

days afterwards. On *post mortem* examination, there was found to be an atheromatous state of the femoral artery; and its calibre was reduced to the size of the radial by the deposition of fibrinous layers in its interior. The artery was completely obliterated by a clot which had lately formed, and which was the cause of the gangrene. The successive deposition of fibrine explained the gradual retardation of the circulation of the limb. (*Gaz. des Hôp.*, Jan. 5, 1864.)

**TREPHINING THE MASTOID PROCESS.** M. Follin has communicated to the Surgical Society of Paris the history of a case in which the mastoid process was trephined, for abscess of the mastoid cells consecutive on inflammation of the middle ear. The patient, aged 44, was habitually of good health; but from his youth had been subject to throat-affections, and latterly scarcely a year had passed without his having one or two attacks of acute angina, generally ending in abscess. After one of these attacks, occurring in March 1863, he was seized suddenly, early in April, with severe pain in the right ear. Three days afterwards, there was an abundant purulent discharge from the ear; and he was deaf. During six weeks, the pain was incessant and unbearable; it extended to the whole of the right side of the head, and was accompanied by fever and delirium, especially at night. During the next six months, the discharge and deafness continued, but the pain diminished slightly, presenting exacerbations and remissions. At the end of first month of the disease, a slight swelling was observed in the right mastoid region; and pressure on this part caused pain. Latterly, the skin here had assumed an erysipelatous redness; and the pain had increased. A medical man applied a seton below the mastoid region; this had no effect on the main disease, but seemed to allay the pain a little.

The patient now came to Paris to consult M. Follin. At this time, the mastoid region was swollen, reddish, and tender to the touch; pus escaped abundantly from the ear; and the patient, tormented by incessant pain in the right side of the head, had sleepless nights. There was no abscess apparent externally, nor any fistulous passage. M. Follin arrived at the conclusion, that there was pus in the mastoid cells, and advised the use of the trephine. Accordingly, on November 18th, a crucial incision was made over the mastoid region; and the four flaps were carefully dissected back so as to expose the bone. The periosteum having been also divided and raised, a small trephine was applied, and a piece of bone, seven *millimètres* (rather more than a quarter of an inch) in diameter was removed. The mastoid cells were then seen to be filled with a large quantity of pus. M. Follin then enlarged the edges of the opening in the bone so as to give it a conical form, and introduced some charpie; the edges of the incision were kept apart to prevent too rapid cicatrisation; and simple dressing was applied.

The next day, pus had ceased to be discharged from the ear, and the pain in the head ceased. The wound suppurated gradually, and granulations soon appeared. The pus contained in the mastoid cells escaped regularly; and the otorrhoea entirely disappeared. The only accident during the patient's recovery was very slight inflammation of the cervical glands. A month after the operation, the opening was entirely cicatrised; and the patient was relieved of all his symptoms, continuing, however, deaf in the right ear—which is not astonishing, when it is considered what an extensive amount of disease must have existed prior to the operation.

In two other cases, formerly communicated to the same Society by M. Follin, trephining of the mastoid process was performed successfully in similar circum-

stances; but in these there were also fistulous openings in the mastoid region. (*Gaz. des Hôpitaux*, Jan. 5, 1864.)

## Association Intelligence.

### COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL: NOTICE OF MEETING.

THE Committee of Council will meet at the Queen's Hotel, Birmingham, on THURSDAY, the 10th of March, at a quarter before Three o'clock P.M., for *Three precisely*.

*Business.*—To receive the Treasurer's Financial Report.

To appoint Adjudicators of the Annual Prize Essays. To fix the time of the Annual Meeting.

Any other business which may be brought forward.

T. WATKIN WILLIAMS, *General Secretary*.

13, Newhall Street, Birmingham, 23rd February, 1864.

### BRANCH MEETINGS TO BE HELD.

NAME OF BRANCH.	PLACE OF MEETING.	DATE.
BIRMINGHAM AND MIDLAND COUNTIES.	Medical Department of the Birmingham Library.	Thursday, March 10th, 6 P.M.
[Ordinary.]		
NORTH WALES.	Dr. Davies's House, Holywell.	Tuesday, March 22nd, 1 P.M.
[Intermediate.]		

## Reports of Societies.

### WESTERN MEDICAL AND SURGICAL SOCIETY.

FEBRUARY 5TH, 1864.

A. W. BARCLAY, M.D., President, in the Chair.

VESICO-UTERINE FISTULA: PREGNANCY AFTER CLOSURE OF THE OS UTERI BY OPERATION.

BY JAMES R. LANE, F.R.C.S.

IN November 1862, the author had read a communication to the Society, on the subject of Vesico-Uterine Fistula, embodying the earlier history of the case in question, the sequel of which had been most singular and unexpected.

The patient, who stated her age to be 45, was first admitted into St. Mary's Hospital in May 1862, with incontinence of urine, the result of a protracted labour four months previously. On investigation, the escape was found to take place through a fistulous communication which had been established between the bladder and the canal of the cervix uteri, about half an inch above the os. In consequence of the inaccessible position of the fistula, the only safe and feasible mode of relieving her appeared to be to close the os uteri by a plastic operation, leaving the fistula itself uninterfered with, and depending upon it to afford an outlet through which the menstrual fluid could escape into the bladder. This was accordingly done on May 14th, 1862, the patient having been told that it would render future pregnancy impossible. The edges of the os uteri were denuded and brought together with silver wire sutures; and the success of the operation was complete. The incontinence of urine was arrested from that moment; the wound healed soundly; and she left the hospital quite well in three weeks. About a week after the operation, menstruation came on; and the discharge took place through the bladder, mixed with the urine, without pain or inconvenience. This was continued in the same way

# Medical News.

## APPOINTMENTS.

### ROYAL NAVY.

ACHESON, John J., Esq., Staff-Surgeon, to the *Cornwallis*.  
 DEVONSHIRE, Charles J., Esq., Assistant-Surgeon, to the *Ranger*.  
 HIDE, John, Esq.  
 MOSS, Edward L., M.D.  
 POWER, William M., Esq.  
 PURSELL, Thomas, Esq.  
 TERRY, Septimus, Esq.  
 WRIGHT, George V., M.D.  
 BURGESS, Richard, Esq.  
 MITCHELL, Alexander, M.D.  
 PRINGLE, John, M.D.  
 REDFERN, Thomas, M.D.  
 SWEETMAN, Richard J., Esq.

Acting Assistant-Surgeons, to the  
*Victory*, for Haslar Hospital.

Acting Assistant-Surgeons, to the  
*Royal Adelaide*, for Plymouth  
 Hospital.

## BIRTHS.

MACKENZIE. On March 2nd, at Sidmouth, the wife of \*J. Ingleby Mackenzie, M.B. Cantab., of a son.  
 SHAW. On February 26th, at Sutton Coldfield, Warwickshire, the wife of \*H. E. F. Shaw, Esq., of a daughter.

## DEATHS.

BRISTOWE, John S., Esq., Surgeon, at Camberwell, aged 70, on February 25.  
 HIFFERNAN, Richard P., Esq., Assistant-Surgeon R.N., at Newport, county Tipperary, on February 25.  
 JACOB, John, M.D., of Maryborough, at Falmouth, on Feb. 26.  
 MURRAY, Peter, M.D., at Scarborough, aged 81, on February 27.  
 STILWELL. On February 26th, his birthday, aged 23, Edward, third son of \*George Stilwell, Esq., Epsom.

DISEASES OF CATTLE BILL. The second reading of this bill is postponed until Wednesday, March 9th.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE HOSPITAL DINNER. Mr. Dickens has promised to take the chair at the annual festival of the University College Hospital on April 12th.

THE ZAMBESI EXPEDITION. The Cape mail, just arrived, brings no news of Dr. Livingstone. Dr. Meller, of the Zambesi exploring expedition, has returned to England by the steamer Saxon.

BIRTHS IN LONDON. Last week the births of 1019 boys and 981 girls, in all 2000 children were registered in London. In the ten corresponding weeks of the years 1854-63 the average number (corrected) was 2057.

DEATHS IN LONDON. An infant, aged 3 weeks, was last week poisoned by a lozenge which contained the forty-eighth part of a grain of morphia. A child, aged 2 years, died from the scratch of a kitten. Nine nonagenarians died in the week.

HEALTH OF THE METROPOLIS. The deaths in London were more numerous in the week that ended last Saturday than they had been in any previous week since January. They rose to 1677. The average number of deaths for the eighth week of ten previous years is 1467. While the mortality from phthisis (157) is considerably less than it was in previous weeks, that from bronchitis is greater. The present season has developed bronchial affections with unusual effect.

VACCINATION OF SHEEP. In the House of Commons some days ago, Sir J. C. Jervoise asked whether the experiments in vaccinating sheep were yet concluded. Mr. Lowe said that the experiments in vaccinating sheep concluded last Michaelmas, and the result was unsatisfactory. The experiments had been of two kinds. One had consisted in vaccinating sheep with lymph taken from the human subject, and this had succeeded in some measure. The sheep took the disease, though in an irregular and abnormal form; but still the sheep took the virus either by inoculation or

in the natural manner from other sheep, so that vaccination thus accomplished appeared to be futile. The next plan was to inoculate cows with matter taken from sheep, in order, if possible, to produce a vaccine disease in cows which would stand in the same relation to sheep as cow-pox does to the human subject. But this also entirely failed; and therefore the result of the experiments was altogether unsatisfactory.

PRESENT TO THE PRINCESS OF WALES. Sir John F. Palmer, President of the Legislative Council of Victoria, has forwarded, for presentation to her Royal Highness, through his grace the Duke of Newcastle, Secretary of State for the Colonies, a magnificent casket, richly wrought, in pure silver. Sir John Palmer, who is a member of the Royal College of Surgeons (1826), practised for some time in this country, and is well known as the editor of John Hunter's works.

ROYAL MEDICAL AND CHIRURGICAL SOCIETY. The annual general meeting, for the election of officers and other members of the council for the ensuing year, and to receive the auditors' report and the report of the council, was held on March 1st. The following gentlemen were elected officers:—*President*—R. Partridge, Esq., F.R.S. *Vice-Presidents*—Arthur Farre, M.D., F.R.S.; W. R. Basham, M.D.; J. Hilton, Esq., F.R.S.; W. Fergusson, Esq., F.R.S. *Treasurers*—H. A. Pitman, M.D.; J. Dixon, Esq. *Secretaries*—H. W. Fuller, M.D.; J. Birkett, Esq. *Librarians*—A. P. Stewart, M.D.; H. Lee, Esq. *Other Members of Council*—S. J. Goodfellow, M.D.; W. W. Gull, M.D.; W. Jenner, M.D.; E. Meryon, M.D.; F. Sibson, M.D., F.R.S.; H. Coote, Esq.; G. V. Ellis, Esq.; C. H. Moore, Esq.; E. Newton, Esq.; J. Toynbee, Esq., F.R.S.

INDIAN MEDICAL SERVICE. On Thursday week (February 25th), Mr. Leslie asked the Secretary of State for India upon what grounds the Royal warrant for her Majesty's Indian medical service had been so long delayed, and when the said warrant would be issued. Sir C. Wood replied that a warrant had been prepared for the purpose of placing on the same footing medical officers in the Queen's military service and in the service of India; but a doubt having been suggested whether the warrant did not involve an infringement of an act of parliament, it had been referred for the opinion of the law advisers of the Indian Council.

POISONING BY ABSORPTION. On Saturday last was concluded an inquiry into the death of a child named Boatman. The deceased was aged 9 years, and lived with her father and stepmother in a lonely situation. The child was taken ill, gradually got worse, and died soon after a medical man was called in. The surgeon (Mr. Haward) believing that the child had died from the effects of some irritant poison, probably arsenic, refused to certify the cause of death. The stepmother stated that about ten days before the death of the child she applied some precipitate powder and a little poison in the shape of an ointment to the head to kill the vermin. The coroner ordered a *post mortem* examination, and the appearance of the intestines and stomach pointing to arsenical poison in some form or other, it was felt important to ascertain whether the child died from arsenical poison, and if so, how it was administered. The viscera were accordingly sent to Professor Taylor, at Guy's Hospital, and that gentleman stated at the inquest on Saturday that the child died from arsenic applied externally and absorbed into the system. The condition of the viscera, in their appearances, in the nature of their contents, and in the minute imponderable quantity of arsenic present in them, was not consistent with the supposition that arsenic had been given in a solid form or in

a liquid form by the mouth, but it was quite consistent with the absorption of the poison through the skin of the scalp, and its subsequent diffusion by the blood. The scalp of the deceased was found to contain a large quantity of arsenic associated with a quantity of mercury (white precipitate) which had been applied as above stated in the form of an ointment. The jury returned a verdict to the effect that the deceased died from the results of an ointment containing arsenic applied to her head by Mrs. Boatman, she being ignorant of the consequences, and intending merely to heal disease of the scalp; at the same time the jury desired the coroner to express to Boatman and his wife their sense of the neglect and ill-treatment of the deceased.

**GUY'S HOSPITAL BIENNIAL FESTIVAL.** This biennial festival, which is always eagerly looked forward to by Guy's men, was held at the London Tavern, on the 24th ult., under the presidency of Dr. Alfred Taylor, F.R.S., and was one of the most successful meetings which has ever taken place. Nearly two hundred of the past and present pupils assembled on the present occasion, numbering amongst them many of the most respected and successful practitioners of London and the country. Amongst them were the Messrs. Toulmin of Clapton, Mr. Lord of Hampstead, Dr. Ward of Huntingdon, Mr. G. Cooper of Brentford, Dr. Ray of Dulwich, Mr. Faircloth of Newmarket, and many others. Amongst the visitors were the new President of the Hospital, Sir Laurence Peel, Mr. Thomas Turner, the Treasurer, and Mr. Thomas Chambers, the Common Sergeant of the City of London. Mr. Cazenove, one of the governors, was singled out for notice, and was called on to make a speech, this gentleman having taken great interest in the school, to which he gives annually a handsome prize. Mr. Critchett and Mr. Pollock were also present as guests; and nearly all the medical and surgical officers of the hospital. The dinner was excellent, and went off most successfully. The musical arrangements also were very good. It is a pity that such gatherings as the above are not more general amongst the medical schools; for they tend much to maintain the feeling of friendship and *esprit de corps* which is so desirable, and which is so strongly developed amongst all Guy's men.

**SITE OF ST. THOMAS'S HOSPITAL.** The question between the Corporation of London and the Governors of St. Thomas's Hospital has been raised by the filing of a bill in Chancery by the Governors against the Corporation of London, to restrain the Corporation from affixing the hospital seal to any instruments without the previous consent of the governors. This proceeding involved the question of the power of the Corporation to interfere in the matter of the future site of this charity. The selection of Stangate and the new ground to be gained by the Thames Southern Embankment as a site for the new hospital, received the sanction of Vice-Chancellor Sir P. Wood on Saturday. By the act of Parliament which authorised the sale of the old hospital to the Charing Cross Railway the governors of the hospital were empowered to select a site for another, subject to the approval of the Court of Chancery. Against the selection the Corporation of the City of London intervened, alleging that by ancient charter they had the control over the hospital, and further that the site selected was unhealthy. The Vice-Chancellor held that the rights of the City were, so far as the selection of site was concerned, set aside by the terms of the act of Parliament authorising the sale of the old hospital; and that no such presumption of unhealthiness in the site had been made out as to warrant the interference of the court on that score.

## 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, 7 P.M., General Meeting; 8.30 P.M., Dr. W. Tilbury Fox "On the Classification of Skin Diseases."—Odontological Society.—Epidemiological Society, 8 P.M. Dr. Milroy, "Notes on the Epidemic Diseases of some of the Nations of India; also, on Certain Recent Epidemics Abroad": Dr. Archibald Smith, "On the Tabardillo of Peru."—Entomological.  
**TUESDAY.** Royal College of Surgeons of England, 4 P.M. Professor Huxley, "On the Structure and Classification of the Mammalia."—Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society, 8.30 P.M. Mr. Bickersteth (Liverpool), "On a New Operation for obtaining Union of Ununited Fracture."—Zoological.—Ethnological.—Medical Society of London, 5 P.M., Anniversary, at Willis's Rooms; Oration by Dr. Thudichum; 6.30 P.M., Dinner.  
**WEDNESDAY.** Royal College of Physicians, 5 P.M. Dr. Barclay Lumsden Lectures, "Fallacies in the Application of the Inductive Method of Reasoning to the Science of Medicine."—Geological.—Society of Arts.—Microscopical.  
**THURSDAY.** Royal College of Surgeons of England, 4 P.M. Professor Huxley, "On the Structure and Classification of the Mammalia."—Royal.  
**FRIDAY.** Royal College of Physicians, 5 P.M. Dr. Barclay Lumsden Lectures, "Fallacies in the Application of the Inductive Method of Reasoning to the Science of Medicine."—Astronomical.—Royal Institution.  
**SATURDAY.** Royal College of Surgeons of England, 4 P.M. Professor Huxley, "On the Structure and Classification of the Mammalia."

## 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 LETTERS of Mr. Gaskoin and Dr. Bodington shall appear next week.

**PHYSICIANS AND THEIR FEES.**—Surely our correspondent will see, on reflection, that the College of Physicians would have only been too glad to have included under the bye-law, which prevents its Fellows having a legal claim for fees, both its members and licentiates. If the members or licentiates had shown any wish to be exempted from the power of claiming fees, there is little doubt that their wishes would have been attended to. But in the absence of any expressed wish on the part of the members and licentiates, it is very certain that it would have been an act of simple injustice for the Fellows, who legislate, to have included in the bye-law the members and licentiates who have no voice in legislating.

**COMMUNICATIONS** have been received from:—Mr. OLIVER PEMBERTON; Mr. BRODHURST; Mr. NUNNELEY; Mr. D. KENT JONES; Mr. H. E. F. SHAW; Dr. BODINGTON; Mr. J. SLADDEN; Mr. J. D. HILL; Mr. W. W. MORRIS; THE HONORARY SECRETARY OF THE ROYAL MEDICAL AND CHIRURGICAL SOCIETY; Mr. GASKOIN; J. K. S.; Mr. WILLIAM MARTIN; Dr. LESLIE; Dr. G. M. HUMPHRY; Dr. C. HOLMAN; THE HONORARY SECRETARIES OF THE EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SOCIETY; THE REGISTRAR OF THE MEDICAL COUNCIL; Dr. ROUTH; Mr. F. HAWARD; Dr. J. INGLEBY MACKENZIE; Mr. JAMES COLE; THE REGISTRAR OF THE MEDICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON; Mr. T. M. STONE; Dr. SIEVEKING; and Mr. J. PARSONS.