

faces were concealed by a thick veil. M. Piorry was very polite. The ladies admired much a fine case of Splenomacrosy; they examined carefully a remarkable Bronchosyphiosis, an interesting case of Enterocarcinoma, and a rare specimen of Angiotromemphaxia. They appeared very familiar with this harmonious nomenclature of M. Piorry."—The French journals announce the death of Dr. Ferrus, at the age of 75, some months subsequent to an attack of apoplexy. This gentleman held an honourable and distinguished position in France. He received the cross of the Legion of Honour from the hands of Napoleon after the fatal Russian campaign, during which he suffered from slight congelation of the feet. He then became coadjutor of Pinel, Head-Physician of Bicêtre, and Inspector-General of Lunatic Asylums. His funeral was attended by various celebrities—Thiers, Mignet, Buchez, Bouillaud, Dubois, etc., etc.—M. Maisonneuve, says *le Moniteur des Sciences*, lately presented to the Institute a patient, who had the rare good luck of possessing three tibias, two in his legs, and one in his pocket. The last had been extirpated by the intrepid surgeon of La Pitié, by the means of one of those terrible operations, of which he appears to possess the monopoly, and which (as it would seem) are not always fatal.—M. Bérigny, Physician to the Versailles prison, says that a few nights ago a robber, who was disturbed in the act of depredation, endeavoured to get rid of the proceeds of his industry; and as he ran away swallowed sixty-five francs, viz., three twenty franc pieces, and one five franc piece. He admitted the fact when taken; oil was administered, and next morning he passed the coin without the slightest trouble.—M. Leudet has been elected Corresponding Member of the Academy of Medicine.—The following prizes are offered by the French Academy of Medicine: 5,000 francs for a work "on the History of Pellagra," in 1864. 5,000 francs "on the Application of Electricity to Therapeutics," in 1866. For "The Saving of Limbs by the Preservation of the Periosteum," 20,000 francs—half this sum being given by the Emperor. "The Spontaneous Generation" question, it is hoped, will be settled at last in 1862, the prize offered for its solution being a gold medal, value 2,500 francs. The next prize is too large for capture, viz., 100,000 francs for a "Cure for the Asiatic Cholera," or "For an Indication Positive of its Causes," or "For a Prophylaxis against it, as is Vaccine for Variola." The author of the prize, M. Bréant, happily remembered that probably no one in this generation would come up to his mark; and therefore decreed in his will that in the meantime 4,000 francs (interest) should be annually given to the best curer of skin diseases. Then, again, there are 2,000 francs representing the Barbier prize, for the best work on Chemistry, or Medical Botany.

Association Intelligence.

BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION: ANNUAL MEETING.

THE Twenty-ninth Annual Meeting of the British Medical Association will be holden in Canterbury, on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, the 23rd, 24th, and 25th days of July.

PHILIP H. WILLIAMS, M.D., *General Secretary*.

Worcester, March 27th, 1861.

ASSOCIATION PRIZE.

THE following propositions were carried at the last meeting of the Committee of Council of the British Medical Association:—

That a sum of twenty guineas from the Editorial Fund be set aside for the purchase of a Gold Medal, to be offered as a reward by the Association.

That the Secretary do at once advertise as follows:

That at the Annual Meeting of the British Medical Association, to be held in 1862, a Gold Medal of the Association, open for competition to all qualified medical men, will be awarded by the Association.

That the following be the terms of competition for the medal:

Every author entering into competition shall select his own subject for an essay.

No essay shall exceed in length twenty-four pages of the JOURNAL.

The essay shall be on some subject connected with the practice of medicine, surgery or midwifery, physiology, or public health. It must not be in the handwriting of the author; but must be enclosed under cover, together with a sealed envelope bearing the motto of the essay, and containing the author's name and address.

The prize essay will be considered the property of the Association, and will be published in the JOURNAL.

Essays for competition are to be sent in, addressed to the President of the Council of the British Medical Association, on or before March 31st, 1862.

By resolution of the Committee of Council.

PHILIP H. WILLIAMS, M.D., *General Secretary*.

DUBLIN BRANCH: ANNUAL MEETING.

THE third annual meeting of the above Branch was held in the Board Room of the Apothecaries' Hall, Dublin, on Friday, March 22nd, 1861; W. MADDEN, M.D., President, in the Chair.

New Officers. The following officers were appointed for the ensuing year:—*President*—W. I. Harrison, Esq.; *Vice-President*—J. M'Munn, M.D.; *Treasurer*—John Shea, M.D.; *Secretary*—G. Wyse, M.D.

Resolutions. The following resolutions were passed:—

1. That the cordial thanks of this Association be given to the late President, Dr. Madden, for his efforts to promote the objects of the Association during the past year.

2. That this Branch continues to entertain the warmest feelings towards the Association, and earnestly wishes its extension and prosperity.

3. That it must be for the welfare of the profession to maintain the bond which unites, in one phalanx, every class of the medical body, under the ægis of the British Medical Association.

4. That this Branch hails the improvement which appears in the character and tone of the *BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL*, and desires to express the hope, that while the abilities of the editor are devoted to promote the interests of medical science, and to equalise and elevate the standard of medical education, he will consider it his duty impartially to advocate the rights of each and every class of the body politic.

ROCHESTER, MAIDSTONE, GRAVESEND, AND DARTFORD DISTRICT MEETINGS, IN CONNECTION WITH THE SOUTH- EASTERN BRANCH.

THE third and last of these meetings for the present session was held at the Sun Hotel, Chatham, on Friday, March 22nd, at 3.45 p.m. There were present: W. Sankey, Esq. (Dover), in the chair; twenty members, and two visitors.

The minutes of the previous meeting at Maidstone were read and confirmed.

The late Dr. Plomley.—It was resolved unanimously, "That this meeting desires to record its sense of the loss this Branch of the Association, and especially these district meetings, have sustained by the death of the late Dr. Plomley, of Maidstone, whose amiability of disposition and constant desire to assist in every effort calculated to uphold the dignity, and promote the harmony and welfare of the profession, will long be remembered by every member resident in this district."

New Member. Dr. Henty, of Newington, was unanimously elected a member of the Association, and of the Branch, in accordance with the laws of the Association.

The Income-tax. Dr. DULVEY reported that, in conformity with the resolution adopted at the annual meeting of the Branch at Maidstone in June last, the Secretary of the Branch had prepared a petition to the House of Commons on the subject of the income-tax. This had been signed by Mr. Fry, as president, and presented to the House by Sir F. Smith, M.P. for Chatham. A similar petition had also been presented from the medical practitioners of Rochester by Sergeant Kinglake, one of the members for that city.

Mr. MARTIN, of Reigate, secretary to the Branch, being present, urged upon the members the necessity of forwarding petitions on the same subject from the various towns and cities in the district.

Papers. The following communications were read:—

1. On some Peculiar Forms of Uterine Hæmorrhage. By J. Armstrong, M.D.

2. Presentation of both Arms. By G. Henty, M.D.

3. On the Curability of Fracture of the Neck of the Femur. By F. J. Brown, M.D.

These papers having been discussed, the thanks of the meeting were unanimously given to those gentlemen who had prepared them, and they were requested to allow them to be published in the *JOURNAL*. Hearty thanks were also voted to Mr. Sankey, for the interest he has manifested in these district meetings by coming from so great a distance specially to attend them, and for his kindness in taking the chair in the unavoidable absence of the president, Mr. Fry.

At 5.30, the meeting adjourned to dinner, where they were joined, as visitors, by Dr. Parkes, Professor of Hygiene at the Army School of Medicine, Fort Pitt; Dr. Gunn, Principal Surgeon of H.M. Dockyard, Chatham; Dr. Davidson, of H.M.S. *Wellesley*; and Captain Beveridge, of the Gillingham Artillery Volunteers. Letters of regret at being unable to accept the invitation of the members were read from Dr. Longmore, Dr. Hume, and Professor Aitken, of Fort Pitt; Dr. Maclean, principal surgeon of the garrison; and also from the Rev. S. Arnott, vicar of Chatham.

Special Correspondence.

BIRMINGHAM.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

At the last two meetings of the Midland Medical Society, some very interesting matters have been brought under notice. Mr. Gamgee related the particulars of a case in which he had removed a vesical calculus by the high method on the 13th of February. The subject of this rare procedure was a little girl aged 10, a patient at the Queen's Hospital. The suprapubic operation had been selected in the belief that the stone was a large one; and this proved to be the case, since it weighed, after extraction, 350 grains. The child's sufferings had been intense for some months, and she was pale and emaciated in consequence. A very few hours after the operation, the change in her features was most marked, and she is now happy, fat, and ruddy. No untoward symptom interrupted her convalescence, the wound has completely healed, and the urine is voided without any sign of preexisting disease.

A different but no less interesting case was under Mr. Gamgee lately in the same hospital. He had removed a lad's foot for tarsal disease by Syme's ankle-joint method, and cicatrization had made considerable progress, when a small pulsating tumour was noticed on the inner side of the stump, corresponding to the cut end of the posterior tibial artery. On compressing the artery above at any point of its course, the pulsation ceased. The *bruit* on auscultation was well marked. Diagnosis—a circumscribed false aneurism at the extremity of the posterior tibial artery. So soon as the stump had completely healed, the aneurism meanwhile having increased to the size of a large walnut, Mr. Gamgee tied the posterior tibial artery about two inches and a half above the aneurism. For two or three days a very slight thrill was perceptible in the tumour, which then became completely consolidated, and has now totally disappeared. The stump is a very good one; pressure is well borne; and the boy (a deaf mute) is being provided with an artificial foot.

Dr. Hinds read a paper upon perforating ulcers of the stomach and intestines, embodying some very important cases and observations. The debate, occupying the whole of one meeting and a considerable portion of another, was participated in by a large number of members. No points, however, of absolute novelty were elicited, though much useful matter was contributed by the various speakers.

A case which enlarges the clinical history of knee-joint excision has lately been under the care of Mr. Baker at the General Hospital. The patient, a lad, at that time nine years old, was under Mr. Baker's charge two years ago, with a strumous enlargement of the joint; and, after remaining three months in the hospital, was discharged with a straight leg and apparent ankylosis. In some little time the knee became again affected, and he was consequently readmitted in April 1860. Treatment was ineffectual to stay the progress of the disease; and, as the continued irritation placed his

nearly all request to have chloroform in painful operations. The *dictum* of the surgeon (too often expressed against chloroform) goes for very little, as the patient says, "I have to bear the pain, not the surgeon." My object for some time has been to discover a remedy for this troublesome vomiting—with what success I must leave the persons who have any experience of chloroform and eye-surgery to judge, not Dr. Sansom, who has evidently much to learn and unlearn on chloroform.

The most curious part of this letter, however, is where Dr. Sansom can see no difference between the condition effected by a maximum dose and a minimum one, as the patient must have passed through the latter to the former; that is to say, Dr. Sansom takes out his watch to wind it, opens it entirely to look at the lever how it ticks; and there is no difference—none whatever!—whether he thrusts back his watch quite open into his pocket, or takes the precaution to shut it. The patient in cataract, no doubt, passes through the plunging, vomiting, and convulsion of chloroform, on his way to the deep stage, as I recommend it; but the eye is still untouched or shut. To this succeeds a stage of perfect stillness and anæsthesia, favourable to operation; but in the plan referred to by Mr. Hancock, and partly advocated by Dr. Sansom, we have this plunging and vomiting; but the eye is open. A Beer's knife has gone through it, if it be cataract; and the "vitreous" trembles like a bit of jelly. A lecturer at St. Thomas's still quietly tells his ophthalmic class, as high fun, "It is an old and true saying, gentlemen, you must lose a hatful of eyes before you are good operators for cataract." I believe Dr. Sansom's views of chloroform would assist this consummation, most devoutly to be discountenanced. Several of the opinions of my lamented friend, the late Dr. Snow, are now proved to be erroneous, or to be incorrect interpretations of facts. Of these, perhaps the danger of vomiting and maximum doses in eye-surgery are not the least. I am, etc.,

CHARLES KIDD.

Sackville Street, Piccadilly, March 21st, 1861.

THE TURKISH BATH.

LETTER FROM EDWARD HAUGHTON, M.D.

SIR,—Having just read, in your impression of this day, a letter from Dr. Thudichum, of an exceedingly violent and acrimonious nature, I take the liberty of sending you the proof-sheets of a pamphlet which I am publishing, and in which I oppose some of his conclusions. Having been several years longer engaged in advocating the bath than Dr. Thudichum, and having, moreover, been at the special trouble and expense of going to Constantinople in order to investigate its nature and effects, I think I may be allowed to have some information on the subject; and I beg to say that, to my certain knowledge, there is at present a large proportion of the medical profession favourable to the bath, provided it be used with judgment, and its principle be correct. If the profession merely judged from what they can see in London, I do not wonder at their opposition; but you will see from my pamphlet the principle which I recommend.

I am, etc.,

EDWARD HAUGHTON.

Medical Institution, Liverpool, March 16th, 1861.

P.S. It would appear that, in the opinion of some physiologists, the *undue* development of oxygen in the system is immediately followed by its union with carbon, and the consequent evolution of carbonic acid gas; so that the intoxication by nitrous oxide and by chloroform is in reality due to the same agent, viz., carbonic acid. This, if true, will furnish the clue to the difference in the conclusions of Drs. Richardson and Thudichum.

Medical News.

APPOINTMENTS.

DIVERS, Edward, M.D., elected Professor of Materia Medica in the Queen's College, Birmingham.

*HAWARD, Edwin, M.D., elected Physician to the Westminster General Dispensary.

M'KECHNIE, William, M.D., elected Physician to the Infirmary, Paisley.

RICHMOND, D., M.D., elected Physician to the Infirmary, Paisley.

WORMALD, Thomas, Esq., elected Surgeon to St. Bartholomew's Hospital (after twenty-three years service as Assistant-Surgeon), in the room of E. A. Lloyd, Esq., resigned.

ROYAL ARMY. The following appointments have been made:—

CAMPBELL, Assist.-Surg. J. C., M.D., to the 42nd Foot, *vice* Maclean. WILSON, Assistant-Surgeon E., to the 4th Light Dragoons, *vice* Campbell.

ROYAL NAVY. The following appointments have been made:—

EVANS, O., M.D., to be Inspector-General of Hospitals and Fleets, on the retired list.

MILES, Edward F., Esq., Assistant-Surgeon, to the *Procris*.

PARKER, Innies, Esq., Acting Assistant-Surgeon, to the *Isti*.

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

ADAMS, E. B., Esq., to be Surgeon 3rd Administrative Battalion Suffolk R.V.

BULLEN, G., Esq., to be Surgeon 2nd Administrative Battalion Suffolk R.V.

HIND, A., Esq., to be Assistant-Surgeon 1st Brigade, 1st Corps, Kent A.V.

To be Honorary Assistant-Surgeons:—

BLACKFORD, J. C., Esq., 4th Administrative Battalion, 33rd Company, Staffordshire R.V.

DOLMAN, A. H., Esq., 5th Derbyshire R.V.

MARR, J., Esq., 16th Durham R.V.

WOLLASTON, R., M.D., 4th Administrative Battalion, 23rd Company, Staffordshire R.V.

DEATHS.

BARKER. On March 24, at Weymouth, aged 49, Susannah P., widow of the late W. D. Barker, M.D.

BLAGDEN, Richard, Esq., Surgeon-Accoucheur to the Queen, at Bath, aged 72, on March 31.

BROADBENT, William H., M.D., at the Hollies, near Warrington, aged 32, on March 22.

DARLING. On March 29th, in Russell Square, Margaret, daughter of George Darling, M.D.

GOODVE. On March 27, aged 46, Mary C., wife of William J. Goodve, Esq., Surgeon, Clifton.

LAING, William C., Esq., late of the H.E.I.C. Medical Service, at Exeter, aged 61, on March 23.

LARKEN, Edmund L. M., M.D., H.M. Indian Army at Bombay, aged 26, on February 19.

*MORRIS, Robert R., Esq., Brixworth, aged 56, on March 25.

NASH, Wm. H., Esq., Surgeon, at Leatherhead, aged 50, on March 25.

OGLIVY. On April 1, at Perth, aged 78, Marcia A. S., widow of Alexander Ogilvy, Esq., late member of the Bengal Medical Board.

SMART. On March 27, at Mile End, aged 67, Louisa, widow of the late Thomas Smart, Esq., Surgeon.

SQUIRE, Richard J., Esq., Surgeon R.N., on board the *Beyrout*, on March 20.

TATHAM, Christopher, Esq., Surgeon, at Newby Place, Poplar, aged 70, on March 28.

WALLIS, Edward, Esq., Assistant-Surgeon, Fane's Horse, at Tientsin, China, in December last.

WILLIAMS, Thomas T., M.D., at Blackheath, aged 72, on March 24.

WORKMAN, Wm., Esq., Surgeon, at Reading, aged 23, on April 3.

THE ROYAL HOSPITAL FOR INCURABLES lately held its annual dinner. £1,400 were collected for the charity.

THE SCIENTIFIC CONGRESS OF FRANCE meets this year at Bordeaux on the 16th of April.

CURIOUS MALFORMATION. M. Geoffroy Saint-Hilaire has presented to the Academy a photograph of a youth, 14 years of age, who has a peculiar malformation, which has been called "*peddelphe*." His right leg is divided into two limbs, both terminated by feet, which, however, point in opposite directions.

GREENWICH HOSPITAL. Assistant-surgeon William H. Adam, 1853, recently serving in the Royal Hospital at Plymouth, has been appointed to the Military Department at the Royal Hospital at Greenwich.

THE ARMY MEDICAL SCHOOL. The reopening of the Army Medical School at Fort Pitt took place on the 1st inst., on which occasion the customary address was delivered to the students by Professor E. A. Parkes, M.D.

INFANTICIDE. On last Monday morning the bodies of two newly-born infants were found floating in the Thames off two of the numerous wharves with which the river is lined. They were removed to Lambeth deadhouse, to await a coroner's inquiry.

SMALL-POX IN CHINA. It appears by a letter from China that, in addition to General Collineau, already announced, seven officers of the garrison at Tien-tsin have died of small-pox; there has also been considerable mortality among the non-commissioned officers and soldiers.

FIBRINE IN MANIA. Dr. W. C. Hood, in his paper read last year at the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society, arrives at the conclusion, "That there is a marked deficiency of fibrine during the period of maniacal excitement, and a correction of this deficiency during convalescence."

MEDICAL CLASSES IN NEW YORK. Notwithstanding the political troubles, students from the *Southern*, as well as the Northern States, are already matriculating at the Long Island College Hospital. We are pleased to hear that the prospects are flattering for a good class during the regular session. (*Amer. Med. Times.*)

SILENT LITERATURE. The admirable authors or proprietors of the *Silent Friend* inform us, per advertisement, that this favoured production has reached its two hundred and ninetieth edition, "the sale having exceeded upwards of five hundred thousand copies". So much for "Physical Disqualifications, Generative Incapacity, and Impediments to Marriage."

ACTION OF ALCOHOL. "Blessings be on the man who invented alcohol! All the ethics that ever were written cannot work the same miracle in a man's nature as a glass of whisky. Talk of all the wonders of chemistry; and what are they to the simple fact that two penny-worth of cognac can convert a coward into a hero." (*Once a Week.*)

ILLUMINATION. It appears that the difference in the illuminating power of the same gas may vary twenty per cent., when tested at the highest and at the lowest points of the barometrical range in this country, from the effect of the rarefaction of the air alone, without taking into consideration the different densities of the gas at the opposite degrees of pressure.

AMERICAN IMMIGRANTS. Of the 5,000,000 immigrants who have arrived since the establishment of our government in 1784, Great Britain and Ireland contributed 2,600,000; Germany, 1,600,000; France, 200,000; British America, 100,000; Sweden and Norway, 50,000; China, 50,000; Switzerland, 40,000; West Indies, 36,000; Holland, 18,000; Mexico, 16,000; Italy, 8,000; Belgium, 7,000; South America, 5,500; Portugal, 2,000; Azores, 1,300; Russia, 1,000. (*Amer. Med. Times.*)

ST. MARK'S OPHTHALMIC HOSPITAL, DUBLIN. "The system of partial payments", says the Report, "adopted at this institution eighteen years ago—so as to render the dispensary department partly self-supporting, and thus relieve the charity and encourage a spirit of honourable independence among the people, as well as to conduce to habits of order and regularity—still continues to work well. While the pauper is never denied the benefits of the dispensary, those who are able to afford a

trifle cheerfully pay the 6d. a month required by our rules. The objection to this system consists in persons in good circumstances availing themselves of it, and thus defrauding the charity, by occupying the time and consuming the medicine intended for the pauper, the labourer, or the artisan, as well as doing injury to the general practitioner or the vendor of medicines."

TREATMENT OF TINEA BY CARBONATE OF COPPER. Dr. Huet, physician to a large establishment for the reception of young criminals, many of whom, upon their admission, are found to be suffering from tinea favosa, has made an extensive trial of this plan of treatment, respecting which he reports very favourably. The head is to be thoroughly cleansed by means of cataplasms, and the hair to be shaved off; after the crusts have been entirely removed, the carbonate of copper is to be applied in the form of an ointment, consisting of one part of the carbonate of copper, and fifty parts of purified lard. It is occasionally requisite to suspend the application of the ointment, and to make use of the poultices for a few days before resuming its employment. (*Répertoire de Pharm.*)

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON. The election of examiners in this University is fixed to take place on Wednesday, the 24th inst.,—namely, two in classics, with £200 a-year each; two in the English language, literature, and history, with £75 a-year each; two in the French language, £50 each; two in the German language, £30; two in the Hebrew text of the Old Testament, the Greek text of the New Testament, and Scripture history, £50; two in logic and moral philosophy, £80; two in political economy, £30; two in mathematics and natural philosophy, £200; two in experimental philosophy, £75; two in chemistry, £150; two in botany and vegetable physiology, £75; two in geology and palaeontology, £75; two in law and the principles of legislation, £50; two in medicine, £150; two in surgery, £150; two in anatomy and physiology, £150; two in physiology, comparative anatomy, and zoology, £100; two in midwifery, £75; two in materia medica and pharmacy £75.

DISEASE OF THE HEART IN CHILDREN. Dr. William Moore gives the following statement of the frequency of diseases of the heart in early life:—"Of 2,584 children treated at the Manchester Clinical Hospital, diseases of the heart and circulation occurred in sixteen. Among 411 patients treated in the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, London, only four, three females and one male, two under, and two above ten years, suffered from diseases of the heart; and of 9,867 cases, as externs, thirty-three instances of cardiac disease were observed, of which thirteen were females, and twenty males; three above, thirty under eleven years of age. Of 3,500 cases treated at the Institution for Diseases of Children, Pitt Street, there were only eight cases of chronic cardiac disease observed (congenital malformations excepted), four of which were females, and four were males, the females aged respectively five, seven, and fourteen years; the males six, eight, eleven, and fifteen years."

BIRTH OF TRIPLETS. Dr. Charles Armstrong of Cork relates the following curious case:—"Margaret Riardon, aged 30, was walking smartly, when she was suddenly seized with 'slight stitches,' and in a few minutes, without lying down, gave birth to a fetus, on the footpath, which she wrapped in her apron and repaired to an adjoining house, where, within an hour, she was delivered of two more, shortly after which she was driven home in a jolting car, a distance of two miles, along a hilly road, she all the while being in the upright position. Two of the children lived for nearly an hour, the third for twenty-one hours, they being at the seventh month of utero-gestation. The mother is a poor woman, who, twice a day, in all weathers, walks into Cork, carrying a heavy

'can' on her head, and distributing milk at a number of houses. She was paying her second daily visit when this unusual accouchement took place, since which she has been going on without a bad symptom. Truly did Sterne write, that 'God tempers the wind to the shorn lamb.' (*Dublin Med. Press.*)

DEEP OCEAN MYSTERIES. Dr. C. Wallich, who accompanied the recent expedition to survey the projected North Atlantic Telegraph route between Great Britain America, has proved that at a depth of two miles below the surface animal life exists. Here, where the pressure is calculated to amount to at least one ton and a half per square inch, and where it can hardly be conceived that the most attenuated rays of struggling light can penetrate, Dr. Wallich has not only discovered the minute infusorial *foraminifera*, whose calcareous envelopes protect them from pressure, and whose organisation is of the simplest, but he has obtained from a sounding, 1,200 fathoms deep, a number of star-fishes (genus *Ophiocoma*) adhering to the lowest fifty fathoms of the deep sea line, which must have rested on the bottom for a few minutes, so as to allow these star-fishes to attach themselves to the rope; so that it is now established that these regions of watery desert and everlasting darkness there exists a "highly organised species of radiate animal, living, entwining, and flourishing, with its red and light pink tints as clear and as brilliant as its congeners which dwell in shallow and comparatively sunshiny waters.

VITAL INFLUENCES. The Scottish Registrar-General's report shows the influence of season on the number of births. The births in March, April, May, and June are considerably more numerous than in other months of the year. In England the excess is spread more over the entire first half of the year. In Scotland the marrying months are June and December. In England the last quarter of the year is the season of most marriages. As for deaths, the cold time is their "season;" but there is another important influence—density of population. In Scotland last year, in the eight largest towns, the mortality was at the rate of 286 deaths in every 10,000 persons; in the smaller towns 221; in the rural districts only 170. The Registrar-General remarks, in his monthly report, that the more feeble health, the less vigorous constitution of the townsman, renders him liable to succumb under attacks of illness from which his rural neighbour would recover. We must live in towns, but much may be done for them by open spaces, the removal of noxious exhalations and sources of dampness, and keeping people from getting closer together than need be; and it is only literal fact that it is matter of life and death that it be done to the utmost.

ATTEMPT AT SUICIDE BY SWALLOWING CHLOROFORM. Dr. Fennell, of New York, relates a case of attempted suicide by chloroform. Julia Wilson, aged 18, swallowed one ounce of chloroform. She walked the length of the parlour twice, placed the empty phial on the mantel-piece, and then fell heavily on the floor. The noise occasioned by the fall soon brought several members of the family to her assistance. Dr. Fennell arrived at the house about twenty minutes after the drug had been taken. She was lying on the sofa, complaining of a burning sensation at the stomach. The pulse was feeble and quick, the countenance pallid, and the extremities cold. She refused to take any medicine, but, with the assistance of those around her, Dr. Fennell succeeded in forcing down the throat one ounce of powdered ipecacuanha mixed with a little warm water. In a few minutes she commenced vomiting, the odour of chloroform being distinctly detected in the materials ejected from the stomach. She, however, became gradually comatose, with stertorous breathing, pulse feeble and rapid, pupils contracted and insensible to light. The finger rubbed

over the conjunctiva gave no evidence of sensibility. It was now forty minutes from the time that the poison had been taken. Mustard applications were freely applied to the extremities, cold water dashed on the face, and flagellation kept up at short intervals. She remained in this condition about half an hour, when consciousness became gradually restored. As this took place, she passed through the different stages usually observed in persons who take chloroform by inhalation. At 11 o'clock P.M., just three hours from the time the anæsthetic was taken, she was in her usual health, having entirely recovered from its effects. (*American Medical Times.*)

THE SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES. At the Linnean Society on March 21st, Mr. David Moore exhibited flowering specimens of *Megacarpæa polyantra*, a remarkable cruciferous plant, with numerous stamens, from the Glasnevin Botanic Garden, where it was originally raised from seeds collected in the Upper Himalaya by the late Major Madden. The following papers were read: 'On the Possibility of taking a Zoological Census,' by A. Newton, Esq., M.A.; 'On the True Nature of certain Structures appended to the Feet of Insects and Arachnida,' by Tuffen West, Esq.—At the Zoological Society, on March 26th, Mr. Tegetmeier made some observations on the variations in plumage of Gallinaceous Birds, with particular reference to the hitherto undescribed case of male game-cocks adopting the female dress, of which he exhibited a fine living example. Dr. Cobbold read a classified list of Entozoa from animals that had died in the Society's Gardens in the years 1857-1860, among which were several undescribed species. Dr. Günther pointed out some peculiarities in the anatomy of *Monitor Niloticus*, from a specimen which had recently died in the Society's Gardens, and described a new genus of Australian Freshwater Fishes, for which he proposed the name *Nanoperca*. Dr. Crisp exhibited specimens and drawings of Cysticerci from an Eland which had died in the Society's Gardens. A paper was read by Mr. R. F. Tomes, Corresponding Member, 'On the Bats of the Genus *Vampyrus*, and their Allies.' Dr. Sclater pointed out the characters of some new species of American Passerine Birds from his own collection. At the Chemical Society, on March 21st, Dr. Williamson read a paper on 'On Thermodynamics in relation to Chemical Affinity.' Assuming the dynamical theory of heat, he showed that the chemical activity of a body was proportional to the amount of heat associated with it.

DEATH FROM ABSORPTION OF ARSENIC. We take the following case from *Dublin Medical Press*. "Anne Wynne was indicted for the manslaughter of Michael Rudkin by applying a plaster containing arsenic to a sore on his leg, by the absorption of which his death was occasioned. Dr. Cronin attended deceased the evening before his death; found him suffering from vomiting, and complaining of burning in his stomach and throat, and excessive thirst; saw nothing to account for his symptoms until he learned that he had a sore leg; got him with much difficulty to show him the sore; found it covered with a plaster and greatly inflamed and swelled, and the margin inflamed; took off the plaster, sealed it up, and gave it to constable Gargan; believes his state was occasioned by the absorption of an irritant poison through the ulcer out of the plaster; prescribed laudanum to allay the irritation, also whiskey as a stimulant; he died next day; made a post mortem examination; found the thorax, pericardium, peritoneum, and interior of the intestines inflamed; took out part of the lungs, kidneys, liver, and viscera, and enclosed them in a jar, which he handed to head-constable Gargan; believes deceased died from absorption of an irritant poison. Dr. Geoghegan proved that he analysed the plaster and contents of the jar; the jar contained the stomach, the spleen, one kidney, liver, part of the lungs, and small

intestine, and blood from these parts; the liver, kidney, and blood, contained traces of arsenic; the plaster contained white arsenic, sulphur, oxide of copper, oxide of iron, and fatty matter; there were ten grains of white arsenic in the plaster, or about one-sixteenth of its entire contents; it was the same arsenical preparation as that found in the liver; believes from listening to the evidence that deceased died from the absorption of the arsenical poison. In the course of his observations the learned judge passed a high eulogium on Dr. Geoghegan and his attainments and reputation as a man of science. The jury convicted the prisoner." We are not told, curiously enough, how long the plaster had been kept on the leg.

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. Royal College of Physicians, 8:30 P.M.: Dr. Beale, "On the Structure and Growth of Tissues"—Medical, 8:30 P.M.: Clinical Discussion.—Royal Geographical.
TUESDAY. Royal College of Surgeons, 4 P.M.—Royal Medical and Chirurgical, 8 P.M., Ballot for Members; 8:30 P.M., Dr. Humphry of Cambridge, "On the Growth of Bones and of Stumps"; Dr. Sansom, "On the Action of Chloroform."—Zoological.
WEDNESDAY. North London Medical, 8 P.M.—Society of Arts, 8 P.M.—Geological.—Royal Society of Literature.
THURSDAY. Royal, 8:30 P.M.—Antiquarian.
FRIDAY. Royal Astronomical, 8 P.M.—Royal Institution.
SATURDAY. Royal Botanical.

POPULATION STATISTICS AND METEOROLOGY OF LONDON—MARCH 30TH, 1861.

[From the Registrar-General's Report.]

	Births.	Deaths.
During week.....	{ Boys .1031 Girls . 963 }	1974 1296
Average of corresponding weeks 1851-60		1881 1580
<i>Barometer:</i>		
Highest (Mon.) 29.747; lowest (Wed.) 29.316; mean 29.526.		
<i>Thermometer:</i>		
Highest in sun—extremes (Sun.) 111 degrees; (Mon.) 52 degrees.		
In shade—highest (Sun.) 61 degrees; lowest (Fri.) 36.5 degrees.		
Mean—46.2 degrees; difference from mean of 43 yrs.+3.7 degs.		
Range—during week, 34.5 degrees; mean daily, 16.2 degrees.		
Mean humidity of air (saturation=100) 96.		
Mean direction of wind, S.W.—Rain in inches, 0.36.		

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.

AN OLD ANTIQUACKERY PETITION.—SIR: Permit me to ask you for the source of a very curious document which has found its way into your JOURNAL, and to which my attention has only just been called. It is entitled "Antiquackery Movement in Olden Time", and is printed in No. IV of the new series of the JOURNAL, page

106. I wish particularly to know where the original of the document is to be found.

I am, etc.,

DRYASDUST.

S. P.—Perhaps you may think the following bits of Yankee wit worth a corner in your notices. *Fas est ab Americano doceri*, is it not? "Those desiring to discontinue the Reporter, can do so by simply neglecting to forward the amount of their subscription when due. It will not be sent long after the subscription has expired! Except in some of the larger cities, we do not send agents to collect subscriptions." (*Med. and Surg. Rep.*)

"The Louisville Medical News closes its existence with the December number. The cause of death will be seen from the following closing editorial of Dr. Benson. 'To Delinquent Subscribers.—Gentlemen, your kindness has been our ruin—your favours, our destruction—your smiles, our tears—your approval, our bankruptcy. How rejoiced you must be, when you read this, our epitaph; and, with your Havana curling its grateful clouds above you, thank God that you yet outlive the storm. We envy not the digestion of your next meal; but were it shingle nails and crab cider, it should lie more easily upon your stomach, than the consciousness of your injustice, upon your memory. To Subscribers not in Arrears.—Gentlemen, we desire to thank you for your promptitude, and express our deep regret that your numbers had not been greater.'"

F. H. H.—We have not seen the "Satirical Work of Fiction"—Loose Screw—referred to by our correspondent; and therefore cannot assist him in the matter.

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. P. H. WILLIAMS; Dr. JAMES RUSSELL; Dr. DAVID NELSON; Mr. PRICE; Dr. GRAILY HEWITT; Mr. T. M. STONE; Dr. THOMAS SKINNER; Dr. MURCHISON; Mr. DULVEY; Mr. PEMBERTON; Dr. LANKESTER; Mr. H. LEE; Mr. L. WOOD; Dr. T. J. WALKER; Dr. G. WYSE; Dr. STYRAP; Mr. JESSOP; PROFESSOR DAY; Mr. J. HUTCHINSON; Dr. A. T. H. WATERS; Mr. G. G. GASCOWEN; Mr. F. H. HARTSHORNE; Mr. J. H. CRISP; Dr. F. J. BROWN; Dr. G. HENTY; Dr. J. ARMSTRONG; Mr. J. W. WORKMAN; Mrs. BAINES; Dr. HAWARD; and Mr. E. CROSSMAN.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

1. Ten Lectures Introductory to the Study of Fever. By Andrew Anderson, M.D. London: Churchill. 1861.
2. Thirteenth Annual Report of the Manchester Medico-Ethical Association, Manchester, 1861.
3. The Trial of Joseph Hodges for Carnally Abusing one Maranata Freestone. By J. Wybrants, M.D. Shepton Mallet: 1861.
4. The Stomach and its Ailments Practically Arranged. By W. S. Oke, M.D. London: Richards. 1861.
5. Elements of Medical Zoology. By A. Moquin-Tandon. Translated and Edited by Robert Thomas Hulme, M.R.C.S.E. London: H. Baillière. 1861.
6. The Physical Examination of the Chest in Pulmonary Consumption and its Intercurrent Diseases. By S. S. Alison, M.D. London: Churchill. 1861.
7. The Eastern or Turkish Bath. By Erasmus Wilson, F.R.S. London: Churchill. 1861.
8. Imperfect Digestion; its Causes and Treatment. By A. Leared, M.D. Second Edition. London: Churchill. 1861.
9. On Urine, Urinary Deposits, and Calculi. By Lionel S. Beale, M.B., F.R.S. London: Churchill. 1861.