

LORD ROSSE is famous for his telescope; and Mr. Ross, following worthily in the steps of his father, is famous for his microscope. The former dissected out the ninety nebulae for us, and turned out of the confusion good honest fixed stars; and, if what we hear is correct, Mr. Ross's ingenuity may perhaps enable the skilled observer to perform something of this same dissecting operation on what we are at present pleased to call ultimate tissue-structures; and thus the widening of the macrocosmic may perchance be followed by an extension of the microcosmic horizon. At the request of Dr. Lionel Beale, Mr. Ross has lately produced the highest power of lens ever yet obtained. Hereby Dr. Beale has been enabled to investigate matter with a power of one-twenty-sixth of an inch! How if we all have to go to school again, in consequence of this high microscopic power? Who knows what is to become of the *elementary* (?) structures of the human frame when subjected to this unwonted force? Are the striæ of muscles, for instance, as we now see them, mere nebulae, decomposable by this potent spirit into some more wonderful forms? However this may be, the best thanks of the profession are due to Dr. Beale for the energy with which he has long been working in this deep and hidden region of anatomy.

Association Intelligence.

BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION: ANNUAL MEETING.

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

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

Worcester, March 27th, 1861.

BRANCH MEETINGS TO BE HELD.

NAME OF BRANCH.	PLACE OF MEETING.	DATE.
BATH AND BRISTOL. General.	York House, Bath.	Thurs. April 25, 6.45 P.M.
SOUTH-EASTERN. Annual.	Crystal Palace.	Wed., May 8, 3 P.M.

SEALS AND WHALES. "The pursuit of the seals and cetaceans by the civilized races of Europe and America, carried on with systematic perseverance and the appliances of science, must eventually drive these animals from their more accessible haunts to the extreme recesses of the polar area. Already the formerly highly productive seas of Spitzbergen and Davis's Straits are almost fished out, and the inlets and channels in the *Meta Incognita* Archipelago have been invaded by the whalers. At present the *Meta Incognita* islands are among the most densely-peopled Eskimo areas; but should the seals and whales, which are eagerly pursued there by Europeans, be driven to remove elsewhere, the natives, after much suffering, must also abandon their ancient seats." (*Sir J. Richardson.*)

Reports of Societies.

ROYAL MEDICAL & CHIRURGICAL SOCIETY.

TUESDAY, APRIL 9TH, 1861.

B. G. BABINGTON, M.D., F.R.S., President, in the Chair.

OBSERVATIONS ON THE GROWTH OF THE LONG BONES AND OF STUMPS.

BY G. M. HUMPHRY, M.D., F.R.S.

THE *first* part of this paper gave the results of some experiments with madder upon the bones of pigs with reference to the mode of growth of the bones in length. They were confirmatory of the observations by Hales, Duhamel, Hunter, and others, that the elongation is effected by addition at the ends of the shafts, the addition being effected by growth and ossification of the epiphysal strata of cartilage on the side next to the shaft. The experiments further showed that the growth at the two ends of the shaft is unequal; that it is usually most rapid at the larger end of the bone; and that it is always the most rapid at the end where the epiphysal cartilage remains latest—that is to say, the growth proceeds most rapidly at the end where it is longest continued. The proper relation of the soft parts to the bone during the periods of growth is maintained by the interstitial growth of the periosteum, and by the continual sliding or shifting of that membrane upon the bone towards the end at which the growth is most rapid. This is attended with a certain traction upon the medullary and other vessels, and determines the direction of the canal for the medullary artery, which is always slanted towards that epiphys which is last ossified to the shaft; in other words, towards that epiphysal line in which growth proceeds most quickly. The amount of growth in the respective epiphysal lines is very determined, and corresponds exactly on the two sides of the body, though that on the one side is not affected by the other; and it appears to regulate the amount of growth of the soft parts; for if it be either arrested or accelerated, the growth of the soft parts is affected in a similar manner.

In the *second* part of the paper the author showed the common impression, that a stump keeps pace with the rest of the body in its growth, to be erroneous. He did this by measurements taken from persons who had undergone amputation in childhood, and by experiments upon animals. The rate of growth varies. The stump rarely maintains its relation to the corresponding segment of the other limb; and it fails to do so, as might be expected, most markedly in those parts in which the growth of the bone takes place chiefly at the lower end. Thus, if amputation in the thigh be performed, on a young child, one-third from the lower end, the stump, when full growth has been attained, will not be more than a third as long as the other thigh; its relative length will have thus been altered from two-thirds to one-third—that is, it will not have grown more than half as fast as the other thigh. The information derived from the measurements of stumps was thus shown to be quite corroborative of the observations made, in the first part of the paper, respecting the growth of the bones at their epiphysal lines. The instances in which the bone of a stump elongates so as to be troublesome and require a portion to be removed, are regarded by the author as quite exceptional, the phenomenon being probably due to some irritation, and being, therefore, of the same nature as the spicules and exostoses which are occasionally found upon stumps and on other parts of the skeleton.

Medical News.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF LONDON. At the Comitia Majora, held on Monday, April 15th, 1861, the following gentlemen, having undergone the necessary examination, and satisfied the College of their proficiency in the science and practice of medicine and midwifery, were duly admitted to practise physic as Licentiates of the College:—

Booth, John Gregory, Padham
Brooks, Bransby, Henley-on-Thames
Davey, Alexander George, St. Bartholomew's Hospital
Ellam, John, Sneinton, near Nottingham
Ewens, John, Milton Abbas, near Blandford
Foulds, Samuel, Staveley, near Chesterfield
Granville, Joseph Mortimer, Bristol
Jones, Philip W., Wakefield
Mead, George Berwick, Newmarket
Middleton, John William, Westminster Hospital
Pilkington, William Henry, Enfield, Accrington
Rayner, Thomas, M.D., Manchester
Savage, Thomas, Birmingham
Scott, Henry Thomas, 7, Bedford Place, Old Kent Road
Thompson, Charles, Leicester
Turton, Frederick, Wolverhampton
Wardward, William, Worcester

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND. The following gentlemen, having undergone the necessary examinations for the diploma, were admitted members of the College at a meeting of the Court of Examiners, on April 10th. [Those gentlemen with an asterisk prefixed to their names have also passed the preliminary examination for the Fellowship of the College.]

Angier, George Augustus, Ipswich
Dollman, John, Birmingham
Ellis, Heber Dowling, Gloucester
Fenn, Edward, Ardleigh, Essex
Hartell, William Henry, Willenhall, Staffordshire
Howell, Horace Sydney, Ladbrooke Square, Notting Hill
Kenning, Edward, Morvenlaw, Cornwall
Langton, John, Denmark Hill
Lemon, Henry Morris, Welshpool
Macaulay, Francis Edwin, Sheffield
*Maurice, James Blake, Marlborough, Wilts
Oliver, Richard, Shrewsbury
Parker, Duncan, Clopton Hall, Suffolk
Pennington, Abel, Warrington, Lancashire
Skrimshire, John Truscott, Holt, Norfolk
*Stone, William Donnet, Lincoln's Inn Fields
Thorp, Sidney, Huntingdon
Walker, Bernard, Sheffield
Watson, Forbes, Nottingham
Wollaston, Thomas Galston, Shrewsbury

At the same meeting of the Court—

Fairbairn, William Christopher, of Greenwich Hospital, passed his examination for Naval Surgeon. This gentleman had previously been admitted a member of the Edinburgh College of Surgeons.

The following gentlemen were admitted on April 11:—

Bell, James Vincent, Rochester
Brown, John Woodruffe, Wymeswold, Loughborough
Caldwell, Samuel John Barry, London
Carter, Edward Hunt, Billericay, Essex
Curme, Decimus, Dorchester
Davv, Humphry, Penzance, Cornwall
Dudfield, Thomas Orme, Gloucester
Ferris, John Andrew, Calcutta
Finch, Henry, Newnham Crofts, near Cambridge
Foster, Philip, Leeds
Fowler, James, Winterton, Lincolnshire
Gardner, Sebastian Claude Throks, Highgate
Goldsmith, George Pocock, Brompton
Greenwell, Baker, Queen's Terrace, St. John's Wood
Harding, John Richard, Welbeck Street, Cavendish Square
Hensman, Frank Henry, Kimbolton, Hunts.
Langworthy, William Froude, Modbury, Devon
Matthews, William, Walsall, Staffordshire
Payne, William, Wallingford, Berkshire
*Powell, William, Dalston
Smart, John Naish, Bedminster, Bristol
Sutcliffe, Henry, Heptonstall, Yorkshire
Thomas, David Bowen, Newcastle Emlyn
Watson, William, Ledberg, Yorkshire
Whitmarsh, William Michael, Chippenham, Wilts
Wright, Thomas Poyntz, Tiverton, Devon

APPOINTMENTS.

COATES, Charles, M.D., elected Physician to the Bath United Hospital.
MURCHISON, Charles, M.D., appointed Physician to the London Fever Hospital, in the room of A. Tweedie, M.D., resigned.
MURRAY, J. Jardine, Esq., appointed Assistant-Surgeon to the Brighton Eye Infirmary.
NOOTT, William F., M.D., elected Physician to the Queen's Hospital, Birmingham, in the room of the late M. F. L. Andrews, M.D.
SHARPEY, William, M.D., Sec. R.S., appointed, by the Queen, a member of the General Council of Medical Education and Registration, in the room of the late W. Baly, M.D., F.R.S.
TAAFFE, R. P. B., Esq., appointed Surgeon to the Brighton Eye Infirmary.
TWEEDIE, A., M.D., F.R.S., appointed Consulting Physician to, and Vice-President of, the London Fever Hospital.

ROYAL ARMY. The following Staff-Surgeons at Fort Pitt Hospital are ordered by the Director-General to proceed to the undermentioned stations forthwith:—

ADAMS, Robert, M.D., to Aldershot.
ALCOCK, Nathaniel, Esq., to Portsmouth.
FAZDOWSKI, B. J., M.B., to Aldershot.
GILLESPIE, Franklin, M.D., to Dover.
HEATH, Robert E., M.D., to Dover.
HOPE, Samuel, Esq., to Aldershot.
JONES, W. H., M.D., to Colchester.
LAWLOR, D. W., Esq., to Dublin.
LEYER, R. C., Esq., to Aldershot.
MAUNSELL, Thomas, Esq., to Great Yarmouth.
QUINLAN, Patrick, Esq., to Portsmouth.
WHITE, S. G., M.D., to Parkhurst.
WILSON, F. R., M.B., to Plymouth.

ROYAL NAVY. The following appointments have been made:—

BURLEY, F. B., M.D., Acting Assistant-Surgeon, to the *Victory*, for Haslar Hospital.
DANN, Edward, M.D., Acting Assistant-Surgeon, to the *Victory*, for Haslar Hospital.
DUBUC, Emilius W., Esq., Acting Assist.-Surgeon, to the *Cossack*.
GRAHAM, William, Esq., Acting Assistant-Surgeon, to the *Impregnable*, for Plymouth Hospital.
JENKINS, Jas., Esq., Surgeon, to the Plymouth Division of Marines.
MULCARY, Edward, Esq., Acting Assistant-Surgeon, to the *Impregnable*, for Plymouth Hospital.
NELSON, Robert, Esq., Acting Assistant-Surgeon, to the *Victory*, for Haslar Hospital.
SHEPHERD, Charles D., Esq., Surgeon, to the *Imaum*.
THOMSON, William J., Esq., Acting Assistant-Surgeon, to the *Impregnable*, for Plymouth Hospital.

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

CLARKE, E., Esq., to be Surgeon Worcestershire Yeomanry Cavalry.
DEWAR, W., M.D., to be Surgeon 1st Life Mounted R.V.
DUNN, C., Esq., to be Surgeon 3rd Administrative Battalion Hampshire R.V.
HOARE, W. P., Esq., to be Surgeon 1st Brigade Kent A.V.
RODWELL, G., Esq., to be Surgeon 2nd Administrative Battalion Norfolk R.V.
WILLS, J. M., Esq., to be Assistant-Surgeon Royal Monmouthshire Militia.

To be Honorary Assistant-Surgeons:—

DICKIN, W. A. P., Esq., 5th Montgomeryshire R.V.
GAMBLE, S., Esq., 9th Cambridgeshire R.V.
GREFFITH, T. D., M.D., 1st Anglesey R.V.
MACKIE, J. W. R., M.D., 1st Life Mounted R.V.
SMITH, J. G., M.D., 11th Aberdeenshire R.V.
SMITH, R., Esq., 5th Elginshire R.V.

BIRTHS.

CORNWALL. On April 12th, at Ashcott, Somerset, the wife of *John Cornwall, Esq., of a daughter.
LOGAN. On April 12th, at Kettering, Northamptonshire, the wife of *James Logan, M.D., of a son.
TERRY. On April 17th, at Northampton, the wife of *Henry Terry, jun., Esq., of a daughter.

DEATHS.

ARDEN, Christopher, Esq., Surgeon, at Dorchester, aged 73, on April 6.
FOX. On April 10th, at Brislington, near Bristol, aged 81, Isabella, widow of the late Edward L. Fox, M.D.

ANATOMICAL PUN. Why is the ulna sometimes called the "*funny bone*?"—Because it is so near the *humerus*. (*Vanity Fair*.)

CONSUMPTION OF ARDENT SPIRITS. On Saturday, a return to Parliament was printed, showing that last year the duty paid on ardent spirits amounted to the sum of £9,702,807 : 3 : 9.

THE JARDIN DES PLANTES, in Paris, is about to be greatly enlarged by important additions being made to it from the Bois de Vincennes, which has become the property of the city of Paris.

THE CONSTITUTION OF SCAMMONY RESIN. The researches of H. Spigatis confirm the results obtained by Mayer, and also by Kosman, which proved the identity of the composition of the resins of scammony and jalap $C_{68}H_{56}O_{32}$. (*Chemical News*.)

DETERIORATION OF EGYPTIAN WHEAT. A report has been recently presented to the Paris Academy of Sciences on the deterioration of Egyptian wheat which has been going on during recent years. The causes are stated to be the want of new seed, and the bad quality of the land selected for sowing wheat.

CIVIL LIST PENSIONS have been granted (amongst others) £50 to Mrs. Henfrey, on account of her husband's (the late Professor Henfrey), contributions to anatomical and physiological botany. £50 to Mr. Curtis, F.L.S., in consideration of his scientific attainments and the merit of his works upon entomology, etc., and of the injury to his sight from his literary labours.

HEALTH OF THE ARMY. At the last inspection of the battalions in Colchester Camp, especial attention was given to the hospital and the condition of the invalids, and it was a matter of congratulation that the sanitary state of the camp was so good, the men in hospital not exceeding four per cent. upon the entire strength of the camp.

THE INCOME TAX. At the Statistical Society on the 16th inst., Mr. Sarjant read a paper on the Income Tax. The author maintained that it was a crying unfairness that the trader, the professional man, and the holder of a short annuity, should each pay the same as the landholder and the fundholder, whose incomes were permanent.

ORGANISMS CONTAINED IN WATER consist of animalculæ and animals of a larger size. We have in the New River water twenty-six species of these animals, in the Thames water twenty-nine species, and twenty-four species have been detected in the West Middlesex water, and so on, varying in number, in different waters. (*Dr. E. Frankland*.)

INFLUENCE OF SOLAR SPOTS ON THE MAGNETIC NEEDLE. Late observations prove that the magnetic needle experiences a daily average oscillation which increases or diminishes with the number of solar spots; whence M. Hansteen has endeavoured to fix the period of these spots at eleven years; but a sufficient number of years has not yet elapsed to enable us to verify the assertion.

A NEW CANADIAN DYE. Professor Lawson has prepared a new dye of great richness, in the Laboratory of Queen's College, Canada, from an insect, a species of *coccus*, found for the first time last summer on a tree of the common black spruce (*Abies nigra*, Poir.), in the neighbourhood of Kingston. This new dye closely resembles true cochineal, a most expensive colouring matter capable of being produced in warm countries only. (*Chemical News*.)

VACCINATION. The *Gazette* contains an intimation from the Privy Council-office that the Royal Public Dispensary of Edinburgh is henceforth recognised by the Privy Council as an Educational Vaccination Station, for the purposes of an order of December 1, 1859, for the conduct of educational vaccinating stations in England; and Dr. Husband, officiating at the Royal Public Dispensary as public vaccinator, is henceforth authorised to

give certificates, for the purposes of the order, to persons whom he, at the said station, shall have instructed or examined in vaccination.

THE LIVINGSTONE EXPEDITION. Letters have been received in Glasgow, by a gentleman, from Dr. Livingstone, the last communication being dated Feb. 6. The expedition had safely penetrated into the interior of Africa, and intercourse had been freely had with the natives. After remaining for some time prosecuting their search, they returned to the coast, and at the last date had arrived at the mouth of the Kongone, where their small steamer from England met them. All were well.

CIVIL SERVICE ESTIMATES. Under the head of education science, and art, the statement of the estimates for 1861-2, includes the subjoined items:—Public education, Great Britain, £803,794; science and art department, £111,484; public education, Ireland, £285,377; commissioners of education, Ireland (office expenses), £1275; University of London, £4995; universities, etc., in Scotland, £16,285; Queen's University in Ireland, £2336; Queen's Colleges, Ireland, £4800; Royal Irish Academy, £500; scientific works and experiments, £6620; Royal Geographical Society, £500; Royal Society, £1000. The increase under this head, as compared with last year, is £30,584.

A TALIAHOTIAN OPERATION! In the *Life and Opinions of Sir C. J. Napier*, by Sir W. Napier, Sir Charles says: "Hunter (General) who is here, told me a curious thing. Showing me a large sword, which cut off his arm at Burthpoor when leading the assault, he said, that on the rampart, a giant in complete armour, whirling this sword, met him. Hunter held up his sword in defence, but, to use his own words, the giant sent it with a *whirr* into the air. Hunter then held up the scabbard, but the blow went through it and his arm, just below the elbow, leaving merely a *bit of skin uncut*. He fell sitting, and held his severed arm in his right hand, while an officer tied a sash above the wound to stop the hæmorrhage; then a surgeon came up, put the *two ends together* and tied them, and they united."

DRUGS FROM SIAM. The balsamic resins of Siam deserve attention. The betel nut is extensively cultivated, to be used as a stimulant; and so is hemp, for the sake of its intoxicating and narcotic qualities, it being used in the preparation of "guncha," which has the same effects as opium; but a considerable quantity of opium of inferior quality is produced in the tributary provinces of Siam, on the China border. Elephants abound in the interior of Siam. The hides are sent to China, where, having undergone a process similar to that of obtaining gelatine, they are considered a delicacy. The horns of the rhinoceros are said to possess medicinal virtues. The Chinese likewise attach fanciful virtues, medicinal and invigorating, to the bones of tigers and crocodiles, and the hairy-covered young horns of the deer.

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE. Rumours are in circulation respecting the health of the Rev. John Stevens Henslow, Professor of Botany. He is now at his rectory, Hitcham, in Suffolk, in a state which forbids hope of recovery. He has taken a most affectionate leave of his school teachers and village botany class, and others with whom he has held kindly intercourse. Dr. Fisher, who for nearly sixteen years has discharged with ability his duties as physician to Addenbrooke's Hospital, announces his intention of resigning the office at Midsummer, partly because other avocations require his whole attention, and partly because he is of opinion that some other physician ought to have the opportunity of reaping the advantages afforded by so extensive a field of practice. The election of his successor will take place on the 13th of next month. Dr. Bayes, a follower

of Hahnemann, has started as a candidate. It is expected that the whole hospital staff will resign in a body in the event of Dr. Bayes being placed at the head of the poll.

A SPANISH HOSPITAL. The Hospital de la Princesa is much smaller, but is far better arranged than the General Hospital of Madrid; the arrangement being the same as at Lariboisière in Paris and in the Bordeaux Hospital, although on a smaller scale. It may be said to consist of separate hospitals, with a garden between each two of them, and with a covered walk connecting them together at one end. This covered walk passes around a courtyard, in which is the chapel. The chapel is a much more important item in Spain than in France. The wards were all exactly similar, each with twenty beds. In one which I entered there was a woman chanting a monotonous prayer or litany. There were *baths* here just as at home. This is an astonishing thing for Spain; but the greatest wonder of all was the shower-bath, which had a room to itself and seemed (to judge from the complication of the arrangements) to have been just invented by some Spanish genius, and not yet simplified by their practical men. The hospital was two stories high; the washing room and drying room were very nice and large. The nurses are sisters of charity. (*Med. and Surg. Rep.*)

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE. The examinations for Medical Degrees in the present term will commence on Monday, the 20th of May. Gentlemen, candidates for the degree of M.B., intending to offer themselves for examination, are requested to signify the same to the Regius Professor of Physic on or before the 6th of May, specifying whether they intend to offer themselves for the first or second examination only, or for both examinations for that degree. The classical subjects for the ensuing examinations for the M.B. degree are—Hippocrates:—The 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th sections of the Aphorisms; Aretæus:—"On the Causes and Symptoms of Acute Diseases." The first five chapters of the Second Book; Celsus:—The Second Book. Candidates will be required to satisfy the examiners in the portions selected from each of the above authors. Candidates must produce their certificates before admission to examination. Bachelors or Licentiates of Medicine, or Masters of Arts, desirous of proceeding to the degree of M.D. in the present term, are requested to communicate their intention without delay to the Regius Professor of Physic with a view to the arrangements necessary for their public exercises in the schools.

LUNACY REGULATION BILL. On Monday last, the House of Lords went into committee on this Bill. The Lord Chancellor said that it was of importance that lunatics should be regularly visited. He would propose, therefore, that instead of two medical visitors there should be but one, who should devote his whole time to the discharge of his duties. When this and some other amendments were introduced, he would propose that the Bill be printed and recommitted. The Earl of Shaftesbury thought the amendment indicated by the noble and learned lord would operate most beneficially. It was necessary that the medical officer should devote his time exclusively to the discharge of the duties entrusted to him under the Bill, and he hoped the House of Commons would provide for him a liberal remuneration. The Marquis of Westmeath regretted that no protection was given to lunatics who, though not dangerous, were yet unable to take care of themselves or their properties. Their lordships were acquainted with the case of a noble lord (Lord Kingston) which had recently been before the public. He believed that noble lord had been of unsound mind for nearly twenty years; and that, had he been taken care of in time, he might now have been in the receipt of £20,000 a year, instead of being reduced to the condition of a pauper. It was only in conse-

quence of his being seen by a policeman straying into a railway tunnel, that he was brought under the protection of the law at all. After a few words from the Lord Chancellor, the House went into committee on the Bill, when the amendments suggested by the Lord Chancellor were agreed to.

QUEEN'S COLLEGE, BIRMINGHAM. There is now a certain prospect of entire relief from the embarrassment under which this institution has been labouring. Immediately after the meeting of creditors, Mr. Sands Cox placed in the hands of his solicitor, Mr. John Suckling, the necessary funds for payment of the first instalments to the creditors and of all claims under £5 in full, and the various amounts have been received by the creditors. At a recent meeting of the Council, on the motion of the Right Hon. the Principal the Earl of Lichfield, the thanks of the Council were presented to Mr. Cox, and a similar vote was also recorded by the creditors for the generous manner in which Mr. Cox has undertaken the payment in full of the trade debts of the College. It is hoped that the patrons and friends of the College and the promoters of education generally, will not allow Mr. Sands Cox to incur any considerable loss by his disinterested and responsible interference in the matter. The experience of the last twelve months has shown that under proper supervision excess of expenditure over income may for the future be avoided. Full six hundred medical practitioners in the midland districts, and upwards of one hundred in Birmingham, have been trained at the College. The Professor of Anatomy and the Professor of Chemistry, in King's College, London; the Professor of Surgery at the University of Wisconsin, United States; the founder of the British Hospital at Canton; and the only surgeon who obtained the Victoria Cross in the Crimean war; and another surgeon who received a medal and cross, and the Order of St. Maurice, from the King of Sardinia, for professional services rendered to his troops, are numbered amongst Queen's College students. We understand a subscription list has been opened, and that Mr. Cox has been already promised a fair amount of support. His friends will no doubt rally round him, and with their assistance he will, we trust, work out the philanthropic object he has in view—one which all parties must admit is creditable alike to that gentleman and the town in which the College chartered to wear a royal name has happened to be founded.

HEALTH OF LONDON DURING THE LAST QUARTER. In the thirteen weeks that ended on Saturday, March 30, the deaths registered in London were 18,965. In the corresponding quarter of the last year the number was 18,814. The high mortality that distinguished the first month of the present year, and filled the registers with 1709 and 1900 names in a week, was the result of exceedingly cold weather. When the season relaxed its rigour the deaths decreased, and in each of the last seven weeks the number was below the average, and towards the close of the quarter very considerably below it. Notwithstanding the cold of January, the mean temperature of the air in the quarter was 39.7°, which rather exceeds the average. Last quarter zymotic diseases numbered 3,674 deaths, against 3,380 in the winter quarter of 1860. A comparison of the two periods shows that while there has been a great decrease in the amount of fatal small-pox, and also a decrease in scarlatina and typhus, measles has become more prevalent, and a very great increase has occurred in whooping-cough and croup. Fatal cases of rheumatism and rheumatic fever have also been more numerous. On the other hand, influenza was decidedly less fatal than in the four previous corresponding quarters. Excluding phthisis from the account, the deaths from pulmonary complaints were 4,798, which is a very heavy contingent, but is less than it was in the same quarter of last

year, when the mean temperature was rather lower. Bronchitis raises the mortality, chiefly by attacking old persons; pneumonia is more confined to the young. The deaths from the former were 2,925, against 2,966 in the winter of 1860, and greatly exceeded the average; but those from the latter were 1250, against 1685 in the same period of last year, and were less than the average. The excess of mortality referred to whooping-cough, and which is mentioned above, furnishes an explanation of this result. But the cold season thinned the ranks, less of those of tender years, than of the aged and infirm. (*Registrar-General.*)

STATISTICS OF ROME. The correspondent of the *Standard*, deriving his information from tables published in the *Lombardia*, an Italian paper, states that the present population of the city of Rome, taken from the returns of last year, consists of 184,049 persons, distributed among 37,708 families. The variations in this respect, presented by a comparison of one year with another, are very striking. In 1775, under the pontificate of Pius VI, the population was 165,047, a higher number than had been attained in any age subsequent to the Imperial epoch, when it had been estimated at 1,200,000. In 1813 it had dwindled to 117,880. From that period a gradual rise is perceptible, subject, however, to certain drawbacks, as, for instance, in 1839, when as many as 16,000 persons fell victims to the cholera. In the revolutionary year 1848 the number of inhabitants was 179,006; and in 1849, the year of the Papal restoration it fell to 169,740. The average number of marriages every year is 1400, and the annual excess of births over deaths 600. The mean temperature in the winter is 6 degrees Réaumur (45 deg. F.), and in the summer 24 deg. R. (86 deg. F.). In the season of the greatest cold the thermometer occasionally falls to 2 and 3 degrees below zero (about 28 deg. and 25 deg. F.), and rises sometimes in summer as high as 30 deg. Much remains to be done towards the improvement of the sanitary conditions of the city of Rome, which at certain seasons of the year, as is known, are extremely unfavourable. Intermittent fevers, rheumatic disorders, gastric fever, and apoplexy, are, according to this statement, of the most frequent occurrence. The criminal statistics of the population show a notable preponderance of offences, accompanied with violence.

CORK MEDICAL PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION. A large meeting of this body, with several deputations from similar societies, was held on Saturday week, in the lecture-room of the Royal Cork Institution. The object of this meeting was to adopt the report of the last proceedings of the Association, and to pass various resolutions touching those bills now before Parliament which affect the medical profession. Dr. Mackesy stated that "One object to be looked for was a distinct medical department in the poor-law system, and if this point were gained it would be better alike for the sick poor and the profession. We should then have a Medical Director-General of Civil Hospitals, in place of a Medical Commissioner as at present, having on all medical subjects only one voice in three. The full responsibility of all medical arrangements would thus be placed on a medical gentleman, whose high honour and integrity we all value and respect, and who being in command, would be enabled to organise in the most efficient manner medical relief for the sick poor, for divided responsibility never answers, and who could employ the medical inspectors in sanitary and statistical inquiries in their respective districts, in examining the state of the appliances and medicines in the dispensaries and hospitals, and in seeing that properly-constructed ambulances were provided for the conveyance of patients; and not have the time of the inspectors frittered away in holding inquiries on frivolous complaints against medical officers, which should be investigated by the dispensary committees. It may also

be hoped that some arrangements may be made by which the operative classes, and the poorer classes of shopkeepers and farmers, may be accommodated, when, from disease or injury, they require hospital relief, without their feelings of independence and self-respect being destroyed by their being made the inmates of poorhouses." Resolutions to the following effect were carried:—"That the proposed Bill for the Registration of Births, Deaths, and Marriages is well calculated to secure a faithful record of statistics so much needed in Ireland."—"That the profession should be prepared with such evidence to lay before the Committee of the House of Commons as will lead to the removal of defects in the Medical Charities Act."—"That, if a Reform Bill is brought forward, a representation in the House of Commons for the medical profession should be demanded."—"That the Medical Registration Act is greatly deficient in its provisions; and that the law demands such changes as will render it protective of the interests of legally qualified medical practitioners, its provisions more stringent as to the preliminary and professional education of candidates for examination, and make that education uniform in the several schools of the United Kingdom."—"That, whilst the propriety of fair and open investigation into cases of *bona fide* complaint respecting professional neglect is freely admitted, the unjustifiable conduct of such parties as occasionally attempt to injure the characters of our professional brethren by vexatious and unfounded accusations cannot be too strongly denounced."

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF LONDON. The following were the questions submitted to the candidates at the recent examination for the license.

FIRST EXAMINATION. *Anatomy and Physiology.* 1. Describe the medulla oblongata of man. Mention the nerves which take their origin from it, and their presumable functions. 2. Describe the structure of the larger and smaller arteries; and explain how their structure is adapted to their functions. What is the true meaning of "arterial action"? 3. Describe the coats of the stomach; their general arrangement and minute structure. What are the characters of the gastric secretion; and what is its probable amount daily? 4. Describe the mechanism of respiration; and the changes it impresses on the air inspired. 5. Define, with reference to the surface of the body, the situation of the heart, aorta, liver, stomach, and spleen. 6. What is the function of the liver? *Chemistry, Materia Medica, and Practical Pharmacy.* 1. How would you proceed in order to determine the presence of albumen in the urine? State the sources of fallacy connected with each test. 2. Name the principal official caustics; explain their chemical action in each case; and give examples of the morbid conditions to which they are respectively adapted. 3. Describe the official iodides. State how they are prepared; and mention the impurities which they are liable to contain. 4. Describe the preparations of colchicum. What are the relative strengths of acetum colchici and vinum colchici, supposing the whole of the active principles to be taken up. 5. Enumerate the official substances which increase and which diminish the action of the bowels; classifying the former both according to their power and their mode of action.

SECOND EXAMINATION. *Principles and Practice of Medicine.* 1. What are the anatomical characters and symptoms of cirrhosis of the liver? How is its diagnosis to be made? 2. Describe the physical signs and local effects of a sacculated aneurism of the arch of the aorta. 3. Describe the general phenomena of hæmatemesis; its various causes; and give the characters which distinguish it from hæmoptysis. 4. Give the distinguishing characters of scarlet fever, diphtheria, and croup; and describe the treatment of those diseases respectively. 5. Describe the treatment of pneumonia.

6. State the various remedies recommended for the treatment of acute rheumatism and gout; and the doses of each. *Midwifery and the Diseases of Women.* 1. Describe the course of the head through the pelvis, in a case of face presentation. 2. Describe the various conditions upon which protracted labour depends, and point out the remedies suitable to each. 3. What are the different indications for the induction of premature labour? What are the different modes of inducing it, and the comparative advantages and disadvantages of each? 4. Describe the principal remedies employed in restraining uterine hæmorrhage; explain their modes of operation, and point out the particular circumstances under which each should be employed. 5. What is retroversion of the uterus? By what circumstances is it produced? and how is it treated? 6. Enumerate the different varieties of uterine polypus, and describe the seat and structure of each, with the symptoms to which they give rise.

OPERATION DAYS AT THE HOSPITALS.

MONDAY.....Royal Free, 2 P.M.—Metropolitan Free, 2 P.M.
TUESDAY. Guy's, 1½ P.M.—Westminster, 2 P.M.
WEDNESDAY... St. Mary's, 1 P.M.—Middlesex, 1 P.M.—University College, 2 P.M.—Royal Orthopædic, 2 P.M.
THURSDAY.... St. George's, 1 P.M.—Central London Ophthalmic, 1 P.M.—London, 1.30 P.M.—Great Northern, 2 P.M.—London Surgical Home, 2 P.M.
FRIDAY..... Westminster Ophthalmic, 1.30 P.M.
SATURDAY.... St. Thomas's, 1 P.M.—St. Bartholomew's, 1.30 P.M.—King's College, 1.30 P.M.—Charing Cross, 2 P.M.

MEETINGS OF SOCIETIES DURING THE NEXT WEEK.

MONDAY. Royal College of Physicians, 8.30 P.M.: Dr. Beale, "On the Structure and Growth of Tissues."—Medical, 8.30 P.M.: Dr. Symes Thompson, "On Progressive Muscular Atrophy."—Royal Geographical.
TUESDAY. Royal Medical and Chirurgical, 8.30 P.M.: Mr. John Birkett, "On Removing Primary Growths of Cancer in the Breast"; Mr. T. Ballard, "On a Previously Unobserved Preventible Cause of Idiocy, etc."—Zoological.—Antiquarian (Anniversary).
WEDNESDAY. Society of Arts, 8 P.M.: Mr. J. Bell, "On Coloured Statues; Colouring around Statues; and Painting and Statues."—Geological.—Royal Society of Literature.
THURSDAY. Royal.
FRIDAY. Royal Institution.
SATURDAY. Royal Botanical.

POPULATION STATISTICS AND METEOROLOGY OF LONDON—APRIL 13TH, 1861.

[From the Registrar-General's Report.]

	Boys..1012	Girls..992	Births.	Deaths.
During week.....			2004	1209
Average of corresponding weeks 1851-60			1723	1288

Barometer:
Highest (Tu.) 30.396; lowest (Sun.) 30.123; mean 30.259.
Thermometer:
Highest in sun—extremes (Th.) 111 degrees; (Sun.) 81 degrees.
In shade—highest (Fri.) 63.5 degrees; lowest (Th.) 28.6 degrees.
Mean—44.2 degrees; difference from mean of 43 yrs.—1.0 deg.
Range—during week, 34.9 degrees; mean daily, 20.8 degrees.
Mean humidity of air (saturation=100), 92.
Mean direction of wind, N.E.—Rain in inches, 0.00.

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.

ETHER versus CHLOROFORM.—On this subject, a correspondent writes to us as follows:—"Our medical brethren in America seem very busy at present in a thorough examination of the subject of the much debated immunity from danger which they claim for sulphuric ether as an anæsthetic as compared to chloroform. The Boston Society for 'Medical Improvement' (analogous to our Royal Society) has appointed a Committee of their chief men, including Jackson, Hodges, Hayward, Townsend, etc., to investigate the alleged deaths from inhalation of ether; and through their chief correspondent at this side of the Atlantic they request the assistance of the British Medical Association. They have sent this month circulars to all the leading medical schools in Europe, begging to be supplied with the particulars of any accident from ether, or chloroform and ether mixed; the place, time, and circumstance of the occurrence; with the mode of inhalation adopted; the period after inhalation at which death occurred, etc. The Committee in their communication refer with astonishment to the two last books which have reached America from London; in one of which (Mr. Erichsen's third edition), it is stated that no death has ever occurred in Europe from the administration of sulphuric ether; whereas, in the other (Dr. Kidd's *Manual*), so many as twenty deaths from ether are referred to as generally known in France, Germany, and Italy, to have happened. The Committee will consider it a great satisfaction to obtain the co-operation of the British Medical Association, as the question is really one of vast importance, now that over one hundred and fifty deaths have been tabulated from chloroform. A very valuable prize essay or report on the whole subject is promised, as the result of the inquiry."

THE KING AND QUEEN'S COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF IRELAND.—

SIR: Permit me to join with "Medicus" in soliciting the publication of your correspondent's letter, relating to the power of the King and Queen's College of Physicians to grant the Doctorate of M.D. I had fully determined to present myself for examination; but not being in possession of the requisite data to enable me to judge of the correctness of the opposing opinions, I was deterred from so doing. The publication of the passages of the Charter and Acts of Parliament, upon which the claim of the Irish College is founded, would be the most satisfactory mode of clearing up the present doubt—far more so than the mere opinions of any Council, however eminent.

I am, etc., M.R.C.P. Edin.

[We have received a similar request from "Blatta". Ed.]

TITLES.—SIR: The following bill was given me by the wife of the labourer to whom it is addressed:—

Mr. T (). To Dr. W ().

For professional attendance, August 1860..... £0 15 0

Payment of the above is immediately requested.

The sender is an M.B.Lond. Is he entitled to call himself doctor? I am, etc.,

East Sussex, April 15th, 1861. I. H. R., M.B. M.A.

SUBSCRIPTIONS.

THE following Laws of the Association will be strictly enforced:—

15. The subscription to the Association shall be One Guinea annually; and each member on paying his subscription shall be entitled to receive the publications of the Association of the current year. The subscriptions shall date from the 1st of January in each year, and shall be considered as due unless notice of withdrawal be given in writing to the Secretary on or before the 25th of December previous. If any member's subscription remain unpaid twelve months after it shall have become due, the publications of the Society shall be withheld from such member until his arrears be paid.

16. The name of no member shall remain on the books of the Association, whose arrears extend over three years; but the omission of the name from the list of members shall not be deemed, either in honour or equity, to relieve any member from his liability for the subscriptions due for the period during which he has availed himself of the privileges of membership.

PHILIP H. WILLIAMS, M.D., General Secretary.
Worcester, April 1861.

COMMUNICATIONS have been received from:—Mr. W. SANDS COX; Dr. JOHN ARMSTRONG; Dr. F. J. BROWN; Mr. W. COPNEY; Mr. R. C. HURST; Mr. H. LEE; Mr. P. MARTIN; Mr. J. CORNWALL; Dr. MURCHISON; Dr. HENTY; DELTA; Mr. R. P. B. TAAFE; Mr. H. TERRY, JUN.; Mr. T. M. STONE; Dr. C. HOLMAN; I. H. R.; Dr. LOGAN; Mr. ROBERTSON; Dr. MUNRO; Dr. SANDWITH; Mr. R. T. TASKER; Dr. COATES; and Dr. J. BULLAR.