

hibit infractuosity characteristic of the brain in higher simiae, as the baboon and orang." Similarly, also, does the author of the *Catalogue* speak of the brain of the chimpanzee (No. 1338A). Besides which reference, however, Professor Huxley gives references to, and quotations from, Tiedemann, Cuvier, Meckel, Schroeder Van der Kolk, Vrolik, Gratiolet, and others, which certainly seem to establish the probability of his being in the right. The observations of Dr. Allan Thomson, specially made, are indisputably in his favour.

But even supposing the facts not to be as Professor Huxley believes he has proved them to be, it is nevertheless certain that the posterior cornes and the hippocampus minor are very variable in the human brain; they appear to be totally absent in something like six per cent. of human brains, and cannot, therefore, but be regarded in sober reason as affording the rottenest of foundations on which to build an "Archencephalic" subclass of the order mammalia.

Mr. Huxley specially adds that "there is no lack of real differences between the brain of man and those of the highest Quadrupeds, though they are not those which have been asserted to exist"; but, at the same time, those differences—namely, the more pointed shape of the cerebral hemispheres, the greater symmetry of the convolutions, the smaller size of the brain as compared with the nerves in the monkey—are of the same nature as those which exist between the brain of the Bosjesman, and the normal brains of the Caucasian race.

Since, then, the paper of Mr. Huxley is entirely devoted to the establishment of certain anatomical facts, it seems rather to be regretted that your reviewer, neglecting the real issue, should have introduced irrelevant observations on a crude theory, or, still worse, opinions on the weight of Biblical testimony. The sceptic will triumphantly point to all history to shew that the number of people who believe in any doctrine, adds nothing to its probability, and will refer, with equanimity, to the words of his great master: "Une fable a quelque chose dans une génération; elle s'établit dans la seconde; elle devient respectable dans la troisième; la quatrième lui élève des temples." (Voltaire, *Trajet sur l'Histoire*.)

I am, etc.,  
H. MAUDSLEY, M.D. Lond.

Cheadle, near Manchester, March 18.

#### SPONTANEOUS EXPULSION.

LETTER FROM R. PROSSER, Esq.

SIR,—In your last number, Mr. Thomas relates a case of spontaneous evolution. Now, I think it very probable that what actually occurred in the case he relates was what has been described by Dr. Douglas of Dublin as "spontaneous expulsion". The great probability is, that the hand was not drawn up, but that the child was doubled up by the pains, and the breech forced down.

A case of this nature occurred in my practice last year, the facts of which I will briefly give. When I first examined the patient, the arm was protruding externally. While I was considering how to act, the breech was actually forced down without the arm being drawn up, and a full-grown child was born in a few minutes. I did not remove my hand from the time I introduced it until the child was born.

I am, etc., R. PROSSER.

Bromsgrove, March 26th, 1861.

LARGE HEART. Some time ago, at the New York Pathological Society, a heart was exhibited weighing four pounds six ounces, which was taken from a patient thirty years of age, following the occupation of a ship-builder.

## Medical News.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF LONDON. At the Comitia Majora, held on Monday, March 25th, 1861, the following gentlemen, having undergone the necessary examination, were duly admitted members of the College:—

Broadbent, Wm. Henry, M.D., Upper Seymour Street W.  
Corfe, George, M.D., Nottingham Terrace, Regent's Park  
Rogers, John Henry, East Grinstead, Sussex  
Webb, Allau, M.D., Calcutta

The following gentlemen, formerly Extra-Licentiates of the College, were also admitted members:—

Bull, Martin Meggison, Jersey  
Lancaster, Joseph, Clifton  
Roberts, John, M.D., Salisbury  
Walsh, James, Her Majesty's ship *Hogue*  
Witt, Charles, Spring Gardens

At the same Comitia—

Wynster, Andrew, M.D., Coleherne Court, Old Brompton, was admitted a member, having been previously elected under a temporary bye-law (now expired).

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

Blenkinsop, William Henry, Binfield, Berkshire  
Downing, Samuel Dawson, Birkenhead  
Pyburn, James, Newcastle-upon-Tyne  
Slayter, William Bruce, Westminster Hospital  
Steele, Charles, Clifton

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND. The following members of the College, having undergone the necessary examinations, were admitted Licentiates in Midwifery, at a meeting of the Board, on March 20th:—

Colah, Muncherjee Beramjee, Bombay; diploma of membership dated January 30th, 1861  
Cumpstone, William, Market Rasen, Lincolnshire; April 5, 1853  
Griffiths, Francis Thomas, Sheffield; January 31, 1861  
Harris, William, Newport, Tipperary; March 10, 1854  
Kerswill, George, St. Germans, Cornwall; November 13, 1860  
Negri, Athenodore de, London; January 30, 1861  
Tanner, Mark Batt, Exeter, Devon; July 31, 1860  
Thomason, Wm. Jas., St. Bartholomew's Hospital; Jan. 31, 1861  
Thompson, Daniel Robert, Madras; January 31, 1861  
Travers, William, Charing Cross Hospital; April 17, 1860  
Ward, Henry, Diss, Norfolk; November 14, 1860

APOTHECARIES' HALL. On Thursday, March 14th, the following licentiates were admitted:—

Busard, Frank, Lutterworth  
Caudle, A. W. W., Henfield  
Crutchley, H., Market Drayton  
Date, W., Cirencester  
Eddowes, W., Pontesbury  
Mercer, J., Leicester  
Tyburn, J., Newcastle-upon-Tyne

#### APPOINTMENTS.

HUNT, Benjamin, Esq., elected Ophthalmic Surgeon to the Queen's Hospital, Birmingham.

PARKER, S. A., Esq., elected Dental Surgeon to the Queen's Hospital, Birmingham.

ROYAL NAVY. The following appointments have been made:—

DAVIS, Francis W., Esq., Assistant-Surgeon, to the *Marlborough*.

LONEY, Henry, Esq., Surgeon, to the *Raccoon*.

MACKAY, Alexander B., Esq., Surgeon, to the *Marlborough*.

SICCCAMA, Rinso R., Esq., Assistant-Surgeon, to the *Impregnable*.

VOLUNTEER CORPS. The following appointments have been made (A.V.=Artillery Volunteers; R.V.=Rifle Volunteers):—

COULSON, W. J., Esq., to be Surgeon 23rd Middlesex R.V.

GILSON, J. T., Esq., to be Surgeon West Essex Militia.

SANDFORD, F. J., Esq., to be Surgeon 2nd Administrative Battalion Shropshire R.V.

To be Honorary Assistant-Surgeons:—

WHEATCROFT, J., Esq., 22nd Staffordshire R.V.

## BIRTH.

ROPER. On March 17th, at Exeter, the wife of \*C. H. Roper, Esq., of a daughter.

## DEATHS.

FERRUS, M. le Dr., aged 75, in Paris, lately.

FRIPP, James, M.D., at Clifton, aged 60, on March 15.

HARRY. On March 19th, at Paignton, aged 79, Sarah, widow of John Harry, M.D.

MURRAY. On March 22nd, at 17, Green Street, Herbert F., infant son of G. C. P. Murray, M.D.

\*RENDELL, Chas., Esq., Westbury-on-Trym, aged 46, on March 22.

**STATISTICS OF CRANIOTOMY.** The operation of craniotomy is said to be performed in Germany once in every 1944 labours; in Paris once in every 1628; in France at large once in every 1200; in Vienna once in every 688; in England once in every 340; in Ireland once in every 106 labours.

**SCURVY.** Two thousand eight hundred and three cases of scurvy were reported as occurring in the little army of the United States for five years ending on the 31st of December, 1859; the army being of an average strength of less than fourteen thousand men. The cause of the disease seems clearly traceable to red-tapism orders.

**MEDICAL VACANCIES.** The following appointments are vacant:—surgeon to the Lock Hospital, Manchester; surgeon to the Sussex and Brighton Infirmary for Diseases of the Eye; medical officer for district No. 3 of Narberth Union, Pemrokeshire; physician to the Metropolitan Dispensary, Fore-street, Cripplegate; junior resident surgeon, and resident surgeon-accoucheur to the Birmingham General Dispensary.

**THE SANITARY STATE OF THE ARMY.** A meeting of the Royal Commission on the sanitary state of the army in India has been held at the War-office, Right Hon. Lord Stanley, M.P., in the chair. The other commissioners present were,—Sir Proby Cautley, Sir Ranald Martin, Colonel Greathed, Colonel Durand, Dr. Gibson, Dr. Sutherland, and Dr. Farr. Mr. T. Baker, the secretary, was in attendance.

**A NOSTRUM.** Captain Cox tells us that when he was in Ava a wealthy criminal was executed, and that the King's physician secured the tip of his nose, his ears, tongue, and lips, with a little of his blood, to form a nostrum to ensure longevity to any one who received it from His Majesty's hand. It is to be hoped that homœopathic doses only were administered, or few would have a stomach for longevity under such treatment.

**A NOTION ABOUT DOCTORS' UNIFORMS.** We learn from a *Philadelphia Medical Journal* that the European Governments have entered into negotiations concerning the uniform of their military medical officers. They wish, it seems, to have one uniform costume for doctors, in order to save them from the chance of being knocked over, whilst engaged (during battle) in their mission of mercy!

**CHLOROSIS.** M. Aran tells us, is very hard of cure. Its best remedy is iron, but how the remedy acts no one knows; almost the whole of the iron injected is ejected with the faeces. It matters not which preparation we use; the cheapest is the best. After all, the steel is only a palliative; and it must be continued for two or three years. All other hygienic aids must be practised; but do what you will the souffle will remain, or at all events continue up to an advanced period of life.

**VENESECTION.** “The practical position of an author often decides the turn which he takes in forming a system. Pinel, the timid innovator of his day, was the physician of the *old* at the Salpêtrière, and he there established the rule of never resorting to blood-letting. Bunfrain, the bold innovator of our age, was the medical attendant

of the *young* and vigorous soldier at Val-de-Grâce; and there he established his rule of always bleeding in disease.” (*Flourens.*)

**THE USES OF SECRET MEDICINES.** “I had ordered,” writes a French doctor, “for a patient tincture of *Guaco*, and pastilles of *Dehau*. Finding that these precious remedies were without effect, I investigated the cause, and found that the *pharmacien's* shopman had declared that my prescription was very badly written, and that what I really meant to order was tincture of *Gaiac* (*guiaicum*), and pills of *Dehau*. And these accordingly he had sent to the patient.”

**SPECIFIC GRAVITY OF EGGS.** The following facts have been established by a series of experiments performed by M. J. Labiche, of Louviers. 1. Newly-laid eggs have not all the same specific gravity (placed in a solution of chloride of sodium, specific gravity 1060, some sink, and others swim). 2. Every egg that falls to the bottom of a solution of chloride of sodium, specific gravity 1040, can be used in cooking; those that float in the liquid are not sufficiently fresh for that purpose; those that swim on the surface are spoiled.

**SCIIDE OF A SURGEON.** On Saturday, an inquest was held at the London Hospital, on the body of John Bride, aged 48, a medical practitioner, residing in Shadwell. Deceased suffered from disease of the heart, for which he was in the habit of taking chloric ether. On the evening of Tuesday last, he was discovered to have taken a large quantity of opium, and although he was removed to the London Hospital, and every effort made to save his life, it was ineffectual. The jury returned a verdict of “Temporary Insanity.”

**REPRESENTATION OF THE SCOTCH UNIVERSITIES.** The Town Council of Edinburgh has resolved, by 19 to 7, to petition parliament not to grant a member to the Scotch Universities, being thus almost the only public body north of the Tweed that has actively opposed the movement for Scotch University representation. Mr. Macnight having, according to notice, moved that the council petition parliament to grant a representative to the Universities of Scotland, Mr. Duncan M'Laren moved that the council petition parliament to a contrary effect. The amendment was carried.

**Lycopodium.** This question, What is the best powder to be used in rolling pills? has been recently answered by a writer in the *American Journal of Pharmacy*, who states that all inodorous pills are best rolled in lycopodium, because this powder, being very light, extremely fine and smooth, gives the pills a uniform appearance, and its tasteless and inodorous property is very desirable. Where the bitterness of a pill will be objected to by the palate, it is well to roll them in a mixture of one part of powdered liquorice-root, to two parts of lycopodium, which will also give an even surface or coating to the pill, while its taste will be somewhat disguised. For quinine pills, however, finely sifted arrow-root ought to be employed, as it preserves their original white colour. (*Chemist and Druggist.*)

**EXTRAORDINARY HUMAN SKELETON.** As the workmen employed in sinking a foundation for the enlargements now being made in the parish church of Mullingar, Ireland, were pursuing their work at the east end of the building, they discovered, amongst the other remains of human beings, the perfect skeleton of a man, measuring over seven feet in length, and which appeared from the immense size of the skull and other portions—such as the bones of the hands, jaw-bones, etc.—to have equalled in its other dimensions its extraordinary height. Its position was considerably deeper in mother earth than that at which human skeletons are generally found. There was barely sufficient appearance of a coffin to prove that it had received proper interment, but everything connected with it indicates its having occupied its lonely tenement for several centuries.

NOT A BAD YANKEE NOTION. The *American Medical Times* suggests the following sensible mode of curing quackery:—"Medical men justly deplore the ignorance of the public as to the distinctions between true and false systems of medicine. Let us suggest a simple and effectual method of enlightening the popular mind. During the winter, when popular lectures are so well attended, let the country physician engage to give a series of lectures in his lyceum, tending to instruct his neighbours in those general principles which underlie scientific medicine. We are satisfied that physicians may thus not only make themselves useful by the instruction they give, but may establish on a firm basis, in the communities where they are located, the claims of legitimate medicine."

VITAL STATISTICS OF SCOTLAND. The sixth annual report (for 1860) of the Registrar-General of births, deaths, and marriages in Scotland has been laid before parliament. It is but a bare statement of the figures for each county, without note or comment. During the year 105,701 persons were born, 68,055 died, and 42,236 were married. As the population of Scotland was estimated at 3,152,478, the rate per cent. of the births was 3.353, of the deaths 2.159, of the persons married 1.340. The birth rate and the marriage did not differ materially from the average of the preceding five years; but the deaths were considerably above the average, which is scarcely an appreciable fraction over 2 per cent. In England, in the same year (1860) the birth rate was higher—namely, 3.418, and the death rate was lower, 2.113; the rate of marriage is not yet ascertained, but it is always above that of Scotland. On the other hand, Scotland had 9,631 illegitimate births registered in the year, above 9 per cent. of the whole number of births, and the proportion registered in England is not very much more than two-thirds of that.

THE WILL OF DR. BALY has just been proved. The personality was sworn under £7,000. He was unmarried. The dispositions are as follow:—He bequeaths to his cousin, Marie Josephine Fauvell, a policy on his own life in the Crown Insurance Office, so recently effected as the 8th of April, 1859, directing that the amount arising therefrom should be invested, and the dividends applied to her education and maintenance, and the principal sum handed over to her on her attaining maturity. The Doctor bequeaths any other policy that he may have effected to his sister Elizabeth Baly. The deceased possessed a third part of a freehold estate left to him by the will of his late father: this he has given between his two sisters, Mrs. Shipp and Miss Baly—Mrs. Shipp to hold her portion for life, with the power of disposition by will, and, should she fail in so doing, it is to devolve upon her sister, Miss Baly, if living; but if deceased, it is then to revert to the testator's cousin, the before-named Miss Fauvell. The residue of his property is to be divided in the same manner for the benefit of his sisters as the freehold property is left. There is no other disposition in the will.

NEW FORM OF IODIDE OF POTASSIUM. Although iodide of potassium when pure will endure a high temperature without undergoing decomposition, Mr. Piffard found that when intimately mixed with about equal parts of ether, magnesia, silicic acid, baryta, or fused boracic acid, and raised to a red heat in a crucible, copious fumes of iodine are given off; and that, if the contents of the crucible be afterwards dissolved in water and filtered (which is easy in the case of the magnesia or silicic acid), the liquid will contain an iodide of potassium having properties different from that of the ordinary iodide. The heat should be continued as long as any scent of iodine is given off, otherwise the decomposition will not be complete. This iodide differs chiefly from the ordinary iodide in the amount of precipitate produced by acetate of lead being less, owing to the

smaller quantity of iodine contained in it; also in its being less easily crystallised. Bromide of potassium appears to undergo a similar decomposition under similar circumstances; as, when mixed with the above-mentioned substances, and subjected to heat, fumes of bromine are distinctly visible. (*Chem. News.*)

BELLOWS THE ATLANTIC. Soundings in the Atlantic have been particularly pushed forward, and have excited, on account of the telegraph cable, more general interest than any others yet taken. They have revealed the fact that at least 230 miles from the coast of Ireland the water is still shallow; or, in other words, that there is another Ireland only waiting to be raised—thus reversing the famous panacea for keeping the country quiet. It is just beyond this that the true Atlantic begins—the gulf suddenly sinking to 9,000 feet. Thus, Ireland may one day have a coast-line as high as the Alps. The whole floor of the Atlantic is paved with a soft sticky substance, called ooze, nine-tenths consisting of very minute animals, many of them mere lumps of jelly, and thousands of which could float with ease in a drop of water; some resembling toothed wheels; others, bundles of spines or threads shooting from a little globule. Some, however, are endowed with the property of separating flints from the sea water—which is more than every chemist could do; and there are hundreds of square miles covered with the skeletons of these little creatures. Part of this ooze is doubtless from the clouds of rain-dust which rise from the vast steppes of South America in such masses as to darken the sun, and make the animals fly to shelter, and which, after sweeping like a simoom over the country, lose themselves in the "steep Atlantic." No bones have been found of the larger animals, so that the kraken and sea-serpent might sleep their last sleep, and leave not a bone or a vertebra to tell the tale. Not a mast or anchor, not a block or strand, not a coin or a keepsake, has been found, to testify of the countless gallant ships and more gallant men who have gone down amid the pitiless waves. (*All the Year Round.*)

IS TRUE RINGWORM CONTAGIOUS? The popular belief in the extreme contagiousness of ringworm is of old standing, very firm, and very widely spread. It is also supported by the experience of most dermatologists. One or two authors however (after giving descriptions by which it is placed beyond doubt that they were writing about the disease in question), deny its contagious properties. Thus, one authority writes: "This disease is not contagious;" and adds, "that it is not communicable by inoculation." I am not aware that any evidence is on record supporting the view that it is not inoculable, while there are many facts conclusively proving the opposite. The experiment is one easily tried, and on such a matter the *onus probandi* certainly rests with those who deny it. Mr. Erasmus Wilson, after broaching the theory that the supposed cryptogamic sporules are in reality oil-globules, the result of fatty degeneration of the hair-shafts, has the following extraordinary passage:—"Another consequence naturally follows the admission of the explanation here given, which is, that this disease being inherent in the hair, and being due to an abnormal nutrition of the system, is in nowise contagious. I need scarcely observe, that this is a question of the utmost importance as affecting the peace and happiness of families and the education of youth. The disease occurs as commonly among the children of the wealthy as among the poor; and when the idea of contagion is entertained the scourge is rendered doubly severe." Thus it would appear that a theoretic conjecture as to the pathology of the affection is to decide this important question, there being no need for clinical investigation as to what is really the fact. Let me ask any one who has glanced ever so cursorily over the cases I have cited whether he would like to try to "secure the peace and happiness of a family," or "promote the edu-

cation of youth," by assuring an anxious mother, or the head of a children's boarding school, that the disease in question cannot spread by contagion, and that no precautions need be taken? The clinical proof of the contagiousness of true ringworm is as conclusive as is that of similar nature in respect to scabies. (Mr. Hutchinson.)

ABERDEEN UNIVERSITY: THE ELECTION OF A LORD RECTOR. According to the Journals, the students of Aberdeen University lately indulged in a disgraceful riot on the occasion of the installation of Mr. Maitland as Lord Rector. Here is an account of this Celtic exacerbation of wrath, or fun, or folly:—"Half an hour before the proceedings commenced, the students began to assemble in the hall of the university, and before two o'clock about 600 were present. The disturbance soon commenced, first in a very Babel of noises, followed by the breaking of forms, the woodwork being hurled without ceremony at the supporters of Mr. Maitland. Yells, whistlings, and 'most unearthly sounds' were continuously kept up until the arrival of the Lord Rector elect and his friends. Full vent was then given to the fury of the students. Pieces of wood, peas, barley, and other missiles were flung at the officials, the Principal and the Solicitor-General coming in for a liberal portion of the assaulting shower. The former attempted to open the proceedings with prayer, but at this movement the shoutings waxed louder and louder, and peas rattled on his face and body. For five minutes wild clamour prevailed, and then another effort was made to open the proceedings, amidst great confusion. When the Principal was about to administer the oath to Mr. Maitland, several of the students, attended by legal agents, made a formal protest against the election, on grounds of incompetency and illegality. When the new Lord Rector attempted to deliver his address, missiles were furiously hurled at him, and a piece of wood striking him upon his nose caused blood to trickle down his face. Windows were broken, a door burst open, and for a long time the wildest confusion prevailed, despite the efforts incessantly made by the university officials to restore order. After a manly appeal from the Lord Rector, the students became comparatively quiet, when, with but little interruption, the inaugural address was delivered."

INQUEST ON A CRIMINAL LUNATIC. Mary Ann Brough, nurse to the Prince of Wales, who it will be recollectcd was acquitted, on the ground of insanity, on a charge of murdering six of her children at Esher, in the month of June, 1854, was removed to Bethlehem Hospital. The evidence of Dr. Hood went to show that deceased, at the time of her admission had very good health. Shortly afterwards, however, she exhibited symptoms of mental derangement, which made him believe that organic disease was going on in the brain, and had been so for some time. She went on very well up to November 10th, 1856, and on that day had a paralytic attack. That attack, however, gave way to some extent; but on December 4th, 1858, she had another attack of apoplexy, followed by paralysis, chiefly affecting the mouth and tongue. On September 27th, 1859, she had another attack, which affected the legs, and she almost lost the use of them, and her mind became much weaker after this third attack. On January 30th, 1861, she had another slight paralytic attack, and very soon after she became so weak that she was unable to sit up, and a water bed was provided for her. She remained in that condition until the 17th inst., when she lost all consciousness, gradually and rapidly sank, and died on the evening of the 18th. The cause of death was paralysis resulting from apoplexy, called serous apoplexy. In answer to the coroner, Dr. Hood said insanity had something to do with the cause of death; and although there was considerable doubt expressed as to the propriety of the verdict—for when she was tried there was not much evidence to prove her insanity—yet he had no doubt that

even then the brain was diseased, and that she committed the act while under the influence of insanity. Especially so, as it was proved some years before the trial she was attacked with paralysis of one-half of the hemisphere of the brain, by which the brain itself would to some extent be affected. She had lucid intervals to enable her to enter into conversation, but as her mind was very depressed, he did not think she had any proper consciousness of the enormity of her crime. She was aware of the reason for which she had been sent to the hospital, but in consequence of her weak and depressed state, she had said that she was the greatest sinner that ever lived, from the state of her mind, he doubted if any confidence could be placed as to her consciousness of what she said. After some further evidence, the jury returned a verdict of "Natural death."

FLINTS IN THE DRIFT. At a late meeting of the Ethnological Society, the subject of the flint implements found associated with the bones of extinct animals in the "drift" was discussed. Many archaeologists and geologists took part in the discussion, among whom were Sir Roderick Murchison, Professor Owen, Professor Quekett, Mr. Waterhouse Hawkins, Mr. Pengelly, Mr. Pettigrew, Mr. Planché, Mr. Savory, Dr. Lee, etc. The discussion was opened by Mr. Pettigrew, who explained how the subject was originally brought into consideration in this country by the presentation to the Archaeological Association, in 1848, of a number of flint implements found in the drift near Amiens, by M. Boucher de Perthes. Those implements, and a larger collection of others, contributed by Dr. Hunt and others, were displayed on the tables. Mr. Wright said that he considered the flint implements exhibited were intended for the chase or for domestic use, and not for the purposes of war. Mr. Evans explained the exact position of the stratum of gravel from which he had extracted some of these implements. It was a stratum of coarse freshwater gravel, lying on chalk, and containing fossil bones of extinct animals, among which was the entire skeleton of an extinct species of rhinoceros. Overlying the gravel was a stratum of sandy marl, containing shells of existing species, and above that was a thin stratum of brick earth. The flint instruments were extracted at a depth varying from 20 to 30 feet from the surface, and he felt convinced that the gravel in which they were found had not been disturbed. The same opinion was formed by every one who had visited the spot, and there seemed to be no doubt whatever that the gravel and the flint implements were deposited at the same time. It was possible that the animals supposed to have become extinct before man was created might have continued to exist to more recent periods than had been supposed; otherwise it would appear that the implements were fashioned by a race of men that had also become extinct. Sir Roderick Murchison confirmed Mr. Evans's view of the great antiquity of the stratum of gravel in which the implements were found, and observed that, without the presence of fossil bones of extinct animals, the surface of the country proved that there must have been an enormous lapse of time since the gravel was deposited. The possibility of the continuance of species of animals supposed to have become extinct was, he said, rendered probable from the fact that there were now living in a forest in Poland animals which had previously been considered extinct. In the subsequent discussion, it was stated that flint implements of the same character as those on the table had been found in various parts of the world, and that they were still used by many savage tribes. Mr. Bottfield, in concluding the proceedings of the meeting, remarked on the circumstance that no bones of man had been discovered accompanying the flint implements, and he expressed his assurance that the cause of religion would have nothing to fear but everything to hope from scientific inquiry.

**ADULTERATION OF BUTTER.** Dr. C. Bagot of Dublin tells us, that one pound and a half of nice-looking and particularly well-tasted butter, purchased at his residence, contained only three-quarters of a pound of unadulterated butter, showing a water-adulteration of exactly *forty per cent.* "By what process so large a quantity of water as fifty per cent could be incorporated with butter is to me a mystery," he says. The method usually resorted to is that of reducing the butter to a semi-fluid state over the fire, and then stirring in salt and water along with it as it cools. Hassall, in his book on the *Adulteration of Food*, gives 28·60 as the largest quantity of water detected in butter sold in London. The purest example from Tralee contained only 0·25 of water. Water can be detected in butter by a very simple process indeed. It is but necessary to melt a suspected portion, pour it into a clear narrow bottle, and place it near the fire. The water will subside and the butter float on the surface. (*Dublin Med. Press.*)

**REPEAL OF THE MEDICAL UNION IN AMERICA.** The *Atlanta Medical and Surgical Journal* has an article in which it favours secession, and advocates the disruption of the American Medical Association into two sectional halves. It says,—"It is in medicine as in religion and politics; so long as we are contented with being tributaries and tamely submit to the most unreasonable fanatical dogmas, all is well; when these cease, war commences." The *New Orleans Medical News and Hospital Gazette* hopes for the continuance of the Union. The *St. Louis Medical and Surgical Journal* takes a similar position; the *Nashville Journal* also. There is no danger of a disruption of the American Medical Association. Medicine is cosmopolitan, and in spite of the *Atlanta Journal*, the day will never come when science will be made subservient to the interest of selfish demagogues. (*Medical and Surgical Reporter.*)

**BIG WAVES.** When the great ocean is disturbed it forms surface-waves, which are sometimes of great magnitude. In a gale, such waves have been more than once measured, and it is found that the extreme height from the top to the deepest depression of large storm waves has been nearly 50 feet, their length being from 400 to 600 yards, and their rate of motion through the water about half a mile a minute. Such waves, breaking over an obstacle of any kind, or mingling strangely with the clouded atmosphere raging above, are the wildest, grandest, and most terrible phenomena of nature. When they approach land they break up into much smaller bodies of water, but these are often lifted by shoals and obstructed by rocks till they are thrown up, in masses of many tons, to a height of more than an hundred feet. The tidal wave is another phenomenon of water motion of a somewhat different kind, producing an alternate rise and fall of the water over all parts of the ocean every twelve hours. In addition to the true waves, there are also many definite streams or currents of water conveying large portions of the sea from one latitude to another, modifying the temperature of the adjacent land, and producing a mixture of the waters at the surface or at some depth which cannot but be extremely conducive to the general benefit of all living beings. Storm tides, or those waves which occasionally rush without any pause along narrow and confined seas or up funnel-shaped inlets, have occasionally proved disastrous to a fearful extent. Thus it is recorded that upwards of 100,000 persons perished in the year 1232, and again in 1242, in this way; numerous complete villages and towns being washed away by a wave advancing from the North Sea over the low lands of Holland. Between Nova Scotia and New Brunswick the ordinary spring tide often rises to a height of a hundred feet, sweeping away the cattle feeding on the shore. (*All the Year Round.*)

## OPERATION DAYS AT THE HOSPITALS.

MONDAY..... Royal Free, 2 P.M.—Metropolitan Free, 2 P.M.  
 TUESDAY..... Guy's, 1½ P.M.—Westminster, 2 P.M.  
 WEDNESDAY..... St. Mary's, 1 P.M.—Middlesex, 1 P.M.—University College, 2 P.M.—Royal Orthopaedic, 2 P.M.  
 THURSDAY..... St. George's, 1 P.M.—Central London Ophthalmic, 1 P.M.—London, 1·30 P.M.—Great Northern, 2 P.M.—London Surgical Home, 2 P.M.  
 FRIDAY..... Westminster Ophthalmic, 1·30 P.M.  
 SATURDAY..... St. Thomas's, 1 P.M.—St. Bartholomew's, 1·30 P.M.—King's College, 1·30 P.M.—Charing Cross, 2 P.M.

## MEETINGS OF SOCIETIES DURING THE NEXT WEEK.

MONDAY. Epidemiological, 8 P.M.: Mr. J. N. Radcliffe, "On a Tract on Plague by Dr. Gilbert Skeyne, Medicinari to King James VI of Scotland"; Dr. Grant, "On the Climatology, Topography, and Diseases of Hong Kong."—Entomological, 8 P.M.—Medical, 8·30 P.M.: Clinical Discussion.—Royal College of Physicians, 8·30 P.M.: Dr. Beale, "On the Structure and Growth of Tissues."

TUESDAY. Royal College of Surgeons, 4 P.M.: Professor Quekett, "On the Organs of Digestion."—Pathological, 8 P.M.—Photographical.

WEDNESDAY. Obstetrical, 8 P.M.: Dr. Barnes, "On the Indications and Operations for the Induction of Premature Labour and for the Acceleration of Labour"; Dr. Tanner, "On a New Form of Vaginal Pessary."—Society of Arts, 8 P.M.—Microscopic, 8 P.M.—Pharmaceutical, 8·30 P.M.—Ethnological.

THURSDAY. Royal College of Surgeons, 4 P.M.: Professor Quekett, "On the Organs of Digestion."—Harveian, 8 P.M.—Linnean, 8 P.M.—Chemical, 8 P.M.

FRIDAY. Western Medical and Surgical, 8 P.M.—Archaeological Institute.

SATURDAY. Army Medical, 7·30 P.M.—Asiatic.

## POPULATION STATISTICS AND METEOROLOGY OF LONDON—MARCH 23RD, 1861.

[From the Registrar-General's Report.]

Births. Deaths.

During week.....	{ Boys.. 991 Girls.. 989 }	1980	1214
Average of corresponding weeks 1851-60 .....		1741	432
Barometer:			
Highest (Tues.) 29.018; lowest (Th.) 29.222; mean 29.375.			
Thermometer:			
Highest in sun—extremes (Sat.) 96 degrees; (Sun.) 58 degrees.			
In shade—highest (Sat.) 57·3 degrees; lowest (Sun.) 31·8 degrees.			
Mean—41·3 degrees; difference from mean of 49 yrs.—0·6 degs.			
Range—during week, 25·5 degrees; mean daily, 15·8 degrees.			
Mean humidity of air (saturation=100) 94.			
Mean direction of wind, W. and S.W.—Rain in inches, 0·69.			

## TO CORRESPONDENTS.

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

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

**MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS IN JAMAICA.**—SIR: In an answer to correspondents in the *Lancet* of this day, I find it stated that Jamaica is deficient in medical practitioners. Can you inform your readers—members of our Association—what others of our colonies are in a similar condition; and whether the local Government encourage medical immigration? To whom should one apply? and in what manner could one discover any vacancies that might occur in the Public Medical Staff of any of our Colonial cities, whether in Jamaica or elsewhere? I think answers to these inquiries would be grateful to many of our hard-worked poor-law brethren; and would, at the same time, greatly oblige your obedient servant,

M.D. S.A.

**A FURTHER SUGGESTION.**—Sir: In your Notice to Correspondents of March 23rd, I have read with pleasure "A Good Suggestion". May I be allowed to give you another: that the address and qualification of each member be added. Many of the members have received additional qualifications to what they formerly had. I know many of your Journals are wrong directed: Doctors and Physicians are styled Surgeons, and so on; whereas, a perusal of the last *Medical Directory* would soon put the thing in order, and no doubt but it would be more pleasant to the feelings of the members. I beg to congratulate you on the great improvement you have made in the *JOURNAL* since you have become editor; and trust that my remarks may not be hurtful to your feelings, as they are given with an ardent desire to promote the interests of the British Medical Association.

I am, etc.,

March 25th, 1861.

A MEMBER.

[We are always glad to receive an useful hint; and beg to assure our correspondent that an editor is devoid of feelings.]

**HYDROPATHY AND SUICIDE.**—Sir: I had thought that the frequency of suicides at hydropathic establishments was an admitted fact. We had one in the precincts of this town a few years ago, which, though built for the purpose, failed to attract more than a very scanty medicum of patients. It was open about four years; and the coroner informs me he held two inquests on gentlemen who committed suicide while under treatment during that period. I well remember the great impression the inquests made on the public mind; but as such events usually attract notice only in local newspapers, they are not easily collected into a statistical form. Some of our associates who have access to the coroner's records at Malvern and elsewhere, can doubtless ascertain whether my assertion, which you wish corroborative evidence regarding, is true as respects other establishments of the kind.

I am, etc., JOHN BARCLAY, M.D.

Leicester, March 30th, 1861.

**Dr. McCOLLINCK.**—No Code of Ethics has been issued by the Association. Ethical Committees have been formed on several occasions for the purpose of considering such a code. There is a Medico-Ethical Association at Manchester, which has now been many years in vigorous existence. Perhaps Dr. McCollinck would find the laws of that Society worthy his attention. He will doubtless obtain them on application to Dr. Stone, of Oxford Street, Manchester.

**Mr. TIDWELL'S PAPER** in last week's *JOURNAL* should have had a second heading; viz., "Molluscous Tumours in the External Auditory Meatus, their Effect upon the Petrous Bone and the Brain, with Suggestions regarding their Treatment."

#### SUBSCRIPTIONS.

The following Laws of the Association will be strictly enforced:—  
15. The subscription to the Association shall be One Guinea annually; and each member on paying his subscription shall be entitled to receive the publications of the Association of the current year. The subscriptions shall date from the 1st of January in each year, and shall be considered as due unless notice of withdrawal be given in writing to the Secretary on or before the 25th of December previous. If any member's subscription remain unpaid twelve months after it shall have become due, the publications of the Society shall be withheld from such member until his arrears be paid.

16. The name of no member shall remain on the books of the Association, whose arrears extend over three years; but the omission of the name from the list of members shall not be deemed, either in honour or equity, to relieve any member from his liability for the subscriptions due for the period during which he has availed himself of the privileges of membership.

PHILIP H. WILLIAMS, M.D., General Secretary.  
Worcester, March 1861.

**COMMUNICATIONS** have been received from:—Dr. McWILLIAM; Dr. DAVID NELSON; Dr. J. G. DAVEY; Mr. AUGUSTIN PRICHARD; Dr. J. G. SWAYNE; Dr. W. ROBERTS; Mr. TOYNER; Dr. GRAILE HEWITT; Dr. P. H. WILLIAMS; Mr. W. COPNEY; Mr. STONE; Mr. MERAN; Mr. ROPER; Mr. MAT; Dr. MCCLINTOCK; Dr. KIDD; Mr. S. WOOD; Dr. WYBRANT; Mr. GILLIBRAND; Mr. JESSE; Dr. PLOWMAN; Mr. S. F. BRIDGE; Mr. DULVEY; Dr. F. PAGE; Mr. BAINES; THE REGISTRAR-GENERAL; and Mr. R. PROSSER.

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