

cities—Copenhagen, Christiania, and Stockholm—the death-rate averaged 18.2, and ranged from 17.3 in Copenhagen to 19.2 in Stockholm; the 45 deaths in Christiania, although only giving a death-rate of 18.8, included 10 from diphtheria and croup, and 4 from scarlet fever. In Paris, the death-rate was equal to 21.4, showing decline from the rates in recent weeks; the deaths included 35 from diphtheria and croup, 23 from typhoid fever, 22 from measles, and 6 from small-pox. The 166 deaths in Brussels, of which 7 resulted from diphtheria and croup, and 5 from "fever," were equal to a rate of 19.8. In Geneva, the rate did not exceed 15.8, and no zymotic death was reported. In the three principal Dutch cities—Amsterdam, Rotterdam, and the Hague—the mean death-rate was 21.7, the highest rate being 21.9 in Amsterdam, where 9 deaths resulted from diphtheria and croup. The Registrar-General's table includes nine German and Austrian cities, in which the death-rate averaged 25.4, and ranged from 21.1 and 21.5 in Dresden and Berlin, to 31.1 in Buda-Pesth, and 31.2 in Trieste. Small-pox caused 17 deaths in Vienna and 11 in Buda-Pesth; diphtheria showed the greatest mortality in Berlin, Hamburg, Dresden, and Trieste. The death-rate averaged 25.3 in three of the principal Italian cities, and was equal to 21.1 in Turin, 25.1 in Rome, and 36.5 in Venice; small-pox caused 12 deaths in Venice, and typhoid fever 9 in Turin, 6 in Rome, and 3 in Venice. In four of the largest American cities, the mean recorded death-rate was only 19.2, the rates in the several cities ranging from 15.5 in Baltimore to 21.4 in New York. Diphtheria showed considerable mortality in each of these American cities; and typhoid fever caused 12 deaths in Brooklyn and 10 in Philadelphia.

It appears, from statistics published in the Registrar-General's return for the week ending December 26th, that the death-rate recently averaged 28.7 per 1,000 in the three principal Indian cities; it was 28.9 in Bombay, 27.9 in Calcutta, and 38.6 in Madras. Cholera caused 10 deaths in Calcutta, and diarrhoeal diseases 30 deaths in Calcutta, 31 in Bombay, and 55 in Madras; the mortality from "fever" was very excessive in each of these three Indian cities, but greatest in Madras. According to the most recently received weekly returns, the annual death-rate per 1,000 persons estimated to be living in twenty of the largest European cities averaged 25.1, and exceeded by 3.2 the mean rate during the week in the twenty-eight large English towns. The death-rate in St. Petersburg was 27.5, and showed a further increase upon the rates in recent weeks; the 490 deaths included 62 from diarrhoeal diseases, 22 from scarlet fever, and 18 from "fever." In three other northern cities—Copenhagen, Christiania, and Stockholm—the death-rate averaged 23.2, and ranged from 21.1 in Christiania to 24.2 in Copenhagen; the 52 deaths in Christiania included no fewer than 16 from diphtheria and croup, and 7 from scarlet-fever. In Paris, the death-rate was 23.5, showing an increase upon the rates in recent weeks; the deaths included 45 from diphtheria and croup, 60 from infantile diarrhoea, and 18 from typhoid fever. The 159 deaths in Brussels were equal to an annual rate of 18.9, and included 8 from diphtheria and croup. In Geneva the 26 deaths, of which 4 resulted from infantile diarrhoea, gave a rate of 19.0. In the three principal Dutch cities—Amsterdam, Rotterdam, and the Hague—the mean death-rate was 26.3, the rates in the several cities being 23.9 in Rotterdam, 26.3 in the Hague, and 27.0 in Amsterdam; measles caused 18 deaths in Amsterdam, and diphtheria and croup 5 in the Hague, and 12 in Amsterdam. The Registrar-General's table includes nine German and Austrian cities, in which the death-rate averaged 25.4, and ranged from 21.2 in Berlin and 22.2 in Dresden, to 30.5 in Prague, and 31.6 in Hamburg. Diphtheria (including croup) showed the greatest mortality in Hamburg, Buda-Pesth, and Berlin. Small-pox caused 11 deaths in Vienna, and 4 in Buda-Pesth. The mean death-rate in three of the principal Italian cities was 25.4, the rate being 23.1 in Turin, 25.1 in Rome, and 32.2 in Venice; small-pox caused 13 deaths in Venice, 2 in Rome, and 2 in Turin; the deaths referred to typhoid fever were 6 in Turin, 5 in Venice, and 4 in Rome. In four of the largest American cities, the recorded rate averaged only 19.6, and ranged from 17.5 in Baltimore to 21.8 in New York. The mortality from diphtheria was excessive in each of these American cities; and typhoid fever caused 15 deaths in Philadelphia and 8 in Brooklyn.

It appears, from the statistics published in the Registrar-General's return for the week ending January 2nd, that the annual death-rate recently averaged 28.7 per 1,000 in the three principal Indian cities; it was 28.9 in Bombay, 27.9 in Calcutta, and 38.6 in Madras. Diarrhoeal diseases caused 55 deaths in Madras, 31 in Bombay, and 30 in Calcutta, in addition to 10 fatal cases of cholera; "fever" mortality showed the largest excess in Calcutta and Madras. According to the most recently received weekly returns, the annual death-rate in twenty of the largest European cities averaged 25.1, and was slightly below the mean rate during the week in the twenty-eight large English towns. The death-rate in St. Petersburg was 27.3, and showed a slight decline from the rate in the previous week; the 485 deaths included 16 from scarlet fever, 11 from "fever," and 4 from small-pox. In three other northern cities—Copenhagen, Stockholm, and Christiania—the death-rate averaged only 18.6, the highest rate being 20.3 in Stockholm; the 44 deaths in Christiania, giving a death-rate of but 17.9, included 12 from diphtheria and croup, and 5 from scarlet fever. In Paris, the death-rate was 23.8, and scarcely differed from the rate in the previous week; 47 of the deaths resulted from diphtheria and croup, 37 from typhoid fever, and 13 from measles. The 150 deaths in Brussels were equal to a rate of 17.9. In Geneva the 29 deaths, of which 2 resulted from "fever," were equal to a rate of 21.2. In the three principal Dutch cities—Amsterdam, Rotterdam, and the Hague—the mean death-rate was 23.9, the rates ranging from 18.1 in the Hague to 27.0 in Rotterdam; in Amsterdam, the deaths included 11 from measles and 8 from diphtheria and croup. The Registrar-General's table includes nine German and Austrian cities, in which the death-rate averaged 27.1, and ranged from 21.2 in Berlin and 26.2 in Munich, to 32.2 in Hamburg, 33.7 in Prague, and 35.3 in Trieste. Small-pox caused 18 deaths in Vienna, and 13 in Buda-Pesth; diphtheria caused the greatest mortality in Berlin, Hamburg, and Dresden, and "fever" in Hamburg. The death-rate averaged 23.1 in three of the principal Italian cities, and was 17.6 in Turin, 24.0 in Rome, and 35.7 in Venice; small-pox caused 14 deaths in Venice and 3 in Rome; while 8 deaths from typhoid fever and 9 from diphtheria and croup occurred in Turin. In four of the largest American cities, the recorded rate did not average more than 19.6, and ranged from 16.9 in Baltimore to 22.3 in New York. Diphtheria caused 42 deaths in New York, 14 in Brooklyn, 11 in Baltimore, and 9 in Philadelphia; scarlet fever showed the greatest mortality in Brooklyn.

QUEEN'S COLLEGE, GALWAY.—The following scholarships have been awarded for the session 1885-6 in the Faculty of Medicine: Fourth year, Eaton W. Waters; third year, Henry Smith and J. Stewart; second year, Joseph Eldon and Joseph J. Loftus.

OBITUARY.

JAMES GORDON, M.D.

DR. JAMES GORDON, a well known and much respected practitioner in Old Aberdeen, died on December 23rd, aged 76. He was medical officer of the parish, and had also been Provost of Old Aberdeen. A man of kindly disposition, he was greatly esteemed in the community where he spent the greater part of his days. He took a keen interest in church matters, being a zealous member of the Free Church.

MEDICAL NEWS.

SOCIETY OF APOTHECARIES OF LONDON.—The following gentlemen passed the Examination in the Science and Practice of Medicine, Surgery, and Midwifery, and received certificates to practise, on Thursday, December 31st, 1885.

Christopherson, Cecil, Grove House, Blackheath.

Fellowes, William Edmund, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Lyndon, Arnold, 186, Adelaide Road, South Hampstead.

Maloney, William Robert Nuttall, Melbourne, Australia.

Young, Charles Wheeler Forrest, 58, the Chase, Clapham Common.

The following passed the Examination in the Science and Practice of Medicine, and received certificates to practise.

Jowers, Reginald Francis, M.R.C.S., 27, Old Steyne, Brighton.

Simcock, George, Mile End, Landport.

MEDICAL VACANCIES.

The following vacancies are announced.

CHELSEA HOSPITAL FOR WOMEN.—Resident Medical Officer. Salary, £60. Applications by January 11th.

EVELINA HOSPITAL.—House-Surgeon and Surgeon for Out-patients. Salary, £70. Applications by January 28th.

FRENCH HOSPITAL AND DISPENSARY.—Qualified Resident Medical Officer. Salary, £60. Applications early in January.

GENERAL LYING-IN HOSPITAL, York Road, Lambeth.—House-Physician. Salary, £50 per annum. Applications by January 11th.

HALIFAX INFIRMARY.—Junior House-Surgeon. Salary, £50. Applications by January 11th.

NORTH-WEST LONDON HOSPITAL, Kentish Town Road.—Dental Surgeon. Applications by January 15th.

PARISH OF LOCHS, Island of Lewis.—Medical Officer. Salary, £150 per annum. Applications by February 1st.

SCARBOROUGH HOSPITAL AND DISPENSARY.—House-Surgeon. Salary, £80. Applications by January 18th.

STAFFORDSHIRE GENERAL INFIRMARY.—House-Surgeon and Secretary. Salary to commence, £100. Applications by January 20th.

THE QUEEN'S HOSPITAL, BIRMINGHAM.—Vacancies for offices of Physician for out-patients, and of Casualty Surgeon. Honorarium, £50. Applications before January 23rd.

WOLSTANTON AND BURSLEM UNION.—Medical Officer. Salary, £25. Applications by January 15th.

MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS.

BIDEN, Charles W., L.R.C.P. Lond., M.R.C.S. Eng., late House-Surgeon, appointed Resident Obstetrical Officer to Charing Cross Hospital, vice W. H. Haw, M.R.C.S. Eng.

FARRER, George A., M.R.C.S. Eng., of Brighouse, Yorkshire, appointed a Certifying Surgeon under the Factory and Workshops Act, vice Robert Farrar, M.R.C.S. Eng., M.R.C.P. Ed., resigned.

FOOKS, Henry, M.R.C.S. Eng., L.S.A. Lond., appointed House-Surgeon to Charing Cross Hospital, vice F. O. Stedman, M.R.C.S. Eng., L.S.A.

FREEMAN, C. Delamark, L.S.A. Lond., appointed House-Physician to Charing Cross Hospital, vice H. O. Grenfell, L.S.A.

HEWITT, Frederic W., B.A., M.B. Cantab., Anaesthetist to Charing Cross Hospital, appointed Assistant Anaesthetist to the Dental Hospital of London.

LYNES, John, M.R.C.S. Eng., L.S.A. Lond., appointed House-Surgeon to Charing Cross Hospital, vice C. W. Biden, L.R.C.P. Lond., M.R.C.S. Eng.

NORTON, R. R., L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S., appointed Medical Officer of Tottenham Dispensary, vice J. Bunting, M.R.C.S., L.S.A., resigned.

STEPHAN, F. Osmund, M.R.C.S. Eng., L.S.A. Lond., late House-Surgeon, a House-Physician to Charing Cross Hospital, vice W. T. Wallington,

SYKES, E. J., M.D., C.M. Edin., appointed Medical Officer of Tottenham Dispensary, vice J. Bunting, M.R.C.S., L.S.A., resigned.

WALTERS, F. Rufenacht, M.D., B.S. Lond., F.R.C.S. Eng., appointed Surgeon to the Westminster General Dispensary, vice Dr. J. H. resigned.

THE Middlesbrough Guardians have increased the salary George Longbotham, the medical officer to the workhouse, from to £225 per annum.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

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

MARRIAGES.

PESKETT—PESKETT.—On December 29th, 1885, at St. Mary's Church, Leyton, Essex, by the Rev. Alfred Peskett, M.D., assisted by the Rev. Charles Edmunds, Vicar-designate of All Saints, Arthur William Chalmers Peskett, M.A., M.B.Cantab., son of the late William Peskett, M.D. (Surgeon-Major, Indian Army) to Edith Jane, younger daughter of Alfred Peskett, M.D., Leyton, Essex.

TIDY—CORDETT.—At St. John's Church, Peshawur, on December 7th, 1885, by the Rev. Charles Gillmore, assisted by the Rev. Worthington Jukes, Major Arthur Grey Tidy, of the Dorsetshire Regiment, second son of the late General Thoinas Holmes Tidy, to Ethel Cochrane, younger daughter of Deputy Surgeon-General W. H. Corbett, Medical Staff.

DEATHS.

HAZEL.—On January 3rd, at 71, Oakley Square, N.W., George Hazel, M.R.C.S. Eng., aged 64 years.

HILL.—On November 5th, at his residence, No. 2, Oxford Street, Oldham, Robert Bryden Hill, M.D., B.Sc. Edin., aged 32.

KING.—On January 2nd, suddenly, at No. 6, Albion Street, Hull, Kelburne King, M.D., F.R.C.S., Surgeon to the Hull Royal Infirmary.

PAGE.—At St. Ann's, Carlisle, on January 5th, 1886, William Bousfield Page, F.R.C.S., J.P. Cumberland, in his 69th year.

SCOFIELD.—On January 2nd, at his residence, 19, Grosvenor Street, Bath, of angina pectoris, W. J. J. Scofield, M.R.C.S., F.L.S., formerly of Birmingham, and recently of Hampstead, aged 56.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION AT HAWARDEN.—On December 31st, 1885, a lecture on "Healthful Exercises" was given in the Boys' School, Hawarden, to the members of the Hawarden Young Men's Society (of which the Rev. Stephen E. Gladstone, Rector of Hawarden, is the President), by Mr. Alexander, Director of the Liverpool Gymnasium. Mr. H. J. Gladstone, M.P., presided; and the company included the Right. Hon. W. E. Gladstone, M.P., and Mrs. Gladstone, and several members of the family; the Rev. E. C. Wickham, Head Master of Wellington College; etc. The lecturer delivered a short address, in which he contrasted the education given in English and Continental schools. Dwelling on the benefits of a thorough gymnastic training, he advocated the use of very light apparatus, as tending to more effectually develop the trunk of the body; and deprecated overdevelopment of the limbs, as taught by the foreign systems. He alluded to the influence of physical training upon the national character, and urged that it should have a place in our system. The various systems were ably represented by the lecturer's pupils, with vocal and instrumental accompaniments. At one point, the lecturer demonstrated the strength of the fingers by raising his body from the ground by a suspended ring until level with the chin, and also the still more surprising feat of raising and holding the body in a horizontal position by the aid of one finger alone. The chairman, in proposing a vote of thanks, alluded to the benefits that he had received from his gymnastic training at Oxford. Mr. W. E. Gladstone personally thanked Mr. Alexander for his interesting lecture, and alluded to the interest which he felt in anything that pertained to the physical well-being of the community.

AMBULANCE TEACHING IN COLLIERY DISTRICTS.—Attention is called by Surgeon-Major Hutton to the necessity of having at every colliery an ambulance class for instruction in first aid to the injured. In a letter which he has addressed to the daily press, calling attention to the fact that at the Taylor Pit, near Wigan, which on Tuesday last was the scene of a serious colliery explosion, many of the workmen had attended the classes of the St. John Ambulance Association, and were able to render useful and valuable assistance in the way of dressing the burns, and rendering the poor fellows comfortable until the arrival of the medical men. This want becomes the more apparent when it is considered that in ten years ending with 1884, out of 11,165 deaths that occurred, 2,562 were due to explosions, while 4,592 were due to falls of roofs and sides, and 4,021 to other causes.

HOW TO TAKE A PILL.—It is very common for patients, especially women, to say that they cannot swallow pills, as they "go the wrong way," or "stick in their throat." A useful suggestion has been made by Dr. Samuel E. Wells, of Maryland, U.S.A., who observes that the common habit of throwing the head backward, and endeavouring to swallow the pill in that position, is often accountable for the difficulty; for if, while eating food, the head is thrown back, some difficulty in swallowing will be experienced. He therefore directs patients, when swallowing a pill, to look downwards—for instance, to keep the eyes fixed on the toes; and he finds that this simple manoeuvre is commonly attended with success.

LONDON SANITARY PROTECTION ASSOCIATION.—At a meeting of the Council of this Association, held last Friday at their offices, 1, Adam Street, Adelphi, Mr. E. B. Ellice Clark, M.Inst.C.E., was appointed Consulting Engineer to the Association, in succession to the late Professor Fleming Jenkin. The Association, which has been in existence now five years, consists of more than 1,000 members, amongst its numbers being many of our most eminent surgeons and physicians, and by no means a small sprinkling of well known engineers and architects. Each member has the sanitary arrangements of his house carefully examined and tested by one of the Associations' engineers at frequent intervals.

FISHERMEN'S VIEW OF RIVER POLLUTION.—The conservators of the Yorkshire Fishery District, in their annual report, state that it is patent and notorious that all our large rivers are becoming more and more the sewers of every description of pollution, and the evil will never be remedied until the health of the population dwelling on its banks is seriously affected by the miasma. They trust that the new Parliament about to assemble will shortly give attention to the adoption of such measures as will tend materially to lessen the evils of river pollution.

DONATIONS AND BEQUESTS.—The London Temperance Hospital has received £500 from a benefactor whose name is not given, "instead of a legacy."—Dr. William Augustus Guy has bequeathed £250, and a moiety of the "residue" of his real and personal estate after the death of his wife, to the King's College Hospital Convalescent Institution, and £250 to King's College Hospital.—The Norfolk and Norwich Hospital has received £100 under the will of Mr. Robert Edward Butcher.—Mrs. West Braman has given £50 to the Kent County Ophthalmic Hospital, Maidstone.

FLATULENT DISTENSION.—Dr. Wands, of Indianapolis, states that he has found the following simple mixture, originally recommended by Dr. Brown, and highly praised by Dr. Charles D. Meigs, very useful in flatulent distension, after abdominal operations. One ounce of manna and one drachm of aniseed, infused in eight fluid ounces of water; the infusion, after standing for half an hour, is strained, and four drachms of carbonate of magnesia added. A wineglassful of the mixture is ordered to be taken every three hours until the bowels act.

REMOVAL OF A BROKEN PESSARY.—A woman having broken a glass pessary in the vagina, and a severe vaginitis having been set up by the fragments communicated by the efforts at removal, Dr. Lewis (*Coll. and Clin. Record, U.S.A.*), threw into the vagina, by means of a syringe, a mixture of plaster-of-Paris, and after two or three days removed the mass, the solidified mixture having fixed in it the various pieces of glass.

UNIVERSITY OF CORDOVA.—The following appointments have been made to the new Free University of Cordova:—*Rector*: Don Angel de Torres. *General Secretary*: Don José Calderon. *Dean of the Faculty of Medicine*: Don Leon Torrellas. *Secretary*: Don Manuel Lopez Comas. *Dean of the Faculty of Pharmacy*: Don F. de Borja Pavon. *Secretary*: Don Enrique Villegas.

TREATMENT OF THE PAROXYSMS OF WHOOPING-COUGH.—To cut short the paroxysm in whooping-cough, Professor Da Costa recommends the inhalation of—B. Sodii bromidi, gr. xx; axt. belladonnae fluidi gtt. ij. The spray to be inhaled just prior to occurrence of the paroxysm. In the interval, quinine should be pushed up to the point of tolerance.

IN MEMORIAM.—Old patients and friends have raised a memorial to the late Mr. W. Ebden, of Haughley, Suffolk, who died in 1884, by recasting the tenor bell of the church, at an expense of about £30. In addition to the old inscription, the following has been added:—"This bell was recast in memory of W. Ebden, surgeon, forty-three years resident in this parish."

PUERPERAL ANTISEPSIS.—The subject chosen by the last-elected member of the Barcelona Medical and Chirurgical Academy, for his inaugural discourse, was Puerperal Antisepsis. The substances he advises are bichloride of mercury, sulphate of copper, oxygenated water, and carbolic acid. In addition to these, he mentions biniodide of mercury, which he thinks likely, on further trial, to prove the most efficacious of all.

MEDICAL MAGISTRATES.—Mr. Howell Rees, of Cwmaman, Carmarthenshire, has been placed on the Commission of the Peace for the county of Glamorgan.—Mr. Robert N. Robson, M.R.C.S. Eng., has been placed on the Commission of the Peace for the city of Durham.

OPERATION DAYS AT THE LONDON HOSPITALS.

MONDAY.....10.30 A.M. : Royal London Ophthalmic.—1.30 P.M. : Guy's (Ophthalmic Department); and Royal Westminster Ophthalmic.—2 P.M. : Metropolitan Free; St. Mark's; Central London Ophthalmic; Royal Orthopaedic; and Hospital for Women.—2.30 P.M. : Chelsea Hospital for Women.

TUESDAY.....9 A.M. : St. Mary's (Ophthalmic Department).—10.30 A.M. : Royal London Ophthalmic.—1.30 P.M. : Guy's; St. Bartholomew's (Ophthalmic Department); Royal Westminster Ophthalmic.—2 P.M. : Westminster; St. Mark's; Central London Ophthalmic.—2.30 P.M. : West London; Cancer Hospital, Brompton.—4 P.M. : St. Thomas's (Ophthalmic Department).

WEDNESDAY ..10 A.M. : National Orthopaedic.—10.30 A.M. : Royal London Ophthalmic.—1 P.M. : Middlesex.—1.30 P.M. : St. Bartholomew's; St. Mary's; St. Thomas's; Royal Westminster Ophthalmic.—2 P.M. : London; University College; Westminster; Great Northern Central; Central London Ophthalmic.—2.30 P.M. : Samaritan Free Hospital for Women and Children; St. Peter's.—3 to 4 P.M. : King's College.

THURSDAY.....10.30 A.M. : Royal London Ophthalmic.—1 P.M. : St. George's.—1.30 P.M. : St. Bartholomew's (Ophthalmic Department); Guy's (Ophthalmic Department); Royal Westminster Ophthalmic.—2 P.M. : Charing Cross; London; Central London Ophthalmic; Hospital for Diseases of the Throat; Hospital for Women.—2.30 P.M. : North-west London; Chelsea Hospital for Women.

FRIDAY.....9 A.M. : St. Mary's (Ophthalmic Department).—10.30 A.M. : Royal London Ophthalmic.—1.15 P.M. : St. George's (Ophthalmic Department).—1.30 P.M. : Guy's; Royal Westminster Ophthalmic.—2 P.M. : King's College; St. Thomas's (Ophthalmic Department); Central London Ophthalmic; Royal South London Ophthalmic; East London Hospital for Children.—2.30 P.M. : West London.

SATURDAY.....9 A.M. : Royal Free.—10.30 A.M. : Royal London Ophthalmic.—1 P.M. : King's College.—1.30 P.M. : St. Bartholomew's; St. Thomas's; Royal Westminster Ophthalmic.—2 P.M. : Charing Cross; London; Middlesex; Royal Free; Central London Ophthalmic.—2.30 P.M. : Cancer Hospital, Brompton.

HOURS OF ATTENDANCE AT THE LONDON HOSPITALS.

CHARING CROSS.—Medical and Surgical, daily, 1; Obstetric, Tu. F., 1.30; Skin, M. Th., 1.30; Dental, M. W. F., 9.

GUY'S.—Medical and Surgical, daily, 1.30; Obstetric, M. Tu. F., 1.30; Eye, M. Tu. Th., F., 1.30; Ear, Tu. F., 12.30; Skin, Tu., 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., 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. Th., S., 2.30; Ear, Tu. F., 2; Skin, F., 1.30; Larynx, F., 2.30; Orthopaedic, M., 2.30; 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; Orthopaedic, W., 2; Dental, Tu. S., 9; Th., 1.

ST. MARY'S.—Medical and Surgical, daily, 1.45; Obstetric, Tu. F., 0.90; 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; Obstetrics, 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. C., 9.15.

MEETINGS OF SOCIETIES DURING THE NEXT WEEK.

MONDAY.—Medical Society of London, 8.30 P.M. Clinical Evening. Living Specimens at 8 o'clock. Mr. A. Boyce Barrow: Cases of Varicocoele treated by Excision. Dr. Isambard Owen: Case of Recovery from Albuminoid Disease. Dr. C. E. Beevor: Cases of Aethositis. Mr. Walter Pye: Case of Diffuse Lipoma.—Odontological Society of Great Britain, 8 P.M. Casual communications by Messrs. Field, A. S. Underwood, S. J. Hutchinson, and D. Hepburn. President's Valedictory Address.

TUESDAY.—Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society, 8.30 P.M. Mr. Gostling: On the Increase in Number of White Corpuscles in the Blood in Inflammation, especially in those Cases accompanied by Suppuration. Dr. Mitchell Bruce and Mr. Bellamy: On a Case of Removal of a Tumour from the Roots of the last Cervical and first Dorsal Nerves.

WEDNESDAY.—Obstetrical Society of London, 8 P.M. Specimens will be shown by Dr. John Phillips and others. Dr. Hernan: On the Production of the Shape of the Oblique Pelvis of Naegeli. Dr. Braithwaite: A Case of Extra-uterine Gestation treated by Laparotomy, in which the Placenta never came away. Mr. Knowsley Thornton: A Case of Removal of both Ovaries during Pregnancy. Dr. Lewers: A Case of Circumscribed Sarcoma of Uterus and Vagina.—Epidemiological Society of London, 8 P.M. Discussion on Dr. Edwardes's paper on the Report of the German Vaccination

Commission.—Royal Microscopical Society, 8 P.M. Mr. G. F. Dowdeswell On the Microbe of Chicken-Cholera. Mr. A. H. Bennett: Fresh-Water Alga of the Lake-District. Mr. J. W. Stephenson: On Central and Oblique Light in Resolution.—Hunterian-Society, 8 P.M. Dr. Stephen MacKenzie: On Tetany. Dr. Carrington: Cases illustrating the Treatment of some of the Complications of Acute Rheumatism.

FRIDAY.—Society of Medical Officers of Health, 7.30 P.M. Dr. Swee: The Suction of Sewer-Gas into the Water-Supply a Fertile Cause of Enteric Fever.

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.

BAD DEBTS.

SIR.—The grievance ventilated by "Victimized," in the JOURNAL of December 10th, must be felt more or less by every general practitioner, in whatever class of society his practice may lie; and, accordingly, it is the interest of every one to attempt to find a remedy.

There undoubtedly exists, in every rank of society, a certain number of people who systematically attempt to evade payment for medical attendance; generally by changing their medical attendant when they have incurred considerable liabilities to him; sometimes, especially in London and other large towns, by changing their residence to another district, and leaving no address at which they may be found.

In some cases, there can be no valid objection to summoning such persons for the debt in the county court, a process which can be adopted at no great cost, and with very little personal trouble, by means of an agent. In others, when for various reasons such a procedure may be inadvisable, one must fall back upon the help of one's brother practitioners in organising some united action. The scheme of an association for the whole of London, with a committee to inquire into individual cases, seems to me to be rather cumbersome, and probably rather expensive. A more effective method seems to me to be the formation of local associations for different districts in London and throughout England. Each association would embrace all the practitioners willing to join it in the district; and, as the cost would be very little, and every one would benefit by the action of the association, there would be no reason why every practitioner in each district should not become a member. Each local association would have as secretary one of its members; and it would be the duty of each member to forward to the secretary every quarter, or every half year, the names and addresses of every person in the district whom he considered a defaulter to himself. Every quarter or half year the secretary would collate, and print for private circulation among the members, the names and addresses of defaulting residents, with the name of the practitioner to whom such person was indebted; and every member would undertake not to attend professionally any person who was a defaulter in respect of any other member. To avoid unpleasantness, every communication to such persons would be made officially through the secretary; and there might be a committee to whom defaulters could appeal if they desired. The cost of administering such an association would be very small; it would be limited to the printing, quarterly or half yearly, of a list of names and addresses, and a certain amount of stationery and stamps; which, divided among all the members, would mean a very small annual subscription. And, if well administered, it would conduce largely to the entire abolition of bad debts. Of course, the scheme is only traced in outline in this letter, but there would be no difficulty in filling in the details of the working of such associations; in London, some method of interchange between the different associations would be necessary.—I am, yours, etc.,

ALBERT WESTLAND.

Belsize Park, N.W.

A CENTENARIAN.

SIR.—The following instance of extreme old age may interest some of your readers. On November 9th last, died H. P., said to be 109 years of age by his wife's children; and when registering the death, his granddaughter insisted that age being entered. However, in several conversations which I had with the old man, he invariably stated that he was just 18 years of age in 1798, the year of the great rebellion, namely, 1798. This would bring his age down to 81 years exactly.

The old man retained all his faculties to the last; and, though the last two years of his life, proudly boasted that he had a ounce of "doctor's medicine" in his life. That H. P. was ordinary vitality is proved by the following fact. Twenty years younger of 85 or so, whilst returning home one winter evening he was set upon and beaten by some rowdies, and left lying unconscious. When found the next morning, after a night of severe sleeping, his hair being so frozen to the road that it had not come away. This terrible exposure did not cause him any subsequent inconvenience; according to his own statement, he went about his work as usual. Strange to say, he had not a grey hair in his head.

A. G. Y.

Sunnymount, Whitecross, County Armagh.

