

self thoroughly acquainted with the symptoms and characters of the disease; as it does not seem to be very uncommon, but rather hitherto to have escaped observation.

## Association Intelligence.

### BRANCH MEETINGS TO BE HELD.

NAME OF BRANCH.	PLACE OF MEETING.	DATE.
WEST SOMERSET. [Counversazione.]	Clarke's Castle Hotel, Taunton.	Wednesday, Jan. 20th.
MIDLAND. [Quarterly.]	Board Room of the Infirmary, Derby.	Thursday, Jan. 21st, 2 P.M.
BATH AND BRISTOL. [Ordinary.]	York House, Bath.	Thursday, Jan. 21, 6 P.M.

## Reports of Societies.

### HARVEIAN SOCIETY OF LONDON.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER, 3RD.

W. ADAMS, ESQ., Vice-President, in the Chair.

*Intractable Menorrhagia.* Dr. GRAILY HEWITT related a case which was traced to the influence of lead poison. In 1860, Paul, of Paris, drew attention to this influence of lead in causing abortions and profuse menorrhagia. Since that time, Dr. G. Hewitt had observed one case of repeated abortions, traceable to this cause; and the following case proved its power in causing menorrhagia. A woman, aged 35, had three children by her first husband. He died, and she married a painter, by whom she had one child, four years old. For three years past she suffered from most intractable menorrhagia; the discharge appeared every fortnight and lasted from six to eight days. No disease of the uterus was found, but a blue line on the gums, slight weakness of the wrists, and pains in the abdomen all pointed to lead in the system, which she had probably received from washing her husband's clothes; on giving this up and taking mineral acids and opium, the menorrhagia ceased completely.

Dr. GREENHOW observed that there are large numbers of women in this country employed in lead, but he had no experience on the question raised by Dr. G. Hewitt. In all cases of lead-poison seen by him, the lead-line was visible on the gums. Cleanly workmen usually escape; it is the young and uncleanly who suffer most.

Mr. ERNEST HART said that Dr. Graily Hewitt's remarks tended to prove that lead is not a styptic; and his own experience led him to a similar conclusion.

*Astigmatism.* Mr. ZACHARIAH LAURENCE exhibited two cases of astigmatism, which he had remedied by cylindrical lenses. In the first instance, the patient had himself mistaken the case for one of progressive myopia, at last wearing concave glasses as deep as five inches. The ophthalmoscope, however, disclosed no morbid appearance of the fundus, nor refractive power of the humours, sufficient to account for so high an apparent degree of myopia. Further examination disclosed an abnormal increase of curvature in the cornea in the vertical meridian, an astigmatism of one-twentieth. With a combination of a ten-inch spherical concave with a twenty-inch cylindrical concave (axis horizontal) his vision was exactly double that obtained by his former glasses. With these a luminous point appeared as a horizontal line, vertical lines as a blurred mass; but with the above combina-

tion these appearances vanished. In the second instance, the phenomena was very similar; the case, however, presenting three peculiarities:—1. The axis of the astigmatic meridian was inclined at about thirty degrees from the vertical. 2. It was limited to the right eye. 3. The retinal veins exhibited an extraordinarily distinct and extensive pulsation.

Mr. HART observed that the discovery of this condition of the eye required much care, and, though not so commonly met with as Donders said, (one-thirteenth of all cases) it was often seen.

### EVIDENCE AGAINST THE INTERNAL USE OF MERCURY IN SYPHILITIC AND OTHER DISEASES.

BY C. DRYSDALE, M.D.

The debate on this paper was resumed.

Dr. MENZIES was of opinion that, notwithstanding all that has been said by Dr. Drysdale, the cure of syphilis will frequently be promoted by the moderate use of mercury. Its good effects were best seen in the Hunterian chancre, and he also thought it would often prevent secondary symptoms. He had often perceived the value of the mineral in secondary symptoms and iritis. If a sore would not disappear with black-wash, he used mercury. In tertiary cases he used the bichloride of mercury and iodide of potassium. Mr. Syme did not object to mercury in syphilis under proper management. He (Dr. Menzies) thought mercury should be avoided in irritable habits and phagedæna.

Mr. CURGENVEN considered the evidence adduced by Dr. Drysdale perfectly satisfactory only as far as hospital practice went, because the patient's after-history could not be known so well as in private practice. He had recently seen a soldier, who had been treated without mercury in the Crimea, and had now superficial ulceration of the nostrils. This man recovered under doses of iodide of mercury. He did not believe that mercury caused disease of the bones. In another case, a man had indurated sores and gonorrhœa. No mercury was used, and he had secondary symptoms and also syphilitic children. This was a proof that syphilitic children were not due to the mercury. In acute hydrocephalus, Mr. Curgenven had found great benefit from a grain of calomel given every two hours, which had often effected a cure of this disease.

Dr. Sisson said that there were three classes; 1. Mercurialists, who said the disease could only be cured by mercury; 2. Anti-mercurialists; 3. Moderate mercurialists. The position of the first class was untenable; since it was certain that Mr. Weeden Cooke, Dr. Drysdale, and others, had cured cases of syphilis without a particle of mercury. The anti-mercurialists however, had not proved that small quantities of mercury might not prove beneficial, which he believed. It was a mistake to call Mr. Syme an anti-mercurialist. His attacks were levelled against the *abuse* of mercury, and he (Mr. Syme) considered mercury the grand remedy in iritis. With regard to the evils done by mercury much had also been said against the chlorate of potash. His line of treatment was to support the system and give purges, etc.; if this did not suffice, he ordered one-sixteenth of a grain of bichloride of mercury for about three weeks. He thought mercury would stand its ground against Dr. Drysdale's attack.

Dr. G. DE GORREQUER GRIFFITH said that his own experience completely corroborated the evidence brought forward by the author of the paper against mercury in syphilis. A gentleman patient of his had chancre, which was treated by mercury. Secondary symptoms appeared, and he again took mercury. As he received no benefit, he placed himself under Dr. Griffith's care, who gave him chlorate of potash and bark. The erup-

3. Where it fails to relieve, if performed with ordinary care, it does no harm. I have frequently performed the operation, in many cases with striking—in most cases with marked success. I have never known a single evil result from its use.

4. Although the manner in which the operation affords benefit is not so susceptible of explanation as in the operations for lithotomy and strangulated hernia, yet when we consider that no inconsiderable portion of a large solid structure (a structure, too, which is intimately connected with the production of one of the glands of the eyeball) is removed from a globe already too distended and tense, we may regard it, if only a mode of paracentesis, as certainly the most permanent and efficient mode of paracentesis which has yet being devised. On this ground simply I am well content to rest the utility of iridectomy—the more so when I find that modern experience and past history alike reveal the miserable failure of every other so-called remedial means.

I am, etc., FURNEAUX JORDAN.

16, Colmore Row, Birmingham, Jan. 5th, 1864.

#### LETTER FROM JOHN WOOLCOTT, Esq.

SIR,—Considering my experience in ophthalmic diseases to be as large and extending over as long a period of practical observation as that of most of the oculists who have addressed letters to you on Iridectomy, I venture to give my opinion on the subject. I may briefly state at once, that I have seen more harm accrue from the operation than benefit; and that I consider it, as performed by the greater number of advocates in its favour, as a meddlesome proceeding. But I read the following sweeping denunciation:—

“If in a numerous class of eye-affections the vision cannot be saved except by iridectomy, those gentlemen who do not perform iridectomy must sacrifice a large number of their patients’ eyes to the non-performance of it. Indeed, Mr. Bowman tells them that they do in fact, by not performing iridectomy, leave their patients thus untreated, and so subject them to irreparable loss of vision.” (BRIT. MED. JOUR., Dec. 19th, 1863.)

I therefore feel, for the sake of humanity’s vision, that it is my duty to investigate the subject further; and if Mr. Bowman will kindly make me the same offer as he did to Mr. Walton, viz., to show me his patients “before and after an iridectomy properly performed,” I will promise him to go in an unbiased condition, and shall only be too glad if he can convert me to iridectomy as a cure for glaucoma, as for some time I have abandoned the operation, and if I remain unconverted, my conscience will then be easy; having satisfied myself that the patients under my care with this disease have not been consigned to blindness through my excluding them from this operation, as the advocates for iridectomy would have the profession believe that vision suffers, or is permanently lost, through the non-performance of iridectomy.

I am, etc., JOHN WOOLCOTT.

Surgeon to the Kent County Ophthalmic Hospital.

11, Brook Street, Grosvenor Square, Jan. 11th, 1864.

MR. SKEY has formally retired from the office of Surgeon to St. Bartholomew’s Hospital.

LUNACY CERTIFICATES. Last week, a gentleman appeared before a magistrate in London, asking for protection against a relative who was violent. There was, it appears, no doubt of his being deranged, but the medical men who had seen him declined to give certificates of his lunacy in consequence of the actions lately brought against medical men. We recommend the above fact to the consideration of Mr. Charles Reade, and of Mr. Charles Dickens.

## Medical News.

### APPOINTMENTS.

- \*BURROWS, George, M.D., F.R.S., elected President of the Medical Council.
- CLARKE, William F., Esq., elected Surgeon to the West London Hospital.
- EADE, P. M.D., appointed Physician to the Jenny Lind Infirmary for Children, Norwich.
- FERNANDEZ, Albert L., Esq., appointed Resident Medical Officer to the Sheffield General Dispensary.
- GIBSON, Robert E., Esq., appointed Surgeon to the Jenny Lind Infirmary for Children, Norwich.
- \*GUY, Tom, M.D., appointed Deputy Coroner for Doncaster.
- \*LOGAN, David D., M.D., elected Physician to the West London Hospital.
- \*MAUDSLEY, Henry, M.D., elected Physician to the West London Hospital.
- \*PAGET, George E., M.D., appointed Physician to Addenbrooke’s Hospital Cambridge.
- PATERSON, William, M.D., elected House-Surgeon to the Chorley Dispensary.
- SEABROOKE, William, Esq., appointed House-Surgeon to the Brighton and Hove Lying-in Institution.
- WHITE, Charles, Esq., appointed Surgeon to the Dispensary, Warrington.

### POOR-LAW MEDICAL SERVICE.

- CAMPBELL, Alexander, L.F.P. and S. Glasg., to the parishes of Bracadale and Duinish, Inverness-shire.
- HUBBARD, John P., Esq., to the Sixth District of the Bury St. Edmund’s Incorporation of the Poor.
- HUGOE, William P., Esq., to the West Kenwyn and Kea Districts of the Truro Union.
- MAHOOD, George, M.D., to the Workhouse and Fever Hospital of the Enniskillen Union.
- MOORE, David, M.D., to the Dock Dispensary District of the Belfast Union.

### ARMY.

- COCKBURN, Assistant-Surgeon J. B., M.D., Royal Artillery, to be Surgeon Royal Engineers, *vice* J. Summers, M.D.
- GIRAUD, Assistant-Surgeon B. T., M.D., Supernumerary 31st Foot, to be Staff-Assistant-Surgeon, *vice* C. D. Madden.
- MACPHERSON, Staff-Surgeon F. M., to be Staff-Surgeon-Major, having completed 20 years’ full-pay service.
- MADDEN, Staff-Assistant-Surgeon C. D., to be Assistant-Surgeon Royal Artillery, *vice* J. B. Cockburn, M.D.
- SUMMERS, Surgeon-Major J. M.D., Royal Engineers, to be Staff-Surgeon-Major, *vice* W. A. White, M.D.
- WHITE, Staff-Surgeon W. A., M.D., to be Surgeon Royal Artillery, *vice* T. Rhys.

### ROYAL NAVY.

- LITTLE, John, Esq., Surgeon, to the *Duncan*.
- MAXWELL, H., M.D., Assistant-Surgeon, to the *Duncan*.
- MILNE, James G., Esq., Acting Assistant-Surgeon, to the *Duncan*.
- NELSON, Thomas, Esq., Staff-Surgeon, to the *Wellesley*.
- POTTINGER, Robert, Esq., Staff-Surgeon, to the *Formidable*.

### VOLUNTEERS. (A.V.=Artillery Volunteers; R.V.= Rifle Volunteers):—

- ELY, J. J., Esq., to be Assistant-Surgeon 9th Kent R.V.
- TYRER, R., Esq., to be Honorary Assistant-Surgeon 2nd Lancashire Light Horse Volunteers.

### DEATHS.

- ARMITAGE. On January 5th, at Upper Montagu Street, aged 10 months, James L., son of T. R. Armitage, M.D.
- BROWN. On January 6th, at Rutland Street, Edinburgh, Catherine Scott, wife of John Brown, M.D.
- GEORGE. On January 10th, at Bath, aged 22, Florence, daughter of \*R. F. George, Esq.; and, on January 11th, aged 51, Elizabeth, his wife.
- GREGORY. On January 10th, at Leigh, Kent, aged 56, Martha, wife of \*C. F. Gregory, sen., Esq.
- HANNAT, James L., M.D., of Brighton, on January 10.
- HARMAN, Edward B., M.D., at Veetling Rectory, aged 61, on Jan. 6.
- JAMES, Joseph W. W., Esq., Surgeon, at Nelson Terrace, Stoke Newington, aged 37, on January 9.
- NEWBIGGING, Patrick S. K., M.D., at Edinburgh, on January 10.
- PAXTON. On January 5th, at Oxford, Anne, widow of the late \*James Paxton, M.D.
- REEVE. On January 10th, at Brompton, aged 76, Susanna, widow of Henry Reeve, M.D., late of Norwich.
- STAG, James A., Esq., late Surgeon Bengal Medical Staff, at Clifton Terrace, Maida Hill, aged 51, on January 8.
- TAPSON. On January 5th, at 35, Gloucester Gardens, Anne E., wife of Alfred J. Tapson, M.B.

**AN ENGLISH STUDENT.** Mr. Alan Herbert has this year come out first in the *Concours* for the appointment of Dressers to the Paris Hospitals.

**ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS.** Dr. G. Johnson, during the present session, will deliver lectures at the College of Physicians on the Laryngoscope.

**ICE, IN SEA-SICKNESS.** Ice is recommended as a sure remedy as well as a prophylactic against sea-sickness. (*Phil. Med. Reporter.*)

**A MEMORIAL** has been presented to the Free City Hospital of Boston, by eight hundred persons of all professions, asking that a part of the hospital may be devoted to homœopathy.

Mr. GREEN's death has caused three vacancies in the College of Surgeons, viz.: in the Council of the College; in the Court of Examiners, and at the Dental Examining Board.

**RIGHTS OF REGISTERED DOCTORS OF MEDICINE.** Dr. Sumpter states that, a County Court judge has ruled that registered M.D.'s could recover for surgical as well as medical attendance.

**MORTALITY OF PUBLICANS.** The mortality betwixt the ages of 45 and 55 amongst the whole population of England is at the rate of 18 in the 1,000; while amongst publicans it is 23. (*Tweedie's Temperance Almanack.*)

**MISTAKEN IDENTITY.** Dr. Parigot has met with what turned out to be an amusing *episode de voyage*. Travelling through Ohio he was arrested by the Provost-Marshal, and his aids, as *John Morgan*, and his two travelling companions as John Morgan's officers. The Doctor, after considerable trouble, proved his identity.

**AMERICAN MEDICAL SCHOOLS.** Everywhere, the medical schools of our country are entering upon a prosperous winter. There are between four and five hundred students at each of the old schools of Philadelphia, and we have a like report from the schools at New York city. The Bellevue Hospital Medical College will, we learn, have a class of about three hundred. (*Clin. Lancet and Obs.*)

**THE FAMOUS MEDIUM, MR. HOME,** is, we learn, at present engaged at Rome in practising the art of the sculptor. Having, we must suppose, failed in the trade of evoking the spirits of the departed by the aid of table-rapping, or having worked the trade out, he now turns to the more rational business of attempting to evoke "living" likenesses of the present generation out of the bowels of the earth by marble-rapping. This is certainly a descent of his genius.

**A CHIROPODIST'S BUSINESS.** Last week, at the Sheriff's Court, Red Lion Square, a claim for compensation was made for £4790 for the loss of the business of a "Chiropodist," in the Marylebone Road, through the obstructions caused by the Underground Railway. According to the evidence of the claimant, she made £15 a week, in the season of four months, by corn-cutting, and averaged £3 a week for the remainder of the year. For two years and more the works of the company had obstructed her business, and prevented her carriage people from coming to her house. She, in consequence, became bankrupt, and had passed through the court. The chiropodist business was carried on in the name of "Hayward," and the income had been about £800 a year. The jury retired, and on their return assessed the damages at £530.

**THE BATTLE OF THE CHLORODYNES.** *Browne v. Freeman.* In this case, on January 11th, his Honour the Vice Chancellor said that, in this case the simple question was, whether the defendant had infringed

the right of the plaintiff as the inventor of a medicine well known as Dr. John Collis Browne's "Chlorodyne." It appeared that subsequently to 1844, when the plaintiff first made his medicine known, the defendant published advertisements intimating that he was selling "Freeman's Chlorodyne," on a large scale, upon which the plaintiff filed his bill, but subsequently abandoned it. The defendant afterwards advertised for sale "The Original Chlorodyne," and the plaintiff now complained that this was a clear invasion of his rights, as the medicine first became known as his (the plaintiff's) invention. His Honour said that he had very great suspicion as to the motives and views of the defendant in the course which he had adopted, but that the evidence on the part of the plaintiff was defective in many material respects. He should, under the circumstances, order the motion to stand over until the hearing of the cause.

**HEALTH OF THE FEDERAL SOLDIERS.** Statistics published by the United States, confirm the fact that no general is able to kill by the sword as many of the enemy as there will be killed by disease of his own men in a prolonged campaign. The deaths occasioned by wounds in this civil war have amounted to only 17·2 per 1000 in a year; but the rate of mortality from sickness has been 50·4 per 1000. Thus for every man killed by the enemy nearly three die of disease. If soldiers were struck down at the rate of 67 in the 1000 annually, the loss would be very far less serious than that which proceeds from sickness and wounds. The man who cannot move from his tent is, for the time, more than dead, since he requires others to wait upon him. Napoleon, perhaps, more than any other General paid the greatest attention to the health of his troops. But when his men fell sick, he would rather leave them to die than stay to treat them, once the real work of the campaign commenced. In round figures, if the United States had an army of 300,000 in the field, they may calculate upon having to doctor each man three times over during the 12 months, exclusive of the treatment needed by the wounded.

**INSANE PAUPERS.** An annual return just issued by the Poor Law Board shows that on January 1st, 1863, there were in England and Wales (exclusive of seven Gilbert's incorporations making no return) 36,158 insane paupers—3·17 per cent. of the whole number of paupers—namely, 23,032 lunatics and 13,126 idiots. 15,790 were males, 20,363 females; 19,127 were in county or borough lunatic asylums, 1,418 in registered hospitals or in licensed houses, 9,208 in workhouses, 973 in lodgings or boarded out, and 5,432 were residing with their relatives. In the metropolis, out of 106,407 paupers, no less than 5,701 were insane; in the south-western counties, with a rather larger number of paupers, the insane were only 3,635; in the west midland counties, with almost precisely the same total number of paupers as in the south-western, the insane were 4,631. In Wales the insane were only 2,349 in a total of 80,547, and in the eastern counties only 2,368 in 81,279.

**AN OLD TALE: A CHILD POISONED BY MISTAKE.** At Wigan, an inquest was lately held on an infant whose death had been occasioned by a dose of laudanum administered by mistake for rhubarb. A messenger was sent to Mr. Kellett, for threepennyworth of tincture of rhubarb. A mixture was served by Mr. Kellett himself, of which half a teaspoonful was given to the deceased. Strange symptoms being manifested, a surgeon was sent for, and he discovered that the vial contained about one ounce of pure laudanum. The child died in a few hours. The druggist said he could not account for the mistake. The verdict of the jury was "that death had resulted from a dose of laudanum given in mistake, and Mr. Kellett was ex-

operated from criminal liability;" but the foreman desired to say, in the name of the jury, that in their opinion bottles containing poisonous drugs ought, under no circumstances, to be near those containing medicines in hourly requisition. They thought, too, that labels ought to be in English, and plainly printed, so that mistakes should be less liable to occur.

## Varieties.

**COMPOUND SYRUP OF SQUILL.** Take of squill in moderately coarse powder, seneka in moderately fine powder, each four troyounces; tartrate of antimony potassa, forty-eight grains; sugar, in coarse powder, forty-two troyounces; diluted alcohol water, each a sufficient quantity. Mix the squill and seneka, and, having moistened the mixture with half a pint of diluted alcohol, allow it to stand for an hour. Then transfer it to a conical percolator, and pour diluted alcohol upon it until three pints of tincture have passed. Boil this for a few minutes, evaporate it by means of a water-bath to a pint, add six fluidounces of boiling water, and filter. Dissolve the sugar in the filtered liquid, and, having heated the solution to the boiling point, strain it while hot. Then dissolve the tartrate of antimony and potassa in the solution while still hot, and add sufficient boiling water, through the strainer, to make it measure three pints. Lastly, mix the whole thoroughly together. (*Amer. Pharm.*)

**FRENCH VINEGAR.** Almost all the vinegar of the north of France being prepared at Orleans; the manufacture of that place has acquired such celebrity as to render the process worthy of a separate consideration. The Orleans casks contain nearly four hundred pints of wine. Those which have been already used are preferred. They are placed in three rows, one over the other, the upper ones having an aperture of two inches diameter kept always open. The wine for acetification is kept in adjoining casks containing beech shavings, to which the lees adhere. The wine thus clarified is drawn off to make vinegar. One hundred pints of good vinegar, boiling hot, are first poured into each cask and left there for eight days, ten pints of wine are mixed in every eight days till the vessels are full, and the vinegar is allowed to remain in this state fifteen days before it is exposed for sale. The manufacturers at Orleans prefer wine of a year old for making vinegar; but if the wine has lost its extractive matter by age, it does not readily undergo the acetous fermentation. (*Watts's Chemistry.*)

**AGES OF THE NOBILITY, ETC.** We find from *Who's Who* in 1864 that the oldest duke is the Duke of Cleveland, aged 75; the youngest, the Duke of Norfolk, aged 16; the oldest marquis, the Marquis Westmeath, aged 78; the youngest, the Marquis of Ely, aged 14; the oldest earl (since the death of the Earl of Charlemont, on December 26th, aged 88) is the Earl of Stair, aged 87; the youngest, the Earl of Charleville, aged 11; the oldest viscount, Viscount Combermere, aged 90; the youngest, Viscount Downe, aged 19; the oldest baron is Lord Brougham, aged 85; the youngest, Lord Rossmore, aged 12; the oldest member of the Privy Council is Viscount Combermere, aged 90; the youngest, the Prince of Wales, aged 22; the oldest member of the House Commons is General the Hon. Sir Hugh Arbuthnot, member for Kincardineshire, aged 84; the youngest is the Hon. Charles R. D. H. Tracy, member for Montgomery, aged 23; the oldest judge in England is the Right Hon. Stephen Lushington, aged 81; the youngest, Sir James P. Wilde, aged 47; the oldest judge in Ireland is Chief Justice Lefroy, aged 87; the

youngest, Justice Keogh, aged 46; the oldest Scotch Lord of Sessions is the Lord Justice General, aged 70; the youngest, the Lord Justice Clerk, aged 53; the oldest archbishop is the Archbishop of Canterbury, aged 69; the youngest, the Archbishop of York, aged 44; the oldest bishop is the Bishop of Exeter, aged 86; the youngest, the Bishop of Gloucester and Bristol, aged 44; the oldest colonial bishop is the Bishop of Toronto, aged 84; the youngest, the Bishop of Nassau, aged 37; the oldest baronet is Sir William W. Dalling, aged 89; the youngest, Sir George R. Sitwell, aged 3; the oldest civil or military knight is General Sir Arthur B. Clifton, aged 91; the youngest, Sir Charles T. Bright, aged 31.

**THE SENSATION NOVELIST AND MAD DOCTORS.** Mr. Reade concentrates his attack upon doctors generally into an attack upon the mad doctors. Mr. Reade has facts to go upon, and we are ready to believe that cruel wrongs are sometimes committed by the incarceration as lunatics of persons who are perfectly sane. But Mr. Reade, while professing to adhere to matter of fact, cannot help generalising. Getting hold of a few facts, and putting these into the form of fiction, he so works up a story that the incautious reader is apt to imagine mad doctors to be scientific scoundrels, lunatic asylums to be a refined sort of Tophet, and the Commissioners in Lunacy and Visiting Justices to be a flock of sheep. This is the untruthful exaggeration of fact jumbled with fiction; an untruthfulness of which Mr. Reade could not be guilty if he were to state his accusations broadly in general terms. No matter on how many facts it may be founded, there is in every fiction an implication which Mr. Reade has not taken into account when he stated his facts against the private lunatic asylums in the form of fable. He has in this respect overshot his mark, and runs a risk of having his views thrust aside as the hallucinations of an eccentric genius. Our private asylums are not perfect, and the methods of admission into them require to be revised. If Mr. Reade will state his case as it ought to be stated, and will point out the remedies, the public will gladly listen to him; but a novel is a suspicious mode of agitation, and, though it may excite some inquiry, is not likely to effect any reform. (*Times.*)

**MODERN MEDICAL KNOWLEDGE.** "Botany, I find, has become one of the most oppressive weights on a student's mind. Indeed, the mere terminology for describing the differences of its microscopical objects has swollen into volumes of formidable dimensions. In human anatomy the expansion of ideas has been no less remarkable. Dr. Barclay used to compare modern anatomists with the stubble geese which gathered the grains left by the reapers—such as Vesalius and Fallopius, and the gleaners under whom he ranked the Hunters and Monros. But the anatomists of our day have far surpassed the stubble geese, since, not satisfied with what was found on the surface, they have turned up the soil, sifted and scrutinised it, in order to discover, if they could, how it made the corn grow. In other words, by means of their microscopes, they have opened up an entirely new field of inquiry, and thus extended their researches far beyond what the wildest imagination could have anticipated. In the practical subjects there has been a corresponding development; and while we found sufficient difficulty with our three continued fevers of synochus, synocha, and typhus, my colleague the Professor of Practical Medicine has placed in the hands of his pupils a printed list of no fewer than eight hundred fevers! All the other departments of medicine having been enlarged in a proportionate degree, it is impossible for any one mind to comprehend the whole; and no time being left for observation or reflection, the edu-

cation for our profession has become an effort of memory rather than a process of mental training." (*Mr. Syme on Medical Education.*)

### OPERATION DAYS AT THE HOSPITALS.

MONDAY.....Metropolitan Free, 2 P.M.—St. Mark's for Fistula and other Diseases of the Rectum, 1.15 P.M.—Samaritan, 2.30 P.M.  
TUESDAY....Guy's, 1½ P.M.—Westminster, 2 P.M.  
WEDNESDAY...St. Mary's, 1 P.M.—Middlesex, 1 P.M.—University College, 2 P.M.—London, 2 P.M.  
THURSDAY....St. George's, 1 P.M.—Central London Ophthalmic, 1 P.M.—Great Northern, 2 P.M.—London Surgical Home, 2 P.M.—Royal Orthopaedic, 2 P.M.  
FRIDAY.....Westminster Ophthalmic, 1.30 P.M.  
SATURDAY....St. Thomas's, 1 P.M.—St. Bartholomew's, 1.30 P.M.—King's College, 1.30 P.M.—Charing Cross, 2 P.M.—Lock, Clinical Demonstration and Operations, 1 P.M.—Royal Free, 1.30 P.M.

### MEETINGS OF SOCIETIES DURING THE NEXT WEEK.

MONDAY. Medical Society of London, 8.30 P.M. Mr. Spencer Watson. "On Inflammation of the Cornea, and the Influence of Morbid Secretions on the Mucous Surfaces of the Eye."

### TO CORRESPONDENTS.

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

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

DR. BADER.—We shall be glad to insert any remarks of Dr. Bader's touching iridectomy; but we cannot insert letters tainted with personalities. Above everything, we desire to keep this very important controversy in the upper regions of honourable and scientific inquiry.

MEDICAL AND SURGICAL WIT.—A well-known medical wit asked a friend: "Why did the young prince come into the world in a state of poverty?" And "answering the question which himself had asked," said: "Because he began life with only a single Brown." On hearing which, a celebrated surgeon immediately added: "Not Far(re) fetched."

OUR PROFESSION.—The following is from the *Liverpool Daily Post*. Dr. Smyth's usefulness and benevolence will be appreciated by the whole profession, we doubt not.

"The Roscoe Street Hospital for Skin Diseases. The annual report of Dr. Smyth, the medical officer of the above institution, and, indeed, its only support, as it is maintained at the sole cost of that gentleman, has just been issued. The report states that when the hospital was established in 1863, it was the only one in any town in England, except the metropolis, devoted to the treatment of cutaneous maladies; and the number of out-patients treated successfully during the past year, as well as the still increasing numbers of those presenting themselves weekly for treatment, attest not only to its past utility, but its further requirement. Nearly all the out door patients belonged to the labouring classes, who, were it not for this hospital, would possibly have had to relinquish their employment, and, whilst becoming chargeable to the parish, would have impoverished their families."

HIPPURIC ACID IN HUMAN URINE.—Dr. Thudichum, in a paper read to the Chemical Society on the Physiological Variations of Hippuric Acid in Human Urine, summed up his researches with the statement that, under various conditions of health and disease, the amount of hippuric acid found in man's urine furnished no pathological conclusions of any value, since the variations were influenced greatly by the kind of food taken, much more so, indeed, than by many of the abnormal circumstances, the effects of which had been studied. (*Chemical News.*)

FALSE "BARKS".—According to Mr. Howard, a fraud is now practised by bark merchants, who send to this country barks which bear a most deceptive resemblance to Calisaya, and also mix the roots of the Calisaya with Bolivian bark. These frauds, Mr. Howard says, show the importance to us of the cultivation of cinchona barks in India. (*Chemical News.*)

PRECEDENCE OF PHYSICIANS.—SIR: In the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL of March 8th, 1862, I find the following statement of Dr. H. Pitman, Registrar of the College of Physicians. "No physician, as such, can properly be said to have rank or title; no claim to these being recognised by authorities treating of precedence, except as founded on the possession of an University degree." Coming from such high authority as the accomplished Registrar of the College of Physicians, the above statement has much weight, and deserves our respectful consideration; nevertheless, the rank and title of physicians are recognised by very high authorities treating of precedence. I quote from the *Encyclopædia Britannica*, last edition, as being of high authority, and the most recent one upon the subject. The articles on Heraldry, etc., I should state, are by T. W. King, Esq., F.A.S., York Herald, Herald's College.

*Esquires.* "The following also are reputed esquires:—Officers of the Queen's Court and Household; officers of the army and Navy, down to captains in the army, inclusive; doctors of law, etc.; sergeants and counsellors at law; physicians; justices of the peace, while in commission; and the sheriffs of counties for life. The heads of many families are esquires by prescription."

Upon turning to the table of precedence, I find the following order observed:—

*Doctors* (of the Universities).

*Esquires* (including physicians, barristers, etc.).

*Gentlemen* (including surgeons, attorneys, etc.).

December 1863.

I am, etc., A PHYSICIAN.

USE OF METHYLATED SPIRIT.—The editor of the *Chemical News*, in answer to the question whether or no any harm results from the use of sweet spirit of nitre made with methylated spirit, says:—"We have already expressed a strong opinion against the use of methylated spirit for any but external applications; nevertheless, we are bound to say that we never heard of any harm resulting from the use of methylated nitre, which is employed in some of our hospitals. Methylated nitre cannot be considered an adulterated article."

COMMUNICATIONS have been received from:—Dr. JAMES WILLIAMS; Dr. A. T. H. WATERS; Mr. R. S. FOWLER; Mr. J. KENT SPENDER; Dr. C. BADER; Mr. J. DIXON; Mr. WOOLCOTT; Dr. T. GUY; Dr. W. B. MUSSET; Mr. W. A. BURROWS; Mr. WILLIAM ROWMAN; Dr. MARTIN; Dr. CHAMBERS; THE REGISTRAR OF THE MEDICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON; Mr. DAYMAN; Mr. HUSBAND; Dr. C. HOLMAN; Mr. BOWLES; Mr. M. B. HILL; Mr. JABEZ HOGG; and Mr. W. M. BAKER.

### BOOKS RECEIVED.

1. Military Surgery. By George Williamson, M.D. London: 1863.
2. Seventeenth Report of St. Mark's Ophthalmic Hospital. Dublin: 1863.
3. Consumption: its Causes, etc. By S. Fletcher, M.D.
4. Braithwaite's Retrospect. July to December 1863.
5. Transactions of the Odontological Society of Great Britain. Vol. III. 1863.
6. The Second Step in Chemistry: or, the Student's Guide to the Higher Branches of the Science. By Robert Galloway, F.C.S. London: 1864.
7. Anatomy, Descriptive and Surgical. By Henry Gray, F.R.S. Third edition. By T. Holmes, M.A. London: 1864.
8. Observations on the Present State of Medical Education. By James Syme, F.R.S.E. Edinburgh: 1864.
9. Medical Morphology. By M. T. Masters. London: 1864.

### ADVERTISEMENTS.

#### Prize Designs.—"As affording

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