

MEMORANDUM FOR THE INFORMATION OF MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS IN REGARD TO THE EMPLOYMENT OF UN- QUALIFIED ASSISTANTS.

A.—On April 21st, 1883, the General Medical Council passed the following resolution:

"That the Council records on its minutes, for the information of those whom it may concern, that charges of gross misconduct in the employment of unqualified assistants, and charges of dishonest collusion with unqualified practitioners in respect of the signing of medical certificates required for the purposes of any law or lawful contract, are, if brought before the Council, regarded by the Council as charges of infamous conduct under the Medical Act."

B.—On November 20th, 1886, the attention of the Council having been directed to this resolution, it was determined that steps be taken with a view of making it public; accordingly, on July 25th, 1887, the Executive Council resolved that it should be inserted twice, at an interval of a month apart, as an advertisement in the following medical journals: *Lancet*, *BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL*, *Medical Press and Circular*, *Provincial Medical Journal*, *Edinburgh Medical Journal*, *Glasgow Medical Journal*, *Dublin Medical Journal*.

C.—On November 22nd, 1887, a report was adopted by the General Council stating that, as a consequence of the publication of the foregoing advertisements, a number of letters chiefly marked "Private" on the subject of the employment of unqualified assistants had been received by the Registrar. The report proceeds as follows:

"From these communications, from notices in the newspapers, and also from common report, it is evident that magistrates, coroners, county court judges, and other representatives of the public sense of justice, as well as medical men themselves, are becoming alive to the professional misconduct of registered practitioners who place patients under the sole charge of unqualified assistants."

"The administrators of the law regard as implicit fraud any claim of payment for the service of such substitute assistants, when it is represented as 'medical attendance.'"

"This fact is encouraging, for when it is found that the owner of a 'branch practice' cannot get a claim allowed for the services of his unregistered 'substitute,' and, moreover, that the protection of a 'cover' does not enable the unregistered practitioner to recover charges, these two kinds of irregular practice will probably not long continue to exist in this country."

D.—Since the date of the foregoing report, a case of the mis-employment of an unqualified assistant has been brought before the notice of the Council and adjudicated upon; and the registered practitioner concerned, having been informed of the grave disapprobation with which the Council regarded his conduct, promised at once to discontinue the practice condemned. Other cases have also been brought under the notice of the Executive Committee.

E.—In the prosecution of their desire to put a stop to this wrongful practice, the following resolution was passed by the General Council on November 26th, 1887:

"That it be referred to the Executive Committee to consider under what circumstances a registered medical practitioner would render himself liable to the censure of the Council in reference to the employment of unqualified assistants."

F.—On February 27th, 1888, the Executive Committee, without attempting to make a formal definition of the misconduct in question, reported to the General Council that, in its opinion,

"A registered medical practitioner would render himself liable to the censure of the Medical Council in case of the employment of an unqualified assistant in the practice of medicine, surgery, or midwifery on behalf and for the benefit of such registered practitioner, either in complete substitution for his own services, or under circumstances in which due personal supervision and control are not, or cannot be, exercised by the said registered practitioner."

The Executive Committee also stated, in reference to the procedure known as "covering" that in its view a registered practitioner covers an unregistered person, when he does, or assists in doing, or is party to, any act which enables such unqualified person to practise as if he were duly qualified.

The Executive Committee furthermore called attention to a re-

solution passed by the General Council on April 21st, 1883 (vol. xx, p. 91), which implies that, in the Council's opinion, "any registered practitioner practising for gain, who knowingly and wilfully deposes a person not registered or qualified to be registered under the Medical Act to professionally treat on his behalf, in any matter requiring professional discretion or skill, any sick or injured person 'should' be subject to the same legal liabilities as a person who falsely represents himself to be a legally qualified medical practitioner; but with special proviso that such enactment 'should' not hinder any duly regulated training of pupils in medical schools or otherwise by legally qualified practitioners, nor the use of trained pupils in partially treating the sick or injured under the direction, supervision, and responsibility of such practitioners, nor any legitimate employment of nurses, midwives, or dispensers."

JOHN MARSHALL, President.

March 1st, 1888.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS.

On Monday, March 26th, the day after Palm Sunday, as required by statute, an extraordinary comitia was held for the election of a President. There was a very large attendance of Fellows, and the chair was taken by Sir William Jenner, Bart., M.D., K.C.B., who has been President of the College for seven years. Before resigning the chair, Sir William Jenner delivered his annual address, narrating the history of the College during the past twelve months, and concluding with an account of the lives and labours of the Fellows deceased in the same period, of whom the most distinguished were Dr. Wilson Fox and Sir George Burrows, Bart.

The by-law regulating the proceedings for the election of a President having been read by Sir Henry Pitman, a ballot was taken, with the following result: Dr. Quain, 46 votes; Sir Andrew Clark, Bart., 42 votes; Dr. Wilks, 25 votes; Dr. George Johnson, 17 votes; Sir E. Sieveking, 12 votes; Dr. Andrew, 4 votes; and 1 vote each for Sir H. Pitman, Sir W. Gull, Bart., Dr. Bristowe, and Dr. Charles West.

No Fellow having obtained two-thirds of the votes, a second ballot was taken for the two highest, Dr. Quain and Sir Andrew Clark. The result was: For Sir Andrew Clark, Bart., 79 votes; for Dr. Quain, 71 votes.

Sir Andrew Clark, Bart., was thus elected President, and was duly admitted to that office by the Senior Censor. In a few fitting words he acknowledged the honour conferred upon him, and promised to maintain the honour and dignity of the College.

ASSOCIATION INTELLIGENCE.

COUNCIL.

NOTICE OF MEETING.

A MEETING of the Council will be held at the Offices of the Association, No. 429, Strand (corner of Agar Street), London, on Wednesday, the 18th day of April next, at 2 o'clock in the afternoon.

FRANCIS FOWKE, *General Secretary*.

March 15th, 1888.

NOTICE OF QUARTERLY MEETINGS FOR 1888.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS.

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

Meetings of the Council will be held on April 18th, July 18th, and October 17th, 1888. Candidates for election by the Council of the Association must send in their forms of application to the General Secretary not later than twenty-one days before each meeting, namely, March 28th, June 27th, September 26th, and December 28th, 1888.

Candidates seeking election by a Branch Council should apply to the Secretary of the Branch. No member can be elected by a Branch Council unless his name has been inserted in the circular summoning the meeting at which he seeks election.

FRANCIS FOWKE, *General Secretary*.

COLLECTIVE INVESTIGATION OF DISEASE.

THE Report upon the CONNECTION OF DISEASE WITH HABITS OF INTEMPERANCE, which was presented to the Section of Medicine

in the Annual Meeting of 1887 will shortly be published in the JOURNAL.

Reports upon the two remaining inquiries, namely, that into DIPHTHERIA, and that into the GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF CERTAIN DISEASES, are in preparation, and will be published as soon as ready.

The following inquiry only of the first series remains open, namely, that on THE ETIOLOGY OF PHthisis.

A fresh inquiry into the ORIGIN AND MODE OF PROPAGATION OF EPIDEMICS OF DIPHTHERIA has been issued.

Memoranda upon these subjects, and forms for recording observations, may be had on application to the Secretary of the Collective Investigation Committee, 429, Strand, W.C.

BRANCH MEETINGS TO BE HELD.

SOUTH WALES AND MONMOUTHSHIRE BRANCH.—The spring meeting of this Branch will be held at Pontypridd about the second or third week in April. Members wishing to read papers, etc., are requested to send titles to either of the Honorary Secretaries by the end of March, in order that they may be inserted in the circulars.—ALFRED SHEEN, M.D., Cardiff; D. ARTHUR DAVIES, M.B., Swansea, Honorary Secretaries.

METROPOLITAN COUNTIES BRANCH: EAST LONDON AND SOUTH ESSEX DISTRICT.—The next meeting will be held on Thursday, April 19th, at the Hackney Town Hall, at 8.30 P.M. The chair will be taken by F. M. Corner, Esq. A paper on the Surgery of Abscess will be read by Howard Marsh, Esq. Visitors will be welcome.—J. W. HUNT, 101, Queen's Road, Dalston, Honorary Secretary.

WEST SOMERSET BRANCH.—The spring meeting will be held at the Railway Hotel, Taunton, on Thursday, April 12th, at 5 P.M. Dinner at 5.30 P.M. The subject settled by the Council to be discussed after dinner is Bone Setting. Mr. W. J. Penny, Assistant-Surgeon to the Bristol General Hospital, and Demonstrator of Anatomy to the Bristol Medical School, has kindly promised to come and open the discussion. The election of representative of the Branch on the Council of the Association for the ensuing year will take place at this meeting.—W. M. KELLY, M.D., Taunton, Honorary Secretary.

SOUTH-EASTERN BRANCH: WEST KENT DISTRICT.—The next meeting of this District will take place on Friday, April 27th, at the Hospital, Gravesend, R. J. Bryden, Esq., in the chair. Gentlemen desirous of reading papers or exhibiting specimens are requested to inform the Honorary Secretary of the District not later than April 8th. Further particulars will be duly announced.—A. W. NANKIVELL, F.R.C.S., St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Chatham, Honorary Secretary.

NORTH OF ENGLAND BRANCH.—The spring meeting will be held at the Infirmary, Sunderland, on Wednesday, April 25th, at 3 P.M. Members intending to read papers or show specimens are requested to communicate at once with the secretary. The dinner after the meeting will take place at the Queen's Hotel, at 5 o'clock. The following papers are already promised:—Dr. Hume: A Case of Congenital Fistula of the Stomach, Cured by Operation. Dr. Coley: On the Treatment of Effusion into the Pleura in Children. Dr. Murphy: A Man 229 Days after Gastrotomy. Dr. Oliver: Notes on an Unusual Case of Hamaturia.—G. E. WILLIAMSON, F.R.C.S., 22, Eldon Square, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Honorary Secretary.

NORTH OF IRELAND BRANCH.—A general meeting of this Branch will be held in the Royal Hospital, Belfast, on Thursday, April 19th, at 11 A.M. Gentlemen who wish to bring any business before the meeting will kindly communicate as early as convenient with JOHN W. BYERS, M.D., Lower Crescent, Belfast, Honorary Secretary.

OXFORD AND DISTRICT BRANCH.—The next meeting will be held at the Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford, on Friday, April 27th, at 3 P.M. Notice of papers to be read must be sent to W. Lewis Morgan, 42, Broad Street, Oxford, on or before April 15th. A dinner will be provided for those members who signify their intention to dine to the Secretary two days before the meeting.—S. D. DARBISHIRE and W. LEWIS MORGAN, Honorary Secretaries.

SOUTHERN BRANCH: SOUTHAMPTON DISTRICT.—The next meeting of this District will be held on Tuesday, April 10th, 1888, at the residence of Dr. Maclean, C.B., 28, Carlton Crescent, at 8 P.M. Business: Election of officers. Passing of accounts. At the same time, a joint meeting with the Southampton Medical Society will take place, when a paper will be read by Brigade-Surgeon Godwin, M.S., on the Treatment of Wounds of the Abdominal Viscera. Dr. L. M. Buckell will bring under notice a case, with specimen, of Monster Birth. Association and Branch subscriptions for current year, amounting to £1 3s. 6d., became due on January 1st, and may be paid to the Honorary Secretary as soon as convenient.—THEOPH. W. TREND, M.D., Honorary Secretary, 6, Anglesa Place, Southampton.

SOUTHERN BRANCH: SOUTH-EAST HANTS DISTRICT.—Ordinary meeting at the Grosvenor Hotel, Queen's Gate, Southsea, on Thursday, April 11th, 1888. The chair will be taken by the President, Dr. James Watson, at 4.15 P.M. Gentlemen who are desirous of introducing patients, exhibiting pathological specimens, or making communications are requested to signify their intention at once to the Honorary Secretary. Dinner will be provided at 6.30 P.M.; charge, 5s., exclusive of wine, etc.—J. WARD COUSINS, Honorary Secretary.

NORTH WALES BRANCH.

The intermediate meeting was held on Tuesday, March 20th, at the Pwllcrochan Hotel, Colwyn Bay, under the presidency of CHARLES WILLIAMS, Esq.

New Members.—Mr. J. Owen Jones, Flint Dispensary, Holywell, was elected a member of the Association and Branch; and Messrs. E. Parry Edwards and Alfred W. Hughes, Flint, of the Branch.

Treasurer's Report.—The accounts of the Branch for the year 1887, showing a balance of nearly £4 in hand, were read and confirmed.

Architects', Surveyors', and Engineers' Compulsory Registration Bill.—It was resolved that the members should petition in its favour.

Payment of Fees to Medical Witnesses in Civil and Criminal Cases.—After a discussion initiated by Mr. RICHARD WILLIAMS, and taken part in by Drs. IMLACH and GRIFFITH, and Messrs. BICKERTON, JONES-MORRIS, and the PRESIDENT, it was unanimously resolved: "That the members of the North Wales Branch, having had under consideration the question of fees for attendance in courts of law, beg to declare their opinion (1) that in civil cases the law should be so altered as to place services rendered in the witness box on the same footing as any other professional services; (2) that the present scale of remuneration for attendance in criminal cases is wholly inadequate."

Vote of Thanks to President.—On the motion of Dr. ROBERTS, Menai Bridge, seconded by Dr. GRIFFITH, Portmadoc, a vote of thanks was passed to the President for his address at the annual meeting.

Papers.—Mr. BICKERTON related the history of two cases in which he had removed a piece of glass which had lain in the eye for seven and ten years respectively with complete success, showing the foreign bodies, and illustrating by diagrams the line of incision in each case and the condition of the eye at the time of operation.—Mr. L. F. COX related the history of two cases of Climacteric Insanity.—Dr. IMLACH read the report of a case of Hystero-epilepsy of twenty years' duration cured by removal of the Uterine Appendages.—Mr. ROBERT JONES read a paper on the Causes of Non-union in Cases of Fracture, and remarks were made by Dr. GRIFFITH and Mr. T. L. JONES.—Dr. JOHN ROBERTS showed some Pneumococci from a Case of so-called "Creeping Pneumonia," and gave the history of the case, and made some remarks on its pathology.

Consultation with Homœopaths.—Dr. E. J. LLOYD introduced a discussion on this subject, which was taken part in by the majority of the members present. No resolution was passed, the evident sense of the meeting being that it was not well to alter the present rule of the profession.

SOUTH-EASTERN BRANCH: EAST AND WEST SUSSEX DISTRICTS.

A CONJOINT meeting of the above Districts was held at Brighton, on March 22nd. Dr. MOORE (in the unavoidable absence of Mr. Salzmann) took the chair.

Next Meeting.—Resolved: "That the next meeting be held at Hastings in May."

Representative of Branch on Council.—Mr. G. F. Hodgson, of Brighton, was nominated as a representative for Sussex on the Council of the Association.

Communications.—The following papers were read: Dr. STARLING: A Case of Fibroid Induration of the Stomach.—Mr. HOWARD MARSH: Recovery after Laparotomy for Intestinal Obstruction.—Dr. MACKEY showed cases of Lupus Erythematosus, Lupus Non Exedens, and Seborrhœa.—Mr. VERRALL: A case of Lupus Exedens.—Dr. MACKEY read Notes of Treatment; all the lupus cases, including Mr. Verrall's, being treated locally with resorcin ointment.—Mr. VERRALL: A Case of Nephrotomy for Renal Calculus.

SMALL-POX IN NOTTINGHAM.—A report on the recent outbreak of small-pox in Nottingham issued by the medical officer of the borough states that thirty-six patients from Nottingham have been admitted to the Bagthorpe Hospital from December 27th to the present time, and seven of these cases have ended fatally. So far no revaccinated person has taken small-pox. Twenty-three out of the thirty-six had been vaccinated in infancy, but not since, and of these three died. The remaining thirteen were unvaccinated at the time of infection, but six were vaccinated subsequently, and five out of these six escaped with a mild attack. Of the seven persons who were never vaccinated, four died and a fifth had a very dangerous (confluent) attack.

MEDICAL MAGISTRATE.—Mr. William Meale, L.R.C.S.I., of Drogheda, has been appointed a justice of the peace for Queen's County.

Glasgow. Two deaths from diphtheria were recorded in Dundee. The mortality from diseases of the respiratory organs in these Scotch towns during the week was equal to 5.6 per 1,000, and corresponded with the rate from the same diseases in London.

HEALTH OF DUBLIN.—The 201 deaths registered in Dublin during the week ending Saturday, March 24th, were equal to an annual rate of 29.7 per 1,000 (against rates declining from 34.0 to 29.0 in the three preceding weeks), the rate for the same period being only 20.2 in London and 20.4 in Edinburgh. The 201 deaths included 20 which resulted from the principal zymotic diseases (equal to an annual rate of 3.0 per 1,000), of which 5 were referred to measles, 4 to scarlet fever, 4 to whooping-cough, 4 to "fever," and 3 to diarrhoea, and not one either to small-pox or diphtheria.

TEXTBOOKS ON HYGIENE.

M. R. T. asks what are the best books to read for the examinations for the diploma in Public Health.

. Parkes's *Practical Hygiene* and Wilson's *Handbook of Hygiene*. A useful elementary book is *Principles of Hygiene*, by Dr. E. F. Willoughby.

R. asks to be recommended a work to read in preparing a course of lectures on hygiene to be given in a normal school to young adults.

. R. cannot do better than read *Principles of Hygiene*, by Dr. E. F. Willoughby.

HOSPITALS FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

DR. C. G. HAYELL (Felixstowe) writes: Your note on "Infectious Hospital Provision at the Seaside" in the JOURNAL of March 10th induces me to ask you for reference to any practical, working articles treating on hospitals suitable to small communities, say 2,000 or 3,000 inhabitants. I am very anxious to provide such accommodation here, but there are so many pressing claims that expense is a great object. There is obvious difficulty in finding an existing building suitable; to erect a special one would be costly. Have you any opinion of the extent to which a portable building, such as the "Ducker," would meet the requirements?

. The supplement to the Tenth Annual Report of the Local Government Board contains the report and papers on the use and influences of hospitals for infectious diseases. Temporary hospitals are not to be encouraged.

WHO IS TO PAY?

IN DOUBT writes: As a poor-law medical officer I have had the following exceptional case to deal with.

A small farmer's family of eight individuals were afflicted with disease, one after the other being struck down until six were prostrated. They were under the care of a medical practitioner from a neighbouring town as his private patients. The medical attendant failed to give any notification to the medical officer of health, and evaded the inquiries of the neighbours as to what was the matter. The two yet remaining well, a boy and a girl, were totally incompetent to nurse the six patients, and they could get no outside assistance, as people were afraid to go near the family through fear of infection. As a consequence, the house, its inhabitants, and the premises around, got into a state of filth and uncleanness better imagined than described, and the neighbours thought it time to complain to the parish authorities. They did so, and I received an order from the assistant overseer to visit the family, and find out the state of affairs. On calling I found the cases to be enteric fever. The girl before-mentioned was also feverish, and should have been in bed; so that at this time there was only the boy to do everything for the seven sick ones. There were no disinfectants to be seen, and the father and mother both told me that they were still under the care of Dr. —, and that he was coming to see them again. I reported these facts to the assistant overseer, and said in my note that I did not think it my duty to call at the house again, as there was a medical man already in attendance. However, the sanitary authorities took the matter up, and caused a communication to be sent to the family medical attendant, asking him not to visit these patients again. The assistant overseer was then instructed to request me to take charge of the cases, which I did. The sanitary authorities supplied me with a trained nurse and a woman scrubber, workmen were sent to clean up the drains and put the premises generally in better order. All necessities ordered by me for the patients, and all wants for domestic purposes, even to coals and a fine toothcomb, were generously supplied out of the sanitary funds. For full three months I had the care and treatment of the eight patients (for the boy took the fever also), and they have all recovered, thanks to the excellent nursing and the generous assistance rendered just at the right moment. Every expense seems to have been met out of the sanitary funds except that for medical attendance and medicine, and as the farmer and family were not poor patients, it appears hard on me as the parish doctor to be called upon to attend them as such, and, at the same time, to see everybody else paid fairly well.

I put the particulars thus fully before you, and shall be glad if you will kindly inform me if I have any prospect of extra remuneration from the guardians, or ought I to make a claim on the funds of the sanitary board.

. "In Doubt" must certainly make his claim on the funds of the sanitary board.

FACTORY INSPECTORS.

W. J. S.—Factory inspectors are appointed by the Secretary of State for the Home Department to whom applications for this office should be addressed. The report of the Chief Inspector of Factories gives the best idea of the duties.

THE whole of the Shildon Lodge Colliery ambulance class (instructed by Dr. Fielden) have received certificates of proficiency.

MEDICAL NEWS.

MEDICAL VACANCIES.

The following Vacancies are announced:

CENTRAL LONDON OPHTHALMIC HOSPITAL. Gray's Inn Road.—House-Surgeon. Applications by April 10th to the Secretary.

CITY OF LONDON HOSPITAL FOR DISEASES OF THE CHEST, Victoria Park.—Resident Clinical Assistant. Applications by April 12th to the Secretary, 24, Finsbury Circus, E.C.

DERBY BOROUGH ASYLUM.—Medical Superintendent. Salary, £350, with furnished house, etc. Applications by April 13th, to be addressed to the Derby Borough Asylum Committee, under cover to the Town Clerk, and endorsed "Medical Superintendent."

ESSEX LUNATIC ASYLUM, Brentwood.—Temporary Assistant Medical Officer for three months. Salary, £30 for the term, with board, lodging, and washing. Applications to the Medical Superintendent.

HOSPITAL FOR CONSUMPTION AND DISEASES OF THE CHEST, Brompton. Resident Clinical Assistants. Applications by April 7th, to the Secretary.

HULL BOROUGH ASYLUM, Willerby.—Assistant Medical Officer. Salary, £100 per annum, with board, lodging, and washing. Applications by April 2nd, to the Medical Superintendent.

INFIRMARY FOR CHILDREN, Myrtle Street, Liverpool.—House-Surgeon. Salary, £85, with board and lodging. Applications by April 9th, to C. W. Carver, Esq., Honorary Secretary.

LIDDELL PROVIDENT DISPENSARY, Jarrow-on-Tyne.—Medical Officer. Salary, £200. Applications to John Christie, Esq., 28, Cobden Street, Jarrow.

ROYAL ALBERT HOSPITAL, Devonport.—Honorary Ophthalmic Surgeon. Applications by April 9th to the Chairman of the Selection Committee at the Hospital.

WESTPORT UNION, Achill and Ballycroy Dispensary.—Medical Officer. Salary, £117 per annum and fees. Applications to Mr. John Corrigan, Honorary Secretary. Election on April 3rd.

MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS.

FRASER, David, M.B., C.M. Edin., appointed Medical Officer for the Collieries of Cardenden, Bembert, and Dundonald, Fifeshire.

LAWSON, Mr., appointed Resident Medical Officer to the parish of Resolis, Ross-shire, vice J. Gunn, L.F.P.S. Glas., resigned.

MOULD, W. T., L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S., appointed House-Physician to the London Hospital, vice C. G. May, B.A., M.B.

PHILLIPS, J. R., L.K.Q.C.P.I., appointed Medical Officer to the Anghnacloy Dispensary, Clogher Union, Co. Tyrone, vice L. M. Corder, L.K.Q.C.P.I., resigned.

POPE, P., M.R.C.S.E., L.R.C.P. Edin., appointed Clinical Assistant to the Borough Asylum, Birmingham.

PORT, F. H., L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S., appointed Assistant Medical Officer to the Cotton Hill Lunatic Hospital, vice S. H. Holder, M.B. Lond., resigned.

SPICKER, Scanes, M.D., appointed Physician to the Department for Diseases of the Throat, St. Mary's Hospital, London.

MEDICO-LEGAL SOCIETY OF NEW YORK.—The following are the officers of this Society elected for the present year:—*President:* Clark Bell, Esq. *First Vice-President:* W. G. Stevenson, M.D. *Second Vice-President:* Ira Russell, M.D. *Secretary:* Albert Bach, Esq. *Assistant Secretary:* Clark B. Augustine, Esq. *Corresponding Secretary:* Morris Ellinger, Esq. *Treasurer:* E. W. Chamberlain, Esq. *Assistant Librarian:* Benno Loewy, Esq. *Curator and Pathologist:* T. H. Kellogg, M.D. *Chemist:* C. A. Doremus, M.D. *Trustees:* Charles Milne, M.D.; Richard B. Kimball, Esq.; M. J. B. Messemmer, M.D.; Fred C. Valentine, M.D.; Simon Sterne, Esq.; William G. Davies. *Permanent Commission:* Clark Bell, Esq.; R. O. Doremus, M.D.; Judge John R. Dillon; Stephen Smith, M.D.; Hon. David Dudley Field; R. S. Parsons, M.D.

THE MEDICAL JURISPRUDENCE OF INEBRIETY.—The November meeting of the Medico-Legal Society of New York will be devoted to the discussion of this subject. Short papers have been promised by Dr. Joseph Parrish, of New Jersey; Dr. T. D. Crothers, of Connecticut; Dr. Norman Kerr, of London; Dr. E. C. Mann, of Brooklyn; Dr. Wright, of Bellefontaine, Ohio; and others have been invited and are expected to read short papers on the medical side, while prominent members of the legal side will also take part in the discussion.

MORPHINE AND CHLORAL POISONING.—An inquest was held recently by Dr. Danford Thomas on the body of a man aged 65, who had long suffered from neuralgia, to relieve the pain of which he had been in the habit for a long time past of taking chloral and morphine by injection and otherwise. He was found nearly unconscious, and breathed with difficulty. In a moment of consciousness he said, "I have taken too much, I am suffocating." He had two convulsions of epileptic form, and died shortly afterwards. A verdict of death from misadventure was returned.

THE Manchester magistrates were engaged during two days recently in investigating charges against five men named Buchanan, Wilson, Nelson, Shires, and Thomas, who had, it was alleged, under various aliases, practised as "medical specialists," and defrauded a great number of people of large sums of money. Some remarkable evidence was given as to the profits of the imposture. The prisoners have been committed for trial at the sessions.

AMBULANCE CLASSES FOR RAILWAY MEN.—Thirty-two of the London and North Western Railway *employés* belonging to the Birmingham Branch of the St. John Ambulance Association, were examined by Surgeon-Major Hutton, of Leamington, on March 26th, and so satisfied the examiner as to receive high commendation.

DR. FERREIRA DOS SANTOS, who was sent to Paris by the Brazilian Government to study the experiments of M. Pasteur's laboratory has, we learn, been instrumental, in conjunction with Baron de Cotegeipe, in promoting the establishment of a Pasteur Institute at Rio de Janeiro.

SIR LYON PLAYFAIR has been elected Chairman of the Committee on the City of London Fire Inquest Bill, which would enact that inquests shall be held in all cases where fires of suspicious origin have led to fatal results.

MEETINGS OF SOCIETIES DURING THE NEXT WEEK.

TUESDAY.

PATHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON, 8.30 P.M.—Mr. Colman: Intestines in Diphtheria; Dr. N. Moore: Some Anatomical Relations of Chronic Joint Disease. Dr. Hadden: Cyst in the Heart. Dr. Semm and Mr. Shattock: (1) Subglottic Alveolar Sarcoma in a Patient Aged 81; (2) Epithelioma of Right Half of Larynx, with Epitheliomatous Insula on Left Vocal Cord. (3) Intra-tracheal Carcinoma, continuous with Carcinoma of the Thyroid. Dr. Handford: New Growth of Lung Perforating Oesophagus, and Invading Pericardium. Dr. H. G. Mackenzie: Cystic Kidney with Calculi in Cysts. Mr. Silcock: Cystic Disease of Testis. Card Specimens—Mr. Eve: Cyst of Spermatic Cord. Mr. F. J. Smith: Aortic Stenosis. Dr. Handford: (1) Single Hypertrophied Kidney; (2) Multiple Tubercular Strictures of Intestine. Mr. Fenwick: (1) Vesical Carcinoma. (2) Prostatic Carcinoma. Dr. Drewitt (for Dr. H. P. Chalmers): Lung from Case of Hemoptysis in an Infant. Mr. Shattock: Recurrent Sarcoma of Thyroid, associated with Hypertrophy of Accessory Thyroid.

WEDNESDAY.

OBSTETRICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON, 8 P.M.—Specimens will be shown. Adjourned discussion on Dr. Boxall's papers on Scarlatina During Pregnancy and the Puerperal State. Dr. Champneys: Description of the New Operation for Vesico-Uterine Fistula. Dr. Cullingworth: Cyst connected with the Uterus, and Simulating Enlargement of that Organ. Mr. Bland Sutton: The Glands of the Fallopian Tubes and their Function.

THURSDAY.

HARVEIAN SOCIETY OF LONDON, 8.30 P.M.—Dr. John Phillips: On the Management of Pregnancy Complicated with Fibroids. Dr. Robinson: Alopecia Areata.

FRIDAY.

WEST LONDON MEDICO-CHIRURGICAL SOCIETY, 8 P.M.—Second clinical evening. Mr. Roche Lynch: Case of Cancer of the Vertebra; adjourned discussion. The President (Mr. Keetley): (1) Case of Exophthalmic Goitre; (2) Case of Large Wen in Neck Treated by a New Method. Mr. Swinford Edwards: Case of Inguinal Colotomy. Dr. Percy Potter: Case of Rare Congenital Deformity of the Hands. Mr. Prior Mallam: Case of Dermoid Cyst of the Ovary Expelled During Labour. Mr. Percy Dunn: Case of Perforation of an Eyeball by the Knot of a Whip. Dr. Alderson: Case of Calculus in a Tonsil.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

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

BIRTH.

STEWART.—At Glenbarr, Mapperley Road, Nottingham, on March 21th, the wife of Donald Stewart, M.D., of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

KEMBLE—BALDOCK.—On March 20th, at St. Nicholas's, Lincoln, by the Rev. F. H. Blenkins, Vicar of the parish, Arthur Charles Kemble, L.R.C.S.E., Worthen, Salop, youngest son of the late Rev. W. Kemble, Rector of West Hammingfield, Essex, to Mary Elizabeth, second daughter of the late Rev. R. Baldock, Vicar of Carlton-le-Moorland, Lincolnshire.

ROBERTS—MARSDEN.—On March 8th, at St. Mary's, Scarborough, by the Rev. Arthur Bolland, George A. R. Roberts, M.R.C.S., L.S.A., Twyford, to Laura E., elder daughter of George Marsden, Esq., solicitor, Hemsworth, Yorks.

LETTERS, NOTES, AND ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

COMMUNICATIONS respecting editorial matters should be addressed to the Editor, 429, Strand, W.C., London; those concerning business matters, non-delivery of the JOURNAL, etc., should be addressed to the Manager, at the Office, 429, 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, 429, 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.

MANUSCRIPTS FORWARDED TO THE OFFICE OF THIS JOURNAL CANNOT UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES BE RETURNED.

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.

QUERIES.

L.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. Ed. asks for details respecting the examination for the Fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, and also of that for the M.D. of Brussels, whether they are of a very searching nature, and what books are recommended for study by a busy country practitioner desirous of obtaining both qualifications.

PRACTICE IN AMERICA.

STARS AND STRIPES asks in which of the American and Canadian States it is not necessary to pass a qualifying examination? Can a surgeon and physician (British) practise in America without registering his degrees there? In those States where a qualifying examination is necessary, is the ordeal a trying one? What is the cost of registering in America when the individual is already fully qualified and registered in England?

SURGEONRY TO COOLIE SHIPS.

W. L. C. asks to whom he should apply for appointment as surgeon on certain coolie emigrant ships (government) running between Calcutta and the West Indies? He also asks for particulars of the service as regards pay, etc.

ANSWERS.

SNOW AND RAIN.

OLOGY asks what quantity of snow is the equivalent of an inch of rain. Opinions appear to differ. Symons (*Modern Meteorology*, p. 159) says one foot; a local genius says ten inches. Which is correct?

* * The depth of the snow corresponding to an inch of water must vary with the density of the snow. According to Mr. Symons (our best authority on the subject) as a rough average 12 inches of snow in England will correspond to an inch of water. A table of figures given in Symons's monthly *Meteorological Magazine* for 1886 (p. 174) showed the proportion to vary in different instances from 5.7 inches to 11 inches of snow for 1 inch water.

QUININE IN PREGNANCY.

DR. T. O. PARTRIDGE (Cachar, India) writes: I have prescribed quinine for malarial affections in more than one case of pregnancy, and should not hesitate to do so again, and, with care, I cannot see the harm of it.

THE ENTOMOSTRACA.

D. H. G. writes: Can you kindly tell me the best recent work on the British entomostroca since the one published by the Ray Society in 1850?

* * There is no book since Baird's *British Entomostroca*, published by the Ray Society (an octavo). It is very serviceable, but a good deal out of date. The best way for anyone working at this most interesting subject is to take either Claus's *Zoologie* (the French or German large edition), or the "Crustaceae" of Brown's *Thierreich*, and look up all the different references there given to recent original papers, many by Claus, others by Weissman on the Daphniidae, others by Lilljeborg. Miss Beckis, we believe, completing a work on the British Freshwater Daphniidae. There are many interesting forms in the English lakes which were not known to Baird.

TREATMENT OF HEARTBURN.

DR. JAMES McNAUGHT (Newchurch) writes: In reply to a member, in the JOURNAL of March 21th re persistent heartburn, it would seem almost certain, from the fact that it persists during the night, that he has to deal with a case of continuous secretion of a hyperacid gastric juice. For temporary relief alkalies in large doses must be given; a combination of half a drachm of magnes. carb. pond. and sodii bicarb. acts very well. The condition of excessive irritability of the gastric mucous membrane, which leads to the pouring out of large quantities of acid, may be more permanently dealt with by small doses of morphine, by the prescription of light, easily digestible food, and especially the avoidance of fats. Washing out the stomach with the tube at bedtime, so as to remove all remains of food, and the administration then of an alkali combined with a little opium will, in the course of a short time, remedy both the symptoms and the condition which underlies it.

NOTES, LETTERS, ETC.

METROPOLITAN PROVIDENT DISPENSARIES.

MR. M. G. BIGGS (101, Northcote Road) writes: Will you kindly allow me to say a few words in favour of the provident dispensary scheme which Dr.

Paramore treats with such scorn in the JOURNAL of March 17th? The answer to the question whether provident dispensaries are a necessity depends on the answer to yet another question, whether there is or is not a class between those called paupers and those able to pay proper fees, which is unable to find means to recompense the medical attendant, unless some special arrangements are adopted. If there is no such class then, of course, Dr. Paramore is right, and any efforts in such a direction as dispensaries must be attended by pauperisation as regards the recipient, and robbery as regards the dispenser. I thoroughly and fully believe that a fair day's work demands a fair day's pay; and if our social system was perfect, such a condition would be our normal lot. But I maintain there is such a class, and that the committee appointed at the Society of Arts has defined well the limits of such by fixing the wages at 30s. and 40s. per week. I fail altogether to see how any far-minded man can deny this if he knows anything at all about the life struggles of his poorer neighbours. At the present time there are many among the younger practitioners who charge 1s. for visit and medicine, and surely this is a sufficiently modest charge. Now, taking even this fee, and a patient with 30s. week and a family, and the patient be suffering from pneumonia or typhoid, and let it be the breadwinner. Such a case will require a visit every day, and if very bad, sometimes more often; but take it at once a day, this will mean 7s. a week, nearly a fourth of the whole week's income; and it must not be forgotten that at such a time there are many other expenses involved, so that it is not only the simple doctor's fee that is demanded, but extras in the way of food, very likely in the way of nursing, and when the breadwinner is struck down the income ceases to come in.

It will be at once answered that the man ought to belong to a club, and with truth; even then his sick pay will not equal his wages, unless he is a member of several, and if the former, then he is still less able to pay the fee above-mentioned. The case is scarcely much better when the wife is laid low, for then all the domestic arrangements go wrong; and if it is the children, then the wife's time and energies are taken wholly up with the nursing.

It has been a common experience, when surgeon to the Battersea Dispensary, to find that patients had been having the services of private medical men until their means were exhausted, and they could not afford it any longer, and so joined a provident dispensary. Having such a class to deal with, what other plan can be adopted? Some of Dr. Paramore's supporters say hand them over to the parish, but this is impossible, as under the present state of the law the parish would refuse them, and rightly so, as they certainly are not destitute, and it would not be fair to tax the great majority in order that men with 30s. a week might be provided with medical necessities. Relief must come by clubbing together, and by a fixed and continuous payment the necessary provision must be made, and this is the provident dispensary scheme. There must be a mutual accommodation on the part of the profession and those needing help.

Those who oppose provident dispensaries would lead one to infer that their belief was that mankind was specially created to supply them with the means of living comfortably, no matter what shifts the said mankind was reduced to in so doing. Dr. Paramore is ungenerous enough, in the hurry of the moment, to seize upon abuses reported about the Leicester dispensary, to sneer at the whole system, but such practices are not altogether unknown in private surgeries. There are two abuses in connection with provident dispensaries, and both of which ought to be grappled with. The first is the most crying, and it is the most difficult one to deal with—the admission of unfit people. This is not, however, a problem beyond human power to deal with. When I held a dispensary appointment, I always used to report at headquarters any case, when my own observation led me to believe the patients were not fit objects for relief. The other evil is that the dispensary staff being limited, jealousies are promoted between such staff and their brother practitioners. The cure for this is to allow every qualified man in the neighbourhood, who cares to do so, to put himself forward as a candidate, and to be accepted by the committee.

and to be accepted by the community, saying that club practice is heart-breaking, and that Kenton is quite right in saying that clubs put no wages limit to their membership, and the other that the medical man is entirely at the mercy of the club, whereas, in provident dispensaries, he has to deal with a committee, in the main composed of men of an altogether different social standing, and from whom he obtains a fair hearing in case of any disputes. I firmly believe that no fairer scheme than that propounded by the Society of Arts Committee could be arranged both in the interests of patients and doctors.

AN APPEAL.

SIR: We beg to acknowledge with thanks the following subscriptions, received by us in acknowledgment of our appeal in the *JOURNAL* of February 18th, on behalf of the widow and three orphan girls of the late James McDonald, Esq., medical officer of Barvas, N.B. Any kind friends who may have hitherto overlooked this deserving case will greatly oblige by forwarding their subscriptions to

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BOOKS, ETC. RECEIVED.

The Housekeeper. Vol. i. English and French Cookery. Edited by Percy Lindley. London: Marshall and Son, and all booksellers.

A Practice of Medicine and Surgery Applied to the Diseases and Accidents Incident to Women. By W. H. Byford, M.D., and Henry T. Byford. 4th Edition. London: J. and A. Churchill. 1888.

The Demon of Dyspepsia: or Digestion Perfect or Imperfect. By Adolphus E. Bridger, B.A., M.D., F.R.C.P.E. London: Swan Sonnenschein, Lowry and Co.

The Fundamental Principles of Chemistry, Practically Taught by a New Method. By R. Galloway, M.R.I.A., F.C.S. London: Longmans, Green and Co. 1888.

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