

## Association Intelligence.

### BRANCH MEETINGS TO BE HELD.

NAME OF BRANCH.	PLACE OF MEETING.	DATE.
METROPOL. COUNTIES. [Special General.]	37, Soho Square.	Tuesday, Feb. 16, 4 P.M.
BATH AND BRISTOL. [Ordinary.]	Victoria Rooms, Clifton.	Thursday, Feb. 18, 7 P.M.

## Reports of Societies.

### ROYAL MEDICAL AND CHIRURGICAL SOCIETY.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 26TH, 1864.

W. FERGUSSON, Esq., Vice-President, in the Chair.

CLINICAL OBSERVATIONS ILLUSTRATING THE EFFECTS OF IMPLICATION OF THE PNEUMOGASTRIC NERVE IN ANEURISMAL TUMOURS AND MORBID GROWTHS. BY S. O. HABERSHON, M.D.

AFTER referring to the complex distribution of the pneumogastric nerve, and to the important symptoms of disease produced by the implication of its branches, the author proceeded to describe several cases of thoracic aneurism in which the branches of the recurrent laryngeal nerve, or the trunk of the pneumogastric, were involved.

The first case was that of a man, aged 39, who had been engaged in laborious work at Chatham and Woolwich dockyards. Two months before death he began to suffer from hoarseness, and the laryngeal symptoms were more marked than any other. There were paroxysms of urgent dyspnoea, and slight dysphagia. Five days before death hæmorrhage from rupture into the trachea commenced; and on the morning of his death the bleeding suddenly became profuse, and was quickly fatal. Dilatation of the aorta, double aneurism of the arteria innominata, and perforation into the trachea, were found. There was pressure upon the commencement of the recurrent nerve, and commencing degeneration of the muscular fibre of the laryngeal muscles on the same side. As to the physical signs, dulness and double *bruit* were produced immediately over the first bone of the sternum, but there was no *bruit* over the aortic valves. No pain had been complained of. The value of the laryngoscope had been shown in demonstrating that no disease of the larynx existed, slight œdema of the mucous membrane only being present.

The second case was that of a sailor, aged 35, who had apoplexy, with aphonia and symptoms resembling phthisis; aneurism was, however, suspected. The recurrent and the pneumogastric nerves were both compressed; the muscles of the larynx were on one side pale and wasted, and the lung on the same side was in a state of asthenic pneumonia. The thoracic duct had also apparently been compressed.

In the third instance recorded, the symptoms of cardiac disease obscured those of aneurism. There had been pericarditis and endocarditis, and fibroid degeneration of the muscular fibre of the left ventricle existed. The patient was a groom, aged 45, and two months before death symptoms of catarrh and bronchitis came on; the heart's action was irregular and tumultuous; the pulse very feeble, but without *bruit*. Afterwards a triple sound was produced below the nipple, and with renewed bronchitis there were signs of pleuropneumonia of the lower

lobe of the right lung. No pain and no dysphagia were complained of, but paroxysms of urgent dyspnoea, with extreme faintness; in one of these attacks he died. In addition to the degeneration of the heart, an aneurism was found at the commencement of the transverse arch; and the pneumogastric, after giving off its recurrent branch, passed directly over the sac, and the compression of this nerve had determined the pneumonic consolidation of the lower lobe of the right lung.

In the fourth case, the recurrent laryngeal nerve was compressed, and had produced paroxysms of urgent dyspnoea, but the dyspnoea was in a great measure due to direct pressure upon the trachea. There had been feebleness of the voice, with dysphagia. Pain was of an agonising character, but also paroxysmal, and it was apparently due to direct pressure on the nerves. The aneurism of the aorta was situated immediately beneath the subclavian, and had ultimately perforated the trachea; but rapid effusion of blood had been prevented by layers of fibrine, and it was probable that the first oozing of blood took place nine months before death. No *bruit* had been produced, but a ringing second sound; the heart was healthy.

The author stated that pressure on the pneumogastric nerve and its branches by aneurismal tumours in the chest led, first, to paroxysmal and spasmodic contraction of the muscles of the larynx; secondly, to diminished muscular power, and to paralysis and wasting of the laryngeal muscles; and thirdly, to pulmonary congestion and consolidation; but that gastric symptoms, such as were found in peripheral pulmonary irritation of incipient phthisis, were not observed in thoracic aneurism. The effect of changed nervous supply of the œsophagus was briefly referred to; spasmodic contraction, and possibly also ulceration, taking place without direct pressure; the author stating that spasmodic contraction from this cause aggravated the effects of the direct pressure of tumours generally. It was likewise mentioned that occasionally no dysphagia existed, because the whole of the œsophagus opposed to the tumour was pushed aside *en masse*.

In conclusion, the author detailed an instance of disease affecting the suprarenal capsule, with bronzed skin; and exhibited a drawing from his dissection of a branch of the pneumogastric to the capsule. The irritability of the stomach often present in these cases was referred to this connection. A dissection showing the larger branches of the semilunar ganglia, and the manner in which some of these branches were involved in the diseased capsules, was also exhibited.

### HÆMATURIA OF THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

BY JOHN HARLEY, M.D., F.L.S.

In the beginning of October last, a gentleman, resident in the Cape, consulted the author about a slight hæmaturia which he had had for some years. After micturition a little blood, never exceeding a teaspoonful, or some dark "veins," appeared with the last half-ounce of urine. The urine itself was never bloody. Sometimes the "veins" would block up the urethra, and cause obstruction for a few minutes. He had an occasional twinge of smart pain in the loins. These were all the symptoms which ever appeared in connection with the urinary apparatus. He said great numbers of people of both sexes were affected in precisely the same way in certain parts of the Cape. While awaiting a sample of his urine, Dr. HARLEY made inquiries amongst his Cape friends and acquaintances, and as the result corroborated his patient's statements, he was now satisfied of the existence of endemic hæmaturia in Uitenhage and Port Elizabeth, and it remained for him to ascertain the cause. In the various samples of urine sent to him

category of insanity recognised by author ancient or modern, foreign or English, theoretical or practical, the insanity of Townley was supposed to belong, it would be very interesting in the cause of science to learn. Here, then, arises another argument for the appointment of a Commission of impartial men; for it is obviously quite possible that, when a rich prisoner has engaged the most eminent authorities, justice may fail for want of a sufficiently subtle and properly directed cross-examination.

The appointment of a Commission to assist in the detection of insanity would indirectly operate in the most beneficial manner on so-called medical psychology, and help to drag it out of the extreme depth of degradation in which it is now sunk. A slight consideration must prove that medical psychology, standing as it does at the foundation of a moral science, is of the utmost consequence, and must, with the advance of knowledge, have an ever-increasing importance. Now, too, that it has ceased to be the fashion for physicians to be learned in classical lore, there are few studies which will do more for the discipline and liberal cultivation of the student's mind than the study of mental science. And, if other arguments fail, the discredit which falls upon medicine generally by the present condition of the lunacy speciality might well move it to take some steps for putting the latter in a more satisfactory condition. It is useless to fall foul of the newspapers because of their outcry against scientific evidence in insanity, when the fault is in ourselves.

But, whatever other consequences might flow therefrom, one would fain hope that the ultimate result of the painful Townley tragedy, and of the scarce less painful farce which has followed it, may be, as you suggest it will be, to strengthen the hands of those who would abolish hanging; and that the strange and horrible spectacle of a society agreeing to take away life, as an example to prevent the taking away of life, may ere long cease to disgrace the character and to satirise the professions of an age which boasts of its civilisation.

I am, etc.,

HENRY MAUDSLEY.

33, Queen Anne Street, January 1864.

## ATROPISED AND CALABARISED GELATINE.

LETTER FROM JOHN H. BRYANT, ESQ.

SIR,—In reference to the letter which you published last week on this subject from Mr. Streatfeild, I beg to state that Mr. Ernest Hart has been using gelatine, in the form of sheets of various density and of particles impregnated with atropine and calabarine, under my observation and that of others who attend the Ophthalmic Department of St. Mary's Hospital, upon the out-patients here, with excellent effect, since early in November last. I would also refer to the articles in the *Annales d'Oculistique* of September and October 1863, by M. Warlomont, in which he says, after pointing out the inconvenience of paper as a foreign body always more or less irritating and requiring subsequent removal, that, to avoid these inconveniences, he was employing a mucilaginous substance, which was not irritating and might be more or less soluble in the tears.

Mr. Hart had previously employed glycerine plasma with starch; but found these and mucilaginous substances less portable and convenient than gelatinous materials. I think, therefore, that Mr. Streatfeild's reclamations are singularly ill-founded.

I am, etc., JOHN H. BRYANT,

Non-Resident Medical Officer, Ophthalmic Department,  
St. Mary's Hospital.

7, Bathurst Street, Sussex Square, W., Feb. 8, 1864.

## Medical News.

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 January 27th.

Battye, William, Plymouth (St. Bartholomew's Hospital)  
Cheetham, Wm., Rochdale (Manchester School)  
Cooper, G. H. C., Woburn Place (University College)  
Denny, Charles John, Aston, Warwickshire (Manchester School)  
Dickinson, John S. A., Norfolk Street (Middlesex Hospital)  
Dunn, Wm. Daniel, Devonport (Birmingham School)  
Freeman, Richard Thomas, Hatcham (Guy's Hospital)  
Gammage, Robert George, Sunderland  
Griffiths, Thomas, Merthyr Tydfil (St. Thomas's Hospital)  
Hadwen, E. St. Paul, Waterloo Road (Westminster Hospital)  
Hale, A. E., Nantwich, Cheshire (Birmingham School)  
Harrison, George William, Whitechurch  
Holman, Herman B., Credion, Devon (London Hospital)  
Lloyd, John, Birmingham (Birmingham School)  
Morris, Samuel, Preston (St. Thomas's Hospital)  
Powell, Frederick, St. John's Wood (Westminster Hospital)  
Rablath, J. J., Walsall, Staffordshire (Westminster Hospital)  
Rooth, Samuel, Chesterfield (Guy's Hospital)  
Shackleton, James, Whitworth, Lancashire (Manchester School)  
Somerville, William Wallace, Wakefield  
Watts, William Frederick, Dewsbury

At the same meeting of the Court—

Close, Henry Ashlin, H.M.S. *Royal Albert*, Plymouth, passed his examination for Naval Surgeon. This gentleman had previously been admitted a member of the College: his diploma bearing date April 11th, 1859.

Admitted on January 28th—

Anthonsiz, James E., Ceylon (St. Bartholomew's)  
Bennett, Charles J., Buxton, Derbyshire (St. Bartholomew's)  
Cockerton, Alfred J., Islington (London)  
Curgiven, William G., Plymouth (Middlesex)  
Garlike, Edward W. B., Tulse Hill (St. Bartholomew's)  
Green, Frederick K., Stoke Newington (St. Bartholomew's)  
Griffin, Frederic C. G., Weymouth (St. Bartholomew's)  
Hewley, John Petch, Ripon, Yorkshire (St. George's)  
Hope, F. S., Kirby Fleetam, Yorkshire (Middlesex)  
Jones, Hermann Johnstone, Upper Clapton  
Langhorn, Joseph, Savile Row (St. George's)  
Law, Caleb, Australia (London)  
Long, Henry P., Barham, Canterbury (Westminster)  
McConnell, William, Lisburn, Ireland  
Pearson, E. B., Yeavely, near Ashbourne, Derbyshire (London)  
Pearson, George Brigg, Leeds  
Penn, Wm. C., Edwardes Square, Kensington (St. George's)  
Philpot, Frederick, Chelsea (University College)  
Skinner, William, Sheffield  
White, George, Dalston (London)

At the same meeting of the Court—

Kyusey, Josiah Frederick, L.R.C.P., Dublin, passed his examination for Naval Surgeon. This gentleman had previously been admitted a member of the College: his diploma bearing date July 19th, 1859.

ROYAL COLLEGES OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS, EDINBURGH. (Double Qualification.) The following gentlemen have passed their first professional examinations during the recent sittings of the examiners.

Eames, William Lawton, Cork  
Hogg, James, Edinburgh  
Jackson, Joseph, Cumberland  
Macdonald, Thomas, Ross-shire  
O'Keefe, John N., county Kerry  
Simpson, James, Cumberland  
Simpson, Thomas, Yorkshire

And the following gentlemen have passed their final examinations, and been admitted L.R.C.P. Edinburgh, and L.R.C.S. Edinburgh.

Hinds, James, Notts  
Horan, Patrick Callan, county Cavan  
Kingston, Joseph Lindsay, county Cork  
McCulloch, Latham Blacker, Drogheda

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS, EDINBURGH. The following gentlemen have passed their first professional examinations during the recent sittings of the examiners.

Anderson, Robert, Haddingtonshire  
Ingram, James, Orkney

And the following gentlemen have passed the final examinations, and obtained the diploma of the College.

Dunbar, Robert Pearson, Perthshire  
Godfrey, James, Glasgow  
Melladew, Heinrich Frederik Lawatz, London  
Middleton, John, Glasgow  
Montizambert, Frederick, Quebec  
Taggart, William John, Antrim

**APOTHECARIES' HALL.** On February 4th, the following Licentiates were admitted :—

Haines, Richard Wheeler, Bromsgrove  
Soper, Robert Wills, Dartmouth, Devon

#### APPOINTMENTS.

JACOB, A., M.D., elected Vice-President of the Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland.  
STOKES, William, jun., M.D., elected Surgeon to the Meath Hospital, Dublin, in the room of the late J. Smyly, Esq.

#### ARMY.

DAVYS, Staff-Surgeon J., to be Surgeon 38th Foot, *vice* T. F. Wall.  
MASSEY, Surgeon H. H., M.D., 2nd Dragoon Guards, to be Staff-Surgeon.  
WALL, Surgeon T. F., 38th Foot, to be Surgeon 2nd Dragoon Guards, *vice* H. H. Massey, M.D.

#### INDIAN ARMY.

CORBYN, Assistant-Surgeon F., M.D., Bengal Army, to be Surgeon.  
FAYRE, Assistant-Surgeon (Brevet-Surgeon) J., M.D., Bengal Army, to be Surgeon.  
HOOPER, Assistant-Surgeon J., Bengal Army, to be Surgeon.  
LOWDELL, Assistant-Surgeon C., Bengal Army, to be Surgeon.  
YOUNG, Assistant-Surgeon D., M.D., Bengal Army, to be Surgeon.

#### MILITIA.

HEATON, F. L., Esq., to be Surgeon Royal Denbigh Militia.

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

GANGE, A. W., Esq., to be Surgeon 36th Middlesex R.V.  
HOPWOOD, R., Esq., to be Assistant-Surgeon 13th Cheshire R.V.

#### BIRTH.

STEELE. On February 2nd, at Liverpool, the wife of \*A. B. Steele, Esq., of a daughter.

#### DEATHS.

CLIFFORD, Herbert W., Esq., Surgeon, at Tivoli Villa, aged 28, on January 28.  
COWCHER, E., Esq., Surgeon, at Abingdon, aged 77, on January 31.  
COVENTRY. On February 1st, at Cheltenham, Juliet, widow of John Coventry, Esq., Surgeon.  
RAMSBOTHAM. On February 4th, at Cambridge, Mary, wife of Francis H. Ramsbotham, M.D.

**THE EARLSWOOD ASYLUM FOR IDIOTS.** Extensive alterations and improvements have been lately made at this institution.

**VETERINARY SURGEONS.** Mr. Holland has given notice of asking for leave to bring in a Bill for the better regulation of veterinary surgeons.

**THE PUNISHMENT OF DEATH.** Mr. W. Ewart has given notice that he will move for leave to bring in a Bill to abolish the punishment of death; also, a Bill for legalising the use of the metrical system.

**WORKHOUSE-BORN BASTARDS.** The number of bastard children born in the workhouses of England and Wales during 1862 was 8115; the number for 1860 being 7077, and for 1861 8020.

**A NEW HOSPITAL IN NEW YORK.** By the will of the late Mr. Roosevelt, about 900,000 *dollars* have been bequeathed for the establishment and endowment of a hospital in New York.

**HEALTH OF THE METROPOLIS.** The deaths in the metropolitan districts last week exceeded by 174 the estimated number. The deaths of eleven nonagenarians are recorded, the oldest of whom was a man who had attained the age of 98 years.

**SIR JOHN LIDDELL.** The Queen has appointed Sir John Liddell, Kt., C.B., M.D., late Director-General of the Medical Department of the Navy, to be an Ordinary Member of the Military Division of the Second Class, or Knights Commanders of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath.

**IRISH POOR-LAW MEDICAL OFFICERS.** A meeting of medical practitioners residing in the county of Longford has been held, to adopt measures to forward through Parliament, during the present session, a Bill for the superannuation of workhouse and dispensary medical officers. Similar meetings should be held in every county in Ireland. (*Dublin Med. Press.*)

**THE RAINFALL.** The smallest rainfall of any one year in nearly a quarter of a century was in 1858, and the largest in 1852. The driest months in the twenty-four years were November 1858, and January 1855, when only 0.10in. of rain fell in each month, while the wettest month in the twenty-four years was November 1852, when a rainfall of 6.20in. was recorded.

**ASTHMA.** Dr. Hyde Salter considers iodide of potassium to be *occasionally* of great value in the cure of asthma. He considers, however, that its services have been much exaggerated as a general remedy in this affection. He cannot subscribe to the high praises which have been sung of it as being something of an infallible remedy.

**VACCINATION RETURN.** A return "of the number of unions or single parishes in England and Wales, of which the guardians or overseers have taken measures to enforce obedience to the Vaccination Act, under the provisions of the Act 24 and 25 Vict., c. 59," has been issued in pursuance to an order of the House of Commons. The replies are mostly in the negative, either simply or qualified. Out of 700 answers from the various unions of England, only 79 are "Yes"; and 47 responses from Wales there are only 7 affirmatives.

**DR. LAMBTON ESTE** would have been rather surprised if he could have read the statement in the last number of the *Lancet*, that he had been in the *naval* medical service. Dr. Este was an army medical officer all his life, being surgeon in the Life Guards. He served with the army in Egypt under Sir Ralph Abercrombie. Very early in life, he was sent from the Foreign Office with important despatches to Lord Nelson, with whom he remained for some months, acting as his private secretary.

**THE M.D. OF THE COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS.** The Master of the Rolls has not yet delivered judgment with reference to the claim of the College of Physicians to grant degrees of Doctor of Medicine. It is believed that, whatever his decision may be, an appeal will be made by the defeated party to the House of Lords. It is, we believe, the intention of the College to commence legal proceedings to prevent Trinity College from granting *licences* in medicine; that being, as is alleged, the exclusive province of the College of Physicians. (*Dublin Medical Press.*)

**MEMORIAL TO THE LATE MR. SMYLY.** We are happy to learn that a movement is in progress to connect the name of this distinguished surgeon in a permanent and practical manner with the Meath Hospital and County Dublin Infirmary, where he so long laboured, and where his professional skill was so signally blessed, to the relief of the suffering poor. It is in contemplation to erect and endow a ward for children in the hospital, to be called the Smyly Ward. The erection of such a ward was an object near to Mr. Smyly's heart. A sum of £200 would be sufficient to build the ward, and about £2,000 would endow it for ever; the cost of maintenance of six beds amounting to £100 per annum. (*Saunders.*)

**NO IRISH NEED APPLY.** Our attention has been called to the election of a House Surgeon to the Warneford Hospital, Leamington. There were six candidates, and it appears that one gentleman obtained the appointment only by the exclusion on a legal quibble of another gentleman. This latter gentleman was a Licentiate of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, and the first objection started by his antagonist was, that as the rule says "a member of the Royal College of Surgeons," the title of Licentiate invalidated the candidature. This point being untenable, it was necessary to fall back on a still more ridiculous one, that the word the meant the London College and no other, and on this point the gentleman was excluded. (*Dublin Medical Press.*) [Surely our cotemporary must be in error. Exclusion on grounds such as these here mentioned is hardly credible. EDITOR.]

**SOCIETY FOR RELIEF OF WIDOWS AND ORPHANS OF MEDICAL MEN IN LONDON AND ITS VICINITY.** A half-yearly general meeting of the members of this Society was held on the 27th of January last; T. A. Stone, Esq., President, in the chair. It was announced that the petition for a Royal Charter of Incorporation, which would reconstitute the Society on a firmer basis than before, was before the Queen in Council. The accounts for the year expired were read, when it appeared that a rather smaller amount of relief had been expended than during the preceding year, being as follows: Grants for ordinary relief to widows and orphans, £1,843:10; for immediate relief, £21; towards self-maintenance of adult orphans, £20; for extra-relief, £20; by general meeting to a widow, £25; total, £1,929:10. The following gentlemen were elected officers and directors for this year: *President:* T. A. Stone, Esq. *Vice-Presidents:* Martin Ware, Esq.; E. A. Brown, Esq.; P. M. Latham, M.D.; John Bacot, Esq.; T. Turner, M.D.; D. Henry Walne, Esq.; A. J. Sutherland, M.D., F.R.S.; E. Tegart, Esq.; G. Burrows, M.D., F.R.S.; John Miles, Esq.; Sir J. W. Fisher; Caesar H. Hawkins, Esq., F.R.S. *Treasurers:* J. T. Ware, Esq.; G. Hamilton Roe, M.D. (acting); R. S. Eyles, Esq. *Directors:* J. C. Salisbury, Esq.; H. Blenkarne, Esq.; T. King Chambers, M.D.; John Clarke, M.D.; P. G. Hewett, Esq.; John Morgan, Esq.; J. Gregory Forbes, Esq.; W. Munk, M.D.; B. W. Holt, Esq.; Charles Miles, Esq.; W. J. Little, M.D.; W. Cathrow, Esq.; H. Sterry, Esq.; Alder Fisher, Esq.; H. Jeaffreson, M.D.; J. Paget, Esq.; H. T. Illingworth, Esq.; F. Hawkins, M.D.; T. Hammerton, Esq.; John Love, Esq.; H. A. Pitman, M.D.; John Adams, Esq.; R. Druitt, M.R.C.P.L.; E. Tegart, jun., Esq. Those members of the profession who are desirous of joining this most excellent Society may do so by applying to Dr. Merriman, the Secretary, before the 2nd of March next, as directed in our advertisement columns.

**MEDICAL JOURNALISM FOR THE MILLION.** The introduction of non-medical questions into the columns of medical journals is open to reprehension, if the suspicion of toutting for extra professional patronage attaches thereto. Perhaps it is commercially advisable to provide some literary aliment for tavern and coffee-house patrons, but we would suggest the selection of at least semi-medical subjects to give what the lawyers call "a colourable pretext" for their publication. The auscultation of Heenan's chest, or the extent of his varied ecchymoses, are not subjects of importance to the profession; nor do the very common every-day occurrences of the death from disease of Mr. Justice Wightman, or the safe and natural birth of a Prince, call for comment, while the pseudo-official details of size and weight of the infant, in which our contemporary glories, are by many considered as in-

trusive violations of the privacy which should be inviolate. Surely medical journalists have no lack of topics that they should be driven to such expedients. (*Dublin Medical Press.*)

**CATTLE DISEASE IN SWITZERLAND.** Accounts from Lausanne state that the disease of sore mouth and sore feet has attacked horned cattle in Switzerland in a terrific manner. The Executive Council have consequently commanded that no more 'cattle markets shall be held. A strict watch is set upon all farmyards where the disease prevails and upon those within a hundred yards of them. Cattle in the suspected farmyards are not to be permitted to drink at the public fountains. All strangers are forbidden to approach any farmyard, nor is any mendicant to pass the night there. Veterinary surgeons and police agents are desired, when they quit an infected stable, to wash and change their clothes before they enter another. Farmers are to adopt similar precautions when they attend a fair or market.

**THE ARMY MEDICAL SERVICE.** There is no country in the world that has more reason to be proud of its military surgeons than England. John Hunter learned in the battlefield the great truths which he taught; and each successive war in which England has engaged has brought with it devoted men who have either perished in aiding the wounded and the dying on the battlefield, or brought back a rich stock of experience for the guidance of their fellow-surgeons. But England has failed more than any other country in recognising the importance of the surgical art, and the merit of those who have practised it. At the present moment, in spite of all that Lord Herbert did to reform the military system, the medical service of the army is the most unpopular in the country. At the last public examination for medical posts in the army, only half the number of candidates needed presented themselves, and of these only a very small proportion passed their examinations in the first class. All honour, then, is due to the men who, amidst contumely, injustice, and contempt, practise their profession in the English army, with a single view to the advancement of their profession and the benefit of humanity. (*Athenæum*, February 6th, 1864.)

**DISEASES OF OVERWORKED MEN.** Time was when the very phrase, diseases of overworked men, would have been considered foolish. Now it conveys a truth of national importance. From being a comparatively idle world, we have of late become an insane world on the subject of labour. So long as the muscles merely were employed, so long little harm was done; we remained men; now we aspire to be gods, and we pay the forfeit of our ambition. From overwork we now get a class of diseases the most prolonged, the most fatal. The suns of our best men go down at noon, and so accustomed are we to the phenomenon that we cease to regard it as either strange or out of place. It is through the mind, now, that the body is destroyed by overwork; at all events, it is so mainly. The men of intense thought—men of letters, men of business who think and speculate, men of the State who are ambitious to rule, these men are the sacrifices. With them, the brain has not merely to act on its own muscles, bidding them perform their necessary duties, but the one brain must needs guide a hundred other brains, and all the muscles thereto appended. An electric battery works a single wire from the City to Brighton, and does its work well, and goes on for some months before it is dead or worn out. Can it do the work of a hundred wires? Oh, yes, it can; but it must have more acid, must wear faster, and will ultimately die sooner. We may protect the plates, make the battery to an extent self-regenerative, as the body is, but in the main the

waste is in excess of the supply, and the wear is certain as the day. Men of letters, men of business who do their business through other hands and do great business, and men immersed in politics, suffer much the same kind of effects from overwork. They induce in themselves, usually, when they suffer from this cause one or other of the following maladies:—Cardiac melancholy or broken heart; dyspepsia, accompanied with great loss of phosphorus from the body; diabetes, consumption, paralysis, local and general; apoplexy, insanity, premature old age. They also suffer more than other men from the effects of ordinary disorders. They bear pain indifferently, can tolerate no lowering measures, are left long prostrated by simple depressing maladies, and acquire in some instances a morbid sensibility which is reflected in every direction; so that briskness of action becomes irritability; and quiet, seclusion and moroseness. They dislike themselves and feel that they must be disliked, and if they attempt to be joyous they lapse into shame at having dissembled, and fall again into gloom. (*Social Science Review.*)

### 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. Dr. Edward Smith. Lettsomian Lectures on Physiology. Lecture I, "The Rate of Pulsation under the Influence of Numerous Agencies in Health and Disease."  
TUESDAY. Royal College of Surgeons of England, 4 P.M. Professor Huxley, "On the Structure and Classification of the Mammalia."—Statistical.—Pathological.  
WEDNESDAY. Royal College of Physicians, 5 P.M. Dr. Markham. Gulstonian Lectures. "The Uses of Blood-Letting in Diseases."—Pharmaceutical Society, 8.30 P.M. Professor Redwood, "The British Pharmacopoeia."—Meteorological.  
THURSDAY. Royal College of Surgeons of England, 4 P.M. Professor Huxley, "On the Structure and Classification of the Mammalia."—Harveian Society of London, 8 P.M.—Zoological.—Royal.—Linnæan.—Chemical.  
FRIDAY. Royal College of Physicians, 5 P.M. Dr. Markham. Gulstonian Lectures. "The Uses of Blood-Letting in Disease."—Geological (Anniversary).—Royal Institution.  
SATURDAY. Royal College of Surgeons of England, 4 P.M. Professor Huxley, "On the Structure and Classification of the Mammalia."—Association Medical Officers of Health.

### 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.

THE LARYNGOSCOPE.—The pamphlet "On Laryngeal Disease as exhibited by the Laryngoscope", by Dr. James Russell, contains a summary of what has hitherto been said concerning this instrument. It is written in an unostentatious style; but contains a terse and well-written exposition of the subject.

S. T.—It is understood that the long-desired Report of the Chloroform Committee of the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society will soon appear—probably during the next month.

INVESTIGATION OF DISEASES.—We beg to call the attention of those of our readers who are interested in the registration of diseases to a paper read by Dr. G. H. Philipson, before the Northumberland and Durham Medical Society, "On the Investigation of the Prevalent Diseases of the District", which has since been published. The paper was referred to the Committee of the Society, who highly approved of the plan, recommending its adoption by the members. It was unanimously resolved that the scheme should be adopted, and come into operation at the commencement of this year. The great bulk of the members of the Society, numbering over a hundred, together with many others, have signified their intention to fill up and return the forms; so there is every hope that the plan will be attended with success. Dr. Philipson has evidently bestowed great care and labour in the elaboration of his scheme. We shall look with interest to the results which it may bring forth at a future day.

PUBLIC MEDICAL NOMENCLATURE.—SIR: In a notice to one of your correspondents, in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL of January 23, you approve the term Pogonotrophy; meaning, as you suppose, the cultivation of the beard; and you applaud the use of such terms, because they attract attention, and strike awe into the mind of the public. You are right, no doubt; but I should be curious to know into what the public would convert the terms; perhaps into something that would strike awe into the profession, if I may judge from the following specimen of public medical nomenclature, which I have collected in dispensary practice. They are all the expressions of women, and some of them may have arisen in consequence of the patients mistaking the names given to their diseases by the medical attendants. Thus, a patient said she suffered from "gas-a-titis" (gastritis?). Another exclaimed that she was "thirstified", "feverified", and her lips were "crackified". A third said that she had a "centralisation" in the leg. A fourth was seized with a "frustration". A fifth suffered from an "airysema" (emphysema?). A "doctor" told a sixth that she had a "spodomic" (spasmodic?). A seventh was "caustic" in her inside. An eighth was "impregnant". A ninth had a "complexion" (compression?) of the brain. A tenth wanted medicine for the "interlopers", meaning worms. An eleventh suffered from "Convitus's Dance". A twelfth wished to be admitted into the "Convalesst's Hospital; and the last had "consecrated" (constipated?) bowels, she being a patient at a Church Dispensary. I am, etc., C. J. B. ALDIS, M.D. Cantab.  
1, Chester Terrace, Chester Square, S.W., Feb. 1st, 1864.

ELECTRICITY IN CHLOROFORM ACCIDENTS.—SIR: The case of recovery from chloroform accident by galvanism in last week's JOURNAL, is one of vast importance. As the writer is desirous to know more of accidents of this kind, as well as the best form of electricity, etc., he will find in a new Journal (*The Electrician*) four cases of the same kind where the effect of the "induction" or other current on the respiratory nerves and muscles was quite magical. I believe this subject so unpopular of electricity in chloroform accidents, is far more important and practical than any result likely to arise from the present popular debate on iridectomy operations (and I have seen hundreds of the latter); yet a leading medical journal, so to call it, is striving to extinguish all efforts with electricity to save life in chloroform accidents.

Of the extreme value of electricity in accidents, there is happily now no longer any doubt. We had this opposition to ovariotomy; yet it has taken its place amongst the useful surgical resources for the saving of human life. Amongst these miserable archives of the profession, it was shown the deaths in lithotomy are 1 in 2; but the real fact is 1 in 7 or 9: so of the stereotyped errors as to "cardiac syncope" in chloroform accidents, fatty heart the cause of death, the Marshall Hall "ready method" the only perfect cure, etc. Your JOURNAL acts fairly—hears both sides; and one would not half so often write, but that the ready method is really no cure at all, "fatty heart" never seen in chloroform accidents, but electricity so much opposed the one thing needed.

Let the Association only help us to remove this stigma and others from the profession, let it encourage legitimate and laborious experiments with electricity and other agents to restore life, as in the case last week, and it will prove a public blessing; but from one-sided mischievous journalism, we have nothing but discord to expect; medical trials of innocent medical men; and in chloroform—chaos. I am, etc., C. K.  
Sackville Street, January 14th, 1864.

COMMUNICATIONS have been received from:—Mr. WILLIAM BOWMAN; Dr. SANKEY; Mr. BRODHURST; THE REGISTRAR OF THE MEDICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON; Dr. DRYSDALE; Mr. JAMES ROBERTSON; Mr. J. H. BRYANT; Mr. W. MARTIN; Mr. GEORGE RIGDEN; Dr. D. WILLIAMS; Mr. T. SOMERVILLE; Dr. HENRY JOHNSON; Dr. LANKESTER; Mr. A. B. STEELE; Mr. THOMAS POPE; Dr. PARKES; Mr. ED. GARRAWAY; Dr. S. MARTYN; Two STUDENTS; and Mr. T. M. STONE.