

and that the lengthening and shortening of the supports of the shoulder and head pieces are managed by an arrangement of strings simply pulled through a hole in an iron disc, and held in place by a contrivance well known to sailors, I believe. The convenience of this little apparatus will be readily appreciated by everyone who tries it after the old strap system. I am personally inclined to think that the introduction of a spring balance between the pulley and the transverse bar, as shown in the figure, is an advantage. It enables the operator to ascertain the weight of the patient, and it also breaks any possible jerk whilst the patient is being lifted off or deposited upon the ground by means of the pulleys.

"I wish particularly to waive any claim on my part to innovations in these trifles, but am led to mention these details in order to facilitate the selection of an apparatus by any of my professional brethren anxious to obtain a new one. Any old-fashioned 'Sayre' may, if sufficiently firm, and if managed with due care, fulfil all the indications laid down in the preceding pages; but it cannot be expected to suit all cases with equal comfort.

"I may add that I become more and more convinced that, in many cases at least, the essential road to success in the treatment by suspension is minute and personal attention on the part of the physician to all the details of the operation. It is a monstrous thing, if the report be true, that in any English hospital patients should be entrusted into the hands of mere underlings for the purpose of suspension. A trained and careful medical man should always supervise each and every performance; for, though perfectly harmless when properly carried out, I have reason to say that suspension may prove an unsafe operation if carried out in a bungling and inattentive manner, at least in the case of sensitive patients."

## ASSOCIATION INTELLIGENCE.

### NOTICE OF QUARTERLY MEETINGS FOR 1889. ELECTION OF MEMBERS.

MEETINGS of the Council will be held on April 17th, July 10th, and October 16th, 1889. 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 20th, and September 26th, 1889.

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.

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 series of Maps forming the Report of the Collective Investigation Committee on the GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF RICKETS, ACUTE RHEUMATISM, CHOREA, CANCER, AND URINARY CALCULUS are deposited in the Library of the Association, and are open to the inspection of members. A descriptive commentary appeared in the JOURNAL of January 19th, 1889.

An inquiry into the ORIGIN AND MODE OF PROPAGATION OF EPIDEMICS OF DIPHTHERIA is in progress.

*Memoranda and forms for communicating observations may be had on application to the Secretary of the Collective Investigation Committee, 429, Strand, W.C.*

### BRANCH MEETINGS TO BE HELD.

**SOUTH-WESTERN BRANCH.**—An intermediate meeting of this Branch will be held at the Gerston Hotel, Paignton, on Tuesday, March 12th, at 2.30 p.m. Members proposing to read papers, or to show cases, specimens, etc., are requested to intimate the same to the Honorary Secretary. Luncheon will be provided at 1.45 p.m., at 2s. 6d. per head, and members who propose to attend the luncheon are requested to communicate with Dr. Alexander, Paignton, a few days before the meeting. The following papers have been already promised: Dr. A. G. Blomfield (Exeter): Case of Cerebral Syphilis. Mr. J. D. Harris (Exeter): Case of Pulmonary Cavity Successfully Treated by Drainage. — P. MAURY DEAS, Honorary Secretary, Wonford House, Exeter.

**WEST SOMERSET BRANCH.**—The spring meeting of this Branch will be held at the Railway Hotel, Taunton, on Thursday, March 14th, at 5 p.m. Dinner at 5.30 p.m. The question settled by the Council to be discussed after dinner is, "What is your Experience of the Use of Digitalis and Strophanthus in Heart Disease?" Members having cases or communications to bring before the meeting kindly communicate with W. M. KELLY, Honorary Secretary.

**SOUTH-EASTERN BRANCH: EAST KENT DISTRICT.**—The next meeting of the above District will be held at the Board Room, Town Hall, Sittingbourne, on Thursday, March 14th, at 3.15 p.m., Dr. T. Vincent Bell, President of the Branch, in the chair. The dinner will take place at 5.30 at the Bull Hotel, price 6s. (exclusive of wine). Any members wishing to send papers, etc., should at once communicate with the Honorary Secretary. Agenda.—Dr. Isambard Owen will exhibit the series of Maps illustrating the Geographical Distribution of Rickets, Acute Rheumatism, Chorea, and Urinary Calculus in the British Islands, constructed by the Collective Investigation Committee. Dr. J. V. Bell: (1) A Case of Ovariectomy for Parovarian Cyst, with bowel obstruction, simulating intussusception; (2) A Case of Laparotomy for Long-continued Bowel Obstruction. Dr. Tyson: On the Berlin Clinics.—W. J. TYSON, Honorary Secretary, 10, Langhorne Gardens, Folkestone.

**SOUTH-EASTERN BRANCH: WEST KENT DISTRICT.**—The next meeting of this District will take place at the Gravesend Hospital on April 11th, C. E. Robbs, Esq., in the chair. Gentlemen who wish to read papers or exhibit specimens, etc., are requested to inform the Honorary Secretary of the District, A. W. Nankivell, F.R.C.S., St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Chatham, not later than March 23rd. Further particulars will be duly announced.—A. W. NANKIVELL, Honorary Secretary of District.

**SOUTH-EASTERN BRANCH: EAST SURREY DISTRICT.**—A meeting of this District will be held on Thursday, March 14th, at 4 p.m., H. J. Pringle, Esq., of Anerley, in the chair. Dinner at 6 p.m.; charge, 7s. (exclusive of wine). The following papers will be read:—Dr. Bristowe: On the Direct Influence of the Heart on the Action and Sounds of the Lungs. Mr. Bernard Pitts: Some Cases of Foreign Bodies in the Air-passages. Mr. C. Wray: On Euphoria and Internal Strabismus. Mr. J. Sidney Turner: (1) A Case of Hysterectomy; (2) A Case of Calculous Cystic Right Kidney, with Absence of Left Kidney; (3) A Case of Ovariectomy. Dr. H. Hetley: A Case of Hysterectomy. Members desirous of communicating specimens or notes of cases will please write to the Honorary Secretary, P. T. DUNCAN, M.D., Croydon.

**SOUTH-EASTERN BRANCH: EAST AND WEST SUSSEX DISTRICTS.**—A conjoint meeting of the above Districts will be held at the Grand Hotel, Brighton, on Thursday, March 28th; Dr. Whittle will preside. Dr. Mackey will read Cases of Cerebral Aneurysm, Abscess, and Tumour, with remarks. Gentlemen desirous of reading papers or cases should communicate with one of the Honorary Secretaries, T. JENNER VERRALL, 97, Montpellier Road, Brighton, or W. A. GOSTLING, M.D., Barningham, West Worthing.

**NORTH WALES BRANCH.**—The intermediate meeting will be held at the Royal Hotel, Llangollen, on Tuesday, March 19th, at 2 p.m.; E. J. Lloyd, M.D., President. After the usual formal and routine business, the following papers, etc., will be read: James Craig, M.B., Llandudno: Notes of Cases. A. W. Hughes, M.B., Flint: Some Hints as to the Treatment of Joint-diseases, with the view of preventing Ankylosis. T. Eytton Jones, M.D.: Notes on Strophanthus. Rob. Jones, Liverpool: Tests of Recovery from Joint-disease. Wm. Jones, Ruabon: A case of Tetanus. F. Imlach, M.D.: Four cases of Renal Calculus treated by Nephrotomy. Lawson Tait, F.R.C.S.: On the Best Anæsthetic, and Method of its Administration. W. Williams, M.D., Liverpool: A Valvular Tube Hermetically Sealed to the Chest for Empyema, with Cases. — W. JONES-MORRIS, Honorary Secretary, Portmadoc.

### STIRLING, KINROSS, AND CLACKMANNAN BRANCH.

THE first meeting of this Branch was held at the Stirling District Asylum, Larbert, on Tuesday, February 26th, at 4 p.m. Dr. JAMES MACLAREN, President of the Branch, was in the chair, and there was a large attendance.

**Officers and Council.**—The minutes of the former preliminary meeting were read and approved, from which it appeared that the following gentlemen had been unanimously chosen as office-bearers of the Branch:—*President:* Dr. MacLaren, Larbert. *Vice-President:* Dr. Strachan, Dollar. *Honorary Treasurer:* Dr. Haldane, Bridge of Allan. *Honorary Secretaries:* Dr. Lewis, Stirling; Dr. Peake, Falkirk. *Members of Council:* Dr. Leslie, Falkirk; Dr. Linton, Grangemouth; Dr. Spence, Dollar.

The resolution of the Council of the Association recognising the formation of the Branch was communicated to the meeting.

**President's Address.**—Dr. MACLAREN then delivered his presidential address on "The Practical Aims and Objects of Branch Associations." After expressing his sense of the honour done him by electing him as the first President of the new Branch, he said the credit of its establishment was due to Dr. Haldane, who had been its real promoter. The services of the Secretaries, Drs. Lewis and Peake, had also been most valuable; these gentlemen would bring to the early career of the Branch and to the work of its development all that could possibly be desired in energy, culture, and loyal devotion to duty. The President went on to say that the Branch was not a scientific society; it was an association of gentlemen in the active practice of their profession, and its aims and objects must be practical. It was sad to think

of the vast stores of bedside observation and keen practical experience which were lost to the world along with the fathers of the profession. Papers embodying such experience—"just such a simple, easy, full, practical note as could be composed while resting for an hour or two after a busy day"—would be interesting and profitable to all. To prognosis he would attach much value, but it was in the direction of treatment that such a line as he had indicated would produce the best results. The district in which they met was, in his opinion, the district of the future so far as Scotland was concerned. Ere many years had passed there would be developed there a great city and seaport, rivalling Glasgow and Dundee. In this development the medical profession would be deeply concerned. To it would fall the duty of teaching the civic rulers and the general community those fundamental truths in sanitation, in physical and moral purity, and in the general ordering of walk in life, which lay at the very root of our future national life.

*Vote of Thanks.*—Dr. HALDANE proposed a vote of thanks to Dr. Maclaren, which was cordially seconded by Dr. STRACHAN and carried by acclamation.—Dr. MACLAREN briefly replied.

*Visit to Asylum.*—The members were then conducted over the asylum, and many interesting cases were exhibited and described by Drs. Bell and Griffiths, resident assistants.

*Dinner.*—Later, Dr. Maclaren very hospitably entertained all the members present and a number of other gentlemen at dinner in one of the large halls of the Asylum. Among those present were the Rev. Dr. Maclaren, Larbert; Dr. Haldane, Bridge of Allan; Rev. Dr. Yellowlees, Mr. Hay, Treasurer Griffiths, Mr. Hogg, Dr. Keith McDonald, Mr. G. Sheriff, Dr. Bell, Dr. Griffiths, Mr. Dick Cleland, Dr. Peake, Dr. Fraser, Provost Younger, Alloa; Rev. Mr. Balfour, Mr. Forrester of Kinnaird; Mr. J. A. Henderson, Dr. Leslie, Dr. Lewis, Dr. McIntosh; Dr. Linton, Grangemouth; Dr. Currie, Dr. Joss, Denny; Dr. Walker, Grangemouth; Strachan, Dollar, etc.

#### METROPOLITAN COUNTIES BRANCH: SOUTH LONDON DISTRICT.

A MEETING was held in the Court Room, Guy's Hospital, on Wednesday, February 13th, at 8.30 p.m.; Dr. FREDERICK TAYLOR, Vice-President of the District, in the chair.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

*Cases.*—The following cases were shown: By Dr. FREDERICK TAYLOR: 1. Wasting of Right Trapezius and Deltoid Muscles; 2. Purpura in a Child, aged 4; 3. Exophthalmic Goitre.—By Dr. PAVY: Peripheral Neuritis.—By Dr. GOODHART: Splenic Leucocythæmia.—By Dr. WOOLDRIDGE: Tubercular Peritonitis.—By Mr. HOWSE: Syphilitic Disease of Tongue.—By Mr. DAVIES-COLLEY: Aneurysm of Both Popliteal and Left Femoral Arteries.—By Mr. GOLDING-BIRD: Excision of Knee by H-shaped incision, with retention of patella.—By Mr. LUCAS: Lupus Exedens.

*Gonorrhœa and Diseases of Women.*—Dr. C. J. CULLINGWORTH read a paper on "The Etiological Importance of Gonorrhœa in relation to some of the more common Diseases of Women," which will be published in a future number. After a vote of thanks had been passed to Dr. Cullingworth for his paper, a discussion took place, in which Dr. FREDERICK TAYLOR, Dr. GALABIN, Mr. BISCOE, Mr. BRINDLEY JAMES, and Mr. TUBBY took part.—Dr. CULLINGWORTH replied.

*Vote of Thanks.*—The meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the Treasurer of the hospital for the use of the room.

#### JAMAICA BRANCH.

THE annual meeting was held on December 10th, 1888, at 2 p.m., at the Public Library, Kingston. There were present the Hon. J. C. PHILLIPPO, President, in the chair; F. H. Saunders, President-elect; C. Gayleard, J. L. C. Cox, G. F. A. Da Costa; J. W. Plaxton.

*Election of Officers.*—The HONORARY SECRETARY announced, as the result of the voting for the office-bearers for the coming year, 1889—*President-elect*: G. C. Henderson, M.D. *Honorary Secretary and Treasurer*: G. F. A. Da Costa, M.B. *Council*: J. L. C. Cox, A. R. Saunders, M.D., the Hon. J. C. Phillippo, M.D., C. B. Mosse, C.B., J. W. Plaxton, C. Gayleard, W. H. W. Strachan. The dates on which the general meetings of the year 1889 would be held were fixed, and, other routine business being disposed of, the President delivered his address.

*President's Address.*—The Hon. J. C. PHILLIPPO said the past year had been one of more sustained activity than any that had passed since the formation of the Branch. This had been due in a great

measure to the interest taken in the work by the present Medical Superintendent and Director of the Lunatic Asylum, and by the staff of the Public Hospital, the senior officer of which was now to be installed as the President for the coming year. December 11th was the twelfth anniversary of their formation. Greatly crippled as they were at the outset by the defection of the heads of the Public Hospital and Lunatic Asylum, and three of the oldest medical practitioners in Kingston, they resolved to carry out their determination, with many fears as to their ability to sustain the infant Branch. They formed the first Colonial Branch, and had had the pleasure of hearing since then of the formation of numerous Branches in Australia, India, New Zealand, British Guiana, Bermuda, Ceylon, Malta, and even Giquialand, besides many others. The JOURNAL kept alive in their memories names and associations which they revered and cherished; and they had theegis of the British Medical Association on their side, even if it could do nothing in a more active way to help them in times of difficulty. The increased vitality they had recently shown warranted the hope that, under the chairmanship of Dr. Saunders and the future chairmanship of Dr. Henderson, more activity and zeal would be evinced by members of the Branch. In the reading and discussion of papers bearing particularly on tropical diseases, and in research as to their pathology, he hoped they would be able to reach and maintain a high position amongst the Branches as contributors to the advancement of medical science.

*New President.*—The President then resigned the chair to his successor, Mr. F. H. SAUNDERS, who, on assuming office, promised that, as far as in him lay, he would merit the confidence which had placed him in the seat he had now the honour to occupy.

*Votes of Thanks.*—The thanks of the Branch were given to the outgoing President and the Honorary Secretary for good work done. The meeting then dissolved.

*Annual Dinner.*—The annual dinner was held on December 12th in the grounds of the President. There were present F. H. Saunders, the Hon. J. C. Phillippo, G. F. A. Da Costa, W. H. W. Strachan, J. L. C. Cox, C. Gayleard, W. D. Neish, J. S. Gerrard, J. Ogilvie, J. W. Plaxton, A. R. Saunders, E. E. Bronstorph. The dinner was a success, and the only regret was that distance had prevented so many from attending.

*Meetings held in 1888.*—Five general meetings of the Branch were held during 1888, and fifteen papers were read. The following is a list:—Foreign Body in Male Bladder, by Dr. F. H. Saunders; Adenomata of the Breasts, by Dr. J. L. C. Cox; Tetanus following Abortion, by Dr. E. E. Bronstorph; Shrinkage of a Hemisphere and Subsequent Pachymeningitis, by Dr. J. W. Plaxton; Labour (Twins) complicated by a Large Tumour (Spina Bifida), by Drs. C. Gayleard and G. F. A. Da Costa; Two Cases of Removal of Ovarian Tumours, by Dr. F. H. Saunders; Rhinolith, exhibited by Dr. A. R. Saunders; Traumatic Dislocation of Lens, Fulminating Glaucoma, Removal of Lens, Recovery with Good Vision, by Dr. A. R. Saunders; Case of Unusual Fracture of Skull, by Dr. W. H. W. Strachan; Cyst in Motor Area of Brain, by Dr. J. W. Plaxton; Hæmoglobinometer, exhibited by Dr. W. H. W. Strachan; Case of Great Destruction of Cortex of Brain, by Dr. J. W. Plaxton; Hypnotism as a Therapeutic Agent, by Dr. E. E. Bronstorph; Case of Mammary Tumour in an Old Man, by Dr. G. C. Henderson; Cysticercus Cellulose of Brain, by Dr. J. L. C. Cox.

*Programme of Meetings.*—General meetings will be held in 1889 on March 27th,<sup>1</sup> May 29th, July 31st, September 25th, November 27th, and the annual meeting in December.

*Number of Members.*—At the date of this report the Branch consisted of forty members.

*AMBULANCE LECTURES.*—A highly successful course of Ambulance and First Aid Lectures, in connection with St. Andrew's Home and Club, Great Peter Street, Westminster, was recently given by Dr. A. D. Leith Napier (Surgeon-Major A. M. R.). The class was formed of boys belonging to the Home, aged from 13 to 18, some members of the club, and a few gentlemen interested in the home. An examination was held on Monday, February 18th, by Deputy Inspector-General M. Coates, M.D., examiner for the St. John Ambulance Association, whose report states that twenty-three candidates presented themselves, all of whom passed, and have since received certificates from the Association. This is stated to be the first course of first aid lectures given in London in connection with such an institution, and the success of the pupils will, it is hoped, be an encouragement for the formation of similar classes.

<sup>1</sup> One general meeting has already been held on January 30th.

## UNIVERSITY INTELLIGENCE.

## CAMBRIDGE.

At the Congregation on Thursday, February 28th, the following were admitted to the degree of Bachelor of Medicine:

A. E. Nuttall, B.A. Trinity College and St. Bartholomew's (thesis on some Diseases of the Potteries); T. H. A. Chaplin, B.A., St. John's College and St. Bartholomew's (thesis, Gastric Ulcer and its Relation to Gastric Cancer); J. G. Adami, M.A., Christ's College and Manchester Royal Infirmary, Demonstrator of Pathology (thesis on the Functions of the Glomeruli of the Kidney).

The following gentlemen were also admitted to the degree of Bachelor of Surgery:  
Mr. Nuttall, Mr. Chaplin.

## DUBLIN.

At the Spring Commencements in Hilary Term, held according to custom on Shrove Tuesday, March 5th, 1889, in the Examination Hall of Trinity College, the following degrees in Medicine, Surgery, and Midwifery were conferred in the presence of the Senate by the University Caput

*Baccalaurei in Medicinâ, Chirurgiâ, et Arte Obstetriciâ.*—T. C. Askin, E. H. Brien, J. W. Cowl, F. G. Hopkins, M. E. Kenny, P. W. M'Crea (B.Ch. stip. cond.), C. E. McNaught, M. O'Connor, T. A. Scott, G. B. Stanistreet.

*Baccalaureus in Arte Obstetriciâ.*—W. M. Russell.

*Baccalaurei in Chirurgiâ.*—J. Clarke, W. M. Russell, A. W. Orr.

*Doctores in Medicinâ.*—E. H. Brien, T. W. Hime (stip. cond.), J. Simpson, A. E. Wright (stip. cond.) (in absentia).

## OBITUARY.

## ALEXANDER JAMES SINCLAIR, M.D., F.R.C.P.ED.

DR. ALEXANDER SINCLAIR, whose death was briefly announced last week, was only forty-one years of age when he succumbed, after a few days' illness, to an attack of meningitis. This promising young physician is deeply lamented and deservedly respected, not only by his relatives, but by the large circle of friends and patients of all classes to whom he had endeared himself by his unvarying kindness and undoubted skill; the rich in him lose a conscientious physician, and the poor a true friend. He never spared his own labour when he could alleviate the suffering of those afflicted, both in his public and private practice. He was born in 1847, and began his education at the Edinburgh Academy; he passed through the art classes of the University of Edinburgh, and then studied medicine at the same University, taking his degree of M.B., C.M., and L.M. in 1868; not being then 21, he could not be capped in August with the other students, and the degree was conferred on him in the October following. He took the M.D. degree in 1872, and was commended for his thesis "On Intestinal Obstruction." He became M.R.C.P.ED. in 1873, and F.R.C.P. in 1874. He was Demonstrator of Anatomy at Surgeons' Hall, Edinburgh, at the age of 21. For many years the deceased had been Examiner at the Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh. He was a member of the British Medical Association, Vice-President of the Medico-Chirurgical Society, and a member of the Royal Medical and Obstetrical Societies of Edinburgh, Physician to the Royal Dispensary, Medical Officer to City Parish, and latterly Visiting Medical Officer to the City Poorhouse at Craiglockhart. Among his contributions to medical literature we note "Antiseptic Treatment of Empyema," in the *Edinburgh Medical Journal*, 1875, and "Case of Alexander-Adams's Operation for Prolapsus Uteri," *Ibid.*, 1885.

Those who knew Alexander Sinclair in public and private life are convinced that medical research has lost in him a painstaking, able, and careful observer, who, had he lived, would have added much to our medical knowledge, and would certainly have become one of the leading members of our profession. He leaves a widow and three young children.

## PUBLIC HEALTH

AND

## POOR-LAW MEDICAL SERVICES.

## DEATH FROM ERYSIPELAS AFTER VACCINATION.

DR. BALLARD has recently presented a report to the Local Government Board, on a case of post-vaccinal erysipelas occurring in the Billesdon Union, near Leicester. The facts of the case are briefly as follows.

On September 18th, 1888, the public vaccinator, Mr. N., purchased two tubes of lymph. With this lymph Mr. N. vaccinated four children living at Old Humberston; one child was vaccinated with calf lymph, the other three with humanised lymph; but it was not possible subsequently to distinguish between the lymph derived from the different human sources.

On inspecting the children on the eighth day, it was found that the calf lymph had completely failed, and of the three children vaccinated with humanised lymph, one had vesicles so broken and injured that they could not be used to furnish lymph; in another the development of the vesicles was so retarded that no lymph could be obtained from them; the remaining child, I. E. W., aged 4 months, was found to have good unbroken vesicles, yielding perfectly clear lymph, but having an areola of from half an inch to three-quarters around each vesicle. This vaccination ran a normal course, and at the time of Dr. Ballard's inspection the arm presented two good scars. From this child Mr. N. took some lymph in a new tube, and went straight away to New Humberston, where he vaccinated a child named C. M. W.; he vaccinated her according to his usual custom, in two places on the left arm.

On October 1st (the seventh day after vaccination) he visited the child, and found the pocks broken, lymph trickling down the arm, and an areola of three-quarters of an inch round each vesicle.

On October 2nd, when the child was taken to the public station for inspection, the areola was much more extensive; from this time it continued to spread, and subsequently became distinctly erysipelatous, this being followed by solid oedema of the hands and feet, and abscesses near each elbow and in the back.

The child died on November 19th, the cause of death being certified as "diffuse cellulitis." Dr. Ballard describes the filthy surroundings of the house occupied by the W. family, and every detail of the case has been so carefully worked out by Dr. Ballard that it is quite clear the inferior lymph used to vaccinate C. W. did not contain the poison of erysipelas, but that this was due to the unwholesome surroundings of the child; so that, although the responsibility of the death rests with the Billesdon Rural Sanitary Authority, the gross neglect of this public body does not excuse the public vaccinator in neglecting to comply with the clear and explicit instructions of the Local Government Board to vaccinators under contract.

It is much to be regretted that such cases should occur; but, when we consider the large number of vaccinations annually performed and the conditions under which so many of the poor are forced by sanitary authorities to live, we are astonished, not that such cases occur, but that they should be in such small number as to be reckoned in units instead of hundreds.

## THE FACTORY ACTS.

THE Government have in contemplation, says the *Scotsman*, some further amendments of the Factory Acts this session. They intend, it is said, to introduce a Bill which will provide, among other things, for inspectors having the right to enter buildings where only adult men are employed. Either in the same measure, or in a supplemental Bill, proposals will also be made for the purpose of meeting the complaints that have so often been made regarding the deadly effects which the manipulation of foreign hair has upon workmen. That hair is, it is alleged, to a large extent impregnated with the germs of disease, and it is, accordingly, intended to make it an offence to cause it to be used in any factory or workshop before it has been thoroughly disinfected.

One more step the Government have, it is stated, in contemplation for strengthening these Acts. The Home Office has again and again been memorialised in favour of the appointment of additional inspectors. Fair promises have frequently been made, but now the Government intend to give effect to the desires of the workmen, and to add at least two new inspectors to the staff, one of them to be stationed in London and the other in Glasgow.

## SCOTTISH SOCIETY FOR THE REGISTRATION OF PLUMBERS.

UNDER the presidency of the Lord Provost, a meeting of this Society was held last week, when Mr. W. Allan Carter, Civil Engineer, opened a discussion on "Insufficient Work, and how far should plumbers' work be exposed to view." A feeling was expressed by one of the speakers that there might be as really bad work in exposed as in other plumbing work.

## VACCINATION IN IRELAND.

DURING the fourth quarter of 1888 there were 22,458 persons suc-

## MEDICAL NEWS.

THE recent Russian Medical Congress was attended by 1,648 practitioners, of whom 162 were women. Of the latter, 105 belonged to St. Petersburg.

AN outbreak of typhoid fever is reported in the nursery of the Lisburn Road Workhouse, Belfast. There were nine cases, some of the patients having been in the institution for upwards of twelve months. An investigation has been ordered.

DURING the year 1888, 4,934 books were published in Russia, exclusive of those suppressed by the official Censorship. Among this number, literary works, as might be expected, hold the first place; medicine is second in the list with 454 books, being 9.2 per cent. of the whole.

A SYLLABUS OF LECTURES ON NURSING.—We have received a syllabus of Dr. Sheen's Lectures on Nursing, at the Cardiff Infirmary. It is a very complete little series of headings, and may be found useful to other lecturers in like circumstances. It is printed by W. Lewis, Duke Street, Cardiff.

AT the recent anniversary meeting of the Institute of Chemistry, held at Burlington House, Dr. James Bell, F.R.S., was re-elected president, and the following vice-presidents: Professor Armstrong, F.R.S.; Professor Crum Brown, M.D., D.Sc., F.R.S.; Sir Charles Cameron, M.D.; Professor Odling, F.R.S.; Dr. Stevenson and Dr. Tidy.

MONTAGUE HOUSE RETREAT FOR INEBRIATES.—The second annual report of the Roman Catholic licensed retreat for female inebriates at Brook Green is encouraging. Thirty-five patients were under treatment since January, 1888, of whom fifteen had returned to their homes. The Committee report that, after testing the plan of receiving patients under the Inebriates Acts in preference to admission privately, they can fully endorse all that has been said in favour of these Acts. The superintendent has found it highly beneficial to the patients to know that they are bound by law to remain the specified time of one year, as this knowledge helps them to practise self-control when the characteristic restless fits assail them. It is intended to apply for a licence for ten additional patients, making twenty in all.

DEATH FROM A SOOTHING SYRUP.—Mr. D. Wightman, coroner for Sheffield, recently held an inquest on the body of an infant between 4 and 5 weeks old, who died from a dose of a soothing syrup. The parents could neither of them read, so, not knowing the proper dose, they gave the infant half a teaspoonful of the medicine; it soon became drowsy, and died in the course of a few hours. It appeared that the dose of opium it must have taken was about  $\frac{1}{2}$  grain. The coroner severely censured the chemist who had prescribed the medicine, saying that soothing syrups killed thousands of children and ruined the constitutions of thousands more; the latter, instead of growing up healthy men and women, were ill and delicate, and of the two he thought those were more fortunate who were killed.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, LONDON.—The annual meeting of governors of this College was held on February 27th. Mr. J. Eric Erichsen, F.R.S., President, in the chair. The Right Hon. Leonard Courtney, M.P., Professor G. Carey Foster, F.R.S., and Mr. E. Maunde Thompson, LL.D., F.S.A., were added to the Council. The following were admitted life governors of the College: Dr. Eustace Smith, Mr. Wm. Paice, M.A., Professor E. A. Schäfer, F.R.S., Professor John Tweedy, F.R.C.S., Mr. J. H. Gladstone, Ph.D., F.R.S., the Rev. P. H. Wicksteed, M.A., the Right Hon. Lord Justice Bowen, Mr. James Bryce, D.C.L., M.P., Mr. T. Eccleston Gibb, and Professor Ramsay, Ph.D., F.R.S. In moving the adoption of the report, which showed a slight increase in the number of students, but a diminution in the amount of fees, the President dwelt on the need of a teaching university for London, and on the cordial co-operation given by King's College, London, in their endeavours to attain this great object. He also spoke of the necessity for establishing a suitable physical laboratory, a pathological and also a botanical laboratory, the total cost of which, with the debt on the building fund, might be estimated at about £12,000 or £13,000.

TRICHINOSIS IN SPAIN.—We learn from our new Spanish contemporary, *La Medicina Practica* (No. 19, February 2nd, 1889), that several cases of trichinosis have recently occurred at Albaida (Valencia). Dr. Vicente Ferrer y Genovés, who has been specially

commissioned by the authorities to inquire into the causes of the outbreak, reports that he saw 18 patients who were undoubtedly suffering from the disease in a severe form, and he suspects that there were several others who did not present themselves for examination. Of the 18, 4 were men, 11 women, and 3 children, all of them relatives or friends of the family to which the pig which was suspected to be the source of the disease had belonged. Trichinæ were found by Dr. Ferrer y Genovés in some of the flesh of this animal, which had been preserved. It had been imported from a neighbouring province eleven months before, and had somehow escaped the examination of the veterinary inspector. Dr. Ferrer y Genovés recommends more strictness on the part of the authorities in seeing that the law is carried out, and greater care on the part of the official inspectors, especially at Christmas time, when swine's flesh is more largely eaten in Spain than at any other season of the year. Since the date of Dr. Ferrer y Genovés's report, 12 additional cases have occurred. Six of the 30 persons attacked have already died. The population of Albaida is 3,500.

THE WEIR MITCHELL TREATMENT.—Dr. Joseph Schreiber, Aussee Meran (*Berliner Klin. Wochenschr.*, No. 52, 1888), highly praises the "Weir Mitchell cure" of neurasthenia, this method being now familiar to German practitioners, through Dr. Klemperer's translation, published in 1887. The various factors in the treatment, isolation, rest, massage, electricity, food, and medicine, are separately discussed. The author fully concurs in the opinion of Weir Mitchell, Playfair, and others that cases of melancholia are unsuited for this method. A short account of massage is given, or, rather, of the way in which it should be done; half an hour is said to be amply sufficient. The nurse, whether male or female, should be thoroughly trained; Dr. Schreiber begins by massaging the nurse, who is thus taught the advantage of kneading the muscles—most nurses think too much of merely rubbing the skin. Every case requires individual attention, without which, as von Ziemssen says, all systematic "cures" are dangerous.

## MEDICAL VACANCIES.

The following Vacancies are announced:

BIRMINGHAM AND MIDLAND EYE HOSPITAL.—Assistant House-Surgeon. Salary, £50 per annum, with board and apartments. Applications by March 16th to Cranmer Gell, Esq., Secretary's Office, Church Street, Birmingham.

DENTAL HOSPITAL OF LONDON, Leicester Square.—Assistant Dental Surgeon. Applications by April 2nd to the Secretary.

GUY'S HOSPITAL, S.E.—Six Assistant Dental Surgeons, Lecturers on Dental Anatomy and Physiology, and Dental Mechanics, Anæsthetist, and Tutor for Dental Students. Applications by March 25th to the Clerk to the Governors.

HOSPITAL FOR CONSUMPTION, Brompton.—Assistant Physician. Applications by March 13th to the Secretary.

HOSPITAL FOR CONSUMPTION, Brompton.—Resident Medical Officer. Salary, £200 per annum, with board and residence. Applications by March 13th to the Secretary.

MIDDLESEX HOSPITAL, W.—Fourth Assistant-Physician. Applications by March 28th to the Secretary Superintendent.

ROYAL VICTORIA HOSPITAL, Bournemouth.—House-Surgeon. Salary, £100 per annum, with apartments, etc. Applications by March 20th to the Chairman of Committee.

THE FRIENDS' RETREAT (HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE), York.—Junior Assistant Medical Officer (on March 31st). Salary, £80 per annum, with board. Applications to Dr. Baker, The Retreat, York.

WEST LONDON HOSPITAL, Hammersmith Road, W.—House-Surgeon. Board and lodging. Applications by March 21st to the Secretary Superintendent.

WOODHOUSE GROVE SCHOOL, Apperley Bridge, near Leeds.—Medical Officer. Applications to the Head Master.

VICTORIA HOSPITAL FOR SICK CHILDREN, Queen's Road, Chelsea.—House-Physician. Salary, £50 per annum, and board and lodging. Applications by March 16th to the Secretary at the Hospital.

## MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS.

GRANGE, F. L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S., appointed House-Surgeon to Charing Cross Hospital.

JACKSON, L. P., L.R.C.P., appointed Certifying Factory Surgeon for the Plymouth and Devonport District, *vice* E. C. Langford, M.R.C.S., resigned.

MOTHERSOLE, R. D., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., appointed House-Surgeon to Guy's Hospital.

PARKIN, A., M.B., B.S.Lond., appointed House-Physician to Guy's Hospital.

SMITH, G. B., M.B., B.S.Lond., appointed House-Surgeon to Guy's Hospital.

STARLING, E. H., M.B., B.S.Lond., appointed House-Physician to Guy's Hospital.

TRUMAN, C. E., M.R.C.S., L.D.S.Eng., appointed Dental Surgeon to the Dental Hospital, Leicester Square, *vice* D. Hepburn, L.D.S.Eng., resigned.

## DIARY FOR NEXT WEEK.

## MONDAY.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND, 5 P.M.—Mr. Priestley Smith: On the Pathology of Glaucoma. Lecture I.

MEDICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON, 8 P.M.—Dr. C. Theodore Williams: The President's Address. Dr. W. P. Herringham and Mr. C. B. Keetley: A Case of Primary Cancer of the Pancreas: Cholecystotomy: Remarks on diagnosis, question of operation, treatment. Mr. Hurry Fenwick: Fifteen Months' Experience of the Incandescent-lamp Cystoscope.

## TUESDAY.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF LONDON, 5 P.M.—Dr. Arlidge: The Milroy Lectures on Occupations and Trades in Relation to Public Health. Lecture I.

SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF INEBRIETY, 11 Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, 4 P.M.—Dr. Norman Kerr, F.L.S.: On Inebriate Criminal Responsibility.

## WEDNESDAY.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND, 5 P.M.—Mr. Priestley Smith: On the Pathology of Glaucoma. Lecture II.

HOSPITAL FOR CONSUMPTION, BROMPTON, 4 P.M.—Dr. John Tatham: On Pleuritic and Associated Cases of Clinical Interest. Lecture I.

METROPOLITAN POLICE SURGEONS' ASSOCIATION, at St. Thomas's Hospital, 8 P.M.—Dr. Copeman: The Medico-Legal Detection of Human Blood.

HUNTERIAN SOCIETY, 8 P.M.—Mr. Symonds and Mr. Warner: A Case of Trephining for Cerebral Abscess. Mr. Symonds: Cases of Trephining the Mastoid for Otitis.

BRITISH GYNÆCOLOGICAL SOCIETY, 8.30 P.M.—Report from Council discountenancing the advertisement of medical works in lay papers. Dr. Macnaughton Jones: The Use and Abuse of Massage. Specimens will be shown by Dr. Bantock and Mr. Lawson Tait.

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON, 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square W., 8 P.M.—Dr. William Robert Smith: On a Brief Review of our Knowledge of the Relation of Organisms to Diseases in Man.

ROYAL MICROSCOPICAL SOCIETY, King's College, W.C., 8 P.M.—Mr. J. Deby: Psmathiomya Pectinata, a New Dipterous Insect.

## THURSDAY.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF LONDON, 5 P.M.—Dr. Arlidge: The Milroy Lectures on Occupations and Trades in Relation to Public Health. Lecture II.

THE SANITARY INSTITUTE, Parkes Museum, 74A, Margaret Street, W., 5 P.M.—Professor G. R. Milne Murray: On Fungi in the Relation to Putrefaction and Sanitation.

HARVEIAN SOCIETY OF LONDON, 8.30 P.M.—Mr. Butlin: Precancerous Conditions of the Tongue.

MEDICO-PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND Retreat, York, 4 P.M.—Dr. Clifford Allbutt: Insanity of Children. Dr. R. Baker: Ten Years' Experience in the Use of the Turkish Bath in the Treatment of Mental Disorders. Dr. Urquhart: Case of Attempted Suicide, with Microscopic Sections by Dr. A. Keith. Dr. Watson: Notes on the Use of Sulphonal. Council meeting at 3 P.M.

OPHTHALMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF THE UNITED KINGDOM, 8.30 P.M.—Patients and Card Specimens at 8 P.M. Mr. Lawford: Drawing of Localised Choroidal Atrophy, with Narrowing of overlying Retinal Artery. Mr. Phillips: (1) Case of Unusual Atrophy of Choroid; (2) Case of Peculiar Form of Amblyopia. Messrs. Critchett and Juler: Case of Absence of Convergence. Papers: Dr. Edridge-Green (introduced): On Colour-Blindness and Colour-Perception. Mr. Brailley: On an Improved Knife for Cataract Incisions. Mr. J. Hutchinson, jun.: (1) Ulcerative Endocarditis with Retinal Hemorrhages; (2) Central Choroiditis due to Concussion of the Eye. Messrs. Edmunds and Lawford: Retinal Changes in a Fatal Case of Alcoholism.

## FRIDAY.

ST. GEORGE'S HOSPITAL, 4 P.M.—Mr. T. Holmes: Hunterian Lectures. Lecture IV.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND, 5 P.M.—Mr. Priestley Smith: On the Pathology of Glaucoma. Lecture III.

CHARING CROSS HOSPITAL, 3.30 P.M.—Dr. J. Mitchell Bruce: On some cases of Difficult Diagnosis.

## 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.*

## BIRTHS.

BRAMWELL.—At 23, Drumsheugh Gardens, Edinburgh, on the 4th instant, the wife of Byrom Bramwell, M.D., F.R.C.P. Edin., of a son.

GUNNING.—On January 28th, at the Parade, St. Helena, the wife of Surgeon-Major R. C. Gunning, Medical Staff, of a son.

MARTIN.—On the 4th instant, at The Limes, Walkden, the wife of Wm. Young Martin, M.D., of a son.

## MARRIAGE.

WYLIE-MACFARLAND.—On the 2nd instant, at St. Leonard's, Streatham, by the Rev. J. R. Nicholl, M.A., Rector, assisted by the Rev. G. M. Drought, M.A., David T. Wylie, L.R.C.S.I., L.K.Q.C.P.I., and eldest son of Galbraith Wylie, Ashgrove Moy, Co. Tyrone, Ireland, to Annie Catherine (Blossom), eldest daughter of Charles C. Macfarland, Mountfield, Streatham, Surrey.

## OPERATION DAYS AT THE LONDON HOSPITALS.

MONDAY.....10 A.M.: Royal London Ophthalmic.—10.30 A.M.: Royal Free (Ophthalmic Department).—1.30 P.M.: Guy's (Ophthalmic Department); Royal Westminster Ophthalmic.—2 P.M.: Central London Ophthalmic; Hospital for Women; Royal Orthopaedic; St. Mark's; London.—2.30 P.M.: Chelsea Hospital for Women.

TUESDAY.....10 A.M.: Royal London Ophthalmic.—1.30 P.M.: Guy's; Royal Westminster Ophthalmic; St. Bartholomew's (Ophthalmic Department); St. Mary's.—2 P.M.: Cancer Hospital, Brompton; Central London Ophthalmic; London; Westminster.—2.30 P.M.: St. Mark's; West London.—4 P.M.: St. Thomas's (Ophthalmic Department).

WEDNESDAY.....10 A.M.: National Orthopaedic; Royal London Ophthalmic.—11 A.M.: St. Mary's (Orthopaedic).—1 P.M.: Middlesex.—1.30 P.M.: Royal Westminster Ophthalmic; St. Bartholomew's; St. Thomas's.—2 P.M.: Central London Ophthalmic; Great Northern Central; London; Royal Free; University College; Westminster.—2.30 P.M.: St. Peter's; Samaritan Free Hospital for Women and Children.—3 to 4 P.M.: King's College.

THURSDAY.....10 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.: Central London Ophthalmic; Charing Cross; Hospital for Diseases of the Throat; Hospital for Women; London; University.—2.30 P.M.: Chelsea Hospital for Women; North-West London.

FRIDAY.....9 A.M.: Metropolitan; St. Mary's (Ophthalmic Department).—10 A.M.: Royal London Ophthalmic.—10.30 A.M.: Royal Free (Ophthalmic Department).—1.15 P.M.: St. George's (Ophthalmic Department).—1.30 P.M.: Guy's; Royal Westminster Ophthalmic.—2 P.M.: Central London Ophthalmic; East London Hospital for Children; King's College; London; St. Thomas's (Ophthalmic Department).—2.30 P.M.: West London.

SATURDAY.....9 A.M.: Royal Free (Department for Diseases of Women).—10 A.M.: Royal London Ophthalmic.—1 P.M.: King's College.—1.30 P.M.: Royal Westminster Ophthalmic; St. Bartholomew's; St. Thomas's.—2 P.M.: Cancer Hospital, Brompton; Central London Ophthalmic; Charing Cross; London; Middlesex; Royal Free; University.

## HOURS OF ATTENDANCE AT THE LONDON HOSPITALS.

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

CHELSEA HOSPITAL FOR WOMEN.—M. Tu. W. and F., 1.30.

GREAT NORTHERN CENTRAL.—Medical and Surgical, M. Tu. Th. F., 2.30; Obstetric, W., 2.30; Eye, Tu. F., 10; Ear, M. F., 2.30; Diseases of the Skin, W., 2.30; Diseases of the Throat, Th., 2.30; Dental Cases, W., 2.

GUY'S.—Medical and Surgical, daily, 1.30; Obstetric, M. Tu. F., 1.30; Eye, M. Tu. Th. F., 1.30; Ear, Tu. 1; Skin, Tu. 1; Dental, Tu. Th. F., 1.30.

KING'S COLLEGE.—Medical, daily, 2; Surgical, daily, 1.30; Obstetric, Tu. Th. S., 1.30; o.p., W. F., 1.30; Eye, M. Th., 1.30; Ophthalmic Department, W., 2; Ear, Th., 2; Skin, F., 1.30; Throat, F., 1.30; Dental, M. Th., 9.30.

LONDON.—Medical, daily, exc. S., 2; Surgical, daily, 1.30 and 2; Obstetric, M. Th., 1.30; o.p., W. S., 1.30; Eye, Tu. S., 9; Ear, S., 9.30; Skin, Th., 9; Dental, Tu., 9.

MIDDLESEX.—Medical and Surgical, daily, 1.30; Obstetric, Tu. F., 9.30; o.p., W. 1.30; Eye, W. S., 9; Ear and Throat, Tu., 9; Skin, Tu., 4, Th. 9.30; Dental, M. W. F., 9.30.

NATIONAL ORTHOPAEDIC.—M. Tu. Th. F., 2.

NORTH-WEST LONDON.—Medical and Surgical, daily, 2; Obstetric, W., 2; Eye, W., 9; Skin, Tu., 2; Dental, F. 9.

ROYAL ORTHOPAEDIC.—Daily, 1.

ROYAL FREE.—Medical and Surgical, daily, 2; Diseases of Women, Tu. S., 9; Eye, M. F., 9; Dental, Th. 9.

ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S.—Medical and Surgical daily, 1.30; Obstetric, Tu. Th. S., 2; o.p., W. S., 9; Eye, W. 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. T. F. S., 12; Obstetric, Th. 2; o.p., Eye, W. S., 2; Ear, Tu., 2; Skin, W., 2; Throat, Th., 2; Orthopaedic, W., 2; Dental, Tu., S., 9.

ST. MARK'S HOSPITAL.—Fistula and Diseases of Rectum, males, W., 8.45; females, Th., 8.45.

ST. MARY'S.—Medical and Surgical, daily, 1.45, o.p., 1.30; Obstetric, Tu. F., 1.45; Eye, Tu. F. S., 9; Ear, M. Th., 3; Orthopaedic, W., 10; Throat, Tu. F., 1.30; Skin, M. Th., 9.30; Electro-therapeutics, Tu. F., 2; Dental, W. S., 9.30; Consultations, M., 2.30; Operations, Tu., 1.30; Ophthalmic Operations, F., 9.

ST. THOMAS'S.—Medical and Surgical, daily, except Sat., 2; Obstetric, Tu. F., 2; o.p., W., 1.30; Eye, M. Tu. W. Th., F., 1.30; o.p., daily, except Sat., 1.30; Ear, M., 1.30; Skin, F., 1.30; Throat, Tu. F., 1.30; Children, S., 1.30; Dental, Tu. F., 10.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE.—Medical and Surgical, daily, 1.30; Obstetrics, M. Th., 1.30; Tu., W. F., 2; Eye, Tu. F., 2; Ear, M. F., 9; Skin, W., 1.45, S., 9.15; Throat, Th., 1.30; Dental, W., 9.30.

WESTMINSTER.—Medical and Surgical, daily, 1; Obstetric, Tu. F., 1; Eye, M. Th., 2.30; Ear, M., 9; Skin, W., 1; Dental, W. S., 9.15.



"meddlesome midwifery is bad." The phrase is almost fossilised already; in another generation it will be unheard of. I think the majority of modern practitioners agree in holding that "dame Nature," unaided, would not infrequently play the part which she did in Princess Charlotte's case.

But I sympathise with the plaintive "plea for the perineum" put forward on February 16th by "A Practitioner of the Old School,"—to what extent he may ascertain if he will do me the favour of referring to a paper "On the Straight-bodied Position in Labour," printed in this JOURNAL on December 2nd, 1882, or the paper on the same subject which I read at the Association's meeting in 1883 (*Medical Press and Circular*, August 22nd, 1883). By bringing the patient's body and lower limbs into line, from the usual sigmoid position, and carrying the forceps handles well forward towards the abdomen, delivery can be effected without rupture or without tear, beyond ordinary, of the perineum, and without "support."

Of course we all concur with the old practitioner who to-day (March 2nd) protests against the "reckless" and "indiscriminate" use of the forceps, just as men protested against the indiscriminate use of mercury, and the deluging patients with stimulants of bygone times, or against any other "reckless" act. But men think well over the use of the instrument nowadays, and few, I am convinced, merit the charge against them. Many would rightly regard the rule suggested of "never, except in very urgent cases, applying the forceps without the concurrence and assistance of a brother practitioner," as simply a mark of ridiculous incompetence.

A. N. T. writes: I think the rules for applying forceps, both in regard to the cases requiring their use, and the mode of application, are sufficiently definitely laid down in all the good textbooks; but in midwifery, as in surgery, the operator must be guided by his judgment and conscience. All men are not equally gifted as to judgment, and some consciences are more elastic than others; moreover, all men do not possess equal mechanical skill, but I am sure that if each man exercised his judgment, and consulted his conscience and not his convenience, he would, with very ordinary skill, escape such a deplorable accident as rupturing the perineum by the use of his forceps. Every practitioner of experience knows that perineums will sometimes give way, but I am satisfied from my own observations, extending over nearly thirty years, that those perineums which have ruptured when forceps were carefully and properly used, would have given way just the same had the cases been left to Nature. I consider that a man who, to save his own time, mercilessly drags a child's head through a rigid vulva, and by so doing ruptures the mother's perineum, is unworthy of the confidence of the public and the profession; and almost equally so the man who neglects to apply the forceps when the interests of either mother or child demand their use.

DR. C. R. ILLINGWORTH (Accrington) writes: The complaint of "A Practitioner of the Old School" deserves the serious attention, I think, of every member of the profession. I deny that "meddlesome midwifery is bad," but I am of opinion that some men are reckless in the use of instruments, and too well pleased with the triumphs they achieve, to care for putting into practice the excellent method described in your columns some months ago for the prevention of ruptured perineum.

I do not remember the date of the letter, but the method described consisted simply in the prevention of the extension of the head at the close of the second stage of labour. For the efficacy of the plan I can vouch, and that in every case. During the last fortnight I had two cases of instrumental labour in primiparae, where rupture would have been inevitable from the tightness of the perineal structures and dolichocephalic head, but in which not the slightest tearing resulted. In the first of these labour-pains had been extremely severe and constant for twenty-one hours. I applied the long forceps and drew the head down to the ostium vaginae, under chloroform, and with great difficulty. I then removed the instruments, allowed the patient to rally from the chloroform, and then gave a full dose of acetic ergot. In half an hour the uterine contractions completed delivery, whilst I carefully "wormed" the head through the outlet by keeping the cervicobregmatic diameter parallel to its plane. Yesterday I had a similar case, in which, after bringing the head to the ostium vaginae by the long forceps, I completed delivery with the short ones, and was glad to find the necessary manipulations of the head in no way hindered by the blades of the instruments. Grasping the handles firmly with one hand, whilst the limbs were attended to by an assistant or nurse, I pulled the occiput backwards with the first two fingers of the other, and pushed up the frontal portion with the thumb. In this way rotation of the head about a transverse axis passing through the blades, was easily effected, and flexion of it sustained until the danger was past.

Ruptured perineum is so great a danger, and so frequently a cause of life-long discomfort, that any method which prevents the occurrence of it should be taught and practised.

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

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