

Association Intelligence.

BRANCH MEETINGS TO BE HELD.

NAME OF BRANCH.	PLACE OF MEETING.	DATE.
NORTH WALES. [Intermediate.]	Dr. Davies's House, Holywell.	Tuesday, March 22nd, 1 P.M.
BATH AND BRISTOL. [Ordinary.]	York House, Bath,	Thurs., March 24, 8.15 P.M.

SOUTH-EASTERN BRANCH: EAST KENT DISTRICT MEDICAL MEETINGS.

THE next meeting will be held at the Saracen's Head, Ashford, on Thursday, March 24th, at 3 P.M.

Dinner will be ordered for 5 o'clock.

THOMAS BOYCOTT, M.D., *Hon. Sec.*

Canterbury, March 9th, 1864.

SOUTH-EASTERN BRANCH: WEST KENT DISTRICT MEETING.

THE next meeting will be held at the Old Falcon, at Gravesend, on Friday, April 1st, at 3 P.M.

Dinner will be provided at 5 o'clock.

Tickets, 5s., exclusive of wine.

FREDERICK J. BROWN, M.D., *Hon. Sec.*

Rochester, March 8th, 1864.

Reports of Societies.

ROYAL MEDICAL AND CHIRURGICAL SOCIETY.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23RD, 1864.

R. PARTRIDGE, Esq., F.R.S., President, in the Chair.

As soon as the Honorary Secretary had read the minutes of the preceding meeting of the Society,

Mr. HULKE said that he wished to enter his protest against a proceeding which had taken place at the last meeting. His paper had then been read out of the order which had been announced in the journals and elsewhere, and without any notification of the intention to do so having been made to him. He had no personal feeling in the matter; but as a principle it was bad to read a paper in the absence of the author when it could be avoided. Had he been informed that his paper would be read, he might have illustrated it by diagrams; and he thought some law should be in force on the point, and that it was the duty of the secretary to acquaint authors when their papers would be read.

Mr. BIRKETT explained that the paper was read to suit the time of the Society. He was not aware that there were any illustrations to it; and his notice to an author was not obligatory, but merely one of courtesy.

THE PRESIDENT remarked that the custom of the Society was to read the papers in the order announced; but the secretary could not, of course, determine how long the paper might take to read, or how far the discussion upon it might extend. Under these circumstances, it might occasionally be necessary to substitute a short for a long paper.

After a few more observations, the subject dropped.

ALOPECIA. BY GEORGE NAYLER, ESQ.

Alopecia circumscripta, or areata, is a disease little noticed by any author except Cazenave, who con-

founded it with vitiligo of the scalp. It is far more frequent in the female than in the male, the relative proportion being that of seven to four between the two sexes; and it is chiefly observed about the period of puberty. It is a non-contagious disease, and may be represented by almost any number of circular bald patches on the scalp; very protracted in its progress, and tedious to heal. Alopecia is often associated with headache, especially in the female, or with some disorder of the catamenia; and in children, with ascariides or some gastric irritation. No pain or any previous symptom indicates the disease, which is generally unperceived for some time by the patient. The patch is of ivory smoothness, and ends in a circumference of sound unbroken hair.

When recovery takes place, the new hair is finer and softer than the old, and in some instances perfectly white. (The author had recently seen a patch in a lad of eighteen years where the new hair was quite white.) A microscopical examination shows the hair-bulb to be reduced to a fine point, or the bulb to be slender, and sometimes ending in brush-like filaments. In the stages of recovery, the bulb by degrees assumes its normal shape and size; but the hair itself for a long time retains its fineness and lighter colour.

Alopecia is regarded by most French writers as a parasitic disease, as by Bazin, Harding, and others; but no instance of a parasite has been found by Mr. Startin or the author. Mr. Hutchinson once detected it; but this may have been a case of tinea tonsurans or pityriasis versicolor of the scalp.

The prognosis is favourable, particularly when the disease is recent and the patient of early age or below puberty.

The treatment consists in attention to the general health, and in giving steel. The local treatment is of much importance. The surface affected should be painted from time to time with some blistering fluid, and in the intervals with some form of mercury or sulphur, either as an ointment or a lotion, or a lotion of the tincture of cantharides. In protracted cases, mercury and arsenic in small doses may be given internally.

In general alopecia the prognosis is less favourable, and when the disease is of long standing no good result can be expected. This form of alopecia differs from alopecia areata only in involving a greater extent of surface.

ON THE ABSORPTION OF DEAD BONE.

BY WILLIAM SCOVELL SAVORY, ESQ., F.R.S.

Can dead bone be absorbed? This question still awaits a satisfactory answer. For while careful and accurate experiments have furnished only negative results, there are unquestionable facts which compel us to admit the possibility of the occurrence. One all important consideration seems to have been hitherto neglected in the inquiry—the influence of pressure in determining the result. Thus, in the experiments which have been performed on the subject, and which have naturally led to the conclusion that dead bone may be kept amidst living tissues for weeks or months without losing the merest fraction of its weight—in these experiments the dead bone was kept in simple contact only with living parts. It appears that no considerable pressure was maintained; whereas, when ivory pegs are driven into bone, extreme pressure is of course produced. In order to test this view, some experiments were performed which were related in the paper. It appeared to the author that the only explanation which could be offered of the results of these several experiments was that the absorption of dead bone, when in contact with living bone, is determined by the pressure to which it is subjected.

Medical News.

APOTHECARIES' HALL. On March 3rd, the following Licentiate was admitted:—

Lloyd, Edward Sydney, Pill, near Bristol
Powdrell, John, Farndon, near Chester

APPOINTMENTS.

SQUIRE, Balmanno, M.B., F.L.S., has been appointed one of the Lecturers in St. Mary's Hospital Medical School.

POOR-LAW MEDICAL SERVICE.

MORRIS, Wm. Whytehead, Esq., to the Clun District of the Clun Union, Shropshire.

RICHARDS, D., Esq., has been appointed Medical Officer of Work-house and Industrial Schools, Brighton.

ARMY.

CROCKER, Surgeon A., 3rd Foot, to be Surgeon-Major, having completed twenty years' full-pay service.

LEWIS, Staff-Assistant-Surgeon J. H., to be Staff-Surgeon, *vice* H. Huish, M.D.

WATERS, Staff-Assistant-Surgeon J. M., to be Assistant-Surgeon 62nd Foot, *vice* J. Niven.

ROYAL NAVY.

BREAKE, John, M.D., Surgeon, to the *Bulldog*.

COURTNEY, Joshua P., Esq., Assistant-Surgeon (additional), to the *Cumberland*.

JOHNSTON, Duncan M'N., Esq., Assistant-Surgeon, to the *Hogue*.

LAMBERT, John, Esq., Assistant-Surgeon, to the *Implacable*.

LAWRENSON, Richard C. P., Esq., Assistant-Surgeon (additional), to the *Wellfleet*.

MITCHELL, Alexander, M.D., Acting Assistant-Surgeon, to the *Excellent*.

MOCKRIDGE, John, Esq., Assistant-Surgeon, to the *Boscawen*.

MOSS, F. L., M.D., Acting Assistant-Surgeon, to the *Bulldog*.

PARKER, James, Esq., Assistant-Surgeon, to the *Cambridge*.

PICKTHORNE, Geary B., Esq., Acting Assistant-Surgeon, to the *St. Vincent*.

POWER, W. M., Esq., Acting Assistant-Surgeon, to the *Euryalus*.

PURCELL, Thos., Esq., Acting Assistant-Surgeon, to the *Euryalus*.

REDFERN, Thos., Esq., Acting Assistant-Surgeon, to the *Euryalus*.

MILITIA.

BULLY, F. A., Esq., to be Assistant-Surgeon Royal Berkshire Militia.

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

ANDERSON, J., M.D., to be Assistant-Surgeon 5th West Riding R.V.

DENTON, E. R., Esq., to be Assistant-Surg. 4th Leicestershire R.V.

DOWN, H. W., Esq., to be Honorary Assistant-Surgeon 19th Somersetshire R.V.

ELY, J. J., Esq., to be Assistant-Surgeon 9th Kent R.V.

FURSE, E., Esq., to be Honorary Assistant-Surgeon 6th Devonshire Mounted R.V.

MACQUIBBAN, C. M., Esq., to be Assistant-Surgeon Royal Aberdeen Highlanders.

MALTON, F. L., Esq., Honorary Assistant-Surgeon, to be Lieutenant 19th Somersetshire R.V.

PHILLIOTT, J. S., Esq., to be Assistant-Surgeon 9th Surrey R.V.

DEATHS.

CARLYON, Clement, M.D., at Truro, aged 86, on March 5.

COTTON, Thomas A., M.D., aged 71, on February 29.

MASON, George, Esq., at Deal, aged 50, on March 2.

MORRISON, James G., Esq., Surgeon, at 121, Edgeware Road, aged 59, on February 19.

THE CRAWLEY TRIAL will cost the country upwards of £18,000.

GALEN was born at Pergamos 131 years after the birth of Christ.

DEATH OF A MEDICAL PRACTITIONER IN THE SNOW. Dr. Gallice, a French doctor, lately perished in the snow, whilst engaged in his country practice.

THE METRICAL SYSTEM. Mr. Ewart's Bill for making use of the metrical system of weights and measures has been read a second time in the House of Commons.

THE CATTLE DISEASES PREVENTION BILL has also been read a second time, and referred to a Select Committee.

NEW HOSPITAL AT SHOREDITCH. A number of gentlemen have met and appointed a committee for the purpose of establishing a hospital in the neighbourhood of Shoreditch.

PROFESSOR CASPAR of Berlin died on February 24th. The third volume of the translation of his work on *Forensic Medicine* has just been issued by the New Sydenham Society.

STATUE OF SIR JAMES MACGRIGOR. A deputation has waited on the Commissioner of Public Works respecting the fixing of a site for the statue of the late Sir James Macgrigor, Bart.

A GOOD EXAMPLE. The funds of the Cork Fever Hospital being exhausted, an anonymous "Friend" dropped a letter into the box of the *Constitution*, containing a £100 note for that institution.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON. The Senate of this University have intimated their intention of proceeding to the election of examiners on April 27th. There are amongst others vacancies in the examinations for chemistry, botany, and vegetable physiology, and surgery.

BEQUEST. Mr. J. M. Oppenheim has bequeathed legacies of £100 to each of the five following institutions: the London Ophthalmic Institution, St. Thomas's Hospital, Royal Free Hospital, Society for the Relief of Foreigners in Distress, and to any hospital in Hamburg the executors may select.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS. At a special meeting of the Court of Examiners on the 3rd inst., Mr. James Alexander Grant, of Ottawa, Canada West, having undergone the necessary examination, was admitted a member of the College. This gentleman had previously been admitted a Doctor in Medicine of McGill College, Montreal, his diploma bearing date May 4th, 1854.

THE LINGEN TESTIMONIAL. From the circular forwarded to each subscriber to the Lingen testimonial we copy the following:—*Receipts*: Subscriptions, £439:4. *Payments*: To Messrs. Bodenham and James, legal charges £286; postage, printing, advertising, etc., £50:4; plate and book for Mr. Lingen £103; total £439:4.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS. The next primary or anatomical examinations will commence respectively on the 9th, 16th, and 30th of April; and the surgical or pass examination on the 23rd of April and 7th of May. The preliminary examination for the fellowship will commence on the 26th of April, and the professional examination on the 31st of May.

PASSING THE LINES. There is a novelty in "underground travelling" from Richmond. Dr. Maclure has for some time been engaged in the business of disinterring and embalming the dead, preparatory to transportation to the homes of their families. He has just been arrested while driving a waggon in which were two coffins, supposed to contain the remains of dead Federal soldiers, but found upon examination to be occupied by two live Jews, who, it is believed, paid high fares for their conveyance.

TESTIMONIAL. Dr. Hawkins of Hitchin has been presented with a splendid silver salver and a thousand guineas by his friends, in token of their appreciation of his long and great services to the poor. Dr. Hawkins, in 1820, established a dispensary at Hitchin; and, through his efforts and energy, this dispensary was in 1842 expanded into an infirmary. Dr. Hawkins continued physician to the institution up to the autumn of last year, when he was struck down with paralysis. Deeply gratifying to him, under such circumstances, must be this token of his friends' appreciation of his services.

SARRACENIA PURPUREA IN SMALL-POX. The *sarracenia* has finally been submitted to a trial, which would seem to prove conclusively that it has no specific virtue in small-pox. It is time the profession put an end to the pretensions of those persons who are endeavouring to palm upon the community a remedy of no value. (*American Medical Times*.)

DANISH SICK AND WOUNDED. It would be impossible to deny the Danish sanitary department of the army the praise of great skill and care in the treatment of the sick and wounded. Almost all the poor sufferers I have seen give proofs of that calm and silent endurance which is characteristic of all Northern races. The wounded, especially, are invariably cheerful and sanguine. (*Times*.)

SANITARY CONDITION OF LIVERPOOL. Notwithstanding the great improvements which have taken place in Liverpool of late years in the way of widening lines of thoroughfare and constructing larger and finer buildings, it is estimated that about one-fifth of the population are still housed in wretched and ill-ventilated courts and alleys. The Corporation are about to apply to Parliament for powers to open up or abolish these courts, for it appears that the rate of mortality is greatly increasing in the town.

CONSUMPTION OF SPIRITS, ETC. The quantity of home-made spirits retained for consumption in the United Kingdom as beverage only, in the year 1863, amounted to 19,118,092 gallons; in 1862 the quantity was 18,836,187 gallons. The quantity of brandy imported and entered for home consumption in 1863 was 1,916,434 proof gallons; in 1862, 1,700,156. Of rum the quantity was 3,419,756 proof gallons; in 1862, 3,320,356. Of foreign and colonial wine 10,478,401 gallons in 1863; 9,803,028 in 1862.

HEALTH OF THE METROPOLIS. In the week that ended March 5th, there was an increase of nearly a hundred on the number returned for the week immediately preceding. The successive numbers for the last three weeks are 1,586, 1,677, and in last week 1,766. The 1,766 deaths now returned constitute a very heavy mortality for the beginning of March, for they exceed the estimated amount by 346. Last week, the births of 2,139 children were registered in London. In the ten corresponding weeks of the years 1854-63, the average number (corrected) was 2,071.

THE LATE SURGEON OF ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL. Mr. William Coulson was entertained at a dinner at Penzance, on Friday week, as a mark of public satisfaction at the manner in which he had discharged the duties of High Sheriff of Cornwall during the year. The mayor, who presided, in proposing the health of Mr. Coulson, entered into an account of that gentleman's eventful and prosperous career, eulogised his professional abilities and private character, and dwelt on the services he had rendered to the people of the county of Cornwall, rich as well as poor. Mr. Coulson replied in a speech of considerable length, in the course of which he took a review of the progress, in point of population and general prosperity, of his native county since 1821, the date of his departure from it.

ALLEGED POISONING BY A FRENCH MEDICAL PRACTITIONER. The evidence against Dr. Couty de la Pommerais, accused of having poisoned more than one woman, in order to obtain from an insurance company large sums for which their lives were insured, is complete, and the trial may take place next month. The magistrate having carefully examined the bedchamber in which the last of the doctor's alleged victims expired, remarked several stains on the floor near the bed. Having been informed that

these stains were caused by natural causes, he had the floor scraped. The scrapings having been collected, a pigeon which ate a portion died very quickly. Experiments were likewise made upon frogs. The heart of a frog was exposed to view, and, the operation having been carefully performed, the frog lived for a long time without the appearance of any disturbance of its vital functions. A second frog was operated on in a similar manner, and a drop of digitaline was let fall on its heart, that substance having been found in the stomach of the last person supposed to have been poisoned. The movement of the frog's heart diminished gradually, its pulsation became slower, and it very soon died. A very small portion of the scrapings on the floor were placed on the heart of a third frog, and the result was the same. Death ensued almost immediately. The two last frogs died while the first was living, nor did there appear to be any derangement in the pulsation of its heart. It is said that these experiments are to be repeated in presence of the jury summoned to try this mysterious affair.

THE HERBALISTS AGAIN. Joseph Levy Markuss was indicted for the manslaughter of Jane Sumbly, at Sunderland, on September 9th last. The prisoner kept a shop in Sunderland, where he passed as a herb doctor, or "herbalist." The deceased complained to him of pains in her back, and appeared to have been ailing for some days. The prisoner volunteered to prescribe for her, and sent her daughter for sixpenny worth of pale brandy in a six ounce bottle. Into this he put about an ounce of colchicum seeds, first bruising them, giving directions to place the bottle before the fire for two hours, and then shake it up and give the patient a tablespoonful. The daughter gave her mother a tablespoonful about two o'clock on Monday, the 7th. The deceased became ill and sick shortly after, and, after taking some tea at four o'clock, vomited violently, and continued at short intervals vomiting and retching till she died exhausted at ten o'clock on Wednesday morning. Dr. Natrass was called in on Monday night, and prescribed opium, prussic acid, and soda to allay irritation, but her stomach was so irritable it would retain nothing. While attended by her daughter and neighbours it appeared that she had several times taken small quantities of brandy neat to try and stop her sickness, and had also taken some "nerve powder," which a neighbour recommended. This powder, when analysed, was found to consist of valerian, skunk-cabbage, gentian, ginger, and some other ingredients, harmless in themselves, and which would act as a stomachic in ordinary cases. On *post mortem* examination the organs were found healthy, but the internal coat of the stomach was of a violet colour. She died from gastritis, which the medical men who attended her attributed to the overdose of colchicum. A teaspoonful of the mixture would contain eighteen grains, and was a fatal dose, and a tablespoonful contained eighty grains. This was a highly poisonous and fatal dose, the drug being a narcotic irritant poison. In the judgement of the medical men this was the cause of death. The learned counsel for the prosecution, in his opening, drew attention to the law, which made no distinction between regular practitioners and quacks, both being responsible for culpable and gross negligence. The defence urged was that when analysed the infusion of colchicum had become stronger than when administered, and that it was the continued doses of brandy, and the nerve powder, acting on a stomach attacked by gastritis from cold, which had increased the disease, and had thus caused death. The jury returned a verdict of *Not Guilty*.

EXAMINATION AT THE ARMY MEDICAL SCHOOL. The following were the questions put at the recent examination of candidates for the Army Medical Service, held from February 1st to February 6th, 1864.

A. Written Questions. *i. Hygiene.* 1. What are the special circumstances in the life of the soldier at home which are unfavourable to health? Enumerate the chief diseases causing admission into hospital and mortality. How would you prevent the development of these diseases? 2. What are the effects of the inhalation of sewer-air? State the various means of removing sewage from dwellings. What are the principal disinfectants of air and sewage? 3. What are the general principles of clothing? Describe the accoutrements of the infantry soldier of the line, and discuss their effects on health. *ii. Military Medicine.* 1. Phthisis pulmonalis being a fatal disease in the army, you are required to give (a) its place in the official classification of diseases; (b) the causes which appear to operate in its production and propagation in the army; (c) the most judicious means of counteracting them; (d) the symptoms, constitutional and physical, of the first stage, assigning to each its diagnostic value. 2. Define leukaemia, and give (a) the causes which appear to induce this condition; (b) its diagnosis; and (c) the most rational treatment. 3. Give an accurate definition of dysentery. Describe the symptoms and treatment (a) of the sthenic and (b) of the scorbutic types of this disease. *iii. Military Surgery.* 1. Enumerate the several varieties of wounds of the head which may be caused by musket-bullets, specifying the chief features which distinguish them from each other, and the influence of these features on your prognosis. Sketch, generally, the treatment to be adopted in each variety, and particularly mention what circumstances in any case would induce you to resort to the operation of trephining. 2. Give a description of the nature and consequences of endostitic inflammation, or osteo-myelitis, as observed after gun-shot injuries of bones of the extremities, or after amputations consequent upon them; the treatment you would adopt; and the reasons for your practice. 3. A soldier is reported by the instructor of musketry to be incompetent for rifle-practice on account of defective vision, the nature of the defect being unknown. You are required to state whether the man's vision is defective or not; and, if it be so, to name what defect it is. On examination, the man is proved to be neither myopic, hypermetropic, nor presbyopic; but is found to be amblyopic. Describe the course of optical examination by which the diagnosis in this case is arrived at, explaining what sources of fallacy may be met with in the successive steps of the examination, and by what means you guard against them. *iv. Pathology.* 1. Name and define, as concisely as possible, each of the several forms of continued fever which can be clinically recognised; and describe the anatomical signs which are peculiar and characteristic of typhoid and typhus fever, on examination of the body after death from these diseases. 2. Mention the usual temperature of the body at completely sheltered parts of the surface (say axilla); and give a concise account of the value or significance attached to continuous thermometric observations in cases of acute diseases. 3. Mention the circumstances under which you would expect cases of (so-called) pyæmia or phlebitis to occur; explain the nature of such cases, and their *post mortem* appearances. *B. Practical Examination.* *i. Hygiene.* *First Day.* 1. Examination of water; its physical character; determination of amount of chloride of sodium and organic matter contained in it. 2. Examination of water; temporary and permanent hardness; amount of lime. 3. Microscopic examination of adulterated flour. *Second Day.* 1. Examination of

adulterated beer. 2. Examination of adulterated milk. 3. Microscopic examination of adulterated coffee. *ii. Pathology.* 1. Examination of fluid containing parasitic remains. 2. Examination of morbid tissues. 3. Description of morbid specimens from the Pathological Museum. 4. Give the names of the parasites on the table. 5. Determination of the powers of lenses.

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 Orthopædic, 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.

TUESDAY. Royal College of Surgeons of England, 4 P.M. Professor Huxley, "On the Structure and Classification of the Mammalia."—Statistical (Anniversary).—Pathological.

WEDNESDAY. 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. Dr. Camps, "On Some Points in the Pathology of Convulsive Diseases."—Zoological.—Royal.—Linnean.—Chemical.

FRIDAY. 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 PARTRIDGE FUND.—A correspondent complains that he has received no acknowledgment, public or private, of a subscription which he forwarded for the benefit of the family of Mr. Partridge, whose case was alluded to in the JOURNAL of the 20th ult. We are sure that the Treasurer of the Fund will at once remedy this mistake.

POOR-LAW MEDICAL REFORM ASSOCIATION.—Mr. Griffin begs us to announce that within the last few days he has received the following subscriptions, in aid of the funds of the Association.

Horton, H., West Bromwich, 5s.; Reid, R. B., West Derby, £1; Jardine, J. L., Dorking, 10s.; Gaye, W. T., Williton, 10s.; Brett, A. T., Watford, 10s.; Hubert, W. A., Hemel Hempstead, 10s.; Perry, C. H., Aylsham, 10s.; Black, W. S., Freebridge, Lynn, 10s.; Brewer, J., Newport, £1; Phillips, G. M., Hitchin, 7s. 6d.; Hair, J., Sudbury, 2s. 6d.; Brine, J. E., Shaftesbury, £1:1; Bennett, W. H. R., Shaftesbury, £1:1; Miles, E. J., Shaftesbury, £1:1; Griffin, R., Weymouth, £1:1; Blenkinsop, W. H., Eastchamstead, 10s.; Smith, H. B., Ticehurst, 7s. 6d.; Clouting, J., Milford and Launditch, 10s.

ASSURANCE COMPANIES AND FEES TO MEDICAL MEN.—Mr. Sladden has forwarded us a copy of a string of seventeen questions, sent to him by the Indisputable Assurance Company of Scotland, touching the health of a person proposed for assurance. Mr. Sladden very properly refused to answer any such questions without receiving his fee. We can hardly believe that any Assurance Company at this time of day would ask such questions of a medical man without paying him his fee.

F. T.—Medical men are exempted from serving on juries by reason of the nature of their occupation, and on the theory that the public health would suffer if the doctor were thereby prevented from attending to his patients. Butchers are not exempted, but are forbidden, to serve on juries; and we believe on the theory, that the nature of their business is such as to render them callous to the call of mercy! No doubt such an outrageous pretence, if it were discussed at the present day, could not stand good for a moment. Butchers are, we suppose, willing to put up with the imputation, on account of the relief which they thereby gain from the performance of an onerous duty.

FREEMAN'S CHLORODYNE.—SIR: Having not only written to Mr. Freeman and to the various medical journals in which his advertisement has appeared, to the effect that "*Freeman's Chlorodyne*" is not used at this hospital, but also having had an interview with Mr. Freeman, in the presence of Messrs. Foster and Marriott, the house-surgeons of this hospital, on which occasion I told him that his (*Freeman's Chlorodyne*) was never used here by any member of the medical staff, I take the present opportunity of asking your kind insertion of this letter. I may further add, Dr. Irwin is not resident medical officer at this hospital. I am, etc.,

JOHN D. HILL, Resident Medical Officer.
Royal Free Hospital, Gray's Inn Road, W.C., Feb. 26, 1864.

ADVICE GRATIS.—SIR: I was very much pleased with the very able article on advice gratis, in the JOURNAL of February 13th. In a neighbouring town to where I am practising, the principle is carried on by a general practitioner (who is in aristocratic practice) on market days. The gentleman to whom I allude is M.D., and occupies a good social as well as professional position.

Some years since, a gentleman who practised purely as a physician in the same town, carried on the same style of practice, on market days at first, and at last things got so far, that he was often called out of bed to attend people even in comfortable circumstances; and, having no horse, was compelled to hire a horse and gig, if the patient lived in the country. This gentleman, who was much respected, lived to a good old age, and was at the latter part of his time living upon a fund raised by public subscription for his support. He was, poor man, a friend to the public, but an enemy to his professional brethren and himself.

I wish you could, by your powerful pen, abolish all advice gratis, public and private; it would be better for the patients, as they would have their cases more fully investigated; and it would raise our noble profession in the estimation of the public.

February 1864. I am, etc., ANTI ADVICE GRATIS.

MEDICAL EDUCATION.—SIR: Pray spare me a corner in the JOURNAL to protest against the untrue and illiberal sentiment which a F.R.S. concludes his letter last week. It is downright ingratitude to write in that way, when so much has been done in late years to raise the preliminary education of the medical practitioner, and to lift him from the mechanical level of a drug-vendor and a pulse-feeler. F.R.S. ought to have discovered, long before he won the honoured title which he wears, that there is no antagonism between science and letters; and that the lettered man even makes the best man of science. Both help to elevate and refine the mind, and to discipline the intellectual faculties; each without the other is to that extent maimed and useless.

So far from medicine having nothing to do with Greek and Latin, there are few practical arts in which a knowledge of at least Latin is so essential; and, like most other sciences, the terminology of medicine and surgery is built up largely with words having a classical origin. But the bare utility of a classical education is a poor ground to argue upon; I would rather fall back upon the old-fashioned but true dogma, that a fair knowledge of Greek and Latin is an element of a refined and liberal education; and that it is disgraceful for a member of a learned profession to be ignorant of languages which have been such noble instruments in the mental culture of the human race. If the advice of F.R.S. were followed, medical men would soon be unfit for the society of gentlemen: but, fortunately, there is no fear of our Medical Boards pursuing such a narrow and retrograde course.

Bath, February 29th, 1864.

I am, etc., J. K. S.

COMMUNICATIONS have been received from:—Dr. WILLIAM ADDISON; Mr. R. S. FOWLER; Dr. ROUTH; Mr. CHRISTOPHER HEATH; THE HONORARY SECRETARY OF THE HARVEIAN SOCIETY OF LONDON; Dr. O. VON FRANQUE; Dr. G. M. HUMPHRY; Mr. T. CHURTON; Dr. T. M. ROOKE; Dr. SAMUEL MARTYR; Mr. WILLIAM BOWMAN; Dr. RICHARDSON; Dr. WADE; Dr. KIDD; Mr. R. B. REID; Dr. FLAXMAN SPURRELL; Dr. GIBB; Dr. W. TILBURY FOX; Mr. W. C. BURDER; Dr. WOLFE; Mr. STONE; Dr. THOMAS LAYCOCK; Dr. F. J. BROWN; Dr. G. BOYINGTON; Mr. RICHARD GRIFFIN; Dr. J. W. OGLE; Dr. THOMAS BOYCOTT; Dr. WILLIAM OGLE; Mr. LAWSON; META; SENEX; and Dr. J. D. RENDLE.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

1. A Vindication of the Present State of Aural Surgery. By A Member of the New Sydenham Society. London: 1864.
2. Biographical Sketch of Sir Benjamin Brodie. By Henry W. Acland. London: 1864.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

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PROFESSION.—Notice is hereby given, That the Guardians of the Reigate Union in the County of Surrey, are prepared to receive Proposals in writing from persons willing and properly qualified (according to the qualifications specified in article 168 of the Consolidated Order of the Poor Law Board) to undertake the Office of Medical Officer of the SOUTHERN DISTRICT, comprising the Parishes of Charlwood, Horley, and Leigh, containing an area of 17,640 acres and a population of 3634, at the Salary of £100 per annum, and the usual Extras for Midwifery Cases, Operations, and Vaccination, etc.

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Applications, accompanied by Testimonials as to character and ability, to be forwarded to me at my office (postage free, on or before Tuesday, the 15th of March instant, and the Candidates are required, at their own expense, to attend the Meeting of the Board, at the Workhouse, Redhill, on Wednesday, the 16th March, at 12 o'clock at noon.

By order of the Board,

G. CARTER MORRISON, Clerk.

Reigate, 3rd March, 1864.

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