to give the friendly chip to release the imprisoned tooth, and only attempt to alleviate the symptoms by drugs, but do not remove the cause of irritation.

How often have I seen the quick relief gained by the timely use of the lancet; the crying, restless, feverish infant changed, as if by magic, to one with a happy smiling face, or lulled to sweetest sleep.—I am, etc.,

WM. WRIGHT MILLARD, M.B. Edin.

## PERMANGANATE OF POTASH.

SIR,—“Facts are stubborn things,” such as seldom admit of discussion and dispute; I therefore reassert every word of my letter in the *Journal* of February 7th, except that portion which speaks of the remedy as having been “introduced” two or three years ago; the word should have been “reintroduced.”

The antiseptic properties of permanganate of potash have been known to us for twenty or twenty-five years at least; and, in the second edition of Garrod's *Essentials of Materia Medica*, etc., 1856, it is said to be useful in cases of diabetes, in doses of one to three grains in pills. In Quain's *Dictionary*, no mention is made of this drug in connection with diabetes, nor am I able to find any cases in which it has been used, until it was introduced again about three years ago; also Squire's *Companion*, 13th edition, 1882, says but little more about its use internally than does Dr. Garrod's more ancient work. As to kaolin, I doubt whether its employment in pharmacy is five years of age. Squire writes only five words about it under the head of aluminium; but, a few days since, it came to my knowledge that a mine of this substance has been offered for sale by some one in Silver City, New Mexico, who says that it is imported from Persia and India for the manufacture of fine china-ware, and that it is very valuable, as being difficult to obtain of sufficient purity in any quantity. Now, if this article be identical with the kaolin used for making up pills (see Martindale's *Extra Pharmacopœia*, edition 1884), it is easy to understand that, when worked up, it may become very hard and insoluble, and very likely indeed to pass through the intestines in the way we know that hard substances do, which, luckily for most of us, escape that well known trap, the cæcum, as they go on their way.

In the *Journal* of February 21st, Mr. Oglesby, of York, writes, “with Dr. Simms, I have known pills pass through the body unchanged.” And, again, “Kaolin-made pills readily dissolve.” Well, sir, recently I have taken the trouble to inquire about the unaltered pills mentioned in my former letter, and have traced them to their source—a most undeniably respectable one, as my twenty years' experience of it testifies. I have seen some of these pills, which are made of kaolin, etc., and which are quite hard.

Tablets of permanganate of potash, taken in water very freely diluted, and directly after meals, may be safe, perhaps. I have never tried them, but they cannot be used by themselves, as Mr. Powell's letter in the *Journal* of February 21st amply testifies; whilst, for the mouth itself, Condy's fluid, freely diluted, is the preferable mode of application. I am unable to discover whether Mr. Gubb denies that the tablets have any caustic action when applied locally, that is, without precaution; but he can very easily test them, for *fiat experimentum in corpore vile* is a very old means to an end; one thing is certain, that, if the drug have the good qualities attributed to it, and this I neither affirm nor deny, it must be administered as carefully as arsenic, and much in the same way.

Into Mr. Gubb's jocose comparison, I will not enter, for my letter is already too long.—Your obedient servant,  
FRED. SIMMS,  
6, Mandeville Place, W.

## CERTIFICATES UNDER FACTORY ACTS.

SIR,—I should be much obliged if you, or some certifying factory surgeon, through your columns, would kindly let me know how examinations of children and “young persons” under the Factory Act ought to be performed. These examinations have to be made at the factory; and I, at least, find ascertainment to be quite impossible there, on account of the noise made by the machinery. One can hardly be expected to make a very searching examination (such, for instance, as in insurance-cases) for the miserable fees allowed; but still I should not consider myself justified in certifying that a child was fit for work, without satisfying myself that the heart and lungs, at least, were not seriously affected.—Yours truly,

MIDWIVES.

IF “M.R.C.S.” will apply to the Matron of the British Lying-in Hospital, Endell Street, W.C., or to Queen Charlotte's Lying-in Hospital, Marylebone Road, N.W., he will obtain all the information he requires.

## SHIP-SURGEONS.

SIR,—I wish to go a sea-voyage; can you kindly inform me as to the best way to try for the post of surgeon in a good company's service? Is it possible to get such a berth for one voyage only, for example, to India and back?—Yours, etc.,  
P. AND O.

SURGEON-MAJOR T. MURTAGH.—We have no means of answering your question.

## ARTIFICIAL EYES.

LIMPET asks where he can procure artificial eyes at the first hand.

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

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## BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED.

The Social History of the Eighth International Medical Congress, 1884. By D. Bryson Delavan, M.D., New York. London and New York: Putnam's Sons. 1885.  
Lettsomian Lectures on Bronchial Asthma. By J. C. Thorowgood, M.D., F.R.C.P. London: Baillière, Tindall, and Cox. 1885.  
Lateral Curvature of the Spine. By W. J. Tivy. London: Hamilton, Adams, and Co. 1885.  
Transactions of the American Surgical Association. Vol. II. Edited by J. E. Mears, M.D. Philadelphia: P. Blakiston, Son, and Co. 1885.  
Transactions of the National Association for the Promotion of Social Science, Birmingham Meeting, 1884. London: Longmans, Green, and Co. 1885.  
The Common Sense of the Exact Sciences. By the late W. K. Clifford. London: Kegan Paul, Trench and Co. 1885.  
A Manual of Dermatology. By A. R. Robinson, M.D. New York: Appleton and Co. 1885.  
Lectures on Diseases of the Nervous System, especially in Women. By Dr. S. W. Mitchell. Philadelphia: Lea, Brothers, and Co. 1885.  
Operative Surgery in the Calcutta Medical College Hospital. By K. McLeod, A.M., M.D., F.R.C.S.E. London: J. and A. Churchill.

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